

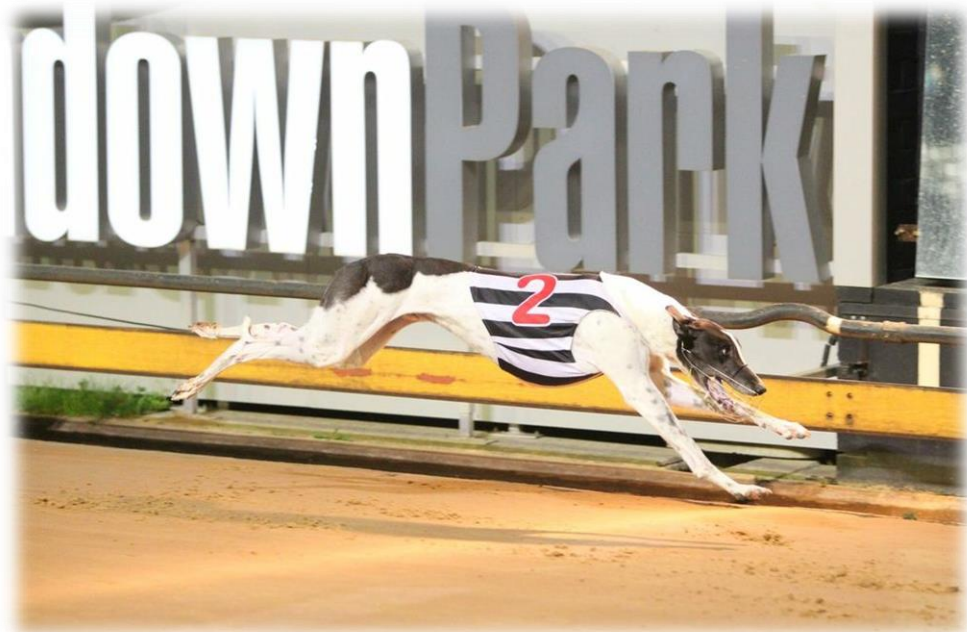


## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**2nd October 2013**

# **AGRA RUN OF THE MONTH AWARD – SEPTEMBER 2013 “BANJO BOY”**

The AGRA's Run of the Month for September 2013 has been awarded to Banjo Boy for his super performance at Sandown Park on September 19<sup>th</sup> when he recoded the extraordinary time of 29.01. The time was the quickest recorded at the city venue since Bekim Bale set the current track record of 28.96 on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2011.



**Banjo Boy in action winning at Sandown in 29.01 (Pic Paul Munt)**

Beginning quickly from box two the race was all over at that point when the white and black son of Vee Man Vane ran five second dead to the first split then raced down the back in second split record time of 18.55. In a hollow victory for the 35kg chaser raced away from Langi Bale to win the Free For All as he liked.

Veteran mentor Ken Virtue has always known what a big motor Banjo Boy has but he has taken his time to put it altogether. “He’s such a fanatical chaser that I think he missed the start often because he was so anxious to get out and race but just in the last month he is still as keen but seems to have matured into a real race dog.” Virtue said.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Ken Virtue would know he has trained many outstanding chasers in a long and distinguished career with the long tails. His best remembered was Disco Dishlicka a Traralgon Cup winner and runner-up to Hua in the 1988 Melbourne Cup. He was unlucky to bump into the "Benalla Bullet" that night when Hua broke the Sandown Park track record running 30.01. Virtue also put the polish on 1994 Cranbourne Cup winner Jamb Kid.

Banjo Boy followed up his brilliant performance a week later in another FFA recording a best of the night 29.14. His Sandown record is outstanding from seven starts he has five wins and a second. He also has a 29.73 win at the Meadows and has run 29.98 at Cranbourne.

Banjo Boy has hit form at the right time and looks to be a major contender for races like the Sandown Shoot Out and the Group 1 TAB Melbourne Cup.

Banjo Boy is a White & Black Dog whelped April 2011 by Vee Man Vane from Off Springer (Flying Penske x Skullring). He is raced by Andrew Varasdi and trained by Ken Virtue at Tooradin in Victoria. He has now won 11 races and has been placed on four occasions from his 19 starts. Banjo Boy's current prizemoney stands at \$45,945.

As usual there were some outstanding runs recorded in September on various tracks around Australia. However given the fact it was the fastest run at a track like Sandown for two years it was a performance full of merit.

AGRA congratulates owner Andrew Varasdi, trainer Ken Virtue and Banjo Boy after being judged the AGRA Run of the Month for September 2013. He joins three time winner Xylia Allen, Punch One Out who has won two awards, Bell Haven, Dyna Nalin, Smart Valentino and January winner Hello Good Bye as the winners of the AGRA Runs of the Month for 2013.

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

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