

The Cottage Travellers

Hi, I'm Gesa, 19 years old from Germany. I came to visit The Cottage right after I finished high school in September 2024. I spent overall five months there and had the most amazing time.

In case you are wondering what a typical day at The Cottage looks like, let me tell you; After I woke up, I always had breakfast with the other girls. Depending upon the season we would then water the veggie garden, open the tack room, and start feeding. In summer this would be around 8:00 and in winter this would be later. After we finished feeding the horses, we prepared the horses' food for the evening and the next morning, collected the poo in the lane ways, and mocked out the two stables. In the morning you always get a list from Deborah so you know what needs to be done that day. Those tasks include, for example, riding different horses, lunging, getting hay out to the horses, or mowing, but they vary from day to day, so it never gets boring:).

In the evening we usually fed the horses around 18:00 in summer and around 16:00 in winter and cleaned up the crossties before we all cooked dinner together. The cooking and eating together was always so much fun and I think I will never forget the cosy evenings we spent talking, laughing, watching reality TV, or having little barbecues by the pool.

I can guarantee you that even after five months at The Cottage no day is the same, and there are many new things to learn and fun little surprises every day.

The horses at The Cottage are amazing. They are all quite different from each other but so special in their own way and I can guarantee, that there's something for everyone.

My absolute favourite was Opal. It was just love at first sight and I'm so thankful that I got to ride such an amazing horse and had the opportunity to work and improve so much with her. I also really enjoyed riding Nova and Lacey, who also took a special place in my heart. Having the chance to ride so many wonderful horses and getting so many great tips from Chris and Deborah made me improve my riding skills a lot, which I am super thankful for. During my time there, I also learned a lot about groundwork and handling horses in general.

The three dogs Molly, Snoopy and Rusty are also so adorable and especially little Rusty always put a smile on my face when he was greeting us in the morning.

But not only the dogs and horses at The Cottage are wonderful. What truly makes this place so special are its people.

During my stay I got to meet such incredible people. I'm incredibly thankful for Sophia, Isa, Judith, May, Julie, Johanna, Maeve, and Olli who made my time even more special.

Chris and Deborah are such amazing people, who not only made The Cottage feel like home to me, they also did everything they could to make my stay in Australia the most amazing experience in my life so far. They gave me advice whenever needed and encouraged me to travel Australia, which I am super grateful for.

Not only did I learn a lot about horses and the daily work on the property, I also got to learn so much for life and about myself.

The time I spent at The Cottage will forever be one of my favourite memories and staying there was the best decision I could have made.

Thank you so much for having me! I'm sure we will see each other again in the future. ❤️

