



MEDIA RELEASE



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Collins aims for second Australian Cup win after Zara draws the red

By George Farrugia

Greyhound breeder and studmaster Geoff Collins will aim to win his second Group 1 Rover Mowers Australian Cup after the speedy Zara Zulu – trained by partner Rosalyn Hume - drew perfectly in box one for next Saturday's \$175,000-to-the-winner final.

Collins won the race as an owner in 2002 when Isa Brown claimed the Group 1 classic for trainer Rob Britton, and looks to have a genuine chance with his talented chaser.

The daughter of Mogambo and Zulu Zepha took out the first of the Australian Cup heats in a sizzling 29.75 after near-record splits of 4.95 and 17.54, and has drawn perfectly for the Group 1 classic this Saturday. Her time was only matched by reigning Victorian Greyhound of the Year Dyna Tron, who returned to form after a run of outs in 2012. The son of Collision and Gold Rush Bale has drawn awkwardly in box six in Saturday's

final. Victory would push his prizemoney to over \$600,000, making him only the second dog in Australian history to reach the lofty mark.

Master trainer Graeme Bate will aim for his third Australian Cup success after Gordon Bale (box eight) and David Bale (box three) made their way through to the rich final after impressive heat wins.

Recent Group 1 Perth Cup winner Oaks Road gets his chance to record another big-race victory after a gutsy 29.89 win in heat six, but has also drawn awkwardly in box seven.

Two-time Group winner Shimaguni looks the greyhound to beat after drawing box one in the Group 1 Macro Meats Superstayers final over 725 metres on Saturday night.

The daughter of Primo Uno and Messines was headed by kennelmate Full Circle before gaining back the lead in the shadows of the post to win the first of the heats in a Best of Night 42.76. The black chaser has now won five of her six race starts over the staying journey at The Meadows.

Shimaguni is trained by Andrea Dailly, who also has Adelle Bale – a sister to Bekim Bale and Heston Bale - qualified for the \$75,000-to-the-winner final.

Thrilling Brat – the pride of greyhound racing in New Zealand – will attempt to become the first Kiwi-owned and trained chaser to a win a Group 1 race in Australia when he competes in Saturday's Group 1 final.

The son of Hallucinate and Thrilling Faith has drawn perfectly in box eight, with front-running railer Befitting drawn on his inside.

Other dangers to Shimaguni appear to be Red Hot Andy, who took out the second heat in 42.91 when coming off the pace.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The Group 1 Macro Meats Superstayers will be the entrée to a fabulous night of racing. With the highlight the running of the Group 1 Rover Mowers Australian Cup worth \$175,000 to the winner. The Australian Cup final caps off an amazing three weeks of racing at The Meadows over \$800,000 in prizemoney has been won in another outstanding carnival. With AFL stars Joel Selwood and Tom Hawkins on course, loads of children's entertainment and heaps of TAB betting prizes on offer, next Saturday evening promises to be one of the biggest nights of racing on the Australian racing calendar.

GROUP ONE – Rover Mowers Australian Cup \$175,000 to the winner



Zara Zulu

14 starts 7-3-1 (\$25,580)

Mogambo – Zulu Zepha

Black Bitch

September '09

Owner: **Geoff Collins**

Trainer: **Roslyn Hume**

Meadows beat: 29.79 (3) (4 Starts 2-1-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Showed amazing speed in heat win, recording near sectional records of 4.95 and 17.54 before running an outstanding 29.75 to qualify for her second Group 1 final. Has lots of early toe, which is a big plus in finals that are evenly matched. The one to beat off great draw.



Peggy May

37 starts 23-7-0 (\$47,555)

Surf Lorian – Paris St Germain

White & Black Bitch

December '08

Owner: **Casie O'Neil**

Trainer: **Jason Thompson**

Meadows best: 30.01 (8) (2 Starts 2-0-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Another dog with lots of early speed to burn in the final, Peggy May overcame her wide alley to score in 30.01 in last week's heat, making it 23 wins from just 37 starts. Has a fast beginner on her inside, but still looks well boxed. Chance.



David Bale

34 starts 12-9-7 (\$78,770)

Bartrim Bale – Dyna Beauty

Black Dog

November '09

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Meadows best: 29.83 (1) (11 Starts 5-3-1)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Lived up to the hype with a super win off box one last week in 29.83 to give Bate his second Aust Cup finalist. David Bale can be a bit tardy away, but may get a nice sit behind early leaders on his inside. Will need luck, but a chance.



Audacious Elle

21 starts 11-1-0 (\$28,355)

Bombastic Shiraz – Pure Elle

Black Bitch

December '09

Owner: **Kevin Wainwright**

Trainer: **Darren McDonald**

Meadows best: 29.82 (4) (4 Starts 3-0-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Continued her outstanding recent form – making it four wins on the trot – with a super 29.82 heat win last week. Is yet another with loads of early speed, recording fast splits of 5.09 and 17.75 to progress to Saturday's climax. Has not fared well with the box draw, with loads of speed drawn on her inside, so will need an ounce of luck to the first corner.



Soda Boy

20 starts 12-3-1 (\$41,350)

Bombastic Shiraz – Pure Elle

Fawn Dog December '09

Owner: **Daniel Mizzi**

Trainer: **Peter Giles**

Meadows best: 30.09 (7) (6 Starts 4-1-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Was the last chaser to qualify with a gutsy 30.09 win, defeating Autoamerican by three quarters of a length. Has already made a Group 1 final at The Meadows, finishing seventh behind Godsend in the Silver Chief on New Year's Day. Box five has made his job even tougher, and will start at long odds despite an impressive record.



Dyna Tron

52 starts 26-6-5 (\$433,578)

Collision – Gold Rush Bale

Red Brindle Dog February '09

Owner: **Brendan Wheeler**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Meadows best: 29.75 (7) (15 Starts 7-2-1)

Group race honours: Won G1 Melbourne Cup, Won G1 Hobart Thousand, Won G2 Geelong Cup, 2nd G1 Brisbane Cup

Returned back to his Greyhound of the Year-winning form with a super 29.75 heat victory last week. A win on Saturday will push his prizemoney to over \$600,000 – only the second dog in history to do so. His early speed will be a major factor in this, and he will need to display lots of it from a wide alley. Big chance.



Oaks Road (NSW)

39 starts 15-10-5 (\$303,070)

Spiral Nikita – Leprechaun Pace

Black Dog November '08

Owners: **Edwin Kingswell**

Trainer: **Mark Gatt**

Meadows best: 29.89 (6) (3 Starts 1-0-0)

Group race honours: Won G1 Perth Cup, Won G2 Bob Payne, Won G3 Megastar, 2nd G1 Paws Of Thunder, 2nd G3 Canberra Cup.

Holds the hopes of New South Wales and looks one of the main dangers in this. The son of Spiral Nikita is already a Group 1 winner this year, taking out the Perth Cup in January. Victory here will push his prizemoney to almost half a million dollars from just 40 starts, showing his class. Again hasn't fared well in his third Group 1 final on the track.



Gordon Bale

21 starts 11-3-2 (\$44,515)

Velocette – Saffron Bale

Black Dog January '10

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Meadows best: 29.77 (2) (12 Starts 7-2-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

It wouldn't be an Australian Cup final without master trainer Graeme Bate, and he has found another hot one here. The youngster recorded the best win of his 12-start career at The Meadows in last week's heat, running 29.77 to blitz his rivals from box two. He is still learning, but he has the talent to be right in the finish here, despite his awkward draw.



Allen Hertz

63 starts 16-11-7 (\$101,136)

Collision – Clementine Bale

Group Race Record: 3rd G1 Paws of Thunder.

Solid second behind Dyna Tron in his heat last week. Would be an outside chance if he gained a start.



Lacomare

30 starts 7-6-7 (\$37,475)

Surf Lorian – Black Chantilly

Group Race Record: First start in a Group race.

Second behind Audacious Elle in his heat. Will start big odds if started.

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

Ron Hawkswell

1st Dyna Tron
2nd Oaks Road
3rd Gordon Bale

George Farrugia

1st Zara Zulu
2nd David Bale
3rd Oaks Road

Rob Testa

1st David Bale
2nd Dyna Tron
3rd Audacious Elle

Local Fixed Odds Market for the Rover Mowers Australian Cup Final:

\$175,000 to the winner Group 1 Rover Mowers Australian Cup Final (525m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
 1	Zara Zulu	Rosalyn Hume	\$3.70
 2	Peggy May	Jason Thompson	\$5.00
 3	David Bale	Graeme Bate	\$3.50
 4	Audacious Elle	Michael Fearnley	\$10.00
 5	Soda Boy	Peter Giles	\$21.00
 6	Dyna Tron	Andrea Dailly	\$5.50
 7	Oaks Road	Mark Gatt	\$5.50
 8	Gordon Bale	Graeme Bate	\$9.50
 9	Allen Hertz (RES)	Graeme Bate	\$8.00
 10	Lacomare (RES)	Malcolm Hirtzel	\$21.00

GROUP ONE – Macro Meats Super Stayers \$75,000 to the winner



Shimaguni

30 starts 20-5-0 (\$168,354)

Primo Uno – Messines

Black Dog April '09

Owners: **Scg Syndicate**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Meadows best: 42.41 (3) (6 Starts 5-0-0)

Group race honours: Won G2 AWM Distance Championship, Won G3 Chairman's Cup, 2nd G1 Galaxy
Continued her great record at The Meadows with a 42.75 heat win last week after being headed by kennelmate Full Circle. She's already a two-time Group winner, and is capable of taking up a forward position. The one to beat.



Echelon

41 starts 14-9-8 (\$126,310)

Mogambo – Off Springer

Black Dog April '09

Owner: **Len Jones**

Trainer: **Craig Treherne**

Meadows best: 42.52 (3) (5 Starts 1-4-0)

Group race honours: Won G3 Easter Chase, 2nd G2 AWM Distance Championship, 2nd G1 Carnival Cup, 3rd G2 Globe Memorial

Ran on strongly when an odds-on favourite in last week's heat, finishing second to Red Hot Andy. On his night, he is as good as any in this field, as evidenced by his 42.52 PB at The Meadows. Could be right in the finish.



Red Hot Andy

59 starts 16-11-8 (\$63,035)

Andy Palmer – Redburst

Black Dog May '08

Owner: **Leo Dahl**

Trainer: **Wayne Vassallo**

Meadows best: 42.91 (3 Starts 3-0-0)

Group race honours: No group wins or placings

Sat behind the leaders before unleashing a powerful finishing burst to win the second of the heats in 42.91 last week and looks to be hitting form at the right time. Doesn't mind being drawn close to the rail and looks one at odds.



Double Champ

41 starts 6-8-7 (\$25,910)

Just The Best – Miss Brook

Fawn Dog April '09

Owner: **Paul Felgate**

Trainer: **Tina Womann**

Meadows best: 43.16 (2) (5 Starts 1-2-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Finished fourth last week, running a length behind eventual winner Shimaguni. He can miss the start and give away big leads, which he cannot afford to do in this field. Will start long odds and would surprise if he were to win here.



Full Circle

29 starts 6-3-7 (\$23,065)

Mister Twink – Andbyn's Empress

Black Dog May '09

Owner: **Wandy Duve**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Meadows best: NBT (1 Starts 0-0-1)

Unlikely starter due to indiscretion in heat.



Adelle Bale

25 starts 4-4-6 (\$19,620)

Bartrim Bale – Amelia Bale

Black Bitch October '09

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Meadows best: NBT (2 Starts 0-1-0)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

The sister of the brilliant duo Bekim Bale and Heston Bale gets her chance to shine in this final after a solid third in last week's heat behind Red Hot Andy. Is capable of running some fast times, as evidenced by her 41.97 win at Sandown Park in December. Has drawn awkwardly in box six, but does have a slow beginner to her inside, so she could get a clear run here. One at odds.



Befitting

39 starts 15-6-3 (\$50,718)

Made To Size – Misty Bear

Black Bitch March '09

Owner: **Lorne Collins**

Trainer: **Jason Thompson**

Meadows best: 43.02 (1) (3 Starts 1-1-1)

Group race honours: No Group wins or placings

Classy front-running stayer from Queensland who has raced well in Victoria for trainer Jason Thompson since her move south. Has had three runs over the 725 metres at The Meadows and has placed in all of them, finishing three and a half lengths behind Red Hot Andy in last week's heat. Should get a nice cart across from box seven on Saturday with a wide runner in box eight. Can find the front.



Thrilling Brat (NZ)

32 starts 19-5-2 (\$79,008)

Brett Lee – Goodoo Mate

Brindle Dog December '08

Owner: **Gary Harding**

Trainer: **Karen Walsh**

Meadows best: NBT (2 Starts 0-2-0)

Group race honours: G2 Canterbury Futurity, G2 Kingston Cup, G2 Nancy Cobain Memorial

The jewel of New Zealand greyhound racing again showed that he belonged on the big stage, running second behind Shimaguni in the first of the Group 1 Superstayers heats last week after a fabulous second behind Miata in the Zoom Top. Tracks very wide in his races, but has a huge motor and seems to be getting better with every run. The whole nation across the Tasman will be cheering him home come Saturday.



Slick Lee (NSW)

110 starts 22-30-22 (\$191,880)

Brett Lee – Goodoo Mate

Group race honours: G2 Gold Cup, 2nd Gr 2 Summer Cup, 3rd Gr 1 Carnival Cup, 3rd Gr 2 Sir John Dillon Memorial, 3rd Gr 3 Newcastle Cup, 3rd Gr 3 Chairman's Cup

Likely to gain a start if connections of Full Circle do not contest a 28-day stand down for failing to pursue the lure with due commitment. Has made a ton of Group finals and has been a grand old campaigner, but this still looks too rich.



Mission Complete

Superman – Cacheci

Group Race Record: No Group wins or placings

Finished fifth behind Red Hot Andy in his heat. Will start very big odds if he gained a start.

42 starts 9-9-7 (\$30,640)

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

Ron Hawkswell

1st Shimaguni

2nd Thrilling Brat

3rd Red Hot Andy

George Farrugia

1st Shimaguni

2nd Thrilling Brat

3rd Echelon

Rob Testa

1st Thrilling Brat

2nd Echelon

3rd Shimaguni

Local Fixed Odds Market for the Macro Meats Super Stayers Final:

\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Macro Meats Super Stayers Final (725m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
 1	Shimaguni	Andrea Dailly	\$2.60
 2	Echelon	Craig Treherne	\$4.60
 3	Red Hot Andy	Wayne Vassallo	\$4.60
 4	Double Champ	Tina Womann	\$21.00
 5	Full Circle	Andrea Dailly	\$51.00
 6	Adelle Bale	Andrea Dailly	\$12.00
 7	Befitting	Jason Thomson	\$12.00
 8	Thrilling Brat	Karen Walsh	\$3.50
 9	Slick Lee	Keith Pedrana	\$16.00
 10	Mission Complete	Michelle Mallia-Magri	\$21.00

What's happening on race night?

Free Admission

The Meadows are throwing the gates open on Australian Cup night which means FREE ENTRY for everyone. Gates open at 6.00pm with the first race at 6.50pm

Free Bus

A courtesy Bus will run from Lonsdale St departing @ 6.00pm and return following the last race. Call The Meadows on (03) 93555 222 to confirm your seat.

Geelong Stars

Meet Geelong Premiership stars new Captain Joel Selwood and Grand final hero Tom Hawkins both will be on course on Australian Cup night, there will be plenty of time for a chat and to sign a few autographs and time for a photo.

Celebrity Mower race

A celebrity Rover Ride On Lawn Mower Challenge will take place down The Meadows home straight.

Kids Activities

Loads of kids activities on Australia Cup night with a host of activities including Jumping Castles, the Big Ship, Basketball Plus there is a heap of fun to be had at the Free Sideshow Alley. And free footballs for first 300 through the gate

\$5000 Big Bucks Giveaway

Be on course to win one of 4 x \$1000 or 10 x \$100 bets on the Australian Cup, simply grab your competition form on entry and place it in the barrel before race 5 and you could be walking home with pockets full of cash!!!!!!!

Mystery Bets with Huge Bonuses

Mystery Bets available all with bonuses. A \$10 envelope gets you no less than \$15 worth plus many envelopes have bonuses up to \$100 in betting vouchers and merchandise

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 54th 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) and 2009 Velocette who are all indelibly inscribed on the Australian Cup honour roll.

Over 50 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, W. 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 this year we again see the first prize rise to \$175,000.

Statistically, from the 53 Cups held, favourites have saluted on 22 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 38 to 15. And the winning box draws are (Box 1) 15; (Box 2) 8; (Box 3) 8; (Box 4) 2; (Box 5) 6; (Box 6) 4; (Box 7) 4; (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.

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** and 2011 **St.Pierre**.



St .Pierre races away to win last year's Australian Cup (Pic Paul Munt)

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 last year 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** and 2011 **Bobby Boucheau**.

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