



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 23 May 2017

### **GRV Media Release – Excitement builds for world’s richest staying race**

The world’s richest staying race for greyhounds, the Group One RSN Sandown Cup, will be held this Thursday night.

And for the first time in the club’s history, Sandown will host three Group One races in one meeting, carrying more than half a million dollars in prize money.

Held over 715 metres, the Sandown Cup carries \$250,000 in prize money.

\$1.90 favourite Burn One Down is one of three runners from the Thompson kennel set to run in the Cup and will jump from box one.

With a growing following, Burn One Down is two starts back after two months on the sidelines following a hock injury and has returned in fine form, taking out the Group Three race callers and his heat of the Sandown Cup in his trademark come-from-behind racing style.

Burn One Down’s kennel mate Trip To Eden has drawn box five and is aiming for a Group One treble but the real excitement is with a third kennel mate youngster Midnight Elsa who is the least experienced Sandown Cup finalist on record with just five starts (three wins and two placings).

Pakenham South trainer Geoff Scott-Smith continues to live the hobby trainer’s dream with his greyhounds Dundee Osprey and Dundee Calypso. Scott-Smith owns, breeds and trains the talented duo who have made it through to one of Victoria’s elite races.

Dundee Osprey is no stranger to group racing having been in top company for more than 12 months and in that time claiming victory in the Group One Sale Cup and Group One Topgun.

Lara trainer Robert Britton has litter mates Fanta Bale and Brolly Bale engaged in the 2017 RSN Sandown Cup but it is Fanta Bale who is creating a lot of interest from punters and race goers alike.

Fanta Bale is aiming to become the first greyhound to win a group one race over all three distances. If Fanta Bale is to win the Sandown Cup she will surpass the mighty Miata in prize money standings.

West Australian based Teddy Monelli, trained by David Hobby is the only interstate contender set to take part in the race.

The Sapphire Crown (restricted to female greyhounds only) and the Harrison-Dawson (for male greyhounds only), round out an amazing night of greyhound racing on Thursday night at Sandown Park.



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Trainer Robert Britton, who has Fanta Bale and Brolly Bale in the RSN Sandown Cup, has representatives in each group one events with Flyrite and Call Me Gee in the Sapphire and the peoples dog Bruce Tycoon for the Harrison-Dawson.

The Sapphire Crown will see Striker Light and Up Hill Jill meet for the fifth occasion in a group final but 14<sup>th</sup> occasion overall. Striker Light leads the head-to-head battle (four wins to two) but Up Hill Jill defeated Striker Light in the Laurels.

The TAB has Striker Light who is trained by Brett Bravo, as a \$3 favourite for the Group One Sapphire Crown.

The Harrison-Dawson will see another Thompson trained greyhound in Bewildering jump from box one as \$1.60 favourite. Bewildering is emerging as the sports next rising star after he won the Group Two Warrnambool Classic and the Group Three Speed Star.

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