



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH – JANUARY 2013 “SHEIKHA”**

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for January 2013 is brilliant New South Wales sprinter Seikha. In January the talented Seikha won the heat and final of the Group 1 Paws of Thunder at Wentworth Park.



**Sheikha winning her heat of the Paws of Thunder (Pic Courtesy GRNSW)**

Master trainer John Finn landed his second Group 1 Centrebet Paws Of Thunder, when he guiding Sheikha to victory in the \$100,000 to-the-winner showpiece.

Going into the race off a slashing 29.93 heat triumph – the first time she had really displayed exemplary box manners – the daughter of Collision and I'm Exceptional repeated the dose in the final.

Carving out sections of 5.46 and 13.91, Sheikha – one of only two runners in the final not to have had 20 starts – went on to win in 29.84.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Owned in partnership by Sky Channel personality Peter Davis and Greyhound Recorder Chief Journalist Gerard Guthrie, along with Guthrie's good friend Anthony Lyons, the regally-bred Sheikha is a graduate of the 2011 Dapto Puppy Auction.

Before last Saturday week's performance Sheikha had proven to be somewhat of an enigma for Finn, despite boasting a terrific record of five wins and six placings from the 15 starts.

In many ways Finn's training performance with Sheikha over the past fortnight confirmed what we already knew: that there is none better with a collar and lead than the Cranebrook-based mentor.

At the presentation, Davis described Finn as the "Bart Cummings of greyhound racing" – a most fitting accolade given his knack for coming up with the goods on the big occasions time and time again.

Sheikha next start in a semi-final of the Group 1 National Futurity at the Gardens, she has drawn box one and should prove hard to beat. With only two semi-finals she looks certain to make through to next week's final her second Group 1 in a month.

Sheikha is Black Bitch whelped September '10 she is by Collision from I'm Exceptional (Exceptional x Double Guess). She is raced by the Gerard Guthrie, Anthony Lyons and Peter Davis. She is trained by John Finn at Cranebrook in New South Wales. The Group 1 Paws Of Thunder win took his record to 19 starts for eight wins and six placings and prizemoney earnings of \$117,920.

The month of January has seen a number group races decided. Sheika beat Group 1 winner Renegade Chief. Plus group 2 winners Nitro Cee, Irma Bale, Cintiarna and Free Will for the monthly award.

AGRA congratulates the owners Gerard Guthrie, Anthony Lyons and Peter Davis, trainer John Finn and Sheikha on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for January 2013.

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**  
[hashton@agra.com.au](mailto:hashton@agra.com.au)