

Horses are everything

By Peter Foley

For Caroline Allardyce, horses are the golden thread running through her life: from a childhood connection with a famous Melbourne Cup winner, to years spent showjumping and the demanding, captivating world of racehorse training.

Caroline was born in Malaysia, where her father was posted to RAAF Base Butterworth, before her family settled in South Australia.

They lived near the stud farm that housed Rain Lover, winner of the 1968 and 1969 Melbourne Cups.

“I used to ride over to there and help the old lady, Mrs Andrews - Jean Andrews, her name was - feed the yearlings and the weanlings - and get eggs,” Caroline said.

“I was only eight or nine at the time.”

No wonder horses mean so much to her. They are life, family, work, fun, and the lasting fascination that rewards those who devote their lives to them.

“I used to showjump horses years ago but the opportunity to train never really arose until 30 years ago, I guess,” she said.

Based at Gatton, near her Forest Hill home, Caroline made an auspicious start to training when To The Lifeboats won on her home track in April 2000.

She has now notched 68 wins, 21 of them ridden by her son, Jimmy Orman, who rode his mum’s horse Iniquity to victory at his first ride on a metropolitan track in 2014.

A former champion gymnast now riding in Hong Kong, Jimmy began his career apprenticed to his mother. His father, Michael Orman, was also a jockey.

Jimmy won three consecutive Brisbane premierships and rode more than 1300 winners before taking up a full-time Hong Kong contract.

He began his first stint in Hong Kong in February 2025, took his chances, and closed his rookie season with 13 wins. In the 2025-26 season, he has added 32 more.

Caroline is now training at Ipswich after being suspended from Gatton racetrack following a dispute over flies.

Away from racing, she has spent 40 years in cattle reproduction through her business, Advanced Cattle Breeding, which specialises in artificial insemination.

At Ipswich last Friday, Caroline won with Kinki Fish, whose backstory is as intriguing as his name.

“I was talking to Jim on the phone a couple of months ago, and it’s big in Hong Kong for the owners to take them out for dinner after they win races,” she said.

The restaurant was called Kinki, and Jimmy told his mum the Kinki fish served there - a sweet, tender fish, highly prized in Japanese cuisine - was the best fish he had eaten.

Caroline had a lightbulb moment that brought together the restaurant story and Jim’s advice about the Hong Kong racehorse market.

“He said if you get one with ability here, it’s easy to sell to Hong Kong for good money,” she said.



Kinki Fish, with Georgina Cartwright in the saddle, storms along the rails to triumph in the Gordon’s Gin Maiden Plate (800m). (Trackside Photography)

“So I hunted around and I did my homework.”

At Inglis online, she found an unraced three-year-old gelding by Street Boss out of Bring The Magic, a Sebring mare trained by Chris Waller before being sold as a broodmare for \$310,000.

Caroline paid just \$5500 for the gelding.

“I bought him with the intention of selling him to Hong Kong and he got that name Kinki Fish because of the restaurant in Hong Kong,” she said.

“Obviously, there’s upside with the family. She’s by Sebring and I’m an absolute lover of Street Bosses. I just love the breeding.”

Kinki Fish had two trials leading into last Friday’s race. Caroline said he was poleaxed and nearly fell in the second trial.

“I had every intention of marketing him to Hong Kong and then thought we’d blown it with the trials,” she said.

“But then I thought: Stuff it; we’ll just soldier on for the races.”

On Friday, Kinki Fish rushed along the rails in the straight to win the Gordon’s Gin Maiden Plate (800m).

“He’s not an 800-metre horse; he’s probably a 12, 14, maybe mile horse,” Caroline said.

“He’s a good horse. Or has the potential to be. Let’s see where he goes, but I’m very happy with him at the moment.”

Caroline went within an ace of back-to-back wins when her gelding Beat the Rap, carrying 60kg and jumping from a wide barrier, was just run down in the next race.



Charming Babe storms home down the outside to give Jimmy Orman his first win in Hong Kong at Happy Valley. (Hong Kong Jockey Club)



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