

# *Magical Cup win for Oxley*



*Oxley Fawn wins the Sth-East Qld Cup.*

**By DAVID BRASCH**

**EVEN** to this day, John Young is not sure how Wauchope owner Alwyn Watts came to ring him with a dog to train.

There's no doubt John Young is happy he did, even though at the time Young put Watts off for a few months. The dog is Oxley Fawn (Faithful Hawk-Magical Omen) recent winner of the \$10,000-to-the-winner Sth-East Qld Cup at the Gold Coast.

"Alwyn had three dogs from the litter and all had just been broken in and were 13 months," said Young. "The reports on the pups were good." Dave Irwin was to get the dogs but was full at the time and recommended trainers to Watts. John Young was one.

Young's first reaction was to tell Watts to put the pup aside for a few months. He had only one dog in work at the time so it wasn't that he didn't have room.

"I had never met the man," said Young.

"I was recommended through Jack and Dave Irwin who have been friends of mine for many years."

Young said he never does and would not push a young dog and told Watts to spell the pup and bring him up at 16 months of age.

"I told Alwyn I don't like to start big dogs until they are two years old. You get more out of them if you give them time."

It was words of wisdom from Young and the pair are being repaid many times over because of their patience.

But it wasn't always like that.

"When I first started working him, I was not very impressed at all," said Young. "But he has just kept improving."

Alwyn Watts has been a horse man most of his life but when his health suffered recently which later forced a liver transplant, Alwyn looked at greyhounds as an alternative.

"Sue Ward from Brisbane was getting out of dogs and had bitches for sale," he said. "I noticed Magical Omen advertised in the Recorder so I bought her for \$1000.

"I liked the Acacia Ablaze in her sireline and Sue suggested it clicks with the Credibility line, so that's

the way I went with Magical Omen."

He couldn't get into Just The Best so opted for Faithful Hawk.

"She had nine pups and every one of them won first up with the exception of one who ran second to a littermate," said Alwyn.



*Trainer John Young and owner Alwyn Watts with their star.*

Marshall Studios pics.

"I kept three and wanted to keep more but it was at the time I was not well. I got \$1400 for the bitches and \$1800 for the dogs."

Oxley Tiger has been the star of the team until the Cup win by Oxley Fawn. Both dogs were to head for the Qld Derby at Albion Park.

Magical Omen has since whelped a litter to Just The Best and at time of writing was about to whelp to Brett Lee.

John Young has been a dogman all his life. "I've been training for nearly 50 years," he said. "I got my license when I was 18, moved to Queensland about when the Gabba first started and have been here since."

Young trained the former star sprinting bitch Petite Panther. The Black Top bitch ran second in the first Tweed Heads Galaxy to King Doolittle.

“We had been coming to Queensland on holiday for years and I thought when the Gabba opened this state would become the best in the land, and I still do,” he said.

<b>Credibility</b>	<b>Worth Doing</b>
<b>Faithful Hawk</b>	<b>No Liability</b>
<b>Angel's Faith</b>	<b>Pretty Fearless</b>
<b>OXLEY FAWN</b>	<b>Angel Tears</b>
<b>Acacia Ablaze</b>	<b>Acacia Park</b>
<b>Magical Omen</b>	<b>Watusi Rose</b>
<b>Magical Lass</b>	<b>Little Denver</b>
	<b>Unreliable Miss</b>

Young never has more than six dogs in training, but generally has no more than four.

“I’m a hands on trainer who doesn’t think you can do justice to any more dogs,” he said.

He speaks fondly of the stars he has trained and laments that Petite Panther had to run into the legendary Zoom Top. “My bitch won 43 of 91 starts but she raced Zoom Top plenty of times and zoom Top was a freak, the best I’ve ever seen,” he said.

Dogs like Super Electrum, Smoother Kid and Shifty Mac who was .01 outside the world record at Harold Park when trained by an 18-year-old John Young, were also fine performers.

In recent times Slick Mover, who in two years started 18 times because of constant injuries but

won 12, was a handy galloper.

“I only have three pictures of greyhounds on the walls of our home and one is How Game who won 13 from 14 starts at the old Gold Coast track back in the early 80s,” said John.

Young says the knowledge of greyhound trainers and the methods and means of keeping dogs fit and sound is behind the improvement in greyhounds of today even though he says the breed is faster now. He learned his trade from George Sherwin the studmaster and former trainer who stood Rocket jet and Rocket Mac at stud.

“And Jack Irwin is a genius who has been a lifelong friend and mentor,” said Young.

It all went to producing Oxley Fawn to win the Sth-East Qld Cup.

### ***Sth-East Qld Cup (429m)*** ***Gold Coast***

**1 OXLEY FAWN \$8**

(Faithful Hawk-Magical Omen)

Owner: Alwyn Watts. Trainer: John Young.

**2 LETHAL WEAPON \$6.20**

(Just The Best-Sobbing Sal)

**3 BARNACLE BOB \$16.90**

(Deep North-Call Me Katie)

**Others: 4 Totally Serious \$18.10,**

5 Oxley Tiger \$1.80,

6 Woops A Daisy \$9.40,

7Mrs King \$14.20,

8 Happy Chappy \$17.10.

***Time: 24.39.***