

Eliza HARVEY & Sea Student (Fonzy)

Competition level: 1*/2*

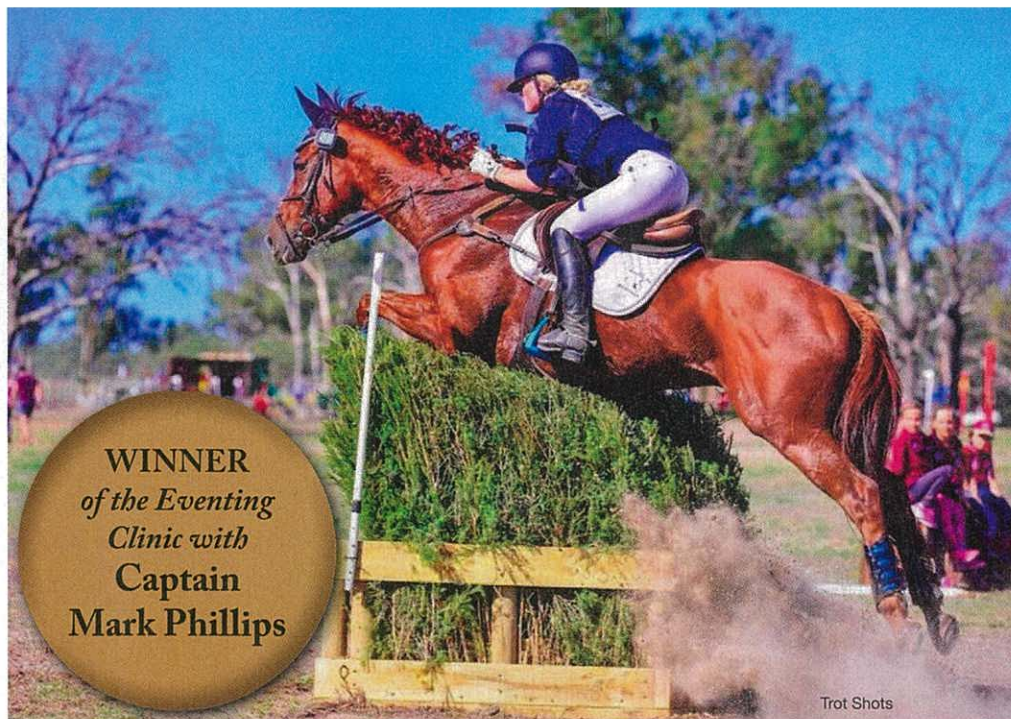
Experience in Brief: *Sea Student (Fonzy)* and I have been a partnership for almost 3 years. We have progressed upwards through the grades to now be competing at CCI* level. Together we have competed on State and National teams (both interschools and FEI), and competed nationwide. We have also lent a hand into showjumping and Pony Club successfully. Together we have gained a large support system and following from all of Australia, of all ages and riding levels.

Fonzy competed 2* with his last owner, meaning he is a fantastic schoolmaster with lots of scope, and I thoroughly enjoy riding him. It is a dream come true to ride under **Captain Mark Phillips** at EQUITANA!

In approximately 100 words please tell us a bit about your story and background with horses: I started riding before I could walk on a shetland bought by my grandma. The original hope was for my love of horses to be fleeting, before I would get bored and move onto dancing or swimming (Mum attempted me in those classes.) However, it wasn't to be and I maintained my love of horses. I started Pony Club at 4 years of age, moving onto Interschools and then the EA Eventing world. I actually have a love of dressage and there was a stage in my riding career we thought I would follow down that road, but then came my super current mount *Fonzy*. Well the rest is history!

What does it mean to you to have won a lesson with Captain Mark Phillips? To win a lesson with Captain Mark Phillips is a life changing opportunity in many different ways. His exceptional career, riding skills and experience make him one of the world's leading coaches, and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to learn from him. What makes this even more exciting is that this may be the only ever opportunity for a coach such as Captain Mark Phillips to come to Australia, and to not only get to watch him, but have a lesson with him is very exciting.

What are you most looking forward to about the Eventing Clinic? I knew that winning the lesson would be a life changing opportunity that may only ever be offered once. From a training



perspective, I wanted to get a small insight into his riding methods, so that I could use them in my own training to hopefully one day achieve the level and success that he did. From a non-training perspective, I wanted to inspire younger, or older riders, to work hard and take any and every opportunity they are given. Hopefully I have shown riders that you don't have to be riding at 4* to be able to "go for your dreams."

What does it mean to you to have won your place in the Eventing Clinic with Captain Mark Phillips through the EQUITANA 'Win a Lesson' competition?

I am looking forward to seeing the differences in teaching style that he will offer, and then utilising them into my riding. Every coach is different, but I am incredibly excited to learn from arguably one of the best.

What are your goals and aspirations for the future with your riding? My biggest goal of my entire equestrian career is the Olympics and WEG. These have been dreams of mine since I was a little girl. I remember watching the opening ceremonies of the Olympics when I was just 4 and 8, and thinking "I'm going to go there one day." I was also watching at the 2000 Olympics at age 8 months, maybe it was destiny to want to compete there! To help get there, I want to potentially study an Equine Sports Science course at an elite sporting university in Europe after I finish school, which for the 3 years I will campaign my horses over there. Before then however, I am aiming to do the YR 2* at Adelaide, and Melbourne 3 day again.

Who is your predominate coach? I am under the watchful eye of Glenda

Hinchcliffe from Wyronga Park for my Dressage, and Megan Jones for my XC and SJ.

Why is eventing your passion? That feeling you get on a cross country course, after coming off a gallop and then feeling your mount listening and jumping up to you, waiting and working together. That's in large why I love eventing. There is no other discipline where you can intermingle the daring of the cross country, with the carefulness of showjumping, and the floating effortlessness required in the dressage. To be able to be so versatile, to have endless things to improve on but none the less always improving, that is why eventing is my passion. I love it because it's fun, that's the main reason.

What do you hope to get out of the lesson? As stated earlier, I hope to get an insight into Captain Mark Phillips training methods and then see how he reached and coached the highest levels of our sport. His years of experience coaching top level riders also mean he will have numerous tips and tricks on how to achieve results, and I am excited to be able to utilise them in my riding!

What does it mean to you to ride at EQUITANA? To be able to ride at Equitana is another thing I am extremely looking forward to. Being one of the biggest Equestrian events of the year, the opportunity to ride at one is a story I will be telling for a very long time! It will be an incredible experience, not only for *Fonzy* to get used to a big atmosphere, but also for me as a rider to be able to ride in front of a crowd as it is not an opportunity we often get.