

The winning Way

A newsletter for supporters and friends of Grand Prix dressage rider Vanessa Way



Vanessa and KH Arvan at the Australian Dressage Championships in Sydney in November

Ho Ho! I cannot believe that time has flown so fast. Quicker than Santa and his sleigh, in fact. What an exciting few months it has been. So far all is on target for the London Olympics 2012.

Being a part of New Zealand equestrian sports' history, with the first time qualification of a dressage team for the London Olympics, capped off a very successful Australian campaign. All in all I was very pleased with Arvan's performances. We have lifted in strength and consistency, and now plan to inject Carl Hester into our training, which I'm sure will be the next piece of the puzzle. We have officially 3 certificates of capability, but realize there is more to do to reach ESNZ Olympic criteria. (Pity Stephan Clarke's score of 69% didn't count!) So the countdown begins!!

Arvan and I fly out to the UK on the 19th of January, arriving in Heathrow on the 20th. From there I begin working for Carl starting on the 21st. (Boy, it feels like going back in time - working pupil aged 39!) 18 boxes to muck, 14 hour days!) But let's not forget the brilliant horses to ride! Ye-Ha!! Pig in mud!

Fingers crossed Arvan recovers well from his flight, as our first international competition will be Vidabaun on the 22 February. The plan is most definitely to increase power now, and get those bigger marks. I personally feel the opportunity to base and ride with Carl is a once in a lifetime experience. Riding with the best riders in the world will undoubtedly lift my own riding to another level. All of this will then be utilised to develop my younger horses, and my pupils on my return.



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Vanessa and KH Arvan in Sydney



On our way to the trot-up

Scared....Absolutely!! Emotionally, leaving my partner Brooke, our 2 dog children and my young horses for 8 months is not easy. Brooke is never ending in his total support for me, and his insistence that it is a move I have to do is the only thing makes it even possible to consider. As for friends – it would all be impossible without them.

I am soooooo lucky to have such supportive, caring and totally talented 'horsey buddies' who are my back bone and body when it comes to running everything equine at home. Abbie Deken, Denise Paterson, Renee Etherington, Lynne Pillette - WOW you all rock and I can't wait to see you in London!

Financially.....petrified, but hey, there is always something to sell - Right????

My sponsors again continue to raise the bar, helping me in all directions. NRM are fully feeding my NZ based team and working towards sorting out all Arvan's feed requirements in England. (Wow, wow!)

Vetpro has organised all my health products for my horses in NZ and even arranged to send all Arvan's necessities.



The Kiwis at a press conference after qualifying a team for the Olympics

Zilco, I couldn't fly without them (literally) as they have supplied all the bags that my gear will be transported in.

National Saddle Centre - Martin and Josephine have all my horses recently refitted and ready to roll.

Our relationship involving saddles has evolved over many years and I have appreciated their total support.

Also, I extend a special thank you to the ESNZ High Performance unit, particularly Warrick Allan and Sarah Harris, for their recent involvement and assistance. What a pleasure it is to have you as part of the team. Your encouragement and belief in me has really helped me to continue to lift my game. We are so lucky to have such knowledgeable, supportive people working in our organisation.

Local support has been fantastic too, with Dressage Taranaki getting behind me in every way. Sport Taranaki, you guys continue to come to the front. Tony and Beth Bielski, no words can describe how amazing you have been. And as for my Auckland angel Christine Eaton you are the "funding bomb". Please all note my new sensational attire and turnout. The old saying "If you can't go good, you have to look good" certainly applies. However, I'm planning on doing both, thanks to my new sponsorship with Cavallo that Christine has organised single-handedly. Yippee Doodle, all my Christmas's have come at once!

Incredible - all I can say is that with a team like you all behind me I already feel that I'm a winner!! Hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and look forward to keeping you all updated from the other side of the world....BRING ON LONDON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Finishing on a good note