

Making a tree change

Michelle Zorzi and her partner Tony Allen moved to the region with a dream to create a better lifestyle.

Their home in Merbein came with a big yard and lots of fruit trees that the couple pictured enjoying all year round. But they soon learned about an unmanaged Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) problem that at first seemed like it would ruin their plans.

"Our goal was to be a bit more self-sufficient, save some money, and also eat organic produce that we grew ourselves," Michelle said.

"We were here a couple of weeks and the previous owners mentioned that all that fruit we were so excited to get, they hadn't been able to get for years

because fruit fly was getting to it.

"I did feel quite defeated when I heard that. We didn't know where to even start. We didn't know anything about fruit fly."

Michelle and Tony turned to Fruit Fly Murray Valley for help, and they are now so confident managing Qfly that they love working outside in their garden.

"The people who came out were able to see some of the trees were not healthy and would have to come down," Michelle said.

"From there they showed us how to prune – how to get the trees to the right size so they could be managed and netted. And they also gave me the confidence that we can do this. It's easy, it's really not difficult at all."



The Fruit Fly Murray Valley program is supported by the Victorian Government

For more information call (03) 5022 0327 or visit fruitflymv.com.au

