



MEDIA RELEASE

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Black Magic Casts Spell over rivals

By Michael Floyd

Black Magic Opal (\$2.00) cemented his place amongst the nation's great sprinters with an emphatic all-of-the-way victory in last Thursday night's TAB Melbourne Cup at Sandown Park.

Sent to the boxes an easing even money favourite, the son of Magic Sprite began well to lead clearly through the first turn and from there was never challenged, charging to a 2.5 length victory in 29.37 seconds.



Black Magic Opal has no match in Melbourne Cup win (All Pics Clint Anderson)

Purchased for a reported six figure sum, Black Magic Opal has repaid his connections faith by claiming greyhound racing's biggest prize.

"It's very satisfying," said trainer Jason Thompson of his third Melbourne Cup win.

Continued on Page 2...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

“He was bought with this race in mind so we started planning a long way out.”

‘Max,’ as he’s known at home in the kennels returned from an injury lay off in late September and is undefeated in seven runs since, including a Group 2 Geelong Cup, three track records and a new first split record in his heat run last week.

Despite his impressive record, Thompson believed his charge was under the odds ahead of tonight’s final.

“He opened at \$1.65 to win the final which I thought was a bit short, and with an odds on favourite you’re expected to win so it’s a different sort of pressure.

“But I’ve never had any doubt in his ability, and when he began the way he did he as always going to be hard to run down.”

The son of boom sire Magic Sprite is already the subject of considerable interest at stud, however the 30 month old sprinter’s immediate future remains on the track with the Group 2 Ballarat Cup and Group 1 Hobart Thousand on the agenda.

The win was Black Magic Opal’s third Group race success and 27th victory overall from just 34 career starts. The \$350,000 winner’s cheque took his career prize money beyond \$496,000.

Andrea Dailly’s Dyna Beth (\$34.20) and Hawk Alone (\$18.30) filled the minor placing, netting the kennel \$150,000 in prize money.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Proven Maddy (\$8.50), 5th Shifty Sticka (\$4.20), 6th Peter Rocket (\$15.20) 7th Kiss Me Ketut (\$11.50) and Iona Seven (\$11.80).

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 Black Opal Syndicate and trained by Jason Thompson. He has raced 34 times for 27 wins and four placings. After adding the \$350,000 first prize for the Melbourne Cup his stake earnings stand at \$496,835.

Listed below is the honour roll of winners of the Melbourne Cup.

1956 **Rocketeer**, 1957 **Rookie Rebel**, 1958 **Marine Jet**, 1959 **Capital King**, 1960 **Chief Rane**, 1961 **Bybrae**, 1962 **Saskagay**, 1963 **Saskaview**, 1964 **Rocket Streak**, 1965 **Kinta's Son**, 1966 **Cheltenham Lass**, 1967 **Swan Opal**, 1968 **Mr.Spot**, 1969 **Milimsimbi**, 1970 **Chris' Dandy**, 1971 **Gerard The Gent**, 1972 **Gold Grotto**, 1973 **New Mariner**, 1974 **Kwik Metal**, 1975 **Dynamic Dean**, 1976 **Carrington Jade**, 1977 **Milepost**, 1978 **Tangaloo**, 1979 **Acclaim Star**, 1980 **Black Aztec**, 1981 **Satan's Shroud**, 1982 **Kid Scandal**, 1983 **Lady Lilly**, 1984 **Rustic Venture**, 1985 **Sydney Dinggaan**, 1986 **Legendary Kid**, 1987 **Speedy Mick**, 1988 **Hua**, 1989 **Fair Sentence**, 1990 **Highly Blessed**, 1991 **Fox Hunt**, 1992 **Master Giant**, 1993 **Silver Chisel**, 1994 **Light Of Fire**, 1995 **City Blitz**, 1996 **Henry Hand**, 1997 **Roanokee**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Kantarn Bale** 2000 **Go Wild Teddy**, 2001 **Classic Capri**, 2002 **Excite Ability**, 2003 **Bombastic Shiraz**, 2004 **Hallucinate**, 2005 **Closing Argument**, 2006 **Betty's Angel**, 2007 **Shanlyn Prince**, 2008 **Surgeon**, 2009 **Lord Ducal**, 2010 **El Grand Senor**, 2011 **Dyna Tron**, 2012 **Got A Moment** and 2013 **Black Magic Opal**.

Cheetah Zorro As Honest As They Come

Cheetah Zorro (\$12.40) continued a fine family tradition in winning the Group 1 SOLO Bold Trease at Sandown Park tonight.

The former Tasmanian led from box rise but was headed as the field approached the home turn before rallying to claim a narrow quarter length victory in 42.26 seconds.

Less than one length separated the first five runners across the line in one of the closest finishes seen in a Group 1 final.

Cheetah Zorro is a daughter of Fallen Zorro, 2008 Sandown Greyhound of the Year and three-time Group 2 winner over the distance at Sandown Park. Incidentally, one of those races was the SOLO Bold Trease continuing a tradition that also saw Fallen Zorro's litter-brother Chinatown Lad claim the 2008 RSN Sandown Cup.

Kennelmate Lucy Wires (\$2.80) made it a quinella for the popular Robert Britton kennel, while grand campaigner Destini Fireball (\$4.90) placed for the seventh time at Group race level.

The SOLO Bold Trease was just one of the highlights of a stellar card of greyhound racing headlined by the world's richest greyhound race, the TAB Melbourne Cup.



Cheetah Zorro holds off all the challengers to win the Bold Trease Carnival Cup

Cheetah Zorro is a Black Bitch whelped August 2010 by Bombastic Shiraz from Fallen Zorro (Lilli Pilli Lad x Chinatown Babe). She raced by Garity Heawood Syndicate and trained by Robert Britton at Lara in Victoria. She has now won 14 races and been placed 21 times from her 57 starts. The Bold Trease first prize of \$100,000 brings her overall prizemoney to \$146,085.h on the all-time list.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Freddy's Smile (\$24.60) 5th Hurricane Isaac (\$24.60), 6th Sweet It Is (\$14.80) 7th Amity Flame (\$3.50) and Hala Belle (\$9.30).



TAB Melbourne Cup night was a tremendous success for the club, with the largest crowd in modern history witnessing a memorable night of greyhound racing. The big crowd helped the Club top all previous records for TAB turnover on a greyhound meeting. All forms of betting set a record on the night for greyhound racing and the Melbourne Cup continues to go from strength to strength as the premier event for the sport in not only the state but Australia wide.

The largest crowd seen on course for over two decades was a fitting reward for the hard working administration, catering and track staff at Sandown.

The Sandown team led by CEO Greg Miller introduced a number of changes to how Cup night is run and promoted over the last few years and the results have been stunning. Another big crowd enjoyed a wonderful night of excitement and atmosphere plus a host of entertainment and action.

Bold Trease Carnival Cup Honour Roll.

1999 **Chain Of Lagoons**, 2000 **Mr Boswell**, 2001 **Sara Magee**, 2002 **Naughty Nita**, 2003 **Proven Adonis**, 2004 **Arvo's Athena**, 2005 **Texas Gold**, 2006 **Sargent Major** and 2007 **Cash Express**, 2008 **Fallen Zorro**, 2009 **Drill' Em**, 2010 **So Seductive**, 2011 **Zipping Malfoy**, 2012 **Miata** and 2013 **Cheetah Zorro**.

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