

HFS Orchard Workshops for November 2022

Join us for an HFS Workshop in November!

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HFS Volunteer Workshops at Pettys Orchard Heritage Block

Wednesday 2 November - 9am to noon

Sunday 6 November - 9am to noon

Wednesday 20 November - 9am to noon

1 Homestead Road, Templestowe - Melway 22 A11

Meet at the big white marquee

Spring has triumphantly arrived at Petty's Orchard! Despite the moist weather, the apple trees at the Heritage Fruit Block have been putting on the most impressive flower display we've seen in quite a few years. Here's a very colourful example spotted last week:



The dates for the next HFS Volunteer Workshops at the Petty's Orchard Heritage Fruit block are:

- the month's first Wednesday, **2 November**
- the month's first Sunday, **6 November**
- the month's third Wednesday, **20 November**

You're cordially invited to help us with:

- Grafting and planting of new trees
- Tree pruning
- In the HFS Nursery:
 - Checking on status of trees and the irrigation system
 - Work on expanding the "bath" areas
 - ... and a range of other on-going improvements
- Mowing, weeding, whipper-snipping, hole-filling and removing blackberry plants
- Painting labels on trees (*weather permitting*)

As ever, we'll take time out for banter over cuppas and home-baked delights. Please **bring your own keep-cup** to avoid generating unnecessary rubbish. We hope to see you soon!

Please note that the persistent rains have thoroughly saturated the soil at the Heritage Block ... so wearing sturdy, water-resistant footwear is very highly recommended!

SUMMER TREE-WATERERS NEEDED!

We need committed helpers to water our newly planted trees this summer.

Over the last two years, we have planted many new trees in the Heritage Block. Like all of us, they need some nurturing early in life: young fruit trees can be severely retarded or even killed if they're not adequately irrigated during hot weather. Unfortunately, our drip-irrigation watering system doesn't serve these trees well, as it's designed to deliver occasional multi-day deep soakings. That works well for our mature trees, but our young trees need a lesser amount of water more frequently.

In past years, we've struggled to water all of our young trees during summer consistently, and we have lost quite a few of them as a result. With so many new young trees, watering this summer will be crucial ... and we need you to help! This will involve rolling out the hoses, connecting them to the dripper system, and hand-watering of some of the more isolated trees. For most of the summer, we expect that two hands-on waterings per week should be sufficient (some of which will be done as part of our Workshops). We'll also want to be informed about what watering has been done, as well as any issues which might require immediate attention. There's nothing onerous in all this, and detailed but easy-to-follow instructions will be provided.

If you can commit to one or two hours of watering at the Heritage Block at least twice over the summer period, please [email](#) us, or speak to John or Fred at one of our Workshops.

COVID-19 NOTICE

Most long-standing COVID-19 restrictions have now been lifted, but nonetheless:

- If you are feeling unwell - even with only mild symptoms - please protect yourself and others by **doing the right thing** and staying at home and getting tested
- All volunteers should endeavour to **maintain social distancing** at all times
- Please feel free to wear a **mask** at any time

Memberships

We are a membership-based group. It is only through the support of our members that we can continue doing the work we do. Please consider becoming a member.

Click below to go to our web site. Payments are via PayPal.

[Memberships](#)

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