

Trainer's course star pupil



Brett's team get some sun.

BACK in 2002, Brett McKay and his dad Ken were sitting about having a beer. Discussion turned to Brett getting a greyhound. Ken went out and bought him one.

"I'd punted a little bit, and dad had trained a dog many years ago," said Brett. "But it was a spur of the moment thing."

Ken McKay headed to the Ipswich auction and paid \$1800 for a seven month old Token Prince-Shining Wish bitch.

Brett was an instant greyhound trainer.

"Dad brought it home and I started walking her and training her after she was broken in," said Brett. "But she came on season and I didn't have a clue what was happening."

Brett gave the bitch, now called Our Jazzy Girl, to Keiron Butler to train. She has since won at Beenleigh, Tweed Heads and Albion Park.

But Brett decided to get a couple more dogs and train them himself. But he thought he should do some homework on this training caper.

So he took himself off to the GRA's basic trainer's course about eight months ago and admits it was an eye opener.

"I needed it badly," he said. "I picked up so much. It was great because the lectures were very basic and incorporated so much, things like injury prevention, maintenance etc."

He went out and bought a walking machine, ultrasound, scales and a hydrobath and then in discussion with Victorian breeder Jim Thompson, came home with two Just The Best-Ulan Bale pups.



Brett McKay with Our Taylor Girl and Our Jakey Boy.

They now race as Our Jakey Boy and Our Taylor Girl and Brett's learning curve has taken a turn for the best. Our Taylor Girl recently won at Albion Park and the pair backed up to win on following nights at Ipswich recently.

Brett is over the moon.

"It's been a pretty long journey but it's been worth it," he said. "Two winners in two days."

He admits to being a bit nervous when he first started walking dogs to the boxes but after that initial success he's over that now. He remembers vividly his first winner, when Our Taylor Girl won over 395m at Albion Park. "Hay, she's in front," he thought to himself. "Hay, she's going to win."

That long journey certainly has been worth it.