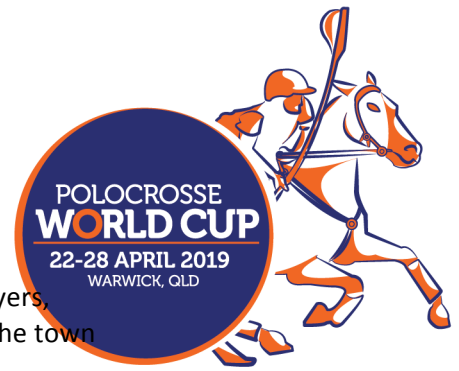


## THE COUNTDOWN IS ON! Adina Polocrosse World Cup – 22-28 April 2019



Excitement is building in the rural town of Warwick, Queensland (population 15,000) as the more than 60 of the world's best polocrosse players, 2,000 international visitors and 60,000 spectators prepare to converge on the town for the 2019 Adina Polocrosse World Cup.

Taking place from 22-28 April 2019, the 2019 Adina Polocrosse World Cup is the biggest international event on the polocrosse calendar and will be the largest international sporting event ever to be held in rural Australia.

It will attract players from eight countries – Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, USA, UK and Ireland – who will battle it out for the sport's top honour. Polocrosse is one of only three home-grown Australian sports, along with Aussie Rules football and Campdrafting, and celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

Reigning World Champions, South Africa, will be defending its title, while the Australian team, which is currently ranked third in the world, will attempt to regain the cup on home soil, lost the title to South Africa in 2011.

In a town that has been significantly challenged by drought, the economic benefits of the World Cup are already being felt. Accommodation is close to booked out, and large orders placed with number of local food, produce, meat and beverage suppliers to cater for the masses at the event (including feed for the 150 horses!). Visitors attending the event from other parts of rural Queensland have already made bookings at local mechanics, tyre shops, and appointments to view local properties for sale and boarding schools. Local businesses are well prepared to cater for the 60,000 spectators who will attend the event, thanks to the Be our Guest training program offered by TAFE Queensland.

Key highlights of the event include:

- **Grudge match under lights – Australia v Zambia, Thursday 25 April at 7.30pm.**  
Zambia knocked Australia out of the 2015 World Cup in South Africa, so competition will be fierce as the players take to the field to see who will be victorious in 2019.
- **Night matches – Thursday 25, Friday 26 and Saturday 27 April.**  
Experience the atmosphere of watching this great sport under lights at one of the night matches. Two matches will be held each night on these days – one at 6pm and one at 7.30pm.
- **Championship World Cup Final – Sunday 28 April at 2pm.**  
Come and see who will take home the cup and hold the title of World Champions for the next four years.
- **Barastoc Intertate Series – Tuesday 23 – Sunday 28 April**  
World Cup spectators can also see the best players from Queensland, NSW and Victoria compete in the Barastoc Interstate Series, which has been incorporated into the World Cup program.

The all-important **official horse draw** will take place on Tuesday 16 April at 8am during the Official Mayoral Welcome Breakfast. Horse scouts have undertaken one of the largest horse recruitment drives in Australia's peace time history in order to secure the 150 horses required for the World Cup.

With teams coming from all over the world, it would be a very expensive and exhaustive task to transport horses from overseas to the World Cup host city of Warwick. In order for the event to proceed, horse owners from across Australia have loaned their valuable and much-loved mares to go into the horse draw for the players to compete on.

Players ride on the loaned horses - horses they have only met days prior to the competition commencing – which are randomly selected via the official horse draw. Teams will each receive a pool of horses and the team managers then match each horse to a player. The players then have around an hour per day in the week leading into the event to get to know the horse that they will ride for the duration of the competition.

A number of social events will also take place, including:

- ***Twilight with the Stars – Wednesday 24 April at 6pm.***  
The official social event of the 2019 Adina Polocrosse World Cup. Mingle with the World Cup players and Australian sporting celebrities including Rugby League heroes Alfie Langer and Trevor Gillmeister.
- ***Denim and Pearls High Tea – Tuesday 23 April at 6pm.***  
An evening for the ladies with special guest speaker, Paralympic equestrian champion [Emma Booth](#)

For further details, to view the event program and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.polocrosseworldcup.com.au](http://www.polocrosseworldcup.com.au)

The Queensland Government, via Tourism and Events Queensland, is proud to support the 2019 Polocrosse World Cup, which is part of the state's \$800 million *It's Live! in Queensland* events program.

