

# XXXX GOLD GRAFTON CUP CARNIVAL MEDIA BULLETIN

Thursday June 16



**Michael Rodd; Code Word; Trusted Partner; Leviosa; Storm Fabulador**

## RODD SET FOR GRAFTON RETURN

GROUP One star Michael Rodd is heading back to the Grafton Cup carnival next month to rekindle memories of a track where he rode some of his earliest winners.

Rodd cut his teeth as a Gold Coast-based apprentice with the Bryan Guy stable and enjoyed early success at Grafton.

He was 22 when he won the 2004 Grafton Cup on the Queensland stayer Pacific Dancer before his career took off in Melbourne and overseas.

Rodd, now 29 and the winner of 20 Group One races, has made an early commitment to return to Grafton for the July Racing Carnival to ride for Gold Coast trainer Toby Edmonds.

He has agreed to ride Edmonds' unbeaten three-year-old Emvoss in the \$40,000 Tursa Grafton Guineas (1600m) on July 13. He also hopes to land rides in the \$130,000 WHK Ramornie on July 13 and \$150,000 Wykes Tyrepower Grafton Cup on July 14.

Emvoss, named after AFL great Michael Voss, has raced twice for two impressive wins at the Gold Coast in March and April.

## CUP PLANS FOR CODE WORD

SOUTH coast trainer John Marzol is looking forward to his first Grafton Cup assault with his recent acquisition Code Word.

Moruya-based Marzol purchased Code Word out of the Gerald Ryan stable in April and has been repaid handsomely with the gelding winning back to back races in Sydney at his last two starts.

Marzol celebrated his first Saturday metropolitan winner at Randwick on June 11 when Code Word backed up from a midweek win at Canterbury to score a dominant win by almost four lengths over 2000m on a heavy track.

Marzol said Code Word was thriving with the change of environment from the city to his country stable and is planning another city start before he heads to Grafton.

"We'll probably head back to town for another start over 2000m and then tackle the Grafton Cup," Marzol said.

"It will be my first trip to a Grafton carnival and I am looking forward to it."

The \$150,000 Wykes Tyrepower Grafton Cup (2350m) will be run on July 14.

## ROOKIE EYES RAMORNIE

ROOKIE Gold Coast trainer Simon Foster will aim talented sprinter Trusted Partner at next month's \$130,000 WHK Ramornie Handicap at Grafton after the gelding gave him his first black type win at Eagle Farm on June 11.

Trusted Partner, ridden by Dwayne Dunn, led all the way to win the Listed Lightning Handicap (1000m) to record his ninth win from 16 starts.

Foster, 39, in his first season of training and with only eight horses in work at the Gold Coast, added Trusted Partner to his team after the sprinter had covered a lot of territory.

"He started off racing in Brisbane but then went to north Queensland and ran second in the Cleveland Bay at Townsville last year," Foster said.

"He was then taken to Melbourne but he didn't handle it down there so his owner ended up bringing him back to Queensland."

"He's had a few leg issues and I have to take him to the beach three times a week.

Foster was an apprentice in Adelaide before increasing weight forced him to give away race riding.

## GRAFTON AIM FOR UNBEATEN FILLY

UNBEATEN Port Macquarie filly Leviosa is enjoying a short break to freshen her for a tilt at the rich Inglis Bonus Plate for two year olds on Grafton Cup day.

Trainer Jenny Graham decided to target the \$50,000 bonus on offer at Grafton following Leviosa's second easy win on her home track on May 30.

"She just needed a short break, a little freshen up," Graham said,

"She has done everything we have asked of her so why not aim for a race like that."

Leviosa, a Magic Albert filly who was a \$15,000 purchase by Graham from the Scone yearling sale, has won her only two starts at Port Macquarie by big margins on wet tracks.

## ARGENTINE IMPORT CUP CHANCE

ARGENTINE import Storm Fabulador took a step towards a Grafton Cup start with his first Australian win over 2118m at Grafton last week.

The gelding was purchased in Argentina by bloodstock agent John Foote for Australian client Ian McCauley and is now raced on lease by Ballina trainer John Everson.

He joined the Peter Moody stable in Melbourne after a stint in California with legendary horseman Monty Roberts but had only two starts fore the leading trainer before he was leased by Everson from McCauley.

"He's got the makings of a good stayer," Everson said.

"I was thinking Grafton Cup next year but we might have a crack at the Grafton Cup Prelude on July 7 and see what happens."

CONTACT: BRADLEY DE MARTINO ROSAROLL    CRJC    02 6642 2566  
CHRIS SCHOLTZ    TRONTA MEDIA    02 9344 9330

**Westlawn**  
LOANS & INVESTMENTS    INSURANCE    FINANCIAL PLANNING    ACCOUNTING & TAXATION

[ yellow tail ]®

*Coffs Coast  
Prestige*  
SINCE 1978

**WHK** **NBN**  
**Tyrepower**  
Wykes Tyrepower



MACLEAN  
BOWLING  
CLUB

**XXXX**  
**GOLD**

Grafton Shoppingworld  
FASHIONS  
ON THE FIELD