



MEDIA RELEASE
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**Barcia Hands Bate Fifth Maturity
Success**

Wheeler family trifecta in Group 1 classic as Barcia remains unbeaten

Barcia Bale (\$2.00) has emerged as Australia's newest sprinting sensation after Saturday's brilliant win in the Group 1 Hudson Pacific Maturity Classic at The Meadows, making it 10 wins from as many starts.

The famous victory also gave master trainer Graeme Bate his fifth win in the famous race that was worth \$100,000 to the winner for the first time in the event's 42-year history.



Barcia Bale is too good for his litter sister Desalle Bale in Maturity Final (Pics Paul Munt)

After sitting behind litter sister Desalle Bale (\$3.80) on the first turn, Barcia Bale again showed his brilliant mid-race pace, finding the front down the back straight, getting the edge over his equally-determined sibling.

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Showing breathtaking speed, the son of Go Wild Teddy and Princess Bale did enough to hold off Desalle Bale by three quarters of a length in the run to the line, stopping the clock at 30.03. Hannie Bale (\$18.70) rounded off a Group-race trifecta for owner Paul Wheeler, who was on track to accept the cheque and trophy.

“There’s a good chance we haven’t even seen the best of this dog yet. My son has always had a very high opinion of him from as early as a breaking-in stage,” said Wheeler, whose chasers collected \$145,000 in the Group 1 extravaganza.

Trainer Graeme Bate was also full of praise for his new champion.

“I don’t think it is out of place to compare this dog with Brett Lee, Kantarn Bale or El Grand Senor,” said Bate, who has now trained Barcia Bale in seven of his 10 wins after starting his career in New South Wales.

The unbeaten star will now head back to his home state to compete in the State Sprint series at Bulli.

Barcia Bale improved his prizemoney level to over \$127,000 with Saturday’s outstanding victory, and will go into the National Sprint Championship series as one of the main fancies.



Janice Wheeler is excited with Barcia Bale (All Pics Paul Munt)

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Comic Sans (\$30.90), 5th Odie For Now (\$6.70), 6th Dyna Filbert (\$57.80) 7th Getting Slizzard (\$44.70) and Ima Geisha Girl (\$7.00).

Barcia Bale is a Black dog whelped March 2010 by Go Wild Teddy from Princess Bale (Hallucinate x Gold Rush Bale). He is raced by Paul Wheeler and trained at Lara by Graeme Bate. He made it 10 from 10 in the Maturity final a very imposing record for such a young dog. The Maturity Classic first prize of \$100,000 brings Barcia Bale’s overall prizemoney to \$127,225.

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The Maturity Classic was first held at Olympic Park in 1970 when won by talented sprinter Phantom's Heir first prize at that time was \$1250. The prizemoney increased marginally until 1975 when it went to \$3,500. In 77 it was \$5,600 and jumped to \$7000 in 79 before going to \$10,000 from 1980 until 1987 the year the mighty New Tears won the race. First prize went to \$15,000 for seven years then to \$20,000 for two years and reached \$30,000 in the year 2000. In 2001 it was worth \$40,000 and the Classic was won by AGRA Hall Of Famer Brett Lee. It was elevated the next year to \$50,000 then again last year the final went up to \$75,000 and this year 2012 an increase to \$100,000. Listed below is the Maturity Classic Honour roll highlighted by some of the many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers after winning the feature.

1970 **Phantom's Heir**, 1971 **Linden Lad**, 1972 **Nulla's Call**, 1973 **Shan's Tempest**, 1974 **Temlee**, 1975 **Warranwood Girl**, 1976 **Aaron King**, 1977 **Overflow Love**, 1978 **Satan's Legend**, 1979 **Marajax**, 1980 **Worthy Weston**, 1981 **Murchison Champ**, 1982 **Rocky Pyramid**, 1982 **Wynlee Spirit**, 1983 **"Not Held"** 1984 **Broken Cup**, 1985 **Storm Glade**, 1986 **Pharaoh's Mask**, 1987 **New Tears**, 1988 **Hay Dinney**, 1989 **Best Of Blue**, 1990 **Eureka Man**, 1991 **Enfield**, 1992 **Executive Class**, 1993 **Keystone**, 1994 **Refur**, 1995 **Northern Legend**, 1996 **Royal Honcho**, 1997 **Running Gold**, 1998 **Adrenalin Storm**, 1999 **Coriole**, 2000 **Acacia Dee**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Rocka Cockatoo**, 2003 **Hall's Northern**, 2004 **Hallucinate**, 2005 **Poetic Magic** 2006 **Train A Journey**, 2007 **Run's House**, 2008 **Paddy's Flame**, 2009 **Aston Trivett**, 2010 **El Grand Senior** and 2011 **Shereen Bale**.

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