



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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Super Night at the Bool

By GRV Website

The Britton family was celebrating overtime on Wednesday night when outsider Leo's Gift caused a boil-over in the Group 2 Warrnambool Cup, upsetting warm favourite Striker Light.

Trained by Robert Britton, who's currently holidaying in the United States, Leo's Gift was a wedding present to Britton's daughter Tamara and husband Adam Tenadii, and he's been a gift that keeps on giving.



Leo's Gift leads all the way in Warrnambool Cup All Pics Clint Anderson)

His surprise all-the-way Cup triumph reaped a \$47,000 purse and took his earnings to a tick under \$130,000.

"Two weeks before my sister Tamara was getting married a couple of years ago I wanted to buy her a greyhound pup as a present, so I asked my dad to find one and we presented him to her at the wedding," Tim Britton, Robert's son and Tamara's brother, explained.

"We brought the four-month-old pup to the reception and he was a huge hit.

"So Tamara owns him and I have a small share. I was just hoping he'd go on to win a couple of races, but to win a Group race with him is unbelievable."

Leo's Gift had been racing consistently without setting the world on fire over 500 metres in town in recent weeks before making a winning Warrnambool debut with an all-the-way 25.35sec heat victory.

At his 49th start, and just his second in a Group event, having finished unplaced in last year's South Australian Derby, Leo's Gift started at \$15.20 from box five.

Golden Easter Egg heroine Striker Light, chasing her first feature trophy in her home state, was the \$2.90 favourite from box two, head of Anthony Azzopardi's fastest qualifier Lucky Chap, another Easter Egg finalist, which exited the four alley as a \$4.30 chance.

Leo's Gift was best to begin, while Striker Light jumped fairly and Lucky Chap was moving into a threatening position before a check put him out of play.

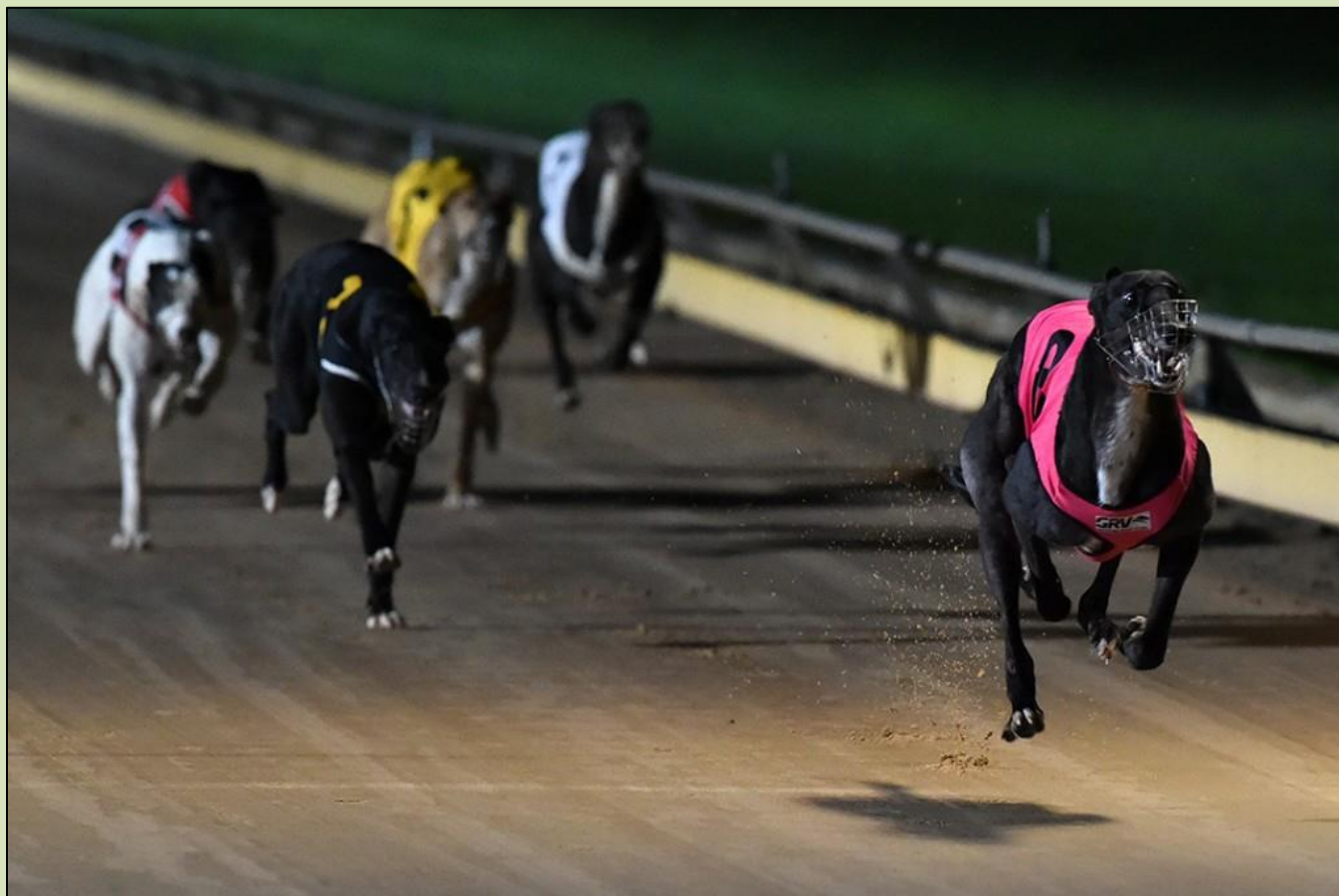
Leo's Gift turned for home ahead of Raw Ability and Striker Light and refused to relinquish his advantage, defeating Striker Light by three-quarters of a length in a slick 25.08sec, his 16th win from 49 starts.

"Dad is in America right now and I've just come back from there. Dad bought a farm in Abilene (Kansas) and I've been rearing pups there for him," Tim said.

"I've just completed my second six-month stint there and the plan is to continue rearing litters there.

"We plan to sell a lot of the pups at the greyhound auctions held regularly in Abilene and if we get a really good one we might bring it to Australia to race."

Untapped talent Bewildering completed a stunning clean-sweep of the rich Group 2 Macey's Bistro Warrnambool Classic series with a runaway victory in Wednesday night's final.



Bewildering races away with the Warrnambool Classic

At just his 12th start, Bewildering, trained by Seona Thompson, upstaged two of the best sprinters in the land in Lightning Frank and Up Hill Jill when careering away with the \$75,000 to-the-winner Classic.

Bewildering is a son of 2013 Melbourne Cup hero Black Magic Opal, which also left his mark on the Warrnambool Carnival, claiming the Cup in 2014, and he's raced in the same interests, the See The Dream Syndicate, featuring long-time Thompson kennel clients Sergio and Bill Buccilli.

"We won the Melbourne Cup and a Warrnambool Cup with Black Magic Opal among other races," Sergio said.

"We bred this dog. He's a litter brother to Extreme Magic, who is the quickest dog we've ever had. Extreme Magic tends to grind away in his races whereas Bewildering is more of a sprinter. In fact, he is racing more and more like Black Magic Opal did."

Bewildering had been beaten at his previous five starts heading into the Classic series, but he stormed into the decider with commanding heat and semi-final victories, clocking 24.93sec and 25.40sec respectively.

Drawn in box eight for the decider, Bewildering was one of only three contenders at single figure odds, starting at \$7.50, with local hero Lightning Frank, a dual Group 1 winner, dominating the market at \$1.50 from the rails and fastest semi winner Up Hill Jill the \$3.90 second elect.

Up Hill Jill won the early speed battle, with Lightning Frank getting into trouble, while Bewildering moved ominously into second.

Bewildering swept to the front rounding the home turn and quickly put paid to Up Hill Jill, powering clear to score by an ever-widening 4 ½ lengths in an airborne 24.74sec, just .02sec outside Unlawful Entry's 450m track record.

"We were very confident. He's got the ability and got the bloodlines to achieve anything," Buccilli said.

"It's great to race against the best and beat the best, and with greyhounds like Lightning Frank and Up Hill Jill in the race it was probably one of the strongest Warrnambool Classic fields assembled in recent years.

"Lightning Frank is sired by Black Magic Opal as well so we are always cheering for him whenever he races, although it was obviously nice to beat him tonight."

After the placed runners in the Cup the field finished in the following order 4th Flyrite (\$13.10) 5th Zinzan Brooke (\$4.20) 6th Blackpool Chuck (\$45.80), 7th Matt Machine (\$9.90), 8th Lucky Chap (\$4.30).

Leo's Gift is raced by Tamara Tenadi and trained by Robert Britton of Lara in Victoria. Leo's Gift is a Fawn dog whelped September 2014 by Spring Gun from Ruby Jet (Gable Lafourche x Tui Lid). He has won 16 of his 49 starts and has been placed on 18 occasions and with the \$47,000 first prize for the Warrnambool Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$129,970.

Listed below are the past winners of the Warrnambool Cup it is believed the Cup was conducted on the old Warrnambool track as far back as 1961 but records since 1972 show that many a top performer has won the feature event over the years.

1972 **Tien Shan**, 1973 **Natural Power**, 1974 **Uba Lass**, 1975 **Sylvan Prince**, 1976 **Busy Penny**, 1977 **Tem Dasher**, 1978 **Roisheen's Son**, 1979 **Imaturner**, 1980 **Tempix**, 1981 **Kuda's Talent**, 1982 **So Blue**, 1983 **Lady Lilly**, 1984 **Super Mira**, 1985 **Kilmarney Lad**, 1986 **Larrikin Lewis**, 1987 **McWilliam Boy**, 1988 **High In Space**, 1989 **Gun Fury**, 1990 **Hard Rain**, 1991 **McGuane**, 1992 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1993 **Nova Express**, 1994 **Fitzroy Express**, 1995 **Midnight Flirt**, 1996 **Marrant**, 1997 **Another Currency**, 1998 **Macorna Lad**, 1999 **Honcho Classic**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale**, 2001 **Sweet Silkab**, 2002 **Kantarn Bale**, 2003 **Francesca Bale**, 2004 **Harvey Bale**, 2005 **Sun Hero**, 2006 **Brilliant Lee**, 2007 **Axe Handle** 2008 **El Galo**, 2009 **Hanify's Impact**, 2010 **Nova Surf**, 2011 **Arsonist**, 2012 **Dyna Bert**, 2013 **Ronan Izmir**, 2014 **Black Magic Opal**, 2015 **Ronray Spirit** and 2016 **Zambora Brockie**.

After the placed runners in the classic the field finished in the following order 4th Our Turbo Boy (\$43.30) 5th Premier Zed (\$33.00) 6th Lightning Frank (\$1.50), 7th Rig Fifty Five (\$21.80), 8th Kumbia Lass (\$28.50).

Bewildering is a Black Dog whelped February 2015 by Black Magic Opal from Outlandish (Collision x Tocsin) he is raced by the See The Dream Syndicate and trained by Seona Thompson at Pearcedale in Victoria. Bewildering has raced 12 times for five wins and three placings, adding the Classic's first prize of 75,000 his overall stake earnings they went to \$84,765.

The Warrnambool Classic was first conducted by the club in 1991 with greyhound pups nominated in record numbers during early 1990. Like any event of its type the actual race is very difficult to win given the length of time involved from rearing to racing. The Honour roll contains some outstanding winners some of which have gone on to win group one features and in the case of Brett Lee inducted into the AGRA Hall Of Fame.

1991 **Kinta's Way**, 1992 **Wild Pirate**, 1993 **Dinney's Host**, 1994 **New Locomotion**, 1995 **Prince Of Thiefs**, 1996 **Blue Volcano**, 1997 **Fine Carousel**, 1998 **Witch Honcho**, 1999 **At The Helm**, 2000 **Our Daisy**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Zed Three**, 2003 **Brumby Lad**, 2004 **That's Critical**, 2005 **Ace Hi Rumble**, 2006 **Auf Wiedersehen**, 2007 **Deception Bay**, 2008 **Lynlea's King**, 2009 **Bordain**, 2010 **Cosmic Chief**, 2011 **Compacto**, 2012 **El Brooklyn**, 2013 **Premier Event** 2014 **Magic Diva**, 2015 **Nunya Tron** and 2016 **One For Me**.

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