

# 'One-eyed wonder' proves his worth

IT'S been a bit of a wait for Ray Knudsen but finally the thunder and lightning has arrived. It's in the form of Just Cyclops (Just The Best-Flip It Up) a fawn dog he bred back in May 2001. Mick Zammit trains Just Cyclops or the "one-eyed wonder" as Ray's mates have nicknamed him.

The dog was born with a detached retina, something vet's call "a small eye" but which was not evident until the pup was about three months old. It is not often seen in greyhounds, more often in Jack Russells.

Flip It Up originally had seven pups in her first litter to Just The Best, but lost three to complications at birth.

"I was going to keep a bitch, but she died at five weeks," said Knudsen.

"Then John Reimer picked a dog and a bitch of the two dogs and bitch that were left."

Ray's choice of the pups was made for him.

Reimer's two pups developed into Cosmo Topper (9 wins) and Zip It Up (8 wins) both top grade performers at Albion Park.

Knudsen was left with the "oneeyed wonder".

"I named him Just Cyclops after the mythological Greek figure with one eye in its forehead that created thunder and lightning," said Knudsen.

Ray must have thought all eyes were on his lone pup when Cosmo Topper and Zip it Up were making a name for themselves sweeping through the graded ranks at headquarters.

"He showed ability, but I had him home for about six months trying to fix up a few little problems with him," said Knudsen.

"A course of Selenium picked him right up and then I asked Mick Zammit to give him a try."

Mick took the dog along quietly, running him through classes at the Gold Coast helping him see his way to confident racing.

"He's come good and Mick has won five of nine with him (to time of writing)," said Ray.

He recently landed his first Albion Park victory Flip It Up has since been mated twice more to Just The Best the second mating producing for Ray Knudsen a promising dog called Weatherby Streak.

The soon to be whelped third litter will be for sale.

Thunder and lighting continues.



*Ray Knudsen and Just Cyclops ... it's been worth the wait.*