



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 18 August 2017

### **GRV Media Release - Fanta Bale named Victorian Greyhound of the Year**

Fanta Bale has capped off a remarkable year after being crowned 2016/17 Victorian Greyhound of the Year at tonight's Victorian Greyhound Awards.

The title went to the Robert Britton-trained champion based on her performance over the racing year, as judged by the Victorian Greyhound of the Year panel.

The five-time Group One winner had an outstanding year, making history by becoming the first greyhound to win at Group One level over the sprint, middle and staying distances, with victories in the Hume Cup (600m), Rookie Rebel (600m), Australian Cup (525m), Sandown Cup (725m) and the Gold Cup (710m) in Brisbane.

Tonight, she edged out a number of outstanding contenders including multiple group race winners Dundee Osprey, Lightning Frank, Striker Light and Zambora Brockie to take out the 2017 award.

Striker Light was awarded Sprinter of the Year and Fanta Bale Stayer of the Year.

It was a big night for Lara trainer Robert Britton who received the Metropolitan Trainer of the Year Award as well as the Ned Bryant Award for outstanding achievement in the training, breeding, welfare or promotion of greyhound racing.

Provincial Trainer of the Year went to Anakie trainer Andrea Dailly who received the Provincial and Metropolitan titles last year.

Veteran race-caller Ron Hawkswell was awarded the Ken Carr Medal for outstanding achievement in the training, breeding, welfare or promotion of greyhound racing. The medal is considered the highest award for excellence within the Victorian greyhound racing industry.

Three new inductees into the Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) Hall of Fame were announced during the night – the late Jan Wilson OAM (former GRV chairman), Barry Smith (breeder) and former Australian Greyhound of the Year El Grand Senor.

The GRV Welfare Award went to owner-trainers Narelle and Kevin Podmore. This award, first presented in 2016, recognises outstanding contribution to the welfare of greyhounds and is judged by GRV's Board of Directors.

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### **FANTA BALE SNAPSHOT**

**Breeding:** August 2014 David Bale – UCME Typhoon

**Breeder/owner:** Paul Wheeler (Boorowa, NSW)

**Trainer:** Robert Britton (Lara VIC): 35 starts, 21-4-5

**Best wins:** Sandown Cup, Australian Cup, Hume Cup

**2016/17 Prize money:** \$785,175

**Record during 2016/17 racing year:** 35 starts, 21-4-5

\*Visit the GRV website for more information about the selection criteria and judging panel: [2016/17 Victorian Greyhound Awards](#).

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**For media inquiries please contact: Luke Holmesby** | Public Affairs Manager, Strategic Communication and Marketing | 0478 473 570 | [lholmesby@grv.org.au](mailto:lholmesby@grv.org.au) |