

Fighting fruit fly together

Trish Kelly and her neighbours in Merbein have banded together to fight Queensland fruit fly in their area.

Their joined efforts to learn more about fruit fly and how to control it in their gardens are making a big difference.

"As we are seeing less fruit fly in our traps, we are gaining more confidence in ourselves and our practices," Trish said.

"We've created a little system where we're managing fruit fly, and I think if more people could work together there would be more and more pockets where fruit fly is managed. Then it is less likely to be as devastating as it has been to the district."

Trish and her husband Garry manage a

large property, where they grow roses for propagation and share part of their land with Burundian community members for traditional food production and knowledge sharing. The couple also grows fruit trees, including citrus, pome, and more unusual varieties like coffee bean and banana.

"I've always had a vegetable garden and I like to grow tomatoes, capsicums, and all those things that fruit fly love," Trish said.

"But increasingly we were finding that early in the season we would have fruit fly in our veggies, so I just stopped growing them.

"Now we have the knowledge and support to manage it, we can get back to what we were doing, but also manage the fruit fly."



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

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

