



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**12th May 2015**

# **AGRA RUN OF THE MONTH AWARD – APRIL 2015**

## **“FERNANDO BALE”**

The AGRA's Run of the Month for April 2015 has been awarded to sensational sprint talent Fernando Bale for his outstanding performance in winning the Group 1 Golden Easter Egg on a rain affected track at Wentworth Park on April 4th.

Trained by Andrea Dailly, Fernando Bale rocketed over the sloshy track in 29.48, taking .12sec off the race record set by Don't Knocka Him in 2012.



*Fernando Bale in action at Wentworth Park (Pic GRNSW Website)*

The win and run were being compared to some of the best in Easter Egg history, those of Brett Lee, Tenthill Doll and Paua To Burn.

But while Wentworth Park is many lengths faster these days than it was a decade ago, who could argue with Fernando Bale's effort being among the finest.

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# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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The brilliant chaser became only the second dog in history to win the Derby-Easter Egg finals having previously been achieved by Slater in 2007 for Victorian trainer Darren Murray.

The Derby-Egg winner again timed the start to perfection, crouching down with his face against the front of box eight as the lure approached.

“His ability to nail the start is uncanny,” owner Paul Wheeler’s son Brendan said after Saturday’s race.

“Once he settles in the box he is like a statue, he doesn’t move a muscle as he anticipates the lids lifting.”

Since his Run of the Month performance Fernando Bale has made it eight wins in succession with a trio of outstanding performances at Sandown Park recording extraordinary fast times of 29.03, 29.10 and an amazing 28.98 in a heat of the Group 1 Harrison-Dawson last Thursday night. He has drawn box one and looks unbeatable in the final this week. A win would take his prizemoney to over 500 thousand dollars.

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 16 of his 21 starts and has been placed on two occasions his current prizemoney stands at \$417,390.

As usual there were some outstanding runs recorded in April on various tracks around Australia. However given the quality of the field and the way in which Fernando Bale when about the win, he got the nod as the Run of the Month.

AGRA congratulates owner Paul Wheeler, trainer Andrea Dailly and Fernando Bale after being judged the AGRA Run of the Month for April 2015. He joints last month’s winner Quasi Bale and Space Star the winner of the award in both January and February of 2015.

**Checkout the AGRA Website for a replay of the run of the Month**

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 82437100**  
**Mob: 0438 042 838**