



Media Release 4th January 2018

GCA RUN OF THE MONTH AWARD DECEMBER 2017

“RILEY TOKAAM”

The GCA Run of the Month for December 2017 has been awarded to New South Wales sprint star Riley Tokaam for his win in the Xmas Gift Final at Wentworth Park on December 16th.

After returning from a Victorian campaign, where he ran third in the Group 1 Hume Cup over 600m and fourth to eventual winner Aston Dee Bee in a Melbourne Cup heat, Riley Tokaam was heavily backed in his Christmas Gift heat on a controversial slow track.



It was smart money, as he stormed home in 30.08, and after drawing ideally in box seven for last Saturday's final, the March '15 son of Don't Knocka Him and Skyela Tokaam started \$2.70 favourite.

Riley Tokaam was trapped wide on the first turn, but improved ominously into fourth and after chiming in three-wide turning for home he powered to the line, defeating Black Hole Sun by 3.75 lengths in 30.17, his sixth win from eight starts from box seven.

“He's no superstar or big headline dog, but he's the sort of dog you want in your kennel,” Mackay said.

“The perfect draw for him is five, six or seven – middle to outside – and as soon as he drew seven, with the eight (Milky

Jones) a noted slow starter that doesn't crash in, it was going to take a good one to beat him.

“He got a little clip from Royal Turbo, which took his momentum away, but he got to where he wants to race and recovered quickly. He collared them on the corner, but no sooner had he got to them than he put four on them.

“He's raced against the top company in Melbourne – he won a heat of the Hume Cup and ran third in the final – and the majority of dogs – about 99 per cent – improve with an interstate trip and that's what's happened with him.

“He'll go back to Wenty on Saturday and then have a quick back-up for the Gosford Cup heats.

That wouldn't be ideal for a normal dog, but he's a dog that's full of nervous energy and needs to race. He's got a super record backing-up.”

“He was very immature when we first got him,” Mackay explained.

“He did a lot of things wrong and a couple of times I thought he would have to go, but he kept learning and improving.

“His greatest asset is that he's tough. A lot of dogs take a backward step when the going gets tough, but he never will. He's just keeps coming and that will to win is a real bonus.

“Over 500, he lacks a bit of speed, but he’s a powerhouse, whereas he’s got good speed over 600, but isn’t overly strong and he won’t go any further. He’s had nine goes over 600 for seven wins, but it isn’t ideal having an elite 600m dog, because there aren’t many big races for them.

“I think he’s got a bright future and it wouldn’t surprise me if there’s a big one in him down the track, maybe a race like the Paws Of Thunder.”

Riley Tokaam is a blue Brindle dog whelped March '15 he is raced by Wayne Brown & trained by Jason Mackay at Richmond Vale in New South Wales. Riley Tokaam is by Don’t Knocka Him from Skyela Tokaam (Regal Thyme x Madison Tokaam). His record is 50 starts for 22 wins and 14 placings and prizemoney earnings of \$121,475

As usual there were some outstanding runs recorded in December on various tracks around Australia. However, given the way in which Riley Tokaam went about his win, plus the company he beat, he got the nod as the Run of the Month.

GCA congratulates owner Wayne Brown, trainer Jason Mackay and Riley Tokaam after being judged the GCA Run of the Month for December 2017. He is the sixth winner this year joining last month’s winner Rockoon and previous winners Thirty Talks, Billy’s Bake, On and Off and Extreme Magic making up all the winners in 2017-2018.

Checkout the GCA Website for a replay of the run of the Month

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
GCA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950