

At The

Secretary's Desk



CAPALABA

THE recent Sunday meeting on ANZAC day, sponsored by Dog Lovers, was an entertaining and successful day.

The main event, the Dogs Lovers 5th Grade Final, was won by the John Youngtrained Oxley Fawn.

Oxley Fawn was handled by John's son Cameron and the fawn and white flyer jumped brilliantly to win the final in a quick 19.91secs beating the ever-consistent Just Bart trained by Gary Wilson.

Sam Apap was on hand to present the trophy with the assistance of the Dog Lover's Public Relations team of Anissa and Shawnee. At the presentation John gave credit to his wife Noeleen who does a mountain of work with the dogs.

John had drawn third placegetter Rambling Hawk in the "win your weight in gold stubbies" competition. The winner was Toowoomba trainer Charlie Zwoerner who created a Capalaba record when it took 10 cartons of stubbies to tilt the see-saw and lift Charlie off the ground. Runner-up Mark Reekie was a previous winner and like Renald Attard both weighed out at eight cartons.

The Dog Lover's Maiden for dogs was won by Johnny Pickup trained by Jon Marsh.

It had been Jon's intention to get out of dogs after moving from interstate but he took on Johnny Pickup to help out a mate. He confessed after the event that the dog's trial times had only been ordinary and the victory came as a shock.

Jon's two young children were obviously delighted and were first to the presentation area for the photo session.

The auction of stud dogs was also a success with 4TAB racecaller John Brasch who was having a day out at Capalaba stood in as auctioneer. Cyrus the Virus was bought by Capalaba treasurer Marilyn Collett for \$550. Ned Snow was top bidder for Token Prince at \$2500 and Elite State was knocked down to Keith Higgins for \$2750.

Part of the day's success can be attributed to 4TAB co-ordinator Gary B Ford who interviewed Capalaba president Bob Patching on air on the morning of the meeting. Gary had attended a previous Sunday meeting at Capalaba and was impressed with his day out.

The interview was well received with many track patrons attending after hearing the interview. It also enabled off-track patrons to be part of the stud service auction via phone bidding.

The Greyhound Adoption Program was present and co-ordinator Sheree Buckley made some contacts which appear to be likely to lead to the adoption of a few more retired track stars. One man from America, visiting his daughter in Australia, had heard the 4TAB interview.

He had adopted a greyhound in America and had brought his daughter to Capalaba to convince her to do the same. On meeting one of the GAP graduates this woman is in the process of adopting a greyhound. I have recently had adopted out through the GAP a young greyhound who was not going to make it as a race dog. Sheree found her a good home and the new owners are delighted.

I have now viewed first hand the voluntary work Sheree does and we should never underestimate the value it adds to the public perception of our industry. The industry, clubs and GRA should be aware of her tireless input and give her the appropriate support as we are beneficiaries of the fruits of her labour. Many thanks must go to Sam "Gozo" Apap who arranged the sponsorship for a successful and entertaining day of greyhound racing.

IPSWICH

BREEDERS and owners nominations are now being taken for the 2004 Highland Smash Repairs Puppy Auction.

To be held on Sunday October 10 our Auction is Australia's longest running and most successful. With the recent announcement that pups from this

years Auction would be eligible for a two race series to be conducted in 2006 over 520m and 431m, it only creates a further incentive for buyers and breeders to support this great series.

The 520m series will be conducted during April and the 43m in October.

With prizemoney totalling more than \$70,000 to be distributed during the two series there has never been a better time than now to support this event.

Nominations for the Auction close on June 25, 2004.

If you would like more information on the event please do not hesitate to contact the club on 07 32022977.

Our two major races for the youngsters, the Vince Curry Maiden and Auction Series, continue to be the nursery for potential stars.

From this year's events Runaway Sally, Swelligant and Texan Beauty are really making a name for themselves on the local front while Paua To Burn is taking all before her in Sydney.

Add Fools State's great win in the Ladies Bracelet at Wentworth Park and you have an array talent which any owner or trainer would like to be connected with.

Following the success of the Highland Smash Repairs Auction Final night, the club is planning an even bigger night of entertainment for the Ipswich Gold Cup in October.

As this event is sponsored by the Ipswich City Council the club will be hosting and acknowledging the many community groups within the local community that are supported by the council.

An industry problem is the lack of lure drivers for both trial and race nights.

The club is currently training staff to carry out this task.

However, to train people we need support from industry to provide dogs so the necessary experience can be gained.

As an incentive to support this initiative the club is offering free trials to those willing provide dogs for the people to drive for.

Although this will in the short term effect the club's income it is a matter of short term pain for long term gain as we work to address this industry issue.