

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 2nd April, 2005

Susan Fennelly 4575 4095

IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

Plenty of apples – this week we have **Fuji**, along with all the other varieties such as Jonathon, Granny Smith, Johnagold, and Golden Delicious as well as pears, Fuyu persimmons, Plums and raspberries. I know that there still some figs still available.

Vege wise - silverbeet, & pumpkins, loads of egg plants, celery, shallots, English spinach and dutch carrots and of course don't forget pick your own chestnuts and hot off the press yesterday late, was news that the **walnuts** have started 'coming down' so you'll be able to feast on those as well as the spectacular autumn foliage of the gardens of Mt Wilson and Mt Irvine.

NEW Farm Gate Map is now available!

Thought I'd let you know some of the new farms and features on the latest map – these new additions certainly highlight the diversity of our farms.

There is the addition of a 'wine trail', which includes all the details of the wineries, such as **Talai Estate** and **UWS Yarramundi Winery**. There's a new **pick your own** 'mandarin' farm 'Ford's Farm' on the Hills run – of course not quite the season yet – early May.

Also appearing along the Hills run, is an **essential oil/aromatherapy farm** which will be planting lavender, and you'll be able to see and hear all about the uses of essential oils.

Also a couple of new **artisans and restaurants** on the Mountain run which will feature local produce and some fantastic art & craft pieces, for example, rocking horses. (Sassafras Creek, Renaissance Rocking Horse and Toque Restaurant)

The map will be ready for downloading from the website by mid next week, but you can pick up a copy from the Tourism Office located at Clarendon opposite the RAAF Base this weekend.

EVENTS

The Bilpin Bite Sunday 3 Apr 05

The Bilpin Bite, Bilpin's Annual Food Festival and Market showcases the areas local produce, delicious food, art and craft, plants.

Contact Details: Jenny Harold: 0245671222 pmjaharold@bigpond.com

Kuring-gai Food and Wine Festival – Sunday 10th April

One of our members (Granny Smith Natural Food Market) who are advocates of local and healthy food for families, will have a stall at this festival and will be handing out Farm Gate Maps on the day as well.

For further info contact peter@grannysmith.biz

Mt. Tomah Botanic Garden

Superheroes Quest

Who is stealing the nuts off the trees? Help solve the clues to find the culprit.

When: March, April and May, 10 am to 4 pm

Where: Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Cost: \$2.80

Bookings: 4567 2154

Update on fruit and veges in season

For the latest update of fruit and veges in season from our farms and to download any of the seasonal itineraries as well as the whole map, go to the website

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

All the information on the Farm Gate Trail will be on the website or from Hawkesbury Valley Tourism Office at Clarendon on **4588 5895**, where along with the Farm Gate map, your listeners can pick up the notes of today's roundup

Best Days to Drive the Trail

Friday or Saturday are the recommended days for self-drive tours of the Farm Gate Trail.

Fruit on the Trail

Apples – Pinecrest Orchard, Enniskillen Orchard, Orange Spot, Waddell's Orchard
Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen –359 Galston Strawberries, Enniskillen Orchard, The Orange Spot
Raspberries – Enniskillen Orchard
Chestnuts & Walnuts – Nutwood Farm, Kookootonga Walnut and Chestnut Farm

Veges on the Trail

Roma and round Tomatoes, corn, potatoes, lettuce, rhubarb, eggplant, beans, snow peas, mushrooms, cabbage, beetroot, Lebanese cucumbers, shallots, capsicum, eggplant, broccoli, butternut pumpkins, Jap Qld Blue & Baby carrots.

Other Produce – Food & Wine

Wine, port including white port, aleatico; Verjus; Goat cheese & yoghurt; baked crisp breads including lavosh, honey, apple juice, free range eggs, ice cream with real fruit, fruit rollups with fruit fresh from the orchard. Jams, pickles and sauces and the range from the native bush tucker foods. Peking ducks, also sausages, breast fillet, Maryland & whole ducks; abattoir and butcher – large range of beef, pork and lamb, goat, venison and ostrich. Spring Water and Silver Perch.

Other Produce – Fibre & Flora

Koi and Goldfish, silver perch, field roses, Crepe Myrtles, pelargoniums and geraniums, alpacas & alpaca products such as jumpers, scarves etc. Open gardens and galleries with pottery, paintings and bowls and platters.