

# Grade 1a Para Rider:

## **JODIE THORNE** **and** **SAN MATEO TECH EFFECTS**



Hi! I'm Jodie, Grade 1a para rider (profile 12a) and my horsey partner is my 16.1hh clydie x gelding, San Mateo Tech Effects. I was diagnosed with FSH Muscular Dystrophy 20 years ago when I was 12 years old. FSH-MD is a progressive condition that weakens the muscles in my body. I can walk short distances (quite uniquely but it's a walk!), but I find it difficult to lift my left leg up, so I use a wheelchair for long distances or on rough ground. I started competing at para dressage after a year of therapy rides at RDA. I wanted to get involved with a sport and para dressage seemed the obvious choice after my childhood passion for horses was re-ignited! I ride with looped reins, a solid handlebar on my saddle, thigh straps, toe-stoppers on my stirrups, voice commands and two whips.

Outside of my horsey life I run Wicked Eye, a web design company in Tauranga. I spend my work days designing, building and maintaining websites for small to medium size businesses all over NZ. Then my "other" job as Mum kicks in at 3.30pm and it's all about family time. I'm lucky enough to have an amazing supportive family and a fab support crew - I couldn't do what I'm doing with Tech without them. We have so much fun together training and competing, it makes all the hard work worthwhile

