

2021 PBR Australia Back to the Heartland Series Monster Energy Tour PBR Emerald Invitational, presented by Kent Hire Emerald Showgrounds Rodeo Arena Emerald, Queensland Saturday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. AEST

TIME TO SHINE IN EMERALD – This weekend, for the third time in league history, and first time in six years, PBR Australia will travel to Emerald, Queensland. Action at the Emerald Showgrounds Rodeo Arena for the Back to the Heartland Series event will get underway Saturday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. AEST.

Including the PBR Emerald Invitational, presented by Kent Hire, three events remain prior to the 2021 PBR Australia Grand Finals Nov. 26-27 in Townsville, Queensland. With an intense battle underway for the 2021 PBR Australia Championship, the Top 5 riders in the nation will travel to Emerald within 232 points of one another. This weekend, one rider will have the chance to earn 80 national points.

THIS WEEKEND'S FORMAT – The PBR Australia Monster Energy Tour's Emerald Invitational, presented by Kent Hire, at Emerald Showgrounds Rodeo Arena will feature two rounds of bull riding. The event champion will be the rider with the highest total score from their two draws.

KLEIER OUT WITH INJURY – At this weekend's PBR Emerald Invitational, one stalwart competitor will be missing – No. 1 Aaron Kleier. En route to his win at the most recent Monster Energy Tour event held in early October in Mackay, Kleier sustained a shoulder injury which continues to keep him on the sidelines. In his absence, the door is open for the other hard-charging contenders to gain ground in the race for the 2021 PBR Australia Championship. While it is mathematically impossible for a lead change to happen in Emerald, one rider has the chance to make a maximum 80-point dent in the reigning three-time PBR Australia Champion's lead atop the national standings.

SHEPHARD SETS SIGHTS ON AUSTRALIAN TITLE – PBR World Finals qualifier Kurt Shepard has his sights fixed on one goal in 2021 – the PBR Australia Championship. And while Shephard may have lost some ground to Australian No. 1 Aaron Kleier at the most recent tour stop in Mackay, the Queensland sensation still delivered a 1-for-2 finish to leave BB Print in seventh place, collecting 13 national points. Shephard began the PBR Mackay Invitational, presented by Kent Hire, in less-than-ideal fashion, dispatched by Flyin Hippie in 3.78 seconds. The World Finals qualifier, however, returned composed in Round 2, going to distance atop Drag Iron for 82.5 points. The score avenged a buckoff from the 2020 season when Drag Iron bucked off Shephard in 6.22 seconds in Beaudesert, Queensland. Ahead of this weekend's event in Emerald, Shephard remains No. 2 in the nation, 136.33 points behind No. 1 Kleier. He'll attempt to register his second and third consecutive qualified rides when he faces rematches in Round 1 and 2 aboard Reloaded and Flyin Hippie, respectively.

The 2021 season has been a career-best year for Shephard. Competing at eight events to date on home soil, the Mareeba native has registered a Top-10 effort in each outing. He has gone a torrid 13-for-19, covering a league-leading 68.42% of his bovine athlete counterparts. Shephard notably began the season with a bang, winning his first event of the year at the mid-June tour stop in Rockhampton. Shephard punched his ticket to the championship round of the PBR Rockhampton Invitational after covering Breaking Bad for 78 points in Round 1. Ninth on the event leaderboard following the opening round, Shephard drew Dittmann Bucking Bulls' standout Reloaded as his final opponent. Making the 8 for a championship round-best 85.5 points, Shephard catapulted to the top of the event standings, capturing what was his first

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victory since November 2020. Shephard went on to earn his second event win of the season in October, once again leading the field at a Monster Energy Tour stop in Rockhampton. At the event, Shephard was quick to strike, covering Iron Jacket for a second-best 85.5 points in Round 1. The ride was the second of Shephard's career aboard the bovine athlete, first riding him for 85 points at a 2018 iteration of the tour stop in Rockhampton. In Round 2, Shephard, however, was unable to replicate his initial success, brought down by Bang Ya Drum in a hard-fought 4.98 seconds. Despite the buckoff, the 27-year-old's opening round effort was enough to earn him one of the coveted six positions in the championship round. Shephard returned, readying to faceoff against the previously unridden Razor Sharp. Undeterred by the 2021 PBR Australia Bull of the Year contender's impressive resume, Shephard reached the 8-second whistle for an event-best 89 points. The golden finish earned Shephard a crucial 75.5 national points, allowing him to surpass Macaulie Leather for the No. 2 position in the national standings.

Shephard was also a key competitor for Team Queensland during the 2021 PBR Origin tournament. In addition to helping the Maroons to victory in the state vs. state competition, Shephard notched a ninth and second-place finish in the individual standings in Brisbane and Cairns, respectively.

WILKINSON WOWS IN MACKAY – The last rider to win the PBR Australia Championship not named Aaron Kleier was New South Wales standout Troy Wilkinson in 2017. While the charismatic cowboy has battle numerous injuries in the years since, he has returned in 2021 in the championship-contending form for which he had become know. His prowess for the sport was on full display at the most recent tour stop in Mackay, going 1-for-2 to conclude the tour stop a season-best second overall. Going 1-for-2, Wilkinson clinched the silver finish courtesy of a Round 2-winning, 84-point ride aboard Roam Aviation High Risk. Wilkinson left Mackay having earned a crucial 50 national points. After travelling to the event ranked No. 19 in the Australian standings, Wilkinson surged seven positions to No. 12. He is now within 355.33 points of No. 1 Kleier.

The second-place result marked Wilkinson's third consecutive Top-10 finish. His streak began in mid-July when he concluded the individual competition at PBR Origin II – Cairns 10^{th} . In his very next outing in early October, Wilkinson climbed the leaderboard, finishing the sixth event of the year in Rockhampton sixth. Eager to continue his momentum, and gain further ground in the standings, Wilkinson will first attempt Living on Dreams in Round 1 in Emerald, before facing a rematch in Freckles Brown during Round 2 of the tour stop.

FIELDER FIGHTS FORWARD – Reigning PBR Australia Grand Finals event winner Brady Fielder remains in the hunt for the 2021 PBR Australia Championship and earned more points in his quest for his first national title at the most recent tour stop in Mackay where he tied for fourth. Splitting the fourth-place effort alongside Caiden Sandilands and Qynn Andersen, Fielder brought the Mackay crowd to its feet in Round 2 when he outlasted Random Assault for 83 points to earn 23.66 national points. While Fielder remained No. 3 in the national standings, Fielder he climbed within 174.51 points of No. 1 Aaron Kleier.

The fourth-place result was Fielder's eighth Top-10 effort of his 2021 campaign. He has gone 10-for-22, covering 45.45% of his draws. While Fielder is still on the hunt for his first event win of 2021, he has registered two round victories. In Emerald, Fielder will attempt to continue his surge up the national standings when he attempts Top Deck in Round 1 and Pretty Boy in Round 2.

FAMILIAR WATERS – Round 1 of the PBR Emerald Invitational, presented by Kent Hire, will feature three rematches, with two riders having experienced past success aboard their draw. Reining PBR Australia Grand Finals event winner Brady Fielder will reignite his rivalry with Top Deck which dates to the 2019 season. First going head-to-head more than two years ago in Mackay, Queensland, Fielder covered the bovine athlete for 84.5 points in Round 1 of the tour stop. PBR World Finals qualifier Kurt Shephard is slated to attempt a bull he has already covered in 2021 – Reloaded. Meeting this June in Rockhampton, Shepard rode the Dittmann Bucking Bulls' standout for 85.5 points en route to the event win. For Lane Mellers, he will be looking to make the 8 for the first time in his career atop Makin 8 Bucksnort. Squaring off last season in Toowoomba, Queensland, Mellers was dispatched in 4.62 seconds.

As the PBR Emerald Invitational continues with Round 2, six riders will face familiar opponents, with the road headlined by the third meeting of seven-time PBR World Finals qualifier Lachlan Richardson and King Kong. Of note, King Kong is the largest bull currently bucking in PBR competition, weighing in at 990 kgs (2,182 lbs). Richardson, who is looking to remain perfect aboard the bull, first rode him for 87.75 points during the 2018 Townsville Iron Cowboy. Not meeting again until 2019, Richardson again made the 8 atop King Kong for an 88.25-point score during Round 3 of the 2019 PBR Australia Grand Finals in Townsville. For the remaining five riders, none have previously ridden their draw. Shepard leads the quintet, poised to face his second familiar opponent of the event in Flyin Hippie. The duo of athletes faced off at the most recent event in Mackay, Queensland, with Flyin Hippie getting the better of Shephard in a quick 3.78 seconds. Kelsey Pavlou and Sam Woodall have also drawn bulls they have climbed aboard once already in 2021. Pavlou bucked off Roid Rage earlier this year in Rockhampton in 2.91 seconds, while Woodall was also bested by Damage Control in Rockhampton, lasting just 2.43 seconds.

The remaining Round 2 rematches are:

Caiden Sandilands vs. Cattle King King's Ransom (2020 Rockhampton, Queensland – Round 2 | 2.65 seconds) Troy Wilkinson vs. Freckles Brown (2017 Brisbane, Queensland – Round 3 | 5.21 seconds)

PAST EMERALD EVENT WINNERS – PBR Australia has made two prior visits to Emerald, Queensland, travelling to the region in both 2014 and 2015. At the most recent iteration of the tour stop in 2015, Cody Heffernan claimed the event win as one of three riders to be flawless in Emerald. Heffernan began his campaign at the event finishing second in Round 1 after he rode Chameleon for 84.5 points. Heffernan then clinched the win when he died for the best score of the championship round, going the distance aboard The Hump for 86.5 points. In 2014, Lachlan Richardson earned the event win as the only contender to go a perfect 2-for-2. After finishing eighth in Round 1 via a 79.5-point ride, Richardson surged to the top of the leaderboard when he won the championship round via an 87.5-point effort.

Cody Heffernan (2015)

Lachlan Richardson (2014)

BULL PEN – Thus far in 2021, a feverish race for the Bull of the Year honor has been brewing between Cattle King Boogers Beach and Razor Sharp.

Hailing from the deep roster from Dittmann Bucking Bulls, Cattle King Boogers Beach has bucked at nine of the 11 PBR Australia events held to date, earning the top bull score in eight of his outs. As the season got underway with a doubleheader in Rockhampton, Cattle King Boogers Beach was first marked 45 points for his 6-second buckoff of Macaulie Leather before posting an improved 45.5-point score for his swifter 2.49-second buckoff of Leather the next day. Cattle King Boogers Beach returned to the arena in Townsville for the Touring Pro Division event held in tandem with the North Queensland Elite Junior Rodeo, tying for the top bull honors with fellow Dittmann bovine athlete POA Fully Locked & Loaded. Both bulls posted a 45-point score. Cattle King Boogers Beach again bucked off Leather, this time in 3.66 seconds, while POA Fully Locked & Loaded sent Bailey Woodard to the dirt in 3.94 seconds.

At the final Monster Energy Tour event held prior to the start of the 2021 PBR Origin tournament, Cattle King Boogers Beach wowed again, turning in a 44-point score to lead the bull pen when he dispatched Brady Fielder in a quick 2.58 seconds. Boogers Beach split the honor in Rockhampton with Bull of the Year rival Razor Sharp, who earned his score compliments of his 2.8-second trip with Cody Heffernan. As the 2021 PBR Origin tournament got underway in Brisbane, Cattle King Boogers Beach was back to being the top bovine athlete. He turned in a 44-point score when he denied Lachlan Slade a qualified ride, bucking off the Team New South Wales rider in 3.38 seconds. When the PBR Origin tournament continued in Cairns, Queensland, Cattle King Boogers Beach again tied for the top honor with Razor Sharp, both marked 45 points. Boogers Beach teamed with Slade for a 90-point ride, while Peter Wallace's Razor Sharp dispatched Kurt Shephard in 3.22 seconds. Cattle King Boogers Beach returned to the bullpen in late July when PBR Australia returned to Rockhampton for the fourth time in 2021. Drawn by Daniel Rogan, Cattle King Boogers Beach was marked an event-best 44.5 points for his 2.69 seconds of work. At the fifth installment of the PBR Rockhampton Invitational, Boogers Beach kept his streak alive, tying for the honor of top-marked bull when he was marked 43.5 points for his 3.57-second buckoff of Aaron Kleier.

While his impressive reign as Bull of the Event came to an end during his most recent outing in Mackay, Boogers Beach still posted an impressive 44-point score for his 5.49-second buckoff of Lachlan Richardson.

Apart from Cattle King Boogers Beach, Razor Sharp is the only other bull to earn the top score at multiple tour stops. A four-time recipient of the honor to date in 2021, after tying with Boogers Beach for the top score at the third event of the year in Rockhampton, and the Origins event in Cairns, Razor Sharp earned the honor exclusively at the event held in Burnett Heads, Queensland. Razor Sharp was marked 44.5 points for his 2.1-second buckoff of Sam Payne. Razor Sharp lead the bull pen entering the sixth tour stop of the year in Rockhampton, and while he fell just short of posting the top score, the bovine athlete was marked a respectable 44 points when he was covered by Kurt Shepard for 88 points. The score was the first on record atop Razor Sharp, ending the bull's buckoff streak at 16 outs. Razor Sharp last bucked in early October in Macaky, becoming the first bull to out buck Cattle Kings Booger Beach. Earning the Bull of the Event honor exclusively, Razor Sharp was marked 44.5 points for his 3.5 seconds of work with Leather.

Both slated to buck in Round 2, Beau Willis will climb aboard Cattle Kings Booger Beach, while Joshua Jones will attempt Razor Sharp.

PROVIDING PROTECTION – This weekend's protection athletes are Clint Kelly of Gracemere, Queensland and Shane "Maddog" Simpson of Mackay, Queensland.

NEXT UP – The 2021 PBR Australia season will continue Saturday, November 6 in Caboolture, Queensland at QSEC Arena. Action for the Monster Energy Tour's Caboolture Invitational will get underway at 7:00 p.m. AEST.

EMERALD COMPETITORS BY COUNTRY

Australia (18) – Qynn Andersen, Taran Chirgwin, Joseph Down, Brady Fielder, Lane Howlett, Joshua Jones, Macaulie Leather, Lane Mellers, Wyatt Milgate, Lawson Nobbs, Mitchel Paton, Kelsey Pavlou, Lachlan Richardson, Caiden Sandilands, Kurt Shephard, Troy Wilkinson, Beau Willis, Sam Woodall

BREAKDOWN BY STATE -

New South Wales – Lachlan Richardson, Troy Wilkinson; Queensland – Qynn Andersen, Taran Chirgwin, Brady Fielder, Lane Howlett, Joshua Jones, Macaulie Leather, Lane Mellers, Wyatt Milgate, Lawson Nobbs, Mitchel Paton, Kelsey Pavlou, Caiden Sandilands, Kurt Shephard, Beau Willis; Victoria – Joseph Down, Sam Woodall.

TOP 10 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL STANDINGS – Here are the current Top 10 in the 2021 Australian national standings:

Rider		Points	Dollars Won	Behind Leader
1.	Aaron Kleier	424.33	\$18,907.28	
2.	Kurt Shephard	288	\$13,743.24	-136.33
3.	Brady Fielder	249.82	\$7,681.59	-174.51
4.	Macaulie Leather	218	\$7,243.24	-206.33
5.	Lawson Nobbs	192.33	\$8,738.40	-232
6.	Lachlan Richardson	184.5	\$7,502.48	-239.83
7.	Bailey Woodard	149	\$6,507.68	-275.33
8.	Lachlan Slade	116.5	\$8,682.28	-307.83
9.	Lane Mellers	77.5	\$4,208.40	-346.83
10.	Caiden Sandilands	72.99	\$1,476.79	-351.34

2021 PBR AUSTRALIA EVENT WINS - Here are the total individual wins for PBR Australia Events in 2021:

3 – Aaron Kleier (*Rockhampton #1, *Rockhampton #4, *Mackay)

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- 2 Lawson Nobbs (Alice River, #Cairns) Kurt Shephard (*Rockhampton #3, *Rockhampton #6)
- 1 Macaulie Leather (*Rockhampton #2)
 Lachlan Slade (#Brisbane)
 Lachlan Richardson (Burnett Heads)
 Bailey Woodard (*Rockhampton #5)

Denotes a PBR Origin Event. For these events, the individual leaderboard was only determined by Round 1 and Round 2. The bonus round did not impact the standings.

EVENT-BY-EVENT RESULTS - Here are the results from 2021 PBR Australia events:

Event	Winner	Ag. Score	Australian Points
*Rockhampton #1	Aaron Kleier	178.5	77
*Rockhampton #2	Macaulie Leather	88.5	65
Alive River	Lawson Nobbs	169.5	39
* Rockhampton #3	Kurt Shephard	163.5	65
#Brisbane	Lachlan Slade	172	72.5
#Cairns	Lawson Nobbs	168.5	68.33
*Rockhampton #4	Aaron Kleier	174.5	77
Burnett Heads	Lachlan Richardson	171	39
*Rockhampton #5	Bailey Woodard	85.5	65
*Rockhampton #6	Kurt Shephard	174.5	75.5
*Mackay	Aaron Kleier	84.5	65

^{*} Denotes a Monster Energy Tour event.

2021 PBR AUSTRALIA 90-POINT RIDES – Here are the 90-point rides from the 2021 PBR Australia season:

	Score	Rider	Bull (Stock Contractor)	Event
1.	90.5	Aaron Kleier	Black Tuxedo (Peter Wallace)	*Rockhampton #1
2.	#90	Lachlan Slade	Cattle King Boogers Beach (Dittmann Bucking Bulls)	Cairns

^{*} Denotes a Monster Energy Tour event.

2021 PBR AUSTRALIA 90-POINT RIDES BY RIDER – Here are the 90-point rides from the 2021 PBR Australia season by rider:

	Australian Rank	Rider	Number of 90-Point Rides
1.	1	Aaron Kleier	1
	8	Lachlan Slade	1

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^{*} Denotes a Monster Energy Tour event.

[#] Denotes a PBR Origin Event. For these events, the individual leaderboard was only determined by Round 1 and Round 2. The bonus round did not impact the standings.

[#] Denotes a ride earned during the bonus round of the 2021 PBR Origin which did not impact the national standings.

2021 RIDES BY PBR AUSTRALIA EVENT

City	R1 Rides	R2 Rides	R3 Rides	CR Rides	Total Rides	Total Riding %
*Rockhampton #1	7	N/A	N/A	2	9	22.5% (9/40)
*Rockhampton #2	6	N/A	N/A	0	6	14.63% (6/41)
Alice River	6	N/A	N/A	1	7	26.92% (7/26)
*Rockhampton #3	9	N/A	N/A	2	11	29.72% (11/37)
#Brisbane	7	6	N/A	2	15	31.25% (15/48)
#Cairns	9	8	N/A	2	19	39.58% (19/48)
*Rockhampton #4	10	N/A	N/A	4	14	36.84% (14/38)
Burnett Heads	10	N/A	N/A	7	17	51.51% (17/33)
*Rockhampton #5	5	N/A	N/A	2	7	19.44% (7/36)
*Rockhampton #6	4	6	N/A	3	13	32.5% (13/40)
*Mackay	5	4	N/A	N/A	9	24.32% (9/37)

^{*} Denotes a Monster Energy Tour event.

2021 PBR AUSTRALIA ROUND WINS – Here is a list of the riders that have the most round wins in 2021:

4 – Lachlan Richardson (Rockhampton #1 Championship Round, Brisbane Round 2, Burnett Heads Championship Round, Rockhampton #6 Round 1)

Kurt Shephard (Rockhampton #3 Championship Round, Cairns Round 1, Rockhampton #5 Round 1, Rockhampton #6 Championship Round)

Aaron Kleier (Rockhampton #1 Round 1, Rockhampton #4 Championship Round, Rochampton #5 Round 1, Mackay Round 1)

- 3 Bailey Woodard (Alice River Round 1, Burnett Heads Round 1, Rockhampton #5 Championship Round)
- 2 Lachlan Slade (Brisbane Round 1, Cairns Round 2)
 Macaulie Leather (Rockhampton #2 Round 1, Rockhampton #4 Round 1)
 Brady Fielder (Rockhampton #3 Round 1, Rockhampton #6 Round 2)
- Lawson Nobbs (Alice River Championship Round)
 Cody Heffernan (Brisbane Round 2)
 Troy Wilkinson (Mackay Round 2)

THE BULLS

HIGH-MARKED BULL OF THE EVENT – Here are the bulls that received the highest score at each PBR Australia event in 2021:

8 – Cattle King Boogers Beach (Rockhampton #1, Rockhampton #2, Alice River, Rockhampton #3, Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton #4, Rockhampton #5)

[#] Denotes a PBR Origin Event. For these events, the championship round rides did not count towards the individual standings, nor award points.

^{*}Note: This list is only inclusive of Round 1 and Round 2 at the three PBR Origin events as the bonus rounds did not award points. Those winners are: Kurt Shephard (Brisbane) and Lachlan Slade (Cairns).

- 4 Razor Sharp (Rockhampton #3, Cairns, Burnett Heads, Mackay)
- 1 POA Fully Locked & Loaded (Alice River)

Rambo (Rockhampton #5)

Reloaded (Rockhampton #5)

Black Tuxedo (Rockhampton #5)

Roid Rage (Rockhampton #5)

Flyin Hippie (Rockhampton #6)

SEASON HIGH-MARKED BULLS – Here are the top bull scores from 2021 at PBR Australia Events:

Event	Bull	Stock Contractor	Score	Rider
*Rockhampton #1	Cattle King Boogers Beach	Dittmann Bucking Bulls	45	Macaulie Leather, 6 seconds
*Rockhampton #2	Cattle King Boogers Beach	Dittmann Bucking Bulls	45.5	Macaulie Leather, 2.49 seconds
Alice River	Cattle King Boogers Beach POA Fully Locked & Loaded	e	45 45	Macaulie Leather, 3.66 seconds Bailey Woodard, 3.94 seconds
*Rockhampton #3	Cattle King Boogers Beach Razor Sharp	Dittmann Bucking Bulls Peter Wallace	44 44	Brady Fielder, 2.58 seconds Cody Heffernan, 2.8 seconds
#Brisbane	Cattle King Boogers Beach	Dittmann Bucking Bulls	44	Lachlan Slade, 3.38 seconds
#Cairns	Cattle King Boogers Beach Razor Sharp	Dittmann Bucking Bulls Peter Wallace	45 45	Lachlan Slade, 90 points Kurt Shephard, 3.22 seconds
*Rockhampton #4	Cattle King Boogers Beach	Dittmann Bucking Bulls	44.5	Daniel Rogan, 2.69 seconds
Burnett Heads	Razor Sharp	Peter Wallace	44.5	Sam Payne, 2.1 seconds
*Rockhampton #5	Rambo Cattle King Boogers Beach Reloaded Black Tuxedo Roid Rage	Dittmann Bucking Bulls Dittmann Bucking Bulls Dittmann Bucking Bulls Peter Wallace Dittmann Bucking Bulls	43.5 43.5 43.5 43.5 43.5	Lawson Nobbs, 2.72 seconds Aaron Kleier, 3.57 seconds Lachlan Richardson, 3.61 seconds Daniel Rogan, 2.91 seconds Taran Chirgwin, 2.85 seconds
*Rockhampton #6	Flyin Hippie	Peter Wallace	45	Wyatt Milgate, 2.68 seconds
*Mackay	Razor Sharp	Peter Wallace	44.5	Macaulie Leather, 3.5 seconds

^{*}Denotes a Monster Energy Tour event.

MORE INFORMATION – For more information on the world's premier bull riding organization, please visit the official website at https://www.pbraustralia.com.au/.

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[#] Denotes a PBR Origin Event.

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