



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

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

## **“LUCA NEVEELK”**

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for March 2015 is outstanding Victorian sprinter Luca Neveelk. The front running chaser scored his first Group 1 victory with an impressive win in the major race for the month the Australian Cup at the Meadows on March 7. In a quite month for group racing the importance of the Australian Cup win was enough to give the popular blue dog the nod as Greyhound of the Month for March.



**Luca Neveelk winning the Australian Cup (Pic Clint Anderson)**

It was four decades in the making, but Gerry and Rose Kleeven finally landed their first Group 1 with their brilliant sprinter Luca Neveelk.

“We’ve been waiting 40 years for this,” Rose quipped after the win, in which the blue sprinter led from start to finish, holding off a determined Quartz Bale by just over half a length in 29.96 with Hostile third.

*Continued on Page 2...*

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

---

The Kleevens' 40 years in greyhound racing has comprised breeding a litter of pups every second year and rearing them up to racing age, before training them.

The Gippsland family have always adhered to the philosophy of quality over quantity, resisting the temptation to breed more heavily even in times when their bloodline was firing and their pups would have been well and truly in demand.

It's a game of patience that resonated well with the hundreds of fans who roared their approval at the post race presentation.

Luca Neveelk was third favourite in betting at \$4.50 behind Lamia Bale (\$4.20) and Quartz Bale (\$4.40), but he was clearly the sentimental favourite.

In fact, so loud were the post-race cheers that MC Rob Testa remarked, "This is undoubtedly one of the most popular winners in Australian Cup history."

Although experienced breeder trainer Gerry Kleeven was as cool as ice in the lead-up to the big race, his calmness was overcome with enormous satisfaction and emotion after the win.

"I thought winning the Geelong Cup and the Ballarat Cup was good...but this is unbelievable."

"I was 99 per cent sure he'd lead and it was always a question of whether he'd hang on."

"He's not a genuine 500m dog, we all know that, but he is so calm and relaxed before and after his races."

"I've never had a dog like him in 40 years. He's so determined and he doesn't like getting beaten."

Luca Neveelk is a Blue dog whelped May 2012 by Talk's Cheap from It's A Neveelk (Nitro Neveelk x Bigbad Leesa). Luca Neveelk is raced Paul Kleeven and was bred & is trained by Gerald & Rose Kleeven at Denison in Victoria. He has raced 37 times for 27 wins and six placings. His current prizemoney stands at \$500,865.

Only four Group races were decided in the month of March. Given the importance of the Australian Cup Luca Neveelk narrowly beat the other Group 1 winner Luna Jinx for the monthly award.

AGRA congratulates owner Paul Kleeven, trainer Gerald Kleeven and Luca Neveelk on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for March. He joins January winner Dyna Villa and February winner My Bro Fabio.

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**