



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**7th November**

### **Slater an easy winner in the Shepparton Cup**

In experience proved no barrier for smart Victorian youngster Slater (\$6.30) when he blitzed the hot field assembled for the Group 2 Strautmann Australia Shepparton Cup on Saturday night. It was the Cup's first staging at the new Kialla complex and over 300 hundred people packed into Shepparton's Petstock Park to witness the running of the Cup final.

Lauren Gorman's Willy's Buster (\$2.30) started favourite following his track record heat win of 24.94 plus the fact he had won seven races on the trot including a BON Meadows win in 30.08. Considering he had hardly been heading in all of those wins and a nice horse shoe draw of seven it was any wonder punters stayed with him.

Ronray Chief (\$7.60) led to the first mark in 6.50 with Willy's Buster around the outside and charging at the leader no sooner he got there than he was in trouble and he got into further trouble as the race went on finishing a disappointing last.

Slater had worked hard to come from mid field but once he found the front he raced away with a big break on the remainder of the field and recorded a hollow six and a half lengths in 25.26. New South Wales trainer Christine Oldfield took home second place with November Roman (\$25.60) and Ronray Chief who after leading early held on for third place for trainer Terry Reid.

Trainer Darren Murray is no stranger to a smart youngster and particular at this time of the year. If we cast our minds back 12 months Murray produced a dog named Closing Argument about this time of the year in similar circumstances.

Closing Argument after 10 starts from late July to early November had won eight races including a couple of low grade Sandown wins both in sub 30 seconds. He had won twice at Ballarat in 25.28 and 25.19. Slater who started racing in early June is yet to start in the city but has won five of his ten starts with Ballarat wins in 25.51 and 25.26 and a super fast Warragul win of 23.76. Add the Group 2 Shepparton Cup and the comparison is particularly similar.

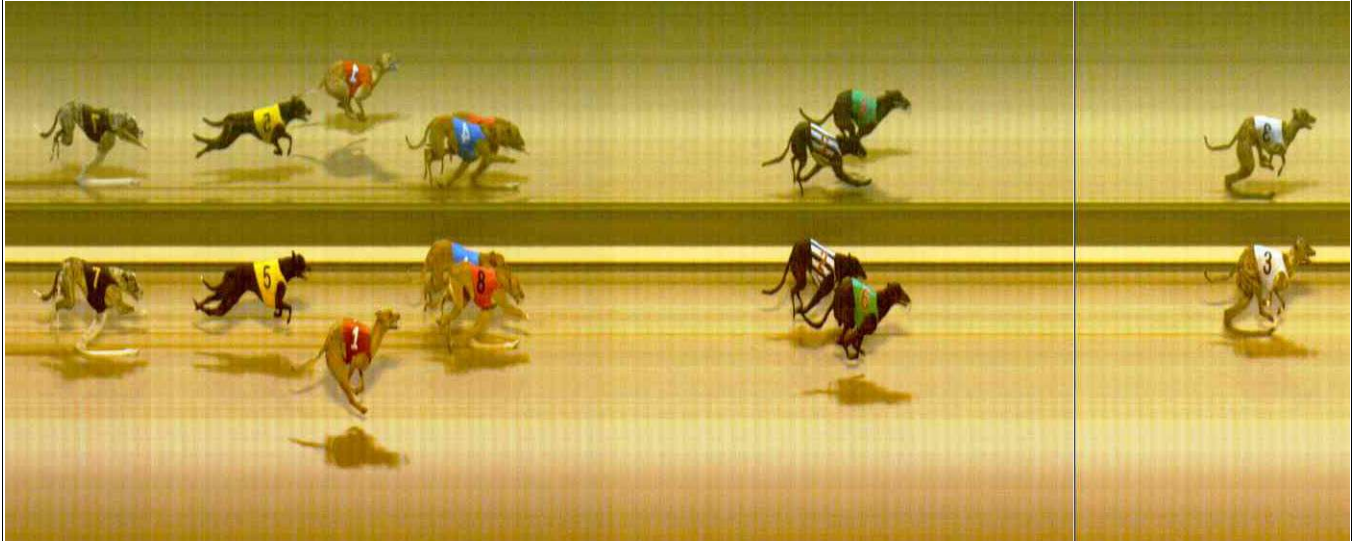
asked Darren Murray the difference. "There wouldn't be an inch between them on a one turn track he is a very quick dog. He's just so much more immature at this stage but he'll get better he doesn't jump as well but that will also come I believe. He'll run 500 okay but not until next year. He has run home quicker at Ballarat in a trial than Vapour Whirl. I think he can run 24.80 around Ballarat." Murray said.

Murray's long term mission has been the Great Chase. "I've had him aimed at the Great Chase all along he'll compete at Ballarat and Bendigo then hopefully back to Shepparton for the final. I won't do that much with him in between just straight work."

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Murray has trained for owner Robert Jackson for some time and was delighted to win the Cup for him last Saturday. "He's not well at the moment and it gave him a nice kick along to win the Cup. I hope we can do it again in the future." Murray concluded.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Thierry Bale (\$6.60), 5<sup>th</sup> Running On Bundy (\$12.50), 6<sup>th</sup> Going Batty (\$7.40) 7<sup>th</sup> Torque Bale (\$20.10) and Willy's Buster (\$2.30 fav).



**The photo finish strip photo of the Shepparton Cup shows Slater an easy winner.**

Slater is raced by Robert Jackson and trained by Darren Murray at Napoleons he is a Brindle dog whelped December 2004 by Surf Lorian from Wipe Out (Fortress x Miss Bouchard). Slater has won five of his 10 starts and has been placed on three occasions and with the \$25,000 first prize for the Shepparton Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$30,690.

The Shepparton Cup has always been a well sought after country cup and a one time a very important lead up race for the Melbourne Cup. It has been won by some brilliant greyhounds over the years none better than Hall of Famer and local superstar Highly Blessed. Other Melbourne Cup winners included Master Giant and Kantarn Bale. While like Highly Blessed, Bahama Image went on to win an Easter Egg. The race was run over the 440 metres at the old Shepparton Showgrounds until its closure in 2004. One person missing from Saturday nights final was the late Ron Nestor, Nestor had never missed a Shepparton Cup before he passed away in March this year. The Shepparton Club in a fitting gesture conducted a memorial race in his honour as part of the Cup meeting.

1973 **Garner Bin**, 1974 **Morning Glow**, 1975 **Tivashley**, 1976 **Marungi Boy**, 1977 **Near History**, 1978 **Relle Louise**, 1979 **Mannerism**, 1980 **Proven Bold**, 1981 **First Question**, 1982 **Golden Impulse**, 1983 **Blue Echo**, 1984 **Blitzem Bill**, 1985 **Thorgil Magic**, 1986 **Thorgil Magic**, 1987 **Nan's Pal**, 1988 **Fantasy Boy**, 1989 **Pure Talent**, 1990 **Highly Blessed**, 1991 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1992 **Master Giant**, 1993 **Head Honcho**, 1994 **Thorgil Tex**, 1995 **Hanson Diamond**, 1996 **Bahama Image**, 1997 **World Title**, 1998 **Ashigga**, 1999 **Star Of Mine**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale**, 2001 **Salong Bale**, 2002 **Knockabout Wok**, 2003 **Puzzle Prize**, 2004 **Whisky Assassin**.

For more information please contact:

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

**Donna Summers**  
**AGRA Executive Officer**  
**Tel: 02 96465711**  
**Mob: 0414 524 907**