

Article from:

Wendy Schaeffer looks abroad

Fran Cleland | November 17, 2010

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SOUTH Australian rider Wendy Schaeffer has set her sights on international competition, after winning this year's Australian International Three-Day Event.

Riding Koyuna Sun Dancer, Schaeffer beat Christopher Burton by half a point to claim the [Equestrian Australia Adelaide four-star](#) Olympic standard ATCO Group Horse Trials event.

She rode an immaculate showjumping round to win and also took third place with her second horse, Koyuna Sun Shine.

Wendy also won this event in 2002.

In 1996, at just 21, Wendy represented Australia at the Atlanta Olympics and was the youngest woman to win Olympic equestrian gold.

Her triumph came only nine weeks after she suffered a serious break in both bones of her lower leg.

Since then, she has had great success on a variety of horses, in showjumping and in horse trials, and her partnership with Howard Clark's Koyuna Stud horses has been outstanding.

Wendy campaigned the great showjumping mare Koyuna Sunburst in Europe before this year's [World Equestrian Games in Kentucky](#), just missing on selection. She left the mare in Europe, only recently returning for the Adelaide Horse Trials.

Wendy plans to take Koyuna Sundancer and Koyuna Sunshine to Europe to compete, and hopefully qualify for the [London Olympics](#).

"My ambition is to do the European circuit, with Lumuhlem and Badminton Horse Trials," she said.

"If I don't do it now while I have the horse power, I might never have the horses to do it again," she said.

Wendy's champion showjumping mare, Koyuna Sunset, is in Germany at Gilbert Boekmann showjumping stables and Wendy intends to return to compete for four to six weeks after Christmas.

"I didn't really cope with the culture or the language when I went over before the World Games," Wendy said.

"But this time, setting things up differently, it should be better. It's all about chasing the dream."

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At full stretch: Wendy Schaeffer in action at the Adelaide three-day event at the weekend.

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