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**By GRV Website**



## **Rockoon Rockets to Group 1 Glory**

Breeders Keith Hellmuth and the See The Dream syndicate watched on as their home-bred stars achieved Group glory on a huge night of racing at The Meadows on Melbourne Cup eve.

The night's flagship race – the Group 1 Hume Cup – was won in outstanding fashion by Rockoon (\$4), who gave the race's leader Riley Tokaam a monumental start before powering past his rivals to win in 34.36 over 600 metres, emulating his dad Peter Rocket by winning at the highest level.



**Rockoon races away to win the Hume Cup** (All Pics Clint Anderson)

New South Wales chasers Where Art Thou (\$15.40) and Riley Tokaam (\$7.60) filled the placings, but the night belonged to Rockoon – raced and trained by Lisa and Keith Hellmuth, who also put the polish on the greyhound's parents Peter Rocket and Raya Riot.

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Lisa Hellmuth – overcome with emotion after such a famous victory – said that a decision by her and husband Keith to reject a six-figure sum for the greyhound looks to be the right call after the \$75,000-to-the-winner pay cheque.

“It was a big offer but the dog is sentimental to us seeing we raced his mum and dad and it was such a huge run tonight.”

Rockoon made the greyhound world sit up and take notice after his 34.16 win over 600 metres at The Meadows on October 7, and a big future awaits if the greyhound can run out the half-mile trip as expected.

The victory was the white and black chaser’s ninth from 23 starts, pushing his prizemoney past the \$116,000 mark after Monday’s amazing win.

Earlier in the night Bewildering – whose parents were both raced by Serg and Bill Buccilli’s See The Dream Syndicate – gave the Thompson family their third consecutive Group 3 RSN Silver Bullet win (Dalgetty in 2015, Aston Bolero in 2016) after a breathtaking 29.75 gallop over the 525-metre trip. The son of Black Magic Opal and Outlandish sat in an ominous position on the first turn behind Topgun heroine Up Hill Jill before proving too strong to win his first Group race at The Meadows and third of his career. Up Hill Jill held on for second in front of Bewildering’s kennelmate Aqua Cheetah, who ran a gutsy third in yet another Group final.

Serg Buccilli paid tribute to the Thompson family after his chaser’s top win against a quality field.

“The Thompson family always do such a great job with our chasers and it was great to win tonight. The box draw wasn’t great but he was in a very nice position on the first turn and showed that he can begin.”

The greyhound’s dam Outlandish was a quality chaser who broke down after a promising start to her career, and was a sister to classy chaser Phenomenal.

Bewildering’s win was his 15th from 33 starts and his prizemoney now stands at over \$234,000.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order. 4th Mystery Ride (\$8.60), 5th Van Ann (\$4.10), 6th Allen Mike (\$15) 7th Brueghelino (\$4.20) and Cardamom (\$15.10).

Rockoon is a White & Black dog whelped June '15 he was bred, and is raced & trained by Lisa and Keith Hellmuth at Peacedale in Victoria. Rockoon is by Peter Rocket from Raya Riot (Bombastic Shiraz x Holly’s Gem). The Group 1 Hume Cup win took his record to 23 starts for nine wins and eight placings and prizemoney earnings of \$116,575.

The Hume Cup was initially called the Lord’s Mayors Cup and was first run over 675 yards at North Melbourne in 1960, it moved with the club to Olympic Park and in 1964 became the Lord Mayors Trophy and remained a sprint race until 1988. It then became a distance event until 1994 when it was discontinued. The MGRA due to the tremendous support they are given by the Hume City Council resurrected the feature in 2000 calling the race the Hume Cup. In another change to the event in 2010 it was conducted over 600 metres for the first time and that will remain the distance in the foreseeable future. The race was elevated to Group 1 status in 2012 when prizemoney went to \$75,000 to the winner. Listed below are the past winners.

1960 **Fair's Orders**, 1961 **Rustling Breeze**, 1962 **Tree Lover**, 1963 **Diropace**, 1964 **Rocket Streak**, 1965 **Cheltenham Lass**, 1966 **Munich Boy**, 1967 **Bold Charmer**, 1968 **Fawn Waters**, 1969 **Dashing Phantom**, 1970 **Mayo Gold**, 1971 **Banca**, 1972 **Flying Stage**, 1973 **Half Your Luck**, 1974 **Temlee**, 1975 **Plain Winnie**, 1976 **Matireka**, 1977 **Shelley O'Reilly**, 1978 **Manteca Boy**, 1979 **Shane's Level**, 1980 **Vibrant King**, 1981 **Striding Ahead**, 1982 **Durante Lad**, 1983 **Castle Ridge**, 1984 **National Poppy**, 1985 **Rumpus Pappa**, 1986 **I'm Nugget**, 1987 **Swift Laser**, 1988 **Regal Kid**, 1989 **Blue Speed**, 1990 **Interest Only**, 1991 **Modern Express**, 1992 **Modern Express**, 1993 **Saltwater Sid**, 2000 **Mr. Boswell**, 2001 **Bentley Babe**, 2002 **Tears Of Jupiter**, 2003 **Oh Behave**, 2004 **Triple Trio**, 2005 **Jacarrest**, 2006 **Sargent Major**, 2007 **Technoman**, 2008 **Fallen Zorro**, 2009 **Amity Bale** 2010 **Flash of Light**, 2011 **Shintaro Samurai**, 2012 **Jethro**, 2013 **Alpe D'Huez**, 2014 **My Bro Fabio**, 2015 **Secret Spell** and 2016 **Fanta Bale**.

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