

# **FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

**Alan Eagle: 45 782326 (Home), 0415244477 (M)**

**Alan Good Morning,**

Good Morning Simon, it is great that you are celebrating the **tenth annual *Sculpture by the Sea*** at Bondi, I believe the exhibition will feature 108 sculptures by artists from 15 different countries. An event like this adds to the culture of Sydney, I am sure it will be a great event

**The Hawkesbury and its Art community over the last 200 years have also added to the Culture of Sydney.**

Yes Simon and I thought I would take you on stroll along not along the Farm gate Trail, but the Hawkesbury Artist Trail

**I believe the Artist Trail was inspired by two current local Artist Brian Jones and Greg Hansell and it follows in the steps of the Masters?.**

That's right Simon, Greg and Brian are members of the 'Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection and Regional Art Gallery' who were the driving force for building this unique Artist Trail. The paintings along the trail are works taken completed 1809 to 1938.

There are 13 different locations throughout the Hawkesbury which are easily accessible by road. Each spot is where a famous artist painted a scene from the Hawkesbury You can actually stand on the footprints of the master and take in the ambience and views, albeit I think the trees have grown a bit over the last 200 years. Each location has a 1.8 metre information board with a copy of the painting and a description to match it.

**Where are we off to first.**

Number 1 on the Trail is the car park of the Australian Hotel at McGraths Hill where you can stand and see where Joseph Lycett produced a 'View of Windsor upon the River Hawkesbury'. The original is a hand coloured engraving. Joseph Lycett was transported to the colony in 1814 after being convicted of Forgery. He got into a bit of trouble again, forging five shilling notes, was put to work on a chain gang. His skill as a painter was recognised and in 1819 he was given a conditional pardon and was granted leave to travel throughout NSW and Van Diemens Land, now Tasmania for all our visiting sculptors from overseas.

Number 2 is another Joseph Lycett and is a view of Wilberforce, one of the five Macquarie Town, on the banks of the River Hawkesbury.

Across to Windsor now where you will find an etching of 'The Church', St Matthews, by Sydney Ure Smith. Smith published a book titled 'Windsor' which has been described as the finest example of printers art. Six of Smith's etchings are now in the Print Room at the British Museum.

## **I see you have a Julian Ashton water colour on the Artist Trail ?**

Yes Simon, we drop onto the lowlands of Richmond to stand where Julian Ashton stood in 1888 Ashton became the central figure in a 'plein air' painting group which includes great artists like Condor, Fullwood and Nerli. In 1896 he opened 'Academy Julian' which soon became and still is the leading art school in Sydney. He died in Bondi in 1942.

## **There is an interesting point to the next location on the Artist Trail?**

Yes Simon, just around the corner, at Pughs Lagoon Richmond you will stand where Condor painted the lagoon, however the painting was originally titled, 'Cove On The Hawkesbury' but Greg and Brian convince the National Gallery of Victoria that it was Pughs Lagoon that Condor had painted. The Gallery accepted their views during the Hawkesbury Streeton celebration of 1996 and the name was changed.

## **You mentioned Streeton, a famous Geelong son and if he did not take up painting he would have made a great footballer?**

That's right Simon, a Geelong boy, born in 1867 and some 20 years later Streeton was a founding member of the 'Artists Camp' later called the Heidelberg School. He travelled to Sydney in 1890 and spent six years painting Sydney Harbour, the Blue Mountains and the Hawkesbury. He was knighted in 1937 for his services to Art.

We have two Streeton's works on the Artists trail and the most famous at Freeman's Reach is titled 'The Purple Noon's Transparent Might'. This painting takes its name from a Shelly poem. The National Gallery of Victoria said about this painting and I quote.

'This picture stands by itself amongst the world's landscapes, because it is remarkable individuality. Australians cannot place too high a value upon it. ...a great portrait of our birth-place. .... a great national painter.

It is a breath taking view, Hawkesbury Harvest have included a photo from the same location in its latest edition of the Farm gate Trail Map

## **You mentioned a few weeks back there was a 'Windsor Group' exhibition on at the Regional Gallery in Windsor.**

Yes that's right Simon, it ran until the 26th November. This is a famous group and number 12 on the Artist Trail is a Roderick Shaw painting titled 'Poplars Below Windsor Bridge'

Roderick Shaw was a founding member of the Windsor Group and between 1935 and 1945 they travelled from Sydney to paint the inspiring landscapes of Windsor, Richmond and Emu Plains. Sometimes they would stay at John Milnes General Store, a sandstone building.

## **Is that building still standing?**

It is located between the cemetery and the Windsor railway station. Sometimes they slept in hammocks made from feedbags slung between two trees or camped under the Windsor bridge. They roam fields, river banks and side street looking for suitable subjects for their paintings. What drew their attention, according to Bernard Smith was not the extensive sunlit plains but the deeply human and historic presence evoked by old barns, bridges and farmhouses. . . . . They were part of the new appreciation of the built and historic environment of the country side.

Thanks Alan for taking us along the Artist Trail ?

That's fine Simon, I have taken a guided tour with Brian Jones and it was terrific.

You know Simon, I asked someone one day what was Heritage. The simple answer was 'It is what you leave your kids' and I am always inspired Simon by the local volunteers that just love putting their time and effort into creating the future but also search out elements of the past so it can become part of our heritage. I thank them.

### **Where can they get more information regarding the Hawkesbury Artist Trail?**

The Hawkesbury Tourism Visitors Centre at Clarendon, 0245780233 will have map of the Artist Trail. It is a high class product and is one of those maps you will keep.

### **What else is happening on the Farm Gate Trail?**

Last week Simon we launch two very important projects. One was our new project for Food and Wine and can I introduce Carol Layton to your listeners. Carols role will be to develop extra channels of distribution for our local Fresh Produce, for example a Providore model to get to the fresh local produce from the grower to the local restaurants.

So we want to here from Providores who might be able to help us develop a model that works and we also want to hear from Local Growers who might wish to be involved. They can contact us via the website or telephone Carol on 04 06 23 78 77, that's 04 06 237 877

### **And you have launched the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Farm Gate Trail Map**

That's right Simon, It look terrific. 5 maps published what a journey.

Next week I'll introduce you our new members, but just a taste,

Made from produce from local farms we have jams, chutneys, sauces, honeys and pickles, wee have a another Pick your own Apple and Peaches Orchard and another Walnut and Chestnut farm.

### **I see you have another Garden on the Trail?**

And a most beautiful Garden with spectacular views to the city.

## **I notice also that you have something new that people can do whilst picking up their fresh produce?**

That's right Simon we have Quilting expert, Larna has a Packing Shed as a quilting room. It is just a pleasure to be there. More next week.

## **So where in the world is David?**

David is now in England having left Holland.

David has experienced one of those little travelling issues he was in Holland for two days before his luggage turned up. He said it was an emotional moment when he changed clothes.

## **What he been up to?**

I spoke to him last week as he travelling across country to the Haig. He was very excited about the support that the Government give Agriculture in the Netherlands. The Government have set up a bunch of 'Innovation Networks'.

## **What was the driving force behind these networks?**

Surprise, surprise Simon it is the consumer. These 'Innovation Network' were set up because of the driving force of the consumer. They unlock the bureaucratic tangle that we have all experienced. When they commence on a project they believe that if they have not had a 50% failure rated they have not been doing their job.

What type of Project do they get involved in?

Argi Park, similar to the Singapore model  
New Villages  
Nature and Environment Management  
Waste Recycling  
Regional Redevelopment.

## **What is the representation of each group?**

Each group is made up of management team through all levels of Government. This model provides quicker decision making.

## **Do they recognise that Urban Agriculture is a real issue?**

Yes Simon, Agriculture and Urbanisation go hand in hand. It is similar to what is happening here. 12% of NSW food comes from the Urban Fringes of Sydney.

## **Has David still meeting with Doctors?**

Yes Simon, he met with Dr Peter Smeets, a world leader in Agri Parks. They discussed the evolution of food production and how originally it was production based, Just grow and then sell it, if they did not grow we could not eat it.

Then Retail based, retailers tell us what we eat because they have told the growers what to grow, but the consumer has now fought back and in Europe and now in Australia, we are demanding quality Fresh produce, grown ethically and with transparency. A much better model.

**Listeners can follow David's Trip on his blog, which is?**

[www.urbanagricultureworldwide.com](http://www.urbanagricultureworldwide.com)

What on:

- Windsor Exhibition at the Regional Art Gallery at
- Fruit of the Figure Exhibition: Life Drawing at the Regional Gallery

This exhibition will be held on today 4 November and tomorrow 5 November between 10am and 4pm at the Stan Stevens Studio at the Deerubbin Cultural Centre, 300 George St, Windsor

**Listeners can get all this information on the website by going to**

[www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)

Thanks Simon.

Adrian Maquire will be catching up with you next week. I am off to assist some Front Line Manager in a coal mine.