

MEDIA RELEASE
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***Thompson Works a
Miracle on Cup Winner***

Most trainers will tell you to bring a dog back from a broken hock is a tough assignment, let alone to win a feature race. Bracken Ridge trainer Neil Thompson overcame the odds tonight when Late Show Lee (\$12.00) recorded his biggest race victory in the Group 2 Garrards Gold Coast Cup (520m) at Albion Park in 30.11.

Late Show Lee broke his hock back in February this year a week after he had defeated both High Earner and Mr Metz in a top grade event at Albion Park.

His owner Barry Handley takes up the story. "He was going great beating the good dogs and then all of a sudden he suffered a broken hock and his career was in the balance," he said.

Handley, known for his association with leading watering hole the Stafford Tavern and his syndications, was very excited after the victory and was the dog's catcher on the momentous occasion.

Bred by Terry Hines, Late Show Lee recorded his 13th win from 71 starts with another 27 placings. His stakes earnings with tonight's \$25,000 are over \$61,000.

"He's been a real dream dog for us and for \$2,500 as a pup on the recommendation of Nigel Rugg he's been a real money spinner," Handley added. At the presentation an emotional kennel foreman for Neil Thompson, Darren Titmarsh praised the trainer for his ability to bring Late Show Lee to win the Cup and gave credit to leading vet Richard Eaton-Wells on fixing the hock of the son of Late Late Show.

Late Show Lee is one of the most consistent top grade dogs going around and excels off inside box draws. 2010 Futurity winner Velocity Regina (\$5.00) showed she's ready to win again with a fast finishing second beaten one and a quarter lengths. Velocity Regina will line up at Lismore in the Cup heats next Tuesday. Mr Metz (\$2.50), a Topgun contestant next Saturday, finished a further four and half lengths away third after being checked numerous times early in the race from box 6.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION



Happy Team after the Gold Coast Cup Presentation (Pic Corey Pearce)

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Gnarley Boy (\$5.00), 5th Farmor Cee You (\$4.00), 6th Roman Nose Best (\$11.00), 7th Cork Harbour (\$21.00) and Fence Post (\$12.00).

Late Show Lee is a Black dog whelped July 2007 by Late Late Show from Mysterious Lee (Brett Lee x Superbee). He is raced by John Hanley and trained by Neil Thompson of Bracken Ridge in Queensland. Late Show Lee has won 13 of his 71 starts and has been placed on 27 occasions with the \$25,000 first prize for the Gold Coast Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$61,600.

The club's Cup has been up and down in prizemoney over the years they hosted the \$70,000 Gold Coast Cup in July 1995 (\$30,000-to-the-winner), and it went to an all time high of \$35,000 to the winner when won by Hot Shot in 1998. But like many clubs in Queensland they have done it tough from time to time and maintaining that extremely high prizemoney levels seems a thing of the past. However after a couple of years at \$20,000 to the winner the race was again elevated to Group 2 status in 2009 with \$25,000 to the winner. The Gold Coast Cup was at its most famous creating nation-wide interest went won in back to back fashion by superstar Flying Amy in 95-96. It has been won by some star performers over the years. With the closing of the Gold Coast track after the 2008 final the race has been maintained by the Brisbane club and will continue to be conducted as part of their Spring Carnival. Listed below is the past winners.

1978 **Drum Brae**, 1979 **Secret Academy**, 1980 **Camaieu**, 1981 **Bianca Lee**, 1982 **Carnival Melody**, 1983 **Mathew's World**, 1984 **Jatasha's Star**, 1985 **Sharyn's Vogue**, 1986 **Fifi She's Not**, 1987 **Whip Tip**, 1988 **Riviera Chris**, 1989 **West Cape**, 1990 **Key Dancer**, 1991 **Wallowa Flash**, 1992 **Tickety Boo**, 1993 **Star Title**, 1994 **Flying Amy**, 1995 **Flying Amy**, 1996 **Sleepy Saint**, 1997 **Roanokee**, 1998 **Hotshot**, 1999 **Faithful Hawk**, 2000 **Ngarutao**, 2001 **Sydney Tiger**, 2002 **Mr Faithful**, 2003 **Elite State**, 2004 **Lethal Weapon**, 2005 **Magic Trance**, 2006 **Vapour Whirl**, 2007 **Buckingham Chuck**, 2008 **El Galo** and 2009 **Velocette**..

Thanks to David Brasch Queensland Racing Website for story material.

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