



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Gotta Get Back an upset win in the Shepparton Cup

By GRV Website

Gotta Get Back created a massive upset when winning the \$67,000 Group 2 2016 CKH Painting Shepparton Gold Cup (450m) on Friday night.



*Gotta Get Back races away with the Shepparton Cup (All Pics Clint Anderson)*

Despite an outstanding career in which he has now won 20 times from just 36 starts, the John McClelland trained greyhound got up at the huge odds of \$20.40 after beginning well and kicking clear despite pressure from more fancied rivals.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

“He was one of three greyhounds leading the way at the start, so something had to give and the luck fell my way for a change,” said McClelland, who is based more two hours away in the remote NSW town of Jindera, yet calls Shepparton his home track.

Bred by John Staines and owned by the Peter Dooner Syndicate, Gotta Get Back (Dec '12 Vee Man Vane x Majestic Land) defeated fast-finishing pair Bearville Azza (\$8.30) and Big Ticket (\$6.60) to claim the \$47,000 first prize.



It was McClelland's first win at group level since Proven Wiz snared the 2007 Wangaratta Cup, and despite Gotta Get Back's ultra competitive career which has seen McClelland race through the grades at far away tracks including Warrnambool (a 12 hour round trip) and Warragul, this was the greyhound's first attempt at a country cup, or any group race for that matter.

“I didn't think he was good enough to compete at this level,” McClelland confessed.

“But in the last few months he has got a bit stronger, and it

was becoming harder to get a start with him because he's won at a lot of different tracks now and there aren't always (standard) races around for dogs who are up in grade.”

“He wasn't really running out the 450m all that strongly so I had always been a bit reluctant to enter him in any of the big races.”

McClelland now faces a big decision ahead of the \$1.3 Million Australian Cup Carnival, which runs across three consecutive Saturday nights at The Meadows from 20 February.

“I am thinking about racing him in the Australian Cup heats (on Feb 27). I'm pretty sure all group winners are automatically seeded into the heats, but I have a concern in that early pace is his best asset and I am worried that racing him over 525m could flatten him.”

“He's barely a true 450m dog let alone a true 500m dog, so I've got some thinking to do. I'll probably trial him at The Meadows and make a decision from there.”

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order: 4<sup>th</sup> Dalgetty (\$3.00), 5<sup>th</sup> Proven Kodiak (\$16.20), 6<sup>th</sup> Dewana Result (\$17.00), 7<sup>th</sup> Legend (\$29.20) and 8<sup>th</sup> Aston Bolero (\$2.60).

Gotta Get Back is a Blue & White dog whelped December 2012 by Vee Man Vane from Majestic Land (Collision x Majestic Rush). He is raced by the Dooner Syndicate and trained by John McClelland at Jindera in New South Wales. He has now won 20 races and been placed on nine occasions from his 36 starts. The Shepparton Cup first prize of \$47,000 brings Gotta Get Back overall prizemoney to \$76,560.

On a monster night of racing Phillip Smith and To The Galo's took out the Ron Nestor Memorial. Shepparton Greyhound Racing Club commemorate the passing of greyhound figure Ron Nestor by honouring his memory with the special event after his passing in March 2006 – Nestor was one of few people who had never missed a Shepparton Cup Final and the Committee at the time decided to make sure that spirit remains forever for a true gentleman of the sport.

The Shepparton Cup has always been a well sought after country cup and a one time a very important lead up race for the Melbourne Cup. It has been won by some brilliant greyhounds over the years none better than Hall of Famer and local superstar Highly Blessed. Other Melbourne Cup winners included Master Giant and Kantarn Bale. While like Highly Blessed, Bahama Image went on to win an Easter Egg. The race was run over the 440 metres at the old Shepparton Showgrounds until its closure in 2004.

*Continued on Page 3 ...*

1973 **Garner Bin**, 1974 **Morning Glow**, 1975 **Tivashley**, 1976 **Marungi Boy**, 1977 **Near History**, 1978 **Relle Louise**, 1979 **Mannerism**, 1980 **Proven Bold**, 1981 **First Question**, 1982 **Golden Impulse**, 1983 **Blue Echo**, 1984 **Blitzem Bill**, 1985 **Thorgil Magic**, 1986 **Thorgil Magic**, 1987 **Nan's Pal**, 1988 **Fantasy Boy**, 1989 **Pure Talent**, 1990 **Highly Blessed**, 1991 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1992 **Master Giant**, 1993 **Head Honcho**, 1994 **Thorgil Tex**, 1995 **Hanson Diamond**, 1996 **Bahama Image**, 1997 **World Title**, 1998 **Ashigga**, 1999 **Star Of Mine**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale**, 2001 **Salong Bale**, 2002 **Knockabout Wok**, 2003 **Puzzle Prize**, 2004 **Whisky Assassin**, 2005 not run, 2006 **Slater**, 2007 **Overflow Breaker**, 2008 **Hanify's Impact**, 2009 **Gardam Prince**, 2010 **Din's Son**, 2011 **El Grand Senor**, 2012 **Blackall's Boss**, 2013 **Paw Licking**, (2014 Not Held) and 2015 **Azza Azza Azza**.

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