

Spring 2018

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Welcome to the Harvest Trail e-news, a quarterly newsletter to keep you informed with up to date information on finding harvest jobs. The newsletter is produced by the National Harvest Labour Information Service which is funded by the Commonwealth Government.



Labour Hire Licensing

Labour hire licensing laws have recently been introduced in Queensland, meaning that any Labour Hire companies (often know as contractors) must be licensed to operate in Queensland. So if you are offered a job in Queensland with a contractor you can either ask for a copy of their Labour Hire License, or check on-line to see if they are licensed - <https://ols.oir.qld.gov.au/licence-register/search/>

The Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit works in partnership with other agencies to protect labour hire workers from being: treated unfairly; underpaid; stopped from taking leave or adequate breaks from work; given unsatisfactory equipment to do their job; made to work in unsatisfactory health and safety conditions; housed in sub-standard accommodation; transported in unsafe vehicles; threatened; bullied or subjected to violence or intimidation.

If you have concerns or information about mistreatment by contractors operating in Queensland without a licence or a business using an unlicensed labour hire provider, you can:

- Report the problem through the online Report a problem form.
- Call 1300 576 088 from within Australia, to report your problem in confidence.
- Report a problem by making an anonymous report.

Operating hours are 9.00am – 4.30pm, Monday-Friday except public holidays.

International callers can report a problem on +617 3874 2280.

Labour Hire Licensing is being introduced in Victoria and is expected to be up and running by mid-2019.

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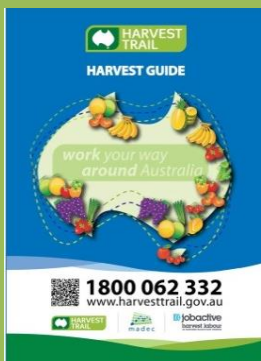
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New Accommodation in Lockyer Valley

Good news for people wanting to stay and work in the Lockyer Valley, a large, new, purpose built accommodation facility has opened and is geared toward working holidaymakers. Grantham Farmworkers Lodge is located at 75 Philips Road, Grantham and with the 160 bed stage 1 now complete, there are a range of beds and rooms to suit different budgets. With a large share kitchen, self-service laundry, pool, Wi-Fi, onsite parking, house-keeping and an onsite bar and bistro Grantham Farmworkers Lodge will make it much easier to work and stay in the Lockyer Valley. www.granthamfarmworkerslodge.com.au

Photos of the facilities at Grantham Farmworkers Lodge



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Proposed new Agriculture Visa put on hold

In some good news for backpackers looking to do their 88 days to get a visa extension, introduction of the proposed new Agriculture Visa has been put on hold. The Agriculture Visa was a plan pushed by the National Party to reduce restrictions on foreign workers in an effort to fill alleged chronic workforce gaps in the farm sector, particularly in seasonal unskilled labour. However after statements from the Agriculture Minister, David Littleproud in late September that an announcement regarding introduction of the new visa was imminent, it has now been confirmed by the Commonwealth Government that it is now on hold, pending further policy work. <https://www.goodfruitandvegetables.com.au/story/5667740/plan-for-new-ag-visa-on-hold/?cs=4928>

Working Holidaymakers – are there more or less doing seasonal work?

Working Holiday Makers, or Backpackers, are critical to getting fruit and vegetables harvested in Australia and any reduction in the number of these workers available or changes to the countries they come from can have major implications for growers.

So where do backpackers come from, and how many of them come to Australia each year? The numbers fluctuate from year to year and are influenced by issues such as the strength of the economies in the countries of origin, the \$AU exchange rate, and competition from countries such as New Zealand and Canada. While total backpacker numbers are important, the most relevant statistic for the horticulture industry is the numbers who do their “88 days” to gain a 12 month visa extension. While total backpacker numbers have declined since 2012/13 it is interesting to note that since the change in 2016/17 (allowing 462 visa holders to obtain an extension by doing specified work in northern Australia), over 3,000 of these workers are now gaining an extension. While total backpacker numbers are in steady decline since the peak which occurred in 2012/13, it is interesting to note that the TOTAL number of people getting a visa extension has INCREASED when compared to 2012/13 or last year (table 1).

	2012/13	2016/17	2017/18
TOTAL WHM VISA GRANTS – 417 Visa	210,369	157,858	152,622
TOTAL WORK & HOLIDAY VISA GRANTS- 462 Visa	9,017	34,097	32,828
COMBINED 417 & 462 VISA GRANTS	219,386	191,937	185,450
TOTAL 2ND YEAR 417 VISA GRANTS (horticulture)	33,421	31,701	30,807
TOTAL 2ND YEAR 462 VISA GRANTS	N/A*	409	3,339
COMBINED 417 & 462 2nd VISA GRANTS	33,421	32,110	34,146

Table 1 - Information on visa grants for the peak year of 2012/13, compared to the previous and current financial years.

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Analysis of the countries that 417 visa holders come from shows some interesting trends with the highest overall numbers of first and second year grants for the UK. However while there are large numbers of German first year visa grants, they do not appear in the top five countries for a second year extension.

When looking at the lower numbers of the relatively new 462 visa, it is clear that USA is the largest sending country; however the largest numbers of second year grants go to Chinese workers, with 23% completing specified work, compared to only 6% of US visa holders (table 2). It is worth noting that 462 visa numbers are capped, limiting the growth of workers from countries where that cap has been reached, which includes China, Chile, Spain and Argentina, whereas the 417 visa is uncapped. Negotiations are currently underway to allow 462 visa holders to come to Australia from additional countries including Mexico, Brazil, India, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Andora, Croatia, Lithuania, Latvia and the Philippines.

	2012/13	2016/17	2017/18
TOP 5 COUNTRIES FOR 1ST YEAR 417 VISA GRANTS	UK (38,782) South Korea (29,614) Taiwan (28,599) Germany (26,687) France (22,539)	UK (32,517) Germany (23,996) France (19,546) South Korea (18,400) Taiwan (14,309)	UK (30,036) Germany (22,025) France (20,439) South Korea (18,145) Taiwan (14,659)
TOP 5 COUNTRIES FOR 2ND YEAR 417 VISA GRANTS	UK (7,349) Ireland (7,300) Taiwan (7,162) South Korea (5,606) France (2,249)	UK (7,811) Taiwan (7,330) South Korea (4,012) France (2,815) Japan (2,179)	UK (7,716) Taiwan (6,698) South Korea (3,992) France (2,778) Italy (2,221)
TOP 5 COUNTRIES FOR 1ST YEAR 462 VISA GRANTS	N/A*	USA (7,745) China (5,000) Chile (1,500) Spain (1,000) Argentina (700)	USA (7,368) China (5,000) Chile (2,000) Spain (1,500) Argentina (1,400)
TOP 5 COUNTRIES FOR 2ND YEAR 462 VISA GRANTS	N/A*	China (189) Chile (62) USA (47) Argentina (16) Spain (12)	China (1,155) Indonesia (562) USA (469) Chile (448) Argentina (175)

Table 2 - Country of origin for 417 and 462 second year visa grants for 2012/13 and the previous and current financial years.

(462 Visa holders were not eligible for a 2nd year visa extension in 2012/13)

As at 30 June 2018, there were 118,524 Working Holiday visa holders in Australia (first and second visas). This is a 2.0 per cent reduction in the number of Working Holiday visa holders in Australia compared to 30 June 2017.

LOOKING FOR CASUAL WORK – CALL THE HARVEST TRAIL 1800 062 332

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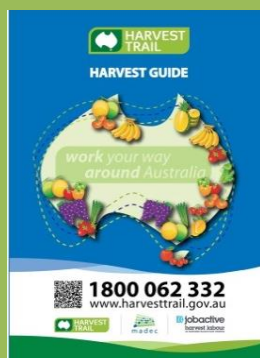
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[Shaun Moody – UK](#)

National Harvest Staff recently caught up with Shaun Moody who has gone from a tool hiring consultant in the UK to one of the many that have successfully ticked off all 88 days to extend his second year visa.

On first introductions Shaun greeted us with a big smile and welcoming hello, after sitting down and chatting for a while it was easy to see that Shaun was a polite, hardworking go getter that isn't scared to put in the hard yards to get what he wants. During our conversation we asked Shaun a few questions about the time he has already spent in Australia and what his plans are for the future. Here is what he had to say.

What made you choose to come to Australia?

The work is a lot better here than it is in the UK, everyone is really nice and the people I have worked with have all been really laid back and look after you really well.

How did you find work?

A friend from back home had been doing his work through the Mallee Inn Hostel in Redcliffs and suggested it as the place to go to get work. So headed to Redcliffs and now have all 88 days ticked off.

What kind of work did you do / was it hourly or piece rate?

Irrigation, pruning and post knocking work that was all paid on Hourly rates.

If you could go back in time knowing what you know now about the 88 days would you still choose to do it?

Yes, easy yes.

What has been the best experience you have had since being in Australia?

Travelling down the East coast, that was amazing.

What do you plan to do now that you have ticked off all your 88 days?

Going to head to Sydney and meet up with family and friends then start working again.

If you could give any advice to people wanting to complete their 88 days what would it be?

Get them signed off as fast as you can, don't leave your 88 days until you only have 88 days left on your visa

Come to Redcliff's

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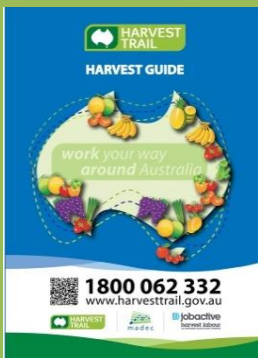
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Summer time tips: OHS

Adios Winter, Hola Spring and hurry up summer!

Like the end of the year, summer is approaching FAST! With summer comes the heat and with the heat it becomes more uncomfortable and difficult to work outside in the blazing sun. We have compiled a list of tips and tricks to help you survive working this summer.

WATER

Even though there isn't much of it around in some places you should ALWAYS have water with you. Staying hydrated through the day is vital when it comes to working through the summer days; it can be the difference between completing a day's work (and getting those 88 days checked off faster) or going home half way through the day feeling sick.

Tip: Drink plenty of water the night before: Drinking water the night before allows your body to absorb the benefits before you go and sweat them out in the sun.

Trick: If you are someone that struggles to drink water try adding lemon juice, this will give it a bit of extra taste and also has great health benefits.

CLOTHING

The Aussie sun is harsh, the UV rays are strong and when you are picking out in a field for hours on end it will result in horrible sun burn if you don't cover up.

Tips: Long sleeve tops, that's right I said LONG sleeve tops. Try to cover as much of your body as you can so you protect your skin from the blistering sun.

Wear light colours, the darker the fabric the more it will attract the sun so keep the colours light and if possible wear something fluoro that way if you are walking around areas that have machinery in use people can see you coming and it can help avoid accidents.

Breathable material: you aren't walking the catwalk or at the gym, you don't need to be wearing skin tight clothing that shows every lump, bump and curve. Wear looser clothing, (not over the top loose that it can become caught in machinery) something that will let the fresh air flow over your skin and keep you cool.

Hat and sunnies: It's always a good idea to have a broadbrim hat or cap that has long material at the back to protect your neck and cover your face from the sun. If your work allows you to have sun glasses it's also a good idea to wear them to reduce the glare and protect your eyes (also helps to keep the flies away from them)

SUNSCREEN

Slip, slop, slap! Get into the habit of putting sunscreen on before you go out to work and make sure you reapply EVERY HOUR. Believe it or not we all sweat, and like any other moisturiser, makeup or other beauty product you put on your body, sunscreen is going to come off after a certain amount of time when you are sweating. So keep reapplying every chance you get so you can better protect yourself and your skin.

AVOID SUGARY DRINKS

Swap that can of coke for a bottle of water! Sugary drinks + warm weather = Dehydration. Soft drinks have caffeine in them which makes your visits to the bathroom more frequent which means bye bye fluid and hello dehydration. By drinking soft drinks your body doesn't have the ability to absorb the fluid before it's passed straight through you. So swap that can of sugar for a bottle of water. Again if you struggle to drink water add some lemon juice to it or some sugar free cordial for a bit of flavour.

For more tips on staying safe whilst working in the summer sun click on the link below.

<http://thorzt.com/heat-illness-prevention-14-tips-for-working-in-the-heat/#.W3utKstlLnM>