



Victorian News

Andrew Thompson

Bob has an Ace up his sleeve

THERE'S not too many greyhounds with plenty of ability that slip the attention of punters until they have 30 starts, especially when they win 20 plus races, but Arejay Ace is one of them.

Heathcote district trainer Bob Iredale has placed his Placard-sired chaser to perfection, but a slick 29.70- sec run around Sandown Park announced the youngster as a new force in the sprinting ranks. The two-year-old has had a surprising 33 starts for 23 wins and collected more than \$30,000 in prizemoney.



**Arejay Ace
Paul Munt pic**

Arejay Ace has contested the Warrnambool and Wangaratta cup finals and is quickly building an impressive resume.

“He runs a good 500 metres, but we’ve had a few other things on his plate other than just running around in the city,” Iredale said.

“He’s only been racing six months, but there’s not many weeks he’s missed going around.

Arejay Ace’s winning times include Meadows 30.20, Ballarat 25.32, Wangaratta 26.75, Bendigo 24.34, Warrnambool 25.27, Cranbourne 30.74 and Healsville 18.95.

He’s also won at Sale, Shepparton and Geelong. That’s wins on 11 Victorian tracks and doesn’t leave many to go.

Iredale said he planned to head to Horsham for a GOBIS race in the near future and then on to Traralgon and Warragul to cover the 12 Victorian tracks.

He said he raced a greyhound called Laurieadel which won on every Victorian provincial track but couldn’t manage a win in the city.

The Alan Bayliss-trained Masai Flash is understood to be the last greyhound to win on all Victorian tracks and that was when the Robinvale track was still operating.

According to Peter Pearson at the National Greyhound Form, Masai Flash started racing on June 6 1995 and finished in June 1998. He finished with 39 wins and 30 placings from 119 starts.

Arejay Ace has come a long way since being broken in.

“They couldn’t brake him in. I sent him to two trial tracks and in the end did it myself at Jim Polson’s bullring. It took a few tries to get him to go. It certainly didn’t happen overnight,” Iredale said.

“By the time he was broken in he was 16 months old, so instead of giving him a spell we keep him going and put him in the Bendigo qualies.

“He ran third in 25.19 and then came out in a maiden and won in an exceptional 24.58 and then came out in the final and went 24.64. He’s gone on from there.”

Iredale said the former rogue was now the best chaser he’s had in 25 years and certainly the fastest.

“Of those tracks he’s won on he had only been around Bendigo, Healsville and Meadows before he raced there,” he said.

“If we can win on those other three tracks then I’ll concentrate on pick out some good races for him. We’ll also look at taking him up to Wentworth Park, but he looks to go best around Sandown after running 29.70 there,” he said.