

Deanne's 'drawn' to HORSES

As a little girl growing up in the south western suburbs of Sydney, Deanne Panya was mesmerised by horses.

She and twin sister Beany would beg their father to draw pictures for them, then, sprawled out on the dining room table surrounded by coloured pencils and paper, they would carefully copy the sketch down the last detail.

"I guess that's where it all started," Deanne said. "We just wanted to draw horses all day long."

Fast forward nearly two decades and Deanne still loves to draw horses although she has a lot less spare time on her hands.

The now 24-year-old is one of Sydney's leading apprentice jockeys and is much sought after for rides all over New South Wales.

Currently indentured to Randwick-based trainer Craig Carmody, Panya is rapidly rising through the NSW jockey ranks and despite being an apprentice, she sits within the top 20 riders for the Metropolitan premiership.

In August last year Panya rode her first city treble with wins on Encostanati (a \$21 chance), Lie Direct and Snappy One at Royal Randwick. It was a defining moment and saw her name and face splashed across the media.

In December she recorded her first dual-track double and showed her willingness to travel for a winning ride.

APPRENTICE DEANNE PANYA IS IN DEMAND AS A JOCKEY BUT THE YOUNG HOOP'S ARTWORK IS EVEN MORE SOUGHT AFTER

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ABOVE: A portrait Deanne Panya was commissioned to complete

OPPOSITE: Deanne Panya celebrates her first Metropolitan treble at Royal Randwick. Picture by Bradley Photographers

Panya was aboard She Will Reign when the filly saluted on debut at Kembla Grange before driving up the highway and arriving at Royal Randwick just in time to guide My Psychiatrist to a hard-fought victory.

The racecaller had written off the mare as she entered the straight but Panya hadn't and rode her right to the line to win by a nose.

"It's always a thrill to get even one

win, any more is a bonus," Panya said. "I am more experienced now but I am always learning. My aim in 2017 is to increase consistency and decrease stress."

Drawing requires time and patience but Panya also finds it relaxing. She sits down with her pencils at every opportunity but admits she would like to devote more time to her art.

"Some weeks I will have two or three days off and that's when I draw. You have to grab any opportunities that come your way so if I am riding seven days one week, drawing takes a back seat."

In recent years Panya has moved from drawing simply for pleasure to accepting commissions.

"Initially I wasn't sure about charging people for something I enjoy but the requests kept coming and so did the encouragement. The first picture I sold was an A4 black and white sketch of Black Caviar."

Anyone wanting a picture drawn by Panya had better join the queue as there is a long waiting list. Each picture takes roughly 20 hours to complete and demand far outweighs supply.

Sister Beany's passion for drawing has stayed with her into adulthood as well. She too is a jockey and notched her first Metropolitan win in her very first ride at Eagle Farm just before the New Year.

"I feel so lucky to be living the life I am and it's even sweeter to be able to share my passions with my sister."

STOP PRESS: Deanne captured her first million dollar race when victorious aboard Testashadow in the Magic Millions Cup last month. **RNSW**

