

Becoming a member of

MARY VALLEY COUNTRY HARVEST COOPERATIVE



Thank you for your interest in Mary Valley Country Harvest Cooperative and the work we do. We have put together this brochure to help you understand more about the organisation and how we work with and support our members. However, if anything is unclear or you would like to have a chat, please feel free to get in contact with us.

What is Mary Valley Country Harvest Cooperative?

MVCHC is legally incorporated as a cooperative, which means that the business is owned by the farmers it serves. We're democratically controlled 100% by members and a Board of Directors who are members.

We combine marketing, sales and distribution for member farms. The goal is to develop mutually beneficial relationships between our farmers and our customers, with a vision of creating healthier communities while expanding economic opportunities for local farmers.

We're making it convenient for our customers to buy source-identified, local food direct from local farms with an online marketplace, streamlined payment options and convenient, shared delivery arrangements.

We're aware of the environmental impacts of our industry. Our methods open up markets for farms to increase sales, and at the same time reduce costs and waste, and decrease carbon footprint due to coordinated production and combined delivery. We fully support and encourage sustainable farming and land management practices as the primary methods used by our members, and to provide support and information to growers transitioning to sustainable practices.

Operating expenses are paid out of regular commissions on sales, and any profits at the end of the year are used to expand and improve on our primary activities. The economic goal of MVCHC is service at cost to growers.

Volunteer labour helps run the Hub and keeps overhead costs low. Please consider volunteering your time to help the cooperative grow and prosper.

Member benefits

- Cooperatives are democratic organisations, owned and controlled by their members.
- Consistent market access through planned production and purchasing providing year-round income opportunities.

- Networking opportunities with a group of farms committed to improving regional food production.
- Increased exposure and marketing for your farm through the Mary Valley Country Harvest website, point-of-sale marketing materials, and farm identification through supply of products.
- Workshops and Farm Walks with local and regional experts on a variety of topics.

How do I become a member?

Anyone can become a member of MVCHC assuming their acceptance of the conditions of this membership as contained in the cooperative's rules, and acknowledged on the membership application form.

- A copy of the Rules is on the website – maryvalleycountryharvest.com. A copy of the latest annual financial report is available on request from the Secretary at maryvalleycountryharvest@gmail.com
- Complete the Membership application form, which is attached or can be downloaded from the website.
- Return the completed application form as directed, along with pro-rata subscription amount and payment for a share(s).
- Members must purchase at least one share at the full value of \$25 on joining, plus an annual subscription of \$52 (reviewed annually and set at the Annual General Meeting). Initial subscription is pro rata, depending on time of year when joining. Details are on the form.
- Your application will be considered at the next monthly meeting of the Board of Directors.
- If the application is successful, your details will be entered on the Register of Members and a share/shares issued in your name. A welcome letter will be sent.
- If unsuccessful, payment will be refunded.
- Each member is entitled to one vote, irrespective of number of shares held.
- All members must be active, the definition of which is in the Rules of the cooperative.
- Members may only sell products they themselves have grown, processed, harvested or crafted.

For more information, or to submit your membership application, please contact the Secretary, MVCHC.

Email: maryvalleycountryharvest@gmail.com

Phone: 0459 225 399

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