



## MEDIA RELEASE

2nd March 2015



# Wide Open Australian Cup Final

By George Farrugia

The 2015 Group 1 Australian Cup looks one of the most open in years after just two favourites saluted in eight fantastic heats last Saturday night.

Recruitment (\$3.30) and Luca Neveelk (\$2.80) were the only friends of favourite punters on the night, with four Australian Cup heat winners paying \$9 or more with the TAB, setting up a wide-open Group 1 classic this Saturday.

Trainer John Galea's dream of winning his first Group race is still alive after the ever-consistent Sisco Rage drew box one after his 29.88 gallop on a track that was pelted with rain prior to heat four.

Before the downpour, Quartz Bale set the time standard for the night, leading from go to whoa in a sizzling 29.60. Trained in Western Australia by Paul Stuart, the 38-kilogram star has drawn favourably in box three in next week's final.

One of the runs of the night came from Lamia Bale, who overcame a bad box draw and in-form chasers Fernando Bale and Azza Azza Azza to progress to Saturday's final. The daughter of High Earner and Maple Bale recorded outstanding splits of 4.99 and 17.67 before stopping the clock at 29.77.

The brindle chaser is already a two-time Group winner, but will be looking for her first win off box eight from four starts.

Next Saturday night will also see the running of the Group 1 Superstayers, with Space Star to start a short-priced favourite after a track record-breaking heat win.

*Continued on Page 2...*

M  
E  
D  
I  
A  
  
R  
E  
L  
E  
A  
S  
E

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

## GROUP ONE – ATC Australian Cup \$250,000 to the winner



### SISCO RAGE

February 2012 High Earner x Sisco Power

Starts: 79: 21-13-15

Track and distance: 11: 3-3-1 PB: 29.88

Prizemoney: \$128,565

Group wins: None.

***Looks the X-factor off the coveted red draw. Is very hit or miss at boxrise, but is capable of carving out some impressive times when he gets the start right. Is a definite chance if he begins cleanly.***



### HOSTILE

April 2012 Collision x Restless Style

Starts: 33: 12-10-1

Track and distance: 5: 2-1-0 PB: 29.95

Prizemoney: \$82,650

Group wins: None

***Racing in super form and deserves his spot in the final after a gutsy heat win from a wide draw. Is a strong finisher but can also show pace from the boxes, as evidenced by his 5.04 split at Sandown late last year. Drawn well and looks a winning hope.***



### QUARTZ BALE

October 2012 Yahoo Omar x Zambola Bale

Starts: 19: 12-1-2

Track and distance: 2: 1-0-0 PB: 29.60

Prizemoney: \$69,710

Group wins: None.

***Fastest heat winner after showing a fantastic display of speed and strength. Rain did come after his heat win, but running 29.60 is no mean feat. Won the first nine races of his career, and is looking to become the first U.S. sired Australian Cup winner since Isa Brown's victory in 2002. Takes a few strides to get going but has a devastating burst of speed. Danger.***



### LUCA NEVEELK

May 2012 Talk's Cheap x It's A Neveelk

Starts: 35: 26-3-3

Track and distance: 4: 2-0-1 PB: 29.98

Prizemoney: \$205,565

Group wins: Group 2 Geelong Cup, Group 2 Ballarat Cup

***One of the best sprinters in the country. Has taken all before him on the country circuit. Looks the leader, and will be hoping to get enough of a break to hold on. Last week's run home time of 12.35 is on the slow side but is certainly capable of opening up a race-winning lead. The one to beat.***



### EMRYS

January 2013 Magic Sprite x Prancing Uno

Starts: 22: 8-6-0

Track and distance: 11: 3-5-0 PB: 30.05

Prizemoney: \$40,145

Group wins: None.

***Gutsy 30.05 heat win as the rain kept falling, holding off topline chaser Awesome Project to qualify for his second Group 1 of the year. Box draw has done him no favours with pace drawn all around him. Needs some luck on the first turn and place looks best.***



## RECRUITMENT

February 2012 Cosmic Rumble x Josette Bale

Starts: 25: 9-5-2

Track and distance: 4: 2-1-0 PB: 29.84

Prizemoney: \$37,990

Group wins: None

*Used box one beautifully in his heat win last week, but his task has been made all the more difficult after drawing awkwardly for the final. Nice second split last week but will find it tough against these.*



## SAMUS ALLEN

May 2012 Bekim Bale x Blachura Bale

Starts: 37: 15-8-4

Track and distance: 10: 7-1-0 PB: 29.84

Prizemoney: \$53,685

Group wins: None.

*Last week's giant killer after holding out the fast-finishing My Bro Fabio in 29.84 – a great time considering her heat came after the downpour. Has the most impressive record at the track among all finalists, and her splits suggests she will be among the first few as they reach the first corner. Must cross some fantastic greyhounds but looks value.*



## LAMIA BALE

July 2012 High Earner x Maple Bale

Starts: 42: 13-10-6

Track and distance: 9: 3-3-0 PB: 29.77

Prizemoney: \$179,295

Group wins: Group 2 Laurels, Group 3 Dillion Memorial

*Classy chaser who took out one of the harder heats last week in a super 29.77. Already proven at Group level but is yet to win a race off box eight from three attempts. Has not missed a place since November last year so is certainly racing as consistent as ever. Has claims.*



## Kerrigan Bale

*Chased hard but just couldn't match Quartz Bale last week. Honest type she has made some Group finals would be an outside chance if she gained a start.*



## Fernando Bale

*Group 1 Derby winner at Wentworth Park couldn't run down the stronger Lamia Bale last week. Would almost start favourite if he gained a start.*

Local expert's selections for the ATC Australian Cup final are as follows.

### Ron Hawkswell

1<sup>st</sup> Hostile

2<sup>nd</sup> Sisco Rage

3<sup>rd</sup> Quartz Bale

### George Farrugia

1<sup>st</sup> Luca Neveelk

2<sup>nd</sup> Hostile

3<sup>rd</sup> Lamia Bale

### Rob Testa

1<sup>st</sup> Luca Neveelk

2<sup>nd</sup> Quartz Bale

3<sup>rd</sup> Hostile

### Eddie Caruna

1<sup>st</sup> Lamia Bale

2<sup>nd</sup> Hostile

3<sup>rd</sup> Quartz Bale

TAB Fixed Odds Market for the ATC Australian Cup Final:

\$250,000 to the winner Group 1 ATC Australian Cup Final (525m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
 1	Sisco Rage	John Galea	\$8.00
 2	Hostile	Darren Beasley	\$4.50
 3	Quartz Bale	Paul Stuart	\$3.90
 4	Luca Neveelk	Gerald Kleeven	\$4.50
 5	Emrys	Mario Briganti	\$23.00
 6	Recruitment	Deborah Coleman	\$35.00
 7	Samus Allen	Jenny Hunt	\$13.00
 8	Lamia Bale	Steve Collins	\$2.90
 9	Kerrigan Bale (RES)	Andrea Dailly	\$9.00
 10	Fernando Bale (RES)	Andrea Dailly	\$4.00

GROUP ONE – Super Stayers \$100,000 to the winner



## LADY TOY

June 2012 Our Toyman x Railway Shiraz

Starts: 53: 14-13-11

Track and distance: 7-1-0-3 PB: 42.58

Prizemoney: \$136,992

Group wins: None.

***Racing in career best form. Was too good for her rivals in last week's heat and is really starting to power home over this distance. Looks the obvious danger to Space Star.***



## BERRY BLITZ

May 2012 Bekim Bale x Jean Jeannie

Starts: 42: 7-14-5

Track and distance: 4: 1-2-1 PB: 42.69

Prizemoney: \$34,705

Group wins: None.

***Beaten a long way in track record time in last week's heat and will start long odds here. Has a handy PB but looks outclassed.***



## BLINKER'S ON

May 2012 Cosmic Rumble x Good Oil

Starts: 31:10-8-2

Track and distance: 3: 1-2-0 PB: 42.79

Prizemoney: \$77,045

Group wins: None.

***One of two runners for Brooke Ennis. Caught the eye of many with his second in the Zoom Top, but has only won the one race in his past 10 starts. Has loads of talent but looks a place hope here.***



## ECHELONIC ACTION

November 2011 Mogambo x Off Springer

Starts: 84: 14-20-11

Track and distance: 7: 0-1-0 PB: NBT

Prizemoney: \$74,820

Group wins: None.

***Ran second in one of the slower heats last week. His record over this trip isn't great and it would surprise if he were to beat some of his rivals tonight.***



## LUNA JINX

May 2012 Velocette x Hannah's Jinx

Starts: 31: 13-5-2

Track and distance: 6: 2-1-0 PB: 42.93

Prizemoney: \$45,730

Group wins: None

**Swooper who timed her run very well to win the last of the Superstayers heats. Does get too far back and cannot give Saturday's rivals that big a start this time around.**



## SPACE STAR

June 2012 Bekim Bale x x Tonto Tears

Starts: 33: 21-4-4

Track and distance: 2: 2-0-0 PB: 41.93 TRACK RECORD

Prizemoney: \$318,900

Group wins: Group 1 Galaxy, Group 1 Zoom Top, Group 2 Summer Plate

**Did the unthinkable and broke Nellie Noodles' long-standing track record in an amazing heat win last week. Racing full of confidence and only bad luck will stop him winning his third Group 1.**



## NICKI FIELDS

September 2012 Knocka Norris x Misty Fields

Starts: 21: 8-3-5

Track and distance: 1: 1-0-0 PB: 42.93

Prizemoney: \$32,480

Group wins: None.

**Racing in career best form and deserved her tough, railing, come-from-behind win last week. Looks a handy stayer in the making but not ready to beat some of these just yet.**



## BEKS

March 2012 Bekim Bale x Flaming Doll

Starts: 34: 6-7-7

Track and distance: 15: 3-5-2 PB: 42.76

Prizemoney: \$39,865

Group wins: None.

**Races consistently over this distance with 10 placings from 15 starts over 725 metres at The Meadows, but doesn't have the form to suggest that he could upset his rivals on Saturday. Place at best.**



## Ziping Felix

**Handy type he finished third a long way back from Space Star last week. Outside place chance if he gained a start.**



## Mepunga Hayley

**Has won here in 42.96 last year, finished third last week behind Nikki Fields like most of the field looks a little outclassed.**

Local expert's selections for the Super Stayers final are as follows.

Ron Hawkswell

1<sup>st</sup> Space Star

2<sup>nd</sup> Lady Toy

3<sup>rd</sup> Blinker's On

George Farrugia

1<sup>st</sup> Space Star

2<sup>nd</sup> Lady Toy

3<sup>rd</sup> Blinker's On

Rob Testa

1<sup>st</sup> Space Star

2<sup>nd</sup> Lady Toy

3<sup>rd</sup> Beks

Eddie Caruna











1<sup>st</sup> Space Star

2<sup>nd</sup> Lady Toy

3<sup>rd</sup> Blinker's On



## TAB Fixed Odds Market for the Super Stayers Final:

<b>\$100,000 to the winner Group 1 Super Stayers Final (725m)</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>Greyhound</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Price</b>
 <b>1</b>	<b>Lady Toy</b>	<b>Brooke Ennis</b>	<b>\$2.90</b>
 <b>2</b>	<b>Berry Blitz</b>	<b>Angela Langton</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>
 <b>3</b>	<b>Blinker's On</b>	<b>Brooke Ennis</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>
 <b>4</b>	<b>Echelon Action</b>	<b>Deborah Coleman</b>	<b>\$51.00</b>
 <b>5</b>	<b>Luna Jinx</b>	<b>Len Ketelaar</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
 <b>6</b>	<b>Space Star</b>	<b>Rob Britton</b>	<b>\$1.55</b>
 <b>7</b>	<b>Nicki Fields</b>	<b>Gerard O'Keefe</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
 <b>8</b>	<b>Beks</b>	<b>Pat Bouchier</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>
 <b>9</b>	<b>Zippering Felix</b>	<b>Peter Dapiran</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>
 <b>10</b>	<b>Mepunga Hayley</b>	<b>Jeff Britton</b>	<b>\$26.00</b>

## What's happening on race night?

WHEN: Saturday March 7, 2015

WHERE: 80 Northcorp Bvd Broadmeadows, Victoria-3047

Gates Open at 6.00pm Entry: Free Entry Car Parking: Free

The final night of the Sky Racing Australian Cup Carnival and there are Heroes in the making. The finale of the carnival climaxes in the running of the 2015 ATC Australian Cup over 525m and Macro Meats Super Stayers over 700m. Victorian greyhound tracks host many race meetings that are tailored for the entire family, but none more so than the Maurice Blackburn Lawyers Australian Cup, to be run this Saturday night, 1 March.

### Punters Club

With thanks to the TAB we will be seeding the punters club to kick it off and we will have a guests tipster on the night to hopefully make a return for those involved. Tickets will be \$10 each and can purchase from the staff on course.



The Meadows is giving away \$20,000 sporting holiday to the destination of your choice!

All you have to do is be on course and select the dog that wins the Australian Cup to be in the draw



## Australian Cup: a chronology

The chase for the sport's "Cup of Dreams" commenced in 1958 (with the exception of 1963 when the Cup was not held due to the MGRA relocating from the old North Melbourne track to Olympic Park).

From 1964 to 1995, the Australian Cup was synonymous with Olympic Park. But for two years (1996-97), the Cup was staged at Sandown Park due to the closure of Olympic Park because of the City Link freeway project and the MGRA's subsequent search for a new home.

However, regardless of venue, the Australian Cup has always been the Australian Cup.

It is a race for champions... and only champions win it!

Obviously the 57th Cup winner will join a compendium of greats – legends of the loam!

The MGRA's blue ribbon sprint has been won by such exalted names as Rookie Rebel (1958), Worthing (1965), Benjamin John (1969), Ungwilla Lad (1975), Tangaloo (1980), Eaglehawk Star (1985), Ginger (1989), China Trip (1992 & 1993), Mancunian Girl (1994), Tenthill Doll (1996), Brett Lee (2001), Bogie Leigh (2004), Pure Octane (2005), Velocette (2009) and 2011 Dyna Lachlan who are all indelibly inscribed on the Australian Cup honour roll.

Over 55 years, the Australian Cup has experienced a stakes spiral.

For instance, when Rookie Rebel (1/4F) took out the inaugural 1958 event – from the back mark of eight yards at North Melbourne (675yds) – his owner-trainer, Wally Hooper, landed an 800-pound (\$1600) purse.

Other significant first prize money increases occurred in 1970 when The Smoother (7/4F) snared \$10,000 for N. Kay; 1974 when Kim's Monaro (5/2) landed \$20,000 for Bob Doak; 1979 when Boundless (6/1) took home \$30,000 for the Lew-Fatt family; 1983 when Drop Of Wine (1/1F) grabbed \$50,000 for John Hellingman; 1991 when Franklin Deano (11/4) won \$65,000 for Ned Bryant; and 1996 when Tenthill Doll (1/2F) secured \$100,000 for Harry Sarkis. However, the Cup winner's purse decreased in 1994 (\$50,000) and 1995 (\$55,000).

But in 2006, South Australian sprint siren Miss Spicy (\$28.80) – owned in Queensland by Sarah Pringle – took home \$125,000 for Troy Murray.

Then in 2009 Velocette (\$8.20) took home \$150,000 for owner Ron McCullagh and trainer Graeme Bate and then in 2010 we again saw the first prize rise to \$175,000 when won by Dyna Lachlan. Only to sky rocket in 2013 to the equal second highest prizemoney event with the Easter Egg a whopping \$250,000 when won by another Dailly trainer star Spud Regis.

Statistically, from the 56 Cups held, favourites have saluted on 23 occasions.

The shortest-priced winner is obviously Rookie Rebel (1/4F) and the longest-priced winner is Tangaloa (33/1) – trained by Joe Hili – who won in 1980. Tangaloa was also runner-up in 1979.

In the battle of the sexes, the dogs lead the bitches 40 to 16. And the winning box draws are (Box 1) 17; (Box 2) 8; (Box 3) 8; (Box 4) 2; (Box 5) 6; (Box 6) 4; (Box 7) 5; (Box 8) 7. **NB.** There was a dead-heat in 2003 – Blackjack Tom and Most Awesome.

And there has been only one dual winner – China Trip (1992/93).

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.



**Buckle Up Wes races away to win last year's Australian Cup (Pic Clint Anderson)**

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 **Tangaloa**, 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 **Mandatario**, 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**, 2012 **Zara Zulu**, 2013 **Spud Regis** and 2014 **Buckle Up Wes**.



Listed below are the past winners of the Gleeson & Tonta Trophy as this Group 1 final has been known for some years. First run at Olympic Park in 1978 the staying feature had stood the test time. However with the sale of the business in 2011 the race sponsorship has changed. This year again the race is sponsored 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**, 2012 **Thrilling Brat**, 2013 **Destini Fireball** and 2014 **Destini Fireball**.

**Thanks for information supplied By George Farrugia M.G.R.A**  
**Publicity Officer**

**For any further information contact MGRA on Tel: (03) 9355 5255.**

**Address: 80 Northcorp Bvd, Broadmeadows, VIC 3047**

**Email: [meadows@grv.org.au](mailto:meadows@grv.org.au)**



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**