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**MEDIA RELEASE
11th February 2013**

Brooklyn Bounds to Victory

El Brooklyn won the Lion Quality Products Healesville Cup on Sunday, taking home the \$42,000 winners cheque for trainer Jason Thompson.

The unique straight track at Healesville played host to some of the country's best speedsters throughout the series with the final boasting a field worthy of a Group 1 encounter.

The race was always going to be dictated by what greyhound could gain a clear run and with the favourable rails alley, El Brooklyn (Box 1 - \$2.60F) was able to avoid Wayne Vassallo's rampaging Nitro Cee (\$11.00) who flew across from Box 6 bumping her rivals.



El Brooklyn in action

As the greyhounds scorched up the straight it was clear that there were three main contenders, as El Brooklyn, Farmor Las Vegas (Box 8 - \$20.00) and Graeme Bate's Classy Maldini (Box 2 - \$11.20) battled for the lead.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

El Brooklyn was able to hold off the fast finishing Farmor Las Vegas for Rob Britton in the end to claim the second Group 2 of her career to go with her victory in the 2012 Warrnambool Classic, winning in a time of 19.10s.

In what was a double boost for trainer Jason Thompson and partner Seona Hood, El Brooklyn is sired by the mighty El Galo, which the family also stand at stud.

El Brooklyn's career record now stands at 19 wins and six placings from 32 career starts with career stakes of \$171,000.

Another healthy crowd was in attendance at the picturesque straight track in the Yarra Valley to witness the all white greyhound's victory, as they enjoyed the sunshine and revelled in the wonderful spectacle of greyhound racing.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Exclusive One (\$17.40), 5th Nitro Cee (\$11.00), 6th Nico Bale (\$9.60) 7th Ima Geisha Girl (\$4.90) and Paw Licking (\$5.10).



Seona Hood with children Luke and Holly and El Brooklyn after her Healesville Cup win.

Pic: Clint Anderson, BlueStream Pictures

El Brooklyn is a White bitch whelped February 2010 by El Galo from Dark Marne (Solve The Puzzle x Twirly Girl) she is raced by Seona Hood and trained by Jason Thompson at Pearcedale in Victoria. El Brooklyn has raced 31 times for 18 wins and six placings, adding the Cup first prize of 42,000 her overall stake earnings went to \$158,605.

The Healesville Cup was first run in 1990 on Victoria's only grass and straight track up the challenging 340 metres incline in the foothills of the Dandenong Rangers. The first Cup was won by Victorian Greyhound of the Year Eureka Man. He won the title that year in controversial circumstances defeating Hall of Fame Superstar Highly Blessed. The award in those days was a points system and although she had won the four major events in Australia somehow she hadn't race enough at the two Victorian City tracks.

However Eureka Man was a wonderful performer an iron dog, he was raced and trained by Ken Patterson a long-time resident and stalwart of the Healesville Club it's fair to say the club would not be racing today without the voluntary hard work and dedication of Ken Patterson and his wife Pauline. Sadly Ken passed away in September 2011 after a short illness. The Cup was granted Group 3 status last year in 2010 when the winner Gardam Prince won \$20,000 first prize for trainer Darren MacDonald. After a major renovation in 2011 following the inclusion of Healesville as a TAB and SKY fixture the track in now a sand surface of 350 metres that can also conduct races over 300 metres. The new surface will allow the club to race all year round something it was unable to do due to weather conditions in the winter months on the grass track. With the support of the GRV all Victorian Country Cups became Group 2 events in 2011 paying \$40,000 to the winner.

Healesville 340 metres - Grass Track **1990** Eureka Man, **1991** Manzanita, **1992** Bramp, **1993** Arnie's Charm, **1994** Heading West, **1995** Vintage Oak, **1996** Flinders Magic, **1997** Koutafidamedes, **1998** Koutafidamedes, **1999** Sprint Car, **2000** Imperial Gold, **2001** Guru Jackson, **2002** Smoky's Chance, **2003** Where's Boz, **2004** Kid Chill, **2005** George's Folly, **2006** Schwartzanager, **2007** Schwartzanager, **2008** Taipan Bale, **2009** Holy Moley and **2010** Gardam Prince. **2011** Sand-Loam 350 metres Marbro Man **2012** Not Run.

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