



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**31<sup>st</sup> July 2006**

### **AGRA CEO'S CONFERENCE IN PERTH**

AGRA CEO's met in Perth on Friday for a most successful conference. A number of important industry issues were discussed with a range of recommendations that will be carried forward to the AGRA Annual Meeting to be held in Launceston on Saturday September 2<sup>nd</sup> during the National Championships.

Launceston Representative Rick Stanford reported all was in readiness for the National Championships with a successful Launch staged at the Country Club Casino and Resort on Friday July 21. The day was highlighted by the presence of Launceston's favourite son Australian Cricket Captain Ricky Ponting. The superstar cricketer has a great love of Greyhound Racing and is hoping to be in attendance at Tasman Park on Grand Final night Monday September 4<sup>th</sup>.



**Australia Cricket Captain Ricky Ponting**

Group Race Coordinator Brenton Scott presented a draft copy of the group race calendar for 2007. The group as it does each time a meeting is held spend plenty of time checking for any potential clashing of dates. The CEO'S on behave of their organizations place great importance on the calendar. With the exception of only one unavoidable distance race clash, all other features flow nicely throughout the busy year. It is an extremely difficult task that is given plenty of due time with the best result that is humanly possible arrived at given the number of events scheduled, state climatic conditions at different times of the year and the altering race tracks and nights they have to race on.

A paper was presented by the designated sub – committee regarding a static plan for the future of AGRA. It was well received with a solid framework covering all areas of the Association operations. Included in the document was a detailed work on the future collection and storage of memorabilia, with the possible state and site of a physical Hall Of Fame also considered. The meeting acknowledged the fine work within its production by Sandown CEO Matt Corby.

The group also unanimously agreed to make the recommendation to induct greyhound icon Temlee as an honorary member of the Hall Of Fame. His nomination will be put to the Annual Meeting and if successful Temlee will be inducted at Melbourne in 2007.

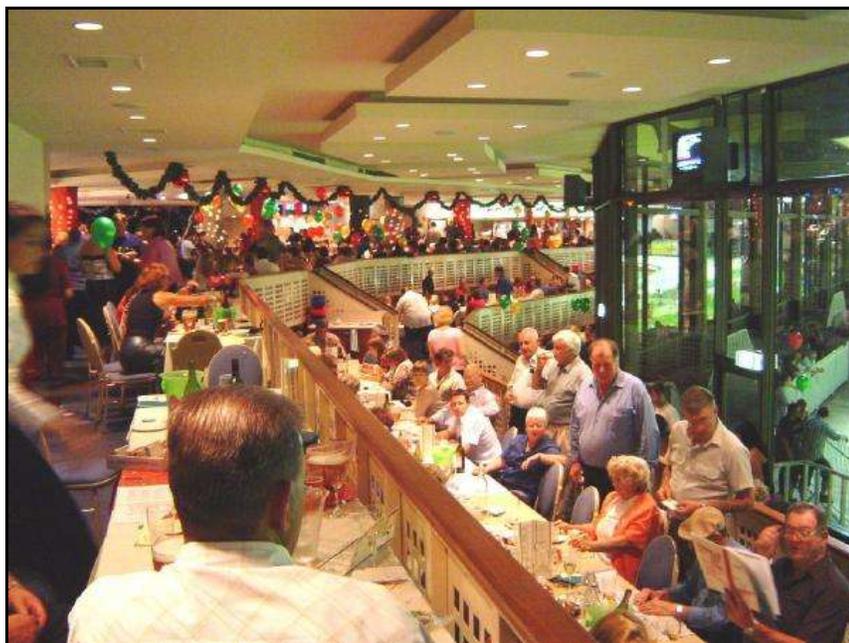
A sub-committee was formed to continue work on the details associated with a new Awards night and Symposium to be held in March each year. Along with the AGRA Greyhound of the Year, new awards for the Run of the Year, Trainer of the Year, Stud Dog and Brood Bitch would also be honoured. Presentations to any inductees to the Hall Of Fame would take place and also be conducted at this function, leaving the Nationals on their own in September.

All in all it was a most productive meeting and following the conference the CEO's were treated to some outstanding Western Australian hospitality by WA CEO David Simonette and his staff.

Friday night featured a trip to Mandurah Greyhounds for a 14 race card. The Group was surprised at the large crowd in attendance in the fully booked dining room. The room is booked out every week under the management of Russell Clark. The crowd of all ages not only enjoyed the Greyhound Racing but the food, music and entertainment provided in what is no doubt a popular night out in the town.

Mandurah has a new and interestingly designed kennel block with its appearance a very unusual piece of architecture. Work is to recommence shortly on their new much larger race track and when finished the new track will add immensely to the Complex.

Saturday night the group gathered at Cannington for a 12 race card with committee members honoured with a race named after them. Another packed house celebrating Xmas in July enjoyed Greyhound Racing and the entertainment provided. Cannington is under the astute management of Fernando Spensieri. A high standard of racing was observed and a number of winners backed. A popular betting type among the group not available in the east was the Quartet, with one particular Victorian winning some big dividends.



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# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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All interstate visitors left WA with no doubt in their minds that Greyhound Racing is flying in the West. Prizemoney has just been increased and future increases are likely. More owners and trainers are becoming involved all the time and local breeding has increased its numbers for the first time in years.

The CEO's next meeting is in Launceston on the Friday September 1st prior to the AGRA Annual Meeting the following day. Current sub-committee projects and recommendations will be finalized before being formally put before the full Annual Meeting.

For more information please contact:

**Neil Brown**  
**AGRA Publicity Officer**  
**Tel: 03 97691234**  
**Mob: 0423 129 950**

**Donna Summers**  
**AGRA Executive Officer**  
**Tel: 02 96465711**  
**Mob: 0414 524 907**