

EQVALAN
GOLD

Rider of the Month



Riding Jane and Maurice Bruce's star Trakehner-bred mare Kudu, Alicya Targa took out the Aachen Challenge at this year's Saddleworld Festival, beating two classy finalists in Briana Burgess and Daylight and Sheree McKonachy and The Carrick Victor, thus winning a trip to the world's greatest show: Aachen CHIO, but the best was yet to come, Alicya, and Kudu, also won the Young Rider World Cup class, and staked a claim to take the mare to the final later in the year!

For Alicya, the great show at Werribee is just reward, because last year, when her mother, her employer, Jane Bruce, and a few of their friends went to the WEG and the Bundeschampionate with the THM travel group, Alicya was left home...

"I was left alone last year while everyone went to Aachen for six weeks, looking after not only Mum's horses, but also Jane's horses, and there were a few other ladies from Berry who got me to feed and ride their horses... it was good, for four weeks I was riding up to six horses a day, and I had to travel to each person's property to ride. We actually had a local competition, the weekend after they got back, and one of the ladies said, you might as well ride my horse, because you've been riding him for four weeks. That was good."

Do you do anything other than ride?

"I work in hospitality. I do a bit of waitressing at night but mostly I work for Jane and Maurice five days a week. Maurice is great, he just explains everything so well, all the theory behind why you do this, and why that happens. Even when I am cleaning out stables, just listening to the lessons he is giving to the other riders – it just makes you think, 'oh I've got to do that on my horse!'. It's such a great opportunity to learn from someone who has ridden at such a top level."

Which was the hardest horse when you had to do the swap around?

"The hardest one was the black one, the Victor, he was a bit different. I think Daylight was more like Kudu in the way she gets ridden. With The Victor, it was more touchy, feely with him, so I had to try and play it safe at times."

And did you say 'thank you' to Daylight for being so nice to you when she was not so nice with Briana?

"I didn't see Briana ride her, I didn't have any feed-back about what the other girls had done, but I saw that she had a 63 and I had a 65 so I thought 'oh well see if I can grit my teeth and pull it through'. But being the first rider on a different horse, and pulling Victor first, it was butterflies running through my belly, for sure."

But it came off?

"It did, it did, I had some good bits. Someone said I had him in a better frame but still he is finely tuned to how Sheree rides him and we all have our own ways. It's such an experience just to be riding other horses at that level, and having two really good competitors, I was really excited to be in that group."

With a win in the first of the Young Rider World Cup legs, Alicya, is making the running for a fabulous trip to the World Final in Frankfurt in December of this year... but, this young rider doesn't forget to thank her sponsor, Nowra Saddleworld, as she looks forward to riding in an major European competition!

Each Eqvalan Gold Rider of the month receives 6 syringes of Eqvalan Gold in recognition of their achievement.



Alycia Targa



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