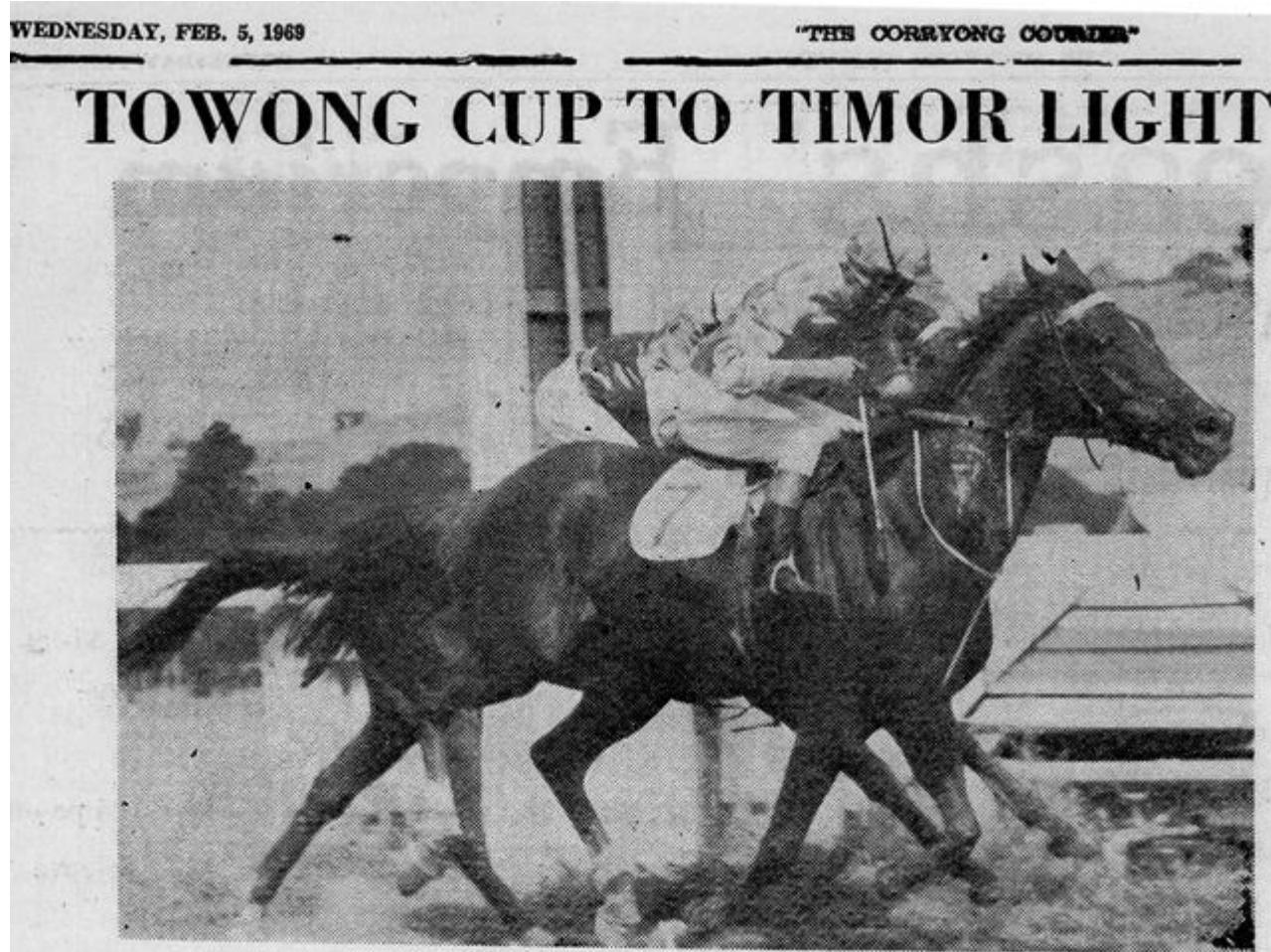




## Timor Light

Of the many success stories from the track some centre around horses which won the prestigious Towong Cup more than once.

One of these was *Timor Light*, winning the Cup in 1968 and 1969.



**Image 1.** Timor Light winning the 1969 Towong Cup. Source: Corryong Courier

Timor Light was a speedy chestnut gelding owned by well known local identities Ray Braham and Ron Waters, who would both subsequently become Life Members of the Towong Turf Club. The horse was being trained by Ron Waters at Ournie when he won the Towong Cups of 1968 and 69. His flying time of 1.38.2 in 1969 was the fastest over a mile in the 98 year history of the Towong Turf Club.

In fact, Timor Light's time was even more impressive when you consider that in those days the "mile" was actually run over a mile and 33 feet, and after 1969 the winning post was brought back to represent a true mile for the distance, but this detail has been lost in the mists of time and few people would remember it now.



Timor Light was bought as a yearling from Colin Lamont of the Koorinal Stud at Wagga in 1963. He was by Timor, from British Beacon. Ron Waters broke him in and he was then given to Henry Stockwell, resident trainer at the Towong racecourse. His first race was in a Corinthian race at Towong. (Corinthians were always featured on early race programs, being for amateur riders. As the number of these riders decreased, professional jockeys were allowed to ride in Corinthians but were obliged to carry a 7 lb weight penalty. There are now no Corinthians at Towong.)

The horse first tasted success at Albury where he was trained by Les Harrison, and his ownership was shared by two others, Melbourne friends of Ray Braham. After Timor Light had won five races, it was decided to sell him and the partnership was dissolved. Perhaps as a last chance he raced at Seymour on his way to a sale, but when there were no bids on him at the sale Ray bought him, and home he came to Ron at Ournie. His training consisted mainly of being worked around the hills on Ron's property, Beltana, and after his spectacular win at Towong in 1969 Ron acknowledged his two teen aged sons, Alan and Rodger, for giving the horse most of his preparation when they were home from school.

Timor Light went on to win more than a dozen races for Ron and Ray and twice was placed second to the brilliant Court Stepper, another local champion. He was a nine-year-old when he started in Towong's Centenary Cup in 1971. At the end of his career he lived out his days in "diplomatic immunity" on Beltana, as a companion horse.



Image 2. Cup owner presentation. Source: Corryong Courier

Dixie Coutts

(With assistance from the Waters family.)

Towong Turf Club: Timor Light

