



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**15th July 2016**

# **Bruce Almighty in McKenna**

**By Jason Adams Racing & Communications Officer SGRC**

Bruce Tycoon (\$6.20) captured his and his owner's first group race win when taking out tonight's McKenna Memorial.

Bruce Tycoon sprung out of box two and set up a commanding lead. He showed no signs of stopping as he went on to win by 2¾ in 34.10.

Peter Riley, acting on behalf of trainer Rob Britton, was full of praise.

"He's done everything right from day one. He's free-for-all class at both city tracks, we've been looking to step him up to 595m for a little while but nothing was around until heats of the McKenna.

"I'd say he's underrated but how can you underrate a greyhound that has won over \$100,000. He's a dog everyone would love to have in their kennel – he's got a wonderful personality and just loves to race," he said.

Bruce Tycoon or Bruce as he's known to connections, exceeded expectations of his owner Gary Micallef.



"It was unexpected – I thought the red was going to be hard to beat. I didn't think Bruce would run the distance as well as he did," said Micallef.

Bruce Tycoon is owned and bred by the Odds and Evens syndicate consisting of Gary, his brother Phil and late father Charlie who passed away in March last year.

"Luckily dad got to see Bruce win his maiden before he passed away. I carry his ring when I'm hoping for some luck – I'm wearing it around my neck tonight. I also wore it when Bruce won here in March, which

was on the anniversary of dad's death. It's a bit surreal."

The Micallefs have a long history in greyhound racing at various levels of participation within the sport.

"Dad bred dogs for a period of time then stopped as it got a bit too hard. He got back into it, but in the late 90's he suffered some heart attacks and at that stage we were thinking about giving up racing greyhounds.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

“Alan Britton came to us and offered a greyhound called Spalding Miss. She had retired and he suggested we breed with her. Dad agreed and from that litter we got New Year’s Punch. She’s Bruce’s mother.”

New Year’s Punch now resides at Micallef’s mother’s house along with former top line chaser New Tibur, or Jimmy as he’s known at home.

“When Bruce retires he has a kennel waiting for him at my place,” chuffed Micallef.

After Bruce Tycoon the runners in the field finished in the following order 2<sup>nd</sup> Dundee Osprey 3<sup>rd</sup> Lady Toy (\$22.90) 4<sup>th</sup> Mepunga Fame (\$7.60), 5<sup>th</sup> Mepunga Rosie (\$9.40), 6<sup>th</sup> Sausage Sizzle (\$20.20) 7<sup>th</sup> American Monster (\$3.30) and 8<sup>th</sup> Polijuce Potion (\$5.60).

Bruce Tycoon is raced by the Odds and Evens Syndicate and is trained by Robert Britton at Lara in Victoria. By Cosmic Rumble from New Year’s Punch (Where’s Pedro x Spalding Miss). He is a Fawn Dog whelped June 2013 he has won 20 of his 63 starts and has been placed on 21 occasions and with the \$40,000 first prize for the McKenna Memorial it took his current stake earnings to \$158,770.

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 all-time stakes record holder Xylia Allen jointed last year’s winner Lady Toy and this year’s winner Bruce Tycoon with the race conducted over 595 since 2010. Prior to the staying event was conducted over the 700 and the list contains some of the best stayers of all time.

1971 **Saki Dasher**, 1972 **Binica**, 1973 **Lizrene**, 1974 **Audio**, 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**, 2013 **Proven Impala**, 2014 **Xylia Allen** and 2015 **Lady Toy**.

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 8243 7100**  
**Mob: 0438 042 838**