

Instant impact

BACK in January Tracey Ryan had hardly taken any notice of the greyhound racing industry. She was happy with a normal hours job at a major supermarket at Burpengary. That was until the previous owner left his pet supplies shop in the area.

Greyhounds and greyhound people have been part of Tracey's life ever since ... and getting more and more so.

"My husband Noel was approached to take over the pet shop, and he said I would give it a try," said Tracey. "It's nothing unusual for my husband to do something like that.

"He came home and said 'I've bought you a pet shop'."

The business goes under the name Fur N Fins, and Tracey took on the job of making it a success.

Enter local greyhound trainer Col Horrigan. "I met Col and his wife on Melbourne Cup day last year and became friendly," said Tracey. "Noel is a meat wholesaler and they had been buying meat from us for their greyhounds.

"Col suggested the greyhound market, for meat, kibble and other supplies could be worth looking at so we took his advice."

That, a couple of adverts in The Journal, and general word of mouth among the industry has seen Fur N Fins double their sales within a couple of months.

"No one can match our prices," said Tracey.

"With Noel being a meat wholesaler and a huge exporter of meat overseas, he buys it at the right price and we can pass that onto our customers."

So much so that Tracey is selling 100kg of horse, 400kg of roo, 500kg of beef and 1300kg of chicken on average a week.

"The business has got too big, too quickly," she laments. Fur N Fins is open seven days a week.

"Greyhound trainers up north have been coming to us for their meat supplies because of our prices, and we do organize deliveries," she said.



Tracey Ryan hard at work at Fur N Fins.