

Goulburn's new SISTER ACT

EMMA AND LUCY LONGMIRE ARE THE ONLY TWINS TRAINING IN PARTNERSHIP IN AUSTRALIA AND THEY'RE ALREADY ENJOYING THE SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

WORDS: JULIEANNE HORSMAN

Lucy (left) and Emma dressed up for a day out at Goulburn Racecourse
Picture: Sara Fife

Growing up across the road from the old Goulburn Racecourse, Emma and Lucy Longmire did everything as a team.

The twins joined pony club together, went to school together, worked together and even enlisted in the Army Reserves together.

From a young age, they knew they wanted to be business partners and their plan came to fruition in April when they were granted a training partnership licence.

"We were so excited when it came through," Lucy said. "The timing was right and everything fell into place."

They couldn't have asked for a better start either. Their first runner for the 'Twinstar Racing' stable, Thunder Road, produced an impressive run to win at their home track, Goulburn.

"Coming around the turn we could see him winding up," Emma said. "Jean Van Overmeire (jockey) was riding to instructions and once we saw him peel out we knew he couldn't be beaten."

"It was such a thrill," added Lucy. "All the trainers and jockeys and staff at the track congratulated us and wished us all the best."



Twinstar Racing followed up the debut triumph with another two wins and three places within a fortnight.

“We are really enjoying the ride together and feel so privileged we’ve been able to make a career out of our passion,” Emma said. “We were always talking to each other about training techniques and the best races for each horse so becoming a partnership was a formality really.”

Emma and Lucy’s love affair with horses began before they could even walk.

They had Shetland ponies as babies and when their family moved to Mexico for a few years when they were in pre-school (their father was an economist and took a contract over there) they were enrolled at an international riding school.

They continued with pony club when they returned to Australia and by the time they turned 15, they were riding trackwork for George Crowley before school. But it was a stint of year 10 work experience with Gai Waterhouse that sealed the deal.

“Gai was there every morning and it was it was fascinating to watch her operate her stables,” Lucy said. “We got to warm up the horses including Chipping Norton and George Main Stakes winner Juggler and Melbourne Cup runner-up Nothin’ Leica Dane. It was an amazing experience.

“We also got to meet the legendary TJ Smith and he told us to send any more casuals from the bush his way,” Emma said. “Gai was so kind to us too.

“We weren’t allowed to be paid because it was work experience but Gai wanted to do something nice



Thunder Road (James Innes jnr) returns to scale after winning at Royal Randwick.

Picture by Steve Hart

for us. We both had bad skin so she took us to her beautician for a facial. We’ll never forget our time there.”

As the end of high school approached, Emma and Lucy decided to expand their horizons. Emma went on a working holiday to the UK while Lucy got a job at Goulburn Workers Club.

Both sisters joined the Army Reserves as Signallers and while Emma pursued a full-time military career which took her all around Australia, Lucy continued at the Workers and redeveloped homes on the side.

The lure of horse racing was too strong though and both twins eventually came back to the industry. Emma worked for Wayne Hudd and Graeme Spackman while Lucy worked for Danny Williams and Guy Walter where riding Australian Oaks winner, Streama, in trackwork was a highlight.

The modest sisters are quick to acknowledge the support and encouragement they received from their former employers.

“We are so lucky to have been able to learn from industry stalwarts who have been generous with their time,” Emma Said. “Graeme Spackman especially had a wonderful attitude and taught me so much.

“Guy Walter was a massive influence and there wasn’t a thing he wouldn’t tell you,” Lucy said. “He was phenomenally helpful but I picked up

so much just from being around him.”

Emma and Lucy were first granted individual trainer’s licenses and enjoyed success on their own, but as a partnership they have serious goals in their sights.

They have two lots of eight barns, 20 boxes and two walkers. Lucy’s is currently building a new home at their stables which will include more boxes and another walker. In a thoughtful touch, her husband installed metal twin stars on the gate.

They have the advantage of being able to ride their own trackwork to get a better feel for the horses and being a smaller stable they have time for a more hands on approach.

“Obviously, we’d love to win the Goulburn Cup and since Lucy had such a close association with Streama it’d be great to get a nice filly and have a shot at the Australian Oaks,” Emma said.

“I’d love to win the Goulburn Country Championships qualifier too and we can’t forget the Melbourne Cup,” Lucy said.

On their mother’s side the twins can trace their ancestry to the Moses family who originally owned Arrowfield Stud and the 1920 Melbourne Cup winner, Poitrel.

“Horses are in our blood from both sides of the family and we wouldn’t want to be doing anything else,” Emma said. **RNSW**