



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday, 26 October 2017

### **GRV Media Release – Strong local field for Group 2 Pet Panels Geelong Cup**

Four local dogs are in line to take out Geelong’s highest greyhound racing honour at this Friday’s Group 2 Pet Panels Geelong Gold Cup.

Corleone King, Judicial Man, Blue Gum Hill and Not Available make up the local candidates for the \$67,000 prize money.

Corleone King was the surprise finalist after winning last week’s heat at odds of \$55.

And no one was more surprised than Corleone King’s Lara-based trainer David Geall in an eerie reminder of a 15 years earlier when his greyhound Maldon Magic took an upset victory in a Geelong Gold Cup heat in 2002 at odds of \$36.20 before finishing fourth to the brilliant Allan Britton-trained Bear Creek in the final.

“Unfortunately I didn’t back him but my wife Rose had a small bet on him and so did the owners, who are from NSW and were watching the race together from the RSL in Young, so I’m delighted for them. They bred the dog as well,” Geall said after the shock win.

It had been a dry spell for local dogs in the Geelong Gold Cup until Anakie-based Shima Song saluted in last year’s final, ending a five-year period since local dog Dyna Tron won in 2011.

Two interstate stars – Queenslander Thirty Talks and NSW greyhound Barking Bad – also won their way into this Friday night’s final, along with two greyhounds from the Gippsland region, Aston Miley and Bewildering.

Bewildering, the fastest heat winner in 25.43sec, is also the first reserve in the \$214,500 Group 1 Sky Racing Topgun (525m) at The Meadows the night after the Geelong Gold Cup.

The Geelong region is one of Victoria’s richest greyhound racing areas.

A recent report found that greyhound racing generated \$29.07 million for the Geelong region through direct expenditure in 2015-16, which includes direct value and flow-on effects to the local economy.

Overall there are 1345 people actively involved in greyhound racing in the region as a participant, employee or volunteer. The industry sustains 218 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in the region, including breeders, trainers, kennel employees and those in supporting industries, such as vets, tradespeople, hardware store employees and TAB wagering staff.



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**For media inquiries please contact:**

Luke Holmesby | Public Affairs Manager, Strategic Communication | 0478 473 570 |

[lhomesby@grv.org.au](mailto:lhomesby@grv.org.au)