



We honour interconnected relationships with our communities, this land and each other through supporting co-op members to grow nutritious food.

We acknowledge that we live and farm on Djaara country, and that sovereignty on this land has not been ceded. We pay our respects to the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of this land, and to their Elders past, present and emerging. In particular, we acknowledge the enduring spiritual significance of this place, Liyanganuk Bunyul, to the Dja Dja Wurrung people. We are grateful to Djaara for their leadership and commitment to working towards Djaara management of Liyanganuk Bunyul.

In solidarity, we also acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout so-called Australia and their connections to land, waters, sky, Country and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

The Harcourt Farming Cooperative (HoFC) is a collaboration of diverse regenerative farmers who lease land on a single farm in Harcourt. We are passionate about learning our craft, feeding our community, and making direct and meaningful connections with our customers, for example through [Community Supported Agriculture](#).

Current members are:

- [**Sellar Farmhouse Creamery**](#)—Tessa Sellar runs a micro-dairy with the help of her partner Oli, milking 10 cows using organic and regenerative farming principles, processed on-site into fresh milk and yoghurt in return glass packaging. Sold locally through CSA subscriptions and Castlemaine weekly farmers markets.
- [**The Orchard Keepers**](#)—Led by Katie and Hugh Finlay and a crew of CSA members and volunteers known as 'Fruit Crew'. They manage the orchard using regenerative and organic principles, growing cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, apples and pears. Fruit Crew receive fruit in exchange for their commitment, and the rest is sold at farmers' markets and through custom orders.
- [**Carr's Original Fruit Tree Nursery**](#)—Under the mentorship of Merv Carr, who has been grafting and budding heritage fruit trees since the 1950s, Katie Finlay and her sister Liz Carr are continuing the family tradition. Carr's Original Fruit Tree Nursery grows a huge variety of quality heritage fruit trees for sale in winter as bare-rooted



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trees. They pride themselves on being the only nursery in Victoria growing fruit trees using regenerative and organic principles (as far as they know!).

- ***Bushfoods plot run by Murnong Mummas*** – Led by Program Coordinator Ira Barker, Murnong Mummas is a First Nations led program growing Bushfoods and educating the wider community about the significance of local and native Australian foods, working toward meaningful reconciliation and truth telling.

The aim of HoFC is to make the farm as productive and profitable as possible, within a collaborative framework and using regenerative and organic principles. We're always on the lookout for new members!

Until 30 June 2025, the Harcourt Organic Farming Coop was certified organic with NASAA. We decided to drop our certification as a Cooperative in July (and change our name to the Harcourt Farming Coop) primarily because of marketing changes within the enterprises, which meant that official accreditation was no longer required.

We remain committed to farming according to organic and regenerative principles, and always will—these remain among the core values of the co-op.

In the absence of external accreditation, we have chosen to take responsibility for transparency and accountability into our own hands. We have close, direct relationships with the people who buy our produce, who we believe deserve to know exactly how their food is grown.

In that spirit, we've created this document as an open contract between our farmers and the land, and between the co-op and our customers.

It sets out the principles and practices we follow to care for and nourish the land, the animals, and the people who live and farm here

If you would like further information about any of the practices outlined in this plan, we encourage you to get in touch with the individual enterprise.

PROPERTY PROFILE	
Country	Dja Dja Wurrung, Djaara
Land and Soil Types:	Hills and ranges, clay loams, sandy loams, grassy woodland, Granitic hills woodland, 400 metres above sea level
Land size:	30 hectares
Climate:	Warm temperate. Summer days mainly sit in the 30s and



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	can reach 45°C, with a winter average of 2°-12° occasionally dropping below 0° with frost.
Average Annual Rainfall:	550 mm
Dominant Vegetation:	Remnant eucalyptus woodland (Red Gums, Yellow Box, Greybox, Lightwoods, Black wattles). Predominantly exotic winter annual grasses. Few patches of remnant Kangaroo Grass in Picnic Gully.
Predominant wind direction on property:	South-westerly
List the major activities on neighbouring property boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Northerly: rural resident, unsealed road ● Easterly: La Larr Ba Gauwa Mountain bike park (designated, on crown land) ● Southerly: noncommercial grazing, commercial orchard ● Westerly: noncommercial grazing, commercial orchard, bitumen road
Zoning	Farming
History of farm	<p>Land used for traditional tuber stock (murnong, chocolate lily, vanilla lily) and grain production (kangaroo grass) prior to colonisation. Adjacent to culturally significant areas used for ceremony and cultural practices.</p> <p>One of the earliest orchards in Harcourt, originally planted with fruit trees in the 1870s. Merv Carr purchased it in 1971, Katie and Hugh Finlay purchased it from Katie's dad Merv, in 1998.</p>
Irrigations licence	Coliban Water, 30ML allocation from the Coliban System. Decommissioned concrete channel running through property. Water delivered via pipe to bottom of the property on Danns Rd. Piped up to the irrigation dam (15 ML).
Services	34 kW solar system. 3 phase power.
Years Certified Organic with NASAA	2007-2025
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Packing shed - Green house - Shipping containers - Barn



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Composting toilets - Lunch room and bathroom - Licensed dairy factory - Outdoor kitchen - Reticulated irrigation system
Environmental risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire - Soil saturation - Drought - Extreme winds

Attach map

COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use HoFC public profile to support Djaara aspirations for management of Liyanganuk Bunyul. This starts with the commitment to practicing the Acknowledgement of Country in public, during tours, and on our website. ● Support of Murnong Mummas to facilitate cultural practice on site ● Paying the rent ● Working with Djaara for property land management, e.g., cultural burns ● Actively holding conversations to deepen knowledge and understandings ● Display signage to inform visitors to the farm about local country, culture and Mob.
SOCIAL JUSTICE
<p>For all enterprises, social justice along with environmental protection and custodianship is core to our values and all aspects of HoFC activities. This takes form in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous people, particularly the local Indigenous elders past and present. We actively seek to develop positive relationships with members of our local Indigenous community and the groups that represent them. ● All employees have equal respect, opportunity, and adequate wages according to national standards of employment regardless of colour, creed or gender. ● We actively make the farm a safe and welcoming place for people who identify as LGTBQIA+. ● We seek to increase opportunities and access to land for new and young farmers seeking to start out in production. ● We aim to make our produce available to a variety of markets at a fair and affordable price that also gives true value to the farmer. ● We provide opportunities for learning and skill development in areas of food production carried out on the farm. ● All staff and volunteers have access to appropriate breaks, clean drinking water, weather-protected communal areas and suitable amenities.



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- All staff and volunteers are provided adequate protection from noise, dust, light and exposure to chemicals.

SOIL MANAGEMENT

Soil health is paramount to all farm activities

Orchard Keepers

- Soil health is monitored by using soil tests, visual soil structure analysis, tree health analysis and observation.
- Plant and microbe biodiversity is valued and protected, particularly in tree rows.
- Vehicle ingress to the orchards is minimised to reduce compaction.
- Soil is improved with regular applications of compost, compost tea, microbe food including liquid fish and kelp, and certified organic nutritional inputs.
- Diverse understory beneath the fruit trees is maintained, and plants are encouraged to remain in the active growing phase by slashing/grazing interrows. We aim for “year-round green”.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Mobile milking parlour: The herd is always moving, avoiding any stock camps, laneways, holding yards and general build-up of excess nutrients. Manures are directly spread on pasture. Hay, water and parlour where stock congregate aim to have maximum recovery time allowed before returning to the same location. Paddock rotations and parlour locations recorded.
- Rotational grazing: Animals are moved on a regular basis to allow time for the pasture to recover. Both native and exotic, annual and perennial, herbs and grasses are sown to encourage new growth and diversity. Sensitive areas such as wet zones are avoided at times of high stress (when boggy). Aiming for as close to 100% groundcover, 100% of the time and to be always increasing the organic matter and soil biology.
- Tree fodder: Trees and shrubs are planted and fed to reduce pasture grazing pressure during drier months. These tree areas also act to slow down water and nutrient run off.
- Remineralising: soil testing and remineralisation based on results.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- In actively managed nursery beds (i.e., those being currently used to grow fruit trees), soil is improved with the addition of compost, woodchip mulch, and microbe food including liquid fish and kelp.
- Weeds within the tree rows are managed by hand, i.e., with a hoe and pulling by hand, and then suppressed with compost and mulch. Weeds interrow are managed with mowing.
- Nursery beds are used for fruit trees for 2 years, and then kept fallow for at least 1 year. In the fallow year(s), the soil is enriched with green manure crops.



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- Soil disturbance is kept to a minimum: green manure crops are turned in by disc prior to re-establishing nursery beds, beds are prepared using a hand-pushed rotary hoe, and trees are harvested using a blade pushed through the soil with the tractor.
- Harvested trees are “heeled in” and sold from the same sacrificial plot of land each year to prevent soil disturbance in nursery beds.

Bushfoods

- Maintenance of perennial plants to provide soil stability and to enhance health of soil
- Replacement of non native groundcover with drought hardy and soil stabilising groundcover
- Weed management includes slashing and hand pulling
- Use of mulch to reduce moisture loss
- Monitoring of soil health through observation of plant health and biodiversity present

Summary INPUT LIST of all currently used fertiliser and/or soil conditions:

Orchard Keepers

- Compost tea, brewed from worm castings and/or compost made on farm
- Compost
- Microbe foods (liquid, fish, liquid kelp)
- Certified organic rock phosphate, liquid calcium, and other certified organic micro and macro nutrients at times in response to soil testing

Responsive copper and sulphur fungicide sprays Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Currently none
- Future possible: limestone, dolomite, trace minerals

Carr’s Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- Certified organic liquid kelp
- Certified organic liquid fish
- Certified organic compost from Elmore Compost
- Woodchips produced on-farm from orchard prunings

Bushfoods

- currently nil

Prohibited management inputs:

- Herbicides
- Pesticides
- Non-certified fungicides
- GMOs



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- Non-certified nutritional inputs
- Routine antibiotics
- Growth hormones

BIODIVERSITY AND ENVIRONMENT

- There is an existing revegetation and biodiversity area on the property (see Farm Map). This zone has wildlife habitat boxes installed which are monitored by the local 'Connecting Country' group. Part of the overall farm management plan is to continue to manage, monitor and diversify this revegetation and biodiversity zone.
- A thriving ecosystem of native flora and fauna exists at the dam. It is fenced from any livestock and the water level is kept as high as possible, maintaining it as a haven for wildlife.
- Farming practices used by all co-op enterprises put a high value on promoting, preserving and restoring biodiversity and native species
- Aiming to annually plant into shelter belts to create biodiversity and ecosystems for beneficial insects, animals and birds to live.

WATER MANAGEMENT AND IRRIGATION

- Water comes from Coliban Water reticulated pipeline, and on-farm dam.
- All enterprises use water-efficient practices, including drippers, irrigation tape, soil moisture monitoring and metering.
- Rain water is captured in on-farm tanks to supplement irrigation supply.
- Capture and storage of water in soil is maximised by increasing water holding capacity of soil by increasing soil carbon, particularly humates.

Risks that may compromise organic integrity and how these risks are managed:

- Farm dam – catchment is crown land that is being used for a managed recreational mountain bike park. The risk of chemicals being used in the catchment is managed by effective communication with the mountain bike park management committee to inform them of our farming management and their obligation to ensure local waterways and catchment remain free of chemicals and contamination.
- Coliban Water pipeline—Coliban Water is responsible for water quality in its system, and ensuring that water remains free of chemicals and contamination.
- Neighbouring orchards spraying chemicals—this is managed by maintaining good relationships and open communication with neighbours so they are aware of their legal obligation to keep chemicals on their own land and prevent contamination of neighbouring properties.



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SEEDS, SEEDLINGS & PLANT PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL

Orchard Keepers

- Replacement trees are sourced from Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery, grown on the property.
- Seeds are sourced organically where possible and where not, confirmation is sought that they are not GM.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Pasture seed sourced from certified organic suppliers where possible. All seed sourced is uncoated and confirmation is sought that they are not GM.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- Most seed and cuttings for rootstocks are sourced from the farm.
- When seed is sourced off-farm (e.g., citrus), confirmation is sought that it is not GM.
- Most grafting wood is sourced from existing trees in the on-farm nursery and the orchard. When grafting wood is sourced off-farm, wood is inspected to ensure it is free of disease.
- Green manure seed sourced from certified organic suppliers.

Bushfoods

- Seeds sourced from plants grown on site and on Country
- Seedlings sourced from Goldfields Revegetation Centre, Newstead Natives, and Grow Locals.

CROP AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Orchard Keepers

- Understory managed and trees not currently in production by grazing cattle.
- Understory in actively managed orchards managed by slashing during the season.
- Groundcover is maintained at all times, aiming for 'year-round green'.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Rotational grazing: Animals are moved on a regular basis to allow time for the pasture to recover. Both native and exotic, annual and perennial, herbs and grasses are sown to encourage new growth and diversity. Sensitive areas such as wet zones are avoided at times of high stress (when boggy). Aiming for as close to 100% groundcover, 100% of the time and to be always increasing the organic matter and soil biology
- If an area requires complete improved pastures, a minimum cultivation and direct seeding are applied.
- Tree fodder crops are maintained separate to stock grazing and cut and carried to reduce risk of damage to trees.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery



We honour interconnected relationships with our communities, this land and each other through supporting co-op members to grow nutritious food.

- Nursery beds will be used for fruit trees for 2 years and then kept fallow for 2 years. In the fallow years, the soil is enriched with green manure crops as described above.

Bushfoods

- Maintaining Couch and Kikuyu groundcover where appropriate which is eaten by Kangaroos and slashed where required.
- Reintroduction of native poa varieties.

PEST, DISEASE AND WEED MANAGEMENT

Orchard Keepers

- Healthy trees in biologically diverse soil are less vulnerable to pests and diseases, therefore, our overall strategy is to maintain the health of the soil to boost the trees' natural immune system.
- Pests: we aim to create an environment that encourages beneficial insects and diversity of all living things to keep "pests" in balance, and damage at a tolerable level.
- Specific pests are managed using organic principles and only using products allowed in certified organic systems, e.g.
 - o Codling Moth - the main strategy is mating disruption using pheromone ties which are placed in trees once each season. Fruit is constantly monitored for 'stings', and any infected fruit is removed immediately and destroyed.
 - o Queensland Fruit Fly - traps are put through the orchards and monitored weekly during the season. All fruit is monitored regularly, and any infected fruit removed and destroyed. All fruit is stored in the coolroom at 1°C for a week before being sold to ensure that any potential infections are killed. We maintain clear communication with our customers, educating them about the risks of fruit fly and asking them to notify us of any larvae they find. Major future outbreaks may be managed with a spray called Naturalure that is permitted in certified organic systems.
 - o Earwigs and ants are managed by applying sticky barriers to the trunks of the trees so they can't access the fruit.
 - o Birds are managed by netting the trees.
- Disease: we aim to increase soil health so that beneficial fungus/bacteria outcompetes harmful varieties. We also aim to keep trees healthy so they are less vulnerable to disease. When the risk of crop loss is too great, organic fungicides may be used.
- We don't think of the plants growing under the fruit trees as "weeds", but consider them to be valuable understory. They help to protect and feed the microbes in the soil, which in turn feed our fruit trees. Therefore, we encourage a diverse understory and manage it only in terms of mowing regularly to keep the plants actively growing, so they continue to pump as much carbon into the soil as possible.



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- Occasionally plants such as paspalum grass, blackberry, gorse, or opportunistic eucalypt seedlings are removed from the orchard. Where soil is disrupted during weed removal, we take the opportunity to add seed to the soil (usually clover, which is nitrogen fixing) to improve biodiversity.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Undesired plants are slashed in Autumn and dug out where possible (primarily briar rose, gorse and Blackberry)
- Insect light traps x2 in factory
- Mouse traps inside and outside factory
- Rodent bait in confined spaces

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- The strategy with the nursery is to choose healthy seed and rootstocks, to maintain healthy soil, to rotate the nursery beds, and to choose locations for the nursery beds that are close to biodiverse market garden beds. The trees will be sold before they are of fruiting age, and any trees of fruiting age in the nursery will have the fruit removed.
- One or two sprays of copper hydroxide or allowable wettable sulphur (Microthiol) may be used in the nursery each year, if weather conditions favour development of Leaf Curl disease in peach and nectarine trees, or powdery mildew in apples, as these diseases can severely impact early growth on these seedlings and trees. These are approved organic inputs.
- Weeds are managed by hand (hoeing, hand pulling, and mulch).

Bushfoods

- Weeds are slashed or hand pulled when necessary prior to seeding
- Monitoring of pests and diseases through observation and the encouragement of native pest predators

All

- Mouse traps

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, HEALTH & WELFARE

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- The focus is placed on building healthy, resilient soils, pastures, water sources and biological landscapes which in turn feed and build healthy, resilient animals. Through management systems and supplements we aim to support the animal to seek and treat her own needs. Only where necessary shall synthetic treatments such as antibiotics be used and all relevant withholding periods will be adhered to.
- Calf at foot management: Calves are reared by their dam for the first 3-4 months. Together for the first week and then separated by a fence at night, still able to touch until full weaning is required. Weaning is a gradual process with the calves spending less and less time with their mother. This encourages less stress on the cow and stronger, healthier calves. Much time is spent with the animals when young to build relationships of trust with humans and halter training.



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- Female calves are raised for re-joining the herd as milkers and males will be castrated by ring under 6 weeks of age and are either sold when weaned or raised for meat on site.
- Small herd: The milking herd is to be capped at 10. This is the best number for stocking rate of the 75 acre property as well as the number of animals able to be milked and needs met for the type of herd management in place. Individual animals will be known directly, as will as their history and habits. This is integral to management of the herd being preventative rather than reactive.
- Animals are to be halter trained to make movements and human interactions with minimum stress.
- Primarily Dairy Shorthorn breeds with a few Jersey, Chosen for size, feed conversion, fat content, steer growth and most importantly resilience. A combination of temperament as well as physical and milk genetics will influence the choice of individual cows..
- A bull is kept on farm for most breedings. He (Teddy) was raised on farm and is a DSH/Illawara DSH. A combination of AI and hired bull joining will be used when needed - McDonalds dairy short horn bull in Guildford/Drummond (30 min trailer trip)

Summary INPUT LIST of all products used Livestock Pest and/or Livestock Disease control:

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- A range of ingredients are used for supplementary tonics and lotions when animals need immune support these include: charcoal (scours), sulphur (lice/parasites), cod liver oil (lack of green feed), turmeric, vit c, cinnamon, garlic, slippery elm, beeswax, olive oil, tea tree oil, olive leaf extract, rose hips, molasses, .
- Injectable vitamins C, B1, B12, A, D, E as well as sodium lactate and a calcium and magnesium solution with phosphorus and glucose solution will also be used to help support the animals immune system when required

Limited use inputs and how these risks are managed:

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Antibiotics will be used sparingly, never preventively (Routine *Drycow* use). Appropriate antibiotics will be used when animal wellbeing is at risk, always in combination with immune support, milk withholding period or 3 times the veterinary recommended period will be adhered to.
- Hormones will never be used as growth stimulants. Oxytocin may be used in the case of a retained placenta.
- Anti- inflammatory injections will be used when animal well being is at risk. Meat and milk withholding periods will be adhered to.

LIVESTOCK SOURCES, TREATMENT & IDENTIFICATION

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery



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- All animals are identified by name. Using the farm management software *MilkingCloud* all animals have files including identification photos and history including calving, milking, health, heat, pregnancy, offspring.
- All animal issues and treatments are recorded in the farm diary. These will also get communicated to all staff via *Slack*.
- All new stock to the farm are recorded in the farm diary with the following information:
 - Details of supplier
 - Name and number of stock
 - Vet treatment including drenching and withholding periods
- All milk is processed on farm into fresh dairy products.

LIVESTOCK DIET AND NUTRITION

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- SFC is seasonally pasture-based with additional feed being supplemented when pastures are lacking.
- Animals are fed a ration of hand mixed ingredients which vary in quantity to reflect and compliment what the pastures are providing. All animals are feed this mixture, quantity varying based on age, lactation, time of year.
- Self-selecting minerals are available for animals to supplement their physical needs
- Organic hay is used to complement the pastures.
- Tree fodder belts are being established to supplement feed in times where pasture is lacking

Summary INPUT LIST of purchased feed and/or nutritional supplements:

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Ration may include:
 - o Lucerne chaff (certified organic)
 - o Oaten chaff (certified organic)
 - o Bran (certified organic)
 - o Grain (may differ based on what's available and what best compliments the pastures:, barley, rye, oats, spelt, peas, lentils, fava beans, wheat) (certified Biodynamic)
 - o Seaweed granules (certified organic)
 - o Linseed meal (certified organic)
- Free choice minerals:
 - o Zinc sulphate (non organic)
 - o Magnesium sulphate (non organic)
 - o Salt (non organic)
 - o Boron (non organic)
 - o Copper sulphate (non organic)



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- o Dolomite (non organic)
- o Limestone (non organic)
- o Sulphur (non organic)
- o Monocalcium phosphate (non organic)
- Hays:
 - o Oaten hay (certified organic)
 - o Lucerne hay (certified organic)
 - o Grass hay (certified organic)

In years of extreme climate where certified organic feed is hard to get, non organic feed may need to be supplemented.

- Possible tree fodder species:
 - o Willow, tagasaste, acacia, oak, fruit trees, casuarina

LIVESTOCK HOUSING and MANURE MANAGEMENT

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- The mobility of the infrastructure means there is never a build-up of manure and bacteria will always be exposed to heat and cold to break the cycle between stock rotations.
- The only animals which are housed are the calves overnight. As the calf pen is an extension roof from the milking parlour it is moved on a regular basis to reduce any bacterial build up.
- Manures are directly spread throughout the pastures with no chance for build-up.
- All infrastructure: milking parlour, calf pens, hay feeder, water, are moved on a regular basis with stock rotation so minimal bare ground shall be left.
- Uneaten hay is used as bedding for the calf pen

List any risks that may compromise integrity and indicate how these risks are managed:

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Infrastructure not being moved regularly enough could lead to bare ground in summer and boggy ground in winter which in turn could lead to a build-up of bacteria and dirty animals/udders; increasing the chance of mastitis and sick animals. Animals need to be moved on a regular basis even if pasture is sparse, avoid grazing boggy areas in wet times.

LIVESTOCK TRANSPORT AND HANDLING

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Stock is rarely transported. SFC owns a stock trailer which is used for all transport needs, no external vehicle is used. Times when animals are transported is when initial purchase are made, transporting to a bull for joining and sale of stock. All trips are kept to a minimum (max of 1.5hrs) and feed and water provided on departure and arrival. Animals



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are handled calmly and gently during loading and transport to avoid stress. Times of cold rain and extreme heat are avoided for transport.

GENERAL STORAGE & WAREHOUSING

Orchard Keepers

- All fruit moving in and out of the coolroom is documented.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Withheld milk is clearly marked in a separate test bucket and never enters the factory. This is disposed of off site or through livestock such as chickens or pigs.
- All SFC storage and warehousing is restricted to the creamery and lean-to site to avoid contamination from other farm business.
- Feed buckets are clearly stored and shall not be used for other purposes.
- The creamery has high level restricted access

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- The nursery trees are stored. They are dug up and sold direct from the farm in winter, and if there is a period between when the trees are dug up and when they are collected by the customer, they are 'heeled in' to the nursery in the soil in which they were grown.
- Citrus trees are potted in home-made potting mix (made from sand sourced on-farm, coir, and certified compost).

Bushfoods

- Storage of seeds in a retired fridge which is sealed from elements and rodents

ON-FARM PROCESSING

Orchard Keepers

- Juice: Wash fruit. Remove rotten parts. Crush into pulp. Press pulp and capture juice in buckets. Bottle immediately in unused plastic bottles and freeze.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- The processing factory is licenced under Dairy Food Safety Victoria, audited every 6 months and a comprehensive Food Safety Plan maintained.
- Milk – Pasteurise milk at 63°C for 30 min, chill to <5°C, Bottle
- Yoghurt – Pasteurise milk to 80°C for 5 min, cool to 40°C, add starter culture PAL YOG 8-30, stir for 10 min, Bottle, incubator for 8hrs or until a pH of 4.5 is reached, chill to < 5°C

PACKAGING, LABELLING AND ADVERTISING

Orchard Keepers

- We sometimes use recycled packaging to minimise carbon footprint and environmental impact.



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- Recycled boxes are lined with clean liners to ensure no contamination.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- Packaging is returnable glass which will be washed, sterilised and refilled on site
- Cardboard swing tags for product information

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- Trees are sold bare-rooted, they are put into recycled hessian or stockfeed bags when required to protect the roots until people plant them.
- Citrus trees are re-potted into washed, recycled plastic pots, using a mix of soil and compost.

Bushfoods

- Semi-sustainable Kraft Paper pouches with food-safe plastic elements, research of available packaging shows this to be the most eco-friendly and sustainable option available to us currently that meets food safety needs.

HANDLING AND TRANSPORT

Orchard Keepers

- All product is sold directly by us to farmers markets, or delivered by us for custom orders.
- Fruit that is taken as part of the Fruit Crew Exchange Program is taken off-farm directly by volunteers.

Sellar Farmhouse Creamery

- All sales to customers are directly through SFC. All handling and transport will be undertaken by SFC staff who will be trained in the correct storage and handling of dairy products. Temperatures kept and recorded below 5°C.

Carr's Organic Fruit Tree Nursery

- Most nursery trees are not transported, as they are collected at the farm by the customers.
- Nursery trees that are transported will be either (a) bagged in garbage bags or similar to protect roots from drying out, or (b) 'heeled in' in wood chips (produced on farm) for transport to farmers markets.



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