ADAM CARLISLE - RIDER
AGE: 19
HOMETOWN: Greytown
Since before Adam was born, his family has owned and shown Quarter Horses. Adam has followed this on since he was a child. He has been part of the AQHA-NZ Youth Squad for a long time, having been a reserve rider at the 2018 YWC. Adam’s favorite event is trail. When asked what he is most looking forward to at YWC, Adam said, “I am looking forward to being able to compete for New Zealand, as well as the comradery involved with being part of an event like this.”

ALYSSA MCDOWELL - RIDER
AGE: 18
HOMETOWN: Whakatane
Alyssa and her mum have been showing together since Alyssa was a junior youth. Alyssa’s favorite events are horsemanship and hunt seat equitation. Alyssa was part of the 2022 Trans Tasman event in Melbourne, Australia, and had a very successful show. Outside of horses, Alyssa loves being outdoors, exploring, traveling and camping, as well as a range of other sports. Alyssa is most looking forward to “meeting new people and some new four-legged friends, traveling overseas and exploring what America has to offer.”

LANI ECCLES - RIDER
AGE: 19
HOMETOWN: Hamilton
Lani has been riding Quarter Horses for about five years, being a part of the AQHA-NZ Youth Squad during that time. Lani’s favorite event is ranch riding, due to the ability to show off the horse’s maneuvers in a more open and forward pattern. About YWC, Lani said, “I’m really looking forward to the experience as a whole, expanding my knowledge. Being privileged to be able to compete on such an international stage is something to look forward to.”

REECE MAHUIKA - RIDER
AGE: 18
HOMETOWN: Nelson
Reece has been showing for the past five years after starting riding at the age of 7. Reece’s favorite event is horsemanship, as the unique nature of the maneuvers allows him to show off the teamwork between him and his horse to get a great pattern. Reece has a 12-year-old Quarter Horse mare that he is currently showing and learning a lot from. Reece said he is looking forward to “meeting people from all around the globe and competing in such a different environment.”

SHAREE BON - RIDER
AGE: 17
HOMETOWN: Mercer
Quarter Horses have been a part of Sharee’s life from a very early age. Her favorite event is trail, as she loves working together with her horse to get the best result possible. Outside of horses, Sharee also races dirt bikes and loves being on the family dairy farm. Sharee is most looking forward to “the opportunity to ride different horses and to get to know all the different riders. I love the chance to learn new skills!”