



rjc MID Harvest Newsletter

Mid-harvest break means no picking for most workers until Tuesday when work starts at 7.30 am

As we are about to start colour picking Golden Queen Peaches we will be starting work each day at 7.30 am. Apart from a small gang who will be picking on Monday the next picking day for most workers will be Tuesday when we start at 7.30 am.

Times for working days for pickers and most other workers on working days will now be as follows:

- 6.30 am Breakfast (for those in camp)
- 7.30 am Start Work**
- 10.00 am Rest Break (10 minutes)
- 12.00 noon Lunch (30 – 45 minutes)
- 3.00 pm Rest Break (10 minutes)
- 4.25 pm Finish (Friday finish is often two hours earlier)**
- 5.30 pm Evening Meal (on Friday this meal is at 5.00 pm)

The harvest period this year has ...

- been one of the driest periods without rain on record
- had a record number of days over 40° which has impacted on workers and on the crop in terms of fruit production
- given employment to over 200 casual workers in picking, ganging, tractor driving, and truck driving jobs
- kept the dining room busy preparing over 7,500 meals
- had several serious injuries which have almost always been as a result of workers not following recommended work procedures
- led to people forming new friendships and understanding of others from many parts of the world ...

... and we still have another 3 weeks of pear and peach picking followed by 2 – 3 weeks of apple picking to go!

At work this week ...



Adam Tempo is a local man who seems to enjoy working from a 'cherry picker' machine. Adam helped pick our lemons and says he is having a good year!



Sol Min will return to her accounting studies in Korea. She misses her family and friends in her home country, but enjoys the wide open spaces of Australia.



Masato Inaba has been working with us since the start of the harvest, having been in Australia for about 8 months. He says that this type of work is very different from his job as a waiter in Japan.



Jacques Benoit from France and Andrea Cheraz from Italy have just signed on at the office for our harvest. They have come to Cobram after 4 months in Sydney.

What's on this weekend?

- **Saturday morning - Tocumwal Bush Market** on the riverbank in Tocumwal (20 west of Cobram) – be early for the best bargains!
- **Music at local clubs and pubs** including Barooga Sports Club, Cobram Barooga Golf Club, Top Pub & Bottom Pub. **Check with the venues for details.**
- **Great weather and the chance to recharge yourself before the remainder of the harvest.**