

## Tony's first winner ran 29.02 at Lawnton

THE first greyhound Tony Zammit trained was an escape artist called Sefton Piper.

He and his brothers were running the breaking-in and trial track at Deception Bay and a local trainer gave Tony the dog because it was costing him more to get it out of the pound each week than it was costing to feed.

Sefton Piper won two races for Zammit, a 482m maiden at Lawnton in 29.02 and a Fifth Grade over 609m in 36.89. It was back in 1976.

Since then Tony has lifted the quality a tad.

Household names in the industry like Trojan Tears, Credibility, Cool Marvel, Elusive Odie, Pewterfrost etc have made Zammit a huge name as a trainer.

And now comes Surf Lorian.

“At this stage of his career he has the potential to be the best I have trained,” said Tony.

Surf Lorian (Just The Best-Barrio Fiesta) recently set tracks records over 520m at Ipswich and 457m at the Gold Coast and equalled Flying Amy's Albion Park record of 29.73 in successive starts.

All the industry is talking about the blue brindle owned by long-time kennel clients Mavis Bellamy and her son Peter. “Surf Lorian has the ability to lead, is a great railer, has track sense and his best attribute is his final two sections,” he said.

Zammit has a unique training method with Surf Lorian.

“He gets a bit excited when he knows he is going racing,” he said. “He’s very aware of everything that is going on about the kennels and on race days I have to put him on the walking machine just to settle him down for the rest of the day.” Zammit has been very protective of the dog, keeping him to low grades races to gain valuable experience despite his obvious ability.

Surf Lorian trialled 30.11 at Albion Park at his first look at the track.

“So many people are too keen to get young, promising dogs to Albion Park too early,” said Zammit. He has huge plans for the dog ... all in his own good time.