

## Farmgate Trail Roundup 31/3/06

Chestnuts are still in season with an easy to peel variety ready to pick in the next few days, visit Nutwood Farm and Kookootonga in Mt Irvine where you'll be able to pick your own. Pecans and walnuts are just about mature enough, David will let you know next week when they'll be ready.

Lots of apple varieties available, Jonathons, Jonagold, Delicious, a few Gala still around. The first Granny Smiths of the season are coming in now. We're seeing the tail end of the Genoa Fig variety, they are being replaced by the white Adriatics figs at the moment. Persimmons and pears are right in season.

We have five itineraries on the Farmgate Trail, check them out on the website. "The Gorge run" takes in the Galston /Dural part of the trail.

On the Gorge run you will find Charlton Creek Studio Gallery displaying sculptures, paintings and wooden items.

Berry Good Farms grow perfect hydroponic strawberries, Galston strawberries have leafy green salad vegetables and fresh juicy plums to tempt you as well as their strawberries.

Nati Bros roses, also on the Gorge Run are well worth a visit, pick up some fragrant roses and you can even prearrange a group tour of their delightful 40 acre property.

There is a specialist geranium and pelargonium nursery on the gorge run. Jim & Riva can advise on the most suitable plant, they have some unusual & rare varieties of pelargonium available. They also cultivate a range of herbs and citrus that they use in the various condiments displayed in the old barn at Geranium Cottage.

Further up Old Northern Rd is Balanced Essentials where they are planting beds of lavender, citrus, natives and other plants that will be used to produce essential oils. Some 2000 years ago, the father of medicine, Hippocrates recognised the value of aromatherapy, he believed that aromatic baths and scented massages were important in restoring and maintaining physical and mental health. You can learn more about essential oils at Balanced Essentials in Glenorie. Groups are welcome for tours and educationals but you must book. Otherwise drop in during the week.

Next on the Gorge Trail is the popular Kenthurst Fish Farm, Rosalie and Colin are very happy to show you around, you'll see how Koi are hatched and if you have any questions about how best to filtrate your fish tank just ask. The kids will enjoy this one.

Some of our members are not able to be open to the public all the time but most are happy to show you their produce or operation if you make an appointment. Find these members by clicking onto Taste Buy & Learn within our website. One member is

Alpacandes alpaca Stud Farm on the Gorge run, Keith & Jeanette can show you their beautiful Alpaca's but you'll need to phone first.

Darling Mills Farm grows a wide variety of herbs, if you shop at the monthly Hawkesbury Harvest Market in Castle Hill you will probably be familiar with Stevens herbs. You can also purchase them at the Farm itself but again you'll need to arrange a time first.

Since you are already on the Gorge Trail you might like to visit a couple of the wineries, Talai Estate is a friendly, family run concern in Sth Maroota, If you call in on the weekends, you'll be able to sample some local wine or just have a coffee. The historic Tizzana Winery in Ebenezer have just finished picking cabernet sauvignon and petit verdot grapes, there'll be 18mths of processing now before bottling.

Check the website for details as not of all our members are on the Farmgate map. If you're not on the internet, write to PO Box 447 Windsor NSW 2756, we can send you a map

Don't forget this weekend the 6<sup>th</sup> Hawkesbury National Fiddle Festival is on at the Hawkesbury Showground in Clarendon, three days of violin, orchestra and string music. Workshops will be held for kids and bigger kids. Look at their website [www.fiddlefestival .com](http://www.fiddlefestival.com) for details.

Good luck to Dubbo who are holding a fresh produce market on the lawn at Dubbo Visitors Centre this morning, if you're quick you might make that one, it ends at 12 noon - Free entry. Great to see fresh produce markets popping up everywhere.

Farm Gate Members	Address	Suburb	Telephone
Balanced Essentials	3046 Old Northern Road	Glenorie	0296520555
Basha Produce	826 Wisemans Ferry Road	South Maroota	0245750226
Berry Good Farms	53 Arcadia Road	Galston	0296531511
Breewood Galleries	310 Windsor Street	Richmond	0245789100
Charlton's Creek Studio Gallery	11 Charltons Creek Road	Berrilee	0296551564
Enniskillen Orchard	753 Grose Vale Road	Grose Vale	0245721124
Fernbrook Botanical Garden & Gallery	2 Queen Street	Kurrajong Heights	0245677330
First Farm Vineyard	221 Wollombi Road.	St Albans	0245682024
Fords Farm	1274 Singleton Rd	Wisemans Ferry	0245663127
Galston Strawberries at No 359	359 Galston Rd	Galston	0296531082
Geranium Cottage	828 Old Northern Rd	Middle Dural	0296520475
Good AZ Gold Tours and Transfers	PO Box 5587	South Windsor	0408973267
Hawkesbury Vegetable Farm	135 Carrs Road	Wilberforce	0245763529
Helleborus Down Under	PO Box 3082	Bilpin	0245671107
Kenthurst Fish Farm	88 Porters Road	Kenthurst	0296541666
Kookootonga Chestnut & Walnut Farm	247 Mt. Irvine Road	Mt. Irvine	0247562136
Kurrajong Australian Native Foods	PO Box 13	North Richmond	0245677000
Lauders Loft	14 Blacks Road	Arcadia	0296532422
Lochiel House	1259 Bells Line of Road	Kurrajong Heights	0245677754
Loxley on Bellbird Hill	993 Bells Line of Road	Kurrajong Heights	0245677711
M & A Butchery	62 King Road	Wilberforce	0245751233
Mt. Tomah Botanic Gardens	Bells Line of Road	Mt. Tomah	0245672154
Nati Bros. Roses	790 Old Northern Rd	Dural	0296511375
Panthers North Richmond	33 Beaumont Avenue	North Richmond	0245711757
Penrith Valley Oranges	800 Castlereagh Road	Castlereagh	0247762332
Pepes Ducks	17 Walker St.	South Windsor	0245774233
Pine Crest Orchard	2549 Bells Line of Road	Bilpin	0245671143
Renaissance Rocking Horses	143 Pitt Town Road	McGraths Hill	0245778697
Sassafras Creek	83 Old Bells Line of Road	Kurrajong	0245721471
Sebel Resort & Spa, Hawkesbury Valley	61 Windsor Road	Windsor	0245774222
Talai Estate	748 Wisemans Ferry Road	South Maroota	0245728493
Tanglin Lodge Alpacas	128 Tennyson Road	Tennyson	0245766929
The Crepe Myrtle Man	47 Post Office Road	Glenorie	0296520608
The Orange Spot	247 Wilberforce Road	Wilberforce	0245772763
Tizzana Winery	518 Tizzana Road	Ebenezer	0245791150
Toque Restaurant and Café	85 Old Bells Line of Road	Kurrajong	0245732724
Tutti Fruitti at Bilpin	1917 Bells Line of Road	Bilpin	0245678436
UWS Winery and Self Guided Tour.	UWS Hawkesbury, Vines Drive	Richmond	0245701296