

Dear Cup Week,

I love you, as we get to hear Watto's pre-cup pep talk who reminds us of the principles of Cup Week, we have a reputation to uphold within the Flemington Rails.

He stresses, firstly and most importantly to have fun regardless of the weather, provide the best cold beer, wine (and plenty of it), good food while socialising with friends.

Then Cup Week arrives, with the dawn breaking on Derby Day, it's time to get cracking with Watto already on the oyster run, also don't forget the ice you know Goody expects the Furphy's to be cold and for Carragh, the Mumm wine nicely chilled.

Quinny has been hard at work in the kitchen and has been since before the crack of dawn making pizza's, sausage rolls and other gourmet dishes, don't forget Jezza's working on the quiches and those magnificent chicken sandwiches.

Before Watto heads off to pick up Jezza and the food in the trusty 1999 Navara Ute (looks good against the BMW/Merc SUV's), he refers to the trusty check list from last year, refined from the year before, got the table/chairs, glasses, umbrella, eskies, spare ice (the drinks cannot be too cold), tick, time to go as we must be within the Rails Compound by 1030hrs.

Watto/Jezza set up site 1234 with the table and chairs, while awaiting, for friends to arrive Watto checks the beer is at correct weight, Jezza has a Lavazza coffee.

Time to relax, do the form assessment, Watto with his spreadsheet and Jezza checking the odds, what price that NZ horse?

Potsy, Brad and other friends start to arrive, excitement builds, AAMI Derby is run and won, we are all winners as we are having fun.

All too quickly, the last race is run, time to pack up the Ute and leave it behind to be picked up tomorrow, its safe between the BMW/Merc SUV's.

Off to catch the train home, the train is buzzing as we are all winners from experiencing a great day.

You know what, we do it all again Cup Day, Oaks and Stakes Day.