



RESULTS RELEASE

National Finals, Acer Arena

June 18
June 25
July 2
July 9

BRISBANE Entertainment Centre
TOWNSVILLE Entertainment Centre
NEWCASTLE Entertainment Centre
SYDNEY Acer Arena

Australian Bull Riding ‘veterans’ Ben Jones and Jock Connolly show the young blokes how it’s done!

SYDNEY, NSW, Australia: Charters Towers’ (QLD) Jock Connolly was crowned Australian Champion, Goulburn’s (NSW) Ben Jones won the event and Rockhampton’s (QLD) 18 year old Jesse Van Nek took out Rookie Of The Year at Saturday night’s 2011 Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Australian Cup Series National Finals at Sydney’s Acer Arena.

Connolly’s lock on the Australian Champion title earned the 34 year old a berth at the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas this October and Jones’ win upped him one spot in the world qualifier standings, further solidifying the world’s #9’s chance at being World Champion.

“It’s pretty hard to ride bad when you got a crowd like this in front of you,” said Jones of the 7,000-strong cheering, clapping and foot-stomping fans.

“I wouldn’t nod my head (referencing the go-ahead to buck a bull) if I didn’t think I could win,” he said, and in front of a home side crowd was even more sweet for the 33 year old Sydney-born bull rider.

An emotional Connolly, who'd led the standings for the run of the Australian competition, was lost for words. "I'll come back to you," he said, when asked about becoming Australian Champion.

The oldest rider in the PBR Australian Cup Series, there's nothing Connolly likes better than pulling out a great ride in front of the young guys.

"My body still feels good, it still feels good to ride, and I want to keep going while that's all in order," he'd said once before when asked about being the most senior of the mob.

The youngest rider of the pack, Van Nek, who'd got his card the day he turned 18, jumped a plane for the USA a week later and qualified for the 2011 Australian Cup Series from points earned riding there, was aiming for the Rookie title but didn't know if he'd get it.

"I didn't even know how many points I had, I just ride my bulls. I love bull riding," the superstar-in-the-making said.

His first time riding professional at home, Van Nek showed the type of form that is likely to take him to the top of the game in the USA.

It was the riders' night in the National Finals of the 2011 PBR Australian Cup Series with the 22-man posse dominating the bulls from the get-go.

Fifteen of the 22 covered their bulls in Round 1 with Rockhampton's (QLD) Jason Mara leading the charge with 88 points on Dodge City.

New Zealand's Fraser Babbington, who'd taken out the Troy Dunn Invitational in Townsville on June 25, clocked in next with 87.5 on Dominator.

Canada's Zane Lambert and the USA's Harve Stewart got equal 87 on their bulls Strike Force and Hollywood Boulevard and Ben Jones went 86.5 on Bowie.

It was an even split, 11 to the riders, 11 to the bulls, in Round 2, with eight riders: Kempsey's (NSW) brothers Jared and Peter Farley, Fraser Babbington, Jesse Van Nek, Ben Jones, USA's Luke Snyder, Zane Lambert and Rothbury's (NSW) Jason O'Hearn all covering both their beasts.

One of the best competition nights in Australian bull riding history, it was neck and neck going into the Championship round. Young gun Van Nek led with 174 points, Ben Jones was in second with 173.5, Jared Farley in third with 172, Fraser Babbington had 169.5, Zane Lambert 169, Luke Snyder 167, Jason O'Hearn 164.5 and Pete Farley was in eighth with 164 points.

Keeping their seat, an incredible six out of the eight scored.

First out of the gate, Pete Farley loaded up the pressure with 89 on Inmate, the first to score on three bulls.

Jason O'Hearn, second in the Australian Standings, went down early to Bambino and dashed his hopes at becoming Australian Champion.

Last year's event winner, Luke Snyder took the lead by a point and a half with 87.5 on Bambi's Blood and held the top spot whilst Zane Lambert, next, lost out to Up In Smoke.

Fifth out, Fraser Babbington powered a mighty 90.5 on Zee Force, a bull that had bucked him twice before and overtook Snyder.

Jared Farley got a reride on Warchief and was last out of the gate for 88 on Strike Force.

Ben Jones had chosen That's Gold – the bull that was crowned both Champion of the Event and of the Year – for his Final round trip, and danced all the way home with the night's highest score, 91 points.

Jesse Van Nek bucked out 89 on 2010's champion bull, Lab Rat, but the night belonged to Jones.

With just over a point between them, Jones took the event title with 264.5, Van Nek was in next with 263 and Jared Farley equal third with Fraser Babbington for 260.

O'Hearn had needed his Championship-round bull in order to take out the Aussie title and Connolly's 83 on Red River in Round 1 – even though he didn't cover Jumanji in Round 2 or make the Championship round – was enough to cement the Charters Towers bull rider the Championship.

Off to the PBR World Titles in Las Vegas in October, the Australian Champion buckle on his belt, holding his own, just couldn't feel better for Jock Connolly.

The 2011 PBR Australian Cup Series was a four-stop competition tour, all on Saturday nights, which kicked off at the Brisbane Entertainment Centre on June 18, continued June 25 at the Townsville Entertainment Centre and July 2 at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre, before wrapping up July 9 with the National Finals at Sydney's Acer Arena.

Each PBR Australia Cup Series was an individual Invitational with its own purse and winner, and all points earned went toward becoming the PBR Australian Champion!

Each of the Saturday night spur-starters in Brisbane, Townsville, Newcastle and the National Finals in Sydney, were two rounds (all 22 riders ride once each round) plus a final of the top eight qualifiers.



NATIONAL FINALS, SYDNEY ACER
ARENA (JULY 9, 2011) EVENT RESULTS:

Placing	Contestant	Hometown	Score
1	Ben Jones	Goulburn, NSW	264.5
2	Jesse Van Nek	Rockhampton, Qld	263
3	Jared Farley	Kempsey, NSW	260
4	Fraser Babbington	Gisborne NZ	260
5	Luke Snyder	Missouri, USA	254.5
6	Pete Farley	Kempsey, NSW	253
7	Zane Lambert	Lloydminster, CAN	169
8	Jason O'Hearn	Rothbury, NSW	164.5
9	Jason Mara	Rockhampton, Qld	88
10	Brendon Clark	Morpeth, NSW	87
11	Harve Stewart	Texas, USA	87
12	Brett Hanrahan	Rockley, NSW	86.5
26	Cody Campbell	Oregon, USA	86
27	Matt Bohon	Texas, USA	83.5
28	Jock Connolly	Charters Towers, Qld	83
29	David Kennedy	Kyogle, NSW	81.5
30	Duncan Elks	Uralla, NSW	80.5
31	Budd Williamson	Ayr, Qld	77.5
32	Jim Rowsell	Goondiwindi, Qld	0
33	Trey Traweek	Texas, USA	0
34	Troy Wilkinson	Upper Horton, NSW	0
35	Cord McCoy	Oklahoma, USA	0

2011 PBR AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CHAMPION

JOCK CONNOLLY

2011 PBR AUSTRALIA CHAMPION BULL

TD1 THAT'S GOLD

**2011 PBR AUSTRALIA
CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS**

	Rider	Sydney FINALS	Points	Behind
1	Jock Connolly	98	2305.0	
2	Jason O'Hearn	284.5	2099.5	-205.5
3	Luke Snyder	519.5	1773.5	-531.5
4	Fraser Babbington	670	1701.5	-603.5
5	Ben Jones	809.5	1507.0	-798.0
6	Zane Lambert	369	1297.5	-1007.5
7	Duncan Elks	80.5	1286.5	-1018.5
8	Jason Mara	248	1272.5	-1032.5
9	Brendon Clark	187	1241.5	-1063.5
10	Jesse Van Nek	753	1184.0	-1121.0
11	Cody Campbell	131	1125.0	-1180.0
12	Jared Farley	635	1096.0	-1209.0
13	Pete Farley	543	1015.5	-1289.5
14	Jim Rowsell	0	916.5	-1388.5
15	Harve Stewart	177	841.0	-1464.0
16	Troy Wilkinson	0	840.5	-1464.5
17	Rocky McDonald		804.5	-1500.5
18	Budd Williamson	77.5	716.5	-1588.5
19	Roy Dunn		692.0	-1613.0
20	Sam Larsen		673.5	-1631.5
21	Grant Wells		617.0	-1688.0
22	Beau Willis		602.5	-1702.5
23	Michael Ford		549.5	-1755.5
24	Matt Bohon	113.5	441.5	-1863.5
25	David Mason		370.0	-1935.0
26	Mitchel Paton		334.0	-1971.0
27	Ryan Storey		243.0	-2062.0
28	Trefor Sproule		228.5	-2076.5
29	Clayton O'Brien		225.0	-2080.0
30	Cliff Richardson		212.5	-2092.5
31	Trey Traweek	0	0.0	-2305.0
32	Cord McCoy	0	0.0	-2305.0

2011 PBR AUSTRALIA NATIONAL FINALS WINNER

BEN JONES

2011 PBR AUSTRALIA ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

JESSE VAN NEK

**2011 PBR AUSTRALIA
QUALIFIER STANDINGS**

	Rider	PRE FINALS	TOTAL AUS \$
1	Ben Jones	\$ 87,144.59	\$ 98,248.07
2	Pete Farley	\$ 45,462.20	\$ 47,634.28
3	Brendon Clark	\$ 32,032.84	\$ 33,601.12
4	Jason O'Hearn	\$ 29,305.25	\$ 30,108.50
5	Jock Connolly	\$ 19,297.48	\$ 29,297.48
6	David Kennedy	\$ 27,289.45	\$ 27,289.45
7	Brett Hanrahan	\$ 20,374.69	\$ 20,948.44
8	Jared Farley	\$ 16,220.68	\$ 19,999.26
9	Jesse Van Nek	\$ 7,288.81	\$ 16,575.39
10	Saras Ramsay	\$ 15,586.96	\$ 15,586.96
11	Luke Snyder	\$ 11,144.48	\$ 13,852.06
12	Jason Mara	\$ 10,133.39	\$ 12,963.89
13	Rocky McDonald	\$ 12,320.30	\$ 12,320.30
14	Budd Williamson	\$ 11,352.36	\$ 11,352.36
15	Zane Lambert	\$ 8,681.18	\$ 10,612.81
16	Fraser Baddington	\$ 10,187.59	\$ 10,187.59
17	Duncan Elks	\$ 9,629.78	\$ 9,629.78
18	Cody Campbell	\$ 9,591.35	\$ 9,591.35
19	Troy Wilkinson	\$ 8,007.52	\$ 8,007.52
20	Harve Stewart	\$ 4,094.76	\$ 5,089.27
21	Jim Rowsell	\$ 3,806.46	\$ 3,806.46
22	Grant Wells	\$ 3,673.20	\$ 3,673.20
23	Roy Dunn	\$ 3,603.98	\$ 3,603.98
24	David Mason	\$ 3,458.03	\$ 3,458.03
25	Matt Postle	\$ 2,885.92	\$ 2,885.92
26	Rhys Angland	\$ 2,759.96	\$ 2,759.96
27	Sam Larsen	\$ 2,476.47	\$ 2,476.47
28	Beau Willis	\$ 2,448.48	\$ 2,448.48
29	Matt Bohon	\$ 2,329.89	\$ 2,329.89
30	Luke Nichols	\$ 2,314.46	\$ 2,314.46
31	Trey Traweek		\$ -
32	Cord McCoy		\$ -

2011 PBR AUSTRALIAN CUP SERIES:

Saturday June 18	BRISBANE Invitational	BRISBANE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
Saturday June 25	TROY DUNN Invitational	TOWNSVILLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
Saturday July 2	BRENDON CLARK Invitational	NEWCASTLE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
Saturday July 9	NATIONAL FINALS	ACER ARENA, Sydney