



**Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association Inc.**  
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## **Media Release**

### **Gold Rush Carnival still going strong**

*24<sup>th</sup> April 2019*



Established 2005

The Gold Rush Carnival is over for another year but already planning is underway for the 2020 version as the carnival continues to stand the test of time and prove popular both on and off the track.

Seven race meetings, 83 races, 580 starters, five feature races, two social events and nearly 150 kids among a big Easter Sunday crowd in attendance on the finals day combined to make the 2019 Gold Rush Carnival a success.

The annual Memorial Night, honouring the stalwarts and servants of the club that are no longer with us saw 100 relatives and friends of the memorial night honourees in attendance and kicked off the Easter weekend with a fantastic night.

Easter Saturday night was life members and awards night with local trainer Barbara Breen rounding out an extremely successful 2018 taking out both the Greyhound of the Year (Weetbix Mini) and Trainer of The Year awards – an achievement that is both rare and outstanding.

The Carnival concluded on Easter Sunday with five feature races in front of a large crowd with the kids on track enjoying the activities and events of the day that included magic shows, juggling acts, Easter egg hunt, sports activities, face painting, the Transformers and the junior handler competition.

On the track the racing promised to be top notch with the quality of the fields assembled and it did not disappoint. First up was the Ag Tyres & Wheels Easter Cup, full of outstanding sprinters over the 500m trip including group 1 placegetter Degani, speed machine Hennessy Venom and local sprinter Militant Spirt and Extra Gear. At box rise where it counts it was the Kerry Houlahan trained Henessey Venom that exploded out of the boxes as he did the week prior to never be headed in an all the way 27.95 victory.



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The Aussie Infrared Belle Of Bendigo was next to be decided with brilliant heat winners Barinya and Rothwell Gal dominating the betting. After Barinya set the early pace it was Rothwell Gal that capitalised on some interference up front to rail through and post 23.95 in her 4<sup>th</sup> win from five starts at the track for trainer John Magri.

Next up was the Mclvor Road Vet Centre Beau of Bendigo and Brooke Ennis' Inkling was sent to the boxes as the favourite just ahead of Tickle My Fancy and Havelock Keith and he proved too strong for his opposition impressively scoring in 23.80.

The flagship of the Carnival is the Jarrod Larkin Concreting Gold Rush Maiden and a field of promising youngsters lined up for the \$10,000 to the winner final with speedsters Reggie Keeping, Extra Speed and Fearless the punters elects ahead of the strong Zipping Magda.

Extra Speed flew the lids to lead in flying sections on 6.44 and 11.28 however after finding the rails early and driving through the inside into the first turn and on the side it was Zipping Magda for Ricky Coleman that was to take out the rich final proving too strong for her opposition and powering to the line as she did in her semi final win to score in 23.76 from Extra Speed with one of the bolters of the field Paz in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Zipping Magda capped off a big weekend for NSW breeders and owners Martin and Fiona Hallinan who claimed the Golden Easter at Wentworth Park the night before with Zipping Bailey.

The final feature of the day, the Grays Bendigo Stayers Cup, is the BGRGA's richest staying race of the year with a first prize of \$12,000 and again the quality of the field ensured a great spectacle headed by Group 1 winner Black Impala and local staying talent Apex Within.

In the end it was Apex Within that continued his love affair with the Bendigo track and the magnificent run of late for Toolleen trainer Rod Clark taking out the Stayers Cup in a slick 37.71 to make it five wins from five outings over the 660m trip at the track.

The BGRGA's focus now heads to June and July with the annual Give Me 5 For Kids promotion including Girl's Night Out on June 1<sup>st</sup> and Cheer The 5 For Kids for the month of June followed by the Triple M Bendigo Cup Carnival on June 28, 30 and July 5 featuring the Group 2 Triple M Bendigo Cup and Hip Pocket Bendigo Cup.



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*The BGR thanks the following Gold Rush Carnival sponsors for their wonderful and much appreciated support...*

