



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



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Career Advice Australia

Apprentice Jockey Diary

<http://www.agrifoodcareers.com.au>

Taylor Lovelock-Wiggins recently left school & commenced his Jockey Apprenticeship on October 17 2008 at the age of 15. He has shown enormous promise and indicators suggest that in the future he will become one of Australia's leading jockeys. Based in the ACT and apprenticed to his father, Taylor works very hard and is committed to being the best he can be.

Although leaving school early can often present difficulties, Taylor was able to participate in the ACT's 'SPICE' program. The 'SPICE' program allows students to work one day per week with community enterprises whilst still at school & it enables students to get a 'real life' understanding of particular occupations & industries before they leave school. As a consequence, Taylor left school after participating in the program knowing exactly what he wanted to do!

Taylor is very sports focused & has a passion for cycling. Last year, he finished 17th in the Australian Cycling under 17 Championships, where he cycled over various distances up to 85 kilo metres. Road cycling has been of great benefit to his riding as it's helped him to develop leg strength, timing, patience & ability to take an opening when an opportunity presents itself. He will often ride 25km's each way to the stables to keep fit and satisfy his passion for cycling..

Generally speaking, apprentices just starting out get very few rides, but Taylor is an exception as trainers can see his ability & work ethic, so offers are coming to utilise his services.

He attends trade school at Canberra Racing Club 1 day per month. Taylor receives 1st year apprenticeship rates of pay & all of his riding fees (this amount is under reviewed at the moment) & prize money earnings are kept in trust until he is 18.

At the time of preparing this diary, Taylor has already created an imposing record. 24 rides, 5 winners & 6 place getters- a phenomenal effort for a 4kg claiming apprentice. Furthermore, he had a 'full book' of rides in Canberra on Melbourne Cup day!

Here is his diary for the week ending 6-11-08.



Thursday 30/10

Out of bed at 4.10am & went to track work at 4.45am & rode 8 horses.

After morning track work I went home and had a sleep for an hour. At 2.30 I went back to the stables to swim, feed & rug the horses. I also cleaned the horse boxes then went back home at 5.30, had some dinner and into bed at 8.30.

Friday 31/10

Out of bed at 4.10am & went to track work at 4.45. I rode 7 horses & finished up around 9.30am.

Today the races are at Goulburn, I left home at 1pm & returned home at 9.30pm. Today's round trip I travelled about 200Km's. My father drove me to the races & I had 3 rides. After the races I also rode a horse in a trial for one of the prominent trainers in the region. I had mixed fortunes for the day, with two of my three rides the 'packing' slipped under my saddle & caused my saddle to move & it inconvenienced my ability to compete equally with the other horses.

I had 3 rides today

Name of horse	placing	5% of prizemoney
Cakewalkin	5 th	Nil
Quachang	1 st	\$325
Play of light	8 th	Nil

Saturday 1/11

Out of bed at 4.10am & went to track work at 4.45 & rode 8 horses for various trainers.

Today the races are at Queanbeyan, left home at midday & returned home at 7pm. After the races I went back to the Wiggins stables at Canberra & finished up about 7pm

I had 3 rides today

Name of horse	placing	5% of prizemoney
Close to Home	1 ST 17-1	\$120
Thehillsarealive	3 RD 4-1	\$18
Marquise Star	2 ND 2-1	\$40

Sunday 2/11

Out of bed at 7am & went out to a café for breakfast. It's my 16th birthday so the morning off riding track work. A quiet day, I cleaned some boxes & took a couple of horses for a swim & in to bed at 8.45.

Monday 3/11

Out of bed at 4.10am & went to track work at 4.30 & rode 9 horses.

There are no races today & being Melbourne Cup eve racing is very much part the flavor of the month. Fellow apprentice Rebecca Winter & I were guest speakers for a function (Calcutta) We spoke to the audience about a range of things such as diet, the industry, weighing in, our experiences etc..

After the function, I went home & had a quick sleep & went back to the stables at 3pm to feed the horses & muck out the stables. I went to bed early for a big day tomorrow.

Tuesday 4/11

Out of bed at 3am & went to track work at 3.30 & rode 8 horses.

Today the races are at Canberra and I left home at 11.20am & returned home at 7.30pm. It was a big day where I had rides booked in every race. One of my rides was scratched, which allowed me to have a quick 'catnap' to freshen up. After the races finished I stayed around a little while to network with owners and trainers.

I had 5 rides today

Name of horse	placing	5% of prize money
Untamed	1 st at 6-1	\$325
Terrawinda	2 nd at 8-1	\$100
Panderelle	2 nd at 5-1	\$100
Riverina Prince	4 th at 5-1	\$25
Sobeit	7 th at 6-1	Nil

Wednesday 5/11

I had the morning off & got out of bed at 6.30am. At 3pm I rode 25km's to the stables to feed, water & rug the horses, I also took one of them for a swim. The truck driver with the horse feed was late so I didn't leave until 5.45pm, which is later than normal. I then rode home & went to bed at 8pm.

