

DOUBLY SURE

One of SA's best young riders had no hesitation in becoming the first to take on the dual responsibilities of training and riding.

Shane McNally reports



Jorand Frew aboard Owl On The Prowl at Morphettville

PHOTO: ATKINS PHOTOGRAPHY

Legendary jockey John Letts is on record as saying that training horses is an even tougher assignment than riding them. If that's the case, you have to wonder why Jordan Frew, who has been involved in the cut and thrust of competitive race riding for the past eight years, has opted to become the first South Australian to gain a dual training and riding permit.

It was an easy choice for the young man born into a racing family in New Zealand and brought up around horses just outside of Strathalbyn. Parents Heather and Kevin Frew are astute horse people and have proven their ability to get a horse right, with a particular ability for preparing jumpers. Frew was captivated from an early age – from a youngster in New Zealand, then in Sydney and Mount Gambier before the Frews finally settled in SA.

"Growing up, even as a younger kid, I always wanted to train horses," Frew says. "I knew as I started to get heavier, I wouldn't be able to ride forever and I'd be limited in the mounts I'd get, so training was not just a dream but a practical career choice."

Frew has already shown he knows how to get the best out of a horse as a rider. He won his first race at Kangaroo Island in 2008 and landed his first Listed race the following year when he piloted Cyberryn to victory in the CS Hayes Stakes at Morphettville on Adelaide Cup Day. The winners have flowed consistently since then while he's worked in stables all around the district.

"I've worked very closely with Mum and Dad for years and learned a lot from them and I've learned plenty freelancing for stables around Murray Bridge and Strathalbyn as well," he says. "We can always learn more and I'll certainly take advice from Mum and Dad, particularly if I happen to get a jumper into my stable."

That stable is destined to be located at Mypolonga, where Frew and his parents will train separate of each other on a well-positioned new property they're



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Owl On The Prowl

currently establishing. It will start out housing a handful of horses for the emerging trainer but hopes to quickly achieve double digit horses, with a longer-term ambition of establishing a stable of up to 20 runners.

"Dad has passed on a couple of horses and several owners have already indicated they are happy for me to train their horses," he says. "I've got a nice one by Moshe out of a Little Chunky, another unraced two-year-old by Dane Shadow called Cambridge Don and Owl On The Prowl, who's been racing with Mum and Dad, is going to find himself in my stable. I've done a bit of work with him and know him well."

"I know what John Letts is talking about, I've definitely been told over the years that it's easier being a jockey because you can always hand the problems back to the trainer when you get off after a race. But I suppose the flipside of that is that when you get a nice horse, you also get to enjoy the success without fear that you'll be

taken off the horse for its next race. I'm looking forward to the challenge and, hopefully, the rewards. I like that you have more control of the situation as a trainer and more satisfaction when you develop it into a winner. That satisfaction might even double if I'm in a position to also ride the horse but at 57 and a half kilos, there are limits. If I can't ride, I'd put my partner Jemma on and of course I'd consider other riders when necessary."

It's early days for the groundbreaking young horseman but if resolve and ability have anything to do with it, the stable should grow quickly. Frew has the right background and a couple of very clever horse people behind him that he is lucky enough to call his parents, as well as a couple of owners and a new training establishment sure to give him his best chance for immediate success.

"I've got a nice bunch of clients but the work really starts now," he says. "I do however have a very good start, with a good new property out at Mypolonga. It's 40 acres about 10 minutes out of Murray Bridge, just down from the river with a nice 1000m sand track around it and we're putting in a walker. I'm doubling my workload but looking forward to it. I'm ready."