

Dean and Deb take aim at new career



By DAVID BRASCH

AS the Olympic Games wound down in Athens, Dean Turley could be forgiven for stopping work and thinking back over days gone by.

If only it were true ... Dean has got too much work to do these days looking after a property full of greyhounds.

So how does an Olympic and Commonwealth Games rifle shooter end up in the greyhound business?

Turley, 42, was born and bred in Broken Hill.

"Everyone shoots in Broken Hill," he told The Journal.



"I was 20 years old and invited out to the local rifle club. I was so, so about going, but enjoyed myself and went back again, started competing and started going more and more."

Dean had an aptitude for the sport. It led to 12 Australian titles, two NZ championships, three Oceania Games and a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in Canada. He was reserve for the Olympic team in Sydney in 2000.

"I spent 20 years in the game, working two weeks as a baker, and then spending the next two weeks at the Australian Institute of Sport shooting," he said.

Rifle shooting is an expensive sport.

"Training sessions three to four times a week could cost \$150, and the backing we receive is a drop in the ocean. If it wasn't for Deb, I couldn't have gone as far as I did," he said.

Deb is Deborah Lowe, Dean's partner in life, shooting and now greyhound racing.

Deb is a school teacher and for so long the financial backer of one of rifle shooting's elite athletes.

So why and how does such an athlete, with no background in greyhounds, come to get into the sport, specially in Broken Hill which is hardly the mecca of the sport?

"When I decided to give shooting away, Deb and I looked around for something else to do and we quite literally spotted greyhound racing on TV and chose

that,” said Dean.

It was just two years ago and Dean and Deb were still living in Broken Hill.

“Our first dog was Lady Blue Bear, a daughter of Bearability-Silver Field, who won 10 races even though we didn’t train her,” said Dean. “She actually came from a property at Casino, right next door to where we now live.”



Dean and Deb reasoned the only way to get a great greyhound was to breed one.

They bought Infected (Roanokee-Deep Love) a half sister to National Futurity winner Lissiloo.

“We put her to Just The Best to get threequarter relatives to Lissiloo.”

But first Infected won 10 at Broken Hill including a top grade race.



Dean Turley with one of the 70 pups being reared at Plentiwood near Casino.

“But there is more out there than Broken Hill and Deb and I decided to move,” said Dean. “We had a

family connection at the Northern Rivers so we started to look around here.

They bought 100 acres and called it Plentiwood. It is at Leeville, five minutes from Casino.

“It had a house and nothing for greyhounds when we moved here in February 2003,” said Dean. So he and Deb started building yards, kennels, sheds you name it, up it went.

“Now we have more than 70 dogs on the property,” he said. “I don’t really want to get right into training because I feel we must make a living for ourselves out of the property and rewards from training will be a bonus.”

That’s just what the pair have done.

And they have already gone into the stud dog business, standing the sensational galloper Excite Ability (Bearability-Rerun).

“I thought about getting that good dog Brandy Creek Ram as a young dog,” said Dean. “He’s by Awesome Assassin out of Rerun, but he has no testicles and we couldn’t use him.

“So I started to follow his half brother Excite Ability.”



It was easy to follow him through such great performances as a Melbourne Cup, The Temlee and Warragul St Leger victories. He also finished second in the Topgun, Adelaide Cup and Warrnambool Classic and was a finalist in the Australian and Cranbourne Cups.

“I reasoned Casino and the Northern Rivers is a great place for a stud dog of his caliber,” said Dean.

“There are 25 litters a month being earbranded in this area so there are plenty of opportunities.



“And I wanted to make sure he was a stud dog of the quality that we would use ourselves.”

Excite Ability certainly lives up to that. Bookings have already come for the dog and dean lived up to his word. He has already put Ambeela a Meadows and Sandown winner to him and also has her dam Miss Celestial to go to him.



His building program continues around the property. "I cannot tell you how much support we have had from Steve Dransfield who runs Richmond Valley Pet Supplies in Casino," said Dean. "He's been a great support and has helped fill up our rearing yards."

Dean has one of the first Elite State litters whelped, those being out of Infected. "We want to put her next time to Cyrus The Virus ... get it, Infected to Cyrus The Virus," he laughs.

A newcomer into training he has already had success with Real Trick a multiple Albion Park winner and now another of his broodbitch band.

"I think commonsense reigns in both training and rearing, but we have had a lot of advice from some very successful people in the game like the Haas family in Victoria," he said.

He also admits his own greyhounds will benefit from the upbringing they will get.

"That was one factor we learnt at the Institute of Sport," said Dean. "The great athletes of the world generally had a tough upbringing. It was their drive to overcome that, which saw them achieve in their sport.

"I don't think we can spoil young greyhounds because if the end result is that they are not tough enough for racing, then we have not done our job." The Turley reared youngsters want for nothing. They all look in fantastic condition.

With more than 70 pups on the property already, there are a few owners certain he's on the right track.