

Thighs of Thunder, from Down Under:

An Interview with Merinda Zali

by Xenny Diemes

Live from Adelaide, Australia

Welcome to StudioOne Magazine, the world's magazine. We are here in Adelaide for our first exclusive interview with the one and only Merinda Zali. Five-time champion distance jumper, part-time muscle model and current record holder for having the largest leg muscles on any marsupial ever! That's often why many have given this lady the unofficial title of *"Thighs of Thunder from Down Under"*.

SOM: Thank you for seeing us, Merinda

MZ: Thank you having me mate!

SOM: So, the last anyone has heard from you is that you came out from your latest shoot from Playfur magazine Australia. Care to tell us about that.

MZ: * laughs * well that was after winning my fifth title in the long jumper competition. I got in a few calls from that group and after some thought I decide to take the shot and give me a chance to show off my new suit.

SOM: The suit?

MZ: Yes, I was going to show it on my coming record special but what a better way to show it off than that magazine. And it was my only time to get raunchy while doing it.

SOM: What is the suit about

MZ: Well it's a Willinger 5380 Aerodynamic Bodysuit. A suit blended with carbon fiber with spandex for stretchiness and comfort. I ran it through the gauntlet during my runs and leaps and not once did it rip, tear or chaff between my thighs. In fact it feels so nice I don't use powder anymore when I use it.

SOM: That's incredible Ms. Zali, care to tell us about the event that you'll be using the suit for?

MZ: Well in celebration of my 5th anniversary of my last record-breaking jump across Sydney Harbour, I decide to break my own record by going skyward.

SOM: Skyward?

MZ: Yes. My goal is to reach up to 10,000 feet up into the air and come down to a floating target in the water.

SOM: That is... a very impossible feat

MZ: What?!

SOM: We don't mean it in a bad way Ms. Zali but jumping across the harbor is one thing but up to 10,000 feet and hope to land in the water, that's suicide.

MZ: Hey, I survived landing on top of much harder stuff and the only casualties are my pants when thighs explode out of them. I've been training for the past few months and hoping I can reach my goal of packing in an extra 300 pounds of muscle into these babies.

SOM: How far you got into it?

MZ: I'm a third of the way in so by the time I do the record, these bad boys are going to be HUGE!

SOM: I and we can't wait to see it, by first tell us how you became this way?

MZ: Well I can make this short. It all started when I was a little kid around 6 years old and I think what got me on the path to being a jumper was an apple off a tree at my uncle's farm. That tree had the tastiest apples this side of the outback and I wanted one so bad. But the problem was that the apple was so high and myself, too short. Leaving my older brothers to get them first. So I do what I always can, jump. I jumped and I jumped even learning how to make my legs stronger while doing it. Now being 7 years old, you would think that I would be disinterested fast right?

SOM: Possibly

MZ: Not with me because by the following season, I was able to beat my brother in getting the apple and got my legs stronger than before. But soon it was less about getting apples from tall trees and more about making the one thing that makes a Roo like me special is having stronger legs. How strong even till this day still surprises me.

SOM: How did you do it?

MZ: Well for a couple of years, while the rest of my family just walked, I hopped. Whether I go to the store for stuff, go to school or even even get cookies from the shelf, I just hop. Some of the counselors thought I had a problem but that all changed when I entered high school and got into the gym and really started working them.

SOM: How much do you press.

MZ: Well back then, by the time I hit my 19th birthday. I was pressing more than 800 pounds all in my legs, more than the strongest rugby players in my school. There was even a time I actually did joined the rugby team because I have been known to have the strongest kick of any student in the school.

SOM: So what happened after that?

MZ: Well college happened did the same things but then I came across something on the web for a method to develop stronger muscle tissue and I took that in, I forgot what it was called but I remembered the steps to the letter. It took a lot longer than what I used to do but in the end. My legs became enormous but far stronger than before. Soon I was picked up by news outlets, media shows and even competition invites all to show off these goods. Which I guess its the reason why I started to take time to work on my upper body as well.

SOM: That leads up to this when did you get this idea to become a competitive high jumper?

MZ: Watching olympic jumpers of course. Seeing how high and far they can leap before hitting the ground and if they can do it, so can I. However, and this is the most important part, I did not how how strong my leaps were until I tried it. It wasn't the jump for the apple days anymore. I jumped and rocketed into the air until I was higher than the nearby office tower before I landed in the trees. I didn't get hurt much but it was something that I then can master later on. To make a long story short, I did my famed long jumps leading up to the record breaking leap that made history, and now I'm going to do it again.

SOM: Are there any risks involved?

MZ: Is there isn't? Landing in the wrong place, falling on top of someone, crashing through buildings, and the worst, pulling a muscle. But I took all those to account before I do my mega leaps and so far 20 out of 23 aren't bad.

SOM: What were the three?

MZ: One involved trying to leap off a rock-concert stage but the force of my legs pushed the stage down collapsing it. The next was the reason I wear tight aerodynamic suits. The drag caused by my chest slowed my ascent and made me miss my target and I landed in a nearby pond. The last and worst which I still feel bad to this day was that I learned to never leap when the winds are too high. During my flight, I was hit by several wind shears that moved my body in all directions and by the time I regained my stance on the way down. I landed butt first on a stray dog.

SOM: Oh my gosh.

MZ: I still feel terrible but I did made up for it by volunteering at a local shelter for several years until I felt my debt was repaid.

SOM: Moving on... Any plans after you make your leap?

MZ: Take a long rest and see what to do with my soon to be bigger thighs and calves. I really do need a serious deep tissue massage after this.

SOM: Massuouse?

MZ: Jackhammer. Meek hands can't tend to these muscles, so I have someone with a specially made jackhammer do all the work for me. It really works.

SOM: I think that's all we have, good luck with your record endeavor.

MZ: Thank you for having me.