



MEDIA RELEASE

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Queen of Sandown Reigns Supreme

By Mick Floyd Sandown Racing & Media Manager

Xylia Allen (Box 1 – \$1.10F) – trained by Jenny Hunt – continued her dominance of Australian greyhound racing on Thursday night, winning the Group 2 McKenna Memorial (595m) at Sandown Park in front of Kelly Bravo's Great Spartacus (Box 2 – \$33.20) and Angela Langton's Tarks Nemesis (Box 3 – \$23.40).

Xylia Allen started as a \$1.10 favourite for the race, after an outstanding heat win that saw her overcome immense trouble to progress to the final. However the trouble she overcame in her heat was almost her downfall in the final.

Kennel representative, Joseph Briffa, revealed after the race that Xylia Allen was not herself when she neared the starting boxes or when being loaded into the boxes for Thursday night's feature.



Xylia Allen too good in the McKenna Memorial

"She wasn't herself at all tonight," he said "she copped a big scratch on her back right leg in her heat last week and tonight she was a little off before the race, she just wasn't her usual self."

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The daughter of Turanza Bale and Tayah Bale is known for constantly wagging her tail before and after her races, showing an intense love of the contest. Tonight while parading her tail was still wagging, yet there wasn't that regular swagger.

Briffa said that tonight's performance further highlighted her quality as one of the best greyhounds ever, even though she wasn't at her best, she still was able to get the job done.

"She looked a little to her right when I loaded her in the boxes as if she was wary of the greyhounds on her outside because of getting trampled on last week.

"Once she got into her stride and thought only about racing she was amazing tonight, it was another great win.

"I've said all along with her that she is one of the best greyhounds of all-time and tonight she proved that again," Briffa said after the race.

The champion missed the start in the race, with Great Spartacus taking the early lead, while Tarks Nemesis pressured him around the first turn. Xylia Allen ended up finding her way to third on the rail and eventually stalked the leader until dashing to the lead in the home straight to record another famous victory in 34.115secs.

To be able to produce another outstanding performance after having her confidence rattled in last week's heat, further proved Xylia Allen's quality. Xylia Allen is unbeaten in four starts over the 595m journey at Sandown Park and has now won seven races in a row.

The \$40,000 first-prize in the McKenna Memorial took her prize money to \$675,000, just \$40,000 away from Miata's Australian record of \$715,000.

Xylia Allen's career record stands at 35 wins and 21 placings from 71 starts with her \$675,000 in stakes, making her the second highest earning greyhound in Australian greyhound racing history.



Xylia Allen with Joe Briffa at the race Presentation (All Pics Paul Munt)

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Mepunga Tiara (\$24.30), 5th Musquin Bale (\$13.90), 6th Dream It (\$14.70) 7th Heidi Go Seek (\$45.90) and 8th Searle Bale (\$27.10).

Xylia Allen is raced by Janice Wheeler and is trained by Jenny Hunt at Lara in Victoria. By Turanza Bale from Wheeler's brood bitch Tayah Bale (Droopy's Vieri x Francesca Bale). She is a Black Bitch whelped April 2011 she has won 35 of her 71 starts and has been placed on 21 occasions and with the \$40,000 first prize for the McKenna Memorial it took her current stake earnings to \$674,975.

The McKenna Memorial was first run in 1971 and acknowledges the contribution to the Sandown Club by legendary administrator Jack McKenna. McKenna came to Sandown and took the job of Club secretary in the 1940's from Tatura in central Victoria. He had held the position of secretary of the Tatura Plumpton Coursing Club and he made a major impact after arriving in the city. He was instrumental in the club's advancement in many ways but importantly its move across the railway line and the purchase of the land of the current site. McKenna's ability as an administrator is still to this day talked about in reverent terms and the sport and particularly Sandown will always be in his debt. The honour roll listed below of past winners is a classy one it starts with National Distance Champ Saki Dasher trained by Aussie Rules superstar Bob Pratt and finishes with this year's winner Strong Intention plus last year's winner Flash of Light both who won over the 595. When the race was conducted over the 700 the list contains some of the best stayers of all time.

1971 **Saki Dasher**, 1972 **Binica**, 1973 **Lizrene**, 1974 **Audiro**, 1975 **La Sierra**, 1976 **Bolta's Gift**, 1977 **Miss O'Dare**, 1978 **Irish Temptress**, 1979 **Precious Charm**, 1980 **Tarmoor Eagle**, 1981 **Leader's Jester**, 1982 **Supplier**, 1983 **Quick Pulse**, 1984 **Sheila's Teresa**, 1985 **Doris Lee**, 1986 **Plunderer**, 1987 **High Intensity**, 1988 **Lady Paragon**, 1989 **Rules**, 1990 **National Honour**, 1991 **Pleasure**, 1992 **Pace Galore**, 1993 **Havadip**, 1994 **Minyama**, 1995 **Keon Star**, 1996 **Wiljaver**, 1997 **Sam's Idol**, 1998 **Totally Ablaze**, 1999 **Kobble Creek**, 2000 **Osti's Joker**, 2001 **Pearl Larricki**, 2002 **Boomeroo**, 2003 **Arvo's Junior**, 2004 **Arvo's Athena**, 2005 **Malfoy**, 2006 **Token Arrow**, 2007 **Miss Grub**, 2008 **Fallen Zorro**, 2009 **Mantra Lad**, 2010 **Flash Of Light**, 2011 **Strong Intention**, 2012 **Irma Bale** and 2013 **Proven Impala**.

Thanks to Mick Floyd Sandown Racing &Media Manager for story content.



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