



What a star! Yarandoo Vangelo

**W**ith a second in the Australian Senior Showjumping Championships at the age of 21, Jamie Winning has clearly confirmed what good judges have been predicting for quite some time, that she is destined to be one of the brightest of the bright new stars on the Australian Showjumping scene.

*That must have been a big thrill – second in the Australian Championships?*

"I was surprised, and really excited. After the first day of competition, and you could see Chugg's stallion was on form, the runner up rug was my goal. I thought Chugg would be a bit tough to beat, considering he is so experienced... So I was aiming for the runner up but still it was a big surprise when it happened."

*Can you tell me a little bit about your horse, Yarandoo Vangelo?*

"He's a ten year old Belgian gelding, by Alcatraz. My mum and I went over to Europe with George Sanna, in March of 2007 and we went to Jan and Edwina's, looking for horses. We had to travel out to see him because the woman that owned him, wouldn't bring him to us, but we'd heard he was quite special. We looked at him in this little yard. Edwina jumped on him, and after riding him for five minutes said 'he's got so much scope'. I got on him, and I didn't quite click with him at first, but George and Edwina were really excited about him, so, we picked him."

"As soon as he arrived home I clicked with him immediately. He wasn't as experienced as the stallion I brought over but he seems to be pretty comfortable at this level. Start after start I just want to jump bigger and go faster, I feel more comfortable with him. He's a great horse, I really love him."

*Did you have to modify your riding style to click with him – or was it just a matter of time?*

"He does suit my style. I don't have a lot of leg like some riders – they can use their leg to hot a horse up – I'm better suited to a bit of a hot horse because I like to sit more quiet. I do have to jump with a soft bit. He's a bit sensitive in the mouth when jumping. He is inverted if the bit is too strong, so I

have to make do with a soft bit for the jump but he is very strong around the track, so I've always got the shoulders back pulling on his mouth. I have to learn to get the horse back because he is so strong, but then – it doesn't matter what distance I have – I always have to soften at the base to let him jump. If you are on his mouth at the base, he doesn't like to jump as much, and he is more likely to have a rail down. But if I am off his mouth at the base of the fence, it doesn't matter where I am, he's tries his heart out to leave the rail up."

*"Learning to do that was a bit of a task, but once we got it, it was pretty easy."*

*You ride with a very nice style, good leg position, that sort of thing – do you work on that?*

"I used to event before I got into showjumping and I started my showjumping training with Jamie Coman, and he was quite big on changing the position of my leg. Early on I did a lot of Equitation, so I tried to concentrate on my position. Now I am training with George Sanna, and in lessons, I always find he is talking about being smooth, which I find relates to your position as well, because if you are messy and all over the place, then you are interfering with the horse and it is not at all smooth. So I concentrate on being smooth with my upper body and hands, and George is always pushing that. So I do try to work on my position but not so much for the look, more so for being smooth with the horse and not interfering so much."

*Why the switch from eventing to show jumping?*

"I had a very good older horse whose speciality was eventing and that is why I bought him, because I was an eventer. Then when I got off him, I'd already started doing a lot of showjumping in my Year 12, and going to the Events just took such a lot of time, and was difficult with school. I found I was really liking the showjumping so when he was too old for eventing, and I was looking for my next horse, I went for a showjumping horse."

*What is it about showjumping for you?*

"The degree of difficulty in getting to the top level, and being at your best, that's the challenge. I'm always looking for a challenge,

everyone says I am really competitive. I don't wake up every morning so excited to ride at home on my arena, but I am excited to ride on my arena to get my horses going better for the competition on the weekend. I don't just love the riding, I love the competition, and my horse being able to do his best and be at the top of the sport. I like to work my horses at home so at the show, they excel and people can see that they are great horses. I think it is just the competition and the challenge of being the best, for you and your horse. It's the competition that really gets you going."

*So what does your team look like – how many horses?*

"This weekend, I had five but I just sold one. I like to keep it at about five or six horses."

*You've got two imported horses?*

"I've got my Quick Star stallion, Quincy Z, and my gelding Yarandoo Vangelo."

*What's the aim?*

"In June of this year, we bought a six year old Challano Z gelding, Congo Z, which we are leaving overseas. He's at Jan and Edwina's stable, and just going to a few shows, jumping in six year old classes. Maybe next year, I'll get over there to ride him at a few shows. Maybe send Vangelo over too. I'll just have to see how the rest of the year pans out. My long term goal is make a team for Australia at some point. Whether it is at a WEG or the Olympics – that's the ultimate goal, and possibly in five to ten years, base myself somewhere in Europe if it all works that way."

*So is the WEG in Lexington too soon for you?*

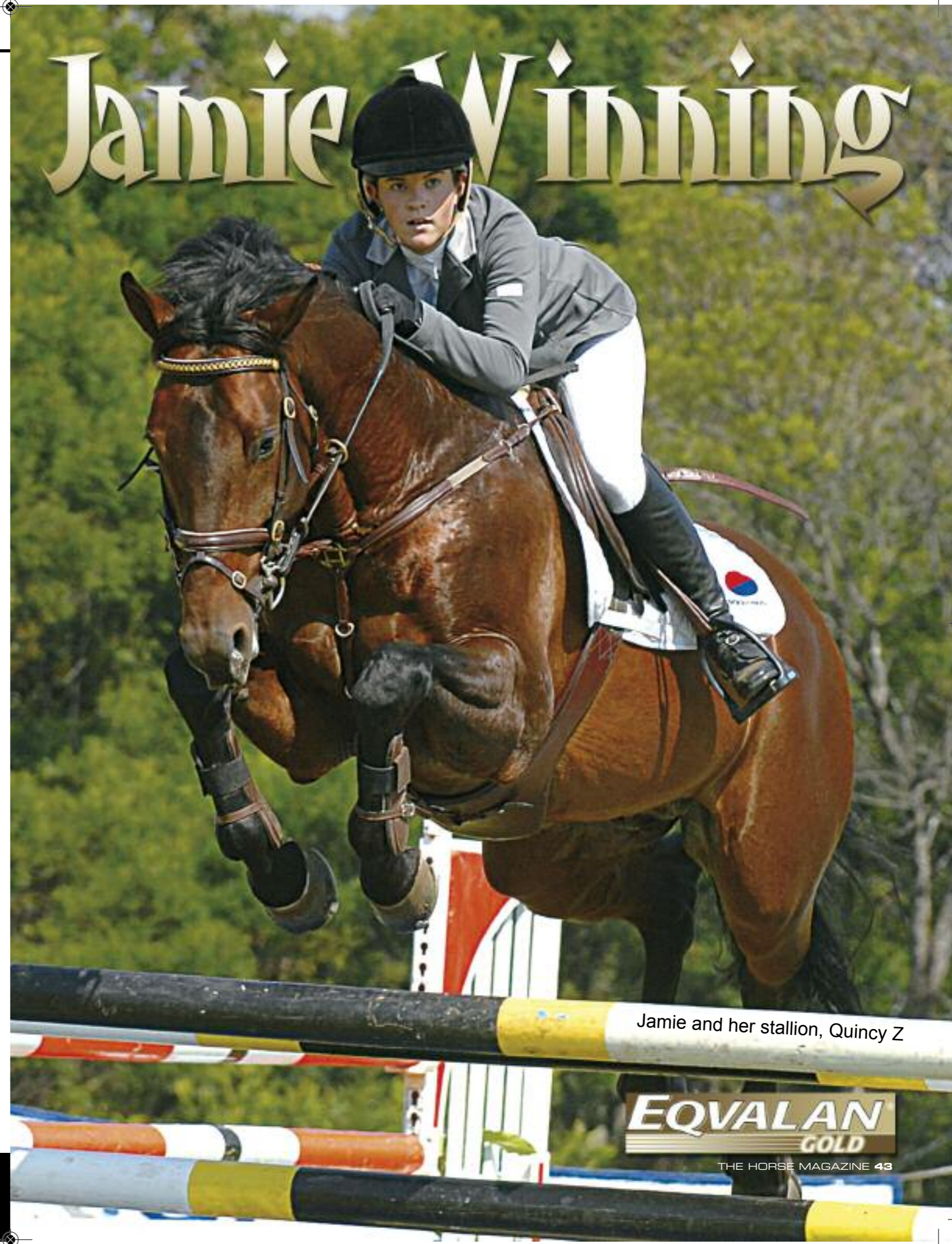
"It is always the top of the pyramid in my goals and I like to think that nothing is impossible, but I just like to take each month as it comes and I am realistic in that, your successes fluctuate and there are so many factors that go into doing well in the sport, like injuries to yourself or your horses... the opportunities that come up... we got hit by EI which wasn't predicted, there are so many unknown factors. But if everything falls into place on my plan, and everything looks good, then that would be at the top of my goals... yes."

"Right now I'm twenty one years old and I work full time with the horses. My parents bought a property at Ebenezer in August of 06, and I've lived here ever since. Building paddocks and trying to set up a small agistment business. I'm working towards my Level 1 instructors so I can teach. Buying young horses to sell on, that's my goal, working full time with the horses."

And of course, Jamie wouldn't be a modern showjumper without sponsors to thank. In her case Horsepower and Pariani - Saddlery Sales...



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Jamie and her stallion, Quincy Z

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