



iii DIVRS

Harvesting the Urban Orchard

Increasing food security
in your Community

Acknowledgments

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Preface

Andrew Laidlaw

Harvesting the urban orchard is an inspiring and clever idea that invites people, regardless of age, gender or race to work together with the urban orchard and make a positive contribution to their local community. I have been designing and working in community public gardens for over 20 years and I know and understand the power of bringing people and plants together. I truly believe that this project will be a life changing experience for many of the people who choose to get involved.

The urban orchard refers to all the edible fruit trees, both in public and private space that exist within our city and cities around the world. Harvesting the Urban Orchard guide provides us with a sustainable model that shows us how to harness this resource, build community, redistribute fresh food to people in need and not drain the public finances, It's a win for all.

While this concept redefines what a community garden is, it still manages to capture all the good qualities and delights found in our more traditional understanding of community gardening, that is bringing people together from varied backgrounds and cultures to grow and care for plants.

Harvesting the Urban Orchard guide commits to all the stages in the food production chain, from plant care and maintenance through to harvesting and redistribution and provides its potential users with a comprehensive account of all the processes involved. Both the authors including the volunteers and the Darebin council need to be congratulated on their insights and in-depth knowledge and their willingness to pass this on in the form of a user guide book.

The fruit harvesting project has evolved since 2013, it is grounded in practical experience and it has been tried, tested and tweaked to get to this point. I feel very confident in recommending it to all local shires and other suitable organisations. It clearly demonstrates how locally driven community solutions can reduce food miles, food security and loss of urban canopy.



Andrew Laidlaw has worked in sustainable design for over 20 years. He is a qualified landscape architect and has been responsible for many high profile landscape design projects around Melbourne, including the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden and Guilfoyle's Volcano.



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Introduction

This booklet has been jointly compiled by the Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS) and the Darebin Fruit Squad (DFS). The advice we provide in this guide comes from our experience in creating more sustainable community by re-localising food distribution and production in the City of Darebin in Victoria.

The Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS) has developed and is operating a model of identification (auditing and mapping) to harvest and care for the urban orchard and to re-distribute fresh food directly to food-insecure populations. This innovation has the potential to be transformative as it will connect and engage multiple sectors of the community in building a sustainable food system in an urban region. This program can be replicated at varying stages. Through supporting the care and maintenance of the existing urban orchard, a program like this can foster community capacity building through volunteer participation and education, and give participants the opportunity to create and sell products from the urban orchard. An overriding goal is to optimise both human and ecosystem health. We aim to demonstrate sustainable and active citizen-participation solutions to reduce food waste, food miles, food insecurity, and loss of urban canopy.

The Darebin Fruit Squad (DFS) community fruit-harvesting project has evolved in partnership with DIVRS, along with support funding from Darebin City Council. Since its establishment in 2013, its volunteers have collected over six tonnes of fruit from local backyard fruit trees in Darebin and redistributed the fruit to agencies, including DIVRS, who assist food-insecure people. The work of the DFS has two main components: harvesting and collecting fruit from tree owners who contact the Fruit Squad offering their surplus fruit, and maintaining fruit trees for people in Darebin who identify as needing assistance, in return for their surplus fruit.

This guide is intended to provide practical information, tools and tips that you can use in establishing your own fruit-harvesting project.



The Urban Orchard

*People need to feed themselves,
next they need to feed their
own communities.*

Wendell Berry, poet

The 'urban orchard' is a term we use to describe the existing fruit trees in the community. Identifying and mapping the urban orchard adds value to a community's sustainable resources by

- › increasing potential for redistributing excess fruit to people experiencing food insecurity
- › protecting fruit trees for future generations
- › developing the sustainability of fruit-tree health and preservation
- › recognising heritage and significant varieties
- › connecting elders in the community and sharing their gardening traditions
- › generating community action
- › improving quality of and engagement with the local environment
- › promoting environmental awareness and education
- › creating conditions that can directly improve health and wellbeing.

SECTION 1

Getting Started

Are You the Right People for the Job?

Whether you are a small, established community group, an active group of citizens, a formal organisation, a sustainability advisor in the council, a public housing officer, or a community agency already delivering community programs, you will need to consider your size, infrastructure and capacity for seeing this project through.

What Is Your Shared Purpose?

Creating a clear vision statement will define exactly what it is you want to achieve and why. You will have a broad idea of the kind of service you want to create, who will benefit and how. You may start with a big vision, but in reality, focusing on your local municipality to begin with until you build up resources and move away from financial dependence might be the soundest way to kick off. Ideally, you want to create a project that is inspiring and achievable!



SECTION 2

Planning

A seed hidden in the heart of an apple is an orchard invisible.

Khalil Gibran, poet

With a clear idea of what you want to do, and with the help of this booklet, you should now think about every aspect of your project. Take an inventory of resources already available to you, and those you will need to get started. If you are wanting to apply for financial assistance or a partnership from the outset, then a good project plan is essential. Stakeholders will want to see a clear, achievable set of goals and rationale in order to invest in your project. Overleaf are examples of areas to cover in a project plan.



Project plan areas

Title. Choose a title that encapsulates the project goal

Description. In a short statement, explain what are you going to do

Participants and beneficiaries. Who is the project directed at?

Who is/are the priority population/s? Be specific

- › Are there specific populations who may benefit from or enrich your project, such as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) or Indigenous communities?

Rationale. Outline evidence of need in your area and discuss this with your representatives to ensure this idea will meet a demand

Goal. What is the overall intended outcome? What would the successful outcome be?

Objectives. What are the main things you want to achieve?

Strategies. How you will achieve your objectives?

Milestones. What are the most important phases of the project in your timeline planning that are crucial to meeting your objectives?

Timeframe. Is the project running over a specified period of time or will it be ongoing? Create a project timeline with as much detail as possible – you can be flexible as to your achievements and timing. Remember, this is your guide

Budget. You will need to estimate all costs associated with setting the project up, including your voluntary time (recognise in-kind costs)

Resources needed:

- › How many staff and volunteers? Consider the cost of paying a coordinator and/or administrator
- › How much time per week do you need to allocate to the project? How much equipment and space do you need to get started?

Project Leader. You will need to define the role and select a candidate

Research. Who is doing something similar locally, nationally, internationally? Might these bodies be potential partners? Are there best-practice case studies you can draw from to use in funding applications?

Funding and partnerships. How does the project fit with the priorities and strategies of the funding body/auspicing body/partner organisation? If you are hoping to go into partnership with an organisation, you can ask for access to their strategic plan, annual review and code of ethics in order to understand an alignment of vision and values

Communication. Who are the people and organisations to be kept informed about the project development? Keep good mailing lists of interested parties

Social equity. You may want to use an equity lens to consider social/health issues your project is trying to address. What are the existing inequalities in the area? Who is disadvantaged and why? How will you intervene? What is the evidence to support your plan and who will benefit most? What unintended consequences might arise, and how would you prevent these from happening? How would you measure the success of your program in promoting social equity?

Ethics. Whom do you need to consult to make sure what you want to do is appropriate? This is a particularly important consideration in relation to collaboration with Indigenous communities

Risk assessments. A simple S.W.O.T. analysis early on may assist in mitigating any risks to your project

Tracking. Keep a good project diary to track your progress. This is a brief narrative of where you feel the project is at and how you are going. This can be a useful way to keep up momentum

SECTION 3

People Power



Getting the Word Out

You could hold a kick-starter meeting within your community to share your vision and invite participation with residents, local council, local businesses and charitable organisations.

There are many ways of recruiting the kind of people you need to help deliver the project:

- › letterbox leafleting./distributing flyers is a great way to recruit volunteers and householders, and to secure community gardens with fruit trees (see example right)
- › advertising and sharing on social media sites
- › getting a photo and blurb in a local newspaper or relevant editorial
- › placing an ad in the local newspaper for volunteers
- › advertising on radio. Local radio stations have promotional packages for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, with free to low-cost announcements
- › posting on notice-boards at schools, libraries, health and organic stores
- › advertising in school newsletters
- › visiting community gardens and allotments
- › networking with Neighbourhood Houses
- › sharing on local government websites and community portals
- › setting up a stall at a local market or sustainability festival to drum up interest and start mailing lists. Word-of-mouth works very well
- › In the recruitment phase, you will need to be clear about the volunteer skill and fit you require. A volunteer profile might include some of the following criteria:
 - ▶ gardening experience
 - ▶ ability to work in a team
 - ▶ flexible working hours
 - ▶ initial commitment for four seasons
 - ▶ access to email and phone
 - ▶ willing to undergo police check
 - ▶ own transport an advantage
 - ▶ community and volunteer work an advantage



Supporting the Team

Your volunteers are your champions and your tree owners your generous donors, so keep them connected, busy and informed. Other important considerations for your people include the following:

- › reimbursement for travel expenses
- › end-of-harvest-season gatherings or end-of-year celebrations and certificates to commemorate their time with the project. Social gatherings every now and then will create a warm, inclusive culture and a sense of reciprocity
- › opportunity for training
- › in-house fruit-preserving sessions
- › information about related training and activities, festivals and workshops
- › offering free memberships with partnership organisation
- › thank you emails/letters
- › updates on harvest tallies and milestones
- › seasonal fruit reminders
- › checking in with volunteers and tree owners as to their feelings about being photographed. There will be many great photo opportunities. We include photo permission forms with volunteer registration forms. Keep volunteers informed of how images are used
- › One of the benefits of having a paid coordinator is that they will now and then have time to sit and have a cup of tea with volunteers either side of a harvest. Even though this won't be important to all volunteers, it helps create a good team spirit



Communication

All volunteers should have access to email and phone. This is the easiest way to alert to them to harvests. Not all tree owners will have email or even mobile phones (in Darebin, a large portion of our tree owners are elderly and/or non-English speaking), so regular postal services and a designated phone and voicemail to receive calls may be required.

It takes time to coordinate volunteers and harvests and to communicate with volunteers, tree owners, and the public. Coordinating pre- and post-harvest can take up as much time, if not more, than harvesting itself. Consider the ongoing administrative part of the project, including the funding required for a paid role. You will need to create registration and audit forms. Each of our tree owners has a folder with contact details, tree register, harvest log and garden schematic (see Appendices for example).

Other records you will need to keep include

- › email lists for group emails to volunteers
- › a secure database for householder details, volunteer details, harvest log and tally
- › any other supporting documentation that can be kept for future funding applications. For example, value of fruit picked, volunteer hours, number of trees on database, maps, number of people who received the fruit, charities who have received the fruit, and examples of media releases.

Please thank your volunteers for pruning my mum's grapevine. It has been such a help and my dad would be so happy to know it is still being looked after.

Tree Owner, 65

Communication tasks may include

- › creating logo and letterhead
- › creating and maintaining a website with
 - ▶ a members' page for volunteers/tree owners
 - ▶ registration details
 - ▶ harvest tally
 - ▶ donation page
 - ▶ news updates
 - ▶ contact details
- › updating social media pages
- › taking photos
- › organising events

Document everything from the beginning, including photos, drawings, maps and stories. This will save you a lot of time and be of great benefit when it comes to reporting, applying for funding, and approaching partners. It will also give you plenty to draw on for submitting articles, updating social media and informing your volunteers.



Updates

Keeping your harvesting team up-to-date on fruit in season, training sessions, pruning and maintenance, and workshops is a good seasonal habit to get into. It's an opportunity to thank everyone for their efforts while at the same time reminding them of upcoming harvests and also letting them know where the 'fruits' of their labour have been going.

Share with volunteers and tree owners the progress and achievements they have contributed to – for example, through an ongoing tally of fruit harvested, how many people have accessed the fruit, articles released, and relevant festivals and workshops. This could be achieved through newsletters, social media or a website members' page if your volunteers are all 'plugged in'.

Training

There are two main areas of training we provided for volunteers:

- › External training through a local provider is best practice for which funding may be sought. Look into courses available through local TAFE and private providers, Neighbourhood House and CAE courses. There are also training companies who can send in-house trainers to your premises
- › Depending on existing levels of skill and knowledge within the volunteer base, 'on the job experience' may work to advantage. Ensuring there is a clear role for mentor volunteers can assist them in providing clear guidance to new volunteers

Some skills and knowledge that your volunteers and tree owners will benefit from are

- › basic horticulture and fruit tree knowledge
- › pruning and maintenance of fruit trees
- › how to preserve and extend the shelf life of harvested fruit
- › how to recognise ripening fruit and when to harvest
- › Occupational Health and Safety

Training Essentials for Tree Maintenance

Audits and maintenance on registered trees requires some knowledge. The following lists include both foundational and more specialised skills (to be acquired in further training) that volunteers will need.

Basic Knowledge

- › understanding of planting techniques, such as
 - ▶ mulching
 - ▶ watering
 - ▶ feeding
 - ▶ drainage
- › ability to identify fruiting wood
- › understanding of seasonal growing, flowering and fruiting cycles
- › understanding of environmental conditions favourable to specific plant species – such as sun, shade, wet or dry, warmth or chill
- › ability to assess whether a tree is likely to bear well in the current season
- › ability to identify and solve horticultural problems, such as overcrowded growth or nutritional and water deficiency

Specialised Knowledge

Pruning

- › ability to identify which wood to remove and understanding of how to remove it
- › understanding of techniques for
 - ▶ pruning newly planted trees and established trees
 - ▶ pruning particular fruit varieties
 - ▶ maintenance pruning
 - ▶ espaliering (training a tree or shrub to grow flat against a wall)

Pests and Diseases

- › understanding of types of pest and disease
- › ability to identify whether these are present
- › understanding of the pest or disease life-cycle (when a pest is active, or whether a flying pest or larvae is the problem)
- › ability to identify the severity of the problem and what action, if any, should be taken
- › understanding of strategies for prevention

Tools

- › understanding of the range of tools needed
- › ability to select the right tools for the job
- › understanding of the correct use of tools
- › understanding of tool care – especially cleaning and sharpening
- › understanding of OHS basics – especially safe use of ladders and tools
- › understanding of how and whether or not work under certain weather conditions

Note that trainees will benefit from helpful diagrams and access to reference material.

Some tree owners might be very happy to host pruning workshops through which volunteers can access training. In return, the tree owner receives free pruning of their trees. If you have community gardens on a register, then they can be a very good resource for this kind of activity.

Public housing can be a great area to capture. Such blocks often have large communal garden areas. Some may have fruit trees already established or may benefit from planting and maintenance.

It is important to recognise that not all volunteers want to do pruning and maintenance nor have the availability to learn. Some volunteers may only feel comfortable harvesting fruit and others are very keen to prune and carry out maintenance. Encouraging and developing the skills of both groups helps spread the workload around and develops a strong team.

SECTION 4

Map it

*When eating the fruit think of
the person who planted the tree.*

Vietnamese Proverb

Your local municipality is a logical starting point for practicality as much as reducing the carbon footprint from tree to table. You might also choose to position your place of operation in an area where there is greatest need, or in a suburb that contains other charitable/community groups with existing clients.

It is helpful to consider the areas with the largest established gardens (for example, older suburbs with large blocks) and scope community gardens and accessible public trees (you will need to contact the council to see who owns them and has rights to harvest from them).

Map areas for leafletting, scoping trees and, eventually, registering trees. This will provide verification of the range and variety of the urban orchard, which will be invaluable for funding applications and reporting back to your community.



SECTION 5

Find a base

How and from where you will operate is an extremely important consideration because it will determine how you will sustain what you set in motion. Weigh up the implications of setting out independently or entering into a partnership with an existing organisation.

Going Solo

This will be easier in the beginning as an independent small group. You may even be able to operate from someone's shed or home office. However, depending on how you run your project, this could become intrusive for the resident and you may run out of space as you grow. You might want to consider the following:

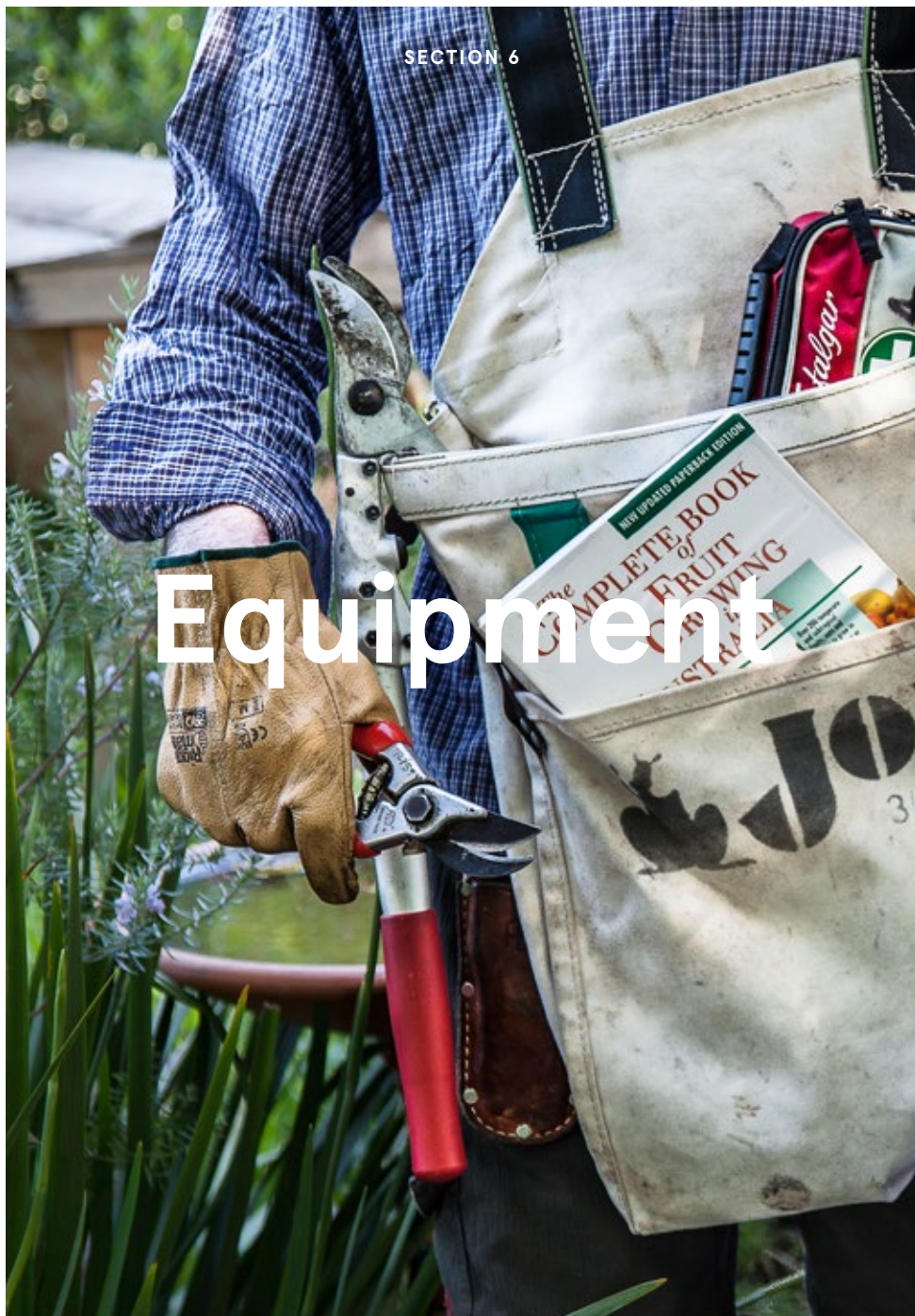
- › How much space do you need?
- › Can you afford to pay rent?
- › Is there a free public space available in your community?
- › Is the space in a convenient location?
- › What are your intended operating hours?
- › Do you have access to sufficient storage?
- › Will you need to share Wi-Fi, phone, electricity, water and other amenities costs?
- › Does it have separate and after-hours access?
- › If you also want to be an access point for recipients of harvested fruit, then you will need premises that can receive the public. This will require coordinating, administration, clear process and insurance (public liability and contents)

Operating in Partnership

If you plan to simply harvest fruit and deliver it to a charity organisation for distribution, then operating as a small independent group won't be an issue. If your needs match all of those on the list above, then we recommend you look at the possibility of entering into partnership with a larger established organisation. You could research the following groups in your local area:

- › Local government – sustainability and/or urban food department:
 - ▶ Make a list of all the possible government departments, local councillors, and not-for-profit organisations in your local area and start talking to them. Research their strategies for sustainability and how you might align with them or support them in a mutually beneficial relationship
 - ▶ You might need to educate councillors as to the realities of such a project, so have your proposal prepared before meeting with them
- › A local umbrella organisation that may be funded wholly or in part by the above, which can provide strong infrastructure, financial support and house your office, food storage, and have access to volunteers, tree owners, client base, community portal and possibly even a paid staff member or volunteer to administrate the project
- › Neighbourhood Houses can offer similar support. However, staffing may be an issue as they will already be busy with in-house activity. A Neighbourhood House will also be well-connected to your local community and may provide space for your operations
- › Community Centres may be of similar support

The first two options are ideal because they offer a more stable, long-term relationship with the potential for inclusive funding opportunities.



SECTION 6

Equipment

You won't need a great deal of equipment to get started. With future funding and experience you can add to your tool supply.

There are grants to help with such purchases and you may even find someone willing to donate resources. If you are working from the premises of an umbrella agency, you may already have access to desks, computers, printer, refrigeration/fruit storage and other necessary equipment.

Here are some suggestions to get you started.

Basic Equipment for Getting Straight to Work

- › secateurs and pruners
- › handsaw
- › gardening gloves
- › ladder
- › large plastic tubs or crates for the fruit
- › transport – vehicle with trailer or hatchback for crates, or bikes with trailers
- › log book for recording kilograms harvested and from where
- › scales for weighing harvested fruit (15 kg max)
- › Volunteer Harvest Kit
- › calculator
- › camera
- › clipboard and pens
- › first aid kit
- › map of harvesting locality
- › measuring tape
- › reference books
- › sun block
- › tea and coffee kit (thermos, tea bags, cups, etc.)
- › wearable fruit-picking bags

Other Useful Equipment

- › black foldable crates
- › cut-and-hold pruning poles or claw poles
- › extendable ladder
- › grape snip
- › key safe and key for volunteers to access storage area
- › shovel
- › storage cart with wheels
- › At this point, if you are not covered by a larger organisation, you will need to apply for Contents Insurance

SECTION 7

The Harvest

Harvest Essentials

Here are some tips for working out your pre-harvest process:

- › identify and set up audits and harvests. This needs to be done ahead of time so that you are prepared. If you have a good database, you will be able to keep a track of whose fruit is ready for harvest
- › develop forms, including:
 - ▶ tree registration form (for initial enquiries)
 - ▶ audit forms for all tree owner contact, including fruit-tree and harvest logs and property access (garden schematic). See Appendices for examples
- › send harvest volunteers in groups of at least two for safety and social enjoyment
- › outline OHS in a simple policy document that all volunteers can read and sign. It is important to credit them with common sense, however. You can't stop a person going up a ladder if they are determined to pick fruit high up. Volunteers will look after each other
- › put together a harvester's kit (with forms, pen, First Aid Kit, etc.)
- › always demonstrate respect for tree owners' privacy and needs
- › consider weather conditions before harvesting to assess:
 - ▶ times of the day to pick – for example, early morning or evening in summer
 - ▶ the impact of extreme weather on the fruit
 - ▶ damage to fruit on trees due to weather conditions and animals (for example, birds, bats and pests)

Auditing

An audit can be carried out by volunteers on a first harvest visit. It is a great opportunity to meet and connect with the tree owners. You will be going into their homes, so creating a culture of respect and trust is very important. Tree owners will often be proud to show you around their gardens, and to be able to record something of a tree's history is a bonus!

Provided in the list below is the kind of information we collect from each tree owner (see an example of our forms in the Appendices):

- › tree ID – common name, genus and variety
- › height and diameter of trees to determine the best means of harvesting
- › tree age and health, including identification of pests and diseases to be managed
- › OHS concerns (for example, broken, uneven paths, pets, small children, fencing and neighbours)
- › tree owner instructions for fruit collection and distribution. Some tree owners will be happy to donate all their fruit, while others will have instructions on how much and where to leave fruit for their household
- › tree owner preferences for waste management and cleaning up (for example, green bins and composting)
- › tree owner interest in tree maintenance – do they regularly maintain their trees? Who does this? Would they be interested in this service?
- › visit/harvest log detailing which fruit is harvested, how much, by whom and when
- › garden schematic marking access points and tree positions (see Appendices for example)

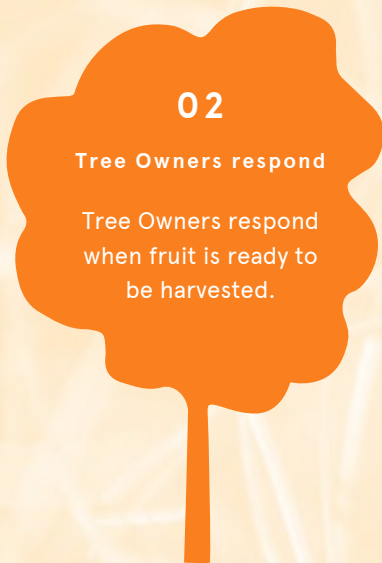
Darebin Fruit Squad Harvesting Process



01

Reminders sent out

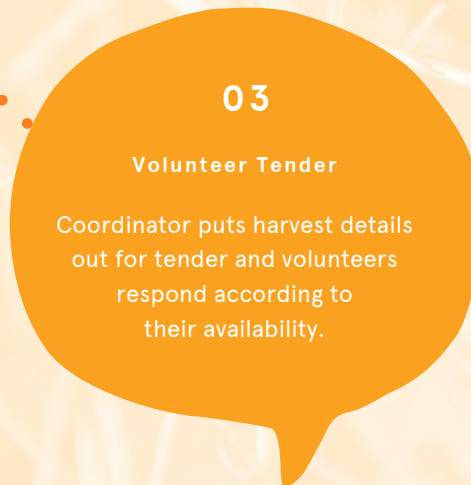
Coordinator sends out reminders to tree owners at beginning of each fruiting season.



02

Tree Owners respond

Tree Owners respond when fruit is ready to be harvested.



03

Volunteer Tender

Coordinator puts harvest details out for tender and volunteers respond according to their availability.



04

Pick up equipment

At least one volunteer picks up equipment – often meeting up with other volunteers and car pooling to household.



08

Thank Tree Owners

Thank you letters and updates are sent to tree owners. Often with a reminder about upcoming season.



07

Record Harvest

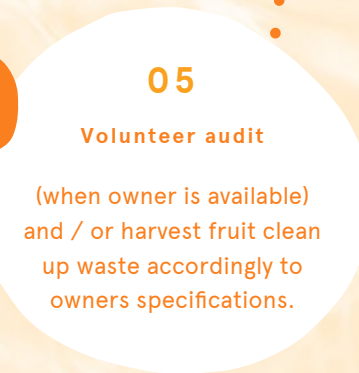
Admin records harvest information



06

Transport fruit to storage

Volunteers bring fruit back to our premises weigh and record details of harvest in log book, return equipment.



05

Volunteer audit

(when owner is available) and / or harvest fruit clean up waste accordingly to owners specifications.

SECTION 8

After the Harvest

Once you've picked the fruit, what are you going to do with it? These are the steps you need to take to bring the fruit from the trees to their final destinations:

- › transport harvested fruit to storage or place of distribution.
- › weigh and sort harvested fruit
- › record harvest data (for example, how many kilograms of fruit harvested, from where, running totals and dollar value of fruit harvested)
- › prepare storage space. If there is a period of time between harvest and delivery/distribution, you will need appropriate storage space and equipment (you may need to refrigerate the fruit if the weather is hot). The storage space will need access for cars and trolleys
- › distribute the harvest (consider methods of transportation, exchange, delivery and donation)
- › composting – have you access to large compost bins for fruit that is undistributed or unfit for consumption?
- › after the fruit is harvested and distributed create a friendly space for your volunteers to gather once they have returned the fruit and equipment (for example, a kitchen area with chairs and table, kettle, tea and coffee)



SECTION 9

Funding

You may be able to start harvesting without any formal funding, but as your team and tree register grows, and if you want to offer training, purchase more equipment, rent a space or commit to other expenses, then of course you will need financial support.

In your city, and even your local municipality, there will be a number of start-up grants, grants for not-for-profit and community groups, and grants for sustainability.

Some of your core costs will incorporate the following:

- › harvest equipment
- › insurance
- › promotion and printing
- › training
- › administrator/volunteer coordinator
- › transport (volunteer mileage)
- › website creation, logo, letterhead
- › resource materials like books on fruit-tree care and fruiting seasons.

You could dream up some fundraising activities and put the word out for donations, or, if you do end up in a partnership of some kind, your partner organisation will be able to help you apply for funding if they don't already have some available.

Keep a record of all your tree owners/fruit donors, volunteers and volunteer hours, fruit harvested and recipients. The busier you look on paper, the more justification you will have of your need for support!

If you think outside the square, you could find yourself eligible for grants other than in Sustainability, Horticulture and Community. You may find that your project aligns with grants in other sectors, for example, in Arts or Public Health.



SECTION 10

Governance

Having a plan for community governance and clear roles will allow for sustainable, long-term success. Governance ensures that your community project is always acting for the benefit of the community. It creates clear boundaries for the individuals involved in your activities.

If you have an initial advisory committee, you will need to set out clear terms of reference. You may start out with one or more volunteers with a driving passion, but you will also need to be able to keep the momentum going if they choose to step down.

Think about what your governing team will be and what it will do. Again, this is where aligning with an umbrella organisation is very helpful as they will have their own code of ethics/policy and procedures that you could incorporate. Good governance should ensure the accountability of all people engaged in the project.

Committee members should be accountable to the community, members/volunteers, legal bodies and the recipients of your services. Ideally, you want to foster a culture of honesty, care, transparency (financial and ethical), willingness to seek outside support when necessary and commitment to your project.

What Makes Good Governance?

- › clear goals/mission
- › clear roles and responsibilities
- › clear committee process
- › clear legal obligations
- › sound policy and procedure
- › strategic plan
- › risk management
- › financial management
- › performance review
- › management of human resources
- › strong external relationships
- › ethical code of conduct

(Source: <http://www.awcc.edu.au/portals/0/WhatIsGovernance.pdf>)

DIVRS Urban Food model:

- › Manager of umbrella organisation DIVRS, which is an Incorporated Association with membership. DIVRS is governed by a Committee of Management
- › Urban Food Programme Leader who leads all program activity, stakeholder engagement and relationships with volunteers and tree owners
- › Project Administrator who supports administrative components such as updating the website, social media and database, and managing letters/mail-outs, promotion and reporting
- › Harvesting Team who volunteer for harvesting, pruning and maintenance, including some experienced volunteers whom we can rely on to train newcomers, speak at information sessions, and attend and help coordinate workshops
- › Volunteers who provide other support e.g. administration and data entry (all volunteers are able to become members of the association and organisation)
- › Tree owners from private and public locations

SECTION 11

Future visions

As your Harvest Project grows and develops, you will find opportunities for expanding your activities to include your volunteers and the wider community.

You can collect traditional recipes, make contact with your local CALD and Indigenous communities, and invite them to share their skills in planting, foraging and preserving fruit.

The range of possibilities for your organisation's activities may include

- › pruning and maintenance
- › fruit-tree planting and seed-saving
- › preserving
- › recipe swaps
- › fruit/food swap markets
- › workshops for volunteer and public training and through local festivals and community centres

The time and volunteer skills you have access to will determine the reach of your project.





Bibliography

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Appendix

- › Harvest Volunteer application form
- › Tree owner registration form
- › Tree owner agreement
 - ▶ Fruit tree information
 - ▶ Visit log
 - ▶ Garden schematic



good luck
and have
fun!



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