

MRWA

MISS RODEO AUSTRALIA

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I'd like to congratulate Miss Rodeo Australia 2018 Dakota Michaelis from the Peterborough Rodeo in South Australia who was crowned in Warwick on January 20th. What a fantastic year you have ahead of you! This is a once in a lifetime experience so soak it up and make the most of the opportunities presented to you. Congratulations to Warwick Rodeo Queen Ashleigh Grant who was awarded Miss Rodeo Australia Runner Up and the Miss Rodeo Australia Fundraising Title. Miss Rodeo Taroom Tammie Conroy won the Miss Rodeo Australia Horsemanship Title. It was a tight contest and I did not envy the judges positions. Each lady should be very proud of themselves.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable festive season, I sure ate way too much! Before I sign off for the final time let me catch you up on my trip to Las Vegas for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo and crowning of Miss Rodeo America 2018!

I attended with the new Miss Rodeo Canada, Brittney Chomistek. We started off in the lead up to Miss Rodeo America 2018 attending the Horsemanship Challenge, held at the wonderful South Point Casino Equestrian Centre that they have inside the casino and I thought that was so wonderful! I got to meet some very amazing people, one being Kristi Q from Kristi Q Designs, some of you may have seen the amazing Australian shirt I wear and a lot of the other ladies in the states and Canada with some blinged out shirts, dresses or pants? Yes, this is that lady behind them all! It was absolutely amazing to watch all the contestants ride twice, they really do an amazing job with the pattern and the detail into each program. I also got to see the famous hanging halter that is the lone Australian up on the wall with big engraved letters saying 'John Gill & Sons, Australia', that again, made me so proud and blessed to be a part of this production. The same night we attended the WNFR Competitor Back Number Presentations, held again at the South Point Casino. It felt like more of a red carpet event. The next day was the President's Brunch along with impromptu questions for the contestants, which myself and Miss Rodeo Canada were asked on stage to introduce ourselves and say a little about our journey here. After that I was lucky enough to be able to slip away to go for a chopper ride over Las Vegas as well as the Grand Canyon. The trip was the most incredible experience. It simply took my breath away.

I was asked to sign autographs with Miss Rodeo Canada at the

Roper booth alongside Cowboy Troy, known for singing with Brooks and Dunn and Big & Rich. That night we started our nightly routine of going to the Thomas and Mack Centre for dinner in the Gold Card Room along with sponsors, committee members from all over the States and Canada. From there we went to the MGM Grand to Co-host at the Viewing Room held there with announcer Randy Taylor. Each night we would help hand out prizes, comment on the athletes and the rodeo as well as shake a tail feather when the dance contest was on. After that we were taken to the South Point Casino to help with the Montana Silversmiths Go-Round buckle presentations.

Always a big day for the Miss Rodeo America contestants is the Coronation Ball. The beautiful new Miss Rodeo America for 2018 was awarded to Keri Sheffield from Florida, the first entrant from Florida to ever receive the title. That afternoon after a great deal of photo ops we took off to the bowling alley to partake in a charity bowling tournament that donates all money raised to help sick children.

The next 2 days were filled with autograph sessions and appearances. Brittney and I were then able to watch the WNFR Round 6 live at the Thomas & Mack Centre! The next day had both Miss Rodeo America's, Miss Rodeo Canada and myself going to the children's hospital in Las Vegas to make the day of some very sick children.

My last two days/nights at the World Finals were very much the same, with more autograph signings, appearances throughout Vegas accompanied by my sash sisters and attending the rodeo once more on round 9! It was an extremely sad night as I had to say my goodbyes to my beautiful new friends. With lots of tears and hugs later it was finally the end of my winter wonderland in Vegas.

I would like to say a special thank you to the Miss Rodeo America Committee for involving me in all aspects of the pageant as well as the Miss Rodeo Canada Committee for taking me under their wing and making me one of their own. Thanks also to the crew at Montana Silversmiths for making the late night Go-Round Buckle Presentations well worth the limited sleep!

Now being back at home I've come to realise that this year has gone by way too quickly for my liking. It has been my honour to serve as Miss Rodeo Australia 2017.

When I was announced as Miss Rodeo Australia 2017 I had all kinds of emotions but the main one was excitement. Excitement for the year to come, the experience I will have, the people I will meet, the places I will go and the lives I could possibly change. Throughout the year I can happily say I was able to tick all those items off my list. The life lessons I learnt along the way will forever change my life.

Thankyou to my sponsors that helped these dreams become a reality, Corral Boots, Cowgirl Up, Eddie Fisher Ride Tuff, Montana Silversmiths and J. Roberts Custom Hats, Chute 4 Western Wear for keeping me looking the part over the last year. Special thanks to REX Airlines for sponsoring various flights over the year. There is no real way to thank you for your generosity and kindness. Giving small

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town girls like myself a platform in which we can grow.

Thankyou to the Miss Rodeo Australia Committee, for the endless hours on the phone and the back and forth emails. The rodeo family and friends that helped me along the way and made the best year of my life even better week by week. It's been the most incredible and biggest honour to have represented Professional Rodeo in Australia as Miss Rodeo Australia for 2017.

Congratulations Dakota, you will hold a beautiful part in Rodeo history as well as Australian history for women all over. Take every day as it comes and honour every moment you wear that crown. Never ever forget your true self. The memories and friends you will make in this short year will forever impact your life. Long give cowgirls, cowboys and most of all long live rodeo!

Emma Deicke

Miss Rodeo Australia 2017



With MRC 2018 Brittney Chomistek, MRA 2018 Keri Sheffield, MRA 2017 Lisa Lageschaar.



Brittney and I at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

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