

# MRA

## MISS RODEO AUSTRALIA

Enjoy news from Ashleigh Grant, who stepped into the role of Miss Rodeo Australia 2018 in August after the resignation of Dakota Michaelis. Ashleigh has hit the ground running (in Corral boots of course) in her quest to represent the Australian Professional Rodeo Association, rodeo athletes and committees, and the wider rodeo family, including the fans.

Hi Readers,

I hope you are all well! This month has been nothing short of a whirlwind ride with new sponsored items coming in for a photoshoot with the Wife Creative to obtain photos for my new signing cards a few days before hitting the road towards Mount Isa.

I was fortunate to be making the trek to the **60th Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo** with some close family friends, stopping along the way to take in the sights of Outback Queensland. It was great to spend a couple of days in Longreach visiting the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Qantas Founders Outback Museum, where in 2011 I attended the Longreach Pastoral College to obtain my Certificate III in Equine Studies.

We arrived in Mount Isa on the Thursday and enjoyed the Mailman Express at Buchanan Park Race Track before I started my official duties the following day. Friday morning I was joined by Warwick Rodeo Queen, Meghan Stewart and Miss Rodeo Australia 2016, Katy Scott at the Regional Express Fan Zone for some autograph signing for all our rodeo fans, young and old. The crowds that rolled through Gate 8 in front of us were mind boggling, with spectators coming from all corners of Australia and other parts of the world just for the weekend.

Later in the day we enjoyed two of my favourite novelty events, the Super Hero Bronc Ride and Op Shop Barrel Race, before taking part in the opening ceremony, which was the first of three Grand Entries for the weekend.

Carrying the Australian Flag alongside champions of the sport, in front of competitors and dignitaries, as well as so many rodeo enthusiasts is always such an honour and to be able to carry the extra-large Australian flag that Mount Isa Rodeo's grand entries are known for, is something I will forever be grateful for. To describe the feeling it brings is near impossible.

While attending the 60th Anniversary of the Mount Isa Mines Rotary Rodeo I couldn't pass up the opportunity to stop in and say hello to two of our fabulous sponsors, Garry Hockey at Chute 4 Western Wear and Annie of Haiko & Huna. Along the rodeo road it isn't just the competitors you befriend, it is also the traders, sponsors and continued supporters of rodeo and it is always a blast to catch-up down the road.



Photo by Stephen Mowbray  
www.stephenmowbrayphotography.com

Riding in the Grand Entry at Mt Isa.

Saturday and Sunday again saw myself and Warwick Rodeo Queen, Meghan Stewart attend Regional Express Fan Zone along with some other rodeo competitors before heading over to meet and greet some of the sponsors, whose support allows Mount Isa to hold the biggest and richest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere. It attracts the nation's best talent, competing for a prize pool of \$200,000. If you missed the rodeo this year, I suggest you mark it in your diaries now for 2019 for another action-packed weekend of the best sport of earth! This weekend for me was without any doubt, one of the best! Congratulations to the event organisers, volunteers, sponsors, supporters and attendees on such a well-run, professional rodeo! Congratulations to all the competitors on their wins.

I am now back to work for three days before jetting off to Darwin for the Darwin Rodeo, which I am incredibly excited for. After that I will be talking with Channel Nine for their Drought Telethon here in Warwick, but I will tell you all about this next month.

Until next time, safe travels and good luck along the rodeo road!

Joyfully, Ashleigh Grant  
Miss Rodeo Australia 2018
