



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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# **Suffragette launches onto the path to Stardom**

By Michael Floyd

Suffragette stamped herself as a potential star of the sport after sensationally winning the \$210,000 group 2 Launching Pad by 10 lengths at Sandown Park tonight.

Trained by the husband and wife training team of Steve and Kerrie White, Suffragette was sent to the boxes as the \$3.60 equal favourite after her dominant semi-final win. She and was quick to reward the punter's confidence after beginning cleanly from box 6 to lead clearly through the first turn. The field bunched behind her allowing



**Suffragette races away with the Launching Pad (Pics Clint Anderson)**

Suffragette to establish a race winning break down the back straight and charge to the line to score in 29.43.

"After I saw the box draw, I sat down and worked it out how I thought the race would be run – the gods were smiling on us," said a delighted handler Steve White.

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“It’s been a beautiful week, haven’t had any hiccups at all. I was always confident that if she jumped she’d win.”

Suffragette burst on to the racing scene in October 2016 with a dazzling 12 length win on debut. By January she’d already chalked up five wins (just one short of the six-win limit for the series) but a minor injury allowed White to switch his focus on to the \$400,000 series.

“It’s a good feeling because we set her for the race. When she hurt herself I said to her owner Geoff Slattery, ‘we’ve got eight weeks, we’ll set her for the Launching Pad.’



“We’ve been building up her race fitness and I said that she’d peak on race night. Last week she went 29.35 and I thought ‘I hope she hasn’t peaked,’ but look at her now, she wouldn’t blow out a candle.”

White had been bullish about Suffragette’s chances from the outset, even backing her at \$201 prior to the series and again at \$126 after she ran fourth in her heat.

“I was really confident with her, she’s always been a superstar. She broke in at Billy McMahon’s and he rang me and said she’s a superstar, she’s a freak – that’s his words – he said she’s a freak.”

The win was the biggest for White since making the move from New South Wales to Victoria in October 2015 and there may be more to come. At just 26 months of age, Suffragette has already won \$178,000 in prize money and will now be set for the \$145,000 group 1 Sapphire Crown to be run at Sandown Park in May – a race White won twice with AGRA Hall Of Famer Pua To Burn in 2004 and 2005.

“Whether she won or lost tonight, the sky’s the limit for her.”

After the winner the field finished in the following order 2<sup>nd</sup> Zipping Hooch (\$13.90) 3<sup>rd</sup> He’s Loaded (\$8), 4<sup>th</sup> Shantui (\$11.90), 5<sup>th</sup> Zipping Bronze (\$7.80), 6<sup>th</sup> Zipping Daph (\$3.60), 7<sup>th</sup> Oransay (\$10.20) and Princes Pout (\$8.50).

Suffragette is a Black Bitch whelped February 2015 by SH Avatar from Ebby Miss (Head Bound x Senza Nome) she is raced by Geoff Slattery and trained by Kerri White from Buln Buln East in Victoria. She has raced 17 times for eight wins and seven placings. The \$150,000 first prize for the Launching Pad took her stake earnings to \$178,197.

More than 2000 people were trackside for the Easter Kids Fun Night activities. In what is fast becoming one of the club’s most beloved race nights, kids of all ages joined in the fun Easter egg hunts, games, giveaways and stacks of fun activities

Matt Lanigan pledged that 5% of any prize money won by Zipping Hooch would be donated to a friend’s charity bike ride from Melbourne to Darwin. Zipping Hooch ran second in the Launching Pad, netting connections \$40,000 of which \$2000 would be donated to Declan Foott’s Cancer Council Victoria fund raiser

Worm Burner claimed the night’s support feature, the Listed Easter Gift, by defeating Black Mumbo by 1½ lengths in 29.22. It was Worm Burner’s third consecutive win at Sandown since relocating from South Australia to Victoria and was arguably his most impressive. He stepped cleanly from box 2 but couldn’t cross early as Black Mumbo railed beneath him to hold a slender lead early. The pair matched motors down the back straight, but Worm Burner showed his class turning for home to claim the \$25,000 first prize.

West on Hawkeye picked up \$15,000 by winning the Launching Pad Consolation with an impressive hard railing performance, defeating Missed An Earn by 2¾ lengths.

By winning over 715m in a slick 41.98, Polijuice Potion became the 68th greyhound to win over all three distances at Sandown Park

The Sandown Club introduced the DDC Launching Pad in 2003 and until 2009 it was a Group 3 feature. The race was elevated to Group 2 status in 2010 and 2011, but dropped back to Group 3 again in 2012. However the club decided the race was worthy of Group 2 status again and elevated it back in 2013, which is where it will stay. The feature has quickly become a most popular event with conditions suiting the young up and coming stars, it is now one of the most unique events on the national calendar providing excellent prizemoney of a \$213,500 final. With the success of the first year of the new concept in 2014 nominations numbers were extended this year and last to 96 entry tickets at \$2000 each. The extra money was put back into the heats, semi-finals and final in a three - week series for the first time. The concept also for the second time included a consolation series provided more distribution of prizemoney for the \$2000 entry. The changes were well received and although a review will be held the changes have again elevated the race to another level. The race is sure to continue to grow in stature as time unfolds and will become a much sought after race for that level and class of lightly raced dogs. Listed below are the previous winners and their winning time.

2003 **Bounty Lass** 29.80, 2004 **Legends** 29.80, 2005 **Traction Control** 29.80, 2006 **Path To Power** 29.69, 2007, **Boris Reigns** 29.80, 2008 **Teaman Titch** 29.90, 2009 **Shiver Inside** 29.80, 2010 **Arsonist** 29.88, 2011 **Easy Peasy** 29.70, 2012 **Five Paws** 29.69, 2013 **Tomac Bale** 29.23, 2014 **Wynburn Wizard** 29.18, 2015 **Usain I'm Nutty** 29.41 and 2016 **Buck Forty** 29.23.

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