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MISS RODEO AUSTRALIA

YEEHAA!! What a whirlwind of a month we have had, starting with the Warwick Rodeo National Finals!

We had a great time hosting our international royalty and showing off some of Australia's finest natural wonders, we showcased our top cowboys and cowgirls competing for the Australian Champion Titles and inducted very important people and committees into the Australian Rodeo Heritage Centre Hall of Fame! Despite all this rodeo crazed action, the adventures are far from over as I'm currently overseas having just attended the Canadian Finals Rodeo alongside newly crowned Warwick Rodeo Queen Ashleigh Grant and then on to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas! I am extremely honoured to represent our great nation and professional rodeo at two of the world's largest rodeos.

My adventures commenced a week prior to the Warwick NFR when I met with Warwick Rodeo Queen Ashleigh Grant at Brisbane as well as our International guests Miss Rodeo America Katherine Merck and Miss Rodeo Canada Samantha Stokes!

What better way to kick off our adventures than at the Sunshine Coast. We were extremely privileged to have Black Toyota sponsor us TWO brand new cars to travel in for the two weeks. We had a great time visiting the Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Team.

We got to watch a simulated helicopter rescue as well as getting a crash course in surf lifesaving before performing our very own staged rescue! This was a fabulous experience and was also a very special milestone in my own book as it was the first time I had ever swum at the beach! This exercise certainly extends my appreciation for Surf Life Savers who put their lives on the line each day.

We rested well that night after a strenuous day rescuing each other at our lovely sponsored accommodation, Breeze On Brightwater!

We couldn't think of a better way to introduce our international Royalty to our Country than visiting the very iconic Australia Zoo! Katherine and Samantha absolutely loved feeding and patting the very cute koalas and kangaroos! We had a magnificent day out in the wild with the animals and would like to sincerely thank Australia Zoo for giving us the entire V.I.P experience! It's so great to see the late Steve Irwin's passion for wildlife live on! Next on the list was North Queensland's best hidden secrets,

so we jumped on the next flight to the Whitsundays where we boarded a Cruise Whitsundays Yacht out to the stunning Whitehaven Beach for a relaxing day before returning to our beautiful accommodation for the weekend at Earlando Station Resort! The following day we were chaperoned back to the marina to board a private yacht that took us out to a secluded spot called Blue Pearl Bay.

By this time, we were feeling like absolute royalty! We had a beautiful day snorkelling the beautiful Great Barrier Reef and even caught a fish each. We ended the day with a meet and greet with Queensland Premier the Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk and officially invited her to the Warwick Rodeo National Finals.

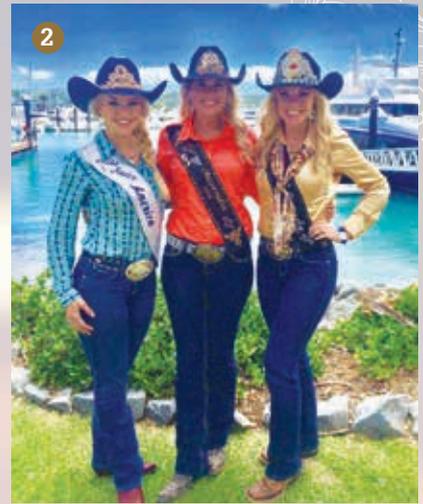
Before we knew it, it was time to return to Brisbane. We would sincerely like to thank the Earl/ Tate family for having us at Earlando Station Resort and Ali Simpson and family for organising such a fantastic getaway! It was such a wonderful experience for all of us and their warm welcome and generosity will always be remembered.

Once we arrived back in Brisbane we were fortunate enough to meet with the Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and tour the majestic Brisbane City Hall. Following that we had a relaxing night at our sponsored accommodation at the Brisbane airport Novotel!

By far one of my most favourite things to do is visit hospitals, so visiting Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was certainly one of the most heart-warming things I have ever done in my reign as Miss Rodeo Australia. The look on the children's faces was just the best and every child we visited had such high spirits and positive, kind souls! A definite highlight!

Next stop was the Gold Coast where we got the absolute V.I.P experience of the iconic Australian 'Outback Spectacular' show. We even got to star in the main performance! My barrel racing skills certainly came into play in the lawn mower races against the other Queens! That night we returned to our luxurious sponsored accommodation at the Mercure Gold Coast Resort!

Whilst touring in our Queen attire around the coastal areas, we spiked a lot of attention from people that were extremely curious to find out what we were up to. It was a great opportunity to pass out flyers and educate people who weren't familiar with the sport and potentially attract



- 1 Visiting the Alexandra Heads Surf Lifesaving Team.
- 2 With Katherine and Samantha at the Whitsundays.
- 3 Wearing our beautiful vests Katherine had made and gifted to Samantha and I.
- 4 Katherine and I at Australia Zoo.
- 5 Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast.
- 6 With Lord Mayor of Brisbane Graham Quirk during our visit to the Brisbane City Hall.
- 7 Visiting the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.
- 8 At Australia Zoo.
- 9 At Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast.





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10 Visting the Brisbane City Hall.

11 Snorkelling on the Great Barrier Reef.

12 Ashleigh, myself, Miss Rodeo Australia Committee Member Ros Flood, Samantha and Katherine.

13 Katherine and I at the Finals.

14 Presenting the Queensland Premier Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk with her invitation to our Finals!

15 Samantha, Katherine and I with the Queensland Premier Hon Annastacia Palaszczuk.

16 Our beautiful buckles. *Summer Rain Photography.*

17 At the Whitsundays. *Summer Rain Photography.*

18 At Whitsunday Gold with Bowen River Rodeo Queen Mary Dray, Whitsunday Gold owner Nikki Phillips, manager Ali Simpson and Pia Simpson. *Summer Rain Photography.*

more people to our rodeos!

It was finally time to head to Warwick and relish in the famous 'Rose and Rodeo City'. We had a great day consisting of an intriguing tour of Warwick with the town crier, an official meet and greet at the council chambers with Mayor Tracy Dobie and Councillors.

That evening we, as the Australian Professional Rodeo Association had the honour of inducting some very special Cowboys that are the heritage of professional rodeo as we know it today. We also inducted some renowned rodeo committees into our Hall of Fame. Following that we were extremely excited to hold the honourable back number presentations for our finalist competitors, which was extremely humbling to me as I have enjoyed watching each competitor's journey so far and was very excited to see what the Finals had in store for them!

The following morning, we continued to explore more hidden secrets of Warwick and the surrounds as we toured the stunning Gordon Country in the Goomburra Valley! The picturesque rainforest and rolling valleys are to die for! We enjoyed a beautiful luncheon at the 'Gordon Valley Barn' before returning to Warwick to try our hand at the Australian exclusive sport of Campdrafting!

We were each fortunate enough to be given a seasoned Campdraft horse and instructed by some of the best in the business before being let loose in the arena to participate in the famous Warwick Gold Cup Campdraft! Man oh man those guys make it look so easy! Even though I didn't have the run I imagined, I certainly had lots of laughs and am pretty proud of a score of 20 for my 'cut out' in the camp. Following that we headed off to bear the flags of our Great Nations in the first grand entry to officially kick off round one of our 2016 Warwick Rodeo National Finals! Following the commencement of the rodeo, we headed up to the Sponsors evening where we mingled and thanked sponsors for their generosity.

The following morning we were up bright and early for a road trip out to Stanthorpe where we visited the beautiful Sutton's Farm which is a family run Apple Orchard and Café, all produce and food is home grown and made at the farm itself. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast of homemade goodies before heading down the road to the Stanthorpe Cheese Factory, the Granite belts original farmhouse cheese makers, we taste tested some divine cheeses! Then it was onto the Stanthorpe Law Dogs Facility which is a privately-owned

training kennel that is open to the public to see puppies and dogs going through their law enforcement training. We even got to cuddle some very cute German Shepard puppies. After the show, we returned to the Warwick Showgrounds in our pink rodeo queen attire to kick off Round 2 which coincided with 'Tough Enough to Wear Pink Day' a fundraiser for the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. We spent the evening mingling, signing autographs, performing the Grand Entry and undertaking victory laps with the winners of each event.

The following day we had radio interviews, mingling and autograph signings at Leslie Park Markets as well as heading down to the Rose City Shopping Centre fashion parade. We caught up with the winners of the previous round for autograph signings at the rodeo grounds before getting down to the rodeo action right after the Grand Entry as three Nations combine for our NFR.

Even the rain couldn't deter the competitors... Rain, hail or shine we will rodeo on!! Before we knew it round 4, the final round of our NFR was upon us. We spent the day signing autographs with winning competitors from the previous round, mingling with spectators, Grand Entry, Presentations and victory laps.

We had a great finish to our finals with some nail biting rodeo action as the finalists gave it their all to claim the 2016 Australian Champion Title. Following the rodeo, we all headed down to the Rodeo Heritage centre to officially present all of the 2016 Australian Champions with their well-deserved buckles and saddles.

Next it was time for emotional goodbyes! There are way too many thankyou's to be said and appreciation to be shared! Thankyou to the very well respected APRA committee, Miss Rodeo Australia Committee, the Warwick Rodeo Committee and Warwick Rodeo Queen Committee and Director Kate, our great Chaperones Ny, Storm and Ros and to everyone else that I spent the mind blowing and jam-packed two weeks with, thank you all for your hard work, the memories, laughs and for supporting the greatest sport on earth!

Next month I'll be sharing experiences from my time overseas at the CFR and WNFR.

Yours Truly in Rodeo
Miss Rodeo Australia
Katy Scott

www.corralboots.com

www.gottacowgirlup.com

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