



MEDIA RELEASE

27th December 2008

A "Vintage" Performance in the Sale Cup



Outstanding Victorian sprinter come middle distance performer Vintage Octane proved too smart in the Group 2 Gold 1242 Sale Cup on Boxing Day over the 650 metre trip. Trained by the state's leading mentor Darren McDonald the fawn dog's preparation for the Cup win was spot on. He had blitzed in two lead up runs before recording a best of the night heat win in 37.38. On final night punters sent him to the start a very warm favourite at \$1.70, but he let none of his supporters down with a tradesman like performance to win the Cup impressively.

Vintage Octane has never been noted as a good beginner and throughout his short career it has no doubt caused his trainer Darren McDonald some concern and has been costly in a number of his races. However he picked the right night to begin and in the Cup he came out beautifully and went straight to the front whistling through the sections in fast times recording 6.22, 16.19, 25.22 and an overall of 37.34 the fastest of his four wins on the track.



Vintage Octane winning at Sandown

(Pic Paul Munt)

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Most punters thought Vintage Octane was home and hosed after he lead so early in the race but credit must go to runner-up Burrawonga Brett (\$12.20) who was gallant in defeat he chased the leader all the way never allowing him to open up a big break and when the favourite went wide coming around the home turn for a moment it appeared he might cause an upset. However Vintage Octane straighten up again and raced to the line a conformable winner by one and a quarter lengths with three and a half lengths back to Purple Range (\$10.50) third.

Vintage Octane at only 26 months old has always shown enormous talent he burst onto the scene in July with the fastest maiden win ever recorded at Sandown of 29.58. Since then he has put together a number of wins. He was put over the 600 for the first time for a win at the Meadows in November and is unbeaten over the longer journey with another win at Geelong and his four at Sale. It will be interesting to see if Darren McDonald decides to step him up over 700 metres in the New Year.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Ashes Platinum (\$7.20), 5th Hall's On Fire (\$34.10), 6th Joop Muse (\$5.80) 7th Run Like Ell (\$41.80) and Uno Jacob (\$16.70).

Vintage Octane is a fawn dog whelped October 2006 by Pure Octane from My Girl Georgina (Awesome Assassin x Ashlee Jeannine) he is raced by Mark Hunter who raced his sire Pure Octane and horse racing media identity Deane Lester. He is trained by master Victorian mentor Darren McDonald who also trained his sire and he has raced 22 times for 13 wins and four placings, with the \$30,000 first prize for the Sale Cup taking his current stake earnings to \$57,220.

He is superbly bred, with his dam already producing fast sprinters Life of Brian and Winoki to Go Wild Teddy plus Lochinui and Mister Twink to Mountain Dry. Vintage Octane is a full brother to Octanol who earlier this year won the Group 2 WA Derby and finished fourth in the Group 2 Young Star Classic.

The seemingly bold move in 2001 to run the Sale Cup over the 630m journey, with a first prize of \$20,000, produced an outstanding result with brilliant front running stayer, Bentley Babe, etching her name on the Cup Honour role.

Again in 2003 a major track restructure unveiled a brand new circuit on April 10th extensive work had been carried out after it closed in January. Under the guidance of track designer Brian Barrington Sale had an extreme makeover, with the new distances becoming 440, 520 and 650 metres. The track was also widened to 7 metres, with both straights being realigned.

The Cup has been won by some great champions and listed below is the full honour roll as we currently know it.

1968 **Unknown**, 1969 **Unknown**, 1970 **Unknown** , 1971 **Stripper Sam**, 1972 **Midnight Avon**, 1973 **Rerod**, 1974 **Rebel Rena**, 1975 **Shikar**, 1976 **Dargaville**, 1977 **Daalko Boy**, 1978 **Cascilla's Lad**, 1979 **Newmore's Heart**, 1980 **Bushy Prince**, 1981 **Forceful Lad**, 1982 **Charcia**, 1983 **Colinda Flyer**, 1984 **Chariot Supreme**, 1985 **Johnny Caprice**, 1986 **Top Shroud**, 1987 **Quick Royal**, 1988 **Blackman Ray**, 1989 **Mr Chatters**, 1990 **Chief Magundi**, 1991 **Malawi's Prince**, 1992 **Premier Pete**, 1993 **Linebacker**, 1994 **Jamb Kid**, 1995 **Wylie Boy**, 1996 **Wylie Boy**, 1997 **Shannen's Storm**, 1998 **Awesome Assassin**, 1999 **Brookside Red**, 2000 **Vino Veritas**, 2001 **Bentley Babe**, 2002 **Beljay Velvet**, 2003 **Draino**, 2004 **Arvo's Junior** 2005 **Hercules**, 2006 **Elektra**, and 2007 **Miss Brook**.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Brenton Scott
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96497166
Mob: 0438 402 198