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COLOURFUL CAMPDRAFTS AND RODEOS, AN EXCELLENT WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH.

“Living in the bush is ... EXCITING
Chopper mustering low to the ground,
Bull catching in the wattle,
Campdrafting flat out”

An extract from: ‘The Bush’, by Russell Holzwart – Year 6, Katherine School of the Air www.latis.net.au

As Russell Holzwart puts it, life in the Australian bush is full of varied emotions: pain, fun and excitement. It’s what makes it so untamed, exhilarating and appealing. One way to experience the richness of the outback and its colourful characters is to be a part of a country Campdraft or Rodeo. The Gladstone Region has loads of Campdrafts and Rodeos that showcase what the bush is all about.

The sport of Campdrafting is a tribute to the ingenuity synonymous with the Australian outback. Born in the bush during the 1920’s and 1930’s, Campdrafting was developed as form of entertainment, a way to forget the harsh conditions of this great land. Men and women pitted their riding and mustering skills against each other in a show of superior horsemanship. Each year the Banana Shire holds a variety of Campdrafts at such places like Baralaba, Camboon and Dawes.

Rodeo dates back to the 1700s and early 1800s when Spanish conquistadors controlled much of the American Mid West. Today it is a sport has many avid followers, including here in Australia. The Banana Shire holds many Rodeos annually featuring events like Bull Riding, Bareback Riding, Steer Wrestling, Rope and Tie, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping and Steer Undercoating.

Events such as Campdrafts and Rodeos provide visitors with the perfect opportunity to enjoy the true essence of the real Australian bush. In the small country towns of the Banana Shire you can meet local personalities, enjoy a good yarn and true country hospitality. More importantly, you’ll walk away with an appreciation of the tough conditions these men and women face each day. Their ability to maintain a fun and positive attitude against the odds is a very humbling experience.

For more information on Campdrafts and Rodeos in the Gladstone Region, contact Gladstone Area Promotion and Development on (07) 4972 4000 or www.gladstoneregion.info.