

Harry Redford Cattle Drive

"A true bush experience! No frills, plenty of thrills!"



The Harry Redford Cattle Drive is the ultimate, true blue, fair dinkum' Aussie outback experience!

Over 3 unforgettable and spectacular weeks, some of Australia's most experienced drovers will drive 600 head of cattle by horseback through the twists of the ragged Redford Trail, reliving one of the World's greatest cattle duffing drives known to man.

The journey covers 200km of the most distinctive terrain and you can be right there in the saddle alongside them discovering the secrets of horsemanship and droving knowledge passed on from generation to generation.

Witness the spectacular sunrises and sunsets, listen to and join in with the campfire yarn spinning and celebrate with the Aramac and Muttaborra communities at their weekend festivities.

Every night you will camp under the stars, where you will experience some unique Australian camp oven cooking and a wonderful social atmosphere. Experience riders, weekend riders who those who have never ridden are all welcome!



This is a journey that anyone can undertake; all you need is the spirit of adventure. You can join the Cattle Drive for one day or the entire trip - the length of the adventure is up to you.

To find out more or to book your place on our next Harry Redford Cattle Drive, please contact the Events Co-ordinator of the Barcaldine Regional Council.

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Harry Redford



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Harry Redford



Aramac

About Harry...



Henry Arthur Redford is commonly known as "Captain Starlight" in Australian folklore. Henry or Harry Redford was born in Mudgee, NSW, of an Irish convict father and a "currency lass". He was the youngest of eleven children. His family were landowners from the Hawkesbury River.

As Harry Redford was an expert bushman and drover he worked as head teamster transporting stores to many isolated properties in Western Queensland. He soon realised that many of these properties were so large, stock would not be missed for some time due to the isolation.

Bowen Downs, Aramac fitted this category and so Redford devised a plan to steal cattle when the Bowen Downs mustering camp was working on the opposite end of the run.

In March 1870, Redford and four others stole between 600-1000 head of cattle, including an imported white bull belonging to the Scottish Australian Company, Bowen Downs, which stretched some 140 miles along the Thomson River and tributaries.



Redford decided to overland the cattle to South Australia because the rivers had run and he had previous knowledge of the country around Windorah. It took Harry and his two companions, George Dewdney and William Rooke three months to drive the cattle 800 miles down the Cooper through country where Burke and Wills had perished 10 years before. The path thought to be taken by Redford is known as the Strzelecki Track.

On 11 February, 1873, Redford was found "Not Guilty" and Judge Blakeney made his famous statement, "I thank God that the verdict is yours, gentlemen and not mine"

Come and see the replica of the white bull in the main street of Aramac and be reminded of Captain Starlight and his story.

For photographs, memorabilia and merchandise of our annual Harry Redford Cattle Drive, please visit our Harry Redford Interpretive Centre, located inside the Bank of Queensland Building, Gordon Street, Aramac.



Harry's Final Resting Place

Prior to his trial, Harry Redford married Elizabeth Jane Scuthorpe at Mrs Elizabeth Nevell's home in Lewis Street, Mudgee, NSW in April 1871. The couple had at least one child, a daughter, Jemima Mary Elizabeth in 1872.

In 1881, several counts of horse stealing resulted in Redford being jailed for 18 months in Brisbane. After his release, he settled down as the station manager for Brunette Downs. In 1899 he became the manager of McArthur River Station.

In 1901 Redford set off from Brunette Downs to explore Central Australia but drowned while trying to swim across Corella Creek which had flooded due to heavy rain.

A lonely grave on the remote waterhole once used as an outstation of Brunette Downs, marks the last resting place of Australia's most famous cattle duffer - Harry Redford. The last vestiges of his crude stone hut and outbuildings still litter the area, among gidyea trees along the waterhole.