

Gallery of Champions

Champions galore from Zammit kennel

By **DAVID BRASCH**

SINCE Tony and Maree Zammit first started training greyhounds back in 1976, some great gallopers have come into the kennel. Tony gives The Journal a run-down on some of the best.

TROJAN TEARS

(New Tears-Tears Girl)

The first greyhound to win both the NSW and Qld greyhound of the year titles in the same year ... 1993. She won the Albion Park Gold Cup set a track record at Wentworth Park and at that track won the Sydney Cup and Summer Cup and a special match race. She won the Winter Chase at Albion Park and an Interstate Challenge and was second to Pilgrim's Star in another Gold Cup. "Trojan Tears was very docile," said Tony. "Of all the dogs we have trained she would have to be one of the three most docile greyhounds we have had.

"You could travel anywhere with her because of that but she handled Wentworth Park particularly well. She was always sound.

"Once we started putting her over distance, she just kept improving and improving."



CREDIBILITY

(Worth Doing-No Liability)

Won the Lawnton Cup, Toowoomba Cup, Gold Coast derby and spectacularly downed champion Jessica Casey to win the Winfield Challenge,

and was second in the National Derby.

First trained by Larry Jocumsen in Toowoomba, Credibility was sent to Tony on the recommendation of Larry after about "four or five starts".

"He was very highly strung, very hyperactive," said Tony. "But he was a mad chaser and he really got better and better with the hard training we gave him.

"His win at Newcastle in the Winfield Challenge was an enormous run.

"He was not a really sound dog because he chased so hard and there was always a risk of him hurting himself pulling up. "I remember working on him quite a lot."

TOSS THE TEDDY

(West Cape-Flag The Fawn)

Won the Coca-Cola Cup at Albion Park, the Lawnton Cup and Pine Rivers Cup at Lawnton, and was exceptional around the Gold Coast where he won the Golden Sands and Gold Coast derby.

He was raced by the Zammit family and while he was one of the fastest Zammit trained, often ruined his chances by playing up in the starting boxes.

"A beautiful dog with a great nature and eventually when we sent him to the adoption program he became a great favourite at pet and animal expos where he would walk around the display with his adopted family," said Maree.

Toss The Teddy trialled 30.19 at his first look at Wentworth Park but was such a keen dog the kennels at that track ruined him for racing there because he could hear the lure all the time.

"A very sound dog and great chaser," said Tony.



ELUSIVE ODIE
(West Cape-Elusive Osti)

Qld greyhound of the year in 1992 who won the Gabba Gold Cup, Presidents Cup, Spring Cup and was second in the National Distance Championship at Wentworth Park.

“Paul Horig bought her from Alan Pringle after she had won a maiden at Bathurst and my brother Mick watched her trial at Tweed Heads one morning,” said Tony.

“She was always going to be a stayer and along with Trojan Tears and Pewterfrost was one of the three most docile dogs we have ever had.

“In fact if you saw her at home or even before she went onto the track, you wouldn’t think she would even go around.

“But she was a great chaser. Paul probably retired her too early but she became a successful broodbitch.”

COOL MARVEL
(Dark Pretender-Nation’s Copy)

Won the Constellation and Kirks Cup at the Gabba, the Qld Cup at Beenleigh, the Gold Coast derby and the Coca-Cola Classic at Lismore, but his finest run was a luckless second to Highly Blessed (at the peak of her form) in the Golden Easter Egg.

He was Qld greyhound of the year.

“He was another buy for Paul Horig after he had a couple of runs for Glen Starr in NSW,” said Tony.

“Without doubt the best chaser we have had, and the hardest railer as well. But he was a beautiful kennel dog and perfect traveller.

“In fact, he often went to Sydney as a travelling companion for dogs like Trojan Tears even when he had long been retired.

He would lay down the entire way and only get

up when we drove into my grandmother’s street.”

Cool Marvel’s desperation to rail was also his undoing. He got into the well at the Gabba one night and smashed his head into a post. He lived with a huge dent in his head for the rest of his long life.

TICKETY BOO
(Worth Doing-Goodonya Anna)

Raced by the long-time Zammit kennel vet Brian Roberts and Keith Brooks.

Won the Lismore Cup, Gold Coast Cup, Grafton Sprinters Cup, Interstate Challenge at the Gabba and set the track record there.

She was also second in a Lawnton 100,000 to kennelmate Latin Romeo.

“Brian and Keith bought her as a pup and had her reared and broken in before sending her to us to be trained,” said Tony.

“From the first time we galloped her we knew should would be good. She was a tenacious chaser. Only small but she had an excellent nature.”

NOBODY’S FOOL
(Credibility-Flaming Fool)

Won the Ipswich Auction, Potential Stakes at Wentworth Park, the Toowoomba Cup, Daily Planet Cup at Albion Park and probably should have won a Golden Easter Egg but broke down two days before the final.

“Vern Achilles who had a share in Credibility bought this dog as a pup at the Ipswich Auction because he reminded him so much of his sire,” said Tony.

“A very aggressive dog, almost arrogant and had a real attitude around the kennels.

There was no doubting he was the boss of the kennel.

“You could almost call him cocky. He knew how good he was.

“He was one of those dogs who bottled up all his nervous energy. When we decided to preview him his form slipped for a while, but when we cut out the preview he became more relaxed in his races and got back to his best.

“He was another who handled Wentworth Park well, probably better than Albion Park. And he was an extremely sound dog until he did that hip support two days before the Egg.”



PEWTERFROST

(He's Mystic-Denise Linley)

The first great dog to come out of the Zammit kennel. He was Qld greyhound of the year in 1983 after winning the Finn Blinds Trophy, Scotch Whiskey Cup, Surf Life Savers Cup, Carlton Cup, Bundaberg Cup and Rockhampton Stayers Cup and setting track records at both those tracks. Also finished third in the National Distance Championship in Tasmania.

“This dog was another of the most docile greyhounds we have ever had,” said Tony.

“Really placid.

“Many people thought he was broken down all the time because he would throw his back leg out like a windmill.

“Graham Wigan owned him and Graham still has a dog in our kennels today.”

Pewterfrost was a handy sire and lived at the Zammit kennels until he was 13.

His win in the Rockhampton Stayers Cup took .9 off the previous track record.

He raced in an era of such greats as Shy Deena, Coin Spot Pride, High Monakii.

MARKABOY

(Kismet Range-Tears Laddie)

A brother to Tears Girl, the dam of Trojan Tears. He won the Constellation and the Qld Derby at the Gabba but unfortunately was racing at the same time as Dancing Gamble and chased him

home a number of times.

“He is right up there with Cool Marvel as the best chasers we have ever trained,” said Tony.

“He was a dog who was very much on edge most times and had a bad habit of jumping out of yards, kennels etc. But he ran 32.43 as a pup around the Gabba.

“I won 13 races with him and he was still eligible for a fifth grade.

“I don't think he reached his full potential.”

AMBER FLASH

(Waverly Supreme*-Limpy Colleen)

Downed Rustic Venture to win the XXXX Trophy at the Gabba and was one of the most consistent dogs the Zammit's have trained.

“I got him in a deal from Steve Innes,” said Tony. “We reared three pups from the litter and got one, Amber Flash.

“He broke in well and we then bought his brother Sell Out for some clients and he was outstanding as well.

“Like Barrio Babe he had a bubbly personality and particularly liked the hard work we give our dogs.”

Amber Flash holds a special place for the Zammits. Their property “Amber Kennels” at Gilberton is named after him.



BARRIO BABE

(Balligari*-Coven Miss)

The Eukanuba Cup winner beating Roanokee, she also won the Spring Cup at Albion Park over 710m and the Ipswich Cup.

“A happy go lucky bitch and nothing was a

problem to her,” said Tony. “She was our daughter Kristy’s favourite dog. “She didn’t break in a worldbeater, but she showed much, much more once we started racing her.”

M’LADY’S FOOL

(Just The Best-Heart Spark)

Won 14 races in a row alternating between Albion Park and the Gold Cost and culminated with victory in the Futurity at headquarters. She ran 30.05 there.

“Unfortunately she broke a hock which ended her career,” said Tony. “She was right up there with the best of them but we never got to see it. She had great potential.

And the one that got away ...

ROCKING RAMBO

He won the Lord Mayor’s Cup and Publicans Cup at Albion Park but Tony and Maree agreed that if ever he put his mind on the job he could have been exceptional.

Of all the great gallopers Tony and Maree have produced, stud dog greats and outstanding broodbitches have also come from the kennel.

Tony is adamant that only the best bitches make it at stud.

“With all the bitches we have trained over the years, only the fast ones produce fast pups,” he said.

“Generally our best dogs have all had great natures, were very sound and great chasers. It all adds up to being the best.”

Surf Lorian has much to live up to.