

# *INAUGURAL PILBARA LIVESTOCK HANDLING CUP 2016*



**DE GREY LCDC**  
DE GREY LAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
—PILBARA—

The inaugural Pilbara Livestock Handling Cup was organised by the De Grey LCDC and held at Yarrie Station in the Pilbara on the 30th July 2016. The event was held to demonstrate a number of livestock handling activities that are similar to typical cattle handling situations during mustering, yarding and loading cattle on pastoral stations. Ten teams, with three stockhandlers in each team, came from Pilbara cattle stations including Yarrie, De Grey, Mardie, Yandeyarra and Karratha stations, with some stock handlers travelling from Broome, Wiluna and Geraldton. Mardie Station from Karratha won the overall perpetual Cup trophy.

The concept for the Cup was established after the Live Export suspension. Annabelle Coppin of Yarrie Station and Boyd Holden of Livestock Behaviour Systems decided they wanted to showcase the livestock handling skills in the pastoral cattle industry. Together they decided an event was needed that would encourage learning, connection, positivity and energy in the cattle industry, and the Livestock Handling Cup idea developed from there.



Gradyn Doak and Ebony Hill from Yarrie Station demonstrating the jump in the obstacle course event. Photo: Chris Curnow

The competition events were developed and judged by top livestock handling trainer and consultant, Boyd Holden. Boyd has a strong focus on animal welfare, and was flexible in how he supervised and judged each team to ensure both the weaner cattle and the stockhandlers were safe and keeping calm.

The Cup is new initiative, different from any other stock handling event, handling cattle on the ground using body language and teamwork. The three key judging criteria were animal welfare, team work and stockmanship. An important part of this event is it replicated real life cattle management on the station.

## *FACT SHEET No 2: Pilbara Livestock Handling Cup 2016*

The event consisted of four sections. Teams started with 20 head of cattle in the first section, settling the cattle and droving freshly weaned livestock around a yard and then holding them as a mob in the centre. The second involved cattle selection and drafting the cattle down to six head of cattle. The third event was taking the cattle through a carefully designed obstacle course, which brought much laughter as cattle and station teams worked through the course with expertise and good humour. The fourth event was an interview about broad industry issues to encourage more effective communication within our industry.



Left to right: Boyd Holden (Judge) and the winning team from Mardie Station – Rachel Pearce, Richard Climas and Andrew Smith. Photo: Chris Curnow

*"The event replicates real livestock handling situations and skills required in every day station life so it's a great way to recognise and share the skills required to do the job properly. I was impressed with the way the competitors handled their cattle, also the way everyone stayed there, watching and learning different ways of doing things. There was a really strong connection and desire to learn and support each other, the atmosphere was electric."* Boyd Holden, Livestock Behaviour Systems.



Some of the 65 attendees keenly watching and learning cattle handling skills from their peers, with Catherine Marriott assisting the judge Boyd Holden. Photo: Chris Curnow

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Annabelle Coppin, Yarrie Station and Chairperson of De Grey LCDC:

*"For a long time, station work has been seen as something you do for a year, this event really showcased that good stockmanship takes work, it is a skill, a profession and a lifelong journey of learning. The Cup event gives recognition to those with expert skills and brings together like-minded people to learn from each other. It enabled people to share what is required to do the job properly and the impact quiet stockmanship can make on the animals and the people. As an industry, we are proud of the way we handle our livestock. We wanted to create an event that celebrated the skills we have and allowed us to share knowledge with other stations."*



Left to right: Annabelle Coppin (Chair – De Grey LCDC), Catherine Marriott (CEO – KPCA) and Boyd Holden (Judge) watching a team competing in the Livestock Handling Cup.

Photo: Chris Curnow

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