

Dear Cup Week,

I love you so I can re-live the amazing Cup on 2 Nov 1976, when it **rained colours!**

I was unprepared for the 1976 Cup – I had my binoculars and the 'Truth Form Guide', which showed the jockey colours!

I watched the race on the old 'Hill Terrace' - totally exposed to the weather.

The Cup Day weather was appalling - the clouds menacing. The storm unleashed all its fury.

I had 'done my form' and was torn between the sentimental horse, Reckless, trained by Tommy Woodcock – the strapper to the great Phar Lap in 1930, and a wet track kiwi horse - Van der Hum.

In the end I put my 'hard earned' on 'Vanders'.

My only protection from the rain was my Form Guide, so I draped it over my head, thinking I could partially shield my head to use my binoculars.

As they jumped from the barriers, commentator Joe Brown swung into action.

Early on, 'Vanders' colours of Green and Cerise were visible, but very quickly they disappeared as they slogged through the mud.

My binoculars fogged. My body got wetter, and the Form Guide became a saturated mess falling all over my head and clothes.

As they turned for home none of the horses were distinguishable!

At the 200 metres, Joe Brown thought that Vanders was making a charge.

I started jumping and cheering, at which point my Form Guide fell off my head and onto the pavement.

Vanders was home - a Cup winner!

In my state of excitement, I realised that all the colours from the Form Guide had leached onto my hair, face and clothes – it had **rained colours!**

After the Cup, I hung the Cup poster on my wall.

Then in 2016, I was invited to a friend's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

I realized that he was born on the exact day of the 1976 Cup, so laminated the poster and gave it as a present.

What an amazing coincidence – an 'indelible' memory of Vanders' Cup when it **rained colours.**

Love

Terry Ryan

0405 154 215