AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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"Zaar brilliant in Traralgon Cup win"

In a powerful front running display Zaar ($24.30) won the Chris Humphrey Office National Traralgon Cup last Friday afternoon. It was a pleasing result for prolific breeders Neville King and Kay Taberner. The couple decided to transfer training duties of their brindle dog to Gary Armstrong due to Zaar's kennel manners. The move has worked wonders for him as he has made steady improvement since Armstrong took him over.

"He'd had three starts for Neville and Kay but was a "barker" and wouldn't settle down in the larger kennel, I'd been helping them out with their dogs and I suggested he might be better away from their set up. He is the only dog I have in work and he has reacted very well to the one on one attention. I have taken him along steadily and he has just kept on improving as he has gained confidence. I told them a few weeks ago how well he was trailing, he then came out running at Sandown and ran a best of the night 29.74, so he has got heap of ability. He just needed the confidence." Armstrong told me after the win.

Zaar was quick to begin from box five and took the early lead, Two Up Larry ($15.40), Country Baby ($51.40), Nitro Neveelk ($8.60) and Traction Control ($5.30) were all slow out. Favourite Regal Brett ($1.60) had also blown the start and was in heavy traffic at the first turn. Zaar kicked away down the back straight and was going well, chasing hard second was Nitro Neveelk then came Two Up Larry and Country Baby. Around the home turn Zaar was travelling brilliantly and looked the winner Nitro Neveelk could make no impression and Regal Brett had got clear and was running on for the minor end of the prize. Over the line Zaar won by two and quarter lengths with three and quarter between second and third both Nitro Neveelk and Regal Brett were good runs. Fenceline ($8.90) was 4th with Claudie ($35.20) 5th, Country Baby 6th , Traction Control 7th and Two Up Larry last home.

Time for the 513 metres was a fast 29.58 with Zaar's sections of 5.48 and 16.61. Zaar is a May 2003 whelp by Nobody's Fool from Azz For Now (Prince Of Tigers x Victorious Road the 1994 Laurels winner). On Friday as the Traralgon Cup was being run Azz For Now was being mated with a straw from Just the Best. She had also this week produced a first up winner at Cranbourne Sanzzero from an April 2004 litter to Boomeroo.

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Gary Armstrong is from the Melbourne southern suburb of Dingley he has been training greyhounds for 10 years since he was given his start by Graeme Bate.

“Graeme and Bev gave me Extra Fast to learn with when he was a four year old and I won some nice races with him. I’ve been in it on and off since then, I suppose once it’s in your blood it’s always there. This was the first feature I’ve been in since I won the 1997 Maidment Memorial with Tassie Park. Zaar’s a nice dog and I look forward to him racing well in the future I’ll put him in the Melbourne Cup heats, why not you don’t get a chance to have a runner very often. He has proved he is better suited over the 500 as he has build up to it. He won some good races over 424 but I think as his confidence has grown his box manners have got better. He is at the right age now and just getting to his peak.” Armstrong said.

Zaar has raced 27 times for nine wins and five placings and together with the $20,000 for the cup win his stake earnings stand at $33,820. Besides his fast times at Traralgon and Sandown he has also recorded 24.80 at Sale and 30.44 at the Meadows.

The Traralgon Cup was first known as the Latrobe Valley Cup from 1974 until 1980 when it changed its name, listed below is the Honour Roll of past winners.

1974 **Lady Anthia,** 1975 **Jaymar's Pride,** 1976 **Dunmain Scholar,** 1977 **Bolta's Gift,** 1978 **Elsie Belinda,** 1979 **Newmore's Heart, 1**980 **Weona Swinger,** 1981 **Select Band,** 1982 **Harry Shamrock,** 1983 **Drop Of Wine,** 1984 **Forever Alert,** 1985 **Rumpus Pappa,** 1986 **Lightning Boy,** 1987 **Star Affair,** 1988 **Ray Bon Miss,** 1989 **Devastate,** 1990 **Witchery,** 1991 **Malawi's Prince,** 1992 **Tough As Tears / Worth Backing (DH),** 1993 **Lash's Choice,** 1994 **Light Of Fire,** 1995 **Wylie Boy,** 1996 **Flash Monarch,** 1997 **Shannen's Storm,** 1998 **Power Thriller,** 1999 **Four Amigos,** 2000 **Dutchy's Angel,** 2001 **Floodfawn,** 2002 **Elgrando,** 2003 **Our Barney** 2004 **Amaroo Gift.**

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Donna Summers
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96465711
Mob: 0414 524 907