



MEDIA RELEASE

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“PURE BRILLIANCE”

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Advance Laurels Classic & McKenna Memorial

Promising young trainer Wayne Vassallo opened his Group 1 account in stunning fashion with his outstanding young sprinting prospect Pure Burst in the Group 1 Advance Laurels at Sandown Park on Thursday night. Vassallo has forged a solid reputation in the training ranks over a short period of time and these days' trains in tandem with long time friend Jamie Ennis. The win also capped off a remarkable night for super sire Token Prince who, for the second year running, produced both Group winners on the night.

Pure Burst (\$2.90Fav) jumped well from a favourable box draw, but had to hold off a determined bid for the lead from Senni Angel (\$13.00). When she finally got the measure of Senni Angel coming out of the first turn she looked set for victory, with Elgrando Gold (\$5.70) for trainer Carolyne Jones looming as the only threat.

Despite the fact that the margin was closing near the finish, Pure Burst hung on doggedly from the fast-finishing Elgrando Gold with second favourite By Request (\$3.50) closing for third. Time for the final was another quick run of 29.86 with splits of 5.09 and 19.10.

Pure Burst put the writing on the wall with a brilliant best of the night Sandown win in 29.85 on June the 8th this followed a half length defeat in the Rosebowl final at Geelong the traditional lead up event too the Laurels.

There was plenty of noise as Pure Burst crossed the line a very excited owning partnership of Joe Yusi and Adam Cuschieri erupted in the stands while there were a stack of well wishes on hand after the victory. Yusi a popular GRV employee and Cuschieri have bred and raced several handy chasers but Pure Burst was their first Group 1 success.

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Vassallo told me after the win she had always shown plenty of promise.

“The first time we trialled her at Ballarat she ran 25.25 so we knew she was pretty smart and she hasn’t done much wrong since. It’s a big thrill to win a group 1 it isn’t easy to find one this good. But we were confident she could run a big race she has a lot of speed and with a few wide runners on her outside she was going to have her chance to get to the front. I’ll aim her up at the Young Star Classic in Sydney it isn’t on until the middle of July so we can trail her at Wentworth Park before the heats.” Vassallo said.



The brilliant Pure Burst to good in laurels final

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Sanzzero (\$29.60), 5th Lady Alouette (\$29.30), 6th Miss Vee Eight (\$14.20), 7th Senni Angel (\$13.00) and Sweet Claudia (\$6.10).

Pure Burst is Fawn Bitch whelped August '04 she is by Token Prince from Hotburst (Hotshot x Outburst). The Group 1 Laurels win took her short career record to a sensational 10 starts for 6 wins and 4 placings and prizemoney earnings of \$67,605.



AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION



All smiles after Laurels victory

Recognized Australia wide as the pinnacle age restricted bitches classic the Laurels was first conducted by the Sandown Club in 1964 when won by Tara Princess. It is a very much sought after Group 1 event with the winner usually acknowledged as a very valuable brood bitch as well as most carve out a successful race career. It has also been proven over the years that most of the finalists are bitches that produce when they go to stud and some have become household names after producing some of the superstars of the sport.

The Classic has found some outstanding winners over the years none the least 1965 champ Cheltenham Lass who later in her career was runner up and won a Melbourne Cup as well as runner up in an Australian Cup. Odious who went on to win an Australian Cup in 1976, Carrington Jade won a Melbourne Cup in 1976. Cavalier Queen won the Adelaide Cup in 1977. Paua To Burn won the 2005 Easter Egg and 2004/ 2005 Group 1 Sapphire Crown. Plus two other winners are Hall of Fame superstars Winifred Bale and Sandi's Me Mum. Listed below is the Laurels Classic Honour roll highlighted by so many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers.

1964 **Tara Princess**, 1965 **Cheltenham Lass**, 1966 **Ever Present**, 1967 **Magic Fuel**, 1968 **Enapetic**, 1969 **Watch A Flash**, 1970 **La Rate**, 1971 **Lady Of Rome**, 1972 **Blackliner**, 1973 **Crete**, 1974 **Vibrant Lass**, 1975 **Odious**, 1976 **Carrington Jade**, 1977 **Cavalier Queen**, 1978 **Debbie's Wood**, 1979 **Jewel Of All**, 1980 **Sharonlee Girl**, 1981 **Sarah Kuda**, 1982 **Winifred Bale**, 1983 **Wee Rua**, 1984 **Select Girl**, 1985 **Little Nola**, 1986 **Autumn Leaf**, 1987 **Playgirl Bonnie**, 1988 **Dancing Vixen**, 1989 **Sandi's Me Mum**, 1990 **Witchery**, 1991 **Barb's Tune**, 1992 **To Perfection**, 1993 **Suzy Also**, 1994 **Victorious Road**, 1995 **Little Promise**, 1996 **Hanson Kelly**, 1997 **Moonambel Gem**, 1998 **Chersam Honcho**, 1999 **Labyrinth**, 2000 **Creative Whisky**, 2001 **Hail A Harley**, 2002 **Katella Bale**, 2003 **Dance Portrait**, 2004 **Paua To Burn**, 2005 **Maureen Shirly**.

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“McKenna Memorial to Token Arrow”



A happy team after the winning the McKenna

Earlier in the night, Token Arrow caused a major boilder in taking out the McKenna Memorial at the massive price of \$30.90 for veteran trainer Lindsay Morshead. He was able to hold off late challenges from improving stayer Katie Current (\$14.60) and the consistent Odnoc Alorac (\$6.50) too take out the Group 2 final in 42.60.

Raced by the Ouzo Rollers Syndicate they were a happy team after the win spokesman Brian Tregenza summed up how they felt.

“We gave him some sort of chance it was a pretty open final, it’s a fantastic thrill to win a race of this kind we have raced a heap dogs and it’s great to win a group race. Lindsay not only a very good trainer but a top bloke and he has been brilliant to race dogs with.” Tregenza said.

Thursday night brought back fond memories for trainer Lindsay Morshead he owned and trained the winner of the 1997 McKenna Memorial Sam’s Idol but that night his blue dog started a \$2 favourite. Token Arrow’s dam Yarrowmay was also sired by Sam’s Idol’s sire Osti’s Idol.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Miss Grub (\$5.70), 5th Complete Puzzle (\$13.50), 6th Tis Grand (\$36.20), 7th Bothing (\$5.00) and Spalding (\$2.20).

Token Arrow is Black Dog whelped April '03 and is by Token Prince from Yarrowmay (Osti’s Idol x Blue Arrogance). The Group 2 McKenna win took his career record to 39 starts for 6 wins and 15 placings and the first prize of \$25,000 brought his prizemoney earnings to \$33,260.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The McKenna Memorial was first run in 1971 and acknowledges the contribution to the Sandown Club by legendary administrator Jack McKenna. McKenna came to Sandown and took the job of Club secretary in the 1940's from Tatura in central Victoria. He had held the position of secretary of the Tatura Plumpton Coursing Club and he made a major impact after arriving in the city. He was instrumental in the club's advancement in many ways but importantly its move across the railway line and the purchase of the land of the current site. McKenna's ability as an administrator is still to this day talked about in reverent terms and the sport and particularly Sandown will always be in his debt. The honour roll listed below of past winners is a classy one from National Distance Champ Saki Dasher trained by Aussie Rules superstar Bob Pratt to last year's winner Malfoy the list contains some of the best stayers of all time.

1971 **Saki Dasher**, 1972 **Binica**, 1973 **Lizrene**, 1974 **Audiro**, 1975 **La Sierra**, 1976 **Bolta's Gift**, 1977 **Miss O'Dare**, 1978 **Irish Temptress**, 1979 **Precious Charm**, 1980 **Tarmoor Eagle**, 1981 **Leader's Jester**, 1982 **Supplier**, 1983 **Quick Pulse**, 1984 **Sheila's Teresa**, 1985 **Doris Lee**, 1986 **Plunderer**, 1987 **High Intensity**, 1988 **Lady Paragon**, 1989 **Rules**, 1990 **National Honour**, 1991 **Pleasure**, 1992 **Pace Galore**, 1993 **Havadip**, 1994 **Minyama**, 1995 **Keon Star**, 1996 **Wiljaver**, 1997 **Sam's Idol**, 1998 **Totally Ablaze**, 1999 **Kobble Creek**, 2000 **Osti's Joker**, 2001 **Pearl Larricki**, 2002 **Boomeroo**, 2003 **Arvo's Junior**, 2004 **Arvo's Athena**, 2005 **Malfoy**.



Token Arrow wins McKenna

(All Pics Paul Munt)

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