



MEDIA RELEASE
22nd February 2015

**Australian Cup Carnival Opens With
Three 8's in the Group 1's**

By George Farrugia

The \$1.2Mil Australian Cup Carnival began on Saturday night with three Group 1 Invationals run over three different distances at The Meadows.

Quite remarkably, all three winners – Space Star (Zoom Top – 725m), Cosmic Wise (Rookie Rebel – 600m) and My Bro Fabio (Temlee – 525m) – came from box 8.



Brooke and Jamie Ennis with My Bro Fabio post Temlee (Pic Meadows Website)

My Bro Fabio (\$2.40) achieved back-to-back Group 1 glory after another stunning come-from-behind victory in the Group 1 Temlee.

The son of Turanza Bale and Flamenco jumped cleanly but still had to settle in sixth spot from his wide draw, slowly but surely weaving his way through traffic before running to third as they reached the home bend. The Brooke Ennis-trained star then unleashed his customary finishing burst, powering away to a sensational 29.70 victory to win his second Group 1 event at The Meadows. Awesome Project (\$10.40) wound up in second, while reserve Marcus Joe (\$14.70) was far from disgraced in third.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

It was My Bro Fabio's 25th win from 48 starts and clearly one of his best considering the quality of his rivals.

It was the third Group 1 win for the Brooke Ennis-trained greyhound.

"He's a superstar," quipped Brooke's husband Jamie after the win.

"We are getting about five calls a week from breeders wanting to use him, but he won't be performing any stud duties until he retires."

"He will contest the Australian Cup then the Golden Easter Egg, and then he'll be going to stud."

The brilliant chaser will be one of the leading contenders in next week's Group 1 ATC Australian Cup heats, with connections hoping he can add to his already imposing prizemoney level of \$469,325.

Space Star (\$1.80) made it three group wins from his past four starts to confirm his status as the country's number one stayer. Blinkers On (\$13.80) finished second and Psychotic Gold (\$25.90) third.

His time of 42.059sec came within half a length of the 725m track record (42.030sec), which belongs to Nellie Noodles, who like Space Star was trained by Robert Britton and hails from the famous Ivers bloodline, which is renowned for producing top stayers.

"He's full of confidence at the moment," Britton said of Space Star.

"Nellie Noodles is the most freakishly talented stayer I have ever seen, so to get within half a length of her track record outlines what a brilliant run he produced tonight."

"He'll be up against many of the same dogs in the (Group 1) Superstayers heats (at The Meadows) next week so he should be tough to beat again."

It was a great night for the Britton family as Rob's brother Jeff trained Rookie Rebel winner, Cosmic Wise.

Cosmic Wise's breeder and owner Justin Wright flew to Melbourne from his home state of WA for the race.

"She has made the finals of the Adelaide Cup (5th), the Healesville Cup (3rd), the Melbourne Cup (5th) as well as a Perth Cup Consolation (8th), so she deserves a big win like this."

Cosmic Wise worked hard to run down dual group winner Lamia Bale (\$7.20) to win the Rookie Rebel, and she got up at odds of \$26.50.

While Space Star and Cosmic Wise each collected a \$75,000 first prize, the biggest windfall came the way of My Bro Fabio, who jagged \$100,000 in the Temlee.

Heats of the Group 1 ATC Australian Cup (525m) and Group 1 Superstayers (725m) will be conducted next weekend in the second of three consecutive Saturday nights of racing incorporating the ATC Australian Cup Carnival.

After the placed runners in the Temlee the field finished in the following order: Above All (\$4.30), Flash Reality (\$9.20), Allen Deed (\$12), Chica Destacada (\$27.70) and Dyna Villa (\$7.60).

My Bro Fabio is a Black dog whelped March 2012 by Turanza Bale from Flamenco (Where's Pedro x Zarbo). He is raced by Michelle Jones and trained by Brooke Ennis at Lara in Victoria. He has now won 25 races and been placed on 13 occasions from his 48 starts. The Perth Cup first prize of \$100,000 brings his overall prizemoney to \$469,325.

The Temlee became part of the Australian Cup Carnival in 2003 listed are the past winners.

2003 **Excite Ability**, 2004 **Hotline Hero**, 2005 **Paua To Burn**, 2006 **Closing Argument**, 2007 **Slater**, 2008 **Whippy's Image**, 2009 **El Galo**, 2010 **Fedex**, 2011 **High Earner**, 2012 **Radley Bale** 2013 **Cintiarna** and 2014 **Zelemar Fever**

After the placings in the Zoom Top the runners finished in the following order: Lady Toy (\$4.10), Shall She Rock (\$18.50), Starc (\$11.20), Flying Twist (\$9.80) and Pumped Up Zarr (\$44.30).

Space Star is a Black dog whelped June 2012 by Bekim Bale from Tonta Tears (Kiowa Sweet Trey x Tears) he is raced by Camilla Limon and trained by Robert Britton at Lara in Victoria. Space Star has raced 32 times for 20 wins and eight placings with prizemoney of \$311,700.

Listed below are the past winners of the Zoom Top.

2003 **Tears Of Jupiter**, 2004 **Irinka Barbie**, 2005 **Rocky**, 2006 **Slick Galore**, 2007 **Miss Grub**, 2008 **Miss Brook**, 2009 **Gunnadoo Magic**, 2010 **Drill 'Em**, 2011 **Blue Lorian**, 2012 **Miata**, 2013 **Destini Fireball** and 2014 **Cheetah Zorro**.

After the placings in the Rookie Rebel the runners finished in the following order: Waymore's Blues (\$25.90), Ralphy Cinel (\$6.10), Echelon Action (\$55.20), Ride The Rails (\$3.60) and Star Recall (\$2.60).

Cosmic Wise is raced by the Brona Lane Syndicate and is trained by Jeff Britton she is a Black Bitch whelped September 2011 by Cosmic Chief from Wise Penny (Bombastic Shiraz x Awesome Berger). Cosmic Wise has won 22 of her 68 starts and has been placed on 19 occasions and with the \$75,000 first prize for the Rookie Rebel it took his current stake earnings to \$196,080.

Listed below are the past winners of the Rookie Rebel.

2003 **No Shame**, 2004 **Shamira Bale**, 2005 **Malfoy** 2006 **Paua To Burn**, 2007 **Train A Journey** 2008 **Jamazz**, 2009 **Bo Frazier**, 2010 **Flash Of Light**, 2011 **Symmetry**, 2012 **Lektra Jay**, 2013 **Proven Impala** and 2014 **Hawk Alone**.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950
nbrown@agra.com.au

Howard Ashton
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 08 8243 7100
Mob: 0438 042 838