

HFS Orchard Workshops and Events for March 2023

February is a great month to join in an HFS Workshop!

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March 2023 HFS Workshops and Events at Pettys Orchard Heritage Block

Wed 1 March - Workshop from 9am to noon

**Sun 5 March - Workshop from 9am to noon
and public Apple Tasting at 2pm**

Wed 15 March - Workshop from 9am to noon

1 Homestead Road, Templestowe - Melway 22 A11

Meet at the big white marquee



A tiny sample of the diverse range of apples in the HFS collection at Pettys Orchard

The next HFS events at the Petty's Orchard Heritage Fruit block will be:

- the month's first Wednesday, **1 March: Workshop from 9am to noon**
- the month's first Sunday, **5 March: Workshop from 9am to noon AND public Apple Tasting event starting at 2pm**
- the month's third Wednesday, **15 March: Workshop from 9am to noon**

You're cordially invited to help us with:

- Picking apples, for us to offer at our Apple Tasting events (more info below)
- In the HFS Nursery:
 - Checking on status of trees and the irrigation system
 - Maintaining and expanding the "tree bath" system
- Manual watering of small trees, as required
- Mowing, weeding, whipper-snipping, hole-filling and removing blackberry plants
- Summer tree pruning
- Painting labels on trees (*weather permitting*)

As ever, we'll make time in our Workshops to relax over cuppas and home-baked goodies. Please **bring your own keep-cup** to minimise rubbish. We look forward to seeing you soon!

FIRST 2023 APPLE TASTING: Sunday 5 March at 2pm



An HFS Apple Tasting at Pettys Orchard

Last year, we had one of the leanest apple crop yields at the HFS Heritage Block in recent memory. We were therefore only able to present a very narrow range of apples at our Apple Tasting events. But this year is different! Most of the several-hundred apple varieties are carrying a bumper crop, which means we'll be able to show off some really special rarely-seen (and rarely-tasted) apples.

We only run a few Apple Tastings each autumn, and **places are limited** ... so don't miss out! This year's Apple Tastings will be run at the HFS Heritage Block in Templestowe on:

- **Sunday 5 March at 2pm**
- **Monday 10 April at 2pm**

... and we aim to run an additional Apple Tasting in May (to be confirmed).

At each of these events, we'll present samples of about fifteen of our most interesting currently-ripe varieties, provide a guided tour of the HFS Heritage Block, and offer those apples you liked best for sale at a very modest price. **Bookings are necessary** - to book, go to '**Upcoming HFS Events**' at the top right of our main website page at <https://www.heritagefruitssociety.org> . We look forward to offering you some amazing apples to try!

HFS GRAFTING AND TREE SALES DAYS IN 2023

Pop these in your calendar now: HFS will be running two Grafting and Tree Sales Days this winter:

- **Saturday 5 August from 10am to noon at CERES in Brunswick** (corner of

Stewart and Roberts Streets)

- **Sunday 6 August from 9am to noon at the HFS Heritage Block** at Pettys Orchard, Templestowe

Admission to both of these events is **free**. At each, we'll provide visitors an opportunity to:

- obtain scion (budwood) from many of our hundreds of varieties of apples and other fruits
- request on-site grafting of apple scion onto suitable rootstock we provide
- purchase pre-grafted young trees, ready for planting out
- observe experienced and friendly HFS volunteers as they graft up new trees
- ask our knowledgeable volunteers about all aspects of the above
- join a guided walking tour of the Heritage Block (*at the Petty's Orchard Grafting Day only*)

Scion and freshly-grafted trees will be sold at these events at extremely reasonable prices. This is in line with our group's objective of making it easy for anyone to help in the preservation of unusual fruit varieties, as well as instilling an interest in this precious and remarkable field. The scion and tree varieties provided are typically ones preferred by attendees of prior Apple Tastings and Grafting Days, and are ones which are typically difficult or impossible to obtain from any other source.

So if you're thinking about growing or grafting up one or more unusual apple varieties, these events are **THE** place to be!

COVID-19 NOTICE

COVID-19 restrictions may only be a memory now, but nonetheless:

- If you are feeling unwell - even with only mild symptoms - please protect yourself and others by **doing the right thing** and staying at home and getting tested
- All volunteers should endeavour to **maintain social distancing** at all times
- Please feel free to wear a **mask** at any time

Memberships

We are a membership-based group. It is only through the support of our members that we can continue doing the work we do. Please consider becoming a member.

Click below to go to our web site. Payments are via PayPal.

[Memberships](#)

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