

Two years later and Jenny's the boss

By DAVID BRASCH

A COUPLE of years ago greyhound racing didn't even exist in Jenny Findlay's world. Now she has a share in seven dogs and is president of the Mackay Club ... how's that for a turnaround! "I've always been a dog lover," Jenny told The Journal. "I showed boxers for years until work commitments about 12 years ago forced me to give that away."



Two years ago, Jenny met Norma Jackson, wife of then Mackay Greyhound Club president Nev. "The Jacksons are also involved in the show world and through Norma, I started going out to the dogs on Monday nights at the Showgrounds," said Jenny. It wasn't her first taste of greyhound racing. Husband Greg, who runs his own plumbing business, had a catcher's license many years ago, and Jenny's sister Maree Coghill had owned dogs as well.

It seemed like just a few minutes later that Jenny had bought her first dog, a Head Honcho bitch called She's Our Dream.

In 20 starts for her new owner, She's Our Dream was unplaced only five times before a broken leg forced her retirement. "I still have her at home," said Jenny.

But that first dog and constant involvement in greyhound racing soon saw Jenny coaxed onto the club committee. That was in 2002, only six months after she first went greyhound racing.

It wasn't long before she became president.

"I thought there could be a few things done to help the club," said Jenny of her move onto the committee. "And I thought a few new faces and new ideas might be good as well."

Since she has taken the reins, Jenny, a medical typist, has seen a few new sponsors, increases in prizemoney and track surface improvements.

"My aim is to make greyhound racing in Mackay better," she said. "It won't happen overnight."

Jenny and her committee are trying alternate racing nights, looking at Fridays and Saturdays to help with crowds etc. "We have a couple of Saturday nights coming up and the club is looking forward to those and the response to them," she said.

The recent Mackay Cup carnival was a success.

"One of our local radio stations, HotFM, did a deal with us back in February during the couple of weeks when the rugby league games are on at the Showgrounds," said Jenny.

"We were able to negotiate \$3000 worth of advertising on HotFM for nothing and that really helped us during our Cup carnival."



Mackay Club president Jenny Findlay.

Local TV station Channel 7 covered the cup and regularly puts three races from each Monday night's meetings on their Tuesday news program.

Jenny, her husband, and daughter now have seven dogs between them. Five are in training with Barbara Sam, the club's vice-president.

Jenny has been right behind Meng Tyres' sponsorship of the Mackay Cup.



The company was represented at the Cup final by Ian Trewartha. Meng Tyres was formed 20 years ago by Colin Meng and a high profile sponsors of many and varied sporting organizations in the local community.

The Mackay Sea Eagles rugby league team and the Mackay Showgrounds itself are sponsored by Meng Tyres.