



MEDIA RELEASE

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Orson Allen wins the GCA 2018-2019 Australian Greyhound Of The Year Award

At a gala GCA Awards night held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre in Western Australia, Greyhound Clubs Australia last Friday night announced Orson Allen the winner of the 2018-2019 GCA Australian Greyhound of the Year.

It was a night of nights on the National scene with delegates and club members coming together from all over Australasia to celebrate the occasion.

This year led by GCA EO David Simonette and the extremely competent team of Greyhounds WA, West Australia hosted the Awards night in the beautiful Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Awards night takes place in conjunction with the National Championships in August each year. It was another night to remember and a glittering affair. Each State that has staged the event since 2006, has gone to great lengths to put on an outstanding show, with Greyhounds WA no exception.

New South Wales owned & Victorian trained sprint sensation Orson Allen won the Greyhound the Year.

The winner was selected by the GCA Racing committee in consultation with industry experts.



Brendan Wheeler on behalf of his family accepted the award from GCA President Les Bein, He remarked on the disappointment of Orson Allen injury suffered in Victorian Sprint State final and inability to his place in the National Final as the Wildcard after earning the spot as the highest points scorer for the Calendar year. However he and the family were delighted with a fantastic year and career the fawn sprinter had achieved paying credit to his trainers Correy and Sarah Grenfell. 2018-2019 was the sixth year in succession the Wheelers had won the GCA Greyhound of the Year award after winning in for the first time 2011 with

Dyna Tron, they have been successful with Xylia Allen in 2014, Fernando Bale in 2015, Dyna Double One took the title in 2015-2016, and then the mighty Fanta Bale won the last two awards in succession.

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ORSON ALLEN

Listed below are Orson Allen's remarkable achievements during 2018-2019.

Orson Allen is a Fawn dog by KC And All whelped on the 18th May 2016, he had 47 race starts for 24 wins eight seconds and five thirds winning \$598,220.

Orson Allen had a win strike rate of 51% and a place percentage of 79%.

Raced by Brendan Wheeler he was trained thought out his career by Correy Grenfell at Mount Wallace in Victoria.

Orson Allen was the highest Ranked Greyhound for the year on the GCA Rankings for Group Racing with 423 points next best was Dyna Patty on 237 also a Wheeler raced dog.

He made 14 Group finals. Winning the Group 1 Perth Cup, Group 1 Harrison – Dawson, Group 2 Horsham and Cranbourne Cups. He also won the Group 3 Shootout.

Orson Allen finished second in the Group 1 Maturity Classic and Temlee, plus the Group 2 Geelong and Warrnambool Cups. He finished third in the Cranbourne Classic and was unplaced in the Easter Gift, Bendigo & Warragul Cups and the Silver Bullet.

The previous winners of the AGRA - GCA Australian Greyhound of the Year are 2002 **Boomeroo**, 2003 **Bombastic Shiraz**, 2004 **Whisky Assassin**, 2005 **Pure Octane**, 2006 **Betty's Angel**, 2007 **Flashing Floods**, 2008 **El Galo**, 2009 **Cindeen Shelby**, 2010 **El Grand Senior**, 2011 **Dyna Tron**, 2012 **Miata**, 2012-2013 **Miata**, 2013-2014 **Xylia Allen**, 2014-2015 **Fernando Bale**, 2015-2016 **Dyna Double One**, 2016-2017 **Fanta Bale and** 2017-2018 **Fanta Bale**.

Earlier in the night under the sterling guidance of MC Darrin Davies, GCA announced the other award winners in the following categories.

2018-2019 Brood Bitch of the Year was Chica Destacada

Part owner Peter McDermott accepted the award from GCA Committee member Dennis O'Brien.

Chica Destacada super litter to Fernando Bale included star performers Poco Dorado, Blue Moon Rising, Veloce Nero and Two Times Twice. Between them they have won \$1,068,208 in prizemoney. Chica Destacada won with 77 points from Desalle Bale 47, Tears Siam 34, Ruby Ha Ha 34, Heidi Go Seek 32, Unix Bale and Solar Pak 26.

2018-2019 Sire of the Year was Fernando Bale

Brendan Wheeler accepted the award from GCA Vice President Greg Miller.

Fernando Bale the superstar race dog has quickly become the most dominant sire in the country with starts the like of Tornado Tears, My Redeemer, Dyna Patty, Sennachie, Poke The Bear, Hecton Bale, Hasten Slowly, West On Augie and the above mentioned Chica Destacada litter his progeny have won several millions of dollars in prizemoney.

Fernando Bale won with 3045 points from Barcia Bale 1971, Cosmic Rumble 742, Fabregas 680, KC And All 676 and Dyna Double One 611.

2018-2019 Run of the Year went to Zipping Bailey for her outstanding performance coming from a hopeless position in the Group 1 Easter Egg Final over 520 metres at Wentworth Park. She ran down a top-quality field of super sprinters in the home straight to win the Group 1 feature in April.

The award was accepted by a very excited Marty Hallinan from Neil Brown GCA Publicity Officer.

The Run Of the Year was determined from the 12 runs of the month, then by a vast panel of judges from each state. This year some 25 people cast their opinion in the nationwide poll deciding a close victory to the performance of Zipping Bailey given the importance of the event probable got her the nod, while special mentions were given to the efforts of Poke The Bear and Tornado Tears.

2018-2019 Trainer of the Year was Chris Halse

In a hometown win Chris' was on hand to accept the award from Greyhounds WA CEO and GCA Committee member Noel Reilly. It was clearly acknowledged what an outstanding year Chris Halse had, had in 2018-2019. He has been one of the top trainers Australia wide for many years and has come close to winning the award in the past. However, through the deeds of some very handy performers like West On Augie, Chips And Trains, Premium Share, Grace Ali, Wise Riccardo and Vanderworp he secured his first win. Chris's amazing stats for the year 2018-19 read as follows 67 starters for 874 starts, 223 wins 248 placings and prizemoney of \$1,474,715. His win percentage was 26% and place 53%. He thanked his staff for their dedicated support all year around, that make his operation and success possible.

The Trainer of the Year is determined after nominations are put forward to the GCA Racing Committee who cast votes at a meeting held in July.

The panel takes into account a number of different aspects of the training side of things it included. Group wins, and finalists, State city wins, number of runners and dogs in work, percentage per runners ect. Plus the important aspect of the manner in which the trainer is an ambassador for our code.

The GCA Hall of Fame Inductees were as follows:

Stud Dog – Keen Jet - Brilliant Race dog and Sire in the USA and Australia of the 60's and 70's.

After a short but spectacular race career he had to be retired due to a recurring toe injury.

From only five Australian litters Keen Jet appears in pedigrees of almost 50% of the current race dogs.

His influence started with 'Rusty Action' through the mating with Irish sire 'Witches Coven', came 'Sally Coven' and in turn 'Wild Port' by 'Kid Springdale'. From 'Sally Coven' came the following high-class greyhounds through racing, breeding and in the Australian Hall of Fame.

Acacia Park, Acacia Ablaze. Awesome Assassin. Amerigo Magic, Hotshot, Railway Road, Collision, Goodesy, Rapid Journey (Aust Hall of Fame), Lansley Bale, How's The Fort, Lilli Pilli Lad, Elite State, Go Wild Teddy to name just some of many.

The total offspring of these sire's number 21,000. As such, for USA, Australia and Ireland sire totals are over 55,000.

On the dams side he appears in the pedigrees of Tranquil Flame, Carmel Bale, Spider Web, Claybern Kate, Christina Bale, Wild Flame (Aust sold to USA as dam of the 'County Dogs', who as a family won \$1 Million in racing prize money including such dogs as 'Major Gossip'), Goddess of Fire (litter sister to 'Awesome Assassin') and 'Paua To Burn' (our Aust Hall of Fame) and 'First to Fire'. Also 'Miata' listed in greyhound data as the world's champion race bitch whelped Oct 2009. 'Miata' has two crosses that go back to 'Keen Jet' in 10 removes on the dam side through stud dog 'Lansley Bale', 'Carmel Bale' and 'Christina Bale' and 11 removes to 'Keen Jet' through 'Acacia Ablaze' and 'Wild Port'.

In the US Keen Jet was influential in the pedigrees of such sires as 'Underwood', 'Wigwam Wag', 'Gable Dodge', 'Stan's Boy', 'Flyer', 'T Hee', 'Hondo Black' (bred USA and sold to Ireland), 'E J's Douglas', 'Gable Oscar', 'Lonesome Cry' and 'Hey Vern' have an offspring total at least of 34, 628 in the USA, Ireland and Australia.

The Award had been accepted by his owner New South Wales breeding expert Dennis Wyndham on June 21 due to his grave illness which took his life on June 26, 2019.

Race Dog – Xylia Allen - Legendary New South Wales owned Victorian trained Race dog.

Xylia Allen had the rare quality of versatility she was successful over all distances she raced over sprint, middle and staying distances.

Xylia Allen raced 83 times for 40 wins and 25 placings and an Australian Prizemoney record at the time of \$743,730. She had a 48%-win percentage. She still holds track records at Geelong: 596m (33.96), Horsham: 570m (31.93), Launceston: 515m (29.09) and Traralgon: 658m (38.03) she set another three. She was judged the 2014 Victorian Greyhound of the Year and the 2013-2014 AGRA Greyhound of the Year.

Xylia Allen took out four Group One races throughout her career. Her first triumph at the top level was in the Group One Sapphire Crown at Sandown; while she also claimed the Group One Peter Mosman Classic, the Group One National Sprint Championship and the Group One Gold Cup at Albion Park.

In addition to her Group Ones, she was also the winner of the Group Two Launceston Cup, the Group Three Sandown Shootout and the Group Two McKenna Memorial.

Xylia Allen competed against the best throughout her entire career. The tenacious chaser ran placings in ten Group race finals and was a finalist in a further 12 Group events.

***** A full tribute to the above inductees will be available on the GCA Website in the upcoming weeks*

It concluded a fantastic night which is sure to be repeated next year in August, in Sydney for the 2020 version of GCA National Championships, Greyhound of the Year, Annual meeting and Conference.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
GCA Publicity Officer
neilbrowngca@gmail.com
Mob: 0423 129 950

David Simonette
GCA Executive Officer
davidsimonettegca@gmail.com