



**Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association**

***MEDIA RELEASE 19th November 2016***



# **Ando's Mac causes upset in World's Richest Greyhound race**

**By Michael Floyd**

Ando's Mac caused a major upset in claiming the TAB Melbourne Cup at Sandown Park last night.

Trained by Jason Mackay, Ando's Mac became the first New South Wales trained greyhound since the year 2000 to win the world's richest greyhound race.



**ANDO'S MAC**

**JASON MACKAY**



"Just to make this final is something else," said Mackay following his TAB Melbourne Cup triumph.

"Look at the crowd, the atmosphere is just sensational. I keep pinching myself – I know it happened – but did it really happen? I still can't believe it."

Ando's Mac (\$12.90) began fairly but was afforded early room which allowed him to accelerate quickly and lead through the first turn. He opened a two-length margin over Barton Bale down the back straight before withstanding a late charge by the well supported Jesaulenko (\$5.10) to claim the cup by ¼ of a length in 29.48. South Australian champion Worm Burner (\$8.70) flashed home for third a further ½ length behind.

Despite drawing box 5, Mackay was quietly confident his first TAB Melbourne Cup finalist was a winning chance in the sport's showcase event.

*Continued Page 2...*

“I had a real gut feeling with this dog. He was so terrible out of the boxes on Melbourne Cup Prelude night when he was last away. He was a little bit better on Melbourne Cup heats night – he came out second last. But I just had an inkling that if he got the start right like he has done back home, then he can run some serious first sections and he showed that tonight. I know there wasn’t a big margin but any margin is all you want.”

Mackay is no stranger to group 1 success, having trained several winners at the highest level of the sport over his extensive training career. However to win a TAB Melbourne Cup was the fulfillment of a live long dream.

“All trainers aspire to win this race, it’s the greatest race on the calendar. I don’t think deep down that you ever think you can do it. I’ve had some really good dogs over the years – greyhounds of the year and track record holders – and they’ve not stacked up because the competition is way superior here than to anywhere else.



“But Ando’s Mac is a wonderful dog. He doesn’t give 80 or 90 percent, he’ll bust 100 percent every time. He’s not the fastest dog around but you wouldn’t swap him for anything, he’s full of heart.”

The win was Ando Mac’s 16th from 29 starts – and his second at group 1 level – with the \$420,000 first prize elevating his career prize money beyond \$555,000.

During his entertaining acceptance speech, Mackay was full of praise for fellow trainer Anthony Azzopardi (trainer of the beaten favourite Zambora Brockie) for looking after Ando’s Mac during his Victorian campaign, as well as the huge crowd that turned out for the Cup.

**A happy Team after the win.** (All Pics Clint Anderson)

### Did you know?

Ando’s Mac was Jason Mackay’s first TAB Melbourne Cup finalist

The \$420,000 first prize took Ando’s Mac’s prize money to \$556,386 which is 16th on the all-time prize money list

His sire, El Grand Senor, won the TAB Melbourne Cup in 2010

He is the first New South Wales trained greyhound since Go Wild Teddy in 2000 to win the TAB Melbourne Cup

He’s the first fifth greyhound in 61 editions of the TAB Melbourne Cup to win from box 5, and the first to do so in 15 years

He’s just the second greyhound not coloured black to win the Cup in the last 14 years

Favourites have now won just two of the last 13 TAB Melbourne Cups

After the placings, the field finished in the following order, 4th Outside Pass (\$6.90) 5th Barton Bale (\$7.30), 6th Zambora Brockie (\$2.40) 7th Matt Machine (\$32.40) and Tripum (\$16.70).

Ando’s Mac is raced by Luke Anderson and Michael Alderdice and trained by Jason Mackay of Richmond Vale in New South Wales. Ando’s Mac is a Fawn dog whelped June 2014 by El Grand Senor from Brook’s Doll (Collision x Monique’s Doll). He has won 16 of his 28 starts and has been placed on five occasions and with the \$420,000 first prize for the Melbourne Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$556,386.

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 Ranee**, 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 **Tangaloa**, 1979 **Acclaim Star**, 1980 **Black Aztec**, 1981 **Satan's Shroud**, 1982 **Kid Scandal**, 1983 **Lady Lilly**, 1984 **Rustic Venture**, 1985 **Sydney Dingaon**, 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**, 2013 **Black Magic Opal**, 2014 **Dyna Villa** and 2015 **Dyna Double One**.

## It's A Bird Flies Away with Group 1 Bold Trease

By Katherine Ernst

IT'S A Bird (\$8.70) has scored her maiden group 1 triumph, taking out the Bold Trease (715m) on Friday night at Sandown Park for trainer Wayne Vassallo.

Starting from box one, the daughter of Hondo Black and It's A Blur was able to push through to take the lead soon after box rise and from that point onwards was never behind another runner, defeating the strong finishing Jaimandy Hatty (\$5.60) (box six) by three and one quarter lengths on the line.



Ramifications (\$3.40) ran an honest race to finish third, but all honours were with the winner which clocked a slick 41.89 over the gruelling half-mile trip.

"She drew well, we had a bit of luck last week in the heat and got through and the two gave her a bit of room, pushed up, led and she was just too strong," said an elated Wayne Vassallo after the race.

"Probably half way down the back I thought she is just going to keep kicking.

"She just kept battling away and they just couldn't get to her."

The fawn stayer (pictured with trainer Wayne Vassallo's partner Karen Pitt and their son Toby) has now won 17 of her 46 career starts, including her last three in a row, while Friday's winner's cheque took her career earnings to a sizeable \$133,864.

The 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.

It's A Bird is a Fawn bitch whelped June 2013 by Hondo Black from It's A Blur (Bombastic Shiraz x Weetbix). She is raced by the Whittington Syndicate and trained by Wayne Vassallo at Devon Meadows in Victoria. She has now won 17 races and been placed 13 times from her 46 starts. The Bold Trease first prize of \$100,000 brings her overall prizemoney to \$158,864

After the placings the field finished in the following order, 4th It's A Fling (\$4.10) 5th Caco Potion (\$24.00), 6th Kuta's Lad (\$7.60) 7th Avatar Jet (\$25.70) and Springvale Bryne (\$7.10).

## **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 **Ziping Malfoy**, 2012 **Miata**, 2013 **Cheetah Zorro**, 2014 **Sweet It Is** and 2015 **Bourski Fever**.

Completing a big night of racing, Group 2 Geelong Cup winner Shima Song from box three took out the Listed Cup Night Sprint in a fast 29.24 for Andrea Dailly, while Dundee Osprey claimed the Listed Middle Distance for Geoff Scott-Smith in another fast run of 33.88.

TAB Melbourne Cup night was another tremendous success for the club, with a large crowd in attendance witnessing a memorable night of greyhound racing. A bold move by the club to shift the Cup from the traditional Thursday night to a Friday in 2014 and continued to the entire three-week carnival last year and this year it has proved the bonus it promised. The big crowd helped the Club continue to top records for TAB turnover at greyhound meetings. All forms of betting were again massive 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 and Australia but now worldwide.

The large crowd was a fitting reward for the hard-working administration, catering, and track staff at Sandown.

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

**Thanks for information above provided by Michael Floyd, Racing and Media Manager**

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**