

Thanks to Chris and Deborah for welcoming me warmly from the start as their first backpacker after covid. I initially planned to stay here for 1 month but ended up staying 2 months at the cottage. I started my Australian adventure here and it was an incredible and unforgettable experience. I got immediately involved in the daily chores and the running projects to give the horses what they need. Chris is a very social person and starts telling you everything about his horse and farm knowledge right away. You can't get away with an incredible amount of new learnt knowledge.

I met so many lovely people (Amy, Ines, Kate, Anne, Magdalena ...) that joined us for riding the horses. Coming to the horses, riding them is lovely due to their high training level. It was an amazing feeling riding them. Seeing my own riding progress made me happy and proud. But the handling requires (at least for some) horseman skills since every horse has their own personality. There is so much happening on the farm with all the horses, so no day is the same. I loved the life on the farm, being outdoors and around horses. A day usually starts with feeding and unrugging the horses according to the weather. Then you make up the feeds and provide water and hay for the required horses. Depending on the weather there is almost every day the possibility to work a horse (riding or lunging). The rest of the day is filled with general maintenance work on the farm (fencing, picking up sticks etc, ...) or special tasks with the vet or ferrier. The last part of the day is feeding the horses again and rugging them.

Even though I was sometimes tired I enjoyed every day here. I would totally recommend going here if you have a basic dressage and horse knowledge, want to work hard, connect with the horses, get your hands dirty whilst feeling so alive being surrounded by nature. The accommodation is comfortable and the provided groceries were great. There are usually 2 backpackers here so you always have someone to work with and keep company with apart from Chris and Deborah and the other girls who ride here.

On my days off I could discover the whole Mornington peninsula and Melbourne (1.0 h train ride).

Due to the access to a car you can drive also to more remote places or get takeaway.

I will really miss you all! It was so nice to meet you! Thank you for everything you showed me about horsemanship and the riding lessons!



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