



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Epic Battle in the Ballarat**  
**Cup**

By GRV Marketing Department

The 2013 Mega Merch Ballarat Cup will go down in history as the culmination of an epic year-long battle between Ronan Izmir (box 4 - \$2.70F) and Paw Licking (box 5 - \$2.90) with the race exceeding all expectations.



**Ronan Izmir and Paw Licking race to the line the Ballarat Cup** (Pic Cindy Murray)

Ronan Izmir was ultimately victorious claiming the \$50,000 first-prize as well as Greyhound Racing Victoria's \$50,000 Country Cups bonus after a tremendous blow-for-blow battle with his fellow Cup bonus aspirant Paw Licking in the Cup final.

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# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Ronan Izmir won the bonus as a result of being the first greyhound to win three Country Cups in a calendar year after winning the Bendigo, Warrnambool and Ballarat Cups. Paw Licking was chasing the bonus after winning the Traralgon and Shepparton Cups. The result means that in three Country Cups this year, Ronan Izmir and Paw Licking have run one-two.

Tonight's race was built as a race between two and it panned out that way. Ronan Izmir took the initial lead with Paw Licking striding to the front around the turn. Down the home straight it was a two dog shootout as the Pearcedale pair traded blows. In the end it was Ronan Izmir that proved too strong, in brilliant chasing performance.

After the race, trainer Jason Thompson highlighted that Ronan Izmir's performance was special for a number of reasons, including providing the owners with a much needed boost.

"It's a big thrill to win these races but it's an even better feeling when you know what the owners have been through. This greyhound provides them with a lot of happiness and I'm just glad that I can be a part of it.

"He (Ronan Izmir) is a special talent and tonight's win highlighted that," Thompson said.

Ronan Izmir won the Ballarat Cup in a time of 25.07s in front of Kel Greenough's Paw Licking and Darren McDonald's Dark Warrior (\$5.40).

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order: Allen Malik (\$34.30), Deadly Vane (\$14.50), Veyron Bale (\$23.30), Empire Allen (\$17.90) and Clone Your Own (\$10.90).

Ronan Izmir is raced by Sally Burns and trained by leading Victorian conditioner Jason Thompson at Pearcedale. He is a Black Dog whelped January 2011 by Elite State from Adhara Izmir (Collision x Chevron Izmir). Ronan Izmir has won 30 of his 48 starts and has been placed on 11 occasions. With the \$50,000 first prize plus the \$50,000 bonus for the Ballarat Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$285,145.

The Ballarat Cup was first held at the old Broadway Park complex in 1960 over 496 yards. The first winner was Rebbly Boy a greyhound sired by Rookie Rebel listed below is the honour Roll of past winners.

1960 **Rebbly Boy**, 1961 **Dalemee**, 1962 **Eerie Town**, 1963 **Alrarniv** 1964, 1965 Unknown, 1966 Unknown, 1967 Unknown, 1968 **Baytown's Son**, 1969 **My Gina**, 1970 1971 **Fawn Metal**, 1972 **Master Caleb**, 1973 **She's My Girl**, 1974 **Fawn Capri**, 1975 **Ben Boro** 1976 **Ernie Diro**, 1977 "Not Held", 1978 "Not Held", 1979 **Nelson's Mate**, 1980 **Swift As Light**, 1981 **Johnny's Monaro**, 1982 **Satan's Shroud**, 1983 **Total Claim**, 1984 **Lady Lilly**, 1985 **Trisun**, 1986 "Not Held", 1987 **Shining Chariot**, 1988 **Kepler**, 1989 **Hay Dinney**, 1990 **Welcome Stranger**, 1991 **Malawi's Prince**, 1992 **Wild Pirate**, 1993 **Dallas Duo**, 1994 **Tivoli Man**, 1995 **Malawi Law**, 1996 **King Of Talent**, 1997 **Young Darren**, 1998 **Lansley Bale**, 1999 **Tom's Legacy**, 2000 **Puff Daddy**, 2001 **Carlisle Jack**, 2002 **Knockabout Wok**, 2003 **Puzzle Prize**, 2004 **Whisky Assassin** and 2005 **Magic Trance**, 2006 **Witch Magic**, 2007 **Go Wild Jack**, 2008 **Vee Man Vane** and 2009 **Dyna Lachlan**, 2010 **Greta Bale**, 2011 **Up and Away** and 2012 **Maverick Tiger**.

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