

Manilla Campdraft

ARTICLE & IMAGES BY JODIE ADAMS

The dust has only just settled after a great weekend, and what remains is a huge sense of pride and accomplishment from the Manilla Campdraft Committee, who have spent months working towards upgraded backyards, a new camp, and a new surface. With the wet weather cancelling our draft last year, we were grateful to have the weekend go ahead without a hitch, and the spring weather was a real treat!

I think everyone, from competitors to spectators alike, was unanimous in recognising how significantly the improved conditions enhanced the safety for competitors, and the upgraded backyards made for better cattle handling and low-stress processing.

The committee would like to mention and say a massive thank you to Brent Trotter and Will Ramsden for their tireless efforts in undertaking the construction of the new camp and backyards. Brent was instrumental in helping design the yards and implementing new ideas to make everything work seamlessly.

Along with the new arena and surface, it has been a definite game changer. A huge thank you to Guy Catlett for his countless hours preparing the surface, your contribution to our committee is enormous. Also, a huge thank you to John Brandt and Bryce Chapman for the loan of the equipment to keep the ground watered throughout the weekend.



Brent Trotter & Vintage Whisky



Junior Campdraft Sadie Callaghan & Just Joyce

We had three beautiful sunny days that made for perfect Campdrafting conditions. The Maiden and Ladies drafts made for a full day of Campdrafting on Friday. Congratulations to Maiden A winner Aaron Hausfeld and Maiden B winner Zeb Pearce, well done to you both. The Ladies finished in a nail biting run off between Heidi Smith and Vetty Palmer, with Vetty taking out the win, great drafting ladies, congratulations.

Saturday kicked off with the Open draft, and Aaron Hausfeld continued his winning streak, taking out the win. The Open was followed by the Junior and Juvenile events. Congratulations to Cate Barnett for the win in the Juniors and Thomas Shea for the win in the Juvenile.

All Junior and Juvenile participants wore black armbands, pausing for a minute's silence to honour Jimmy Webster and Sharon Maloney—cherished members of the Campdrafting community. Jimmy and Sharron were both tragically taken too soon in recent accidents, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.



Jessie Britton & Rosie

Following the kids' drafts, we held our first Future Stars Futurity event showcasing horses 5 and under who haven't been started in an Open Campdraft event. A great initiative to get the young horses out and about.

Congratulations to Aaron Hausfield, who was on fire for the weekend and racked up his third win. Saturday afternoon was enjoyed by many with cocktails on the hill while watching Cal Gibson take out the Restricted Open Draft.

Lots of fun was had on Saturday night, including a Calcutta that was based on a Shootout draft, where slots were auctioned off to a buyer, who nominated a horse and rider combination to run in the event the following day. This initiated a lot of negotiating at the bar on Saturday night! The shoot out held on Sunday was a definite highlight, with congratulations going to Cade Rossiter on the win.

Sunday wound up the event proceedings with the Novice A and B drafts. Congratulations to Karl Ralph and Malcolm George for their respective wins. All results from the Campdraft have been posted to the Manilla Campdraft Facebook page.

The whole weekend would not have been possible without the incredible support of our sponsors and cattle donors. Their contributions—whether financial, logistical, or livestock—formed the backbone of this year's success. From local businesses to long-time supporters of the sport, their generosity ensured we had the resources to run the draft we envisaged. Their support doesn't just fund an event—it fuels the committee and the community.



Rosie



Ell Parker & Toyboy



Maree Balmain & Sophia Jill



Scott Shea & Morses Checkmate

We would also like to make special mention of the freight companies that support us throughout the weekend, trucking cattle to and from our Campdraft. Alex and Ruth Laurie for always being available to help and fitting around schedules to keep everything on track. Daniel Johnson and Craig Fielding for their tireless efforts, and to Malony Livestock Transport, Stretch and Carolyn, your support and contribution to our club assisted with our new surface, your generosity is massive, and while you are quiet supporters of our club, your generosity definitely doesn't go unnoticed.

With the bar now raised, we're already looking forward to what's next. The Manilla Campdraft Committee is a small group with a massive work ethic, and their contribution to the sport of Campdrafting is second to none.

To everyone who rode, donated, helped in some small way,
or simply showed up—thank you.

You helped make the weekend a success!