

Jim Cassidy, born in New Zealand 1963, came from a family that had little interest in horses. But Cassidy's own love of thoroughbreds drew him to the stables of Hawkes Bay trainer, Patrick Campbell. He began his apprenticeship with Campbell in 1978 and rode his first winner in August 1979.

Jim Cassidy first rode in Australia in 1981 to win the QTC Brisbane Cup, in 1983 back in NZ won the Wellington Cup on Kiwi, later that year he returned to Australia for the VRC Melbourne Cup where he won on Kiwi in a remarkable ride, coming from a long last. After this victory Cassidy moved to Australia

JIM CASSIDY

Jim Cassidy, took the job of stable rider for Brian Mayfield-Smith, riding for such owners as Robert Sangster and Bob Lapointe. In 1985 he scored his first major race win in Sydney the AJC Metropolitan on Spritely Native . Later that year he won his first VRC Victoria Derby on Handy Proverb, a combination that proved successful in 1986 QTC Grand Prix-Qtc Derby Double at Brisbane. Other major successes were the 1986 AJC Sydney Cup, the 1986 VATC Thousand Guineas and the 1986 VRC Oaks. In 1988 Cassidy was disqualified after race but fought back in sensational performances during the spring of 1989. He won the Newcastle Cup, AJC Metropolitan

on Hunter and the VATC Thousand Guineas, the VRC Oaks on Tristanagh. During that season , Cassidy also rode four winners on the one day at Caulfield and winning his first Melbourne campaign by winning a further three races at the VATC Sandown Cup meeting, one of which was a feature race.

Before the Melbourne Cup Cassidy explained that he would give Kiwi's backers a heart attack because in the big two miler he would turn for home in last place, but added, by the time he reached the post he expected Kiwi to be in front. He had ridden similar in the NZ Wellington Cup and won.

On a sunny afternoon in November Cassidy took Kiwi straight to the tail of the field where he stayed until passing the 800m mark, when he started to stoke up the big chestnut. Halfway up the long Flemington straight Kiwi's chances looked forlorn as he seemed to have given away too big a start. Then, in one of the most startling performances in Australasian racing history Kiwi, with Cassidy riding like man inspired, grabbed the leaders 40 m out, coming through with such a rush that on the line he was nearly two lengths in front of the runner-up Noble Comment. Kiwi, Cassidy and the kindly old farmer had certainly made their marks.

Extract from "A PORTRAIT OF RACING"