



**Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association**

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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# **Lightning Strikes again in the Australian Cup Heats**

**By GRV Website**

Brilliant Victorian youngster Lightning Frank will take aim at his third Group 1 triumph at The Meadows for 2017 after stealing the show in Saturday night's heats of the Group 1 Sky Racing Australian Cup (525m).

Winner of the Silver Chief in January, the Mathew Wright-trained speedster backed up from his dominant all-the-way victory in the invitation-only Temlee one week earlier when producing another flawless front-running exhibition in the sixth of eight star-studded Cup heats.

Drawn in box eight, Lightning Frank (\$2.60 fav) clocked blistering sections of 4.94sec and 17.40sec as he set The Meadows alight, posting 29.53sec, his sixth win from his last seven starts with the defeat being a third in the Group 1 National Derby.

"He has surprised me again tonight. It's almost scary the splits he ran, especially the second split, and to finish off the way he did was incredible," a delighted Mathew Wright said.

"He truly just keeps on surprising me, he is a once in a lifetime dog.

"To win next week he has to mimic what he did in his heat. There are some quality dogs in the Cup. Eminent Reality's heat win really impressed me."

Wright wasn't the only observer impressed by Eminent Reality's performance earlier in the night, with the Western Australian import making light of Kel Greenough's fears about a lack of early pace when finishing powerfully to win heat two in 29.60sec.

Eminent Reality, a son of former WA star Zelemar Fever, winner of the Group 1 Temlee during the 2014 Australian Cup Carnival, took advantage of box one when defeating another Western Australian Penny Monelli, his eighth win from 12 starts.

"He's a young dog who can really run the hands off the clock and he showed tonight what a difference it can make when he draws inside and gets a clear run," Kel Greenough said.

"He is tardy early so he will need a lot of luck next week, but he's in there and that's very exciting.

"The closest we've got to winning an Australian Cup was when High Earner ran second five or six years ago.

"Group 1 races are so hard to win, but he's in there and I'm just hoping he does something."

Eminent Reality denied leading WA trainer Dave Hobby a heat to heat double after he won the opening run-off with Monaro Monelli, which stormed home at his Meadows debut, running 30.13sec.

Jason Thompson's prolific Aston Bolero bounced back from a very rare poor performance in the Temlee when carving across to the lead from box seven en route to winning the third heat in 29.92sec, his 46th career victory.

Robert Britton's decision to revert to sprinting with Fanta Bale rather than stepping her up to 725m for the Group 1 Super Stayers heats after her victory in the middle-distance Rookie Rebel on the opening night of the Cup Carnival paid off handsomely when she won heat four in 29.98sec.

Melbourne Cup finalist Matt Machine gave owner/breeders Jamie and Brooke Ennis another huge thrill when recovering from an average start to record a courageous 29.84sec victory in heat five.

“I was rapt with his performance tonight. To beat this field is a credit to him and Jamie,” Brooke said.

“This is his third Group 1 final which is amazing because he is still a young dog, and we will be hoping for third time lucky with him next week.

“It is so rewarding to watch a greyhound you bred, reared and now train compete at group level and get better with age.”

Darren Pattinson’s powerhouse chaser Blazin’ Bomber, runner-up to Fanta Bale in the Rookie Rebel seven nights earlier, qualified for another feature final when utilising the rails alley to claim a strong-finishing 29.74sec victory in the seventh qualifier.

Aeroplane Bob gave Jason Thompson a second finalist, following the earlier victory of Aston Bolero, when finishing strongly along the inside to take out the final heat in 30.04sec.

Australia’s best distance greyhound Burn One Down continued his love affair with The Meadows on Saturday night when producing a breathtaking last-to-first performance in his heat of the Group 1 Australian Super Stayers.

Returning to the scene of his runaway victory in the invitation Group 1 Zoom Top one week earlier, Jason Thompson’s wonderfully gifted stayer dominated betting on the second of three Super Stayers heats despite an awkward draw in five, starting at \$1.50.

Burn One Down was last out of the boxes and was still second last with a lap to go as Western Australian visitor Teddy Monelli opened up a commanding lead.

Burn One Down improved into third in the back straight but was still spotting Teddy Monelli the best part of ten lengths before unleashing a withering finishing burst to score by two and a quarter lengths in 42.35sec.

“His run was enormous. Heading into the catching pen the first time around I didn’t think he could do better than a placing,” Jason Thompson said.

## GROUP ONE – Group 1 \$355,000 Australian Cup

### Box Draw and TAB Fixed Market for the Australian Cup 525:

<b>\$250,000 to the winner Group 1 Australian Cup 525m</b>				
<b>Box</b>	<b>Greyhound</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>B/T</b>
	<b>Eminent Reality</b>	<b>Kelvyn Greenough</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>	<b>29.60</b>
	<b>Aeroplane Bob</b>	<b>Jason Thompson</b>	<b>\$41</b>	<b>30.02</b>
	<b>Lightning Frank</b>	<b>Mathew Wright</b>	<b>\$1.90</b>	<b>29.52</b>
	<b>Monaro Monelli (WA)</b>	<b>David Hobby</b>	<b>\$51</b>	<b>30.13</b>
	<b>Blazin’ Bomber</b>	<b>Darren Pattinson</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>29.60</b>
	<b>Matt Machine</b>	<b>Jamie Ennis</b>	<b>\$16</b>	<b>29.79</b>
	<b>Aston Bolero</b>	<b>Jason Thompson</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>29.86</b>
	<b>Fanta Bale</b>	<b>Robert Britton</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>29.98</b>
	<b>Penny Monelli (WA) (RES)</b>	<b>David Hobby</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>NBT</b>
	<b>Invictus Rapid (RES)</b>	<b>Jason Thompson</b>	<b>\$14</b>	<b>29.81</b>

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

**Rob Testa**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lightning Frank**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Eminent Reality**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Aeroplane Bob**

**George Farrugia**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lightning Frank**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Aston Bolero**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Eminent Reality**

**Ron Hawkswell**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lightning Frank**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Eminent Reality**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fanta Bale**

**Ed Caruana**

**1<sup>st</sup> Lightning Frank**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Aston Bolero**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Eminent Reality**

# GROUP ONE – Group 1 \$145,000 Australian Super Stayers

## Box Draw and TAB Fixed Market for the Super Stayers 725:

<b>\$100,000 to the winner Group 1 Super Stayers 725m</b>				
<b>Box</b>	<b>Greyhound</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>B/T</b>
	<b>Dundee Calypso</b>	<b>Geoff Scott-Smith</b>	<b>\$21</b>	<b>NBT</b>
	<b>It's A Fling</b>	<b>Wayne Vassallo</b>	<b>\$14</b>	<b>42.58</b>
	<b>Trip To Eden</b>	<b>Jason Thompson</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>	<b>42.54</b>
	<b>Obi Kenobi</b>	<b>Glen Campbell</b>	<b>\$51</b>	<b>43.76</b>
	<b>Teddy Monelli</b>	<b>David Hobby</b>	<b>\$9</b>	<b>NBT</b>
	<b>Burn One Down</b>	<b>Jason Thompson</b>	<b>\$1.70</b>	<b>42.23</b>
	<b>Azurite</b>	<b>Graham James</b>	<b>\$51</b>	<b>42.67</b>
	<b>Alera Bale</b>	<b>Mark Delbridge</b>	<b>\$9</b>	<b>NBT</b>
	<b>Jaimandy Hatty (RES)</b>	<b>Paul Donohue</b>	<b>\$8</b>	<b>NBT</b>
	<b>Zippping Zeus (RES)</b>	<b>Carolyn Jones</b>	<b>\$8</b>	<b>NBT</b>

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

### Rob Testa

1<sup>st</sup> Burn One Down

2<sup>nd</sup> It's A Fling

3<sup>rd</sup> Trip To Eden

### George Farrugia

1<sup>st</sup> Burn One Down

2<sup>nd</sup> Teddy Monelli

3<sup>rd</sup> Alera Bale

### Ron Hawkswell

1<sup>st</sup> Burn One Down

2<sup>nd</sup> Trip To Eden

3<sup>rd</sup> It's A Fling

### Ed Caruana

1<sup>st</sup> Burn One Down

2<sup>nd</sup> It's A Fling

3<sup>rd</sup> Trip To Eden

## 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 59th 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), Tangaloa (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 58 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.

In 2015 the Cup provided a fairy tale win for popular Gippsland couple Gerry and Rose Kleeven, it had taken them 40 years to breed and race a Group 1 winner but Luca Neveelk held off all the fast finishers to win the Cup in 29.96 leading all the way from box four. A large number of family supporters were on hand to cheer home the winner. 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."

Last year Dyna Double One became just the third greyhound in world history to clock \$1M in prize money by taking out \$355,000 Group 1 Australian Cup, in what was his last race start it was a fitting end to a very decorated career, including the big race double after winning the 2015 Melbourne Cup.

Statistically, from the 58 Cups held, favourites have saluted on 24 occasions.

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

In the battle of the sexes, the dogs lead the bitches 42 to 16. And the winning box draws are (Box 1) 17; (Box 2) 9; (Box 3) 8; (Box 4) 3; (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).

## What's happening on race night?

**Australian Cup 59<sup>TH</sup>**  
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**Superstar Sprinter Dyna Double wins the 2016 Australian Cup**

**(Pic Clint Anderson)**

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 **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**, 2014 **Buckle Up Wes**, 2015 **Luca Neveelk** and 2016 **Dyna Double One**.

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 changed over the next few years.

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**, 2014 **Destini Fireball**, 2015 **Luna Jinx** and 2016 **Star Recall**.

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