

## 1892

# GLENLOTH

JOCKEY G. Robson



TIME 3.36.25

OWNER M. Carmody

TRAINER M. Carmody

FAR REMOVED FROM the rich pastoralists and breeders who owned much of the best horseflesh of the era, Mr James Urquhart, the owner of 1892 Melbourne Cup winner Glenloth, was but a humble milkman. And indeed, it was Urquhart's generosity in going about the business of his daily trade that was primarily responsible for his acquisition of Glenloth in the first place.

In a time when the cold fingers of the depression had found their way into the purses and wallets of many Victorian families, Urquhart would often establish a line of credit with his clients, allowing them the leeway of honouring their bill when pay-day came around. The McGowan's were one such family who had fallen on difficult times, but young jockey P. McGowan decided to employ a quintessentially Australian method of alleviating his debt—the simple 'hot tip'. In a bid to bring about a 'stay of proceedings' of sorts to keep the milkman happy, McGowan gave Urquhart the sly whisper that he was very confident of winning the 1890 Caulfield Cup on Vengeance. Suitably persuaded, McGowan coupled Vengeance with the favourite Carbine in the 1890 Caulfield-

Melbourne Cup double, his resultant £200 collect more than compensating for any unpaid milk bill!

Urquhart used his winnings on the punt to form a syndicate and purchase Glenloth, a handy bush galloper who had won 11 races in his first two seasons of racing, for £400. The sale was particularly difficult for Glenloth's devoted breeder, James Sutherland Snr, to swallow, having been forced to offload his bloodstock due to the financial pressures brought about by the drought in the Riverina.

Weather-wise, the Cup of 1892 was one of the worst on record, with torrential downpours lashing Flemington and turning the track into a quagmire. Mindful of the heavy conditions, Glenloth's trainer M Carmody tied a knot in his horse's particularly long tail, fearing that it might pick-up up clods of mud and interfere with his galloping action. Without doubt, the magnificent flowing tail and unruly mane are just two of the most impressive aspects of the thoroughbred racehorse in full flight, but with his comically shortened tail, the brown five-year-old could not hope to do justice to the natural grace of his equine brethren. Not surprisingly, Glenloth was the laughing-stock of the course when he made his way out onto the track with his new 'bob-tail' accessory on show, though when it became clear at the 200m that the 50/1 bush nag with the funny tail was going to romp home in the Cup, the collective amusement was somewhat tempered. Relishing his 7st 13lb handicap, Glenloth scored a win for the 'little guy' in ploughing through the mud and rain to trounce second-placed Ronda by three lengths. Among the horses left in Glenloth's wake (perhaps 'furrow' is the more appropriate term given the conditions) was the 6/1 favourite Malvolio, who couldn't back-up his previous year's Cup win.

The trophy won by Urquhart was one of the most intricate to be awarded for a Melbourne Cup, featuring three horses and jockeys milling around a central bowl, the entirety of the 45cm-high feature cast out of sterling silver. A far cry from the famous but unadorned three-handled ‘Loving Cup’ awarded today, this rarest of Cups was purchased in 2007 by none other than Julie Madgwick, the great-great-granddaughter of Glenloch’s breeder, James Sutherland Snr. Having heard stories passed down from generation to generation about Glenloch’s exploits, Madgwick decided to honour her great-great-grandfather and bring to his family the Melbourne Cup that had slipped through his fingers, buying the trophy for the considerable sum of \$168,000.

1893  
TARCOOLA

JOCKEY H. Cripps

TIME 3.30.50

OWNER J. D. Lewis

TRAINER J. Cripps

LEGENDARY DESERT TRAIN ‘The Ghan’ bears right for its long journey north at Tarcoola, a tiny railway village importantly fitted with the last pub until Kalgoorlie or Alice Springs. And in a quintessentially Australian pronouncement, the town itself was named after a Melbourne Cup winner—the 1893 running of the race coinciding with the discovery of gold in the region. Having initially sprung up as a thriving goldfield, Tarcoola the town eventually found its niche as a railway facility, the last marker of civilisation on the edge of a vast and lonely nothing. In a belt where so many other ‘boom’ communities had been swallowed up by the fringes of the desert and abandoned by the unforgiving wheel of progress—twisted remnants of corroded metal and decayed timber the only indication that people had ever dwelt there—Tarcoola remained preserved as a throwback to another era, one of the last functioning checkpoints in an eerie procession of ghost towns.

Tarcoola the horse was also something of a survivor, having failed badly in the 1890 Melbourne Cup before eventually achieving his overdue victory as an aged seven-year-old. A handsome golden bay whom many had considered too