

## National Harvest Labour Information Service (NHLIS)-Editorial

The National Harvest Labour Information Service can help Mornington Peninsula Vignerons find harvest workers throughout this beautiful country of ours, and best of all the service is **free**.

For many fruit and vegetable growers, harvest can be one of the most difficult tasks. Sourcing farm labour has become such a widespread problem, The NHLIS was established to not only find harvest workers for growers in need but for the large number of itinerant workers, eligible job seekers, WHM's, backpackers and the grey nomads (a term given to retirees, holidaying around Australia) who like to work and travel around the various harvest regions of Australia.

The NHLIS uses three key links to support the Harvest Trail;

- ❖ The National Telephone Service (freecall) 1800 062 332. Finding workers is as easy as calling this number. Call centre operators take calls relating to harvest labour and connect callers to growers looking for harvest labour.
- ❖ The Harvest Trail Website, [www.harvesttrail.gov.au](http://www.harvesttrail.gov.au) is part of the Commonwealth Governments job search website and has been significantly expanded and improved, providing comprehensive information about harvest opportunities in all states of Australia.
- ❖ The Harvest Guide provides comprehensive information about harvest work opportunities and locations, working conditions, transport options and accommodation arrangements. This harvest guide is available free of charge, and is distributed nationally. It is also available on the Harvest Trail website.

The NHLIS was established in July 2003 to help growers and jobseekers find each other at harvest time. The Service receives an average of over 1500 calls per week from backpackers, itinerant workers, "grey nomads" and eligible Australian job seekers. NHLIS call centre operators mobilise workers from regions that have finished harvest to regions in need of workers, thereby alleviating any seasonal labour shortages.

Growers and contractors who require assistance to source seasonal labour are urged to register their labour requirements on the Harvest Trail Website.

### **How To Lodge Jobs On The Harvest Trail Website**

There are a number of ways that harvest positions can be added to the harvest trail website including:

- **Growers can contact their local Harvest Office (where available) or Job Network/Placement Agency who will lodge the positions onto the Harvest Trail Website and manage the recruitment process. In this instance, it is advisable to ensure the Job Network/Placement Agency is prepared to refer backpackers, "grey nomads" and itinerant workers along with Australian Jobseekers.**
- **Growers that have internet access can lodge positions electronically on the Harvest Trail Website but must be prepared to list their contact details and be available to receive enquiries from job seekers at peak times. To get started log onto [www.harvesttrail.gov.au](http://www.harvesttrail.gov.au) , click on 'Employers', then 'advertise a job', and follow the prompts. For further information or advise call the NHLIS on 1800 062 332.**
- **Alternatively, the NHLIS can lodge the vacancy(s) on the Harvest Trail Website on behalf of a grower. Call the NHLIS Freecall number, 1800 062 332 for assistance.**

<http://www.harvesttrail.gov.au>