

The Village Belle



A group of Main Street Village residents and guests recently enjoyed afternoon tea at the Pakenham Racecourse with guest speaker and racehorse trainer, Tony Noonan. Tony's belief in community has led to an innovative way for individuals and groups to bring more people into the sport at an affordable cost by joining a social syndicate.

The syndicates involved have no upfront purchase cost as the horses are leased by Tony, but members enjoy the same benefits as an outright owner on race days. Residents at Beleura Village Mornington were the first to see value in the proposition, and subsequently another syndicate has been formed at Martha Cove Village.

"Tony came to the village as a guest speaker and the concept of

social syndicates appealed to the village. It was a way of getting us together with a different group of people and it's worked a treat," said Beleura Village syndicate manager, Laurie Quinlan

"We've now got two syndicates running out of the village, and our filly, Beleura Belle has brought us a lot of pleasure. It's a terrific way to enjoy racing at a very affordable cost and its wonderful social interaction with friends."

If her recent form is any measure of her pedigree, Beleura Belle is one to watch. Running second to Puzzled Princess (coincidentally owned by RCA director, Chris Daly) at Yarra Glenn on her first start, Beleura Belle went on to score her first win on her home turf.

With more than 75 owners on course, the Mornington

grandstand was rocking by the 100 metre mark when Beleura Belle hit the front and flew across the finish line.

"We were hoping for a good result and it was beyond our wildest dream," Laurie Quinlan said after the win.

"It was a wonderful ride by Jake (Noonan) and the roar from our supporters up in the stand was deafening."

"Tony came to the village as a guest speaker and the concept of social syndicates appealed to the village. It was a way of getting us together with a different group of people and its worked a treat."

Clockwise from top: Beleura Belle shows her class just before her first win, the finishing line and members of the Beleura Village Syndicates celebrate with Tony Noonan.

