



Victorian News

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THERE are not too many greyhound trainers who go through university before taking up fulltime training duties. Cranbourne's Scott Holmes is not only holding his own he is making a mark in the Victorian training ranks. It does help that his father Daryl is a long-time top-line trainer who put the polish on the likes of Black Shiraz, Big Ginger Boy and Coriole.

Scott, 23, successfully completed his Bachelor of Applied Science degree in human movement before taking over at the head of the family greyhound training operation. It is a decision he is not regretting, although there have already been plenty of up and downs.

Kennel star Petite Verdot suffered a small fracture in her hock during the Golden Easter Egg final and should be back on the track soon. But while the South Australia Oaks winner was sidelined, Holmes was able to concentrate his attention on a couple of up and coming sprinters.

Fortified Speed-sired youngster Vasse Felix impressed with a sensational win in a Grade Five at Cranbourne recently clocking a best of the day 30.55 on a slow track.

Although not quick out of the boxes, the



youngster booted through the field before the first turn and ran away to an impressive win. Better races look in store, although Holmes said he may look at some 550m races just to get the youngster some racing experience. "He certainly looks like he will run a bit of ground. His run-home time at Cranbourne was as good as top-line stayers," he said. "We just need to teach him about racing.

"He's only 20 months old so we have time on our side, but he certainly has a turn of speed." Holmes is also hoping for the best from Ballarat Vic Breeders finalist Bowie Dooley after the sprinter broke down at Wentworth Park.

The trainer said Coriole's first litter by Jack Junior produced handy sprinter Paxton. "He went 30.15 around Traralgon as an 18-month-old pup, but he's one of those dogs that is always graded in the hardest grade 5 or in the mixed race. He's only won six races, but

his prizemoney is better than \$20,000 so he is earning his keep,” he said.

Holmes has eight greyhounds in work, but would like to build his kennel up to about a dozen.

“Petite Verdote is obviously the best at the moment. I think she might have suffered the crack to her hock in the semis of the Easter Egg, but it only showed up about the final,” he said.

“We’re just in the process of getting her fit again now and we’ll look at a race like the Interstate Challenge, where the final is run at Richmond.

“There’s not too many trainers from Victoria who will be desperate to go to Richmond so there might not be all that many nominations.

“It’s a race that should suit her because she goes so well at Cranbourne and Richmond should suit her.

Scott’s father now works in the city for WorkCover four days a week.

“We’ve got a farm and seven and a half acres just outside Warragul and we train from Cranbourne,” he said.

“We’ve got a heap of pups coming along. The next litter of Coriole pups are by History Lesson. They are about seven months and look to be nice types,” he said.

“We’ve also got some November Ghandi pups. There are a few of everything when it comes to sires, so hopefully there will be something decent coming through. “I’m trying to build the numbers up a bit, but you want to be racing city class dogs so I hope a few of the pups coming through are all right.”



Scott Holmes and star galloper Petite Verdote.