



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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***“Zorro Triumph’s In Hume Cup final.”***

**By Tony Megahey courtesy Greyhound Recorder**

Fallen Zorro with machine like efficiency and with her more celebrated brother Chinatown Lad recuperating at home, annexed the Group 2 Hume Cup (725m) at the Meadows on Monday night to finally break the big race dominance of the Jason Thompson kennel. .

Shane Whitney has campaigned with Fallen Zorro for nine long months and four states and her iron constitution has resulted innumerable Group finals and her grinding finish to beat Western Land in a photo was her third group staying success. Whitney who rang the Recorder on his way to Flemington and the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday, revealed that Fallen Zorro was almost scratched.



**Fallen Zorro gets up to win the Hume Cup in the last stride (All Pics Paul Munt)**

"She's had a niggling leg injury, after the heat she was on three legs and I only made my mind up to start her on race day, I didn't think she could win but she's got a big ticker, right now she can barely walk," Whitney offered.

"When Western Land led by a space, I was resigned to place money because I thought the injury would take some off her finish." "You'd have to say lately she's raced right out of Chinatown Lad's shadow." She have a break to get right now and I'll bring her and Chinatown Lad both back for the Bold Trease at the end of the month, added Whitney.

Fallen Zorro appeared to be giving Western Land an impossible six lengths mid race but she 'arrived' in time once again and if she has long been rated inferior to Chinatown Lad, Whitney himself and plenty of form students are having second thoughts.

With so many big race placings, Fallen Zorro had her doubters but now her brave Hume Cup success has followed her equally impressive win in the Sir John Dillon Memorial at Sandown last month as well as a McKenna Memorial success there in June.

Prior to that came a seemingly endless run of placings that included a third to Mantra Lad in the National Distance final at Wentworth Park, a third in the Sydney Cup to Others Quoted and a Chairman's Cup placing to Chinatown Lad.

While the likes of champion NSW stayer Miagi and Chinatown Lad breaking down after grueling campaigns, Fallen Zorro has raced with the tenacity of a bull ant. From the rails she positioned behind Western Land who beat here in the heat and he seemed 'home' after, breaking up the field with a long lead. It was as much a case of Fallen Zorro's determined finish as Western Lad fading by just a head with Oodles Rock one and a half lengths third in a fast 42.54 that compared favorably with the 42.28 Meadows record held jointly by Mantra Lad and Sargent Major. On Monday night Western Land was at \$2.90 on the strength of her convincing heat win over Fallen Zorro in 42.74.

However it was the Tasmanian based Whitney returning once again to the big race dais after early year triumphs when Chinatown Lad was virtually unbeatable in four states. Then it seemed inevitable that Fallen Zorro was chasing him home.

But it mattered little to Whitney as the litter mates kept the lucrative prize money pouring in for the young trainer who had only given up work as a builder at the start of the year to campaign Australia wide with the distance starts.

Bring on the Bold Trease.



**The Whitney's with Fallen Zorro after the win**

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Risk It (\$6.80), 5th Phil's Mate (\$15.80), 6th Ready To Star (\$12.40) 7th Kulu Spirit (\$13.10) and Gunnadoo Magic (\$6.10).

Fallen Zorro is Blue Fawn Bitch whelped December '05 she is by Lilli Pilli Lad from Chinatown Babe (Fortifield Rush x Counter Power). The Group 2 Hume Cup win took her record to 41 starts for 16 wins and 17 placings and prizemoney earnings of \$167,040. She is trained at Brighton in Tasmania by Shane Whitney.

Earlier in the night the Group 3 Sport 927 Silver Bullet was held over the 525 metres and it was popular result for Meadows specialist Regal Thyme. Runner up in the recent Top Gun behind superstar El Galo he proved too good at the outstanding odds of \$8.60 he won impressively in 30.04, his seventh victory from 14 starts on the track.

The Hume Cup was initially called the Lord's Mayors Cup and was first run over 675 yards at North Melbourne in 1960, it moved with the club to Olympic Park and in 1964 became the Lord Mayors Trophy and remained a sprint race until 1988. It then became a distance event until 1994 when it was discontinued. The MGRA due to the tremendous support they are given by the Hume City Council resurrected the feature in 2000 calling the race the Hume Cup. Listed below are the past winners.

1960 **Fair's Orders**, 1961 **Rustling Breeze**, 1962 **Tree Lover**, 1963 **Diropace**, 1964 **Rocket Streak**, 1965 **Cheltenham Lass**, 1966 **Munich Boy**, 1967 **Bold Charmer**, 1968 **Fawn Waters**, 1969 **Dashing Phantom**, 1970 **Mayo Gold**, 1971 **Banca**, 1972 **Flying Stage**, 1973 **Half Your Luck**, 1974 **Temlee**, 1975 **Plain Winnie**, 1976 **Matireka**, 1977 **Shelley O'Reilly**, 1978 **Manteca Boy**, 1979 **Shane's Level**, 1980 **Vibrant King**, 1981 **Striding Ahead**, 1982 **Durante Lad**, 1983 **Castle Ridge**, 1984 **National Poppy**, 1985 **Rumpus Pappa**, 1986 **I'm Nugget**, 1987 **Swift Laser**, 1988 **Regal Kid**, 1989 **Blue Speed**, 1990 **Interest Only**, 1991 **Modern Express**, 1992 **Modern Express**, 1993 **Saltwater Sid**, 2000 **Mr. Boswell**, 2001 **Bentley Babe**, 2002 **Tears Of Jupiter**, 2003 **Oh Behave** and 2004 **Triple Trio** 2005 **Jacarrest**, 2006 **Sargent Major** and 2007 **Technoman**.

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