

Gretchen's the One says Stan



Stan Montague (Vittoria Bale) and his dad Leo (Gretchen Bale).

By DAVID BRASCH

DURING Cairns champ Tropical One's attempt at breaking the record for successive wins, his trainer Stan Montague decided it would be a good idea to get a couple of potential broodbitches for his dog when he goes to stud. And along the way Stan won his first Golden Muzzle (410m).

It was with Gretchen Bale (SC's Mask Rider-Raelee Bale) who downed littermate and now kennelmate Vittoria Bale after having been bought from Paul Wheeler only a month before the series.

"I got three for the price of two. The other one, Ipana Bale, is smart as well."

Stan admits he didn't know much about the pedigree of Gretchen and Vittoria Bale but is happy they are by the American sire SC's Mask Rider and trace back on the damline to champion Winifred Bale.

"And I've never had better kennel dogs that those two bitches with the US sireline," he told The Journal.



Stan and Leo with Tropical One.

	Kountry Hank	Cecil John
	SC's Mask Rider (US)	Midland Trend
	HM Sion	Barry Lyndon
GRETCHEN BALE		Romantic Lady
	Pretty Fearless	Pretty Short
	Raelee Bale	Fearless Payout
	Emma Lee Bale	Statistician
		Christina Bale

"I had been chasing a bitch with the longterm aim of putting her to Tropical One," said Stan. "So I contacted Paul and he had three bitches in training with Tom Tzouvelis in Brisbane that he said I could buy.

Gretchen Bale headed north with the least wraps of the trio Stan bought, and with a warning that she may be a bit timid.

"She was timid when she first arrived but she has really settled in well since coming here and is fantastic now," said Stan. "She's a lovely bitch, tall, very leggy and we are over the moon with her.

"The three bitches will win plenty of races in Cairns and I must thank Paul Wheeler for the way our dealings went. He was fantastic. "I couldn't have got better educated dogs." While his win in the time-honoured Golden Muzzle was his first with Gretchen Bale, Stan was feeling more pressure at the time with Tropical One's chase of the Australian record for successive wins ... 21 held by Mount Isa galloper Sophocles.

“I’ve done a few interviews since he started the chase,” said Stan. “I’m an old bushie and would rather be fishing. The dog deserves all the credit for whatever he has achieved.”

Stan Montague talks in awe of Tropical One and is adamant he will give him his chance to stand stud duties in Cairns. “He won’t have a service fee, but if anyone wants to use him, then so be it.”

	Malawi's Prince	Malawi
	Ashigga	Duchess Marina
	Atwell	Black Pirate
TROPICAL ONE		Zoomer
	Acacia Ablaze	Acacia Park
	Infertesimal	Watusi Rose
	No Hostility	Worth Doing
		No Liability

Tropical One might have been a bit unlucky not to have made the record above 30 straight wins.

“He won 10 in a row over 410m up here during last year, but I stepped him up to 500 metres to run in the Cairns Cup series,” said Stan.

“He ran second in his Cup heat after leading, folding up at the finish.

“He was then beaten in a couple of runs before switching back to the sprint and starting the long winning run.”

Stan says Tropical One is a unique dog who takes an incredible amount of galloping.

“I run him every day,” he said. “The dog lives to gallop. I free gallop him every second day and on the other day put him behind the lure.

“Whenever he races he pulls up so well it is almost as though he’s ready to race again.”

Stan has a litter of pups by Bitability Bale out of Tropical Twister a litter sister to Tropical One.

Granddam Infertesimal was a giveaway from the Mick Zammit kennel. Her two litters produced the winners of 99 races and an everincreasing 120 races respectively.