

August 2022

I came to the cottage in late April and it quickly became a second home to me. Deb and Chris are very welcoming and always made sure that I was comfortable and had everything that I needed. All the other backpackers that I met at the cottage were super nice and I'm sure we'll stay in touch in the future. It's a great way to make new friends with similar hobbies and interests.

From the first day on I was involved in all the duties and jobs around the farm. Those include feeding the horses, rugging them (depending on weather conditions), some fencing, providing all horses with hay, if necessary, as well as lunging, riding or groundwork.

The horses are very well trained which makes them great fun to ride. My riding improved (not a dressage rider by trade) with the help of Deb, Chris and the horses of course.

Chris also taught me some of the groundwork he does with the horses. They are so sensitive and responsive that it's an amazing experience to work with them.

Some of them do require a bit of experience to handle since they have quite an attitude at times but mostly they are lovely. I sure will miss them.

Apart from improving my horsemanship skills I also expanded my knowledge on all the general duties on a (horse) farm, such as fencing, feeding properly and keeping the arena in good condition, to name a few.

I also assisted with the farrier and vet which is always interesting and educational.

Soon Deb and Chris trusted me enough to let me work independently. There is no strict routine, every day is different at the cottage. Quite often Chris would ask us what we would prefer to do to make sure we were happy with our tasks.

Us backpackers had our own little house that provided us with everything we needed. I have many great memories of us chatting and laughing in the kitchen after the day's work was done.

Even though sometimes the days can be long and a bit tiring it's always fun to be around the horses and people and the work is really rewarding. I liked to watch the horses peacefully eating their dinner with the most amazing sunset in the background.

On my day off I could use a car to explore the peninsula or take the train into Melbourne. There's plenty of things to see and do in the area so being bored is practically impossible.

The cottage was my first stop in Australia and I could not have hoped for a better start in Australia. Deb and Chris made settling in very easy for me. They were always happy to help with everything, even with finding a job to fulfil the 88 days for my second year visa, which is where I am heading now - otherwise I might have never left.

Thanks so much to Deb and Chris for a wonderful 3.5 months at the cottage!
I'm looking forward to seeing all 2 and 4 legged friends again.

Lots of love,
Julia, 25 from Germany