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***No Flies On Us* Expo to spread the word on protecting against Queensland Fruit Fly**

Home gardeners, commercial growers, community groups and interested community members are invited to get along to the *No Flies On Us* Expo and hear first hand from guest speakers and industry experts on the value of working together to stop the spread of Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF).

The roving Expo from 27 August - 3 September, will take the '*No Flies On Us*' message to the community and visit a host of towns across the region.

Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Coordinator, Ross Abberfield, urged the community to get on board and attend the Expo to learn more about the simple steps home gardeners and the broader community can take to protect against the pest.

"As part of the Expo, there will be home gardener and grower forums, trap making sessions and opportunities to better understand the more technical aspects about how we control fruit fly," Mr Abberfield said.

An impressive list of guest speakers will participate in the Expo, including Ross Abberfield (Goulburn-Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Co-ordinator), Cathy Mansfield (Statewide Fruit Fly Co-ordinator), Megan Hill (Senior Project Officer, Agriculture Victoria's Fruit Fly Program), Andrew Jessup (Fruit Fly Educator and Horticultural Consultant - Janren Consulting), Dan Ryan (Program Director of SIT Plus) Doug Brown (Chair, Regional Fruit Fly Governance Group, member of Fruit Grower's Victoria Ltd and orchardist) and Adrian Conti (Deputy Chair of Summerfruit Australia, committee member of Cobram and District Fruit Grower's Association and orchardist).

"We are inviting all interested community members to get along to one of our roving Expo locations as we firmly believe reducing the spread of fruit fly requires a combined community effort," Mr Abberfield said.

The Expo will visit the towns of Cobram, Mooroopna, Euroa, Echuca, Shepparton and Berrigan and will incorporate giveaways such as '*No Flies On Us*' showbags, information packs and native trees.

There will also be a community barbecue, fresh fruit and refreshments at each location. On site radio broadcasts and television coverage will be conducted at the larger venues.

"The region's multi-million dollar horticulture industry is a critical driver for the local economy and by working together with growers, home gardeners and the broader community we are best placed to protect our region from the devastating effects of QFF." Mr Abberfield said.

The Expo will visit the following towns and locations:

Cobram	27 August - Cobram Civic Centre
10am – 12pm:	Community Forum and Information Session
10.30am – 12pm:	LIONS workshop with Primary Schools – QFF trap building activity
12pm – 2pm:	Free Rotary Club Community BBQ (all welcome)
2pm – 4pm:	Grower Forum

Mooroopna	28 August – Mooroopna & M.G O’Brien Hall
10am – 12pm:	Community Forum and Information Session
10.30am – 12pm:	LIONS workshop with Primary Schools – QFF trap building activity
12pm – 2pm:	Free Lion’s Club Community BBQ (all welcome)
2pm – 4pm:	Grower Forum
Euroa	29 August – Euroa School House/ Euroa Primary School
10am – 12pm:	Community Forum and Information Session
10.30am – 12pm:	LIONS workshop with Primary Schools – QFF trap building activity
12pm – 2pm:	Free Lion’s Club Community BBQ (all welcome)
Echuca	30 August - Old Paramount Theatre/OPT (Community) & St. Mary’s Parish Hall (Schools)
10am – 12pm:	Community Forum and Information Session
10.30am – 12pm:	LIONS workshop with Primary Schools – QFF trap building activity
12pm – 2pm:	Free Lion’s Club Community BBQ (all welcome)
Shepparton	31 August - GoTAFE Shepparton
10am – 12pm:	Community Forum and Information Session
10.30am – 12pm:	LIONS workshop with Primary Schools – QFF trap building activity
12pm – 2pm:	Free Rotary Club Community BBQ (all welcome)
2pm – 4pm:	Grower Forum
Berrigan	3 September - Soldier’s Memorial Hall
10am – 12pm:	Community Forum and Information Session
10.30am – 12pm:	LIONS workshop with Primary Schools – QFF trap building activity
12pm – 2pm:	Free Lion’s Club Community BBQ (all welcome)

The event will be delivered through the Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Group which takes in the local government areas of Campaspe, Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie and Berrigan.

The group brings together members of the local horticulture industry associations, agronomists, Agriculture Victoria, government agencies, industry, growers, service clubs and the community, to apply an integrated approach to the control of QFF.

This community event is an opportunity for members of the public to learn more about area wide management of the pest and its various aspects, including Sterile Insect Technique (SIT Plus) information, a regional trapping program to monitor fruit fly hotspots and the deployment of field officers to assist in the suppression of high pressure fruit fly areas, the Free Urban Fruit Tree Removal Program, the Rogue Fruit Tree Eradication Program, the Abandoned Orchards Program, the Lion’s Schools Education and Trap Making Program, together with the extensive community education and awareness campaign.

The Victorian Government’s Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program has provided the funding for these programs and actions.

For more information on the expo, visit www.gmv-qlfruitfly.com.au

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Media enquiries: Kathryn Maddox- 0438 548 758