



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**6th May 2014**

# **AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH APRIL 2014 “TONK”**

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for April 2014 is talented Victorian trained, sprinter Tonk. In April the brilliant speedster won his first Group 1 event when he beat an outstanding field assembled for the Golden Easter Egg final on April 15th.



**Tonk charges away with the Egg (Pic GRNSW Website)**

Tonk bounced back from a confidence destroying fall in early November to win NSW's biggest race.

Owned in Victoria by Charlie Mercieca and his wife and parents, Tonk took advantage of a first turn collision between pacemakers Buckle Up Wes and Magic Display to zoom away with the \$250,000 winner's cheque.

After the race Victorian trainer Jamie Ennis, whose father Gary was also a leading trainer, revealed that Tonk had lost form after a heavy tumble at The Meadows in November.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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"It took a while for Tonk to regain his confidence in a field," Jamie said.

Owner Charlie Mercieca is also a trainer but said: "I'm on a suburban block and while I have trained dogs for 15 years I can only manage two or three at a time.

"I trained Tonk originally after securing him on advice from Jamie Ennis that the Bartrim Bale progeny were going to be good." I wanted to call the dog Tonic, and that was the name I applied for, but when I got the papers back it was Tonk.

"I didn't worry about it and now the name has grown on me, I think it is really catchy."

Tonk also won his semi-final of the Easter Egg on April 12<sup>th</sup> after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in his heat on April 5<sup>th</sup>. His next mission is in a heat of the Group 2 Harrison-Dawson at Sandown on May 8<sup>th</sup> with the final a week later worth \$100,000 to the winner on May 15.

Tonk is raced by the Striptease Syndicate and is trained by Brooke Ennis at Lara in Victoria. By Bartrim Bale form Couлта Gold (Bombastic Shiraz x Couлта Tess). He is a Fawn Dog whelped October 2011 he has won 11 of his 26 starts and has been placed on 10 occasions his current stake earnings stand at \$293,810.

The month of April has seen 11 group races decided. Tonk beat the other Group 1 winner Sweet It Is and a number of high class Group 2 winners for the monthly award.

AGRA congratulates owners the Striptease Syndicate, trainer Brooke Ennis and Tonk on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for April. He joins the January winner Iona Seven, February winner Keybow, and March winner Buckle Up Wes as the Greyhounds of the Month for 2014.

For more information please contact:

**Neil Brown**  
**AGRA Publicity Officer**  
**Tel: 03 97691234**  
**Mob: 0423 129 950**  
[nbrown@agra.com.au](mailto:nbrown@agra.com.au)

**Howard Ashton**  
**AGRA Executive Officer**  
**Tel: 08 8243 7100**  
**Mob: 0438 042 838**