



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**31st January 2014**  
**AGRA RUN OF THE MONTH**  
**AWARD – JANUARY 2014**  
**“WALK HARD”**

The AGRA's Run of the Month for January 2014 has been awarded to explosive sprinter Walk Hard after his extraordinary performance in recording 25.46 at Warragul on January 19th. Walk Hard's effort to smash the track record came as no real surprize his ability has never been in question. Unfortunately he has been an injury prone chaser for a long period of time. However it all came together in an extraordinary week for owner-trainer Nikki McRae.



***Walk Hard (3) ran down Paw Licking after coming from sixth to run a track record 25.46sec. (Pic Clint Anderson)***

With one-turn dynamo Paw Licking getting a clean run out of the boxes and setting the pace, Walk Hard's chances of victory looked minimal.

However he delivered on the outstanding potential he showed early in his career by flashing home to win in 25.46sec, eclipsing the previous record of 25.51sec held jointly by El Grand Senor and Banjo Boy.

Trainer Nikki McRae was thrilled with the win given her greyhound's wretched run with injury. "I'm so happy whenever he wins a race. He has missed about 12 months of racing through a variety of injuries including a cracked stopped bone, a torn triangle and he's also had wrist and toe issues."

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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“But he’s such a genuine chaser and he really deserves to be in this final,” McRae said.

Despite Walk Hard’s eye-catching heat win, McRae said he’d be up against it in the final after drawing box 5.

“He’s a 100-1 chance from that draw. He’ll be second last at the start and he really wants to rail.”

“You need everything to go your way in big race finals, and had he drawn box 1 I’d be pretty confident, but I can’t see him winning,” the Clyde trainer said after the heat win.

Famous last words, the fairy tale was not about to stop with Sunday night’s Run of the Month. In a superb performance Walk Hard repeated his heat effort and took out the cup in brilliant style, upstaging the more highly regarded performers at an unwanted \$10.70. Again he came from behind grabbing his opportunity and running down Paw Licking for the second time in six days.

Walk Hard is a Black dog whelped September 2010 by Bit Chilli from Miss Bling (Spiral Nikita x Skullring). He is raced and trained by Nicole McRae at Clyde in Victoria. He has now won 16 races and been placed on 12 occasions from his 34 starts. He has an outstanding record at Warragul over the 460 metres having raced there seven times for four wins and three seconds. Walk Hard’s overall prizemoney stands at \$105,460.

As usual there were some outstanding runs recorded in January on various tracks around Australia. However given the of fact of what Walk Hard had to do to win and break the record to boot plus making and winning the final with so many outstanding chasers involved he got the nod as the Run of the Month.

AGRA congratulates owner-trainer Nikki McRae and Walk Hard after being judged the AGRA Run of the Month for January 2014. He is the first this year with 11 more to come.

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

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