

Dear Year 12 Students,

COVID-19 has affected us all in many ways, but no group of people has been more affected than you. From missing all of the usual activities a year 12 student experiences, through to “schoolies” celebrations being cancelled, the impact on your final year of high school has been immense.

But from negative experiences, often unintended consequences occur. The horticulture industry in NSW usually employs over 20 000 backpacker workers with ease to support the harvests that happen across the state.

Why do so many foreign travellers participate in this experience? It’s a fantastic opportunity to travel and work with lifetime friends, earn good money and have adventures, in parts of the country you may otherwise never have seen.

In 2020/21, the NSW harvest season is shaping up to be a disaster without you and all your friends. Consider making up for some of your missed experiences, getting into a car with mates, and travelling through NSW to partake in a Harvest Trail Experience.

This harvest season is going to be a season like none before. Harvest Trail Providers from across the state have partnered with the NSW Government to support the Harvest Trail Experience.

Through the commitment of as little or as long as you like, you will earn great money, extend the time you’ve had with your friends and have access to a suite of free training and qualifications that are nationally accredited. The longer you commit to the trail, the greater your skills and employability portfolio will be, setting you up for fantastic employment or further training opportunities post-harvest.

The season begins in Young, where you would be employed in a variety of harvest duties for the cherry season. This season is one of the most labour intensive, requiring over 3000 workers for a period of 6-8 weeks. You would be home for Christmas with some money in your pocket, and if you found the experience enjoyable and rewarding, opportunities exist to continue on a Harvest Training Experience back in Young for plums or throughout other regions across the entirety of NSW.

NSW Health is working with growers throughout the region to ensure your experience is both as enjoyable and safe as possible from both a COVID-19 perspective, and ensuring you are all supported to work as safely and healthily as possible.

Traditionally accommodation and food provision for backpacker workers has been largely self-sufficient. We understand that this may not be ideal for you all, so we are working on solutions to ensure you can be comfortable, supported and entertained while you're not working.

If you're interested in finding out further information in this experience, there are a number of ways we can answer your questions. A webinar is planned for the first week of October. You can also head to [www.cozwine.com.au/harvest-trail-jobs/](http://www.cozwine.com.au/harvest-trail-jobs/) or even call Robert Millington on **02 7201 8888** to talk to someone.

Thanks for considering heading into Regional NSW to help our NSW farmers get their crops into our supermarkets, have a conversation with your mates about the opportunity and congratulations on completing your HSC!



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