



**Media Release
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GCA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH AWARD MARCH 2018

“UP HILL JILL”

The GCA Greyhound of the Month for March 2018 has been awarded to Superstar Victoria sprinter Up Hill Jill for her outstanding win in the Group 1 Golden Easter Egg at the Wentworth Park on March 31st.



Up Hill Jill winning at the Meadows (Pic Clint Anderson)

Up Hill Jill, making her 15th visit to Wentworth Park, finally broke through for her first Group 1 win in Sydney when she ran down her arch rival Striker Light in the Ladbrokes Golden Easter Egg.

The mighty Victorian bitches staged a thrilling battle from start to finish, with Striker Light (\$4.80) setting a scorching pace from box one with Up Hill Jill (\$6), who nailed the start from her box six draw, in hot pursuit.

Striker Light, winner of the 2017 Golden Easter Egg in which Up Hill Jill was relegated to sixth position, still led for home and seemed set to create history by becoming the first greyhound to win NSW's biggest race for a second time.

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But Up Hill Jill finished determinedly along the rails to snatch victory by a neck with another Victorian, Fernando Express, making up ground to finish a distant third.

Favourite Miss Splendamiro jumped well from box two but was outpaced and after being checked at the first turn was never a threat and finished fifth.

Up Hill Jill covered the 520m in a slick 29.77, .22 faster than Striker Light's 2017 figures but well outside the great Fernando Bale's race record of 29.48 set in 2015.

After the race Up Hill Jill's trainer David Geall said: "The three races on the national calendar we all want to win are Sandown's Melbourne Cup, the Australian Cup at The Meadows, and Wenty's Golden Easter Egg.

"It has been a dream of my wife Rose, who owns Up Hill Jill, and myself, to win this race, and to do it with a greyhound we have bred ourselves is just wonderful."

Up Hill Jill won last year's Group 1 Topgun at The Meadows and the group 2 Sandown Laurels but Saturday's win ended a frustrating run of defeats in group 1 finals in Sydney.

Despite her win there are no immediate plans to retire Up Hill Jill.

"She won't let us retire her, she just loves to race," owner Rose Geall said.

"Up Hill Jill is a real professional and she will tell us when she wants to finish up, by coming in season."

Jill had six starts in March and besides winning her semi-final and the final of the Egg, she finished second in her three other starts. The heat of the Egg plus the heat and final of the Richmond Futurity chasing home Blue Sky Riot on both occasions in the Group 2 series.

Up Hill Jill is raced and trained by David & Rose Geall he is a Black bitch whelped February 2015 by Premier Fantasy from Where's Demonica (Where's Pedro x Demonica). Up Hill Jill has won 35 of her 67 starts and has been placed on 24 occasions her current stake earnings stand at \$774,736, sixth on the all-time list.

GCA congratulates owners, breeders and trainers David & Rose Geall & Up Hill Jill on being awarded the GCA Greyhound of the Month for March 2018. She joins Out Of Range and Ritza Lenny as the GCA Greyhounds of the Month winners for 2018.

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