

## Rider of the Month Equimec

Once again, Wendy Schaeffer's run of bad luck continued, when she was forced to withdraw her front-line, Koyuna Sun Magic from Sydney Three Day event when he was a little sore in after his last gallop in the preparation: "I'm still sorting it out, I'll get back to the vets when I get home tomorrow. He didn't need the qualification, and Storm did, so it wasn't worth pushing through with him. He'll wait until Adelaide now... fortunately now I've got the qualification on the young mare, if I decide to start her at Adelaide..."

*It was a bit of a busy week for you, you flew home to Adelaide to finish second in a World Cup Showjumping qualifier on your other mare, Koyuna Sunset...*  
"Fortunately the jumping at Adelaide Royal was mid-week and I came back to Sydney on the Thursday, and the

dressage for the one and three star was on the Friday, the timing was good." *Is that mentally difficult, re-focusing from one discipline to another, one horse to another, one state to another...*  
"It's a little tiring and what is stressful with it is getting the flights, and having stupid things happen with them. For whatever reason, it was an international flight back and there were a few dramas with that, dumb things. Actually riding the horses is the easy part. You've got to think, 'okay, I'm in a dressage saddle now, get in a dressage seat', versus my more natural jumping position, but I think riding the horses is the easier part. It's just stress and fatigue with the travel thing, but I do choose to do it so I can't complain."

*You've been working with Megan Jones for a while on your dressage. I think*

*that is very typical of eventers that you might very soon be competing for a place in an Australian team with Megan, and yet here she is, training you at home, flying to Sydney to warm you in for the dressage...*

"It's been great to be able to work so well with Megan. I was really pleased she was able to come to Sydney, it shows how much she is putting in. I think you are right, it's typical of the eventing attitude, eventers are more prepared to help each other. We know there are so many variables that anything can happen."

*Tell me a little about the mare that won the Sydney Three Day event, Sun Storm, she is a bit of a new face on your team?*

"We home bred her, had her all along. She is by Brilliant Invader out of a mare that my mum actually competed on at Gawler back in the early 90's: a big rangy New Zealand Thoroughbred mare. We bred Storm and started her, so she is a bit like my kid I suppose, but

# Wendy Schaeffer



*I have always enjoyed riding her. She has always been a nimble horse to jump, and very rideable. She has actually done more showjumping at this stage than eventing, partly because I had so many high level event horses to get her out much. This is her first three star three day event – she had about three one day three star starts, all of which she won because she is so nippy cross country. She is reasonably well performed, she just hadn't done a 3DE\*\*\*. She has four or five World Cup showjumping starts as well.*

*What did you think of the cross country track, there has been criticism of the going...*  
"Yeah it was really tough, what could they do short of getting out and watering it, and I suppose there could have been a bit more aeration, because it was pretty hard. It felt a bit mean asking her to go for the time. There were certainly enough fences out there to keep us thinking."  
*Obviously the showjumping wasn't too hard since you've had her in World Cup rounds...*  
"She is a really handy little jumper. She is fantastic up to about metre forty five-ish, so her main calling as an international horse is to go eventing. I have a lot of confidence in her in the showjumping, it rides better when you are confident that the horse is going to jump well."  
*Now we all focus up for Adelaide, and I*

*think both you and your mother, Di, have played a pretty crucial role in keeping it alive...*  
"Absolutely, being our home event, and a wonderful event on a world calendar of CCIs, we have to do everything we can to make sure it continues, and protect it. That will be the next big start. I'll have a start at Goulburn, we are heading to do the Australian Showjumping Championships in Canberra. There are a few more things to get squared away, I'm actually headed to Melbourne Show for the Showjumping in a couple of days, it's crazy! But Adelaide is the next major event, then finish off the year with the first of the showjumping selector series at the ISS Showjumping show in September."  
*Then a holiday?*  
"Probably a little bit. I might stay home for the summer. I've been away the last few years... I might take it easy."



Each Equimec Rider of the Month receives six syringes of Equimec in recognition of their achievement.

