

## President's Message 2017

As the winter weather is upon us with glorious days and cool nights the ground dries up and the grass turns golden brown we all know it is fast approaching show time and to us in Mareeba and Districts this means Rodeo Time. Winter in Far North Queensland is what attracts many visitors and regular traveller's year after year and we welcome them back to Kerribee Park which is looking remarkably different this year.

The Department of Housing and Public Works, Sport and Recreation, Get Playing Plus Grant Scheme has allowed us to revitalise the Arena with new state of the art Grandstands, LED Lighting and Sound System due to a Grant of over \$900,000 and contributions from the Rodeo Committee of \$450,000 and for this we are truly grateful. The Association has been able to achieve in One (1) Year what would have taken Ten (10) Years with out the support of the Department and this has allowed us to create a whole revamped Rodeo experience with more seats in the current safety standard, better quality and more even distribution of lighting with no delay in switching and Music Quality Sound around the arena perimeter allowing for the removal of the Centre Speaker system and overhead cables. These facilities had served us well and were a credit to the people who designed and built them many years ago and have gotten us to where we are today.

The Rodeo Festival is upon us already and a team of willing workers have once again exceeded our expectations with improvements to the venue and setting up of this facility for what is to come over the next two weeks. A Little bit of rain has settled the dust and provided our caretakers with a bit of relief from watering and greened up the grass ready for the influx of people as they descend on Kerribee Park for the Rodeo.

Our Major Sponsors again this year are Mareeba Yamaha and Yamaha Queensland and the event will be officially called the 2018 Yamaha Mareeba Rodeo and without the support of such great sponsors this event would not be such a success. Keep your eyes open for the Yamaha ATV's at Rodeo this year as they are a very important asset to our association allowing quick access and response for staff and Volunteers around the grounds and essential in such a large complex throughout the year.

It is fabulous to have many significant sponsors supporting major events as part of our Festival including Mareeba Mazda for the Friday night Downtown Parade and events at the Rodeo, Bendigo Bank for the Agricultural Show, Hungry Possum for the Saturday Night QLD v's NSW Interstate Rodeo Challenge and our other great supporters Seven Queensland, Mareeba RSLA Services Club, Mareeba Shire Council, RTS Concreting, Lone Star Rib House, Savannah Lifestyle Resort, Ranbuild & Mareeba Sheds & Gas, Canegrowers Tablelands, Mareeba Leagues Club, Millar Teitzel, Seafood King and Travel Experience.Com.au . There is also a huge list of local sponsors and donors on our website [www.mareebarodeo.com.au](http://www.mareebarodeo.com.au) , too large to mention here who we would like to thank for their part in the Rodeo Festival.

The 2018 Yamaha Mareeba Rodeo will provide additional spectacular entertainment again this year with the introduction of the Mini Bulls to the programme including the Saturday Night Hungry Possum Interstate Challenge with these fabulous Mini Bucking Bulls for our Junior Competitors to match up against. They have proven to be a hit amongst the competitors and spectators alike looking and bucking exactly like their much larger counterparts and providing entertainment like no other and yes, we are bringing back the fabulous bucking ponies to challenge the young riders again and what a show they put on.

The professional contract stock we have booked for this year's rodeo events are renowned for their ability to perform and they are primed and ready for the local competitors and visitors from all over

Australia who have provided massive nominations for us to fit into our jam-packed programme. Thursday afternoon again hosts the timed event competitors with an added Steer Wrestling and Break-away Roping spectacular to start the Rodeo events. All this adds up to the “Ultimate Rodeo Experience” and plenty to see on the Big Screen in the arena or in the Bronc Bar especially provided so you don’t miss a moment.

The Mazda Teams Challenge is back with some upgrades to improve the event it is sure to prove a challenge for our competitors again Barrel Racing and Foot Racing as well as riding with professional race drivers in the Mazda BT-50’s. The very funny Big AL the Rodeo Clown is back this time with his Monster Truck ready to rip up the arena.

The arena events are complimented by the many activities and things to see outside such as the Woodchops and the Agricultural Show and Trade Displays as well as Side Show Alley. The Committee has gone to great efforts to improve your rodeo experience this year including bringing in extra mobile Toilet Blocks as crowd numbers have swelled over the years causing demand on these facilities.

The Rodeo Festival Queen Competition has again attracted 12 young ladies to vie for the Rodeo Queen, Princess and Miss Popularity titles and our sponsors have once again provided some great prizes for the winners. The ladies have a busy few weeks leading up to Rodeo and Friday Nights presentation on stage is always a highlight of the Rodeo Festival. A big thank you to the entrants, their sponsors, Queen Competition sponsors, Judges, and the Matrons of Honour for continuing the tradition and adding some glamour to our event.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps and supports in any way with presenting this major regional event, our Sponsors especially Yamaha Queensland and Mareeba Yamaha our event partners for 2018, Committee and Volunteers, Rotary and Lions Clubs, SES, and those who have assisted over many years.

What a great year for the Mareeba Rodeo Association to see our major projects come to fruition, to see so many people coming back to Kerribee Park and enjoying our facility and we are all hoping that you will come and enjoy one of the truly great outdoor spectacles that is the 2018 Yamaha Mareeba Rodeo.

**Darryl Chaplain**

**President,**

**Mareeba District Rodeo Association Inc.**