

ANTHEA GUNNER

Sport:	Equestrian
DOB:	04/01/1982
Coach:	Nicki Ford / Mary Longden
Resides:	Rangiora, Christchurch
Hometown:	Christchurch
Occupation:	Personal Assistant
Classification:	Grade II
Disability:	Paraplegic

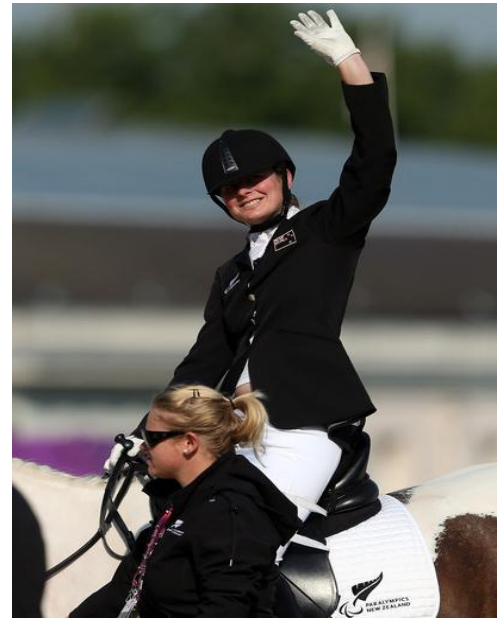


Photo: Zimbio

International achievements

2012	London Paralympic Games	16 th , 17 th & 19 th placings and International PB
2012	Horse of the Year Champion	Winner - Grade 2 Para Dressage
2012	NZ Para Equestrian Dressage	Reserve Champion - Grade 2
2011	NZ Para Equestrian Dressage	Reserve Champion - Grade 2
2010	Member of the NZ Team to compete at the CPEDI3* Werribee, Australia	

Other achievements

2012	Recipient of Parafed Canterbury Elite Scholarship
2012	Recipient of the Graham Condon Scholarship to assist developing Athletes to reach their potential
2011	Recipient of Parafed Canterbury Elite Scholarship

Anthea was injured in a horse accident in 2006 that left her paralysed from the waist down. Horses have long been her love. Growing up in a completely non-horsey family, she and her sister Rebecca managed to convince their parents that they should have riding lessons.

At 6^{1/2}, Anthea began what would become seven years of lessons. She didn't get her own pony until she was 14 but was lent a great little pony that started her in the world of eventing. Following her accident Anthea starting riding again in 2007 and bought Huntingdale Incognito later that year who has been her partner in her return to the competition arena.

The former eventer and show jumper is thriving in the world of para dressage where she competes at grade two level. "I was never going to give up horses, and once I started riding again, I realised that maybe I could compete again and it has just grown from there."

Such is her love of horses that she – and fiancé of seven years Aaron Dixon – shelved wedding plans a couple of years ago, and put in a dressage arena instead. It's paid big dividends for the couple. Gunner and her horse Incognito headed to Australia late last year and produced more sterling results.

Anthea was part of a Para Equestrian Dressage team that were the first New Zealand equestriennes to make the Paralympics in 8 years. London was Anthea's first Paralympic Games and she performed well placing 16th, 17th and 19th.