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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**31st December 2010**



# Up And Away Wins Eight Straight

Master trainer Graeme Bate took out the final Group 1 event of 2010 when exciting youngster Up And Away scored a thrilling victory in the \$72,500 Group 1 Macro Meats Laurels Classic at Sandown Park last night.



**Up and Away just hangs on to beat Kaldeen Athena in the run to the line**

(All Pics Paul Munt)

Coming into the race on the back of seven consecutive wins, Up And Away was widely tipped to lead the race, however it was favourite and fastest qualifier Kaldeen Athena (\$2.90) who was the best to begin. However Up And Away (\$3.90) soon mustered pace to take a clear lead through the first turn.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Up And Away then raced clear down the back straight with Isadoll (\$3.90) and Kalden Athena in hot pursuit. The chasing pair engaged in a brief bumping duel before Kalden Athena made her move upon turning for home.

In a thrilling finish befitting such a prestigious race, Up And Away finished a nose to the good of Kalden Athena in a slick 29.59.

Bate's second runner, Tonnelli Bale (\$9.70), capitalised on a brilliant rails run to finish just three quarters of a length away in third in one of the strongest Laurels Classic finals seen in the race's 46 year history.

It was the fourth time since 1997 that Bate has taken out greyhound racing's version of the Oaks, an achievement that was not lost on the Greyhound Racing Hall Of Fame member.



**A Happy team post race at Sandown Park**

"The Laurels is a time honoured event that I've been involved in quite a lot of times and this is a real thrill," said Bate.

"It's great for a lovely family of owners who made the trek down from Yambuk in western Victoria. They (Ann and Bernard Sinnott, who also bred the greyhound) were a little reluctant to make the drive down but I talked them into it. I said she's a fair dinkum chance."

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Despite the numerous champions that have graced Bate's Lara kennels over the years, he has great affection for the 21 month old daughter of Where's Pedro.

"This greyhound thinks like no other dog that I've ever had.

"When she was reared we couldn't keep her in her run. The fences were six feet high and she'd sail over them – up and away she's go!"

The win was also a fantastic result for Scope in Manifold Heights, who as a spin off for their association with Up And Away through the Great Chase series, receive the equivalent of 10 per cent of the prizemoney earned by Up And Away for the next 12 months. It is an association that has already reaped the Geelong based organisation more than \$15,000.

"The Great Chase is a great innovation from our (Greyhound Racing Victoria) Board. It's been terrific for our game and for under privileged people. What she's been able to do for Scope so far has been fantastic."

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Black Saharrah (\$29.20), 5<sup>th</sup> Isadoll (\$3.90), 6<sup>th</sup> New Year's Punch (\$10.40), 7<sup>th</sup> Coolan Miss (\$17.20) and Budgie Lass (\$31.30).

Up And Away is raced by the Ann Sinnott and trained by Graeme Bate at Lara he is a Fawn dog whelped May 2009 by Where's Pedro from On Shore (Waterview Star x Bally Kay). Up And Away has won 11 and three placings from her 15 starts and with the \$50,000 first prize for the Laurels it took his current stake earnings to \$102,135.

Recognized Australia wide as the pinnacle age restricted bitches classic the Laurels was first conducted by the Sandown Club in 1964 when won by Tara Princess. It is a very much sought after Group 1 event with the winner usually acknowledged as a very valuable brood bitch as well as most carve out a successful race career. It has also been proven over the years that most of the finalists are bitches that produce when they go to stud and some have become house hold names after producing some of the superstars of the sport.

The Classic has found some outstanding winners over the years none the least 1965 champ Cheltenham Lass who later in her career was runner up and won a Melbourne Cup as well as runner up in an Australian Cup. Odious who went on to win an Australian Cup in 1976, Carrington Jade won a Melbourne Cup in 1976. Cavalier Queen won the Adelaide Cup in 1977. Paua To Burn won the 2005 Easter Egg and 2004/ 2005 Group 1 Sapphire Crown. Plus two other winners are Hall of Fame superstars Winifred Bale and Sandi's Me Mum. The race will now continue to be staged in December after a revamp of the AGRA Group Race calendar commenced in July 2010 it considered a better age time for the young bitches and it will also coincide with the running of the Silver Chief for the same aged dog pups. Listed below is the Laurels Classic Honour roll highlighted by so many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers.

**1964 Tara Princess, 1965 Cheltenham Lass, 1966 Ever Present, 1967 Magic Fuel, 1968 Enapetic, 1969 Watch A Flash, 1970 La Rate, 1971 Lady Of Rome, 1972 Blackliner, 1973 Crete, 1974 Vibrant Lass, 1975 Odious, 1976 Carrington Jade, 1977 Cavalier Queen, 1978 Debbie's Wood, 1979 Jewel Of All, 1980 Sharonlee Girl, 1981 Sarah Kuda, 1982 Winifred Bale, 1983 Wee Rua, 1984 Select Girl, 1985 Little Nola, 1986 Autumn Leaf, 1987 Playgirl Bonnie, 1988 Dancing Vixen, 1989 Sandi's Me Mum, 1990 Witchery, 1991 Barb's Tune, 1992 To Perfection, 1993 Suzy Also, 1994 Victorious Road, 1995 Little Promise, 1996 Hanson Kelly, 1997 Moonambel Gem, 1998 Chersam Honcho, 1999 Labyrinth, 2000 Creative Whisky, 2001 Hail A Harley, 2002 Katella Bale, 2003 Dance Portrait, 2004 Paua To Burn, 2005 Maureen Shirly, 2006 Pure Burst, 2007 Miss Hot Gossip, 2008 Hybrid Theory, 2009 Boozeroo and 2010 C'est La Vie (June).**

\*\*\*\*\*Replay of the final can be viewed on the club's website at:  
[www.sandowngreyhounds.com.au](http://www.sandowngreyhounds.com.au)

Thanks to Michael Floyd Sandown Racing Manager for story content.



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