



## Victorian News

### Andrew Thompson

WERRIBEE trainer John Shadlow has put his 35-year Aussies Rules football umpiring career on hold after unleashing White River at Sandown recently.

Shadlow, 55, umpired in every Western Region Football League (Footscray area) senior match last year and the league under-18 grand final. But he has had to pull the umpires' boss aside recently and say footy umpiring would be on the back burning this year.

White River (Cry Havoc-Belle Shiraz) provided Shadlow with his first city winner after 10 years training greyhounds in the middle of last month and in the process clocked a best-of-the-night 29.88 seconds at Sandown Park.

The win prompted "Sam" from Queensland, who had been making offers for the smart sprinter, to up his bid to \$50,000.

Shadlow, who has taken a payout from the KL Valentines chocolate factory after 12 years and is currently unemployed, said White River was not for sale at any price.

He plans on supplementing his income by umpiring school footy matches this year and racing his two greyhounds while seeking suitable employment.

Shadlow said he was surprised how fast White River went at his first start out of the Sandown boxes, although the dog had a post-to-post pipeopener before his start.

The 21-month-old pup (to time of writing) has had nine starts for six wins with his best previous effort winning a

grade five final at Warragul in a slick 24.07.

"It was his first time around two bends and I'll concentrate on racing him in the country for a while," Shadlow said.

"He's not super out of the boxes, but when he hits the ground I've never seen a dog with acceleration like it - he just goes whoosh."

Shadlow said he bought the sprinter and his litter brother Misty Knight from Geelong breeder Murray Smith when they were three months old.

Since then Shadlow has taken them to the Werribee hand-slip track every day to give the dogs a gallop and let them "play chasey".

Shadlow said he reared the dogs in a city house block but believed walking them along the roads around Werribee had been a big advantage.

"They walk along the roads all the time and when big trucks go past they don't shy away," he said.

"When you go to the track they aren't worried about what is going on around them like other dogs I've had, they are only interested in chasing."

Shadlow said White River had always shown above average ability and experienced Maryborough breaker Kevin McNamara broke the pups in with White River clocking a slick 18.22.

"He's certainly going good. Longer term I'm looking at a race like the Melbourne Cup, but we'll just let him race through his grades for a while," he said. "My first priority is to look after the dog."



Shadlow said Lara trainer Tina Womann had pups out of the same litter including Sandown Vic Breeders winner Crying Belle.

He said the pups' dam Belle Shiraz had 55 starts and won eight races. The litter was advertised in the Greyhound Tabform.

Shadlow said he was still attending umpires' training twice weekly preparing for the footy season.

"It was alright last year when these two were just pups, but it's going to be a bit harder fitting everything in this year," he said.

"If I took the \$50,000 I would only go out and buy more pups so I might as well keep these two.

"Misty Knight has a fair bit of maturing to do but he won last start at Bendigo over 545m.

"I just told this bloke Sam who kept ringing me not to ring back.

"White River is not for sale," he said.