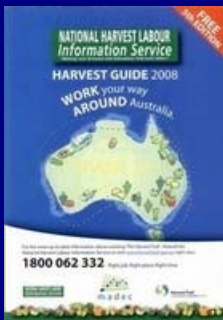


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- [www www.harvesttrail.gov.au](http://www.harvesttrail.gov.au)

HARVEST TRAIL NEWS

NATIONAL HARVEST LABOUR
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"Making sure Growers and Jobseekers find each other!"

Growers Paddock



Chris Fullarton, Pineapple Grower, Elimbah

Pineapple grower Chris Fullarton says that he has had no difficulties in getting harvest labour at short notice over the past two years. Chris is one of many growers that has been working closely with the National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS), which was launched in 2003. "After using the NHLIS this year, I won't be using any other resource, it's worked perfectly and all jobs were filled almost straight away" Chris reports. "I just phone the 1800 number and speak with one of the State Coordinators who then organise for my vacancies to be advertised on the Harvest Trail Website. Phone calls start coming in straight away. I've recommended the NHLIS to all the growers that I've spoken to" says Chris, as Elimbah isn't serviced by a Harvest Labour Office.

Pineapple growing is very labour intensive, from planting to picking all done by hand. Crops take three years to produce the first pick (one pineapple) and a further year for final pick. With up to five years to full productive crops (6-8 months fallow), together with large land requirements, pineapple growing is serious business.

Along with his two brothers, Chris operates his property in Elimbah, Queensland. Not only does Fullarton Farms grow pineapples, they also have a sizeable macadamia nut operation.

Staff Profile



State Co-ordinator, NHLIS

Robert Cameron, who commenced his role with the NHLIS in 2006, is State Co-ordinator for the vast horticulture regions in the *Northern Territory* and *Queensland*.

Robert has over 30 years experience in horticulture as Merchandise Manager at Irymple Packing Company, State Horticulture Development Manager (SA/NT) for Elders and General Manager of DW Adams. Robert was a key member of the Elders team that negotiated sole distribution rights of norsk hydro soluble products in Australia. Working as a NHLIS State Coordinator, Robert has gained extensive knowledge of National, State and regional labour markets and harvest employment trends. He has established and maintained a very effective network of contact with key industries stake holders and grower industries groups.

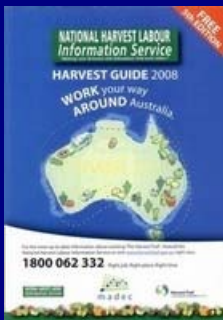
Robert can assist you with your horticulture employment needs, please see the below contact details:

- 1800 062 332, or
0427 868 449
- rcameron@madec.edu.au



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Off the Beaten Track



The Past Three Months

The NHLIS maintains a busy schedule with State Co-ordinators visiting industry groups, attending field days, conferences and expos to ensure that our service is recognised Australia-wide. Our travel schedule over the past three months in 2008 has included:

June

Queensland Caravan & Camping Show
VFF AGM & Conference, Swan Hill

July

Ag-Grow, Emerald
TFGA Biennial Conference, Launceston
Farm Fantastic, Caboolture
Growcom Pineapple Field Day
Sydney Retirement & Lifestyle Expo
ADFA AGM and Conference, Mildura
NSW Farmers Assoc Annual Conference

August

National Cherry Conference 2008
Eyre Peninsula Field days
Mango Pre-Harvest Forum

Industry Update



Australian Mango Industry

Mangoes are grown commercially throughout northern Australia. While the majority of production is marketed domestically, exports account for 5% to 7% of sales and the processing sector takes significant volumes. The estimated value of production is over \$120M.

Production regions include Gin Gin, Carnarvon and Kununurra in Western Australia; Darwin and Katherine in the Northern Territory; Mareeba / Dimbulah, the Burdekin, Bowen, Rockhampton / Yeppoon, Bundaberg, Gympie and the Lockyer Valley in Queensland; and northern New South Wales.

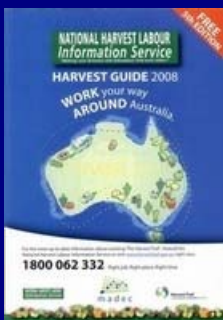
The major production regions are Darwin/Katherine, Mareeba/Dimbulah and the Burdekin. These three regions account for 90% of production

The 2008/2009 Australian mango season is expected to be the largest production season to date, with an estimated 8 million trays of fresh mangoes being produced and marketed. With recent large plantings of B74 (Calypso) and Kensington Pride varieties in northern Australia, projections see Australian production increasing to 150% of current production when these trees come into full production. This, in addition to other plantings and crop maturity, may mean an Australian mango production of over 12 million trays within 5 years.



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Upcoming Events



The Next Three Months

The National Harvest Labour Information Service attends many Field Days, Events and Conferences throughout the year and there is bound to be one close to you. For the remainder of the year we will be attending the following events and we welcome you to visit us to discuss your labour needs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 16 th September | Riverland Field Days |
| 16 th – 18 th September | Melbourne Retirement and Lifestyle Expo 2008 |
| 17 th – 18 th October | Wandin-Silvan Field Days |
| 13-15 th October | Australian Citrus Industry Annual Conference |
| 17 th – 20 th October | Brisbane Retirement & Lifestyle Expo 2008 |
| 14 th – 16 th November | Sydney Adventure and Backpacker Expo |
| 22 nd – 23 rd November | Brisbane Adventure and Backpacker Expo |

Meet a Backpacker



Vicki Blakely, United Kingdom

The NHLIS welcomes feedback from the users of our service. We invite your input at www.harvesttrail.gov.au and by clicking on the "Feedback" link on the navigation pane on the left hand side.

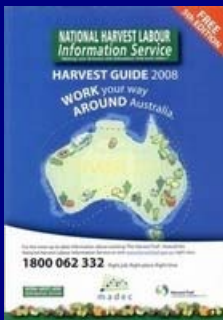
Recent feedback came from Vicki who has been backpacking around the country:

"I just want to thank the Call Centre for all their help and direction on finding me a seasonal work vacancy. They gave me so much help and advise, despite searching for weeks through other companies and farmers, who were, in comparison, no help at all! The Call Centre staff even advised me on how to sort out my forms for my second year Working Holiday Visa from the UK, giving me step-by-step instructions over the phone on how to attain the correct applications online. It is a pretty scary and daunting experience being in a different country on your own at 21 and I thank you for your support. Thank you to the Call Centre staff, you are all a credit to the Harvest Trail and I will be recommending the company to other friends that come to Australia on Working Holiday Visas."



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Employment Trends



Grey Nomads on the Trail

NHLIS representatives are being approached by itinerant workers at Field Days and Expo's seeking information on a range seasonal work opportunities. Enquiries from semi-retirees that travel Australia as Grey Nomads have increased in recent years with many interested in working to supplement their superannuation and pay for the rising costs of fuel.

Grey Nomads are particularly attractive to the horticulture industry as they have their own transport and accommodation, both of which are reported as major issues throughout Australia.

A Word from DAFF



Protect your plants, protect your livelihood!

As a plant producer you are well aware that protecting your crops and plants from pests and disease goes hand-in-hand with protecting your livelihood.

Australia's crops in 2007-08 were worth more than \$20 billion to our economy. For this reason, it makes good business sense to protect both your property and industry from new weeds, pests and disease incursions.

Biosecurity is a term that has been around for many years now but it also comes with the stigma of being too scientific and expensive to implement. This in fact, is not the case. Biosecurity can include simple things like washing your hands between handling different plant material.

Asking visitors, for example itinerant workers, to check shoes for dirt carrying unwanted seeds before going into your crop is another simple, yet effective biosecurity measure.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) website www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity provides an easy-read checklist of biosecurity measures that you can adopt on your property. Hard copies of this material will also be available from DAFF, Plant Health Australia and the NHLIS.

For more information, please visit: www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity



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