

size and accuracy of paces", she explained, "as it can win or lose an event."  
 "I believe that western riders need to understand the mechanics of the horse and to understand about paces and having correct paces. Many are quite happy to accept whatever the horse offers, instead of producing the correct steps and worrying about correct flexion or having their horses tracking up behind. Some people are quite happy to get bend in the neck without a true bend through the body.

**"They are getting back to legs and hands and taking the gimmicky stuff off their horses. If you have to resort to gimmicks on a horse you really lack the talent"**

In the eastern states some of the better trainers are using dressage basics. Some even say "this dressage stuff is alright" and they are seeing an improvement in the way their horses are going, while others use the basics but won't admit it. They are getting back to legs and hands and taking the gimmicky stuff off their horses. If you have to resort to gimmicks on a horse you really lack the talent"

Talent is something Vivian does not lack. She has prepared and campaigned some top

horses including the AQHA Champion 'Hillbilly Girl'; the NCHA and AQHA Champion 'Commanders Merit' (on which she won the Senior Reining and Senior Cutting at the Australian Quarter Horse Championships when she was 16 years old and the only female entrant); AQHA Champion 'Kings Gayety'; and has taken the appaloosa 'Shalimar Saucy Bars' to a Register of Merit in General Performance, Western Pleasure and Halter.

While living in the United States in 1982, Vivian worked with the Non-Pro Cutting World Champion, John Paxton, in Louisiana.

During her twelve months in the USA Viv educated and trained cutting futurity horses plus had the opportunity to compete at the 'Crawfish Cutting Classics' on 'Freckles Honey Boy', a four year old stallion by 'Freckles Play Boy'.

A broken leg bought Viv home to Australia.

"At that time a lot of people condemned you for going overseas and they looked for faults so they could catch you out," she said. "I found you just have to go quietly about your business and prove yourself. A lot of this would be envy or jealousy, but I'm not into that scene. It's the same with jealousy between trainers, it's not for me. If I can help someone or they can help me, that's great. EVERYONE always has a lot more they can learn."

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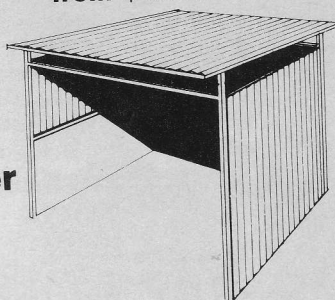
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