

PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS AT CASTERTON RODEO8/2
MR. YEEND (2)

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Mr. Chairman, my colleague Digby Crozier and Mrs. Crozier, Shire President and Ladies and Gentlemen:

It certainly is a wonderful day to be having the State Rodeo Championships in Casterton. I think it is a great attraction for Casterton and surrounding districts.

A great deal of credit must go to APEX and all those who have worked for APEX over the last five or six years when they originally began the Casterton Rodeo, now ending up as being the State Championships here.

It will put Casterton on the map as a rodeo centre and I think that is a good thing.

There is quite obviously a very great effort gone into organising the Championships and again all credit to APEX and everyone who is involved in doing that. I would like to congratulate the Casterton APEX Club.

I think those of us who live in country areas know very well that the local service organisations of many different kinds, of which APEX is one of the leaders, adds greatly to the quality of life in their own community. So again, our thanks to APEX on this occasion.

Today is a rare opportunity for politicians, because Digby and I are going to be able to sit comfortably, or at least I hope we are, while we can look all about and watch other people losing their seats.

I would like to welcome riders from all States and from New Zealand. Many of them will be at the World Rodeo Championships in Sydney later this year. I think that is fitting at a time when Australia's great rural industries are starting to look forward to the future with more confidence they have had for many years.

Spectators are going to be able to enjoy skilled horsemanship today and this afternoon. These skills have been developed because of Australia's great founding rural industries. What happens here today is very much part of Australia and it is going to endure for a long while.

Apart from recognising the skills of riders, I think it would be a mistake not to make a mention of their mounts. From horses such as these, that people see here today, Australia's own horse the Australian Stock Horse, has developed. This is a natural evolution I believe. It is a horse bred often to meet the harsh climates of Australia and of outback Australia. Originally called the Whalers, the first came from New South Wales and they served Australia in peace and in war but there are now 40,000 registered stock horses in Australia and it is under plan to publish the first Australian stock horse stud book in about October, 1980. I think all of those who

are involved in that particular movement in championing the Australian stock horse also deserve a great deal of credit.

I think what we all want to see are some good events. So again, I would like to thank all of those who have been organising this afternoon and I have very great pleasure in declaring these State Championships officially open and I wish all the riders the best of good fortune.
