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Kidman Centenary Celebrations



Derek Rowe and horse Bandana winners of the Kidman Cup

For most people who know Derek Rowe he has a very strong character that can captivate any audience, he is never short of conversation and always manages to bring a smile to your face. This yarn is about an event which brought a 100 years of history, tradition and hard work all together for one weekend. For the first time in 100 years all 11 of the remaining Kidman Cattle Stations were reunited at the Innamincka Racecourse for two days of friendly competition between all the stations in events such as bronco branding, buck jumping and horse racing. The

event was to celebrate the anniversary of Sir Sidney Kidman who took control of the company after his brother Sackville died. Sir Sidney Kidman is probably better known for his title as the 'Cattle King' and still today his company is going strong and producing quality cattle.

More than 400 people attended the centenary from all parts of Australia. Manager Merv Wortley and staff from Ruby Plains Station in Western Australia drove for three days with their horses to meet at Innamincka. Innamincka was chosen as it was per-

fect for the gathering because it was central to most stations. Descendants of Sir Sidney Kidman travelled from England to join in the celebrations, which were described as the biggest family reunion in living memory.

For Rowe the build up to Innamincka was Oodnadatta Races and Gymkhana. For the first time in his horse racing career he started in the gates and won the race as well! He managed to pick up four 1st place and one 3rd place which is an incredible effort.

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Kidman Centenary Celebrations

After a pretty big weekend at Oodna Races Rowe recovered at Macumba Station to work with his horses and give them some further training. He helped Eddie muster some cattle and generally helped out around station.

Rowe travelled with Eddie Nunn and his family, the Halstead family and four staff members. They made one overnight stop at Lynthurst where they caught up with Stuart Nunn who is a travelling manager. After a night of drinks and tall yarns they picked up one of Stuart's horses before travelling on to Innamincka.

The first night Rowe arrived there they had to unload all the horses before the night began. Free alcohol was put on for all Kidman employees and everyone had a pretty heavy night. Rowe said it was a good night, everyone had a yarn, a charge and talked about what was going to happen.

The next day started with the bronco branding. Macumba came equal fourth in this event with Ruby Plains Station. It's a timed event where you have three cattle and you have to brand them as fast as you can. Following the bronco branding were a few gymkhana events before the main event of the day which was the Kidman Cup. There were meant to be twenty-five in the race to start with but they dropped the field back to the best ten. This was the event Rowe had been working and training for. Rowe said "The race started I galloped down the straight for about 400m looked around and realised I was about 7-8 lengths in front and just knew I had won it and cruised on home." Having won the race so easily Rowe was astounded. He said "I was pretty wrapped, jumping around, just couldn't get the grin off my face. Eddie was wrapped and everyone from Macumba was just over the moon." Rowe wore Dick Nunn's (Eddie's father) racing colours which are purple, brown and green and those colours haven't been worn in many years. Rowe was a bit over come by all the reporters and TV cameras but managed to pull off being a celebrity for the day pretty well. I don't have to tell you there were huge celebrations that night.

Later in the day which was probably one of the high lights of that day was the rodeo. They managed to buck out



Let's Rodeo

some real mean bulls straight off the truck down a ramp into a gate and the rider when ready gives a nod the gate opens and they bucked them straight out into the middle of the flat right in front of every one. Steer's were running through the middle of the crowd and they were bucking, people were just running everywhere. Rowe said just as he hit the ground a baby screamed and the steer went straight towards the noise but no harm came to anyone though. Rowe said "One bloke went a kilometre before he fell off because he was going that fast he was to scared to fall off, the horses couldn't keep up with him". Rowe said he made it about two meters before he fell off and just laughs, he turns serious and tells me he lasted two or three jumps before he hit the ground. Then there was the story of the guy in the ambulance who was hit in the head by one of the horns and they were stitching him up when one of the steers bucked through the crowd straight towards the ambulance and the guy with the stiches pulled the ambulance door down and knocked himself out. Rowe said "It was the funniest thing I'd ever seen and he won the ride too because he put up a good ride". Rowe also won some hearts as he led some of the kids through their gymkhana events and helped them pick some ribbons and prizes up.

At the end of the night everyone sat under the stars around a camp fire and had a big yarn about the days events and prizes they had won, which were

mostly ribbons. Rowe gave the cup to Eddie and Geri Nunn., he said "They won it, it was for them, with their horse".

Rowe expresses that it was a great weekend, everyone had a good time and a lot of laughs.

Misty Mance

Quiz

- 1) With what sport do you associate the teams Rifle Club, Bulls Hitters and the Many C's?
- 2) Who wrote the Narnia series of books?
- 3) How many kilometres north of Dingo Woop Woop was a truck spill containing heaps of Ice Coffee according to the TV commercial?
- 4) In what British city did Cadbury Chocolates first get established?
- 5) What peg-legged man founded New Amsterdam which became New York City?
- 6) Which rock band recorded 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' and a huge selling album that featured a baby swimming on the cover?
- 7) Which former member of Monty Python's Flying Circus made a four part documentary TV series on the Crusades for Welsh TV?
- 8) Which cult TV series, now in its 8th series had its first episode called 'The End' and featured a creature descended from a Cat?
- 9) Which major Japanese naval base during World War Two is now a large attraction for scuba divers diving wrecks of sunken Japanese ships?
- 10) What three teams make their one day world cup debut in 1999?