



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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Zinzan Brooke snares Shepparton

Thriller

By GRV Website

Well-backed favourite Zinzan Brooke claimed a deserved county cup breakthrough when prevailing in a thrilling three-way finish to Saturday night's Group 2 CKH Painting Shepparton Cup Final (450m).

Trained by Brooke Ennis and husband Jamie, Zinzan Brooke was making his fourth appearance in a provincial feature when he edged out Bewildering and Lucky Chap in the \$47,000 to-the-winner Shepparton Cup.



Zinzan Brooke just prevails in a tight finish to the Shepparton Cup (All Pics Clint Anderson)

The son of Knocka Norris had previously contested the finals of last year's Ballarat Cup, this year's Warrnambool Cup and most recently the Bendigo Cup earlier this month, where he started \$3.20 favourite but could only finish sixth to surprise winner Landmark.

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“He’s made three country cups now and he always wins his heat in great fashion so I’m probably biased but I felt like he was due to win one,” a delighted Brooke Ennis said.

“It was a great field. Country cups are hard to make and they are extra hard to win.”

Zinzan Brooke had won his only two other assignments over Shepparton’s 450m course, a near-record 24.92sec performance in April and a 25.31sec heat victory on Monday, with Lucky Chap, trained by Anthony Azzopardi, the fastest qualifier, clocking 25.16sec.

Drawn alongside one another in boxes eight and seven respectively, Zinzan Brooke (\$3.40) and Lucky Chap (\$4) duelled for favouritism, with Melbourne Cup hero Ando’s Mac (\$4.50) and Bewildering (\$5.30) also having plenty of admirers.

Zinzan Brooke began well to be second to outsider Good Girl Sandy (\$17.30), but when Zinzan Brooke clipped the leader’s heels approaching the home turn Lucky Chap raced to the front.



But Zinzan Brooke balanced up and finished strongly along the inside to hold out the fast-finishing Bewildering and Lucky Chap in 25.32sec, with just half a length separating the first three across the line.

Zinzan Brooke, which started his career in Queensland, where he won his first seven starts, has now won eight of his last ten and an imposing 24 from 33 overall.

“I thought he was drawn where he needed to be and it turned out that way,” Ennis said.

“He copped a check on the home turn and I thought it put him out of the race. But he’s had a couple of runs over 500m and his strength got him there in the end.

“I really wasn’t sure when they crossed the line but a few people came up and congratulated me and I was hoping he won.

“It’s Jamie’s birthday. He couldn’t be here tonight because he’s at home looking after the dogs but he’ll be so happy.

“We are rapt for the owner (Queensland’s Wayne Thomson) because Zinzan Brooke had a serious operation when he was quite young and he was lucky to survive let alone race, so for him to now be a group winner is an incredible effort.”

The Ennis kennel was denied a feature double at the Shepparton meeting, with Bella Shima running second to Anthony Azzopardi’s Reefton Treasure in the Byers Electrical Cup Night Stayers (650m).

Other feature results on the Cup card saw Perceptive, prepared by Michelle Mallia-Magri, take out the President’s Trophy Vic Bred Final (650m). The Ron Nestor Memorial (450m) was won by Raw Ability, trained by Kylee Osborne. 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.

After the placed runners, the field finished in the following order: 4th Alpha Lucky (\$25.70), 5th Annabelle's Boy (\$16.10), 6th Ando's Mac (\$4.50), 7th Good Girl Sandy (\$17.30) and 8th Rockin' Rico (\$13.90).

Zinzan Brooke is a Red Fawn Dog whelped January 2014 by Knocka Morris from All Fired Up (Gable Lafourche x Bankers Blitz). He is raced and was bred by the Wayne Thomson & trained by Brooke Ennis at Lara in Victoria. He has now won 24 races and been placed on two occasions from his 33 starts. The Shepparton Cup first prize of \$47,000 brings Zinzan Brooke overall prizemoney to \$107,954.

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.

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 Senior**, 2012 **Blackall's Boss**, 2013 **Paw Licking**, (2014 Not Held), 2015 **Azza Azza Azza** and 2016 (February) **Gotta Get Back** (September) **Aston Bolero**.

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