



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association



## MEDIA RELEASE

11th April 2016

### *Magical Yessam Popular local win in Ipswich Auction Final*

By David Lems Queensland Times Website

Latest Ipswich auction final winning greyhound trainer Don Massey received one of the thrills of his life on opening night at the Showgrounds.

In May 1982, he instantly gained the greyhound bug when Yessam Blacktop started at 20-1 and dashed to victory in the first race on that historic evening.

The crowd was about 3500 on that occasion, launching an exciting era of greyhound racing in Queensland.

"That was an enormous night," he recalled.

However, little did Massey know then that more than three decades later he'd be celebrating his first Ipswich auction series victory with another of his many "Yessam" dogs.

His first auction starter Magical Yessam (\$3.40) (pictured) lived up to its pre-race form by proving too strong for early leader Royal Prize (\$5.30) and main threat Vegas Bound (\$2.40).

Although the crowd was much smaller on Saturday night, the Moores Pocket-based trainer was just as excited celebrating his first Ipswich Magical Puppy auction final win.



Having his supportive wife Lyn, four children and grandchildren at the Ipswich track enhanced the occasion for the 76-year-old trainer who has battled a major health scare. He was diagnosed with cancer in his stomach, only recently returning to racing.

"With what we've been through in the last six months, it's a really good tonic to win a race like that," Massey said.

"I probably haven't been this good in the last five years.

"With cancer, you never know but at the moment I'm feeling good."

He's planning another celebratory night out in the next fortnight.

From that inaugural win with Yessam Blacktop, the former mechanic / boilermaker said he had named hundreds of dogs the same way.

Yessam is his surname spelt backwards, a trend started by the veteran trainer.

"Back in the fifties and that, I used to call all my dogs 'Yessam'," Massey said.

Saturday night's win was Magical Yessam's 14th from 31 starts.

Knowing how good Magical Yessam is, Massey plans to run him in the Derby series at Albion Park.

As for the \$40,000 prizemoney, Massey said it was just enjoyable to win on his home track.

"It's not the money. It's the prestige of winning it," he said.

The Ipswich trainer is already getting excited about the next auction series with a number of pups in line to race again.

Auction series 'for everyone'

IPSWICH Greyhound Racing Club manager Merv Page said seeing people like Don and Lyn Massey win highlighted why the auction series had been so popular for so many years.

"It's a race that everyone can win," Page said. "You can have a low grade dog. In 18 months' time, it can win for anybody."

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

"The highest grade dog last night was fourth or fifth grade."

The first race from the inaugural auction at the Ipswich Showgrounds was run in 1989.

After last night's series offered \$70,000, including \$40,000 to the winning connections, it will be even bigger prizemoney for the next one.

It will be a total of \$120,000 with \$70,000 to the winner.

Page was delighted with Saturday night's latest auction series feature event.

"It was the best night we've had for a while," he said. "Crowd wise, and everything, (it was) better than Vince Curry night. The pools were great, especially for Sky 2."

However, Page would like to see the series screened on Sky 1 and 4TAB broadcast the final in future.

"If we were on Sky 1, we would double the pools," he said.

The next major series at the Showgrounds is the Ipswich Gold Cup in October/November.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Legacy Chief (\$20.60), 5<sup>th</sup> Under Advice (\$19.90), 6<sup>th</sup> Winsmit (\$13.60), 7<sup>th</sup> Magic Beau (\$25.10) and Hypnotized (\$13.80).



Magical Yessam is a November 2013 Black Dog by Magic Sprite from Kiewa Show (Late Late Show x Elite Angel). He is raced and trained by Don & Lyn Massey at Moores Pocket in Queensland. Magical Yessam has now raced on 32 occasions for 14 wins and nine placings and the \$40,000 first prize for the Auction Series took her overall stake earnings to \$67,321.

It was the 24th staging of the Auction Series for the Ipswich Club and another successful one, the race has consistently uncovered talented pups that are given the opportunity to race for big prizemoney at the start of their race careers.

**Don & Lyn Massey with Magical Yessam** (All pics Rick O'Donnell/justgreyhoundphoto's.com)

The Ipswich Auction Series has had a number of different sponsors since it commenced in 1989 it was called the Sci-Fleet Ford Auction series for three years, then from 1992 until 1994 it was the Celcast Auction Series. In 1995 for one year it was the Roofshield Auction Series and then the race was taken over by the Rob Lowe Car Company from 1997 until 2001 when the Highland Smash Repairs became the sponsor until 2013. Listed below is the full honour roll of the past winners.

1989 **Milluna Miss**, 1990 **Our Gold Coin**, 1991 **Slick Myth**, 1992 **Impulsive Gamble**, 1993 **Marry Me Mary**, 1994 **Perro Star**, 1995 **Pride Of Stef**, 1996 **Nobody's Fool**, 1997 **Blazing Honour**, 1998 **Travel Train**, 1999 **Hypnotic Trans**, 2000 **Stylish Bandit** 2001 **Pacific Flash**, 2002 **Happy Chappy**, 2003 **Awesome Design**, 2004 **Fool's State**, 2005 **Don Paco**, 2006 **Rylee's Revenge**, 2007 **Go Makatam**, 2008 **Elise Odette**, 2009 **Rail Raider**, 2010 **Iron Force**, 2011 **Pedro's Thunder**, 2012 **Rob Pines**, 2013 **Fyre Out**, 2014 **Are Ate** and 2015 **Razen Toast**.

For more information please contact:

**Neil Brown**  
**AGRA Publicity Officer**  
**Tel: 03 97691234**  
**Mob: 0423 129 950**  
[nbrown@agra.com.au](mailto:nbrown@agra.com.au)

**Howard Ashton**  
**AGRA Executive Officer**  
**Tel: 08 88243 7100**  
**Mob: 0438 042 838**