

Dear Cup Week I love you because my Auntie Floss loved the Melbourne Cup. As a young girl in the 1930s she would watch the race from Poorman's Hill which overlooked Flemington Racecourse. Her bet would be placed with the local SP Bookie across the back fence from where she lived in Footscray.

Many years later when I was a little girl, Auntie Floss would take me to the Melbourne Cup but now we passed through the gates into the course to smell the roses, gaze at the horses in the stables hoping for a whinny or a look from a horse to say, "Back me, back me!" We'd position ourselves on the Winning Post by the rails with Auntie saying, "Excuse me, coming through, let the little girl through please." Ah yes, she always ensured that I had the best seat in the house.

"Always bet each way if the horse is over 4-1 odds but bet straight up if the odds are less," she would advise sagely. Yes, Auntie Floss was an expert tipster because somehow, she picked the winner of the Melbourne Cup every year for as long as I could remember!

And then I uncovered her secret. One year at the Cup, she asked me to look into her purse for a \$2 coin to give to me to buy a lemonade and that's when I found the incriminating evidence; a TAB ticket. Auntie Floss won the Melbourne Cup every year because she backed the entire field!! All 24 horses!!

And so, until the day she passed just short of her 100th birthday, I kept her secret to myself. However, these days I have continued with her legacy and just like her, each year I back the entire field of the Melbourne Cup! Winners are grinners!