

## Barry & EJ team up to win

By Peter Foley

Trainer Barry Lockwood doesn't hate people – some of his best friends identify as human.

It's just that horses are so much better company.

Barry can be having a day when everything's going wrong, and a walk around his stables leaves him feeling things aren't so bad.

"I'm here 99.9 per cent of every day with the horses and, at the end of the day, grab a cold beer out of the fridge and walk around and look at all the horses, and then you go home feeling well,"

Barry said from his Eagle Farm stables.

"I always treat them well and they respect that. They're very good to deal with.

"If people had the same attitude, we'd be much better off.

"A friend of mine, he owned a circus and he said to me: 'The more I deal with people, the more I love my animals.'"

Barry was born in Tamworth with a passion for horses. He was a regular at pony clubs and eventually rode racehorses for his electrician father Ross.

At 15 when he became an apprentice farrier. Working as a farrier led to him becoming stable foreman for prominent Sydney trainer Paul Sutherland.

Eventually training on his own, one of the horses he trained was Shadea, who had success on the track but gained immortality as the mother of the great Lonhro.

After stints in New South Wales and Victoria, Barry headed to Queensland and set up stables at Eagle Farm.

He has earned a reputation as a hands-on trainer and a gentleman with a quiet sense of humour.

In October 2025, Barry teamed up to train with Emma-Jane Vincent and their partnership has been a smash hit.

Emma-Jane had worked for John Sargent, Peter Moody, Michael Hawkes, Toby Edmonds, Kelly Schweida and John Meagher.

"EJ rode work for me for many years, and I'm getting on, and I said to her: 'What are you gonna be? You can't ride work all your life. You've got to do some bloody thing,'" Barry said.

"She said: 'I'd like to train.' And I said: 'Well, now's your opportunity while I'm still here, to get your licence. Then if I fall off the perch, at least you've got a licence.'"

"We still work the same, but at least it's given her a licence, and I don't have to go to the races so much."

Barry has also struck up a bond with Irish jockey Luke Dempsey. Why? Because Luke is a nice bloke. That's everything to Barry.

"I don't know whether loyalty's gone altogether. People come along with better offers; the guy's have got to take it. You're only in the game for so long," he said.

"But it's entirely different than when I first started.

"I've noticed a hell of a change in racing: some good and some bad.



Luke Dempsey celebrates winning the 2024 Group 3 Vo Rogue Plate at Eagle Farm for trainer Barry Lockwood on Give Me Space. (Graham Potter)

"It's good there's enough money for people to survive on nowadays.

"Honestly, early days, if you worked in a stable, you mightn't get paid for weeks.

"If you had a win at the races, everyone had to have a bet to get something out of it.

"Nowadays, with prizemoney and all, everyone can get a wage and get a feed, and that's a really good part of it."

Luke earned his stripes with Barry and was rewarded with rides, notably on Give Me Space in the Group 3 Vo Rogue Plate in 2024.

"He turned up at the stables with his girlfriend at the time from Victoria and he was riding over the jumps. He was about 68 kilos, I think," Barry said.

"He rode a bit of work for us and I said: 'I hope this bloke can ride; he's a hell of a nice young bloke.'"

"He started getting his weight down, and he ended up riding Give Me Space with 54 kilos and won a Group race on him."

At Ipswich racetrack last Thursday, Barry, Emma-Jane and Luke had success with Noire Emperor.

"Barrier 12, normally at Ipswich over the mile, is nearly impossible to win from," he said.

"I said to Luke: 'If luck goes your way, you'll be a chance; if it goes against you, you're no hope. Just ride the race and don't worry about the end result until you get through the race.'"



Noire Emperor, with Luke Dempsey in the saddle, races to a strong win in the Ipswich Tribune Today Handicap (1690m). (Trackside Photography)

An advertisement for Ipswich Turf Club. It features a green background with a white silhouette of a horse and jockey. The text reads: "Ipswichturfclub", "IPSWICH RACING POWERED BY", "IPSWICH TRIBUNE TODAY", and "ipswichturfclub.com.au". On the right side, there is a photograph of a jockey in green and white silks riding a brown horse.