

Tammy's the Best lucky charm



Tammy Unwin unsaddles Simply Ruth.

TAMMY Unwin enjoys a day at the races ... she enjoys it more every time Sundown Best wins specially at Albion Park.

Tammy is a former jockey who gave up riding in August last year to have her second child.

Her partner Shane Dowling is a member of the Digger Syndicate which races the smart Just The Best-Sundown Song dog, to time of writing, the winner of nine races and placed 12 times in 35 starts.

The syndicate is made up of Bob Tanner, Shane Dowling and his dad Leon, John Barrett and Todd Wiles.

But Tammy is the unofficial "lucky charm" for Sundown Best.

"This dog has the biggest fan club, and amazingly just about every time Tammy has been to see him race, he wins," said Shane.

Tammy Unwin is a former star provincial rider who started riding in 1991 when she was 15.

She won the Caloundra apprentices premiership in 1996 and missed out of the jockey's title due to injury late in the season.

In all she rode more than 400 winners and won city races on her favourite galloper Simply Ruth, as well as Kingston Stage and Parmena.

She won numerous country cups and premierships in the bush.

But eight years ago she met Shane Dowling and things started to change.

"I played footy in the local Dayboro team for five or six years and met Tammy at the Dayboro Pub through a mutual friend Nicole Nutley," said Shane.

"Nicole's family is heavily involved in harness horses." Romance blossomed and Shane and Tammy's son

Jackson was born two and a half years ago. Their second child is due in July.

Racing has been a huge part of both their lives. Shane has had a number of gallopers including Forever Grand, an Eagle Farm winner, and the unlikely named Charlie Bucket and his sister Ye Ha Grandma.



Shane and Tammy with son Jackson and Sundown Best after an Albion Park win. GRAHAM POTTER pic.

A couple of years ago Bob Tanner, whose sister is Carol Oshyer, talked the boys into buying a pup bred by Carol and husband Allan.

Bob had worked with Leon and Shane at Skill Communications. Leon talked his mate John Barrett who he had worked with at Telstra, into a share.

"We paid \$1000 for Sundown Best as a pup and he has paid for himself all the way along, and even paid for my next venture into dogs, an Elite State-Sundown Song pup," said Shane.

Shane and Tammy have joined with horse trainer Ian Livingstone and his wife, and John Phelean and Dave Collier and their wives into shares in the pup.

"We've all had a ball with Sundown Best, and every time the dog races, he has a huge fan base following him," said Shane. Just as long as Tammy keeps up the good luck every time he races.