

Dear Cup week, I love you as there was an event leading up to the 2001 Melbourne cup that to my mind was surreal.

On the 17 of October 2001 my beautiful daughter Mia was born. It was the moment that will stay with me forever and there was a sense of spirituality that came with that moment.

As an avid follower of the beauty that comes with the Spring racing carnival, I would always draw conclusions to my selections based on emotions I was feeling at the time. I search through the Caulfield Cup field on Saturday the 20th of October, three days after my daughter was born and found the horse name that comprehensively encapsulated how I was feeling.

Ethereal

I would always have a wager on the main races of the spring carnival. But as a newly crowned father, I was a busy man with new responsibilities.

I have never been happier to see a racehorse win a race that I had not placed a wager on.

I was preoccupied over that particular spring carnival but I was aware that Ethereal was in the Melbourne cup.

On that first Tuesday of November in 2001 I sat down and watched the Melbourne cup, I was supporting a horse that embodied what I was feeling over those last 2 weeks and Ethereal realised Sheila Laxons dream of a Melbourne Cup.

On that day I realised that the reason I love the Cup week is that everyone has a story and that story doesn't discriminate, as the Cup week is for multitude. We are all able to draw our own memories and for me it was the accumulations of all good things that life brings

Ethereal, I will treasure the moments you gave me in 2001