

IT'S LIVE!
in Queensland



Australia's Richest Camel Races
OFFICIAL PROGRAM 2022

#bouliacamelraces

bouliacamelraces.com.au

THE MAYOR'S WELCOME



Who would have thought a conversation around a bar at Dajarra Hotel would lead to celebrating a milestone such as the Melbourne Cup of Camel Racing in a small town as Boulia.

This year is a double celebration as THE OUTBACK WAY, where an idea to seal a road corridor through the heart of Australia reaches its 25th birthday as well. As they say in the bush it doesn't sit around waiting for others to make it happen the bush makes it happen.

Welcome to Boulia! Traditional land and home of the Pitta Pitta, Land of the Min Min Light, capital of the Channel Country, birthplace of motorised cattle transport, a shire full of beautiful natural landscape and rangeland grazing for the beef industry, and of course, home to the famous Boulia Camel Races!

The Boulia Camel Races Committee has worked hard to present you with a fantastic event and we at the Boulia Shire Council are proud to be able to sponsor this magic weekend.

While you are here, why not explore some of the 62,000 odd square kilometres that make up the Boulia Shire? We have plenty for you to experience – the Boulia Heritage Complex including world class marine fossils, Police Barracks, the Min Min Encounter 45 minute animatronics show, the first 3D crossing in Australia, magical sunsets and sunrises or why not take a trip to the small township of Urandangi for a cold drink at the Dangie Bush Resort. Did you know that Boulia is also a link in the Outback Highway, 'Australia's Longest Shortcut', through the heart of Australia from Winton (QLD) to Laverton (WA)?

I am sure you will enjoy the place we call home while you are here, so why not stay a little longer and experience all the beautiful things Outback Queensland has to offer.

Cheers, *Cr Rick Britton*
Mayor, Boulia Shire Council

MINISTERIAL WELCOME

Welcome to Boulia Camel Races, a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in Outback Queensland's local culture and community, and hopefully explore some of the superb tourism experiences on offer here.

The Queensland Government is proud to support Boulia Camel Races, through Tourism and Events Queensland's Destination Events Program and it is a feature on our It's Live! in Queensland events calendar. Events are an important part of our state's economic recovery from the pandemic because they attract visitors to the region which stimulates the local economy and supports local jobs. Events are also an important opportunity for communities, friends, families and visitors to come together, creating community pride and reconnecting us.

Congratulations to the event organisers and all those involved in organising this event – may it be a successful one. If you are visiting for the event, I encourage you to make some time to explore the diverse tourism experiences on offer in this beautiful region.



The Hon. Sterling Hinchcliffe

MP - Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport

SHARE YOUR PICS!

Show us your photos & let your friends know what they're missing!

Tag us @bouliacamelraces

Plus use hashtags: #bouliacamelraces #outbackqueensland #thisisqueensland

THE MELBOURNE CUP OF CAMEL RACES

The \$45,000 prize pool makes THE BOULIA CAMEL RACES the richest camel races in Australia!

The Boulia Camel Cup is the most prestigious and coveted win on Australia's camel racing circuit. The Cup Final is run over 1500m - it's the longest camel race in Australia. When the races first began in Boulia the Cup was an even longer 2km race.

Boulia has a population of approximately 300 people, that increases more than tenfold to 3,000+ during the races!

In the early days, jockeys weren't necessarily the lightest choice. No racing silks or racing colours were worn, it was t-shirts (even the odd singlet) and a bib with a racing number.



RACES COMMITTEE

Event Manager: Beck Britton

Our volunteer committee: President Shelley Lorensen; Vice President Jan Norton & Secretary/Treasurer Rae Lincoln

Pictured: Shelley and Beck doing the camel barrier draw for the 1500m Cup with Beck's son.

CONTACT US

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25 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE



On 19 - 20 July 1997 Boulia proudly presented Australia's first international camel races - the "Desert Sands 2000". The story for Boulia began with a conversation in the Dajarra Hotel between Paddy McHugh and Bob Spilsbury.



Paddy McHugh & Bob Spilsbury with camel Mariah 1st races



From left: Bob Spilsbury, Jy the jockey and Val Spilsbury



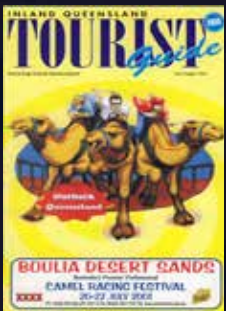
From left: Judith Bullock, Glenda Riley and Val Spilsbury



Jockeys didn't always wear silks



1998 - Australia's Premier Races



Promotions 2001



Down the home stretch

IN THE WORDS OF PADDY MCHUGH

We caught and sold 1,000 wild camels and out of that we transported and sold 33 to the royal family in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. We spent a bit of time there and saw what a massive industry it was, so we tried to emulate something in Australia that could make our camels worth some money. So we introduced professional camel racing.

We went to the Diamantina Shire, to the Boulia Shire and to the Mount Isa Shire with the idea of introducing a professional camel race and Boulia Shire welcomed us with open arms. They said bring it here we'll back you all the way. We marketed and sold it, myself and my wife for five years and the crew of everyone else in the community, which was a fabulous effort. We also for the first time introduced substantial prize money with \$30,000. It never quite got to what the Middle East standard was, but that's another story. A lot of people said it will never work in Boulia, it's a stupid idea, but it did and it worked very well.

In Boulia we began the change from Australia's predominately tourism-oriented camel races to a full-blown professional affair. The distance of the races was lengthened, drug testing and microchipping of the camels was put in place and an act of parliament for the first time allowed legal bookmakers at camel races in Australia.



At the finish line of the first camel races in 1997

IN THE WORDS VAL SPILSBURY (BOB SPILSBURY'S WIFE)



Val Spilsbury at the inaugural races

It was Bob and Paddy that brought the camel races to Boulia, and the CEO of council, Chris Blanch who worked with them. We had a female camel called Mariah – she was in the first race in 1997. We bought her off Paddy 10 weeks before the races, Paddy had trained her. She came second against the army camel 'Jessie' in the Final. The army boys used to have a camel, I think perhaps they came from Townville. Mariah was always a bridesmaid at the races.

Bob and Val Spilsbury are owners of the Min Min Store in Boulia and have remarkably been sponsors of the camel races in Boulia every one of the 25 years! A huge thanks to Bob and Val for your endless generosity to the Boulia community.

INTRODUCING SOME OF OUR CAMEL TEAMS



OAKFIELD RANCH Anna Bay, NSW

Racing in Boulia since 2011

Colours: red and white

Trainer: Rod Sansom

Jockeys: Chontelle Jannese, Amelia Starr, Baby Rabbit and Beaver Brophy. Baby Rabbit and Beaver are not only camel jockeys but also boxers in Fred Brophy's troupe! Check out these ladies on social media @streetwiseadventures to see their adventures and great work with rural communities.

Camels: 10 racing camels, including 'Ringer - Winston', old legend of the track 'Uncle Bob' and 'Dolly' who came second in the Cup last year ridden by Baby Rabbit.



WOODHOUSE CAMELS Boulia, Qld

Racing in Boulia since 1999

Colours: green and yellow

Trainers: Tom & Kyrraley Woodhouse

Jockey: Kyrraley Woodhouse

Camels: 5 racing camels, look out for 'Nowhere' and 'Gunna' who won our Cup last year!



TEAM DANNI & RONNIE Boulia, Qld

Racing in Boulia since 2016

(Danni jockeyed in years prior for Woodhouse Camels)

Colours: black and gold

Trainers: Dannileah Stewart & Ronnie Callope

Jockeys: Lee Mauder and Tiana Taratoa

Camels: Look out for 'Wason', 'Marley', 'Spike' and 'Buddha'

CAMEL RACING FAQs

Where do the camels come from?

Most racing camels are wild caught (there are over one million wild camels in Australia). Some racing camels even began as 2-year-old juvenile camels in our Camel Tagging competition and were afterwards purchased by camel trainers.

What do racing camels do when they're not racing?

Most of the year they are grazing in fields and in the months prior to racing they are brought in for regular training. A few even operate as tourist camel ride camels!

Who are the jockeys?

All camel jockeys also have a day job (it's hobby more than a job). Jockeys sometimes, but not always come from a horse riding background. It's not always the case, but according to founder of Boulia Camel Races, Paddy McHugh "(females) are by far the better riders I think. They seem to be able to hang in there and do better..."

How do the jockeys steer the camels?

They can't really, as there are no reins for the jockeys to hold! Jockeys sit on small saddle pads behind the camels hump and the camels steer themselves down the track heading back towards their familiar yards.

How does it work at the starting barriers?

Handlers lead camels into their numbered barrier (there are no front gates on barriers). It's a tricky business, with the starting pistol being fired at any time deemed best, when all camels have entered the rear of the barriers. If a camel breaks and is stopped within 50m it is permitted to restart, or otherwise is disqualified.

Did you Know?

Our races are regulated by Racing Queensland and a representative is here to oversee the event. A vet is also onsite for every race. Winning camels in the 1/4 Mile Flyer & Boulia Cup are swabbed, & bloods taken to ensure an even playing field.

WHAT'S ON



HILL BILLY GOATS 6.30pm FRIDAY

Kick yer shoes off, put yer hoe-down & hang on to yer britches because The Hillbilly Goats are coming to Boullia Camel Races! Golden Fiddle Recipients and 4 time "Bluegrass" Golden Guitar finalists, The Hillbilly Goats, strip back the layers of modern music and transport you on a journey through roots and old time blues. Expect some stories and song combined with tap dancing, bones, big harmonies and regular instrument changes.



ZAC CROSS BAND 8.45pm FRIDAY

Zac Cross Band will bring lots of popular music to the stage, plus some of their own sounds including their debut single 'Into The Night'. Time to kick up some dust on the dance floor!



THE CRACKUP SISTERS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Gather round the pop-up 'Homestead' next to our racetrack with The Crackup Sisters from Winton. They truly are a 'crack up' with their aerial circus antics, whip cracking, knockabout acrobatics and gags that you'd never see coming! See their shows 10.15am and 4.45pm Saturday and 9.30am Sunday, plus join in their fun and games on the racetrack between camel races.



JOSH ARNOLD 6.30pm SATURDAY

Country music star Josh Arnold is helping mark our 25th Anniversary by co-writing together with Boullia school kids an original song about Boullia and about our camel races. They'll be performing the songs for the first time Saturday night! Josh is a song writer, performer, music producer and film director with a Golden Guitar under his belt and visits Boullia with his Small Town Culture project.



LUKE GEIGER AND BAREBACK SATURDAY NIGHT UNTIL LATE

Luke began performing at a young age on the Country Music Festival Circuit throughout Qld and the NT. His reputation for high energy performances has taken him to locations throughout the United States and Australia. He took his original music to the US, where he recorded and produced his songs with Kenny Royster (Hurricane - Luke Combs) in Nashville. Luke has new original music in the making, with plans to record and release, inspired by his passion for country music.

JOIN THE FUN!

KIDS AMUSEMENTS

Purchase a \$25 armband at the merchandise store for unlimited rides all weekend.

CAMEL TAGGING

The Geoff Norton Memorial Camel Tagging Competition sponsored by Jade Sacipovic is a whole lot of fun and unique to Boullia! Come ready to laugh as brave locals and visitors enter the camel tagging arena. The object is to 'tag' a camel with a piece of tape, run back to the starting position, turn-around and retrieve the tape, then back again to the starting position and stop the clock. It's no easy task and the fastest wins! Nominate via the festival ticket box office. \$30 nomination. Entrants meet at the Secretary's Box at 1pm for a 1.30pm camel tagging start.

Entrants must not be intoxicated, must be over 18 years, in good health and reasonably fit.

CAMEL RIDES

Take a ride on Scooter or Trooper with camel rides available Saturday and Sunday. Camel rides are affordable and are operated by Oakfield Camels, who specialise in operating camel rides everywhere from the beaches of Anna Bay, NSW, to Boullia



HELICOPTER RIDES

Take to the skies with Winton pilot Hylton Ward for a spectacular scenic flight over Boullia in an R44 Helicopter! Flights available from the racecourse on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. \$119 per adult, \$65 per accompanying child (12yrs and under) for an unforgettable 10 minutes (includes loading and unloading). Maximum 2 to 3 passengers (up to 265kg total weight). EFTPOS available. Flights operated by 'Outback From Above'.

FRIDAY 15TH JULY, 2022

- From
2.00pm Scenic Helicopter Rides
3.00pm Gates open, plus food, bar, merchandise stall & market stalls
5.00pm Meet the Camel Trainers. *Hear from some of the camel trainers as they are interviewed by Races President Shelley Lorensen*
6.00pm Children's amusements (operating until 10pm)
5.30pm Official Opening and
Welcome to Country on the Racecourse
6.00pm Great Australian Ride-on Lawn Mower Race
From 6.30pm LIVE MUSIC: Hill Billy Goats
From 8.45pm LIVE MUSIC: Zac Cross Band
Midnight Music and Bar closes



BEFORE YOU GO...

- ✔ Check out the Boulia Heritage Complex with its three distinct phases of history from the prehistoric predators of the deep, to Boulia's first people and pioneer history in the Stonehouse Cottage. See 'Percy' the ancient plesiosaur that resembles a 'Loch Ness Monster' and more. **Scan the QR Code here for tickets >>>**
- ✔ The Min Min Encounter Complex's 45 minute light and animatronic show is a must-see and tells the stories of Boulia's mysterious 'Min Min Light'. Open 7 Days. **Scan the QR Code to book a time >>>>**
- ✔ Try a camel burger or camel sausages & wash it down with a 'Crazy Camel Lager' at the Australian Hotel.
- ✔ Check out our cool 3D zebra crossing outside the school on Templeton St. We are the first Aussie town to get one of these and it's worth a look at this optical illusion!
- ✔ Snap a photo with our giant new mural on the Sports & Aquatic Centre on Burke St.
- ✔ Visit the Waddi Tree store in the main street.
- ✔ Get your photo taken with Boulia's red stump in the median strip of the main street This monument marks that west of here is the Simpson Desert.



Boulia Information Centre & Min Min Encounter Complex
Ph: 4746 3386. 25 Herbert Street, Boulia.

SATURDAY 16TH JULY, 2022

ALL DAY	Food & Market stalls, Scenic Helicopter Rides and Camel Rides
10.00am	Gates open
10.00am	Children's amusements (operating til 10pm)
10.15am	Crackup Sisters Comedy Show at the 'Homestead'
11.00am	Bar open

Join the Crackup Sisters for fun races and games on the track between camel races!

11.00am	Tropic Distributors 400m (heats)
11.30am	JASKO 400m (heats)
12.00pm	Curley's Cattle Transport 400m (heats)
12.30pm	Tony Wilkinson 400m (heats)
1.00pm	Boulia State School Calcutta & Mock Camel Race
1.20pm	Judging of Quality Electrical Fashions of the Channel Country
1.30pm	Geoff Norton Memorial Camel Tagging Competition Sponsored by Jade Sacipovic
3.00pm	P & M Hindom Water Haulage & Welding 1000m (heats)
3.30pm	P & N Tonkies Carpentry 1000m (heats)
4.00pm	Goodwood Pastoral Company 1000m (heats)
4.30pm	Reaqua 1000m (heats)
4.45pm	Crackup Sisters Comedy Show at the 'Homestead'
From 6.30pm	Country music star Josh Arnold special performance with Boulia school kids Anglo American Fireworks Extravaganza Live music: Luke Geiger & Bareback
Midnight	Music and bar close

On Saturday come dressed in your funkiest and most creative fashions for the Quality Electrical Fashions of the Channel Country
Categories for groups, adults & kids: Flash's Funkiest Camel Crew; Gorgeous Georgina's Loveliest Lady; Marvellous Mario's Best Dressed Sheikh; Mini Mariah; Spunky Spike



*Please note program is subject to change.



SUNDAY 17TH JULY, 2022

ALL DAY

9.30am

9.30am

10.00am

10.00am

Food & Market stalls, Scenic Helicopter Rides and Camel Rides

Gates Open

Crackup Sisters Comedy Show at the 'Homestead'

Bar Open

Children's amusements (operating til 6pm)

Join the Crackup Sisters for fun races and games on the track between camel races!

10.00am

Reg Beauchamp Memorial Consolation Race
Sponsored by S&R Lincoln Grader Hire

10.30am

Calcutta on Camel Cup Final

11.00am

Toby Harris Memorial Quarter Mile Flyer
Sponsored by PE & GC Harris Road Contractors (400m FINAL)

11.30am

Min Min Store Local Camel Race

12.00pm

Tourism and Events Queensland Camel Cup (the 1500m FINAL!)

1.00pm

Crackup Sisters Comedy Show at the 'Homestead'

From 2pm

Afternoon Novelty Races!

*Including Yabby Races with the Yabby Cup
sponsored by Mt Isa Trophies, plus footraces
and tug-o-war fun.*

6.00pm

Bar closes



MEET CHARLIE

Charlie is a Boulia local and his 'mum' is camel trainer Dannileah. He is full height at 7 years, but has and been coming to the races since he was little, having been found orphaned at 4 days old and Dannileah and Ronnie bottle-feeding him as their adopted 'baby'.

Charlie isn't racing, he's just here to cheer on his adopted brothers, but let's be honest, he mostly comes for the perks... Charlie craves attention from tourists and he knows they bring his favourite treats: lukewarm cappuccinos (one sugar please), coke and lollies! He shares kisses and even poses for photos - no kidding! Cross the racetrack to meet Charlie... he's in the first yards you'll find when you cross the track. (NOTE: Do not cross the track once race day has begun)



SATURDAY RACING GUIDE

400M HEATS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place proceed to Quarter Mile Cup Final on Sunday. Non place-getters are eligible for Consolation Race on Sunday.

11.00am Tropic Distributors 400m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

11.30am JASKO 400m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

12.00pm Curley's Cattle Transport 400m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

12.30pm Tony Wilkinson 400m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

JUST FOR FUN

1.00pm Boulia State School Calcutta & Mock Camel Races

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

1000M HEATS: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place proceed to 1500m Cup Final on Sunday. Non place-getters are eligible for Consolation Race on Sunday.

3.00pm P & M Hindom Water Haulage & Welding 1000m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

3.30pm P & N Tonkies Carpentry 1000m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

4.00pm Goodwood Pastoral Company 1000m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

4.30pm Reaqua 1000m

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

SUNDAY RACING GUIDE

10.00am Reg Beauchamp Memorial Consolation Race

Sponsored by S&R Lincoln Grader Hire

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

11.00am Toby Harris Memorial Quarter Mile Flyer (400m FINAL)

Sponsored by Harris Road Contractors

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____

11.30am Min Min Store Local Race

1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____



12 NOON Tourism and Events Queensland Camel Cup 1500m (FINAL)

1st _____ 2nd _____

3rd _____ 4th _____



A hometown 1500m Final win in 2021;
Local camel 'Gunna' wins with jockey Kelly Sloan

PREVIOUS CUP WINNERS

Boulia Camel Cup 1500m

- 2021: Gunna, Jockey Kelly Sloan, Trainer Roman Czubak, Boulia, QLD.
- 2019: Wason, Jockey Tiana Taratoa, Trainer Dannileah Stewart & Ronnie Callope, Boulia, QLD.
- 2018: Uncle Bob, Jockey Chontelle Jannese, Trainer Rod Sansom, NSW.
- 2017: Chief, Jockey Glenda Sutton, Trainer Glenda Sutton, VIC.
- 2016: HookMUp, Jockey Chontelle Jannese, Trainer Don Anesbury, SA.
- 2015: HookMUp, Jockey Ryan Kennedy, Trainer Don Anesbury, SA.
- 2014: Uncle Bob, Jockey Bruce Wason, Trainer Tom Woodhouse, Boulia QLD.
- 2013: Chief, Jockey Glenda Sutton, Trainer Glenda Sutton, VIC.

Quarter Mile Flyer 400m

- 2021: Hajime, Jockey Glenda Sutton, Trainer Glenda Sutton, Shepparton, VIC.
- 2019: Hajime, Jockey Glenda Sutton, Trainer Glenda Sutton, Shepparton VIC.
- 2018: Uncle Bob, Jockey Chontelle Jannese, Trainer Rod Sansom, NSW.
- 2017: Chief, Jockey Glenda Sutton, Trainer Glenda Sutton, VIC.
- 2016: Marley, Jockey Bruce Wason, Trainer Dannileah Stewart, Boulia, QLD.
- 2015: Biscuit, Jockey Kelly John Sloan, Trainer Roman Czubak, Boulia, QLD.
- 2014: HookMUp, Trainer Don Anesbury, SA.
- 2013: Chief, Jockey Glenda Sutton, Trainer Glenda Sutton, VIC.

OUR RACE CALLER ANDREW SAUNDERS



On this our 25 th Anniversary, we pay a special tribute to Andrew Saunders, who has been our race caller in the tower since the very first races in 1997!

Andrew was already the race caller for horse races in Boulia and so when Paddy McHugh brought camel racing to Boulia, Andrew got the tap on the shoulder to do his first ever camel races.

We are incredibly grateful to Andrew, who expertly relays all the action right from the starting barriers, where only he can see with his binoculars and view from the tower. Andrew says it's a tricky job calling the 400m in particular, as it's very fast down the straight, but at least these days the teams all wear racing colours (unlike the early days when jockeys wore t-shirts with vests covering them and Andrew had to remember colours of t-shirts!)

When Andrew isn't calling races, he's Manager at ABC Mount Isa.



COURTESY SHUTTLE BUS

Shuttle bus will run continuously between the racecourse and town from 4.30pm Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. Last bus departs Friday and Saturday nights at 12.30am. Pickup points are outside the racecourse main front entry fence and the Waddi Tree building in town.

Call Phil on 0427 570 189 to request pick up from Caravan Park.



CASH OUT - Available at the racecourse at the bar.



CAMPING

Camping is included free with your races ticket from Sunday 10 th to Monday 18 th July. A dump point is at the industrial estate wash down bay on the road towards Mount Isa and is well signed. Firewood left around the grounds has been kindly donated for campers and there is firewood available for purchase at the roadhouse. Potable bore water is available from taps onsite.



DOGS

Dogs are permitted in the camping areas, however unfortunately no dogs are allowed within the event area (defined by the perimeter chain mesh fencing). See map (right) for offleash area. >>>

Please be considerate of fellow campers with regards to noise and dogs' waste.



MERCHANDISE

Pick up your Boulia Camel Races merchandise from the merch store, open from 3pm Friday. Hats, shirts, stubby coolers... we've got lots to choose from, so take a reminder home of the fun you had with us here in Boulia

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Goodwood Pastoral Co



JADE SACIPOVIC

TONY WILKINSON

KALINDA & BILL CLUFF

Photography in this program supplied by:
Alvin Lim Photography, Aliven Photography and Lyn Hutchins



RED DIRT TOURS, OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO BE

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