



MEDIA RELEASE

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Warrnambool Cup Win Ronan Izmir's Second Group 2

By Andrew Thomson, THE WARRNAMBOOL STANDARD

BOOM Pearcedale sprinter Ronan Izmir staked a claim as Australia's in-form greyhound after a stunning win in the group 2 \$70,000 Norlane Hotel Warrnambool Cup (450m) last night.

Trainer Jason Thompson rated Ronan Izmir as similar to his former Australian Greyhound of the Year El Galo after the win.

"He's pretty foolproof at the moment. He's very similar to El Galo," he said.



Ronan Izmir races away to win the Warrnambool Cup (Pics Warrnambool Standard)

"I'm not saying he's as good. They both came through and won the Bendigo Cup and then the Warrnambool Cup. At this stage of their careers, their performance cards are strikingly similar."

El Galo went on to dominate greyhound racing Australia-wide, winning 44 of 71 starts and picking up more than \$500,000.

He won the Warrnambool Cup in 2008.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The other similarity is the way the greyhounds go about winning their races, with blistering early speed.

Last night, Ronan Izmir exploded from box six to clock a slick 6.47 seconds to the first section, allowing the \$2.60 favourite to lead from the Kel Greenough-trained Paw Licking (\$4.50).

The well-supported Peter Rocket was making use of box one to push through along the rail, but his charge forward came to an end when he struck interference on the first turn.

Rounding the home turn, Ronan Izmir was still a couple of lengths in front and he went on to win by 2.75 lengths from Paw Licking, with Thompson's other contender, Ima Geisha Girl (\$6.10), another five lengths away in third.

Thompson said he always looked forward to coming to Warrnambool in May for the greyhound carnival.

"It's a great time of year and the club should be really happy with the success of the carnival," he said.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Peter Rocket (\$4.50), 5th El Brooklyn (\$11), 6th Schroder Bale (\$30.40) 7th Whispering Wind (\$34.80) & Garrick Bale (\$28.20).

Ronan Izmir is raced by Sally Burns and trained by leading Victorian conditioner Jason Thompson at Pearcedale. He is a Black Dog whelped January 2011 by Elite State from Adhara Izmir (Collision x Chevron Izmir). Ronan Izmir has won 17 of his 30 starts and has been placed on eight occasions. With the \$42,000 first prize for the Warrnambool Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$120,610.

Listed below are the past winners of the Warrnambool Cup it is believed the Cup was conducted on the old Warrnambool track as far back as 1961 but records since 1972 show that many a top performer has won the feature event over the years.

1972 **Tien Shan**, 1973 **Natural Power**, 1974 **Uba Lass**, 1975 **Sylvan Prince**, 1976 **Busy Penny**, 1977 **Tem Dasher**, 1978 **Roisheen's Son**, 1979 **Imaturner**, 1980 **Tempix**, 1981 **Kuda's Talent**, 1982 **So Blue**, 1983 **Lady Lilly**, 1984 **Super Mira**, 1985 **Kilmarney Lad**, 1986 **Larrikin Lewis**, 1987 **McWilliam Boy**, 1988 **High In Space**, 1989 **Gun Fury**, 1990 **Hard Rain**, 1991 **McGuane**, 1992 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1993 **Nova Express**, 1994 **Fitzroy Express**, 1995 **Midnight Flirt**, 1996 **Morrant**, 1997 **Another Currency**, 1998 **Macorna Lad**, 1999 **Honcho Classic**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale**, 2001 **Sweet Silkab**, 2002 **Kantarn Bale**, 2003 **Francesca Bale**, 2004 **Harvey Bale** 2005 **Sun Hero**, 2006 **Brilliant Lee**, 2007 **Axe Handle** 2008 **El Galo**, 2009 **Hanify's Impact**, 2010 **Nova Surf**, 2011 **Arsonist** and 2012 **Dyna Bert**.

Classic A Premier Event

WITH the Victorian Premier Denis Naphine in attendance at the greyhounds Wednesday night, it shouldn't have been a great surprise that Anakie sprinter Premier Event was able to take out the group 2 \$75,000 Macey's Bistro Warrnambool Classic (450m).

Early speed was the key to the race with the Angela Langton-trained youngster able to lead from box rise and set up a winning break to claim the \$50,000 winner's cheque.

Red-hot favourite Proven Nitro (\$1.40) dwelt at the start, missing the jump by a couple of lengths but he charged through the field to be just behind the leaders approaching the first turn.

There was some interference as the field rounded the bend and Proven Nitro finished up falling which left the race wide open.

At that stage whatever was in front was going to be hard to beat and Premier Event was cruising a couple of lengths clear after a blistering 6.49-second first sectional effort.

He was still dictating terms rounding the home turn and able to hold off a late charge by the Lauren Gorman-trained Daintree Emperor (\$6.40) to win by 2¼ lengths with roughie Blue Flute (\$18) another 1¾ lengths away third in a slick 25.20 seconds.

It was a classic winning treble for Langton who previously won the group 2 feature with Auf Wiedersehen in 2006 and Lynlea's King in 2008.

Langton said early speed was the key to winning this year's Classic.

"He was the youngest greyhound in the final and he's had a few little niggling injuries but he's a really nice pup," she said.

"I saw he got away all right and when Proven Nitro missed the start and got into trouble I thought Premier Event was a great chance of winning."

Premier Event has only had 18 starts and collected \$85,000 in prizemoney from six wins and five placings.

"He won the Sandown Vic Breeders series so he runs a strong 500 metres and he's got a fair bit of ability," Langton said. "We always enjoy coming down to Warrnambool this time of year and we've had a bit of luck.

"It's a big thrill to win the Classic," she said.

Dr Napthine was bullish about the chances of his namesake in the Classic final, despite taking on the odds-on favourite and is understood to have had a little wager on Premier Event.



Premier Event takes out the Classic

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Blue Flute (\$18.00), 5th Lady Deedee (\$16.50), 6th Daintree Warrior (\$50.50) 7th Anathema (\$9.00) and Daintree Dynasty (\$52.60).

Premier Event is a White & Black Dog whelped March 2011 by Premier Fantasy from Sionara Baby (Big Daddy Cool x Dash Of Burgundy) he is raced by the Champagne Syndicate and trained by Angela Langton at Anakie in Victoria. Premier Event has raced 18 times for six wins and five placings, adding the Classic's first prize of 75,000 his overall stake earnings went to \$103,250.

The Warrnambool Classic was first conducted by the club in 1991 with greyhound pups nominated in record numbers during early 1990. Like any event of its type the actual race is very difficult to win given the length of time involved from rearing to racing. The Honour roll contains some outstanding winners some of which have gone on to win group one features and in the case of Brett Lee inducted into the AGRA Hall Of Fame.

1991 **Kinta's Way**, 1992 **Wild Pirate**, 1993 **Dinney's Host**, 1994 **New Locomotion**, 1995 **Prince Of Thiefs**, 1996 **Blue Volcano**, 1997 **Fine Carousel**, 1998 **Witch Honcho**, 1999 **At The Helm**, 2000 **Our Daisy**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Zed Three**, 2003 **Brumby Lad**, 2004 **That's Critical**, 2005 **Ace Hi Rumble**, 2006 **Auf Wiedersehen**, 2007 **Deception Bay**, 2008 **Lynlea's King**, 2009 **Bordain**, 2010 **Cosmic Chief**, 2011 **Compacto** and 2012 **El Brooklyn**.

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