

My time at The Cottage

- September to December 2019 •

When I first came to The Cottage I didn't know this would turn out as one of the best times in my life. Even Victoria's changing weather couldn't change this.



Located on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, The Cottage is literally (in) the centre of Australia's horse paradise. Wherever you want to go from here, you pass one horse farm after the other, and they have all different types of horses. This still seems so unreal to me and I could never stop watching out of the window when we drove around. And I am even not embarrassed to say that I loved most spending my days off around horses as well. There are just so many different horse events around and all of them are fantastic. So yes, I guess I did turn a lot more into a "horse girl" since I came to The Cottage.

But even without the horses, the area can be beautiful. If you want to escape the horselife for a day there is heaps to visit. You can get to the beaches, mountains and even to Melbourne within one hour, so a lot of variety even there. But what really made me love this place so much is not it's location and the surroundings, but all the lovely people and horses!

I am grateful for all the girls I could meet during my time at The Cottage. And I am still in contact with many of them. Working and living together was so much fun, and it felt like a little family sometimes. I truly loved having my own room in one of the two backpacker houses and sharing everything else with the other girls. That way we spend really good evenings together and still had enough independence.

But most important are Deborah and Chris who took so much care of us. They are the ones, that really made me feel home here. And I am so grateful that I can call The Cottage my aussie home. Of all the places I have been to in Australia, this will definitely be the first one I come back to.



During my time at The Cottage, I could learn as much as I never did before in my life. And not just about horses, but also about life in all different aspects. Whether it is about social networks and technology or the parallels between Australian and European weather, there is always something to discuss about with Chris. And at the same time I also learned what it means to have your own property. There are always things coming up when you live on a farm and this is when I got to learn about general duties like gardening and mowing. Especially these are things I am really thankful for as I am pretty sure that no one would ever teach me all this if I move in my own house one day.



But anyway, The Cottage would not be The Cottage without the horses. Every single one of them is so special and together they are like a big family. From the two foals up to the retired ones they cover up all different generations and everyone has got its own character and special needs. Not one day is like another with them and you get to learn a lot of different things. From handling the young ones through groundwork and up to riding really everything. All together I had a fantastic time at The Cottage, where I have also grown a lot in my personality. And I am really struggling writing this as it feels like no words are good enough to describe my experiences.

Thank you again Deb and Chris for the wonderful time, I can not wait to come back!

Julie