



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Opal Shines in Maitland Gold Cup

Story Courtesy GRNSW Website and Katherine Ernst

Black Magic Opal (\$2.70), the son of an \$800 bitch, made light work of snaring the \$40,000 first prizemoney in Thursday night's GE Industrea Mining Maitland Gold Cup.

The baby of the field took his tally to 12 wins and three seconds from 15 starts when he gave fastest qualifier Unexplained an early start before pouncing on the lead at the first turn for a runaway win.

In wonderful thrill for Black Magic Opal's owner-trainers Leslie and Carol Hudson the win provided them their biggest win in 50 years in the sport. They have shared their love of greyhound racing for just a year short of their 51 years of marriage. The Budgewoi couple exhibit a great deal of kindness and patience with their team of talented chasers and thoroughly deserve Group success with their current kennel star.

After all their years of dedication and hard work, the Hudson's have unearthed their most prized gem yet, Black Magic Opal who from early on has shown above average ability.



Official Photo Finish of the Maitland Cup with winner Black Magic Opal

In the Cup final Black Magic Opal defeated Johnny Fire (\$11.80) and Unexplained (\$3.70) in a slick 24.92 for the 450m trip.

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## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Twelve years ago the Hudsons bought Black Magic Opal's dam Awesome Opal as a puppy for a mere \$800.

Black Magic Opal has developed quite an affiliation with the Maitland showground circuit where he has the unblemished records of seven starts for seven wins, with a personal best of a low flying 24.92 seconds for the 450 metre trip on the night it mattered, Cup final night.

Whilst his liking for the Maitland Track is apparent, Black Magic Opal has made his talent obvious since the start of his career, when at just the tender age of sixteen months, he placed second in the Maiden Consolation final at Coonamble behind the Tom Pullman trained Silent Battle. After the carnival the powerful chaser debuted at Maitland where he won at his first attempt over the 400 metres. Since then Black Magic Opal has also recorded a handful of fast wins at Unibet Gardens including a scorching 22.47 seconds for the 400 metre journey.

Leslie and Carol who "consider their dogs as part of the family", only have a small team in work at their residential property enabling them to provide their greyhounds with a life of luxury on the water where they experience daily walks around the area in addition to galloping along the beach and going for a swim in Lake Munmorah with the Hudson's behind their boat. This upbringing has certainly worked wonders for their chasers.

Black Magic Opal or 'Max' as he is known around the Hudson's Central Coast property, will now head to Wentworth Park, where he has already trialed a slick 30.04 seconds.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th El Brooklyn (\$6.20), 5th Exquisite Karl (\$42.20), 6th Bralyn County (\$15.00) 7th Transcend Time (\$6.70) and Werynski (\$18.30).

Black Magic Opal is a Black dog whelped May 2011 by Magic Sprite from Awesome Opal (Most Awesome x Opal Glow). Black Magic Opal is raced and trained by Les & Carol Hudson he has raced 16 times for 13 wins and three placings. After adding the \$40,000 first prize for the Maitland Cup his stake earnings stand at \$55,060.

The Maitland Cup was first run in 2003 and was awarded Group 3 status, paying \$12,000 to the winner. Due to track conversion the race was not conducted in 2004, but every year it has been run it has been supported by the Maitland Supporters Club and in 2005 and 2006 the Maitland Branch of the GBOTA has joined the Supporters Club as co-sponsors. For the second year in succession the cup has been sponsored by GE Industrea Mining.

Maitland 457m - Grass Track **Thread Prince** 26.72, 2004 Track Conversion - not conducted, Maitland 450m - Loam Track 2005 **Whatuira Banner** 25.46, 2006 **Needa Mint** 25.62, 2007 **Run The Risk** 25.09, 2008 **Awesome Hustler** 25.43, 2009 **Magnifique** 25.14, 2010 **Elite Blue Size** 24.93, 2011 **Elite Blue Size** 25.07 and 2012 **Oaks Road** 25.16.

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