

## Media Release

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### **Gold Rush Carnival still proving popular**

The Bendigo Gold Rush Carnival continues to prove popular and the 11th staging of the seven meeting carnival was yet another successful event both on and off the track with impressive attendances, outstanding entries in both quality and quantity and spirited betting activity.

The flagship event of the carnival, the K9 Racers Syndication Gold Rush Maiden unearthed a potential star or two as always with the final taken out in emphatic fashion by Zoltina's Legacy for Andrea Chapple.

The son of former top Bendigo sprinter Sir Prize won his heat in a slick 23.83 in windy conditions before a devastating semi final win in 23.68. On the back of those performances Zoltina's Legacy was sent to the boxes a \$2.30 favourite and after a moderate beginning the black sprinter showed tremendous acceleration to take the lead into the first turn and he quickly put pay to his rivals to set up a commanding victory.

Stopping the clock at 23.73 with a seven length margin, Zoltina's Legacy scored one of the more impressive Gold Rush maiden final victories in the eleven year history of the event and stamped himself as a special greyhound in the making while pocketing the \$10,000 winners prize.

The BGRA's richest race outside of the Bendigo Cup is the Topcat Video Productions Stayers Cup that offered the winner of the 2015 run off a cool \$12,000. Despite only being conducted three times previously the event is fast becoming a race of the highest quality with group stayers Irma Bale and Proven Impala winning the event in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

In 2015 several talented stayers lined up but it was the Joe Borg trained Ralphy Cinel who proved too good from the inside draw to add the Bendigo Stayers Cup to the recent Group 3 Big Dog Cup at Albion Park to the trophy cabinet and give Joe Borg his second win in the event.

As has become the case in recent years the restricted win series' during the carnival attracted plenty of interest and aside from a \$3,000 winners cheque this years victors also received a free service to first season sire Spud Regis.

In the girls run off, the Spud Regis Belle of Bendigo, Kialla trained sprinter Dime showed her liking for the wide draw to take out the final from box eight, the same box she exited to secure her place in the final.

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The Mclvor Road Vet Clinic Beau of Bendigo for the male sprinters was taken out by exciting prospect Awesome Cove for Malcolm Hirtzel who took his record to five wins from nine career starts with four of those victories at Bendigo.

The Railway Station Hotel Easter Cup was the main 500m feature of the Carnival and it was taken out impressively by the longest priced winner on the card in Dundee Toro for Pakenham trainer Geoffrey Scott-Smith. Bouncing straight to the front from box five Dundee Toro's victory was never in doubt and he pocketed \$3000 for connections and earned those who took the \$16 some Easter holiday spending money as well.

This year was the first Gold Rush Carnival that did not include the Bendigo Cup and the response has been pleasing for the Club that now has two carnivals to promote both on and off the track and the 2015 results ensure that the Gold Rush Carnival is as strong as ever and the Club is already planning for some significant promotions for the 2016 Easter festival.