

HOW TO GET YOUR 2ND YEAR WHV IN AUSTRALIA



BY HARVIE KALAZAKI

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by SEQ Legal

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Introduction

Hi, my name is Harvie and I've spent the last 100 days working in rural Australia. I spent all my time in Gatton, Queensland. During this time I managed to earn a total of \$8,500 mainly from picking Onions and Pumpkins.

Before coming to Australia I searched all over the internet trying to find what area to go to, what jobs are best, how to avoid scams and how to make money. The problem I found with looking for information was it was either dated, scattered over several hundred sites or just a bunch of lies and misinformation!

I have created this eBook with the intention of making all the information one needs to complete their 88 days in Australia to obtain their 2nd year visa. The book will show you how I found my job within 5 days of landing in Australia, how I spent less than \$511 a month while working. I will discuss the most common jobs scams and how to get a job without having to do WWOOFing.

Don't read this book expecting you will land a great job and earn thousands upon thousands of dollars. It will give you a blueprint of how you can do your 88 days in Australia, maximising all your chances to make money and how to avoid areas with little to no work that pays bad. I will also tell you how to save your money while working, so you can spend it on the latter half of your trip.

I will also go into brief detail about how to set-up your bank accounts, getting a Tax File Number (TFN) and Medicare, providing you with links to sign up.

How to apply for a 417 Working Holiday Visa

To apply for your Working Holiday Visa please click the following link:

<https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login>

As of writing, the fee is currently \$420 if you apply online. There is no need to pay an agency to get you this visa, it is really simple to do it yourself using the link above.

The Visa states that I need to have access to \$5,000 and may have to show “proof of funds”, But I don’t have this much money, what should I do?

First of all don’t worry, they almost never check this. If you are short of the \$5,000, you should apply for 1-2 credit cards, as they can contribute to the \$5000 total. If you are still worried, another option would be to get a loan off a family member, put it into your account and after landing in Oz, send it back to them.

I have spent 3 months in Thailand, should I declare it when applying for my 417 visa or not?

Yes. You should never lie on any immigration document, because if found out, you will be rejected. I spent 3 months in Asia and as a result I had to do a chest x-ray to make sure I was fine. That was completed within a few days, and my visa approved a week later.

Regional work and the 1263 Form

To obtain a second WHV you are required to work 88 days or 3 months in a part of regional Australia.

To find all areas that count as regional work please see the Australia Immigration document here <https://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1263.pdf>. Any postcode that is listed on that document means you can work there and it will count towards your 88 days.

The form also states what type of work is allowed to be counted as part of your 88 days. Working in a supermarket or a retail store whilst in the post code areas will not count towards your 88 days sign off.

Once you have completed your 88 days, print of the 1263 Form in the link above and get your boss to sign it. You will need this when you apply for your 2nd WHV.

Do I need to work 88 days or 3 months, I don't understand?

This really depends, you don't actually have to do 88 days of actual work. For example, the industry standard for mining is 10 days on at 10 hours a day and 10 days off. So the 10 days off you have can be counted towards your 88 days, assuming you did the 10 days on at 10 hours a day.

10 days on

10 days off

= 20 days ticked off your 88 days.

The industry standard for picking and planting is 6 hours of work a day for 6 days. If you work for 6 days doing 6 hours or more, you are given an extra day to add to your 88 days. If you only work 5 days at 6 hours, then you are only given 5 days.

6 days on

1 day off

= 7 days ticked off your 88 days

What if I work 7 days at 6 hours per day, does that mean I get 8 days ticked off my visa for the week?

No you will only get 7 days.

If you change employers or contractors during jobs, then you will have to do exactly 88 days. So it is best to stick with one employer throughout your time in Australia. If you work directly for a farm, always ask them what they define as their industry working week, because you may not have to work as much as you think.

If you are still not sure, ring up the following number (131 881) and they will tell you everything you need to know about the job you are in.

How to find a job

When looking for a harvest job the first thing you need to look for is what is currently in season for picking. The easiest way to find his out is by referring to the National Harvest Guide.

This book will give you information on what is growing in different parts of Australia during each month. There is no point heading to Perth looking for jobs in March, if they have nothing until June! Once you have done that, you can go a number of ways.

You can pick a state you would enjoy seeing, or you could pick a state which has the most amounts of crop harvests for the time period you want to work to maximise the chances of getting a job. Then you target these towns and start looking for jobs.

Contacting job agencies within the regional areas

As you all know getting telephone numbers of farms or contractors using the internet or the phone book is quite difficult. A more sensible and smarter way is to Google job agencies within the regional area you wish to work in. For example, I worked in Gatton and when you Google “Gatton employment agencies” you get the following site:

www.maxemployment.com.au

I rang them up and asked them if they could give me details of all farms and contractors in the local area, they sent me this:



<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Numbers</i>
Abraham	0423 735 588
AEC Holdings	0438 150 616
Baur	07 5462 6124
Bell-Be. Abdel	0423 692 487
Blackboy Ridge	0413 179 133
Harrison Harvesting	0418 786 330
Hussien	07 5462 1440 / 0402 313 621
Koala Farms	0412 182 338
Mulgowie Farming	07 5465 9222
Raddatz	07 5462 1782
Vege Fresh	07 5462 7294

You should do this wherever you go. This way you can ring up all the contractors and farms before travelling in the middle of no where. You can ask them if there is work there, how are you paid, how long is the work for, what type of work, and everything else you need to know.

Now you are speaking directly with the farmer or contractor and none of this “wishy washy” second hand talk that you hear from other backpackers.

Internet job sites

There are many sites that will help you find a farm job in Oz. Below are what I have found most useful. The internet is a valuable resource.

<https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvesttrail/>

www.seek.com.au/jobs-in-farming-animals-conservation/farm-labour/in-australia/

<http://www.gumtree.com.au/>

<http://www.ruralenterprises.com.au/>

<http://www.farmwork.tv>

<http://www.backpackerjobboard.com.au/>

<http://nomadsworld.com/jobs/>

WWOOFing

I don't have too much to say about WWOOFing except that I would not do it myself. There are plenty of rural jobs that will pay you good money if you know where to look and use a sensible approach. The only time I would do WWOOFing is if you are low on money, or don't want to spend money while looking for work. A good site for WWOOFing or doing similar things is <http://www.helpx.net/>

How to spot if a job is a scam or not?

As of late there are a lot more scam job listings aimed at people who are on a WHV. I have heard of an example where a contractor sold 100 apple picking bags to group of Koreans and Japanese's in Victoria for \$100 per bag. He then told them that the first day of work is "training" and then disappeared on the second day pocketing the cash from the bag sales and a full day's wage from over 100 pickers.

Must stay in provided accommodation with 2 weeks rent and bond charge.

You need to be cautious of any job opportunity that states you must stay in provided accommodation. The scam here is that they usually have little to no work but need their rooms filled. So they lure you in on the promise that there is work available. Upon arriving they tell you that the season is going to start "soon", sadly soon never comes and by then it's too late and you have lost valuable weeks on your WHV, and being left out of pocket.

The rent is usually overpriced and you will be sharing a room with 2-6 other people who are all here because they were "promised" jobs that never existed.

Untrustworthy contractors

I have lived with people who told me after working with various contractors, they never ended up getting paid for work. If you are unsure if the contractor you are working for is legit, ask for their ABN number. Ask locals in the area if they know

him/her well and how long they have been working in the area. Ask the people working for him about how they are getting paid. Have they ever had trouble?

You can also call the National Harvest Help Line and enquire about contractors as some of them get put under review for a number of things. If they are given the green light, they are good to go. The same can apply for farms.

Sending money in advance before starting work

Any type of work that requires you to send money up front, either cheque, western union, PayPal or bank transfer, is a scam. You should never have to pay up front for anything when starting a job. You wouldn't do it back home, so why do it here?

Working directly with a farm

Working directly for farms are ideal. You will get paid more as you don't have to deal with a contractor and you will usually get a set amount of hours each week. The downside is that it is increasingly hard to find jobs on a farm just using the internet. One of the better ways to find one is to get a car and visit farm to farm asking them directly if they need work. If they don't, just drop them your number and tell them to call you if they ever need a hand.

Another option is to pick up the local phone book and start contacting farms in your area, however this can be a tedious process.

Contractors

A contractor is a middle man between you and the farm, he will source all the workers and send them to the various farms on behalf of the farmer. The farmer pays the contractor for the work, and then the contractor will then pay you after he takes his cut. Working for contractors is a bit more risky as you are not guaranteed work everyday. However it's less effort on your part to find work. You will get picked up and dropped off to and from work everyday and you don't need to call or visit farms asking for work.

Work directly with a farm or a contractor?

If you are just here to work then I suggest going with a farm is the better route. As I said, usually you will be given a set amount of hours each week, and you get paid better. However if you just want to be more flexible and work now and again, going with a contractor is the most sensible route.

To give you a few examples of wages between working for a farm and a contractor, see below:

Hourly work

Contractor- \$17-\$20

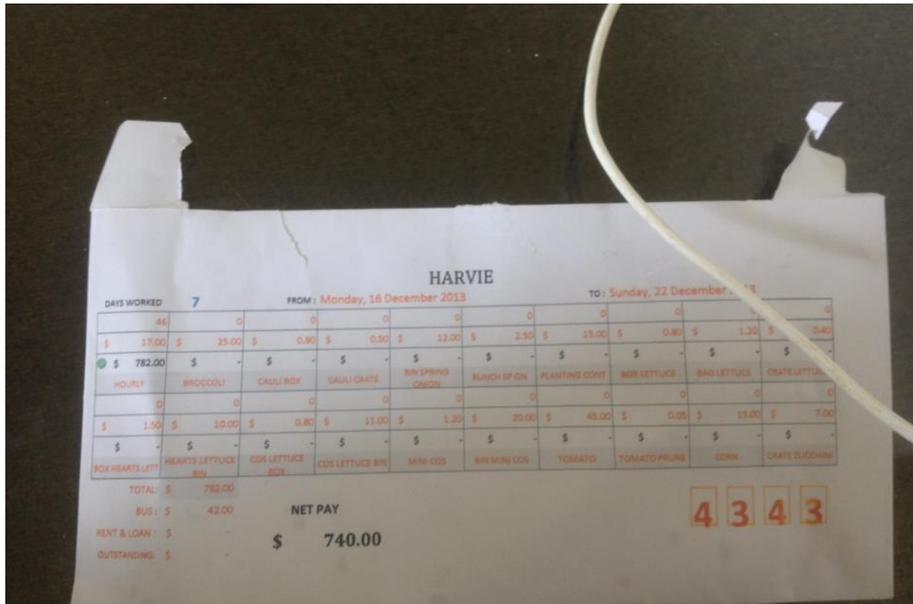
Farm - \$20.67-\$28

A Bin of Onions/Tomatoes

Contractor - \$30-\$45

Farm - \$65

As you can see working directly for the farm is more profitable and you get more money for your work. So if your main goal is to make money, always go with the farmer. It may be longer hours, more days working and less free time, but the loss of time will be a gain in money. If you don't want to work very hard and just get your 88 days signed off, go with the contractor.



Payslip for 16th-22nd December = \$782

I sadly don't have all my payslips as I threw them away. I didn't think to keep them for the writing of this e-book.

Onions are paid by the bin. Every time you fill a bin you are given a ticket, which at the end of the week you cash in. I would usually have around 20-25 tickets a week to cash in depending on how good the onion farms were. This earned me \$800-\$1,000 a week!

Being on good terms with your contractor

I worked with a contractor during my time in rural Oz. The relationship you have with him or her is vital. I had a superb relationship with him, always in commutation, showing him I am a hard worker, playing to his good sides. In return I was always working. If there was work, he would send me there. I hardly had a day off except for a few days during a transition period from one crop to another.

I never turned down work. Whenever he needed me I gladly accepted and worked. If your boss asks you if you want to work and you say no, you will have dropped in the pecking order. Always say yes if you want to make money.

Do a good job wherever he sends you. Do exactly what is asked. Don't cause any trouble with the farmer or your co-workers. I have seen it all too often where backpackers start arguing with the farmer for whatever reason, or are fighting with one of the co-workers. Trust me, it happens more than you think. Never be this guy. Your chances of getting work after that will diminish, greatly!

Can I make \$8,000 in 3 months?

I wish I could answer that but I can't. It depends on so many factors; luck being one of them. I was smart by picking Gatton for my place of work in September (using the harvest guide). I also got lucky as the harvest was good and I was able to make money as a result.

During my time in Gatton, I knew people who were only making \$200-\$400 a week, some even less, for reasons I don't know. I never spoke to them, but from what I could see, I think it was a combination of them being lazy and not wanting to work.

Having said that, I made good friends with people who were making as much as \$1200-\$1600 a week picking onions. God they were fast. I used to think I was fast until I saw them. These guys were making a lot of money, and they had pretty much mastered the art of onion picking.

Others factors such as how fit are you? Can you work in the heat? Will you get lucky and land a nice shed job? All these factors and more come into play when trying to make money in this business.

Don't follow the crowd

During early January time in Gatton, word got around that there was plenty of work going and before you knew it, the place was rammed with backpackers. The caravans were full and everywhere you went you had backpackers looking for a job.

In Gatton it wasn't so bad, as work is usually always plentiful. But in other areas this can be a problem. It's not uncommon to hear stories of towns filling up with

backpackers, with the lack of jobs. You need to be smart when looking for work. As I said, call the agencies, ask them how high the demand for work is, how many backpackers are currently in town. Ring the backpacker hostels and caravans parks. Get the information off the locals before you commit to a place.

Types of harvest work

There are many types of farm work. The most common ones are picking and packing, which I will discuss now.

Picking

Picking, as it sounds, involves you going outside and picking a fruit or vegetable. This can vary from being paid hourly or at contracted rates, which is, the more you pick, the more you earn.

You need to be strong to be picking all the time. The heat is intense. There are spiders and snakes in the farms. And you need to be fast. Some girls were only making 1 bin a day doing Onions, which is \$40 for 9 hours of work, while other girls were doing 3-4 bins, which is \$120-\$160. Picking is hard, but it's not hard as everyone makes it out to be. You just have to be willing to do the work to earn the money.

Packing

Everybody dreams of a packing job. You are usually in a shed cleaning or moving produce, protected in the shade, without doing much heavy lifting. It seems that girls tend to get put in the packing sheds, but I did get lucky and spend about 4-5 weeks in the sheds too. Packing work is always paid by the hour, and requires the least amount of output, so always go for packing jobs if you can.

How my friend made \$18,000 in 14 weeks

We all dream of this when first hearing about doing a WHV in Australia, “I wish I get a job in the mines”. Well the fact of the matter is, it will be almost impossible to get a job in the mines nowadays given the amount of people applying. However you can still make good money on the harvests.

The reason I came to Australia was because a friend of mine told me how he earned \$18,000 in 14 weeks in the previous year, while having his accommodation paid for. He worked on average 10 hours a day, getting paid \$27 an hour. How you may ask? He did it working for a company called Co-operative Bulk Handling (CBH). They have wheat farms around Perth.

Anyone can apply for a job for the wheat harvest which starts around October/November every year. To apply for a job, please visit the following link <http://careers.cbh.com.au/vacancies/>. From around June time until the end of August, vacancies will appear. The role is called “Casual Wheat Harvest positions”; usually around 1,500-3,000 vacancies a year. Anyone can apply.

They have on site accommodation for you, however, you may need your own transport from the housing to where you work. My friend was pretty far from anything when working there. Even a trip to the local supermarket would take him an hour’s drive. He said the work was hard and very hot. The average day would be around 8-10 hours, and it wasn’t easy. He didn’t have a car, but managed to get a lift into work everyday from someone staying in the same accommodation as him.

Depending on the yield of the harvest, work can last anything from 6-16 weeks. The starting wage being \$27 hour, including superannuation. My friend managed to total up around \$18,000 in just 14 weeks!

Jobs like this can be found. It’s all about knowing where to look. So come June time, click on the link I provided above, and good luck.

Graincorp

Graincorp is another company similar to CBH. They also have harvest jobs, which will sign off for your 2nd year visa. There harvests usually start around July to August and October to February.

For more information and applications, please visit the following link:

<http://www.graincorp.com.au/careers/harvest-recruitment>

The best times to visit Gatton

Before you read any further of this chapter, please remember that each harvest season is based on a number of factors. Just because what I have said below was true for 2012 and 2013, may not hold true for the future. Floods, bad harvests, lack of rainfall, along with 101 other factors can change when it's best to visit Gatton, or any other rural place for that matter.

September – December

Usually from September up until December red and brown onion picking will be happening. To get this job, all you need to do is turn up and you're allowed on the farm. The contractor you work for will tell you a place to meet and he will pick everyone up and take them to the farm. This goes on for around 3-4 months NON STOP! It's very likely you will always find work during this period.

As of writing you are given \$40 per bin. If the onions are small you will get \$45 depending on the farm.

November - December

Green beans also get picked between November to December. Pay rates vary from 80c-\$1 per kilo of green beans. The money for this is not so great, but an average day's work yields around \$60-\$90 dollars for 6-10 hours work, depending on your speed.

November - January

During November all the way till January you get pumpkins and watermelons. This work is all paid hourly. Once again, it depends on the harvest and the amount farmers in Gatton growing the crop that year. For example, I did around 7 weeks doing

pumpkins non-stop. I asked my farmers about the crop last year and they told me it wasn't so great and they only had work for around 4-5 weeks.

Watermelons are usually about the same time period to pumpkins. I did them for a week, but my housemate did them for the whole season. He used to bring home around \$1000 a week.

May – September

I spoke in depth to my contractor who told me the best time to visit Gatton is from May up until December for constant work. During the months of May to September you will mostly be doing broccoli and cabbage. Both of these are usually paid by the bin; \$27 for both.

I was told even from the lazy backpackers that cabbage is good money, so if they are making good money from it, anyone can! A friend of mine has done broccoli for over 4 years and he estimated his hourly is from \$25-\$60 an hour depending on the crop and team he is working in.

If I had to tell you when to visit Gatton, anytime between May to December is good for constant work assuming everything went well harvest wise. January until mid May is the quiet period for Gatton. Work is still there to do, but not as abundant.

Finding a house share

Some regional areas are in a pretty dire state of affairs if you want to live there long term. Most rural places are filled with caravan parks, crawling with mice, cockroaches and god knows what else. The motels are usually of an okay standard if you are lucky, but prices usually start from as much as \$60 per night! I have listed a few ways you can try and hopefully found a nice place to live like I did.

My house share

The house below is where I stayed during my three months in Gatton.





As you can see the house is clean and new. I shared a bedroom with my friend for \$90 a week each. This was later dropped down to \$85 a week - all bills included. It had everything we needed; a garage, a bath, shower and a toilet, which is inside the house (you will be surprised how many are outside). The total number of people living in the house was 4. In a caravan park, you will often get 4 people in one caravan!

Using Gumtree

Gumtree is a great website for looking for a house share. Select the area you want to work in and see what's on offer. If the advertisement shows no pictures of the house, this usually means it's going to be quite messy, as we found out when picking our first house using Gumtree.

We had mice, cockroaches and ants all inside our first house share. It consisted of 3 bedrooms with 8 people living there. I moved out after 1 day.

House shares usually start from \$80+ per week

Airbnb

www.Airbnb.com is a good resource for finding housing in any area. They usually tend to be cheaper than hotels too. I would suggest looking at Airbnb for a short term option until you find a suitable house share for yourself.

Airbnb rooms usually start from \$25+ a night.

Caravan parks

Any place that has a lot of farm work and backpackers coming, there will always be caravan parks. They tend to be dirty, overpriced, cramped and full of mice. If you are lucky you may find a park which is looked after very well, clean and actually homely, but there are few and far in between.

A spot in a caravan start from \$85+ a week.

IGA supermarkets and local notice boards

Visiting the local IGA supermarket of the town you are in is a great place to look for house shares. Take Gatton for example, every time I visited the IGA I would always see at least 3-4 advertisements for people offering rooms for rent in their homes.

Prices tend to be much cheaper than any other option in Gatton. Some notices stipulated that you must work for a certain person if you lived in that house. I would tend to stay away from these types of advertisements (scams).

Real estate agents

If you plan to stay in your regional area for any length of time, I would seriously suggest renting a house. If you get a 2 or 3 bedroom, you can sublet the other rooms and end up living in the house rent free. There is always the risk of not being able to fill the rooms though, so be cautious when going down this road.

Rentals tend to start from \$900+ a month, excluding bills.

Camping

I really don't suggest this for anything longer than a few days. Showering, eating and sleeping like this while working is just a huge pain. If you want to save some money for a few nights while finding work, okay. But anything longer, in the Australian heat, I wouldn't bother.

Camp sites start from \$0+.

Sleeping in your car/campervan

Remember by law you are not allowed to sleep in a car or campervan, even if it is parked up or on someone's drive way, it is still against the law. The fine for being caught is up to \$1000 each time. You are required to park your car or campervan at a caravan park in order to sleep inside it.

Caravans charge from \$20+ week for placing your car on their site.

How I maintained a budget of \$511 a month

This is not lie. I really did this. When you don't travel around Australia and live in one spot, it's actually not that expensive. I listed all my costs down on a spreadsheet during my months doing rural work. Below is for December:

1	Date	Food	Travel	Sports	Alcohol	Misc	Rent		Daily Total	Misc Items
2	01-Dec	6					11.6	✓	17.6	
3	02-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
4	03-Dec	6					11.6	✓	17.6	
5	04-Dec	2					11.6	✓	13.6	
6	05-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
7	06-Dec	8.5					11.6	✓	20.1	
8	07-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
9	08-Dec	10					11.6	✓	21.6	
10	09-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
11	10-Dec	12					11.6	✓	23.6	
12	11-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
13	12-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
14	13-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
15	14-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
16	15-Dec	10					11.6	✓	21.6	
17	16-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
18	17-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
19	18-Dec	20					11.6	✓	31.6	
20	19-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
21	20-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
22	21-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
23	22-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
24	23-Dec					2.5	11.6	✓	14.1	laundry powder
25	24-Dec	15					11.6	✓	26.6	
26	25-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
27	26-Dec	8.5					11.6	✓	20.1	
28	27-Dec	9				30	11.6	✓	41.6	Internet
29	28-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
30	29-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
31	30-Dec	7				5.5	11.6	✓	24.1	gloves/hat
32	31-Dec						11.6	✓	11.6	
33		114	0	0	0	38	359.6		511.6	

Rent

\$360 a month in a nice 2 bedroom brick house. Everything in the house was new, and it had a garage and a nice little back garden. Much better to live here than in backpacker accommodation or in a caravan park, which sometimes actually cost more!

As you can see, I spent \$0 on alcohol. I lived in a quiet house, the people were on the same tone as me, they wanted to work, and save money. Living in a place like this will curb your spending habits a lot. You won't feel the "need" to get drunk because nobody else is. You won't be spending absurd amount of money on booze, which is overpriced anyway in Oz.

Food

Although I spent approx. \$100-\$120 a month on food, I wasn't eating junk or low energy food. My meals consisted of the following:

- oats + peanut butter + honey
- pasta with mince meat/tuna/sardines
- sweet potato with chicken/beef/tuna
- peanut butter sandwiches
- butternut pumpkin soup
- pancakes with peanut butter and chocolate
- Weet-Bix + toast

I also got a lot of fruit and veg in my diet, all for free, as I would trade food with my work friends who worked on other farms. I did eat sweets and cakes now and again when they were on offer. I can't count the amount of times I got chicken or cakes off as high as 90% off. I would buy them all up and stock them in the freezer.

I ate good quality food the whole time I was in rural Oz. I didn't eat out, because the food in the rural areas didn't look that great and I knew I could make it at home for cheaper and better quality. I didn't eat McDonalds or KFC - that food is way too greasy for me. I was saving all my money for when I hit the bigger places like Sydney and Melbourne.

Internet

My house sadly didn't have any internet, which was not a problem, as I went into the local Optus store and managed to get 3G Wifi. Depending on where you find work, ask the local phone shop if you get signals from Optus or Telstra. Some areas will only work with Telstra, so be sure to ask before you buy.

I had a few problems with my Optus package. The internet would cut out now and again. It is fine for surfing web pages and emailing, but don't expect to be downloading any movies though. Do that before you arrive!

Average price for a monthly package is around \$30 for 3GB of data. If you use the internet a lot, use Google chrome. Chrome has an option to block all images. This way you can spend more time on the internet, while using less data.

Misc

If you're working, you won't really have many costs other than food and rent. Some places will even pick you up and drop you back home from work, door to door service - at a charge. If you get a good job and do things as I suggested, you can end up making a lot of money.

Your other costs will be on gloves, hats, sunscreen and toiletries. I suggest getting these from discount shops as they are much cheaper than supermarkets.

How much money do you need?

How long's a piece of string?

Well, for this question I am only going to talk about how much money you need in rural Oz. A budget of around \$600-\$1000 a month should be enough. Worst case scenario, it takes you two months to find work, so I would have around \$2,000 saved up while looking for work. This is assuming all you are doing is looking for rural work to complete your 88 days and not much travelling.

How do I claim tax?

This subject is a bit of a grey area on the internet and depends on a lot of factors. As a person holding a WHV, you are usually considered a non-tax resident for tax purposes. This means that you are not entitled to any tax back from money earned and you will be taxed at 32.5% for every \$1 earned up until \$80,000. If you are a tax resident then you pay 0% tax on the first \$18,000 you earned in Australia.

Now to be able to claim back your tax, you need to prove that you are an Australian tax resident. This can be done in a number of ways:

Generally, you will be an Australian resident for tax purposes if any of the following apply:

- *You have always lived in Australia or you have come to Australia and live here permanently.*
- *You are an Australian travelling overseas temporarily and do not set up a permanent home in another country.*
- *You are an overseas student who has come to Australia to study and are enrolled in a course that is more than six months long.*
- *You have been in Australia continuously for six months or more, and for most of that time you worked in the one job and lived at the same place.*
- *You have been in Australia for more than half of the financial year, unless your usual home is overseas and you do not intend to live in Australia.*

Source: "Work out your tax residency".(2013). Retrieved February 1st 2014, from <http://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/International-tax-for-individuals/Work-out-your-tax-residency/>

The ATO have a questionnaire on their website, which will give you an indication if you are a tax resident or not. So give it a go: <http://www.ato.gov.au/Calculators-and-tools/Are-you-a-resident/>

Tips to become a tax resident

While it's not always the case, following the steps below may help you become a tax resident for tax purposes:

- Stay in Australia for more than 6 months, in one place and in one job, ideally.
- Stay in rented or leased accommodation; not hostels, airbnb, motels or campsites.
- Become a member of community groups, gyms, churches etc.

Doing the above will only help your situation in becoming a tax resident. It won't guarantee anything.

Whenever you fill in your TFN declarations for your new employer, I would always suggest putting yourself down as a tax resident, even if your employer instructs you not to do this. The choice is up to you and no one else. So just for now put yourself down as a tax resident for tax purposes.

Having an audit trail to prove you worked your 88 days

The Australian government may ask you for extra proof when filling in an application for your second WHV. This is due to the amount of people trying to trick the Australian immigration, and corrupt farmers who charge a fee of \$500-\$2000 to sign off 1263 Forms, without the applicant having to complete their 88 days of rural work.

Extract from the Australian Visa Bureau site:

You will need to be able to prove that you completed the requirement before your second year visa is granted. You can do this by providing evidence with your application.

The evidence can include, but is not limited to the following:

- *A bank statement covering the entire period of your claimed specified work*
- *Bus tickets, accommodation or general receipts in your name*
- *Payslips*
- *Group certificates*
- *Tax returns*
- *Employer references on official letterhead*

Source: "Second Year Visa - Applying for a Second Year Working Holiday Visa". (2014). Retrieved February 1st 2014, from <http://www.visabureau.com/australia/second-year-visa.aspx>

A lot of people don't know anything about this. They keep no records of their time spent in the rural locations, and end up getting their second year visa applications rejected based on lack of evidence. Below I have listed how you should keep your paper trail while working in rural Oz.

Shopping receipts

It doesn't matter where you shop, Coles, the local book store, Liquor store or even a newsstand. Keep as many receipts as you can that show both the date and location. So you can later prove you were where you said you were.

Deposit money into your bank account

Even if you are not earning enough to save, put all your salary into your account even if you have to take it all out the next day. Each time you put money into your account, it will show on your statement the location of deposit. I regularly put my pay in weekly, so I had a timestamp of my whole duration in Gatton.

Bus and train tickets

If you used the Greyhound bus service, you will be given a receipt with your name and details of your destination. Keep a hold of this. You may be asked for it when applying for your second year visa as proof of your date of arrival to the town. Even if you caught the train, you are still given a ticket. If not, ask for one at the counter or service desk.

Rent receipts

During my time in Gatton, my rent receipts were written on a sticky note. The paper didn't even have my full name or the address of the house I was living in. I have attached a template rent receipt letter at the end of this book, which you can print off and hand to your tenants. It is important that this document shows your name, and the address of the house. This can also help when you try to claim tax at the end of your WHV.

Volunteering

If you are WWOOFing or working in return for food and accommodation, you may have a harder time getting more evidence than others. When you do make a purchase

in a shop, make sure to use your credit or debit card instead of paying for cash if you can. This way you still have an electronic paper trail. I used to pay everything I could using my debit card.

Tax returns

If you worked directly for a farm, this should be simple enough. You will be getting taxed accordingly and everything will be fine. This may not always be the case if you are getting paid cash-in-hand. So always ask your boss on what the situation is and if you are able to get tax return forms off him or her. Ask for pay roll receipts before you leave, if possible. If they can't provide this, ask them to write you a letter of reference saying you worked there.

Local communities

Joining the local gym or library where you get put on their system and are given a card, is another way to prove you were in a particular place. I would visit my local library all the time and use the internet using my card pass.

Getting a farmer to write you a reference

If you work for a contractor, chances are during your 88 days you will be on various farms. I think I was on at least 25. On one farm I worked for a good 7 weeks, and managed to build a relationship with the farmer. At the end of my time I asked if he could sign a reference saying I worked at his farm, stating all the days I worked, the amount of time worked and what exactly I was doing. He was more than glad to do this. Now I have got another piece of evidence when applying for my second year WHV.

You don't need to do all of the above, but I would suggest you having some sort of trail on your bank account and keeping living cost receipts and tax return receipts.

But I can't speak English very well

Okay so you can't speak a word of English. Chances of you getting a job in the city are quite low. But how about in the rural areas? Not a problem. I have worked with hundreds of people who have little to no English skills in Gatton. The good thing about farm tasks is that for the most part you just follow what everyone else is doing. I have worked in packing sheds full of Asian women who can't speak much English, but have mastered their jobs.

I have worked with French and Italians while picking Pumpkins. Once again, they didn't speak very much English, but they were all doing the work well. The problems you face are when you try to communicate with either a farmer or a contractor asking for work. So it's best to make friends with English speaking people so they can act as a translator.

You won't get discriminated against being any ethnicity in rural Oz. The farmers need the workers and they are glad you are here to help. Some may make the odd joke and remark, but that's just the way of life here. So the fact that you don't speak English well, won't be too much of a problem in rural Oz.

How to meet people when travelling alone in Oz?

I think this is one of the biggest questions that people ask when they travel to Oz. They are worried they will fail to meet anybody. This could not be further from the truth. Everywhere you go you will see backpackers. I have listed a few places to use below so you won't ever feel alone.

Couch Surfing

If you are travelling alone and are worried you won't know anybody in the city you are arriving at, check out <https://www.couchsurfing.org/> This website allows you to stay at other people's couches or spare rooms. It's a great way to meet people who already live in the city and can give you information only the locals have. Best of all, it's free!

Airbnb

<http://airbnb.com/> works very much like Couch Surfing, except this time you are given a bed in a private/shared room, and you have to pay. More so in Oz, people are turning their spare rooms into a mini backpackers' lodge, offering 4-6 people in a single room. This is also a great place to spend your first few days in Oz. You will have a mix of backpackers and locals staying there. The ideal mix, I think.

Hostels

I don't really like hostels as they are overpriced, usually dirty and they fit too many people in one dorm in Oz. However, they are by far the best way to meet people. Hostels are the number one way to meet people when travelling around Oz. Each is rimmed full with backpackers. Check out www.hostelworld.com for hostel reviews.

Internet forums

All you need to do is a quick Google search and you will come across many forums with people asking the same thing as you: “Where can I meet people in oz?”. Send them a message asking to meet up, or make a post yourself telling people where you will be on certain dates, and inviting people to meet up.

Dating apps

Dating apps such as Tindr, POF and Skout are all useful if you have a smart phone. Not for finding a boyfriend or girlfriend, but rather to make friends and meet people. The good thing about these apps is, you can make friends before you even land in Oz.

Do you need a car?

Do you need a car? No.

Should you get a car? Hell yes!!

By having a car the chances of you getting a job increase dramatically. Think about it. rural jobs are in hard to reach locations in Australia. How else are you going to get there?

I was lucky with Gatton as it is only one hour away from Brisbane and it has public buses running through the town. Some parts of Oz have nothing, so you will need a car to be able to get there. Also, not all employers will pick you up from work every day and drop you back off. So once again, you will need a car to get to and from work.

It's really hard to quantify, but I would say that if you had a car, the chances of finding work would increase by at least 70%! Just scout the job boards yourself. See how many jobs require you to have your own car.

I will give you one example where a car can reap rewards. When I was picking onions, the car owners would come and pick around 2-3am, using headlamps to see at night. At this time of the day it is much cooler and they got more work done. I, on the other hand, had to wait for the bus to pick me up at 4am, and I didn't start work until 5am. So the people with cars had already done 3 hours more work than me, and they will finish before it gets too hot, while I am in the heat, being less productive.

Cars are not cheap in Oz, but if you keep it in good condition, you can usually sell them for a good price afterwards. If you are with friends it's worth going in on one together, as it much cheaper and the rewards will be greater.

Petrol currently is \$1.52 per litre, if you are in a group of 3 or more, I think getting a car is the right idea. It won't cost each individual much. Assuming the car is near the condition of purchase, when you leave you can sell it for 70-80% of what you paid for, maybe more!

Medicare, TFN and setting up a bank account

Medicare

Setting up your Medicare is simple. The following passport holders can apply for Medicare:

New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Italy, Belgium, Malta, Slovenia and Norway.

To get your Medicare sorted, just bring your passport and a printed copy of your WHV, which you got via email, to any of the local Medicare branches. The link below will help you find the closest one to you.

<http://www.medicarelocals.gov.au/internet/medicarelocals/publishing.nsf/Content/my-ml#.UuxwBbQW1iM>

Medicare provides:

<http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/subjects/medicare-services#a3>

Ambulance cover

A word of warning, Medicare does not cover ambulance fees, which can sometimes total up to \$700 or more. So if you don't have any other kind of travel insurance, be sure to buy ambulance insurance.

Victoria: <http://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/Membership.html>

Queensland: <https://ambulance.qld.gov.au> (Free service if you are a Queensland resident)

Other useful sites to get cover:

<http://www.medibank.com.au/healthcover/insurance/ambulance-cover/>

<http://www.bupa.com.au/health-insurance/cover/ambulance>

<http://www.iselect.com.au/private-health-insurance/info/extras-cover/ambulance-cover.jsp>

Tax File Number (TFN)

Getting your TFN couldn't be simpler either. Just follow the link I have given you below. You should be in Australia when you apply for your TFN as you will need an address to send the details to.

<http://www.ato.gov.au/Forms/Permanent-migrants-or-temporary-visitors---online-TFN-application/>

You need a TFN number before you start work. This is needed for you to pay your taxes when you start work. Without it your tax rate may end up being as high as 45%, so be sure to get one before you start work.

Setting up a bank account in Oz

There are many banks you can use. The most popular are the following:

<https://www.commbank.com.au/>

<http://www.anz.com.au/>

www.westpac.com.au

<http://www.nab.com.au/>

I ended up going with NAB, purely because I could open my bank account from the UK. Upon arriving, all I had to do was visit a local branch and they had my debit card and internet banking ready for me. All I needed to show them was proof of ID.

To apply for an NAB bank account click the link below:

<http://www.nab.com.au/personal/accounts/transaction-accounts/nab-classic-banking-account.html>

Cheap one way flights from the UK to Oz

Depending on the time of the year, flight prices can rise and fall dramatically. Usually around Christmas and school holidays flights tend to be more expensive. If you are looking for a one way flight from the UK to Australia, I would suggest using the method below. It tends to work out cheaper. I managed to get a flight from London to Bangkok, then another flight to The Gold Coast for £444, one way. This is how I did it:

First of all, I got a 1 way from London to Bangkok using Oman air. This cost me £347. I lived in Bangkok for over a year, so I stayed there for a week stopover. Then I booked a flight from Bangkok to The Gold Coast for £97 using Air Asia. This came to a grand total of £444. Be careful when you book individual legs of flights. If you miss your first flight or if it's delayed, they are not held accountable to get you onto your next flight.

For a one-way flight from London to Sydney, Brisbane or Perth, I was looking at £600-£700. I would suggest seeing if you can fly into big Asian airports first, such as Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or Singapore, and then finding another flight that takes you to Australia.

The most useful websites I found for finding flights are:

www.skyscanner.net

www.statravel.co.uk

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