

My time at The Cottage: March-May 2025

Hi, I'm Maeve from Ohio (or as Chris liked to call me, "Mrs. America"!) — and I had the absolute pleasure of spending two months at the cottage in March 2025. I truly have nothing but good things to say for this amazing place and the wonderful people who make it so special.

From day one, I felt welcomed and at home. Living and working alongside the other girls was such a joy — we quickly became a little family, sharing everyday moments like working the horses, cooking meals together, and, of course, spontaneous snack runs. The bonds you make here are genuine and lasting.

The horses are incredible — each one with their own personality and lessons to teach. My favorites were Tommy and Poppy, but every horse offered something valuable. I've brought so many new skills and insights back home with me, thanks to the time I spent with them.

Chris and Deborah are truly the heart of the cottage. They are kind, knowledgeable, and endlessly supportive. Whether you're looking to improve as a horsewoman or grow personally, they're always there to guide and encourage you. Their passion and care shine through in everything they do — and not a single day went by without plenty of laughs and memorable moments.

A typical day started with breakfast together before feeding began at 8 a.m. After setting feed, we'd receive a list of the day's tasks from Deborah — anything from working specific horses to helping with jobs like gardening or mowing. We'd break for lunch in the afternoon, then feed again in the evening before settling down to cook and enjoy dinner as a group. Each week, we had a day off — I used mine to go hiking, explore local beaches and markets, and absolutely loved visiting the Mornington Racecourse Market!

I can't say enough about how much I loved my time here. It was truly a special, unforgettable experience filled with laughter, growth, friendship, and learning. I'm so grateful to Chris and Deborah for everything — and I hope to be back very soon!



