

Rider of the Month  
**Equimec**

# Victoria Welch



This month's Equimec Rider of the Month is Victoria Welch, who won the individual gold medal in dressage at the Youth Olympic Games...

*It has been a wonderful year – first you win the Hanoverian Society of Australia scholarship to go to Germany, then you take a gold medal at the Youth Olympics...*

It's been fantastic, it's a great way to start the year, that's for sure.

*What did you have to do to win the Hanoverian award?*

First of all we had to attend certain qualifying competitions, then we had to submit an entry form outlining qualifications, and the horse and all its details. Then we had to write an essay about what we'd done with the Hanoverian Society, and if we'd had anything to do with breeding Hanoverian horses. Once they picked the top two, then we did a phone interview with three members of the Hanoverian Society.

*You ride a Hanoverian?*

My horse is a Hanoverian, Remi World Vision. We bought her as a three and a

half year old from Remi Stud. Mum brought her on, then I took over the ride, and I have been competing her for two years now.

*Who helps you?*

My Mum, Libby Welch, and I train with Thomas Muehlenbeck every Friday. I also have clinics every three or four months with Joern Kubelke. I also train sometimes with Glennis Barrey.

*What happens when you get to Germany on the scholarship?*

There's a plan all worked out. Each day I have a lesson on a school horse, and hopefully work towards more of the Grand Prix movements, and hopefully I'll get to go to some of the breeding barns and see some of the stallions, and learn how the breeding is done there.

*Was it very different at the Olympics, competing on a strange horse?*

It was different but really worth while, it's really a challenge. I think the two trips I did to New Zealand to compete in the Trans Tasman Derby on borrowed horses, really helped me. I was a lot more prepared for it.

*Was there a lot of pressure, at the Youth Olympics?*

Everyone was really good, very supportive – we all just wanted to do well, and we went for the gold and hoped for the best.

*What is it about dressage for you?*

I really enjoy the challenge. I really enjoy watching dressage, it's so beautiful and elegant, it's different to showjumping and cross country, I guess. I enjoyed the jumping and got a thrill out of it when I was younger, but I found I enjoyed dressage more.

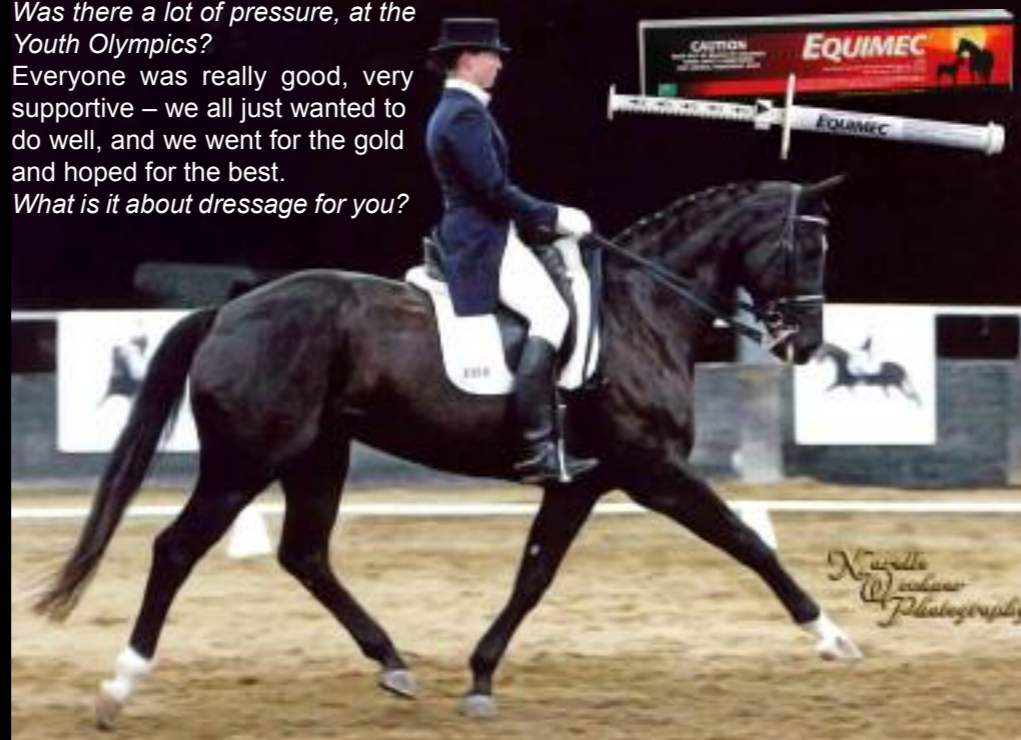
*You've seen the top riders?*

I went on The Horse Magazine tour to the WEG at Aachen, then last year I went for two weeks to Joern Kubelke's, also the Elite Hanoverian Auction. I saw a lot of good riders in my time in Europe – it was perfect.

*And like the professional young rider she is, Victoria thanked her sponsors:*

I'd really like to thank my sponsor, The Riders Shoppe – they provided all the Australian Youth team with a jacket, shirt and socks, and they supply my wonderful Sommer saddle. I'd also like to thank Thaya Morgan-Phoenix, the owner of Fairbanks Forever, the horse I rode at the Youth Olympic Games.

**MERIAL** Each Equimec Rider of the month receives six syringes of Equimec in recognition of their achievement.



Right: Victoria riding at the Youth Olympics on Fairbanks Forever; Below Left: Riding her own horse, Remi World Vision

