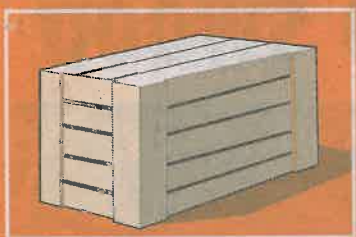




# Ben Hook and

## Inside running on life after track



### Soapbox

#### ■ BEN HOOK ON TWO LEADERS

**D**OES anyone else sense the careers of Crows' coach Neil Craig and PM Kevin Rudd appear remarkably aligned?

Both arrived in a blaze of glory after widespread discontent with their predecessors. Both have enjoyed some successful moments, but never landed a killer blow. Both have dealt with key members of their teams letting them down.

And let's be frank, compared to their contemporaries, they're both a bit nerdy.

Usually impeccable media performers, Rudd and Craig have both had their feathers ruffled. Rudd's now infamous May 12 interview with ABC's Kerry O'Brien was a low point, while Craig, albeit to a dumb question, spat out an uncharacteristically tetchy answer to a young Melbourne journalist following Adelaide's loss to North Melbourne three days later.

**T**HEY'RE more accustomed to studying racing form than textbooks, but Lauren Stojakovic and Libby Hopwood are determined to reach the winning post on and off the track.

The apprentice jockeys have enrolled in a specialist study program offered by Marcellin Technical College, with a view to shoring up career options out of

the saddle. Stojakovic has recently completed the long journey back from serious injury as a result of a race fall. She joked she would like to become a paramedic to find out what it's like in an ambulance as someone who's not the patient.

"We're pretty busy but I think for an opportunity like this you find the time," Stojakovic said of mixing stable work with her year

12 studies. "Just that extra bit of work might be hard but in the long run it is going to be worth it."

In-form Hopwood finished high school with solid results and her career as a jockey came about by accident. "I wanted to go to uni as an archaeologist with a lead-in to forensic science," she said.

"I needed money to get there so I was mucking out boxes and riding

around a dirt circuit. "I deferred for a year and thought I'd give it a crack."

She's now aiming to boost her SACE score which will allow her to undertake tertiary study in criminal psychology. "Luckily I've developed a love for (riding) now. While I do want to study, I definitely want to continue riding for as long as I can."