

# GCA Hall of Fame Inductee

## Xylia Allen

Few greyhounds in history have made an impact over all distances and in fact only three have won Group 1 races over the sprint and longer journey. An incredible feat when you think about it over a century of Greyhound Racing has produced three race dogs all bitches that have performed the task. The immortal Hall of Famer Zoom Top from the 60's perhaps the best ever, of in much more recent times Fanta Bale a certain Hall of Famer after retirement qualification period and the mighty race bitch of 2012-2014 Xylia Allen.



Xylia Allen a Black Bitch whelped 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 was raced and bred by the Wheeler family Paul, Janice and Brendan. Classically Wheeler bred from outstanding race performer Meadows track record holder Turanza Bale she was from top brood bitch Tayah Bale.

Xylia Allen was trained throughout her career by legendary Victorian mentor Graeme Bate for 35 starts and was transferred to Jenny Hunt in October 2013 for her remaining 48 starts.

When she retired after her last race at The Meadows on October 25 2014. Xylia Allen was Australian greyhound racing's highest prizemoney earner of all time.

She earned \$743,730 in prizemoney; Miata was second on the list with \$715,508.

The Group One winning sprinter turned Group One winning stayer ended her career with 40 wins and 25 placings from 83 starts a win percentage of 48%.

Xylia Allen took out four Group One races throughout her career. Her first triumph at the top level was in the Group One Sapphire Crown at Sandown; while she also claimed the Group One Peter Mosman Classic, the Group One National Sprint Championship and the Group One Gold Cup at Albion Park.

In addition to her Group Ones, she was also the winner of the Group Two Launceston Cup, the Group Three Sandown Shootout and the Group Two McKenna Memorial.



Xylia Allen competed against the best throughout her entire career. The tenacious chaser ran placings in ten Group race finals and was a finalist in a further 12 Group events.

She still holds four track records over distances that no longer have races conducted at the track or distance. They are Geelong: 596m (33.96), Horsham: 570m (31.93), Launceston: 515m (29.09) and Traralgon: 658m (38.03).

She also set records at Wentworth Park 720 metres, with a time of 41.53. The Meadows 600 (33.98) and Geelong 680 (38.90).

Xylia Allen won on 12 different tracks and 20 distances. She saluted at the following, Albion Park: 520m (29.81) and 710m (41.55), Angle Park: 515m (29.83), Ballarat: 545m (30.67), Cannington: 715m (41.46), Cranbourne: 520m (29.96), Geelong: 460m (25.43), 520m (29.93), 596m (33.96) and 680m (38.90), Horsham: 570m (31.93), Launceston: 515m (29.09), Sandown Park: 515m (29.06), 595m (33.79) and 715m (41.69). The Meadows: 525m (29.62), 600m (33.98) and 725m (42.47), Traralgon: 658m (38.03), Warragul: 460m (26.41) and Wentworth Park: 520m (29.47) and 720m (41.53).

Xylia Allen won a number of awards including AGRA Greyhound of the Year 2013-2014, Victorian and Sandown Greyhound of the Year 2013. She also won the AGRA Run of the Year in 2013 for her outstanding performance in the Group 1 Sapphire Crown at Sandown.



She won from every box on more than one occasion but excelled from the Red with a nine and one record from 11 starts, but also won nine and seven from boxes six and five.

At the time of her retirement while looking back at her

remarkable career, there is only one word that Paul Wheeler could use to describe his phenomenal chaser.

“Unbelievable. In my lifetime I never thought I would have a greyhound to win almost three quarters of a million dollars. She was outstanding.”

Xylia Allen has not just left her work on the racetrack from two litters to race by sires Kelsos Fusleer and Bella Infrared her pups have won over 100 races and \$478,000 in prizemoney.

Her best is New Zealand's top stayer Dyna Weslyn with other top performers from the litters Dyna Carnie, Dyna Zesty, Dyna Yessa and Dyna Alistair.

What a star she was any track, any distance it all came the same to Xylia Allen she raced the best and beat the best at the highest level and will always be remembered for the out and out champion she was. A superstar of the sport, if not the best she is in an exclusive bracket at the top.

By Neil Brown.

