



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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# Flash Reality Makes it Four Winter Cups for Tony Brett

Written by David Brasch

TONY Brett's Winter Carnival Cup domination continued but for three "bushies" it was an awesome moment.

That's the Group 1 Cup victory by Flash Reality (Premier Fantasy-Orara Flash) at Albion Park last Thursday night.

The exciting youngster took his record to just 14 starts for eight wins and five placings with a 29.71 race record victory.



## Flash Reality proves too good for Buckle Up Wes and Love Kills in Winter Cup

And it followed on from his race record 29.69 win in the Group 2 Qld Derby only a few months ago. Flash Reality (\$3) scored by a length and a quarter over Buckle Up Wes (\$4.50) with two lengths to Love Kills (\$35.00) giving Northern Rivers first-time trainer Brian Partridge a moment to remember. It was the fourth straight Cup victory to Queensland's leading greyhound trainer Tony Brett following wins with Iso Octane and two in a row to champion Glen Gallon.

But that does not tell the behind the scenes story of owner Marlene Ellis, her son Brad and his mate Wayne Cowan and the joy the "bushies" are having with their super youngster.

"Just awesome," said Brad who doubles as the Grafton greyhound club secretary manager.

"We made the decision to head from Grafton for the final and to be part of it all is something we will always remember.

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"Tony (Brett) had all his family at the track and to be caught up in their excitement is something.

"But my mate Wayne was the best for me," said Brad.

"After the race he was just speechless. He had to take it all in. Take in everything that had just happened."

What had happened was Flash Reality, the fastest heat winner, came out of the eight box like he was on fire.

Australian Cup victor, Tassie champ Buckle Up Wes began like a rocket and headed around the first turn in front.

But Flash Reality, who had churned out a devastating last section to win his heat the week before, was always going to run the Tassie star down.

Flash Reality opened up in the back straight and had the Winter Carnival Cup won when he raced to the lead.

Brad Ellis wasn't going to count his chickens before they hatched.

"I know how good Buckle Up Wes is and by the 600 metre boxes it looked as though he was taking ground from our dog," said Brad.

But it wasn't to be.

Flash Reality maintained his momentum, Tony Brett had four in a row, and Marlene, Brad and Wayne their first Group 1.

The defeat of Buckle Up Wes was not lost on Brad Ellis.

"Orara Flash (dam of Flash Reality) has a litter of pups by Head Bound," said Brad. "And the connections of Buckle Up Wes have bought one of those pups."

That's because the Head Bound over a Bond daughter is the same cross as the great Tassie stayers Jethro and Bell Haven who were trained by Ted Medhurst the trainer of Buckle Up Wes.

Immediate plans are for Flash Reality to contest the Queensland series of the National Sprint and then look to be tested interstate.

"Stud dog," opined Brad Ellis. "He's got a bit more to prove yet, but he's got an entire racing career to do it."

A Group 1, a Group 2, two race records, a near track record ... it's not a bad starting point.

Brad Ellis had to rush home from Albion Park first thing the morning after the Cup victory.

He had a race meeting to run in the middle of Grafton's annual July festival.

"I was just happy to be able to bring my 11-year-old son Jarrah with me. He is the dog's biggest fan and knows every details about every one of his races.

"Surreal, that's how it feels," was his parting words.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Awesome Project (\$2.10), 5<sup>th</sup> Yogi Blue (\$16.40), 6<sup>th</sup> Benarkin (\$25.40), 7<sup>th</sup> Winged Elite (\$71.20) and Gumlow Star (\$49.60).

Flash Reality is raced by Marlene Ellis and trained by Tony Brett he is a Black dog whelped August 2012 by Premier Fantasy from Orara Flash (Bond x Sweet Elite). Flash Reality has won eight of his 14 starts and has been placed on five occasions and his current stake earnings stand at \$138,830.

The Winter Carnival Cup has taken on many different forms over the years and has been conducted also at different times during those years. It was first staged at the Gabba in 1978 and sponsored by famous Queensland brewing company Castlemaine XXXX and known as their Trophy, it was run over the testing 558 metre sprint course. It remained the Castlemaine XXXX Trophy right up until 1992 apart from one year in 1987 when it was called the Christmas Trophy. When racing moved to Albion Park in 1993 the race was called the Christmas Stocking for one year and it continued its Group 1 status that the race had gained in 1991 and maintains currently. The feature dropped back to Group 2 in 1997 and 1998, but returned to Group 1 in 1999. Like many other feature races around Australia in the 90's in was sponsored by the Pet food company Eukanuba from 1994 to 1997 and its subsequent company Nutrience in 1998 and 1999. It the year 2000 the club developed the now successful Winter Carnival at the suggestion of race caller John Brasch and the race became that Carnivals major Group 1 feature the Winter Carnival Cup. It has been won by some champion sprinters over the years and the following is but a few of those stars. Call Me Roscoe 81, Glanzend 82, Acacia Park 84, Dancing Gamble 87, Golden Fox 88, Highly Blessed 90, Icenii Princess 92, Toban Leah 94, Flying Amy 95, Roanokee 96, Wine Glass 97, Winged Runner 99, Mint Mojo 2001, Elite State 2003, 2004 Trewly Special, 2008 Made To Size and 2009 Trew Millions. Plus Tony Brett's trio Iso Octane 2011 and his great champion Glen Gallon 20012-13. Listed below is the full honour roll.

**At the Gabba 1978 - 1992**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1978	Brigadier North	33.00
1979	Katie's Disco	32.74
1980	Wings Of Steel	32.92
1981	Call Me Roscoe	32.84
1982	Glanzend	32.60
1983	Duration	32.91
1984	Acacia Park	32.90
1985	Amber Flash	32.89
1986	(Jan) Sharyn's Vogue	33.08
1986	(Dec) Fifi She's Not	32.61
1987	Dancing Gamble	32.75
1988	Fifi She's Not	32.61
1989	Son of Ella	32.63
1990	Highly Blessed	32.47
1991	Soldier On	32.60
1992	Iceni Princess	32.93

**At Albion Park 1993- Present**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>WINNER</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1993	National Leader	30.39
1994	Toban Leah	30.35
1995	Flying Amy	29.99
1996	Roanokee	30.06
1997	Wine Glass	30.34
1998	Shady Macbeth	30.28
1999	Winged Runner	30.19
2000	Short Model	30.00
2001	Mint Mojo	30.59
2002	Awesome Machine	30.11
2003	Elite State	29.97
2004	Trewly Special	30.16
2005	Hades Rocket	29.90
2006	Fenceline	29.92
2007	Big Swell	30.06
2008	Made To Size	30.39
2009	Trew Millions	30.17
2010	Event Not Held	
2011	Iso Octane	29.93
2012	Glen Gallon	29.86
2013	Glen Gallon	29.80

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