



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**19th February 2007**

### **Slater was awesome, Train A Journey brilliant and Miss Grub at her very best!**

The 2007 Sky Channel Australian Cup Carnival offering \$600,00 in prizemoney got underway last Saturday night with a spectacular night of action featuring the three invitational Group 2 races over the Meadows three distances of 525m, 600m and 725m.

It was night one of the MGRA's three-week greyhound racing extravaganza (February 17 - March 3) featured the 'best of the best' with the three features honouring champions of yesteryear.

The nation's premier speedsters went tete-a-tete in the \$50,000-to-the-winner The Temlee (525m).

And it was wunderkind Slater – hailed the sport's "next big thing" – who defeated a star-studded field.

Named after Kelly Slater, an eight-time world surfing champion, Slater wiped out his rivals with another great racetrack ride.

Slater (\$3.30) defeated Cromlah Bale (\$17.20) by two and a half lengths, with Betty's Angel (\$2.30 fav) one and three-quarter lengths away third in 29.87.

Then followed: Meticulous (\$17.10), Big Time Max (\$6.50), Pure Burst (\$41.50), Jaimandy Coops (\$7.80) and Vapour Whirl (\$29.90).

Trained by Darren Murray, Slater has now won four Group races. He also won last year's Group 2 Shepparton Cup and Group 2 The Great Chase, and this year's Group 1 National Derby. He was also a finalist in this year's Group 1 Silver Chief.

Owned by Robert Jackson, who was diagnosed with leukaemia last July, Slater has started on 20 occasions for 14 wins, two seconds and one third. He also holds the Bendigo 430-metre and Shepparton 450-metre track records. His stake earnings have sky rocketed in recent weeks to \$195,545.

Calkendren respite service in Ballarat is riding the crest of a wave courtesy of Slater.

A division of Scope, Calkendren was matched to Slater in the annual The Great Chase series late last year and, as a result of the youngster winning the event, the respite service earns 10% of Slater's prize money for 12 months.

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The 2006 The Great Chase series attracted 90 groups that cater for the physically and intellectually disabled, and matched them to greyhounds that competed in the series. The greyhounds raced for prize money for the groups.

Slater's win in The Temlee bumped Calkendren's earnings from Slater up to \$14,500.

And only last week, Australia's premier greyhound stud, Triple Crown Lodge – situated in Londonderry, NSW – purchased a 50% share in Slater for a "substantial undisclosed sum".

The Temlee became part of the Australian Cup Carnival in 2003 listed are the past winners.

2003 **Excite Ability**, 2004 **Hotline Hero**, 2005 **Paua To Burn** and 2006 **Closing Argument**.



Slater outstanding in the "Temlee"

(All Pics Paul Munt)

## THE ZOOM TOP

The Group Two Zoom Top over the distance of 725 metres assembled a classy group of form stayers considering it unfortunately suffered a direct clash with the NCA Gold Cup final in Sydney.

Star stayer Miss Grub took out the \$30,000 winner's purse in brilliant fashion. After beginning well and racing in third position for the first lap punters wanted to be on the in form stayer a noted drop out and come home performer she was a "certainty" in running, racing away for another big win.

Prepared by Kelvyn & Jackie Greenough, while racing in Victoria Miss Grub snared her second Group race victory in just over two weeks, having taken out the \$25,000-to-the-winner Group 2 Maidment Memorial at Sandown Park on February 1.

Miss Grub (\$2.50F) defeated Flashing Floods (\$2.70) by seven and a half lengths, with Dosses Angel (\$14.40) three and a half lengths away third in 42.38 – the equal fourth fastest time ever on the circuit.

The rest of the field in finishing order followed 4<sup>th</sup> Sargent Major (\$7.20), 5<sup>th</sup> Rocky (\$35.30), 6<sup>th</sup> Glen Abbey Doll (\$49.80), 7<sup>th</sup> Itza Bee (\$8.40) and Ronray Dancer (\$26.00).

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## **Another Group win for Miss Grub**

Miss Grub is raced by Charlie Northfield, she is a black bitch whelped November '03 by Solve The Puzzle from Arenia Miss (Star Title x Brindle County). Her career stats stand at 63 starts for 15 wins and 27 placings and with the first prize of \$30,000 for the Zoom Top her prizemoney earnings went to \$121,690.

Miss Grub is in career best form and goes into next weeks heats of the Group One Gleeson and Tonta as the greyhound to beat.

Listed below are the past winners of the Zoom Top.

2003 **Tears Of Jupiter**, 2004 **Irinka Barbie**, 2005 **Rocky** and 2006 **Slick Galore**.

## **THE ROOKIE REBEL**

The versatile Train A Journey was in the express lane collecting a \$25,000 first prize in The Rookie Rebel (600m).

Last year, Train A Journey won the Group 1 Maturity Classic and was a finalist in the Group 1 Topgun (2<sup>nd</sup>), Group 1 Hobart Thousand (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Group 1 Melbourne Cup (5<sup>th</sup>). He was also a finalist in this year's Group 1 Adelaide Cup (5<sup>th</sup>).

All the above are blue riband sprint events but, in a masterstroke, trainer John Galea recently stepped him up to the middle distance.

Perfectly drawn in box one he jumped straight to the front and was never in danger on his favourite track he may have tired a little at the end but had enough in hand to win the feature.

Train A Journey (\$1.70F) defeated Indian Larry (\$27.40) by two and three-quarter lengths, with Quidame (\$11.20) a half length away third in 34.44.

He will go back to the 525 distance to compete in the heats of the Australian Cup next week.

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## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The rest of the field finishing in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Jinderra Flame (\$10.40), 5<sup>th</sup> Andy Palmer (\$7.80), 6<sup>th</sup> Spring Gladiator (\$19.70), 7<sup>th</sup> Urana Shiraz (\$21.50) and Cash Up (\$7.20).

Train A Journey is raced by Steve Karlusic & Andrew Marth and trained by John Galea, he is a Black & White dog whelped April '04 by Primo Uno from Currency Tears (Golden Currency x Mepunga Tears). His career stats stand at 34 starts for 18 wins and six placings and with the first prize of \$25,000 for the Rookie Rebel his prizemoney earnings went to \$168,520.



**Train A Journey impressive in the Rookie Rebel**

Listed below are the past winners of the Rookie Rebel.

2003 **No Shame**, 2004 **Shamira Bale**, 2005 **Malfoy** and 2006 **Paua To Burn**.

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