



NSW News

Gary Clark

ROBERT Purdevski reckons one day he might take up training a greyhound or two.

But in the meantime he is happy to let Wally Lutiger win a New South Wales greyhound of the year title for him.

Robert and his mate Bob Dimitrijevski bred and own Kumta Chase (Big Ginger Boy- Malawi's Pearl) who last month toppled Dancing Habit and Irinka Barbie to take out greyhound racing's most coveted of awards for 2003.

Schoolmates Robert and Bob can't believe they have finally found a fast greyhound. The boys are even happier to know they also bred Kumta Chase and it was through them placing their pups on Lutiger's farm that the trio combined and headed towards such glory.

For Robert, it has been a dream. "We just enjoy every race with her," he said. "The win in Queensland was the highlight, they treated us so well up there".

Working as a mill operator in Port Kembla, Robert said one day he may decide to take up training but for now is happy to leave it to Wally.

Wally Lutiger has been training greyhound for more than 30 years and while he rates Yaroun Express the best he has prepared, greyhounds of the year like Kumta Chase don't come along often enough.

The win came as a just reward for one very likable trainer in Lutiger who was attending country meetings 30 years ago and trained this writer's first dog back in 1978 with no success.

The dog was way below the standard of his trainer.



Bob, Robert and Wally with their chasing champ.

The 2003 racing season saw no greyhound dominant.

Three black bitches remained as final hopefuls. Many expected Kumta Chase or Dancing Habit to win, with Irinka Barbie probably not doing quite enough to earn the vote from judges.

Kumta Chase earned her title after winning in three states and producing some fabulous victories including the Winter Stake at Wentworth Park and the State Of Origin at Albion Park.

She recorded 12 brilliant wins at Wentworth Park breaking the 30 seconds on twice.

Kumta Chase had 43 starts last year for 16 wins and won a heat of the Melbourne Cup at Sandown before a superb fourth in the final.

At times Kumta Chase was known for her determination in defeat rather than her grace in glory. Her performance at The Meadows last year in

the Australian Cup when third to Excite Ability was amazing.

Early in her career she finished second to Lissiloo in the National Futurity, ran third in the National Sprint State Championship and finished second to Dancing Habit in a feature event at Christmas which some thought may have sealed the decision for her rival. But Kumta Chase got the nod and her connections are now looking at the future. “We have a litter of Brett Lee pups that have been broken in, maybe there is a Kumta Chase in there,” said Robert.

Like all of us, Robert had racing in his blood.

Waging school to head to the races was a regular part of his childhood.

The time is coming for Kumta Chase to head to the breeding barn. She will attempt the Golden Easter Egg this month.

This is her third season of racing but for Robert, Bob and Wally, it’s just another preparation, another race or two they can enjoy.

	Ginger	Eaglehawk Star
Big Ginger Boy		Rinaldi Lass
	Dark Horizon	Buka Sunset
KUMTA CHASE		Sarah’s Sanction
	Malawi’s Prince	Malawi
Malawi’s Pearl		Duchess Marina
	Denver Rose	Denver
		Kristy’s Rose