



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**1st August 2015**

# **AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH JULY 2015**

## **“FERNANDO BALE”**

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for the third consecutive month is outstanding New South Wales owned, Victorian trained sprinter Fernando Bale.

The Superstar won his fifth Group 1 with another outstanding performance this time in the Maturity Classic at the Meadows on July 25. To add cream to his efforts this month he also won the Group 2 Bendigo Cup after setting a track record in the heats. Just to finish the month off last Thursday night in appalling conditions at Sandown he won his heat of the Group 1 National Sprint again in the fastest time of the night 29.34.



**Fernando Bale wins the Maturity his fifth Group 1 in 2015 action (Pic Clint Anderson)**

In the Maturity final the white and brindle star flew out of the boxes, showing his customary early dash to set a new first split record of 4.89, with his dominance in full display. The champ extended his lead down the back, stopping the clock at a dazzling 17.37 – one length quicker than his former second split record.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

---

Turning for home, Fernando Bale had his seventh Group win of 2015 sewn up, finishing five and a quarter lengths clear of kennelmate Dyna Double One, while Margins ran home strongly for third.

“I don’t like saying it but he is the greatest we’ve had,” said George Dailly, brother-in-law of trainer Andrea Dailly, after Fernando Bale’s 25th win from just 31 starts.

The son of American sire Kelsos Fusileer and Chloe Allen is now the second highest prizemoney earner in Australia – an incredible feat considering the greyhound is still just 28 months of age.

Comparisons with the greats of our sport – including Zoom Top, Rapid Journey and Brett Lee – look to be justified. In a sign of his amazing high-end speed, Fernando Bale now holds first and second sectional records at The Meadows, Sandown Park and second and third split records at Wentworth Park.

Fernando Bale with start odds on this Thursday night in the state final of the National Sprint Championship, he is the highest points scorer on the AGRA Rankings at the end of July, so he only has to compete in the final to take his place in the National Final at Wentworth Park on August 22.

Fernando Road is raced by Paul Wheeler and trained by Andrea Dailly he is a White & Dark Brindle dog whelped March 2013 by Kelos Fusileer from Chloe Bale (Malawi’s Prince x Burgundy Bale). Fernando Bale has won 26 of his 32 starts and has been placed on three occasions his current stake earnings stand at \$796,320.

Only five Group races were decided in the month of July. Given his performances of five runs for four wins including a Group 1 and a Group 2 against absolute top class fields, Fernando Bale was a standout winner for the monthly award. He is the first dog to win on three consecutive occasions since the awards commenced in 2006.

AGRA congratulates owner Paul Wheeler, trainer Andrea Dailly and Fernando Bale on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month award for the third time this year in May, June and July. He joins January winner Dyna Villa, February winner My Bro Fabio, March winner Luca Neveelk and April winner Space Star.

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**