



Victorian News

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GEELONG sprinter Brumby Lad is on the Victorian country cups trail after twice smashing champion Brett Lee's track record in taking out the Horsham Cup.

The Lansley Bale-Gingernut Lady dog broke Brett Lee's record of 26.96 with a 26.89 heat run before reducing the mark to 26.85 just five days later in the final.

While regarded as one of Australia's best horseshoe track runners, trainer John Bushell was even surprised how fast the fawn flash went.

"He's hit three and settled down to just being a really good dog," the veteran mentor said.

"He got smashed by Bombastic Shiraz in the TopGun and was out for five weeks with an Achilles injury, but he seems to have come back better than ever."

Bushell said Melbourne vet Michael Bell had done an outstanding job guiding Brumby Lad (*pictured above*) back to the track.

"Brumby Lad ran in the heats of the Australian Cup but The Meadows is a track where he needs to be super fit and he was a bit soft," he said.

"Some of his trials before coming back were sensational.

He ran 19.37 over the short at Geelong. That



would have broken the record."

After Brumby Lad changed kennels before taking out the Warrnambool Classic in May last year, Bushell has spent plenty of time getting to know his charge. He has customised a small sand yard with a roof and the dog spends most of the days in his outdoor kennel

"He does what he likes. I

do what he likes. I don't free gallop him too much because he goes too hard. He's just a good, sound dog."

Brumby Lad has been competing against the likes of Monsters Inc, Oroche, Blackjack Tom, Puzzle Prize and Knockabout Wok for much of the past 12 months.

"It looks like the break off the track has done him the world of good. I have to pick his races and he needs to be kept that little bit fresh, but he was just feral two nights after the Horsham Cup, just in super nick," Bushell said.

"He's a good kennel dog, but he does have a fairly demanding schedule. He has to be walked at 6.15 every morning otherwise he would wake up the neighbourhood.

"You don't get many sleep-ins, but I will always get up for a dog like him."

The trainer has a couple more Lansley Bale pups coming through his kennel and he said relation Mark Bushell reared the pups near the Great Ocean Road at Nullawarre in south-west Victoria.

“They get plenty of dairy food and galloping on the beach. The Lansley Bales need a fair bit of handling and the semi-trailers roar past on the Great Ocean Road and the pups never seem to notice them because they are handled by the kids all the time,” he said.

Brumby Lad won the Warrnambool Classic last year and will be attempting a tilt at the Warrnambool Cup this May as well as defending his title in The Great Chase provincial series.

“I got the shock of my life to see he had run the fastest time at Horsham, quicker than a dog like Brett Lee. A few blokes were saying it was a freak run, but to come out and go faster in the final only a couple of days later was just sensational,” he said.

“He’s low flying at present.”

Brumby Lad has now had 68 starts for 34 wins and \$190,000 in prizemoney.

His dam was a litter sister to the Norm McCullagh-trained Warrnambool Classic winner and placegetter Our Daisy and Daisy Rhode.

“He’s an outcross being by Lansley Bale so I’m sure someone will want to stand him at stud, but we’re looking forward to another 12 months racing. He’s a great meal ticket,” Bushell said.

On the same program, the John Galeatrained Juma County ran a slick 27.19 to win the

Horsham Vic Breeders Maiden Series.

Despite starting about \$10 on the TAB in the final, Galea gave his Awesome Assassin-Lynshia Star bitch a great chance.

“She found that four of five lengths she needed to,” he said.

“A month before the series I would never have thought she could run that sort of time around a horseshoe track.

“She looked like being a two-turn track bitch, but she’s certainly improved. She had run 30.20 at the Meadows before the Horsham series.

“It will certainly be interesting to see what she can run in the city now.”

Galea plans on running Juma County throw her grades in the country before tackling city races.

“There were a few fast pups in the heats of the Horsham Vic Breeders but they never made the final. You have to be lucky sometimes and Juma County ran good time in the final,” he said.

Former outstanding city performer Lynshia Star is a litter sister to top-class Melbourne winners Clearwater Boy, Jones Junior and Royal Assassin.

“This is her second litter. The first litter was by Just The Best and Donte won a few races. The third litter is by Token Prince and they are also a good size like the

Awesome Assassin litter,” he said.

“You would expect a bitch like Lynshia Star to throw on and it will be interesting to see how far Juma County and her litter can go,” he said.