

TROY NEEDS to switch teams!

RACING CAN BE A TOUGH BUSINESS – WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE ARE GOOD AND BAD DAYS, AND THAT THOSE PARTICIPANTS WHO CAN'T HANDLE THIS DON'T LAST IN THE INDUSTRY WORDS: JOHN STEINMETZ PICTURE: BRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHERS



Troy Miller strapping at Hawkesbury Racecourse

The featured strapper for this month, Troy Miller, has had a great preparation for the rigours of racing; he's been a Parramatta Eels tragic all his life so he knows all about disappointment!

Growing up in the south-western suburb of Panania, Troy attended De La Salle Revesby and Benilde Bankstown where he gained his Higher School Certificate.

Troy worked for a period as a landscape gardener but soon found out that he didn't really have a green thumb.

Having had a lifelong interest in racing inspired by his grandfather, Troy decided to move in this direction and enrolled in a TAFE course under the guidance of Michael Donohue, while also receiving great support and encouragement from part-time staff member, Jenny Carroll.

Included in this course was a period of work experience with Warwick Farm trainer, Steve Englebrecht.

He must have done something right in that initial stint as he quickly gained a part-time role and soon after a full-time position which he has maintained for a period of 15 years.

In that time Troy has cared for such notable horses as Referral, Dottoressa, Beauty Belle, Amen, Malavio and Genius and Evil, which went on to race with great success in Hong Kong as Absolute Champion.

In more recent times as Steve has downsized a little, Troy's role has become more flexible, allowing him to attend to raceday duties on a regular basis for other trainers including Graham Brown, Bruce Cross, Bryce Heys and Jason Coyle. This has now

become an important part of his working week.

When questioned about his attraction to racing, Troy explained that it started with his love of working with horses but he also mentioned how important was the camaraderie and social interaction he shares on a regular basis with colleagues at the track.

A significant part of this are regular trips into the bush for country meetings as Troy finds these quite enjoyable, especially if the trainer has a suitable selection of music to pass away the journey!

The long hours and early starts are never a problem. A bit about Troy Miller:

My greatest extravagance: The money I spend each year on my membership for Parramatta RLC

Greatest disappointment: My inability to win the meat raffle at the Moorebank Hotel

The virtue I rate most highly: Loyalty
Quality I value most in a friend: A sense of humour

Memorable racing moments:

- 1) Taking my first trip interstate with Dottoressa to the Victorian Autumn Carnival
- 2) Saddling up Retort Courteous, a favourite, to win the 2015 Moruya Cup

Memorable non-racing moments:

- 1) Sharing a tent with Bruce Cross at the Wagga carnival
- 2) Losing a wheel on the float with Graham Brown, coming home from Bathurst

One of the more notable aspects of Troy's career is the length of time he has spent with the one trainer – a trait not common in the industry where

stints are usually measured in weeks or months, not years.

Steve Englebrecht had this to say about his long-term employee: "Troy is the backbone of my stable. He is the most reliable person I have met in racing. If I ask him to do something I never need to check whether it has been completed, I know it will have been done. He is vital to my stable. More importantly, I rate him as a person. In an industry with all types, good and bad, he excels!"

Not a bad rap from a boss, if only Troy didn't follow Parramatta!

Comments from Racing NSW Veterinarian, Meg Brownlow: "Troy is a quiet achiever, no noisy fuss but puts in extraordinary care and attention for his horses. He attends the races for many Warwick Farm trainers across the Metropolitan, Provincial and Country venues. This piece was written by Warwick Farm trainer John Steinmetz who didn't hesitate to take up the pen. A particular memory for me stands out, the horse that was in his care one day was unwell after racing. I was particularly impressed with his caring attitude, this wasn't just another horse to Troy – far more than that. He listened carefully to instructions and followed them to the letter and he never left that horse's side. It was as if he was the person providing moral support and companionship guiding the horse to recovery. Troy is special and stands out." *RNSW*

FRONT RUNNER

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