# Sages Cottage Farm Access Key

**85 Sages Road, Baxter, Victoria**

**Phone: 03 9792 2985**

**Website:** [**www.sagescottage.com.au**](http://www.sagescottage.com.au)

**Updated November 2018**

**Version 1.0**

## Guidelines

**Thank you for choosing to use an Access Key for Sages Cottage Farm.**

**For your Access Key to be successful, we recommend you follow these guidelines:**

**Access Keys preferably to be obtained two weeks in advance of visit.**

**Access Keys to be read calmly and confidently in an environment free of distractions.**

**An adult/carer is to read the Access Key with the participant as often as required, to ensure the participant understands the Access Key.**

**Help the participant comprehend the key points of the Access Key, consistently monitoring for level of understanding.**

**If using the Access Key as a reflective tool, enjoy the pivotal link between experience and recall after the visit has taken place.**

**Once the visit has taken place, revisit the Access Key to celebrate success.**

**Download Access Key in its entirety - 22 pages in total.**

**Ursula the pig lives at Sages Cottage Farm.**

**Come say hi.**

## Wallara

**Sages Cottage Farm is owned and operated by Wallara, a sector leading support service for adults with different abilities.**

**The farm provides Wallara clients with a range of training opportunities, including horticulture, animal care, retail and hospitality.**

**Wallara's mission is to drive social change in the community to empower people with different abilities to live the life they choose and Wallara's vision for Sages Cottage Farm is to build Australia's most inclusive community farm.**

## Welcome

**Sages Cottage Farm is open Monday – Thursday from 9am – 2pm.**

## Did You Know?

**Sages Cottage Farm offers free entry.**

**Donations are welcome.**

**Scheduled daily tours are available 9am Monday to Thursday.**

**Bookings are essential.**

**To book, click the following link.**

[**http://sagescottage.com.au/tours/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/tours/)

**The beautiful gardens are cared for by a team of dedicated volunteers and Wallara clients learning skills in horticulture.**

**Sages Cottage Farm offers lots of ways to be involved:**

**As a volunteer. See the following link.**

[**http://sagescottage.com.au/volunteer/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/volunteer/)

**A friend of Sages. See the following link.**

[**http://sagescottage.com.au/friends-of-sages/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/friends-of-sages/)

**Corporate Challenges. See the following link.**

[**http://sagescottage.com.au/corporate-challenges/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/corporate-challenges/)

**To ensure animals are given the very best of veterinary care, cute and cuddlies are 'adopted' on an annual basis by individuals and organisations, who in return have their name/ logo on the animal enclosure.**

**Watch the following video to see how this early settler’s home was transformed into a new life.**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y0R20kumxY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Y0R20kumxY)

**School tours are available.**

**Click the following link for more information.**

[**http://sagescottage.com.au/schools/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/schools/)

**Coming soon to Sages Cottage Farm is a sensory pathway around the lake.**

**To provide feedback please visit Sages Cottage Farm Facebook Page on the following link**

[**https://www.facebook.com/Sages-Cottage-Farm-1623490461236256/**](https://www.facebook.com/Sages-Cottage-Farm-1623490461236256/)

**or Sages Cottage Farm website on the following link.**

[**http://sagescottage.com.au/contact/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/contact/)

## Things to See and Do

**Visitors are welcome to enjoy a variety of activities including a walk-through cottage gardens and conservation bushland, visit historic Sages Cottage or Sages Gift Shop, meet the animals, relax with a coffee in Harvest Café or book a scheduled tour.**

**There is no admission fee to Sages Cottage Farm.**

**Undercover areas are available at Harvest Café or around the entry perimeter of Sages Cottage.**

## Sages Cottage

**Sages Cottage is located to the left of the carpark.**

**There is a gravel pathway leading to the Cottage that is accessible by wheelchair.**

**There is an access entry/exit ramp to the Cottage veranda.**

**Visitors to take care to remain on the veranda.**

**Entry/exit to Sages Cottage is via an open wooden door.**

**Sages Cottage dates back to the 1850’s.**

**View the re-enactment room and how the Cottage may have looked back then.**

**Watch the evolution of Sages Cottage Farm video on the screen in the hallway.**

### Sensory Guide Sages Cottage

#### Feel

* **Different ground surfaces**
* **Shared personal space**

#### Sounds

* **Animals**
* **Creaking**
* **Echo**
* **Flying insects**
* **Footsteps**
* **People**
* **Television**

#### Sights

* **Dim lighting**
* **Flickering television**
* **Flying insects**

#### Smells

* **Animals**
* **Flowers**
* **Mustiness**

## Gardens

**Sages beautiful gardens are located at the front of the Cottage.**

**They span over half an acre.**

**Gardens include heritage listed fruit trees, a rose garden, cottage beds brimming with blooms and over 100 bird species have been identified.**

**The gardens are also where visitors will see the 1850’s dunny (toilet).**

**Sages Cottage gardens are fully accessible with all garden beds viewable from pathways.**

**Please help to protect and conserve the gardens by not climbing trees, playing ball games or damaging or removing plants.**

**Please do not feed the birds.**

**Sages Cottage gardens provide plenty of natural food for the birds.**

**Take a seat in the gardens to rest and relax.**

### Sensory Guide Gardens

#### Feel

* **Different ground surface**
* **Shared personal space**
* **Weather**

#### Movement

* **Balance**

#### Sounds

* **Animals**
* **Garden equipment**
* **People**
* **Traffic**
* **Wind**

#### Sights

* **Animal movement**
* **Glare**

#### Smells

* **Animals**
* **Fertiliser**
* **Flowers**

## Animals

**Visit Sages friendly animals.**

**Get up close and cuddle the animals by booking a tour.**

**Bookings are essential.**

**Please visit the following link for bookings.** [**http://sagescottage.com.au/tours/**](http://sagescottage.com.au/tours/)

**Meet and feed the cheeky pigs, Buddy the sheep, Molly the goat and her buddies and cuddle the guinea pigs and rabbits.**

**All animals are viewable from outside their enclosures.**

**Sages Cottage Farm also features free roaming animals such as ducks and geese.**

**They may move quickly and make noises.**

**These animals are friendly but it is requested visitors do not feed, touch or chase them.**

## Harvest Café

**Harvest Café is located to the right of the carpark.**

**It is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 2pm.**

**Lunch and light snacks are served.**

**Full table service is provided and large print menus are available.**

**We welcome group bookings.**

**Some dietary requirements can be catered for.**

**Please ask our friendly staff.**

**Visitors can use cash or eftpos.**

**We ask you to support the café by not bringing your own food to the farm.**

**Entry/exit is via a double set of glass manual doors.**

**Tables, benches and chairs with backrests are available inside.**

**Bar tables and stools are available outside.**

**The Sages Gift Shop is located in the café.**

**The shop sells a variety of gifts made by Wallara clients.**

### Sensory Guide Harvest Café

#### Feel

* **Different ground surfaces**
* **Heating/Cooling**
* **Shared personal space**

#### Sounds

* **Café equipment**
* **Clanging crockery/cutlery**
* **People**
* **Register**

#### Sights

* **Mood lighting**

#### Smells

* **Food/Drinks**
* **Heating**

## Conservation Bushland Interpretive Pathway

**The Conservation Bushland Interpretive Pathway runs alongside Sages Cottage Farm driveway.**

**Entry/exit is at the top of the driveway, on the right.**

**The bushland spans over 8-acres and the pathway is approximately 400-metres in length.**

**Along the pathway, there are over 20 signs explaining the plant life.**

**Walkers to note; the pathway is natural terrain and may become muddy in winter.**

**During the summer months, walkers to be aware of wildlife.**

**It is recommended appropriate footwear be worn at all times.**

**Walkers to be careful to remain on the pathway.**

### Sensory Guide Conservation Bushland Interpretive Pathway

#### Feel

* **Shared personal space**
* **Uneven terrain**
* **Weather**

#### Movement

* **Balance**

#### Sounds

* **Birds**
* **People**
* **Traffic**
* **Trees rustling**
* **Wind**

#### Sights

* **Varied natural light**

#### Smells

* **Animals**
* **Flowers**

## Sensory Pathway

**Surrounding Sages very own island is 370-metres of accessible pathway, which allows the visitor to view the beautiful lake and birdlife.**

**Coming soon: The pathway will be complemented by five sensory stations, each of which will be dedicated to one of the five senses – taste, sight, sound, touch, smell – and immerse the visitor in a truly unique sensory experience.**

## Getting there

**Sages Cottage Farm is located at 85 Sages Road, Baxter, opposite Baxter Park.**

**Coming from Melbourne, Sages Cottage Farm is a 5-minute drive from Frankston, 30-minutes from most southern suburbs and 75-minutes from the CBD.**

**If driving via the scenic Moorooduc Highway, take the Sages Road exit.**

**If travelling via Peninsula Link, take the Baxter-Tooradin Road exit.**

## Parking

**Parking for Sages Cottage Farm is located at the end of the driveway.**

**There is, general parking, two accessible parking bays located on the right, a drop off point and bus parking located on the left.**

## Toilets

**Toilets are located behind Harvest Café, to the right of the carpark.**

**Sages Cottage Farm has an ambulant toilet combined with a baby change room and separate male toilets and female toilets.**

**There is an area to sit and wait outside Harvest Café.**

### Sensory Guide Toilets

#### Feel

* **Different ground surfaces**
* **Shared personal space**

#### Sounds

* **People**
* **Toilet flushing**
* **Traffic**
* **Water running**

#### Sights

* **Bright lighting**
* **Mirror/Reflection**

#### Smells

* **Air Freshener**
* **Bathroom smells**
* **Disinfectants**

## Accessibility

**All areas of Sages Cottage Farm are accessible by walker and wheelchair users excluding the Conservation Bushland Interpretive Pathway.**

**Accessible paths are either paved or gravel and are suitable for wheelchairs.**

**It is recommended wheelchairs remain on pathways provided.**

**Wheelchair/scooter signed charging station (power point) is available at the front of Baxter Barn on the right-hand side of the building.**

**Clear external directional signs provided throughout.**

**Provision of pram parking outside Harvest Café.**

**Visual Communication Board available at Harvest Café counter.**

**Hearing Awareness Card to support hard of hearing or Deaf visitors available at Harvest Café counter.**

**Pen and paper available at Harvest Café for exchanging of information.**

**Provision of accessible tables in Harvest Café.**

**Clear external walkways in cottage gardens.**

**Cottage is accessible with the provision of a ramp.**

**Due to the historical narrow structure and entrance of the Cottage, limited internal walkways are available.**

**Quiet areas are available throughout the gardens.**

**Companion cards are accepted.**

**Friendly helpful staff, trained in access awareness.**

**Staff available to read information to visitors if required.**

**Assistance animals are welcome.**

## Safety

**Throughout Sages Cottage Farm children must be supervised at all times.**

**There is varied terrain throughout including gravel, brick paved pathways, natural bushland pathways or grass.**

**Ground gradient is mostly flat throughout with the exception of Conservation Bushland Interpretive Pathway which has varied and uneven terrain.**

**Please do not gather or consume any mushrooms that maybe found in the gardens – they can be extremely poisonous.**

**If first aid is required, please see a staff member in Harvest Café.**

**Visible exit signs are provided throughout.**

**In the event of an emergency, staff will help and direct visitors to the nearest exit, which will likely be the same way you arrived.**

**Please move to the designated assembly area.**

**Cottage veranda is raised above the ground level with a small raised edge on the access ramp.**

**Furniture is placed on the Cottage veranda and there is foliage around upper perimeter of the veranda.**

**The Cottage has a small raised edge at the entry/exit point, a rug in the hallway, dim house lighting throughout and low doorways and ceilings.**

**Harvest Café has a contrast logo on the entry/exit doors with mood lighting throughout the inside of the café.**

**In the outside dining area bins are places throughout, there is overhanging lighting, gas heaters and canopy poles.**

**Signage for wet floors may be displayed.**

**Access Ability Australia logo**

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**To view the full range of free Access Keys available, go to the following link.**

[**https://accessabilityaustralia.com/access-keys-2/**](https://accessabilityaustralia.com/access-keys-2/)

**For Access Keys in braille or audio, please contact us on the following link.**

[**https://accessabilityaustralia.com/contact-us/**](https://accessabilityaustralia.com/contact-us/)

**Please complete our short survey on the following link to help us ensure continuous improvement.**

[**https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F666XYK**](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F666XYK)

**We really appreciate your feedback.**

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