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MEDIA RELEASE

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**Landmark Australian Cup Win
for Luca**

By GRV Website

It was four decades in the making, but Gerry and Rose Kleeven finally landed their first Group 1 when their brilliant sprinter Luca Neveelk (\$4.50) won the ATC Insurance Australian Cup (525m) at The Meadows on Saturday night.



Luca Neveelk hangs on to win the Australian Cup (All Pics Clint Anderson)

“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 (\$5.20) 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."



No lack of family support a big crew cheer on Luca

He will now be set for the rich Group 1 Golden Easter Egg series at Sydney's Wentworth Park.

After the placed runners then followed: Sisco Rage (\$7.50), Emerys (\$16.80), Samus Allen (\$12.20), Recruitment (\$32.70) and Lamia Bale (\$4.20).

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 36 times for 27 wins and six placings. After adding the \$250,000 first prize for the Australian Cup his stake earnings stand at \$500,865.

The Australian Cup was first run in 1958 at North Melbourne the M.G.R.A.'s first home then moved with the club to Olympic Park becoming the famous race it is today when promoted with flair and style by the late Ken Carr the club astute manager for many years. When Olympic closed the club flagship event was conducted at Sandown while the club established its new home at the Meadows. It has been conducted at the new complex since it opened in 1999. Listed below is the classic honour roll of the past winners that have won this mighty race.

1958 **Rookie Rebel**, 1959 **Rocky Ros**, 1960 **Meadow Vale** 1961 **Copeland**, 1962 **Take A Bow**, 1963 **"Not Held"**, 1964 **Old Tops**, 1965 **Worthing**, 1966 **Billy Vee**, 1967 **Fawn Nulla**, 1968 **Swanston Lass**, 1969 **Benjamin John**, 1970 **The Smoother**, 1971 **Black Diro**, 1972 **Blackamoor Lad**, 1973 **Half Your Luck**, 1974 **Kim's Monaro**, 1975 **Ungwilla Lad**, 1976 **Odious**, 1977 **Listowel Sue**, 1978 **Count D'Argent**, 1979 **Boundless**, 1980 **Tangaloo**, 1981 **Pete's Advice**, 1982 **Royal Rumpus**, 1983 **Drop Of Wine**, 1984 **Tangairn**, 1985 **Eaglehawk Star**, 1986 **Bright Judge**, 1987 **Regal Post**, 1988 **Golden Blessing**, 1989 **Ginger**, 1990 **Spread Eagled**, 1991 **Franklin Deano**, 1992 **China Trip**, 1993 **China Trip**, 1994 **Mancunian Girl**, 1995 **Bonjase**, 1996 **Tenthill Doll**, 1997 **Smooth Rumble**, 1998 **Fibba**, 1999 **Mandataro**, 2000 **Arvo's Express**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Isa Brown**, 2003 **Most Awesome / Blackjack Tom D/H**, 2004 **Bogie Leigh** 2005 **Pure Octane**, 2006 **Miss Spicy**, 2007 **Pete's Conquest**, 2008 **Tasman Queen**, 2009 **Velocette**, 2010 **Dyna Lachlan**, 2011 **St.Pierre** and 2012 **Zara Zulu**, 2013 **Spud Regis** and 2014 **Buckle Up Wes**.

Luna Jinx's Space Star

By GRV Website

Luna Jinx (\$26.90) delivered on her potential, eclipsing the seemingly unbeatable Space Star (\$1.50Fav) in the Group 1 ATC Superstayers (725m) at The Meadows on Saturday night.

Trainer Len Ketelaar struggled to contain his delight after the race, in which Luna Jinx snared a \$100,000 first prize after defeating Lady Toy and Space Star in 42.33, after reeling in early leader Echelon Action.

"O-M-G...that's what the young people say these days isn't it? What a surprise!" Yuroke trainer Ketelaar remarked in his post-race speech.

It has been a rollercoaster ride for the connections of Luna Jinx, with the greyhound showing enormous promise in the early stages of her career before a serious metacarpal injury had Ketelaar believing her career may have been over.

"It was a real possibility that she'd never race again," Ketelaar said.

However, five months of TLC with connections in her native state of South Australia saw her return to racing in December, and she hasn't looked back winning six from 13 and now finally tasting success at the highest level.

Incidentally, Ketelaar also put the polish on Luna Jinx's granddam Springvale Jinx, who was a classy stayer herself.

"Springvale Jinx was a tiny 23 kilogram front-running stayer who won \$160,000 in prize money."

"Luna Jinx isn't a front-running type, although she raced a bit like Springvale Jinx tonight because she raced in a forward position instead of her usual racing pattern where she comes from behind," Ketelaar said.

After the placed runners then followed: Berry Blitz (\$32.60), Beks (\$30.20), Nicki Fields (\$20.90), Blinker's On (\$27.10) and Echelon Action (\$70.80).

Luna Jinx is raced and trained by the Harris Roberts Syndicate, she is a Blue Bitch whelped May 2012 by Velocette from Hannah's Jinx (Big Daddy Cool x Springvale Jinx). Luna Jinx has won 14 of her 32 starts and has been placed on seven occasions and with the \$100,000 first prize for the Superstayers it took his current stake earnings to \$146,730.

Listed below are the past winners of the renamed Group 1 feature the Macro Meats Super Stayers. In recent years the race has been known as the Australian Super Stayers and the Gleeson & Tonta Trophy. First run at Olympic Park in 1978 the staying feature had stood the test time. This year the race was sponsored for the third time by Macro Meats who have become involved with a number of high profile events at both metropolitan tracks in Victoria.

1978 **King's Domain**, 1979 **Misty Fabric**, 1980 **Sue's Repeat**, 1981 **Parachute Luck**, 1982 **Mira Donna**, 1983 **Dark Harlequin**, 1984 **Tesoro Mio**, 1985 **Planosec**, 1986 **Bay Supreme**, 1987 **Mystic Hope**, 1988 **Magic Lightning**, 1989 **High Flight**, 1990 **Pebbles' Beach**, 1991 **Modern Express**, 1992 **Saltwater Sid**, 1993 **Gold Roulette**, 1994 **"Not Held"**, 1995 **Just Barby**, 1996 **City Blitz**, 1997 **Nowhere To Go**, 1998 **Ringside Fire**, 1999 **Moe's Tavern**, 2000 **Sunblest Kid**, 2001 **Proven Dreams**, 2002 **Boomeroo**, 2003 **Oh Behave**, 2004 **Skipper Rip**, 2005 **Malfoy**, 2006 **Quidame**, 2007 **Flashing Floods**, 2008 **Just Friends**, 2009 **Lilley Criminal**, 2010 **Drill 'Em**, 2011 **Bobby Boucheau** and 2012 **Thrilling Brat**, 2013 **Destini Fireball** and 2014 **Destini Fireball**.

The ATC Superstayers final and the Group 1 ATC Australian Cup capped off an amazing three weeks of racing at The Meadows. In excess of over \$1,000,000 in prizemoney was won in another outstanding carnival.



Luna Jinx races away in the Superstayers

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