



horses for courses

When *CountryBiz* caught up with Peter Zillmer, the Queensland-based full-time inventor was busy preparing for a trip to America, where he plans to promote his latest invention – a western-style safety stirrup for equestrians.

The stirrup is the second safety device he has created to prevent riders suffering serious or possibly fatal injuries if they fall from a horse and are subsequently dragged.

Now the owner of four horses and a keen recreational rider, Zillmer had never ridden before when he started work on his first safety stirrup – the internationally acclaimed, SmartRider.

He was initially approached by professional horseman and friend, Hayden Bostock, to help develop a stirrup that would release a rider in the event of a fall.

Bostock's best friend had died after sustaining horrific injuries when he was dragged after falling from a horse. On average, some 28 people are killed each year in Australia in similar accidents.

The first patent for the SmartRider was registered in 1987. During the past three years, Zillmer has worked

full-time on testing, manufacturing and marketing the product.

Made of ultra tough, corrosive-resistant marine grade stainless steel, the SmartRider stirrup is certified at the highest international safety standards (ISO 9001 and 9002).

It is used by professional equestrians such as European Olympians Franke Sloothaak, Ludger Beerbaum and Maria Gretzer, Britain's John Whittaker and Australian champions, Wayne and Vicki Roycroft.

Having enjoyed success with his SmartRider and about to launch his next invention, Peter's best advice to other inventors is "never compromise on quality."

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