



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**18th October 2013**



**Australia's best to clash in  
Group 1 Sky Racing TOPGUN**

The \$215,000 Sky Racing Topgun – the 21st running of Australia's premier invitation-only event – sees the country's finest pitted against one another in an October 26 Group 1 racing extravaganza at The Meadows.

The eight finalists and two reserves combine for almost \$2.7 million in prizemoney won – the highest collective total for a single race in Australian greyhound racing history.

The Wheeler family will be looking to create some history of their own, looking for a third consecutive Topgun triumph after wins from Allen Harper (2011) and longshot David Bale in last year's running. Their chaser Xylia Allen – already a three-time Group 1 winner – will start from box five.

South Australian cult hero Ernie Bung Arrow seems to be well drawn out in seven, aiming for his 14th win from 15 starts in his first run on interstate soil. Queenslander Glen Gallon will break Miata's Australian prizemoney record if successful, pushing his earnings to \$768,827.

As always, patrons on course for the 2013 TOPGUN will have the chance to win some amazing prizes, including AFL memberships, bikes for the children, TAB giveaways and entertainment for all ages in what has become one of the biggest nights at The Meadows.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

## GROUP ONE – SKY RACING TOP GUN

\$150,000 to the winner



### **Peter Rocket (VIC)**

49 starts 20-6-13 (\$225,255)

*Where's Pedro – Belron Blue*

Black Dog August '10

Owner: **Lisa Hellmuth**

Trainer: **Keith Hellmuth**

Meadows best: 29.95 (4) (12 Starts 5-1-5)

**Group race wins:** 1st G1 Megastars, G2 Horsham Cup (2011).

**Only the third time he'll jump from box one in his career, beaten both times off the red. Super win in Dapto Megastars and bonus is dog on his right does use a bit of the track. Must be respected as races well at The Meadows.**



### **Punch One Out (NSW)**

44 starts 22-10-4 (\$127,199)

*Knocka Norris – Little Egyptian*

Black Bitch February '11

Owner / Trainer: **Grant Fennelly**

Meadows best: NBT (1 Starts 0-0-1)

**Group race wins:** 1st G3 Gold Coast Cup.

**Wentworth Park and Richmond track record holder who broke her Group-winning duck in sizzling Gold Coast Cup win last week. Is as fast as any on her day but does have some early speed on her outside. Strong finisher with freakish talent.**



### **Tomac Bale (VIC)**

23 Starts 12-3-1 (\$153,645)

*Dyna Lachlan – Princess Bale*

Red Fawn Dog April '11

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Mark Delbridge**

Meadows best: 29.67 (2) (11 Start 7-2-0)

**Group race wins:** 1st G2 Launching Pad.

**Gutsy second behind Ernie Bung Arrow after getting cut out in Adelaide Cup final. Loves The Meadows, winning seven from 11, and he is one of four chasers with a sub-29.70PB here. The one to beat if he steps cleanly.**



### **Spud Regis (VIC)**

31 starts 16-5-5 (\$450,545)

*Bombastic Shiraz – Phiona*

Black Dog December '10

Owner: **Treloar Syndicate**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Meadows best: 29.63 (1) (10 Starts 6-1-0)

**Group race wins:** 1st G1 Adelaide Cup (2012), Australian Cup (2013), G3 SA Derby (2012).

**The Australian Cup hero has returned after a stint at stud in good form, winning a quality Free For All at The Meadows in 29.83 on September 21. Has enough early speed to lead this race. Monumental effort if he were to score off a limited preparation.**



### **Xylia Allen (VIC)**

42 starts 17-9-7 (\$377,625)

*Turanza Bale – Tayah Bale*

Black Bitch April '11

Owner: **Janice Wheeler**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Meadows best: 29.63 (6) (9 Starts 3-1-2)

**Group race honours:** 1<sup>st</sup> G1 National Sprint, G1 Sapphire Crown, G1 Peter Mosman, Group 2 Launceston Cup.

**A remarkably successful chaser who gives her owner/trainer a chance to win their third consecutive TOPGUN. Poorly boxed but has a super PB here and none are stronger. Danger with a sit behind early leaders.**



## **Glen Gallon (QLD)**

70 starts 37-11-4 (\$618,827)

**Flying Stanley – Incoherent**

Red Brindle Dog August '09

Owner: **Velocity Lodge (PTN)**

Trainer: **Tony Brett**

Meadows best: 29.69 (3) (10 Starts 3-1-1)

**Group race honours:** 1st G1 Brisbane Cup (2011), 1st G1 Winter Cup (2012-2013)

**Aiming to become Australia's highest prizemoney earner with victory here, which would clearly be his finest hour. Hasn't won a race since August 1 (his fourth birthday) and box does not help. Place best.**



## **Ernie Bung Arrow (SA)**

14 starts 13-1-0 (\$119,290)

**Lochinvar Marlow – Slipper's Tonic**

Black Dog November '11

Owner: **Helen Deacon**

Trainer: **Ken Gill**

Meadows beat: NBT

**Group race honours:** 1st G1 Adelaide Cup, 1st G3 SA Derby.

**SA's local hero after a super Adelaide Cup win - his 13<sup>th</sup> from just 14 starts. Possesses brilliant early speed and should be in a very handy position at the first turn. Not without a chance.**



## **Dyna Nalin (WA)**

38 starts 25-6-1 (\$278,500)

**Ashom Bale – Tally Bale**

Black Dog March '11

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Paul Stuart**

Meadows best: 29.89 (6)(3 Starts 2-1-1)

**Group race honours:** 1st G1 Perth Cup.

**Amazingly powerful sprinter from WA who has raced well at The Meadows from three starts. Not the best away but finishes with a withering burst. Will rely on luck but has the class to win.**



## **Gold Town (VIC)**

64 starts 21-14-8 (\$191,175)

**Surf Lorian – Golden Gwen**

**Fresh off a Group 2 victory at Wentworth Park, but fell at his last outing in a heat of the Geelong Cup.**



## **Marcus Joe (VIC)**

25 starts 7-7-3 (\$143,190)

**Velocette – Mojo Glory**

**Also took a tumble in heat of the Geelong Cup. Group 1 winner at The Meadows, running a top 29.66.**

**Local expert's selections for the SKY RACING TOPGUN final are as follows.**

### **Ron Hawkswell**

1<sup>st</sup> Spud Regis

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Rocket

3<sup>rd</sup> Xylia Allen

### **Eddie Caruana**

1<sup>st</sup> Punch One Out

2<sup>nd</sup> Ernie Bung Arrow

3<sup>rd</sup> Xylia Allen

### **Rob Testa**

1<sup>st</sup> Spud Regis

2<sup>nd</sup> Tomac Bale

3<sup>rd</sup> Punch One Out

### **George Farrugia**

1<sup>st</sup> Tomac Bale

2<sup>nd</sup> Dyna Nalin

3<sup>rd</sup> Spud Regis



## TAB Fixed Odds Market for the Top Gun:

<b>\$215,000 Group 1 Sky Racing TOPGUN (525m) MEADOWS</b>			
<b>Box</b>	<b>Greyhound</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Price</b>
 <b>1</b>	<i>Peter Rocket</i>	<i>Keith Hellmuth</i>	<b>\$4.80</b>
 <b>2</b>	<i>Punch One Out</i>	<i>Grant Fennelly</i>	<b>\$5.00</b>
 <b>3</b>	<i>Tomac Bale</i>	<i>Mark Delbridge</i>	<b>\$4.00</b>
 <b>4</b>	<i>Spud Regis</i>	<i>Andrea Dailly</i>	<b>\$5.00</b>
 <b>5</b>	<i>Xylia Allen</i>	<i>Graeme Bate</i>	<b>\$8.50</b>
 <b>6</b>	<i>Glen Gallon</i>	<i>Tony Brett</i>	<b>\$21.00</b>
 <b>7</b>	<i>Ernie Bung Arrow</i>	<i>Ken Gill</i>	<b>\$4.50</b>
 <b>8</b>	<i>Dyna Nalin</i>	<i>Paul Stuart</i>	<b>\$16.00</b>
 <b>9</b>	<i>Gold Town</i>	<i>Peter Hunt</i>	<b>\$10.00</b>
 <b>10</b>	<i>Marcus Joe</i>	<i>Barry Maloney</i>	<b>\$6.00</b>

**What's happening on race night?**

Main entertainment and activities planned for the night include:

**Public Transport:** A Courtesy Dyson Bus will depart Broadmeadows Railway Station taking people to course to enjoy a night of Greyhound Racing. Call (03) 93555222 to confirm your seat.

**Entertainment:**

Meet AFL Champion Players on course at the Meadows.  
Handball Competition for the Kids  
Loads of Free Activities 4 the kids  
Bouncing Castles, Mini Golf & Face Painting

**Giveaways**

\$5,000 Big Bucks (4 x \$1000 & 10 x \$100 Bets) on the Topgun  
First 300 kids receive a FREE football and Showbags  
Mystery Bet Combos & TAB Betting Vouchers

**Facilities**

TAB  
Catering  
Full Bar  
ATM



## Topgun Timeline

- 1993** First Topgun run. Victorian champions Worth Backing and Golden Currency defy wet and cold conditions to finish in a dead heat. Revealing finished a further four inches away in third. Worth Backing and Golden Currency split the \$40,000 winner's purse.
- 1994** Topgun held at Olympic Park. Winner's purse increased to \$50,000.
- 1995** Rapid Hiker sets new track record on old Sandown Park track.
- 1996** First place prizemoney increased to \$70,000.
- 1997** Greyhounds from Ireland, the UK and United States compete against Australia's best.
- 1998** Race elevated to Group 2 status.
- 1999** Race elevated to Group 1 status.
- 2000** Prizemoney increased to \$100,000 to the winner.
- 2003** Bombastic Shiraz completes Triple Crown – claiming the Shootout, Melbourne Cup and Topgun.
- 2004** Whisky Assassin, drawn favourably in box 8, sets new Sandown Park track record – 29.40 seconds.
- 2005** Prizemoney increased to \$125,000 to the winner.
- 2008** Race finds a permanent home at the Meadows after both Metro clubs agree to a new feature race structure. Previously the Topgun had alternated between the MGRA and Sandown.
- 2009** Superstar winner El Galo is disqualified after returning a positive swab and the race is awarded to Regal Thyme the first reserve, he gained a start in box one following the scratching of the injured Queenslander Knocka Norris.
- 2009** Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the year Cindeen Shelby rounded out her outstanding year with an all the way win defeating a classy field in 2009 Topgun.
- 2010** Another Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the Year El Grand Senor proved what a great champion he was with an outstanding Top Gun win, he led all the way in 29.83.
- 2011** Legendary Victorian Hall of Fame trainer Graeme Bate won one of the few events he hadn't before secured. His extraordinary year continued when Allen Harper took out the Top Gun. He proved too good after finding the early lead. The Wheeler – Bate combination not only supplied the winner but runner-up as well with Radley Bale. It was a memorable night for the unstoppable team.
- 2012** Rank outsider David Bale (\$31.20) caused one of the biggest boilovers in Group 1 history, running down kennelmate Desalle Bale in the shadows of the post to win the Sky Racing TOPGUN in 29.92.

Listed below are the past Top Gun winners since the race commenced in 1993.

Year	Winner	State	Trainer	Time	Track
1993	<b>Worth Backing</b>	(VIC)	Carl Haas	30.56	Sandown Park
	<b>Golden Currency</b>	(VIC)	Kevin Mugavin Jnr	DH	
1994	<b>New Fox</b>	(NSW)	Dennis Reid	29.98	Olympic Park
1995	<b>Rapid Hiker</b>	(VIC)	Philip Newman	29.80	Sandown Park
1996	<b>Wylie Boy</b>	(VIC)	George Rose	30.09	Sandown Park
1997	<b>Chicago Blue</b>	(VIC)	Brian Furness	30.00	Sandown Park
1998	<b>Rapid Journey</b>	(NSW)	Jane Carruthers	29.85	Sandown Park



1999	<b>Mint Magic</b>	(NSW)	Ray Watson	29.97	Meadows
2000	<b>Placard</b>	(NSW)	Ruth King	29.92	Sandown Park
2001	<b>No Intent</b>	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	30.17	Meadows
2002	<b>Lindale Blue</b>	(WA)	Colin Bainbridge	29.76	Sandown Park
2003	<b>Bombastic Shiraz</b>	(VIC)	Darren Cairns	30.06	Meadows
2004	<b>Whisky Assassin</b>	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	29.40	Sandown Park
2005	<b>Black Enforcer</b>	(QLD)	Tony Brett	30.02	Meadows
2006	<b>Jaimandy Coops</b>	(VIC)	Paul Donohue	29.60	Sandown Park
2007	<b>Meticulous</b>	(VIC)	Mario Briganti	29.88	Meadows
2008	<b>Regal Thyme</b>	(VIC)	Graeme Long	29.75	Meadows
2009	<b>Cindeen Shelby</b>	(VIC)	Kelvyn Greenough	29.75	Meadows
2010	<b>El Grand Senor</b>	(VIC)	Carolyn Jones	29.83	Meadows
2011	<b>Allen Harper</b>	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.82	Meadows
2012	<b>David Bale</b>	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.92	Meadows



**Last Year's Top Gun winner David Bale**

**Thanks for information supplied by George Farrugia M.G.R.A. Publicity Officer**

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