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## MEDIA RELEASE

16th December 2007



### “Howzat for a Hobart 1000, it’s a beauty”

The Group 1 Wrest Point Hobart Thousand final looks a very even race and set to be one of the best on record with the locals holding their own against some classy interstate invaders when the heats were held over 461 metres at Tattersall’s Park in Hobart last Thursday night.



#### **Fastest Heat winner First Innings will be after an outright win in the final**

Local greyhounds raced well with First Innings’ time of 26.28 about three lengths better than the next best of the five heat winners. Raced in partnership by Australian Cricket Captain Ricky Ponting his childhood mate Tim Quill and Tim’s father John, the fawn dog has drawn the covered red box and will start the popular elect for the Group 1 final.

Only the heat winners and the three fastest seconds qualified for a berth in this week’s final. Recent Melbourne Cup winner Shanlyn Prince will be the danger he continued his excellent form with a tradesman like performance to win his heat in 26.43. The other heat winners were local sprinters Kyra Shiraz 26.44 and Avalon Chief 26.52. While outstanding Victorian chaser Train A Journey made the final for the second year in a row winning his heat in 26.47. He finished third last year behind fellow Victorian Superman. South Australian sprint star Scull Murphy qualified with Victorian’s Lebron and Tassie youngster Young Daddy for Thursday’s rich final.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

## GROUP ONE – WREST POINT HOBART 1000

\$50,000 to the winner



### 1 First Innings (TAS)

20 starts 13-0-1 (\$29,203)

Hallucinate – Four Way Fire

Fawn Dog April '05

Owner: John & Tim Quill, Ricky Ponting

Trainer: Laurence Mulligan

Hobart best: 26.02 (2) (7 Starts 6-0-0)

In brilliant form and raced in partnership by Aussie Captain Ricky Ponting he'll be looking to hit this field for six come Thursday night. Won the Tasmanian Gold Cup last week and has six from seven on the track. He is very quick early and strong at the finish is certainly the dog to beat from box one.



### 2 Kyra Shiraz (TAS)

22 starts 12-5-2 (\$43,280)

Elite State – Mimi Shiraz

Black Bitch November '04

Owner: Rodney Stamford & Nick Mills

Trainer: Mick Stringer

Hobart best: 26.37 (4) (9 Starts 6-2-1)

Only bitch to make the final she is a youngster with a fair bit of ability. Won a very competitive heat defeating star Victorian Cool effort, has drawn nicely in two so she can use her early pace. Has a solid record on the track with six wins not without a chance of victory.



### 3 Scull Murphy (SA)

38 starts 22-10-1 (\$54,915)

Big Daddy Cool - Thimble

White & Black Dog February '05

Owner / Trainer: Robert Isaacson

Hobart best: 26.46 (4) (2 Starts 1-1-0)

Made the National Sprint Championship final and is SA best sprinter won a lead up race in 26.48 and did hard to win. Finished second to Train A Journey last week and would need to improve on that effort to win place chance looks best.



### 4 Shanlyn Prince (VIC)

50 starts 21-8-6 (\$269,510)

Token Prince – Shanlyn Maddy

Black Dog January '05

Owners: Token Dream Syndicate

Trainer: Darren McDonald

Hobart best: 26.43 (4) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Over came box six to win the Melbourne Cup in brilliant fashion is currently the best sprinter going around. His hard chasing ability always makes him a chance and he'll have to do everything right to get around the favourite and add another Group 1 to his credit. Can't be underestimated is a big chance to win if he can find the front from box four.



### 5 Lebron (VIC)

30 starts 11-8-5 (\$28,005)

Collision – Cheryl Bale

Black Dog April '05

Owner: No Wives Syndicate

Trainer: David Burnett

Hobart best: NBT (2 Starts 0-2-0)

Handy Victorian sprinter that has finished second at his last two starts here, a solid effort to make the final. He will have to do everything right from box five to win and a place chance looks best.



## Train A Journey (VIC)

62 starts 29-9-5 (\$260,970)

Primo Uno – Currency Tears

Black & White Dog April '04

Owners: **Steve Karlusic & Andrew Marth**

Trainer: **John Galea**

**Hobart best:** 26.30 (4) (3 Starts 2-0-1)

Coming to the end of a brilliant career finished third to Superman last year and will need some luck to win. Lacks a bit of early pace and will have to be up on the speed to trouble the more fancied runners his best is behind him but always runs an honest race place chance best.



## Avalon Chief (TAS)

23 starts 12-4-0 (\$17,085)

Lilli Pilli Lad – Chinatown Babe

Red Fawn Dog December '05

Owner: **Chris Whitney**

Trainer: **Shane Whitney**

**Hobart best:** 26.25 (7) (11 Starts 5-1-0)

Very smart young local sprinter won his heat well and has recorded a best winning time of 26.25 on the track. Five wins from 11 at Hobart is solid form but might lack a bit of experience in this company, nice type place chance with luck.



## Young Daddy (VIC)

23 starts 11-2-3 (\$12,880)

Big Daddy Cool – Brooklyn Doll

White & Brindle Dog July '05

Owner: **Nick Damjanovic**

Trainer: **Debbie Cannan**

**Hobart best:** 26.52 (1) (7 Starts 2-1-1)

Victorian owned locally trained sprinter that qualified behind First Innings in last weeks heat. Would have to improve a bit to cause an impact in this race, has some nice wins from wide draws and is perfectly suited in the eight as he does like to use the track. Needs to do everything right to win and a place chance looks best.



## She's Too Cool (VIC)

24 starts 13-5-4 (\$18,365)

Big Daddy Cool – Brooklyn Doll

Litter sister to the pink and was runner-up in her heat to Shanlyn Prince, would start long odds if she gains a start.



## Cool Effort (VIC)

42 starts 23-7-1 (\$169,560)

Big Daddy Cool – Token Effort

Outstanding Victorian sprinter that won the Shoot-Out, a bit disappointing last week but would not be without a chance if he gained a start.



# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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

**Peter Hayes**

1<sup>st</sup> First Innings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shanlyn Prince  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kyra Shiraz

**Greg Fahey**

1<sup>st</sup> First Innings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shanlyn Prince  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kyra Shiraz

**Shane Yeats**

1<sup>st</sup> First Innings  
2<sup>nd</sup> Shanlyn Prince  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kyra Shiraz

Local Market for the Wrest Point Hobart 1000:

<b>\$50,000 to the winner Group 1 Wrest Point Hobart 1000 (461m)</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>Greyhound</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Price</b>
	First Innings	Laurence Mulligan	6-4
	Kyra Shiraz	Mick Stringer	8-1
	Scull Murphy	Bob Isaacson	7-1
	Shanlyn Prince	Darren McDonald	13/8
	Lebron	David Burnett	12-1
	Train A Journey	John Galea	10-1
	Avalon Chief	Shane Whitney	12-1
	Young Daddy	Debbie Cannan	25-1
	She's Too Cool (RES)	Debbie Cannan	25-1
	Cool Effort (RES)	Darren McDonald	33-1

## What's happening on race night?

The Hobart Greyhound Racing Club in conjunction with major sponsor Wrest Point is giving away \$1000 cash, ipods and a Playstation 2 console as lucky gate prizes. Bookings have been brilliant and all goes well for a bumper crowd. We are hoping Santa may be able to assist in boxing a dog and there is even a rumour that the Easter Bunny and Santa will be contesting a hurdle race. I know where my money will be! Jimbo the Clown, balloons and face painting will give the kids plenty to do and with Santa on course lollies no doubt will be in abundance. The Club have orchestrated a 45 minute window after the Thousand Final to allow for the presentation and Sky Channel have been great in assisting promotion with a live host. A marketing bonanza has also fallen in their lap with Ricky Ponting's greyhound First Innings making the Final and with Ricky and the Aussie Cricket Team as well as the Kiwis in town on Thursday the Club has issued an invitation to both teams to attend the Night as guests of the Club.

## The History of the Hobart 1000

The Hobart Thousand was the brainchild of M.A. (Arthur) Morgan, widely regarded both in Tasmania and on the mainland as one of the founding fathers of greyhound racing in Tasmania, and one of the greatest administrators the sport has seen. It remains the longest running Classic event on the Australian greyhound-racing calendar.

Greyhound racing commenced in Hobart at the T.C.A. ground on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1935, Morgan and his original committee established the Hobart Cup as the Classic race of the year and it was run on February 2<sup>nd</sup> that year. The winner Elwick Boy collected 20 pounds for his owner S. Burton.

Morgan in his great desire to establish Hobart as the leading greyhound track in Australia, saw the Hobart Cup as the way to achieve this. The race was advertised as the Hobart Thousand in 1939 with a first prize

of an Australian record 500 pounds. This started the mass influx of the top mainland chasers, searching for "Thousand Glory", an influx that continues to this day.

The race reverted back to the Hobart Cup for 1942/43, because of financial constraints, and the fact that the mainlanders struggled to get here during the war. Further war restrictions saw the race in recess during 1944 and 1945. When the race resumed in 1946, it was again the Hobart Thousand and was run for a first prize of what Morgan had always wanted it to be, 1000 pounds. It was won by popular Hobartian Dick Baker with his top chaser Ebon's Own, trained by Claude Best. The late 40s and 50s were indeed the halcyon days of the H.G.R.C. When Morgan started up the Maiden Thousand in 1949, (which was the richest Maiden series in Australia until the 1980s) it created a greyhound racing carnival of sorts with leading mainland trainers migrating to Tasmania with greyhounds to compete in the Maiden Thousand, Hobart Thousand double and sometimes Launceston Cup as well. Legendary NSW trainer Charlie "Chika" Morris would often bring up to 20 chasers and stay for 3 months. He did this for decades.

For 9 years straight ending in 1953, the Hobart Club distributed more stakemoney than any other club in Australia and the Hobart Thousand was always the lure for top quality racing and large public patronage. Until 1965 the race was run as a handicap, with Morgan having sole discretion, as was the case with most matters. Since 1965 all runners have been from the same mark.

Ill health forced Arthur Morgan from the helm of Hobart in 1967, but his dream race, known by all simply as "the Thousand", has continued through all the thick and thin that Hobart has encountered, right to the present day, where it is now a National Group 1 race with a first prize of \$50,000.



**1969 Hobart 1000 winner the great Benjamin John**

The most notable effort in the history of the Hobart Thousand must be the training feat of Hilda Williamson of Beaconsfield. She won back-to-back Thousands in 1961/62 with her grand bitch Ophir Doll, and just for good measure made it a hat trick with Ophir Gold in 1963. Another notable feat was that of Beaut Dina. She won the event run in 1976 and was the dam of Scene Control, which won the last ever Hobart Thousand run at the T.C.A. in 1980. Both were owned and trained by Ted and Laurie Rigby of Evandale.

Arguments will always rage over the greatest dogs to win the Thousand. The best interstate chasers to gain victory would have to be Rookie Rebel (1958), Benjamin John (1969), (which ran down the immortal Zoom Top), Black Aztec (1981), and the freak Brother Fox (1985). Amongst the very best of the locals to salute would have to be Ophir Doll (1961/62), along with Royal Griffin (1978), True Vintage (1988), Bomber's a Flyer (1996), Top Shiraz (2000) (who held off the speedster Brett Lee) and Black Caleb (2002) who defeated Melbourne Cup winner Classic Capri. Race record over the 457m trip - 2005 winner Ralph The Mouth 25.60.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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The Hobart 1000 is the oldest feature race final in Australia it was first run as the Hobart Cup at the old TCA circuit in 1935. The race first became known as the Hobart 1000 in 1939, it reverted back to the Hobart Cup for two years in 1942 then was not held during the war years of 1944-45 and when the race recommenced in 1946 it was again known as the Hobart 1000.

Victorian Champion Trainer Graeme Bate hold the record for most number of winners he has won the race on no less than four occasions.

Listed below are the names of many champions that have tasted victory in the time honored event. It is certainly an impressive list of past winners.

1935 **Elwick Boy**, 1936 **Miafort**, 1937 **Loch Maree**, 1938 **On Par**, 1939 **Mr Whackles**, 1940 **Silver Rover**, 1941 **Cavalry**, 1942 **My Kenya**, 1943 **Askalon**, 1944 **"Not Held"**, 1945 **"Not Held"**, 1946 **Ebon's Own**, 1947 **Young Sign**, 1948 **Hero Minda**, 1949 **Erin's Ace**, 1950 **Neat Brandy**, 1951 **Pleasant Foam**, 1952 **Baron Dhu**, 1953 **The Mudlark**, 1954 **Pasha Chief**, 1955 **Minda Go**, 1956 **Baron Woomera**, 1957 **Rising Ace**, 1958 **Rookie Rebel**, 1959 **Peter's Treasure**, 1960 **Bow Rock**, 1961 **Ophir Doll**, 1962 **Ophir Doll**, 1963 **Ophir Gold**, 1964 **Sandy Stone**, 1965 **Fairbairn Lady**, 1966 **Ipswich Low**, 1967 **Fiery Bob**, 1968 **Sue Narila**, 1969 **Benjamin John**, 1970 **Plunder Road**, 1971 **Trion Scout**, 1972 **Beau Palomino**, 1973 **Sue's A Credit**, 1974 **Jamin John**, 1975 **Snowsim**, 1976 **Beaut Dina**, 1977 **Check Vista**, 1978 **Royal Griffin**, 1979 **Astradome Lad**, 1980 **Scene Control**, 1981 **Black Aztec**, 1982 **Kudaleen**, 1983 **Stony Point**, 1984 **Double Time**, 1985 **Brother Fox**, 1986 **Solitary Simon**, 1987 **White Gigolo**, 1988 **True Vintage**, 1989 **Scott James**, 1990 **Bacchant**, 1990 **Shantytown**, 1991 **Jenny's Legacy**, 1992 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1993 **Extra's Boy**, 1994 **Storm Hero**, 1995 **Clint's Pirate**, 1996 **Bomber's A Flyer**, 1997 **Shantung Tiger**, 1998 **Mirren Bale**, 1999 **Latest Lad**, 2000 **Top Shiraz**, 2001 **Black Caleb**, 2002 **Star Witch**, 2003 **Nobody Knew**, 2004 **Regent Thunder**, 2005 **Ralph The Mouth** and 2006 **Superman**.



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