



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH MAY 2016

## “NARRALEE”

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for May is Victorian sprint star Narralee. The incredible rise to fame for a chaser who started the month in the bush and finished it with a Group 1 title.

Narralee started the month of May with back to back wins firstly on May 1 at Sale leading all the way over 520 in a best of the night 29.47. She followed that win with another at Traralgon again never headed, she recorded best of the meeting figures of 30.36.

Nominated for the Group 1 Sapphire Crown heats on May 12 at Sandown Narralee was made a reserve but gained a run in box eight after the scratching of Dash of Rose in heat three.

Making every post a winner she again led all the way for an impressive win in 29.56

In the final a week later Narralee (\$11.80) exploded out of box 2 to lead clearly from the wide running Shared Equity and favourite Folio Bale. As the trio battled for position down the back straight Narralee held her head.

Folio Bale threatened danger turning for home but Narralee held on to win by a head in 29.47. Trainer Steve Creighton was ecstatic post-race in what was his first group 1 win.



Narralee holds on for first Group 1 (All Pics Clint Anderson)

“I don't know what to say – I'm still in shock.”

Narralee was struck down by injury in July of last year and has recovered with the help of one of greyhound racing's most respected trainers.

“When she hurt her achilles and calf muscle I took her to Kel Greenough. He said the options are stem cell treatment, retire her to breed or let her recover naturally. Our first move was to breed with Glen Gallon, unfortunately she missed so we thought we'd let her recover naturally then bring her back to racing.

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On her return to racing she battled to show her customary early speed, but it was a slight change of plan by Creighton that brought her back to her best.

“We thought we’d give her a couple of races at Bendigo – she wasn’t able to keep up with the younger dogs early so I thought we’re going to have to step her up in distance.

“We took her back to our home track (Sale) where she won in best of day time. We then took her to Traralgon and she won in what was her first look at the track. I was impressed by that run so I thought right, we’ll nominate her for the Sapphire Crown. It wasn’t a series we targeted but she was going so well we decided to put her in.”

“I said to the owner (Linda Gray), win lose or draw we’re going to have a go at it.”

Linda Gray and her sons Liam and Jordan were on hand to celebrate the win.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet – when I wake up in the morning I’ll probably think I’m dreaming,” said Gray.

“It’s just not something you think is going to happen – we’re just ordinary people and you never think something like this could happen to people like us.”

The \$100,000 first prize has given Gray the opportunity to fulfill a dream.

“I can now buy myself a brand new car – it’s always been a dream of mine.”

Gray, a single mum and part-time cleaner, planned to continue celebrations the following night at her local RSL.

“When I walk into the RSL with the trophy there’ll be a cheer, there’s a big fan club down there.”

Gray got involved in greyhound racing as a youngster courtesy of her uncle who tragically passed away in a car accident 15 years ago, though hopes he is witnessing the triumph unfold.

“It’s a shame he’s no longer around – I sometimes think he’s up there saying ‘you bloody beauty’.”

Narralee is raced Linda Gray and her sons Liam & Jordan she is trained by Steve Creighton at Giffard West in Victoria, she is a Black bitch whelped January 2013 by Aston Galilee from Prince’s Faye (Shanlyn Prince x Another Nobody). Narralee has won 17 and been placed seven times from her 34 starts and with the \$100,000 first prize for the Sapphire Crown it took her current stake earnings to \$145,080.

AGRA congratulates owner Linda Gray, trainer Steve Creighton and Narralee on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for May 2016. She joints last month’s winner Ima Wagtail, plus the previous months winners Moreira, Dyna Double One and Cash In Motion as the winners so far this year.

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**