



MEDIA RELEASE



17th October 2014

**Australia's best to clash in Group 1 Sky
Racing TOPGUN**

The field for this year's Group 1 Sky Racing Topgun has been released, with the finalists combining for a total of over \$2 million in prizemoney.

The October 25 extravaganza has brought together Australia's best sprinters, all vying for Group 1 glory and the \$150,000 cheque awaiting the victor of Australia's richest invitation-only event.

Leading trainer Darren McDonald will put the polish on two of the Topgun finalists, namely two-time Group 2 winner Awesome Project (box six) and Group 1 Perth Cup winner Keybow (box two). Surprisingly, the Topgun is one feature event that has eluded the Devon Meadows trainer during the race's 21-year history.

New South Wales is represented by two outstanding female sprinters – Chica Destacada and Zipping Willow. Trained by Doreen Drynan, Chica Destacada (box one) brilliantly took out this year's National Sprint Championship, while Zipping Willow (box eight) has tasted Group success on two occasions, and won 13 of her 14 race starts between April and August this year. The speedy Chica Destacada is drawn perfectly to showcase her brilliant turn of foot.

Tasmanian Buckle Up Wes (box five) returns to The Meadows after his amazing 2014 Group 1 Australian Cup victory, and is fresh off two outstanding wins at Launceston in August (29.59 and 29.71). Trainer Tony Brett – who took out this race in 2005 with Black Enforcer – returns to The Meadows with his latest superstar Flash Reality (box four), a winner of the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup and Group 2 QLD Derby at Albion Park (both in race record time).

Australia's latest Group 1 winner Allen Deed (box seven), is the sole representative for owner Paul Wheeler and reigning Victorian Trainer of the Year Andrea Dailly. The son of Jarvis Bale and Greta Bale is one of the best finishers in the country, powering to his first Group victory last week, taking out the Adelaide Cup in 29.48.

Jeff Britton will be looking to continue his remarkable 2014 season, with Oakvale Destiny (box three) aiming to win her second Group 1 event after her Sapphire Crown success back in May.

GROUP ONE – SKY RACING TOP GUN

\$150,000 to the winner

**Chica Destacada (NSW)**

28 starts 11-4-3 (\$132,115)

Cosmic Rumble – Eluthra

Black Bitch May '12

Owners: **Dee And Pee Syndicate**Trainer: **Doreen Drynan**

Meadows best: NBT

Group race wins: 1st G1 National Sprint Championship.**Smart front running type she won the National Sprint Group 1 at Cannington in August well boxed here and if she can lead clearly is always hard to run down. Must be respected from the draw.****Keybow (VIC)**

32 starts 14-7-3 (\$306,635)

Take The Kitty – Key Exit

Black Dog December '11

Owner: **Kelvin Lean**Trainer: **Darren McDonald****Meadows best:** 29.58 (8) (8 Starts 3-2-1)**Group race wins:** 1st G1 Perth Cup.**Not overly raced of recent times was flying earlier in the year when he won the Group 1 Perth Cup. Has an excellent record here at the Meadows three and three from eight. Runner-up in the Australian Cup to Buckle Up Wes here and has won in very fast time of 29.58. Darren McDonald hasn't won a Top Gun and it's about the only feature he hasn't won, has to lead to win.****Oakvale Destiny (VIC)**

26 Starts 11-2-5 (\$180,475)

Vapour Whirl – Foot Luce

Blue Bitch July '12

Owner: **Nathan Wilson**Trainer: **Jeff Britton****Meadows best:** NBT (2 Start 0-0-1)**Group race wins:** 1st G1 Sapphire Crown Classic.**Honest type she has matched it at the highest level with her best efforts against her own sex. Slow beginner on most occasions won't help here she is a run on type not suited to the Meadows. Hence only the two starts on the track. She'll need some luck in running and a place looks best.****Flash Reality (QLD)**

21 starts 12-2-4 (\$171,195)

Premier Fantasy – Orara Flash

Black Dog December '11

Owner: **Marlene Ellis**Trainer: **Tony Brett****Meadows best:** NBT**Group race wins:** 1st G1 Winter Cup, Group 2 Qld Derby.**Smart Queenslander he has raced best at Albion Park in fact has only ever won at Lismore away from his home track. This looks a big ask from box four he is a bit hit and miss at the start but can begin which he will have to here and find a position at the first turn. Place chance looks best.****Buckle Up Wes (TAS)**

48 starts 29-7-5 (\$401,485)

Collision – Everlong Bale

Black Dog June '11

Owners: **R Johnson & S Sutton**Trainer: **Ted Medhurst****Meadows best:** 29.74 (7) (2 Starts 2-0-0)**Group race wins:** 1st G1 Australian Cup.**The Australian Cup hero has returned after some injury time out but appears to back in solid form with quick wins at his home track in Launceston. Nothing wrong with his record here two for two and a 29.74 best against the best, has enough early speed to lead this race. Top Dog.**



Awesome Project (VIC)

50 starts 26-7-6 (\$257,930)

Collision – Honour Phase

Black Dog March '11

Owner: **Bradley Canty**

Trainer: **Darren McDonald**

Meadows best: 29.92 (5) (6 Starts 3-0-1)

Group race wins: 1st G2 Harrison-Dawson

Darren McDonald's other chance to win the race smart type with a heap of ability was racing at his best back in May but has returned and is on the improve in recent starts with solid wins. Is a leading type and will need some luck from six but if he finds the front early would be hard to run down. Get ready to party if he wins connections love Group success.



Allen Deed (VIC)

41 starts 18-10-1 (\$187,860)

Jarvis Bale – Greta Bale

Black Dog December '11

Owner: **Janice Wheeler**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Meadows beat: 29.85 (2) (11 Starts 5-3-0)

Group race wins: 1st G1 Adelaide Cup.

Race favourite after a super Adelaide Cup win and the perfect draw here, unusually begun okay in Adelaide and was way too good. Has a great record here but will be coming from behind, he can haul them in with an amazing finishing burst. The one to beat.



Zippering Willow (NSW)

42 starts 28-7-2 (\$158,320)

Goodsey – Sirocco Lass

Black Bitch June '11

Owners: **M Hallinan & F Hallinan**

Trainer: **Jason MacKay**

Meadows best: 30.11 (4) (3 Starts 1-1-0)

Group race wins: 1st G3 Ladies Bracelet, 1st G3 Canberra Cup 2013.

Quality bitch with a couple of minor Group wins looks to have her work cut out in this from a really tough draw. She will need some luck in running from eight to cross and become a danger. Has won here and has some class about her, however place chance looks best.



Mepunga Hayley (VIC)

28 starts 12-3-2 (\$169,360)

Bekim Bale – Mepunga Harmony

Perhaps unlucky not get a run after winning the Group 1 Maturity here smart bitch with a heap of ability could make here presence felt if she gained a start.



My Bro Fabio (VIC)

39 starts 19-8-3 (\$116,375)

Turanza Bale – Flamenco

Another unlucky not to be included flying at the moment recording fast times at Sandown and won the Canberra Cup setting a record in the heats. Would be a chance if he starts.

Local expert's selections for the SKY RACING TOPGUN final are as follows.

Ron Hawkswell

1st Allen Deed
2nd Oakvale Destiny
3rd Chica Destacada

Eddie Caruana

1st Allen Deed
2nd Chicha Destacada
3rd Keybow

Rob Testa

1st Allen Deed
2nd Oakvale Destiny
3rd Flash Reality

George Farrugia

1st Flash Reality
2nd Keybow
3rd Allen Deed

TAB Fixed Odds Market for the Top Gun:

\$215,000 Group 1 Sky Racing TOPGUN (525m) MEADOWS			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	<i>Chicha Destacada</i>	<i>Doreen Drynan</i>	\$9.00
	<i>Keybow</i>	<i>Darren McDonald</i>	\$3.80
	<i>Oakvale Destiny</i>	<i>Jeff Britton</i>	\$16.00
	<i>Flash Reality</i>	<i>Tony Brett</i>	\$9.00
	<i>Buckle Up Wes</i>	<i>Ted Medhurst</i>	\$4.80
	<i>Awesome Project</i>	<i>Darren McDonald</i>	\$11.00
	<i>Allen Deed</i>	<i>Andrea Dailly</i>	\$3.20
	<i>Ziping Willow</i>	<i>Jason MacKay</i>	\$7.00
	<i>Mepunga Hayley</i>	<i>Jeff Britton</i>	\$26.00
	<i>My Bro Fabio</i>	<i>Brooke Ennis</i>	\$11.00

What's happening on race night?

Main entertainment and activities planned for the night include:

Big Bucks Promotion – This is your chance to place a big bet on the 2014 TOPGUN. The Meadows and TAB are giving you the cash to splash on the TOPGUN. Enter on course for your chance to win a \$1000 bet.

Kids Entertainment – Jumping Castles, Ballooning and more. Across the night there will be giveaways of Showbags & mini footys.

Handball Challenge take on AFL superstars – If you are a budding superstar this is your chance to take on the AFL superstars in a handball competition.

Mystery Bets – Let the TAB do all the hard work on selecting your bets for the night. Mystery bets will be available across the course for \$10.

Dining Packages – The Meadows Dining room is open for this great night of racing. Packages start from \$45. Contact The Meadows on **9355 5222** to make a booking. Due to renovations there will be limited space so book early.

Facilities

TAB
Catering
Full Bar
ATM



Topgun Timeline

- 1993** First Topgun run. Victorian champions Worth Backing and Golden Currency defy wet and cold conditions to finish in a dead heat. Revealing finished a further four inches away in third. Worth Backing and Golden Currency split the \$40,000 winner's purse.
- 1994** Topgun held at Olympic Park. Winner's purse increased to \$50,000.
- 1995** Rapid Hiker sets new track record on old Sandown Park track.
- 1996** First place prizemoney increased to \$70,000.
- 1997** Greyhounds from Ireland, the UK and United States compete against Australia's best.
- 1998** Race elevated to Group 2 status.
- 1999** Race elevated to Group 1 status.
- 2000** Prizemoney increased to \$100,000 to the winner.
- 2003** Bombastic Shiraz completes Triple Crown – claiming the Shootout, Melbourne Cup and Topgun.
- 2004** Whisky Assassin, drawn favourably in box 8, sets new Sandown Park track record – 29.40 seconds.
- 2005** Prizemoney increased to \$125,000 to the winner.
- 2008** Race finds a permanent home at the Meadows after both Metro clubs agree to a new feature race structure. Previously the Topgun had alternated between the MGRA and Sandown.
- 2009** Superstar winner El Galo is disqualified after returning a positive swab and the race is awarded to Regal Thyme the first reserve, he gained a start in box one following the scratching of the injured Queenslander Knocka Norris.
- 2009** Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the year Cindeen Shelby rounded out her outstanding year with an all the way win defeating a classy field in 2009 Topgun.
- 2010** Another Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the Year El Grand Senor proved what a great champion he was with an outstanding Top Gun win, he led all the way in 29.83.
- 2011** Legendary Victorian Hall of Fame trainer Graeme Bate won one of the few events he hadn't before secured. His extraordinary year continued when Allen Harper took out the Top Gun. He proved too good after finding the early lead. The Wheeler – Bate combination not only supplied the winner but runner-up as well with Radley Bale. It was a memorable night for the unstoppable team.
- 2012** Rank outsider David Bale (\$31.20) caused one of the biggest boilovers in Group 1 history, running down kennelmate Desalle Bale in the shadows of the post to win the Sky Racing TOPGUN in 29.92.
- 2013** West Australian star Dyna Nalin (\$9.00) gave the Wheeler family a historic third consecutive Topgun victory with a brilliant come-from-behind 29.89 win in the Group 1 classic.

Listed below are the past Top Gun winners since the race commenced in 1993.

Year	Winner	State	Trainer	Time	Track
1993	Worth Backing	(VIC)	Carl Haas	30.56	Sandown Park
	Golden Currency	(VIC)	Kevin Mugavin Jnr	DH	
1994	New Fox	(NSW)	Dennis Reid	29.98	Olympic Park
1995	Rapid Hiker	(VIC)	Philip Newman	29.80	Sandown Park
1996	Wylie Boy	(VIC)	George Rose	30.09	Sandown Park

1997	Chicago Blue	(VIC)	Brian Furness	30.00	Sandown Park
1998	Rapid Journey	(NSW)	Jane Carruthers	29.85	Sandown Park
1999	Mint Magic	(NSW)	Ray Watson	29.97	Meadows
2000	Placard	(NSW)	Ruth King	29.92	Sandown Park
2001	No Intent	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	30.17	Meadows
2002	Lindale Blue	(WA)	Colin Bainbridge	29.76	Sandown Park
2003	Bombastic Shiraz	(VIC)	Darren Cairns	30.06	Meadows
2004	Whisky Assassin	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	29.40	Sandown Park
2005	Black Enforcer	(QLD)	Tony Brett	30.02	Meadows
2006	Jaimandy Coops	(VIC)	Paul Donohue	29.60	Sandown Park
2007	Meticulous	(VIC)	Mario Briganti	29.88	Meadows
2008	Regal Thyme	(VIC)	Graeme Long	29.75	Meadows
2009	Cindeen Shelby	(VIC)	Kelvyn Greenough	29.75	Meadows
2010	El Grand Senor	(VIC)	Carolyn Jones	29.83	Meadows
2011	Allen Harper	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.82	Meadows
2012	David Bale	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.92	Meadows
2013	Dyna Nalin	(WA)	Paul Stuart	29.89	Meadows



Last Year's Top Gun winner Dyna Nalin

Thanks for information supplied by George Farrugia M.G.R.A. Publicity Officer

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