



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shima's Swansong

By Michael Floyd Racing & Media Manager SGRC

Shima Song's finest race track performance is also her last with connections immediately announcing her retirement following her brilliant all of the way victory in tonight's group 2 McKenna Memorial.

Race favourite and five-time group 1 winner Fanta Bale began beautifully from box three however Shima Song (\$8.10), drawn ideally in box 1, took full advantage of her rails draw to push through and lead through the first turn. The pair was joined by Bella Shima as they cleared away from the chasing pack down the back straight.

Positions remained unchanged as they charged through the driving rain, but as they turned for home Shima Song rolled off the fence and Fanta Bale switched to the rails. It set up a thrilling run to the line with Bella Shima chiming in down the middle of the track but Shima Song refused to buckle and held on record a memorable victory. Just a length separating the placegetters as they crossed the line.



"She's the nicest girl, you couldn't get a better dog," said handler George Dailly.

"She always tries hard and to hold off a dog like Fanta Bale is a huge effort."

The win was Shima Song's 28th in 66 career starts and the \$40,000 first prize catapulted her career earnings to \$288,475. She has also been placed on 21 occasions throughout her remarkably consistent career which began more than 18 months ago, the last 12 months of which have seen her racing exclusively in top grade. Dailly believes that consistency is testament to her outstanding attitude and will to work.

"She goes out and works and does exactly what she needs to do. She does everything, she's just beautiful."

It was a sentiment echoed by Shima Song's elated owner and breeder, David Gleeson, who had identified her as a talent very early in her education.

"She was an incredible dog, you'd open the back of the boxes and she'd run in. She was always down at the front and she'd fly out, you saw it tonight she began like a rocket. She very rarely misses the start," he said.

"I thought down the back they'd start to take ground off her but they didn't. The two strongest dogs in the field were sitting behind her and for her to show that toughness was so thrilling. I'm thrilled to bits."

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Gleeson also bred the third-place getter Bella Shima who is a half-sister to the winner, and also raced their mother Shimaguni, a group 3 winner that finished fourth in this race in 2011. Claiming the club's premier 595m event was a special thrill for the long time Sandown director who breeds and races his greyhounds in partnership with good friend Bob Cummings.

"He will be absolutely over the moon. He couldn't come down tonight because he won't leave the dogs at home on their own. He's the best man in Australia when it comes to the handling of young dogs, there's no one better. I'm sure that Bob will be thrilled to the back teeth."

Despite only recently turning three years of age and racing in the best form of her career, Gleeson was certain that was the last time we'll see her on the track. A home on the couch beckons before embarking on a breeding career.

"I wanted her to go out on a high. We'll ease her out of the racing kennel and give her the rest that she deserves. I'm sure she'll produce a few winners because she's a faultless dog."

Later in the evening, Worm Burner returned to Sandown Park for the first time since a career threatening stomach muscle injury and reminded all why he's regarded as one of the country's most exciting chasers. Despite finding trouble throughout the run, Worm Burner pushed his way between runners to claim his 43rd career victory and take his career prize money beyond \$350,000.

After Bruce Tycoon the runners in the field finished in the following order 2nd Fanta Bale (\$2.00, 3rd Bella Shima (\$6.90) 4th Dundee Osprey (\$11.10), 5th Zipping Hawk (\$19.10), 6th Midnight Elsa (\$5.40) 7th Cheese Ya Later (\$31.20) and 8th She's Got Grace (\$20.10).



Shima Song is a Black bitch whelped May 2014 by Dyna Tron from Shimaguni (Primo Uno x Messines). Shima Song is raced by David Gleeson & Bob Cummings and trained by Andrea Dailly at Corio in Victoria. She has raced 66 times for 28 wins and 21 placings. After adding the \$40,000 first prize for the McKenna her stake earnings stand at \$288,475.

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 it starts with National Distance Champ Saki Dasher trained by Aussie Rules superstar Bob Pratt and includes recent winners, another superstar Xylia Allen, 2015 winner Lady Toy and last year's winner Bruce Tycoon. The race has been conducted over 595 since 2010. Prior to that the staying event was conducted over the 700 and the list has some of the best stayers of all time.

1971 **Saki Dasher**, 1972 **Binica**, 1973 **Lizrene**, 1974 **Audio**, 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**, 2006 **Token Arrow**, 2007 **Miss Grub**, 2008 **Fallen Zorro**, 2009 **Mantra Lad**, 2010 **Flash Of Light**, 2011 **Strong Intention**, 2012 **Irma Bale**, 2013 **Proven Impala**, 2014 **Xylia Allen**, 2015 **Lady Toy** and 2016 **Bruce Tycoon**.

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