



MEDIA RELEASE
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Xylia Allen wins the AGRA 2013-2014
Australian Greyhound Of The Year Award

At a gala AGRA Awards night held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle, West Australia the Australian Greyhound Racing Association last Friday night announced Xylia Allen the winner of the 2013-2014 AGRA Australian Greyhound of the Year.

It was a night of nights on the National scene with Delegates and club members coming together from all over Australia to celebrate the AGRA Awards night.

It was the second time the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association, has hosted the Awards night back in March 2010 they staged the event on the inside of their Cannington Complex under the stars in a most unique night. This year led by CEO David Hobbs and his extremely competent team, hosted the Awards night which now takes place with the National Championships in August each year. It was another night to remember and a glittering affair in one of West Australia's most historic area's Fremantle. Each State that has staged the event since 2006, have gone to great lengths to put on an outstanding show, with the WAGRA no exception.

New South Wales owned & Victorian trained all distance sensation Xylia Allen won the Greyhound the Year. She defeated Victorian owned and trained sprinter Black Magic Opal and New South Wales owned and Victorian trained Paw Licking.

The winner was selected by panel of judges consisting of administrators and media representatives from each state plus a group of national media representatives from Print, Radio and Television. The panel was asked to allocate votes 3, 2 and 1 to the three finalists in order of each judge's preference in a secret vote.

Accepting the award from AGRA's CEO Howard Ashton owner Jan Wheeler, remarked on what a fantastic experience it had been for the Wheeler family following the fortunes of Xylia Allen throughout the year. Xylia Allen had travelled far and wide competing in both sprint and distance group events throughout the year thrilling crowds where ever she racing and had truly become the sports pin up girl with enormous popularity particularly in her home state of Victoria where she did most of her racing.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Listed below are Xylia Allen's achievements during 2013-2014.

XYLIA ALLEN

(April 2011 Black Bitch (Turanza Bale – Tayah Bale)

Race starts: 2013-2014: 37 – 18 wins, 3 seconds, 8 thirds.

Owner: Paul Wheeler.

Trainer: Jenny Hunt (Lara, Victoria)

Winner: Group 1 National Sprint Championship; Group 1 Albion Park Gold Cup.

Finalist: Group 1 Winter Cup (3rd); Group 1 Top Gun (3rd); Group 1 Brisbane Cup(4th);

Group 1 Rookie Rebel (5th); Group 2 Bob Payne (2nd); Group 2 Geelong Cup (4th);

Group 3 SA Oaks (3rd).

Total Career Prizemoney: \$701,375.



The previous winners of the AGRA Australian Greyhound of the Year are 2002 **Boomeroo**, 2003 **Bombastic Shiraz**, 2004 **Whisky Assassin**, 2005 **Pure Octane**, 2006 **Betty's Angel**, 2007 **Flashing Floods**, 2008 **El Galo**, 2009 **Cindeen Shelby**, 2010 **El Grand Senior**, 2011 **Dyna Tron**, 2012 **Miata** and 2012-2013 **Miata**.

Earlier in the night under the sterling guidance of MC Catching Pen host and Sky's very own Dave Carlson the AGRA announced the other award winners in the following categories.

2013-2014 Brood Bitch of the Year was Tayah Bale

Paul Wheeler accepted the award on behalf of his family. Tayah Bale won with 41 points from Grey's Destini 35, Princess Bale 31, Kingsbrae Di 31, Tally Bale and Midnight Flare 28.

2013-2014 Sire of the Year was Where's Pedro

Darren McDonald on behalf of Tony Lockett accepted the award.

Where's Pedro won with 1247 points from Collision 958, Bombastic Shiraz 956, Cosmic Rumble 508 and Surf Lorian 506.

2013-2014 Run of the Year went to Sweet It Is for her outstanding performance coming from a hopeless position in the Group 1 Association Cup. She ran down front runner Xylia Allen in the home straight to win the Group 1 at Wentworth Park in April. She was nominated in both April and May during the year.

Sweet It Is' Victorian part owner and trainer Darren McDonald accepted the award.

The Run Of the Year was determined from the 12 runs of the month, then by a vast panel of judges from each state. This year some 32 people cast their opinion in the nationwide poll deciding a clear cut victory to the performance of Sweet It Is while special mentions were given to the efforts of Dyna Nalin and Double Twist.

2013-2014 Trainer of the Year was Darren McDonald

Darren was on hand to accept the award. It was clearly acknowledged what an extraordinary year Darren McDonald had had in 2013-2014. He trained the following Group winners. Group 1 Perth Cup (Keybow), Sandown Cup (Sweet It Is), Association Cup (Sweet It Is). Group 2 winners Harrison-Dawson (Awesome Project) and WA Derby (Tiggerlong Amigo). Darren also trained the Group 3 Darwin Cup winner (Take It All) plus the listed Ultra Sense and Melbourne Cup Night Sprint winner Awesome Project. He had placed runners in another six group race finals. His total first prizemoney for the winning Group races was \$585,000. It was another remarkable feat by the training icon. Darren has now won the award twice after previously being judged the winner in 2010.

The trainer of year is determined after nominations are put forward to the AGRA CEO's who cast votes at a meeting held in July.

The panel takes into account a number of different aspects of the training side of things it included. Group wins, and finalists, State city wins, number of runners and dogs in work, percentage per runners ect.

The Hall of Fame Inductee was as follows:

Stud Dog – Tell You Why - Legendary Race dog and Sire in the USA of the 60's.

Winner Harold Park Classic in Australia

Winner Bi-Annual Classic in Australia.

No. 1 Sire in USA 1967, 1968.

USA Breeding Guru Gary Guccione once said. Ask any breeder who he considers the most influential sire in the U.S. chances are Tell You Why* will be mentioned, 9 out of 10 times.

It is solely for his contribution as a sire that he was inducted into the Greyhound Hall of Fame in 1978. Born in Australia, he was from the second mating of the famed Rocket Jet-Gorgeous Babe cross. After winning the Harold Park Classic and the Bi-Annual Classic in Australia he was imported to America by H.W. Shugart, who was also inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Tell You Why* became the sire champion in 1967 and 1968. Seven of his offspring were All-Americans. Among the most illustrious sons and daughters were Westy Whizzer, Cactus Lonesome, Hoefer, Trap Rock, Runyon's Genius, Tell Tom, Spec Harmony, Agreed Upon, Scatty, Westy Colonel, Miss Gorgeous and Cactus Nancy.

The line Tell You Why* can be found in the pedigrees of the 1990s top stars and producers including: Downing, Understood, Perceive, Barry Lyndon, Nicky Finn, My Unicorn, Dutch Bahama, Unruly, Jock's Warrior, Oshkosh Racey, PK's Jet, Dark Rumor, Onie Jones, K's Flak, Mi Designer, Placid Ace, HB's Commander, Rooster Cogburn, Rooster's Spur, Highway Robber, Night Gent, Sand Man, Whisper Wishes (Ireland), Oshkosh Champ and many, many more.

The Award was accepted by New South Wales breeding expert Dennis Wyndham. Dennis was instrumental in providing information and awareness to the deeds of Tell You Why to the AGRA Committee.

It concluded a fantastic night which is sure to be repeated next year in August, in Sydney for the 2015 version of AGRA's National Championships, Greyhound of the Year, Annual meeting and Conference.



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