HUON VALLEY FOOD HUB

‘FARMGATE BLITZ’ TRIAL PROJECT
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

August 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Huon Valley Food Hub is a Tasmanian first and a unique collaboration between community, food system innovators, residents, business and local government. The end goal of the project is to develop a plan for a future Huon Valley Food Hub. A vibrant and thriving Food Hub has the potential to make our local food system stronger and create social, health, economic and environmental benefits in our Valley.

The Huon Valley Food Hub project is being delivered by the Huon Valley Council thanks to funding made available through the Tasmanian Government's Healthy Tasmania fund. As part of the requirements of the funding, the project will deliver a series of 'activation/trial' projects to spark real changes within our community and actively engage with local food leaders to make it happen. These trial projects will be delivered in a 'safe to fail' manner to genuinely influence and agitate the current process and system across seven themes identified as part of the project's early engagement and research and development stages.

There have been four activation/trial projects selected that have emerged through the project's co-design process with the community and food system stakeholders. These have been prioritised on the basis that once there are strong foundations developed in the production and distribution capabilities, many value-added benefits will emerge in the local food system: jobs, food security and access, education, industry training, food experiences, agri-tourism, circular economy and policy changes.

FARMGATE BLITZ PROJECT

The 'Farmgate Blitz' trial project is the Food Hub's first priority project and aims to address our first priority theme – Local, regenerative food economy and abundance'. The project aims to address the need for diversity of produce grown in a regenerative way to create a vibrant and abundant local economy.

The project will consist of conducting 10 farmgate 'blitzes' to enable farmers to be regenerative producers. Project participants will become part of a small-scale growing movement, contributing to diversifying the produce grown in the Valley, and creating a community of knowledgeable regenerative farmers and distributors.

Local farmers will be engaged to provide mentorship/training at each Blitz event, and community invited to attend to learn by doing.

PURPOSE

The objectives and goals of the Farmgate Blitz project is to:

- Increase growing of local produce
- Increase distribution of local produce
- Increase education and engagement opportunities relating to growing, delivering, eating and celebrating local produce
- Diversify produce grown in the Huon Valley.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

We invite Expressions of Interest from Huon Valley residents, community groups and businesses to participate in this exciting trial project.

Farmgate Blitz participants will need to be able to demonstrate their suitability to be part of the project by meeting the following criteria.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential experience and interest:

- Experience in gardening, organic farming, regenerative farming, permaculture or small-scale food systems. Must be interested in creating a commercial small-scale farm business model.
- Happy to host up to 20-30 community members at your property.
- Demonstrated public liability insurance to cover the day of work.
- Able and willing to work on two other 'blitzes' as part of an 'exchange' in skills and time.
- Committed to contributing fresh, quality produce as part of the 'Huon Valley Food Hub – Food Popups and Procurement Network; project (Jan-May 2023).
- Your farm/garden needs to be in a good stay ready to plant and do basic 'one-day' makeovers (ie. Fencing to keep wallabies out / greenhouse ready to go).
- Being a suitable farm already developing capacity for growing food commercially, you must be open to share your story, your passion for food with other community members and share this with the Huon Valley Food Hub via the media.

Desired experience:

- Training in Permaculture, Biodynamics or Regenerative farming
- Desire to contribute and be an active member of your community

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Blitzes will begin in mid-September 2022, so please indicate your best three days between September-December 2022, for your Blitz to be held.
- A group of local professional farmers with extensive knowledge across a range of farming techniques and expertise will be engaged to support the makeover on your land.
- A makeover kit containing seed, soil, mulch etc will be available to each participant.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS

The Expressions of Interest process will be advertised for 14 days.

Expressions of Interest are to address the skills, knowledge and experience set out in the Selection Criteria above. Please include property address details, photos and a map of your farm/site as part of your EOI.

The selection of participants will be made by an independent evaluation panel consisting of Food Hub Reference Group members, project mentors and trainers, and Huon Valley Council staff.

Expressions of Interest must be lodged with the General Manager, Huon Valley Council by either of the following:

In person:

Customer Service Centre
Huon Valley Council
40 Main Street, Huonville Tasmania

Electronic lodgement:

Email: hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

The closing date for applications will be 5:00pm 31st August 2022

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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