

## OCTOBER 2023

My last couple months on “The Cottage” were full of amazing experiences. This place is ideal for everyone who is interested in improving their horse riding skills, learning a lot in every aspect of life and getting to know the real Aussie lifestyle. Chris and Deborah were amazing hosts since they were very fair with all tasks. Especially Chris always tries to help out with the incredible knowledge he gained over the years while building up the farm. He taught me a lot about horsemanship, Australia and the farm life. You need to deal with his humor and accent, but he’s a lovely person so it’s definitely worth it.

The tasks were mostly about the horses, including lots of riding, lunging, feeding, helping the farrier and similar tasks. Everyone gets the chance to ride a lot, even less experienced riders, which makes this place really unique. Depending on abilities, riding is definitely the main focus here. All their horses are well educated and ideal schooling masters, so I got the chance to practice flying changes, counter canter and way more things. Even if some days were hard, the fun part always outweighed.

Deb keeps well track of the free days, on which we spent some time at the beach, visited Melbourne and saw the nearby wildlife sanctuary. There is a lot to do around Frankston and we had the possibility to use one of their cars, so we were really flexible and could do things independently.

All in all, I really enjoyed the time I had and hope to come back one day :)

Lilli

