

## Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2004

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### IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

The navel oranges & Imperial mandarins & **grapefruit** are very sweet and juicy & of course if you're into jam making there are Seville oranges! In the way of apples there are still some pink lady and granny smiths & there are also some pears around. The Tomatoes are fabulous at the moment, there's sweet potato, mushrooms, broccoli, cauliflower & pumpkins. For the latest update of the fruit and veges in season from our farms, check out the website.

This week Simon I had a chat with Pepe's Ducks – Mr Pepe Bonaccordo

Pepe was born and raised on a subsistence farm in Sicily and in the late sixties he decided to leave Sicily and travel to London where he worked as a waiter. However in 1970 the opportunity arose for a new lifestyle in Australia and so he left London and continued his skills as a waiter in Parramatta.

#### How did he come to start selling ducks?

Well as he had spent a number of years in the food industry as a waiter, he saw the opportunity for wholesaling value added poultry ie chicken fillet, kiev, ducks, quails and pigeons. In 1976 he started with 22 ducks in his backyard.

#### Today I believe he is the largest provider of ducks in Australia?

Yes, and in New Zealand as well. He's very passionate about the duck industry – he built his own hatchery and 6 farms of his own, plus 11 contract growing farms which supply the processing plant that he built in Windsor. In all he employs over 100 in the Hawkesbury and his two sons, Peter and Mario have taken up leadership of the business which frees Pepe up for a bit more golf!

He supplies fresh and frozen whole Peking ducks as well as breast, fillet and the sausages are very tempting.

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#### Events

**The Ladybird Chronicles** exhibition - Mount Tomah from 3 to 18 July. It is a spectacular outdoor photographic display that captures the secret lives of beetles. Also, 'Beetles Bugs and Beasties' is our quest theme. While aphids, mealybugs and scale insects are the staple diet of Ladybirds, just before hibernating for Winter it would seem that they often eat protein-rich pollen and then look for comfortable quarters and friends for company.

If your listeners haven't been able to download the map from the website they can call into the Visitor Centre at Clarendon (opposite the RAAF Base) and pick up a copy.

All details on the website at [www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)

**The River Drive:** Penrith Valley Oranges – navel oranges, Strawberry Farm at Vineyard (local strawberries & corn), Tizzana Winery, Hawkesbury Estate (Seville oranges) and The Orange

Spot, (**Navels, Mandarins, & Honeycomb**) & M & N Butchery at Wilberforce, Pepe's Ducks at South Windsor, Tanglin Lodge Alpacas at Tennyson. Then cross the River - Basha's Orchard (advanced trees), Galston Strawberries, Berry Good Farms, and Nati Roses, Geranium Cottage, The Bay Road Gallery & Charltons Creek Studio Gallery at Arcadia, Kenthurst Fish Farm, Butterfly Café all at the Hills & Hornsby end of the trail.

Along the **Mountain Drive** - Enniskillen Orchard (pecans, honey, Seviles, mandarins), Blue Mountains Natural Spring Water at Grose Vale, Heavenly Belle Café at Kurrajong Heights, Tutti Frutti, The Local Harvest, Bell's Line of Road, at Bilpin;

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. Or **visit our website go to [www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)**

### **Best Days to Drive the Trail**

Friday or Saturday are the recommended days for self-drive tours of the Farm Gate Trail or, if you prefer not to drive, take a guided tour, all the details are on the back of the map.

### Vegetables on the Trail

Tomatoes, corn, lettuce, beetroot and rhubarb, sweet potato, leek, green capsicums, cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, cabbage (savoy & plain), silverbeet, bok choy, Lebanese & gherkin cucumbers; parsnips, butternut, jap & Qld blue pumpkins, grammas, both red and white radishes, potatoes, flat and swiss brown mushrooms, romana.

### Fruit on the Trail

Mandarins – Imperials - Mountain Drive this weekend & Orange Spot, Hawkesbury Estate  
Apples - Granny smiths, pink lady  
Navel Oranges – Penrith Valley Oranges – Hawkesbury Estate  
Seville Oranges – Hawkesbury Estate and Enniskillen Orchard  
Strawberries – fresh and frozen  
Pears – Packham  
Pecan nuts

### 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, pelargoniums and geraniums, alpacas & alpaca products such as jumpers, scarves etc. Open gardens and galleries with pottery, paintings and bowls and platters.

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