

# Charmer Lodge

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NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2008

## CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2008

### No Illusions just a star

Courtesy GRAQ Website

6 October 2008

By Chris Bassani

Tully trained galloper Illusion Star is likely to get a chance of a serious campaign at Albion Park next month after a runaway win in the Cairns Futurity on Saturday.

Trainer Susan Godfrey was surprised by the 15-1/2 lengths trouncing Illusion Star gave rivals over 544m in 31.63.

That time bettered her previous by 100th of a second and was a touch over a tenth outside the track record still held by Toolibuk who ran 31.52 in July 2000.

"I was worried she hadn't returned back to her best after she had fractured a hock last year," Godfrey said.

"Her lead up runs weren't as good as we had hoped."

Starting from box five Illusion Star jumped straight to the lead and vindicated the Cairns Dog of the Year title she won last year.

Starting \$1.60 favourite, the win was her 17th at Cairns from 28 starts taking her prizemoney to over \$10,000 - All up she has won 24 races.

Illusion Star (**Hallucinate-Four Way Star**) raced once at Albion Park when Godfrey and husband Dennis went down for the Greyhound of the Year awards back in February 2007.

She ran third over 395m from box 8 not having stepped foot on the track prior to the race - it was her third race start.

Six months later she strung seven wins in a row together at Cairns and Townsville convincing the Godfrey's they should send her south to have a serious crack at the big time and Albion Park.

Stationed with Byron Miller in Northern NSW in September 2007, she won another four in a row at Lismore and Casino.

Shortly after the black bitch broke down and came back to Tully without racing at Albion Park at that campaign.

She was off the scene for five months and returned in April this year.

"She deserves her chance in town," Godfrey said.

"She is back in top form now and we have a couple of dogs really going well including a young one called Gunnadoo Light.

"If he continues to improve his times over the next couple of weeks we will send a few dogs down in about a month."

## CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2008

### Ruffian after Vic Peters

Courtesy GRAQ Website

22 Sept, 2008.

By Chris Bassani

Tony Brett is aiming his exciting sprinter Ruffian at the up-coming Group 1 Vic Peters Classic at Wentworth Park.

Heats of the 520m series will be run at Wentworth Park on October 16.

Brett said he had been prompted to chase the Group 1 riches after Ruffian had run a scorching 30.02 when winning at Albion Park last week.

Ruffian (**Hallucinate-Miss Ross**) has started six times for four wins.

He was a Group 2 Qld Derby finalist during the winter carnival but pulled up after his heat win with a cracked hock.

The break he needed for that to repair seems to have done him wonders.

He has started twice since the break for two Albion Park wins in 30.23 and 30.02.

Brett is confident there is further improvement in Ruffian.

"We were thinking about even taking him to Adelaide for the SA Derby heats," he said.

"But it came up on us a little too quickly.

"The Vic Peters suits him at this stage."

Brett would like to qualify Ruffian for the semi-finals of the Vic Peters by running through the Lismore Classic.

The winner of the Classic gets immediate entry to the Vic Peters semis.

### CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2008

Courtesy GRAQ Website

14 Sept, 2008.

**TRAVIS Elson didn't need convincing of that age old adage that "when you're on a good thing, stick to it".**

He proved that to himself when Go Wild Summer halted the Felgate juggernaut by winning a Maiden 1000 (460m) final at Bundaberg on Saturday.

Go Wild Summer is by Go Wild Teddy-Capishe's Figlia and a half brother to Elson's better than handy Albion Park performer Tejay's Assassin (by **Royal Assassin**).

Tejay's Assassin has won 15 races for novice trainer Travis, including nine around Albion Park.

He has also made a number of feature finals including the Bundaberg Cup.

So when former track record holder Capishe's Figlia whelped her second litter (to Go Wild Teddy), Travis was first in line to buy a pup.

And from the moment he put Go Wild Summer into training he knew his dog was something.

A hiccup in his heat last week on debut when second to Josie Diamonds.

This week he made no mistake by beating Pleasant Rampage and Josie Diamond in 26.50 to win the final.

Travis has a huge opinion of Go Wild Summer.

Jim too smart for youngsters

### CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2008

Courtesy GRAQ Website

11 Sept, 2008.

**HE'S been training for a long time now, but Jim Conlon certainly can teach his younger training rivals a trick or two.**

He did that at Albion Park on Thursday night when the only dog he has in training, Sleek And Smart scored a powerful win in a 520m 3rd-4th Grade.

The son of **History Lesson-Sleek Model** scored by a length and a half over Spell Fire with three lengths to Iron Steed in third.

It was his 17th victory and ninth at Albion Park.

"He's a grand old dog, rising four but sound and he's got plenty more racing in him provided he stays sound," said Jim.

Conlon has always believed in Sleek And Smart.

"Only bad alleys have stopped him being much, much better than he has shown," said Jim.

Sleek And Smart came off the rails to win on Thursday night in 30.21 his fastest ever run at headquarters.

"I always thought he could run close to 30 seconds around Albion Park at his best but off an inside box," said Conlon.

"He's been a lovely dog and he's paid off quite a few pups I've had in the past couple of years."

Sleek And Smart gave leader Spell Fire a start in the early stages but proved too strong for that dog running him down in the straight to win going away.

That is no mean feat because Spell Fire is strong and hard to run down when in front.

Boxer hits big time

### CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2008

Courtesy GRAQ Website

10 Sept, 2008.

**GREG Brennan has always known Shadow Boxer was an outstanding galloper. But it took until Wednesday night's Ipswich Derby final (520m) for him to prove it once and for all.**

Shadow Boxer, beautifully bred by **Hallucinate-In My Dreams**, rattled home late to win the Derby in 30.65.

He scored by two lengths over Black Monty with another two lengths to early leader Inflammable in third.

Shadow Boxer is raced in partnership by Greg's wife Vicki and his long-time mate Alan Cosgrove a Roma grazier.

Shadow Boxer has won four of his 11 race starts but has been plagued by slow box manners.

"He can really run this dog," said Brennan who rates him the fastest he has had.

All Ipswich knows Shadow Boxer trialled in 30.23 at Ipswich two weeks ago, with a final section of 11.37.

Queen Lauryn ran a final section of 11.61 when she broke the track record at Ipswich a couple of months ago.

"This dog ran a final section of 11.45 getting beaten last week in his heat," said Greg.

Immediate plans are for Shadow Boxer to head back to Albion Park but Brennan is certain he will

switch the dog to 600m racing in the not too distant future.

Black Monty looked likely to add to his recent Young Guns victory when he dashed to the front at the top of the straight.

But Shadow Boxer was just too good.

Bob Giltinan's inexperienced Inflammable staged an Olympic Games style performance when leading for much of the race and fighting on gamely for third.