



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Fanta Bale's fantastic Australian Cup triumph

By GRV Website

Underrated but ultra-consistent Fanta Bale claimed her third Group 1 trophy at The Meadows – and her first as a sprinter – with a surprise victory in the Sky Racing Australian Cup Final on Saturday night.

Trained by Robert Britton for Australia's most successful breeder Paul Wheeler, Fanta Bale had won two 600m features at The Meadows, the Hume Cup last October and Rookie Rebel invitational on the opening night of the Australian Cup Carnival.



**Fanta Bale supreme in the Australian Cup (All Pics Clint Anderson)**

After winning the Rookie Rebel Britton opted to revert to sprinting for the Australian Cup rather than testing the daughter of 2012 Topgun hero David Bale and US-bred dam Ucme Typhoon as a stayer and his decision proved to be a \$250,000 masterstroke.

"It's fate that she won tonight. I actually had her entered for a 700 metre race a little while back, but I had to scratch her because she was a little bit sore," Britton said.

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“She ended up missing five weeks of racing, but had she raced that day I probably would have kept her over the longer distances and never even contemplated putting her in the Australian Cup.”

Fanta Bale (\$8.30) won her Australian Cup heat in 29.98sec from box one and she started at \$8.30 from box eight in the decider, with the move to the outside alley a concern for Britton.

Silver Chief and Temlee hero Lightning Frank was the \$2.40 favourite from box three but he missed the start as Fanta Bale showed great speed to lead Aston Bolero on the first turn.

Aston Bolero gained the ascendancy shortly after but Fanta Bale railed to the lead turning for home and dashed clear, defeating the strong-finishing youngster Eminent Reality (\$3.80) by 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lengths in 30.01sec, with Aeroplane Bob (\$24.90) running third.

“This is an absolute thrill. Thinking about the race all week I couldn’t see how she could get across to the rail from box eight,” Britton said.

“But she has proved me wrong several times in her career and she has done so again tonight.

“I was watching the race from just in front of the boxes and she began brilliantly. I was actually shocked that she beat Aston Bolero out.

“Then he (Aston Bolero) pushed under her but somehow they both managed to stay in front.”

It was Britton’s third Australian Cup, with the master Lara mentor having won the race with Isa Brown in 2002 and Tasman Queen in 2008.

Fanta Bale doubled her earnings, passing the \$500,000 mark, and she’s now won 20 of her 29 starts, her consistency underlined by the fact she hasn’t missed a place in her last 18 outings, winning 13 times, since finishing sixth in the Group 3 SA Oaks last September.

“She reminds me a lot of Isa Brown in that she’s a one pacer but a good box dog who was dropping back in distance for this race,” Britton said.

“I’m still keen to try her as a stayer, and I’ll have a good think over the next few days about what I’ll do with her next.”

After the placed runners then followed: Aston Bolero (\$7.40), Matt Machine (\$20.10), Monaro Monelli (\$31.30), Blazin’ Bomber (\$8.40) and Lightning Frank (\$2.40).

Fanta Bale is a Black bitch whelped August 2014 by David Bale from Ucmetyphoon (Dodgem By Design x USS Mysterious). Fanta Bale is raced Paul Wheeler and trained by Robert Britton. She has raced 28 times for 20 wins and six placings. After adding the \$250,000 first prize for the Australian Cup her stake earnings stand at \$516,915. 22<sup>nd</sup> on the all-time stakes winning list.

The Australian Cup was first run in 1958 at North Melbourne the M.G.R.A.’s first home then moved with the club to Olympic Park becoming the famous race it is today when promoted with flair and style by the late Ken Carr the club astute manager for many years. When Olympic closed the club flagship event was conducted at Sandown while the club established its new home at the Meadows. It has been conducted at the new complex since it opened in 1999. Listed below is the classic honour roll of the past winners that have won this mighty race.

1958 **Rookie Rebel**, 1959 **Rocky Ros**, 1960 **Meadow Vale** 1961 **Copeland**, 1962 **Take A Bow**, 1963 **"Not Held"**, 1964 **Old Tops**, 1965 **Worthing**, 1966 **Billy Vee**, 1967 **Fawn Nulla**, 1968 **Swanston Lass**, 1969 **Benjamin John**, 1970 **The Smoother**, 1971 **Black Diro**, 1972 **Blackamoor Lad**, 1973 **Half Your Luck**, 1974 **Kim's Monaro**, 1975 **Ungwilla Lad**, 1976 **Odious**, 1977 **Listowel Sue**, 1978 **Count D'Argent**, 1979 **Boundless**, 1980 **Tangaloo**, 1981 **Pete's Advice**, 1982 **Royal Rumpus**, 1983 **Drop Of Wine**, 1984 **Tangairn**, 1985 **Eaglehawk Star**, 1986 **Bright Judge**, 1987 **Regal Post**, 1988 **Golden Blessing**, 1989 **Ginger**, 1990 **Spread Eagled**, 1991 **Franklin Deano**, 1992 **China Trip**, 1993 **China Trip**, 1994 **Mancunian Girl**, 1995 **Bonjase**, 1996 **Tenthill Doll**, 1997 **Smooth Rumble**, 1998 **Fibba**, 1999 **Mandataro**, 2000 **Arvo's Express**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Isa Brown**, 2003 **Most Awesome / Blackjack Tom D/H**, 2004 **Bogie Leigh** 2005 **Pure Octane**, 2006 **Miss Spicy**, 2007 **Pete's Conquest**, 2008 **Tasman Queen**, 2009 **Velocette**, 2010 **Dyna Lachlan**, 2011 **St.Pierre** and 2012 **Zara Zulu**, 2013 **Spud Regis**, 2014 **Buckle Up Wes**, 2015 **Luca Neveelk** and 2016 **Dyna Double One**.

# Eden's Trip to Super Stayers Paradise

By GRV Website

Strength in numbers paid off for Jason Thompson when Trip To Eden (pictured) upstaged superstar kennelmate Burn One Down in the Australian Super Stayers Final, the first leg of a Group 1 double header at The Meadows on Saturday night.



After brilliant victories in the Group 1 Zoom Top and Super Stayers heat in the first two weeks of the Australian Cup Carnival Burn One Down was all-the-rage in the \$100,000 to-the-winner Super Stayers, starting at \$1.70 from box six.

Thompson's 'second stringer' Trip To Eden (\$4.80) was chasing a change of fortune in his third consecutive Group 1 assignment after finishing runner-up in both the Galaxy and Zoom Top, where he was beaten nine lengths by Burn One Down.

The winner of nine of his ten starts over 725m at The Meadows, Burn One Down began well but was shuffled back to second last with one lap to go as Western Australian Teddy Monelli led the way.

With Burn One Down at the tail of the field, Jason Thompson's focus shifted to Trip To Eden when he moved threateningly into third in the back straight.

Trip To Eden burst between Teddy Monelli (\$6.40) and Alera Bale (\$11.60) in the home straight, defeating Teddy Monelli by 1 ½ lengths in 42.31sec, while Burn One Down failed to beat a runner home.

"Trip To Eden had been knocking on the door of a big race win, and I had a real feeling he was going to win tonight," Jason Thompson's wife Seona said.

"We won't know until Burn One Down cools down whether he is injured or not.

"We don't normally train stayers, so when Burn One Down and Trip To Eden ran the Quinella in the Zoom Top it was a huge thrill as it meant we had the best two stayers in Australia.

"They are total opposites in some ways. Burn One Down is a really big dog, whereas Trip To Eden is quite small.

"All going well we will most likely enter the two of them in the Traralgon Distance Cup later this month and then the Association Cup at Wentworth Park."

A son of former Group-winning stayer Key To Eden, Trip To Eden has inherited his mother's distance capabilities, boasting three wins and three seconds in elite company since stepping up to '700' in late 2016.

"The owner Steve Connor has had some handy greyhounds over the years with us including Suave Fella, who was his first Group 1 winner, and Hanify's Impact, who ran second in the Melbourne Cup," Seona said.

It was the second-time leading WA trainer Dave Hobby has had to settle for second prize in a Meadows' 725m major, with Magpie Bob edged out by NSW's Smart Valentino in the 2013 National Distance Grand Final.

Earlier in Saturday night's bumper meeting the Sharp family from Lara celebrated their greatest success to date when Oronsay held on for a thrilling all-the-way victory in the Group 3 GRV Vic Bred Maiden Final.

Oronsay (\$7.90), a daughter of former classy sprinter Walk Hard, trained by Jessica Sharp, staved off a late challenge from the well-supported Brueghelino (\$2.70) to claim the \$25,000 to-the-winner feature in 30.13sec, with litter sister Angel Dash, trained by Jessica's husband Jason, running third.

After the placed runners in the Super Stayers the rest of the field finished in then following order: Dundee Calypso (\$29.50), It's A Fling (\$15.60), Azurite (\$51.30), Obi Kenobi (\$32.60) and Burn One Down (\$1.70).

Trip To Eden is a Black dog whelped April 2014 by Solve The Puzzle from Key To Eden (Suave Fella x Wild Chant). Trip To Eden is raced by Steve Connor and trained by Jason Thompson he has raced 38 times for 15 wins and 13 placings. His stake earnings stand at \$220,762.

Listed below are the past winners of the renamed Group 1 feature the Macro Meats Super Stayers. In recent years, the race has been known as the Australian Super Stayers and the Gleeson & Tonta Trophy. First run at Olympic Park in 1978 the staying feature had stood the test time. This year the race was sponsored for the third time by Macro Meats who have become involved with a number of high profile events at both metropolitan tracks in Victoria.

1978 **King's Domain**, 1979 **Misty Fabric**, 1980 **Sue's Repeat**, 1981 **Parachute Luck**, 1982 **Mira Donna**, 1983 **Dark Harlequin**, 1984 **Tesoro Mio**, 1985 **Planosec**, 1986 **Bay Supreme**, 1987 **Mystic Hope**, 1988 **Magic Lightning**, 1989 **High Flight**, 1990 **Pebbles' Beach**, 1991 **Modern Express**, 1992 **Saltwater Sid**, 1993 **Gold Roulette**, 1994 **"Not Held"**, 1995 **Just Barby**, 1996 **City Blitz**, 1997 **Nowhere To Go**, 1998 **Ringside Fire**, 1999 **Moe's Tavern**, 2000 **Sunblest Kid**, 2001 **Proven Dreams**, 2002 **Boomeroo**, 2003 **Oh Behave**, 2004 **Skipper Rip**, 2005 **Malfoy**, 2006 **Quidame**, 2007 **Flashing Floods**, 2008 **Just Friends**, 2009 **Lilley Criminal**, 2010 **Drill 'Em**, 2011 **Bobby Boucheau** and 2012 **Thrilling Brat**, 2013 **Destini Fireball**, 2014 **Destini Fireball**, 2015 **Luna Jinx** and 2016 **Star Recall**.

The Superstayers final and the Group 1 Australian Cup capped off an amazing three weeks of racing at The Meadows. In excess of over \$1,000,000 in prizemoney was won in another outstanding carnival.

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