



Taj Carson (Rider)

My name is Taj Carson, I am 16 years old from Jindabyne in New South Wales. I began riding Quarter Horses in 2015 on my family's property. I began competing in 2016 on Not About D Money a 2yo gelding bred, raised and trained by my Family. After the completion of the show season that year I was given the opportunity to go ride with Kane Skopp and Carolyn and Holly Johnson from Rockin Horse Ranch.

During this time Kane took me under his wing and we travelled to the United States to attend the AQHA World Championship Show in Oklahoma City where I worked alongside the team at Highpoint Performance Horses. This was an amazing learning opportunity for me and an experience I will never forget. After the World Show we travelled back to the ranch in Texas where I was able to ride and be coached by some of the best in the world.

On my arrival back to Australia, I made the decision to enrol in distance education so I could stay in Tamworth and be coached for the show season. I was assisted in training my homegrown All Around Horse 'Undoubtaball'.

In 2017 I showed with success in the Hunter Under Saddle, Trail, Showmanship, Hunt Seat Equitation and Horsemanship. We gained a Highpoint and two reserve Highpoint end of year Youth of Australia awards. This is an achievement I am very proud of for my first season showing at the Major shows in these events. I was also given the opportunity to show several aged event horses and won every Youth Western Pleasure Feature I entered. During this time I was taught how to mentally and physically prepare for these events and the pressures associated with it. I believe this was a great preparation for the Youth World Cup Experience.

I am very excited to have been selected to represent my country on Team Australia and welcome the challenge. I have so much respect for my fellow team members and the talent they bring to our team. If my time learning at the selection camp is any indication of my Youth World Cup experience I cannot wait!