

# Oodnadatta Hosts 2000 National Bronco Branding Championships

The Oodnadatta Community and station folk played a game of footy on the school oval as the Bronco Branding Committee met for it's AGM on 12th March.

Tony Williams replaces Grant McSporran as president and Gerry Nunn continues as secretary.

The committee selected on July 8th 2000 to host the fourth Australian National Bronco Branding Championships at the Oodnadatta Race track. Cattle will be supplied by Andrew and Donna Clarke of Allandale Station and Douglas Lillecrapp of Todmorden Station will also assist with stock. The events on the day will be:

- \* Singles Bronco Branding
- \* Doubles Bronco Branding
- \* Steer Ride
- \* Calf Scruffing

#### History:

Bronco Branding was first performed as a competitive sport at Alice Springs in May 1984.

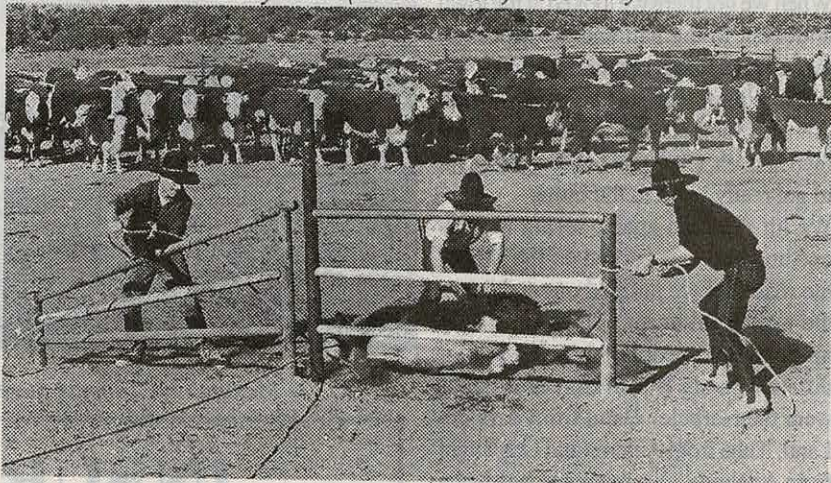
The Oodnadatta Bronco Branding Committee was formed in the same year and held a competition on Macumba Station in August of 1984.

#### The Method:

Bronco Branding is Australia's traditional method of branding cattle in the outback. This unique method of branding stock has been practiced on most of the cattle stations throughout Australia. It involves the stockman mustering the mob and holding them together, whilst the catcher, usually the head stockman or experienced ringer, ropes an unbranded beast (clean skin) from his horse. The catch is hauled to the Bronco ramp or a tree, leg ropes are applied and used to secure the beast to the ground. This method is still used on large remote cattle stations today, but holding yards have been built to confine the mob. Using this method, cattle can be mustered and branded in one day without drafting. It eliminated the cost of building large drafting yards or driving cattle long distances.



*Tony Williams (Mt Barry Stn) - President & Gerry Nunn (Macumba Stn) - Secretary*



*L-R Hayden Butts, Phantom & Tom Shephard - Bronco Branding action held at Todmorden Station.*

#### The Competition:

Singles team consists of four members, a catcher and three ground crew. The catcher catches the clean skin and the ground crew leg rope it to the bronco panel, scruff it to the ground, brand and ear mark it. This is a time event, one round with each team having to catch three calves. Top five go into the final round with both scores added together. Doubles team consists of five members, two catchers with three ground crew, who do exactly the same as the singles team except one round with each team having to catch five calves, with the quickest time outright

winner. The Oodnadatta Bronco Branding Club last hosted the Championships at Oodnadatta in 1996. The Queensland Committee hosted the Championships at Winton in 1995 and at The Longreach Hall of Fame in 1998. This year's 2000 events will be full of fun, action and lots of entertainment, including food, drinks, bar facilities and a live band at the track. Join us in Oodnadatta for a fair dinkum outback experience.

**Patsie Williams**  
**Treasurer (O.H.R.S.C.)**