

Dear Cup Week,

I love you and have for a long time. I am 93 years old (born in 1927) and my memories go back to my childhood.

1935 – My earliest memory of Cup Week was being aboard a USA navy warship which was visiting the Port of Melbourne during Cup Week and hearing Maribou winning. I heard the race broadcast over the ship's PA system. I was 8 at the time.

1939 – My mother, who only bet on the Melbourne Cup, went out to the letterbox and collected a catalogue that had been delivered. She came in and declared Catalogue would win and it did at 100-1 with her 6d each way riding on it!

1943-4 – The first two horses *I* backed in the Melbourne Cup won! Dark Felt (1943) and Sirius (1944). So started my love affair with racing and the Melbourne Cup.

1945 – Mum was hanging out the washing and saw a bird high in the sky of dark clouds. Rainbird was her tip and duly won.

1950's – I went to a number of Cups in the 50's without backing a winner!

1974 – I backed Think Big and won the Quadrella - \$2000!! At the time the horses were bracketed together and I picked a horse that was bracketed with Think Big.

1976 – I was at the Melbourne Cup when Van Der Hum won on a bog track after a 100 degree F day turned into torrential rain. Imagine dressed in suit and tie and standing in a shower. Men were standing in their undies in the toilets trying to dry their clothes with the hand driers!

2007 – I thought Efficient was a certainty and her duly obliged.

2013 – I remember Fiorente won because I backed it!

2020 – I watch the races every day (and have a bet) and I will be watching the Melbourne Cup as usual on Cup Day!