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**By Tracey Lenz**  
**609 words**

## **BUSH CELEBRATIONS PROVIDE URBAN WARRIORS WITH A SLICE OF COUNTRY LIFE.**

Everyone remembers a good celebration, the sights, smells and tastes that make the event unique. In the big smoke such proceedings usually cost tens of thousands of dollars and are filled to the brim with fireworks, rides and entertainment to amuse the masses. On the other hand, in the Australian bush a good event is one where there are no huge crowds and where people enjoy each others company and the simple pleasures of life. This doesn't mean that bush shows and events are dull and boring. On the contrary, they are vibrant displays of communities coming together and making their own fun. Best of all they provide us city slickers with a slice of country life, a less stressful kind of life we wish we all had. Luckily the Gladstone Region provides ample opportunities for urban warriors to relax and enjoy life in the Australian bush through a variety of memorable shows and events.

The Mount Larcom Show is just what a country show should be: friendly, family orientated and down to earth. It is the perfect destination for those wanting as slice of Australian bush life. So how's the Mount Larcom Show different to any other country show? Show secretary Jenny Grother says Mount Larcom Show is,

'One of the last traditional agricultural shows on the circuit'.

The large event arenas and excellent set up allow show goers to mingle with 'the Bushies', listen to a good yarn and get up close to experience country life in its true form. This is probably why the 66 year old event keeps on growing in popularity each year.

Held in June, the Mount Larcom Show features traditional events like Wood Chopping, Chain Saw Races, Sheep Shearing, Commercial and Stud Cattle Judging, Dressage, Historical Displays, Show Jumping, Poultry Judging as well as Working Dog and Goat Shows. Venturing into the petting zoo is sure to delight adults and children alike. Being able to touch and hold many farm animals is truly a joyous experience. Taking a walk through the pavilions has any first time visitor feeling like one of the community with locally made culinary creations, fruit and vegetable produce and home brews along with work by the district's school children and artists on display. While the Mount Larcom Show has traditional roots, it also features 'mod cons' like sideshow alley, rides, food, drink and bar facilities as well as clean modern toilets.

Around October every year the tiny town of Wartburg, 45 minutes drive from Miriam Vale, comes alive for one day every year. Beginning in 1986 as a major fundraiser for the local Parents and Citizens Association, the Wartburg Bush Festival has developed into a unique event, featuring attractions synonymous with the Australian bush alongside more cosmopolitan pursuits. A traditional Aussie rodeo with Bulls and Broncs, Steer Wrestling and Barrel Races as well as The Wartburg Cup are highlights. Other activities such as Wood Chopping, Chainsaw Races and Dog Shows are also included. The larrikin Australian spirit is on show with Lawn Mower and Billie Cart Races as well as novelty equine events.

After soaking up all the Wartburg Bush Festival has to offer, relax and be entertained by renowned independent music groups. This year's line up included Blues by the Black Dog Blues Band, Rebecca Wright's Folk/Contemporary rhythms, Ben Penna's Contemporary Original Rock, former local artist Sonia Hodge and the marching beats of Bundy Drum. Quality children's performers kept the kids entertained and event artist Bob Gammage will inspired us all.

For further information on the Mount Larcom Show and Wartburg Bush Festival, please contact Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited on (07) 4972 4000 or [www.gladstoneregion.info](http://www.gladstoneregion.info).