

Jay's home: horse heaven

By Peter Foley

Though still in the early stages of his career as a racehorse trainer, Jay Bellamy has an upbringing packed with horse experience, adventure and success.

Now, backed by a builder who has sunk a fortune into creating a horse heaven near Beaudesert, the future looks bright for the instantly likeable trainer.

Born on the Gold Coast by Carl Bellamy out of Angela Burke, both very good trainers, Jay Bellamy started driving trotters even before he could drive a car.

"I didn't even finish year 10. I left school and started driving trotters in races," Jay said.

"I didn't even have my driver's licence. I used to catch a train up to Rocklea every Saturday to drive and it just went on from there.

"I was doing my trials when I was 15 and then I just drove. I was pretty successful. I won over 500 races. Represented Queensland, won the Queensland Junior Drivers Championships.

"And then I got into the training side of things and it just snow-balled from there."

About five years ago, he decided to switch to the gallopers, and he's had strong success so far with 63 wins from 534 starts.

He said the key to training trotters was stamina; the difference with gallopers was the addition of speed.

"I've been in the trotters for a long time, and I've always loved the gallops. I think the gallops is the pinnacle of horse racing," he said.

"I knew I could do it; I had the confidence in myself to train gallopers. I just had to go around and learn how they worked them and got them fit and that, where I knew everything else.

"I've always been a horseman, so that wasn't a worry for me. It was just how they do it.

"So I went around trainers and did that for four or five years and then took my licence out."

The trainers he sought advice from included Les Kelly and Toby Edmonds on the Gold Coast and John Smerdon in Melbourne.

While he was working for Les Kelly, about 10 years ago, he clicked with one of his owners, New South Wales-based builder Reg Flannery.

Among the horses Reg had with Les were Noah 'N' A Deel and her younger full sister Chayse 'N Adam. Noah 'N' A Deel ran third in the 2023 Queensland Oaks.

A former Detective Sergeant, Reg's company, RPF Building, has 100 employees and boasts it is Australia's leading insurance repair builder.

In a passion project for the racing fan, Reg has built a farm at Nindooindah, a 10 minute-drive south-east from the Beaudesert CBD and installed Jay as his trainer.

"I've been there probably three months now," Jay said.

"He spent an absolute fortune on it. It's like a horse heaven.

"Its got everything in there. It's a five-star complex.

"He loves his racing. He's always had horses. And it's a passion that he's always wanted to do. And so he's just put his money where his mouth is



Vintage Vibes (right) with Dylan Turner aboard, swamps his rivals to win the Tridan Electrical Handicap (1350m) at Ipswich racetrack. (Trackside Photography)

and it's all working out really good.

"He's just backed us out there and he's took me in as the trainer. Since I've been there, the horses have just been flying.

"I'm very lucky. It's just starting to take off.

"It's funny how things pan out.

"We've always got along good. For a long time I didn't train for him, only when this farm was built, then he came to me and asked me if I'd like to take the opportunity."

Yes, he said. Straight away. Jay now has 18 horses in work on the property.

"I've only had my licence for five years, training thoroughbreds. So I was relatively unknown, and I just had a bit of success early on, and yeah, it's just gone on from there."

At Ipswich racetrack last Saturday, one of the horses Reg races with Jay, Vintage Vibes, won the Tridan Electrical Handicap (1350m).

"We've always thought he has a lot of ability. He's been a bit slow to put it together," Jay said.

"He's really putting it together now.

"Reg Flannery and Allan Jordan leased it off a fellow called Tim Nolan and gave it to me to train.

"We thought he could win. We had something on him."



Jay Bellamy with one of his horses. Jay has recently been installed as the trainer for builder Reg Flannery on a five-star complex near Beaudesert. (Supplied)

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