



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### ***“Train on the right Journey in Maturity Classic at the Meadows”***

It was first time lucky for owner Andrew Marth and his best mate Steve Karlusic when their very talented youngster brilliantly took out the Hudson Pacific Group 1 Maturity Classic final at the Meadows on Saturday night.

In a first time venture into greyhound racing for Marth he has immediately struck the right formula with Train A Journey and looks set for more riches from the extremely smart Primo Uno sired black dog.

Andrew March told me after the win. “Steve and I were having a drink one night and Steve suggested we buy a litter of greyhound pups I thought it sounded like a good idea and said OK and here we are winning a major final.”

“It’s amazing I love it, I spend almost \$300,000 on race horses for no results at all, I think one of them ran fourth once, but that was as close as we got. This has been fantastic the whole family can be involved and that’s the aspect I enjoy so much about racing the dogs. This has been brilliant here tonight I hope he can do it again in a feature“. Marth said.

Karlusic and trainer John Galea have raced a number of greyhounds together over the years with Train A Journey their first major success. Karlusic’s has another important role with the kennel, a butcher by trade he supplies the very best cuts of meat consumed by the team.



**Andrew Marth and family with Train A Journey (All Pics Paul Munt)**

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Marth a former Socceroo and Melbourne Knights defender heaped praise on youthful trainer John Galea. "John has been sensational to deal with I could not have wished for someone better with my first venture, I'm sure he will enjoy a long career as a outstanding trainer, we have been very lucky to deal with a person who's knowledge of the industry is first class". Marth said.

A wide open betting race punters finally settled on Train A Journey (\$2.70) as favourite, most thought he had to lead clearly to win an opinion shared by trainer John Galea. "I was concerned about box four and Rafiki on his inside but I knew if he could clear them he would be hard to beat." Galea said.

Clear them he did leaving the boxes with explosive pace he held the lead under enormous pressure from Rafiki who pushed up hard on his inside all the way to the first turn, once clear Train A Journey raced away and was never in any danger, winning by four lengths in 30.11 after recording sections of 5.20 and 17.86.

Red Legend for Graeme Bate (\$8.00) motored home nicely for second and Live The Dream (\$6.30) was four and quarter lengths back third and a solid run for Colin Mc Donald.

Galea was delighted after the race. "I'm absolutely rapped to win a group one here at my favourite track in my home state. I won the Hobart 1000 with Nobody Knew and that was great, but it's nothing compared with tonight with all the support that's out here, it's fantastic." Galea said.

The popular trainer has set Train A Journey for the Group 2 Peter Mosman in Sydney with the qualifying heats commencing on Wednesday night at Wentworth Park. He has drawn box one in heat 15.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Rafiki (\$4.40), 5th Running On Bundy (\$20.30), 6th Baron Allen (\$15.20) 7th Mr Raudonikis (\$12.70) and Collapse (\$7.30).

Train A Journey is a Black & White dog whelped April 2004 by Primo Uno from Currency Tears (Golden Currency x Mepunga Tears) in his short, but impressive career so far he has raced 13 times for 10 wins and with Saturday's night first prize of \$50,000, he has already racked up stake earnings of \$74,305.

Train a Journey has recorded best of the night performances at Geelong 25.48, Horsham 26.87, and Ballarat 25.40 for the 450 and 31.28 for the 550. In the city he has won at in Sandown 29.98 and from four wins at the Meadows has also posted a quick 29.86 in a fifth grade.



**Train A Journey leads all the way**

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The Maturity Classic was first held at Olympic Park in 1970 when won by talented sprinter Phantom's Heir first prize at that time was \$1250. The prizemoney increased marginally until 1975 when it went to \$3,500. In 77 it was \$5,600 and jumped to \$7000 in 79 before going to \$10,000 from 1980 until 1987 the year the mighty New Tears won the race. First prize went to \$15,000 for seven years then to \$20,000 for two years and reached \$30,000 in the year 2000. In 2001 it was worth \$40,000 and the Classic was won by AGRA Hall Of Famer Brett Lee. It was elevated the next year to the current amount of \$50,000. Listed below is the Maturity Classic Honour roll highlighted by some of the many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers after winning the feature.

1970 **Phantom's Heir**, 1971 **Linden Lad**, 1972 **Nulla's Call**, 1973 **Shan's Tempest**, 1974 **Temlee**, 1975 **Warranwood Girl**, 1976 **Aaron King**, 1977 **Overflow Love**, 1978 **Satan's Legend**, 1979 **Marajax**, 1980 **Worthy Weston**, 1981 **Murchison Champ**, 1982 **Rocky Pyramid**, 1982 **Wynlee Spirit**, 1983 **"Not Held"** 1984 **Broken Cup**, 1985 **Storm Glade**, 1986 **Pharaoh's Mask**, 1987 **New Tears**, 1988 **Hay Dinney**, 1989 **Best Of Blue**, 1990 **Eureka Man**, 1991 **Enfield**, 1992 **Executive Class**, 1993 **Keystone**, 1994 **Refur**, 1995 **Northern Legend**, 1996 **Royal Honcho**, 1997 **Running Gold**, 1998 **Adrenalin Storm**, 1999 **Coriole**, 2000 **Acacia Dee**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Rocka Cockatoo**, 2003 **Hall's Northern**, 2004 **Hallucinate**, 2005 **Poetic Magic**



Trainer John Galea with plenty of supporters after the win.



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