



Due to a little delay in writing this Melbourne Cup ride report, I can only remember the ‘feeling’ that remains with me... a wonderfully satisfying one; it’s been a long year’s journey in getting my confidence back since the ‘gate-crashing’ incident last Melbourne Cup. I’ve managed to conquer the debilitating state of being constantly ‘gripped with fear’ such that I can now feel the ‘joy’ in the ride. The metaphorical, and sometimes literal, ‘blood, sweat and tears’ have accompanied this journey, making it extremely challenging and very worthwhile... not to mention the support of my riding buddies and the motivation to not miss a beat of the crazy fun we have together... for all your patience in my struggle, I thank you deeply.

The other sensation that stays etched deep within and fills me with a huge smile whenever my thoughts take me there, is the day I hopped on the back with two of my favourite pillion-masters, Misho and Dave Ward. Their mighty speed and cutting precision, which I can only experience vicariously, fills me with the best thrills and gives me a high which I can only describe as immense exhilaration... a priceless experience which I feel honoured to be able to partake... everlasting gratitude to you both x x

To Ben, what can I say? You make these adventures all possible for us. Your brilliant planning and knowledge of the great roads to ride on ensures we all have the best time possible, over and over again. My heartfelt thanks to you too.

**Pina Garasi**