

A dream winner for Emma

By Peter Foley

Winning with your favourite horse at your favourite track in a race named after you: it's about as good as it gets for passionate Beaudesert trainer Emma Fouchard.

Ratenotice, a mare Emma fell in love with at first sight at Victoria's Inglis Premier Yearling Sale in 2023, won the Fouchard Racing Handicap (1350m) at Ipswich last Wednesday.

Emma and her husband Pierre Fouchard, who strapped Ratenotice, keenly watched the race on the big screen from the trackside fence in the mounting yard.

As Ratenotice stormed home from well back under her regular rider Brandon Lerena, Emma leapt into Pierre's embrace.

After Brandon returned Ratenotice to the mounting yard, Pierre took the mare back to the raceday stalls while Emma went to the bar with some of the other owners.

"I'm shaking," she said, holding her hand up to eye level to prove it.

"For it to be her, and here, and in the race we sponsored, it's pretty cool.

"It just worked out perfectly. Brandon knows her well; he rides her a lot.

"The stars aligned, so I can't be happier.

"Great credit to us, the horse and the team and to Brandon.

"We put in all the one percenters. We know the horses inside out and today it came through.

"Knowing your horse, riding them trackwork, doing everything with them, it showed today."

Ipswich Tribune Today met Emma in January after Ratenotice won her maiden and was swept along by her excitement and positivity for horses.

Ratenotice won again at Ipswich in March and Wednesday's first-up victory gave her devoted trainer her first metropolitan win.

"It was planned out a long time ago to start her here with the aim of a race at the Gold Coast, called the Pink Ribbon," she said.

The \$105,000 Pink Ribbon Cup is a race for fillies and mares over 1400m at the Gold Coast on September 19.

Emma, who grew up in Devon in south-west England, moved to Australia and got a job with Patrick Payne at Ballarat where she stayed for 10 years. After training in Ballarat, Emma and Pierre came to Queensland.

In October 2024 they moved into Forge Lodge, a property at Cryna, near Beaudesert. They love the area, but value bringing their horses to Ipswich for trackwork.

Emma said she and Pierre decided to sponsor a race at Ipswich as a way of acknowledging how much the club made them and their horses feel at home.

"The facilities out here are just amazing," she said.

"The atmosphere, the environment, seems to get the best out of our horses.

"So it's worth the hour drive. And because of that, and them allowing us to be here, we were more than happy to try and give something back to the club.

"They're all amazing to deal with. They ac-



Georgina Cartwright has Power Pack well clear of his rivals in the home straight of the TAB Benchmark 65 Handicap (2000m). The Kevin Kemp-trained gelding held on to win after leading most of the way. (Peter Foley)

commodate us whenever we need to do a gallop, or jump outs, or anything."

By Grunt out of the Written Tycoon mare, Written Notice, Ratenotice was taken to the yearling sales in 2023 by Collingrove Stud.

Emma went to \$40,000 for her. She did not have the money lined up, but she had already made up her mind: she had to have her.

"You'll make me cry," she said, when asked what the mare meant to her.

"It was just love at first sight – and it still is to this day.

"She was the first yearling I ever bought.

"I actually only had half what she went for. We bought her and I was trying to convince everyone to come in and buy a share so I could leave with my horse."

A big bay mare, Ratenotice has an imperious head with a personality to match.

"She's very special. She's feisty. She's got all the attributes of a good racehorse. She keeps me on my toes, she's spicy and, yeah, I just love her," Emma said.

"I've taken her to the city a couple of times, and she just didn't settle in the environment. Being a metro meet here, we picked out this race a long time ago knowing she's probably the most relaxed here.

"She does love the track, and it's a magnificent track, but it's more the environment.

She's happy here, and she settles well."



Ratenotice responds to the urgings of jockey Brandon Lerena to win the Fouchard Racing Handicap (1350m). (Trackside Photography)



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