



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH MAY 2017**

# **“FANTA BALE”**

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for May is brilliant Victorian all distance superstar Fanta Bale following her outstanding win in the Group 1 RSN Sandown Cup at Sandown Park on May 25th.

Fanta Bale has laid claim to being one of the sport's greatest ever chasers by registering a breathtaking victory in the Cup.



**Fanta Bale rushes home late to win the Sandown Cup** (Pic Clint Anderson)

The big crowd trackside was buzzing as one of the best fields assembled for the great race headed to the boxes, and the race delivered everything greyhound racing fans hoped it would.

Western Australian chaser Teddy Monelli led early before Dundee Osprey swept around the field to take a commanding lead. Fanta Bale was denied a gap between runners and shuffled back to midfield, while the odds on favourite Burn One Down settled in a prominent position on the rail.

*Continued Page 2...*

Fanta Bale and Midnight Elsa made their moves down the back straight but with 150m to go, Fanta Bale still spotted the lamp lighter a four-length margin. But the tenacious little chaser railed brilliantly running for home to surge past the gallant Dundee Osprey and score by half a length in 41.87.

The win came as a surprise to trainer Robert Britton who believed Fanta Bale would have to find the lead early to win the world's richest race for stayers.

"We keep looking for reasons why she can't win, but she keeps finding a way to prove us wrong," said Britton following the win.

"When Midnight Elsa headed her I thought we were on for place prize money only, but that's what she does, she'll put her head out and keep trying.

"I've had a lot of real good dogs over a lot of years, but I haven't had what I'd call out an out champion. You've really got to put her in that league now."

Fanta Bale became the first greyhound to win at group 1 level over all three metropolitan distances having previously won the Australian Cup, the Rookie Rebel and Hume Cup at the Meadows. It was the fourth group 1 win of her career and the \$175,000 winner's cheque took her career prize money to \$716,885, passing the great Miata into sixth place all time. Fanta Bale doesn't turn three until August making her achievements to date even more remarkable.

Also in the month of May Fanta Bale finished second in the Group 3 Racecallers special event over 595 at Sandown she was only collared on the line after an extraordinary effort by Burn One Down. The run earned him the Run of the Month for May.

Fanta Bale is a Black bitch whelped August 2014 by David Bale from Ucmé Typhoon (Dodgem By Design x USS Mysterious). Fanta Bale is raced Paul Wheeler and trained by Robert Britton. She has raced 37 times for 23 wins and nine placings. After adding the \$175,000 first prize for the Sandown Cup her stake earnings stand at \$716,885. Sixth on the all-time stakes winning list.

AGRA congratulates owner Paul Wheeler, trainer Robert Britton and Fanta Bale on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for April 2017 her second after winning in March. She joins last month's winner Striker Light, Falcon's Fury and Lightning Frank as the AGRA Greyhound of the Month winners for 2017.

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