

Lifetime in racing



RACING has always been in Cameron McLune's world, and Cameron has always wanted a career in the control of racing.

That's just what he has done since 1988 when he left school at St Columbans at Albion and joined the Queensland Turf Club as a cadet steward.

"My great uncles Tom Clarke rode Freckles, and I've had lots of uncles involved in racing," Cameron (*at right*) told The Journal.

"Racing is in my blood and I have always wanted to do something in the control of the industry."

When Cameron joined the panel at the QTC, Ray Murrphy, now the chief of racing in NSW, was in charge. Steve Railton was his deputy and Kim Kelly was a part of the panel. Kelly is now in Hong Kong and Railton has moved to Sydney.

"I was three years at the QTC before the structure was changed and we came under the control of the Queensland Principal Club," he said. "I was in charge of my first race meeting when I was 20. It was in Rockhampton."

Stints in charge at the Gold Coast, Caloundra, Ipswich and Gatton were just part of Cameron's duties.

"I was also heavily involved in the apprentices school.

Michael Rodd, who now has had great success with Art Mann in the greyhound world, was one of the kids we tutored."

But with all the upheaval in the throughbred industry, Cameron decided to leave Queensland Racing in November 2003 and started with the GRA in December.

"I've been full time since April while Daryl Kays has been busy with policy changes," he said.

Married to Peta, the couple have three children Annie, 6, Lucy 4, and Joseph 2.

Changing from one code to another brought its difficulties, but Cameron quickly "got the hang of it". "The rules are similar but I feel I've adjusted quickly to the differences," he said.

He says the GRA is a fantastic environment in which to work, and believes Phil Bennett, Darren Beavis and Danny Ryan are leaders on a par and even better than most he has worked with.

"They are very happy to listen to any input the staff have and that's always a great thing," said Cameron.