



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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# ***Media Shy Trainer Claims first Group Win***

*By Media Department GRV*

So introverted is Keith Hellmuth that he dodged a pre-race interview at Saturday night's \$60,000 Group 2 Horsham Cup.

To the frustration of Sky Channel's on-course presenter Simone Fisher, the Pearcedale greyhound trainer did his utmost to avoid media limelight.

"He's the only trainer I didn't interview prior to the race," a flustered Fisher uttered immediately after the Hellmuth-trained Peter Rocket crossed the finish line first to claim a \$42,000 first prize plus \$10,000 GOBIS Bonus.

Neither Fisher or Sky Channel should take Hellmuth's brush-off personally, as his bashfulness meant he also entrusted wife Lisa, who owns Peter Rocket, with the responsibility of handling Peter Rocket in the Cup.

Lisa also delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the kennel.



**Peter Rocket Proves too good in the Horsham Cup** (All Pics Clint Anderson)

For Keith, however, there was no escaping Fisher's clutches after the official presentations were out the way, as she finally cornered her man in the wash bay, giving him a quick talking to before leading him to Sky's outdoor studio for a post-race interview.

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## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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For Hellmuth, publicity is new territory. Aside from the 2012 Group 3 Derby in Adelaide (when Peter Rocket ran 3rd to Spud Regis) he has never had a runner in a group final in 25 years of training greyhounds.

It must be said, however, that Peter Rocket (\$6) had been knocking loudly on the door of late, as the underrated sprinter qualified as a reserve (without gaining a start) in several big races – namely the Maturity Classic (G1), the Silver Chief (G1) & the Cranbourne Cup (G2).

This time however, Peter Rocket earned his place in the Horsham Cup's starting field after a gutsy heat win, before overpowering the brilliant Nitro Cee (\$5.10) in Saturday night's final.

Nitro Cee had gained a start as a reserve from box 1, but from box 2 Peter Rocket had the recent Warragul Cup winner in his sights from soon after the start, and he reeled her in before stopping the clock in the super quick time of 26.82sec.

Nitro Cee finished 2nd, beaten by just over a length with Bubba's Dream (\$3.90) third.

For Peter Rocket it was his 13th win from 28 starts and took his career earnings past \$90,000.

The win would have brought a lot of satisfaction to greyhound people, as Hellmuth's success is a classic example of the hobbyist conquering the big-name trainers.

The Hellmuths both work full-time, with Keith hoping to one day win a major Group 1 so he can throw in his job as a plasterer to exclusively train greyhounds.

"I've been training greyhounds on and off since the 1980s and never had any more than two racedogs at a time," he said after the win.

"We currently train Peter Rocket and his litter brother Yes We Did, and we have four pups that are about 13 or 14 months old."

"It's nice to win the Horsham Cup, but I'd love to one day win a really big race so I can afford to train dogs full-time."

Hellmuth plans to now have a crack at fulfilling that very ambition when he heads north with Peter Rocket this weekend to tackle a heat of the \$250,000 to-the-winner Group 1 Golden Easter Egg in Sydney.

"He's never been to Sydney but he seems to handle new tracks quite well," Hellmuth said of Peter Rocket. "He hadn't been to Horsham either prior to his Cup heat on Tuesday, so hopefully he can be just as competitive at Wentworth Park."

"You've got to nominate for the big races when you have top class dogs because opportunities like this don't come along every day."

"He's an absolute machine and would run through a brick wall if he had to. It's just so great to have a greyhound that is so determined."

A two and a half year old son of Where's Pedro and Belron Blue, Peter Rocket was bred in Pearcedale by Hellmuth's neighbour Ron Partington.

"We paid \$5,000 each for Peter Rocket and Yes We Did. We bought them because they were part of a repeat mating, with the original mating producing a few city winners (including Sapphire Crown & Traralgon Cup finalist, Violet Crumble)."

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The investment has proven a shrewd one, and if Peter Rocket can progress through the heats of the prestigious Golden Easter Egg and into the semis, Hellmuth may find the growing media attention impossible to avoid.

After the placed runners the rest of the field finished in the following order. Stagger (\$14.70), Mepunga Geordie (\$15.10), Fully Advanced (\$4.80), Vapour Storm (\$10.00) and Voltage Peak (\$8.10).

Peter Rocket is a Black dog whelped April 2010 by Where's Pedro from Belron Blue (Lansley Bale x Lorobel). He is raced by Lisa Hellmuth and trained by Keith Hellmuth from Pearcedale in Victoria. Peter Rocket has raced 28 times for 13 wins and 11 placings with his win in the Horsham Cup the \$42,000 first prize took his current stake earnings to \$92,255.



**Lisa and Keith Hellmuth with Peter Rocket post Horsham Cup**

Listed below are the previous winners of the Horsham Cup, famous for many years when run as an Easter carnival. The race has been won by some of the best sprinters to ever grace Victorian race tracks.

1978 **Temsonny**, 1979 **Chukka Khan**, 1980 **Tempix**, 1981 **Time Bonus**, 1982 **Satan's Shroud**, 1983 **Virgo Rose**, 1984 **Propellant**, 1985 **Savage Touch**, 1986 **Aidan**, 1987 **Buka Sunset**, 1988 **Hay Dinney**, 1989 **Daisy Clover**, 1990 **Go Georgie**, 1991 **Rare Drop**, 1992 **Noble Stranger**, 1993 **Casino Tom**, 1994 **No Object**, 1995 **Midnight Flirt**, 1996 **True Type**, 1997 **Another Express**, 1998 **Lansley Bale**, 1999 **Legs Ahoy**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale** 2001 **Classic Capri**, 2002 **Timjim Bale**, 2003 **Monsters Inc**, 2004 **Brumby Lad**, 2005 **Foreign Legion**, 2006 **Marungi Blaze**, 2007 **Winsome History**, 2008 **Kendale Bale**, 2009 **Velocette**, 2010 **Our Toyman**, 2011 **Enry Walt** and 2012 **Dyna Tron**.

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