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Zipping Arnold wins the Healesville Cup

GRV Website

The unexpected has occurred in the \$67,000 2016 All 4 Paws Claws Resort Healesville Cup (350m) yesterday with Zipping Arnold taking out Victoria's richest straight greyhound race at odds of \$21.10.

Shrewd punters would have been aware of Zipping Arnold's chances in the race given trainer Ian Cockerell's comments following his heat win last week.

"I trialled him here three months ago and he trialled real, real good. Next week you'll see a better Arnold," Cockerell warned.



Zipping Arnold wins the Healesville Cup (Pic Clint Anderson)

It was the Cockerell kennel's first win at group level despite making several finals, and for Zipping Arnold it was his eighth career win from 19 starts.

"This is the biggest race we've ever run. It's a great feeling," Cockerell said after the Healesville Cup, which carried a \$47,000 first prize.



"We've had finalists in country cups and Group 1 races before – Finlandia made four Group 1s for us – but we've never won a group race so this is pretty special."

Cockerell is single minded in his plans for Zipping Arnold, with next weekend's Group 2 Shepparton Cup (450m) heats on the radar.

"There'll be some top dogs in the Shepparton Cup. I know (trainer) Anthony Azzopardi is taking a few of his greyhounds there. But I don't think there's a faster dog in Australia over 450 metres than Zipping Arnold."

"The problem has been when he draws in races later than Race 4, as

we don't see the best of him because he isn't a good kennel dog. He gets too excited and plays up in the kennel before his races, so the less time he spends in the kennel the better he performs."

"We tried a few different things with him today though, and they worked. So hopefully we've unlocked the key to him."

Zipping Arnold ran 19.02sec to win the Healesville Cup, scoring a narrow win over highly fancied Jason Thompson-trained duo Invictus Rapid (\$2.30) and Jack Walker (\$4.20).

Zipping Arnold (Don't Knocka Him – Yarramundi Flash) was bred and is owned by the Hallinan Hallinan Syndicate in NSW.

Earlier in the day, Healesville hosted the Chairman's Trophy, a race for female trainers only, with Spritely Pizazz winning for trainer Joyce Condon.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Big Ticket (\$8.20), 5th Bear's Gold (\$6.70), 6th Aussie Infrared (\$13.00) 7th Haiyan (\$39.50) and Lorimer Lad (\$12.40).

Zipping Arnold is a Blue dog whelped May 2014 by Don't Knocka Him from Yarramundi Flash (Shanlyn Prince x El Fresco) he is raced by Martin & Fiona Hallinan and trained by Ian Cockerell at Buckley in Victoria. Zipping Arnold has raced 19 times for eight wins and five placing, adding the Cup first prize of 47,000 his overall stake earnings went to \$63,760.

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 the late 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 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.

Honour Roll:

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, 2013 El Brooklyn, 2014 February Frosty Jay Jay and September Size Does Matter 2015 Allkel To Excel.

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