

## **Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 6 August 2005**

**David Mason – from NSW Department of Primary Industries, currently seconded to the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and Hawkesbury Harvest Board member - 0411 128 456**

### **IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL**

Salutations - (Adam – just cut in when you want and we can play it by ear. The following is a guide)

#### **What's happening with veges in the Hawkesbury at the moment David?**

There are still lots of vegetables coming out of the paddocks that belong to the Brassica group such as cabbage, cauliflowers and broccoli. This will continue until October or November however the unusual warm weather we had in July means that the Sydney caulies will probably begin to lose the firmness in their head by the end of this month.

#### **How has the weather been affecting the plants and fruit trees?**

They are somewhat confused. The weather recordings taken at the Richmond Airbase indicate that the average minimum temperature for July was approx 2 degrees below average and the average max temperature was approx 2 degrees above. The plants get confused with the large swings in temperature we have been experiencing during the day resulting in the peach and nectarine trees coming into blossom at least one month before they should. If we get a late frost now those blossoms will be damaged resulting in fruit loss at the end of the year. The wattle trees are also in full bloom about a month ahead of time and the lemon centred gums have flowered twice this year.

#### **And what's on the Trail agenda for this weekend?**

##### **1. Japan and Beyond Exhibition**

This is an exhibition of paintings and photographs by Gabriele Richter which opened on Saturday 30th July and will run until the 28th August at the St Albans Gallery

Gabriele was born in Germany and has for many years lived in China, Indonesia and Japan as a photographer and Graphic Designer

This Exhibition is dedicated to her life of over twenty years in Japan.

##### **2. Breewood Gallery in the main street of Richmond would like to introduce Brian Roberts**

Brian's exhibition of paintings is called 'Flinders Dreaming' and opens at Breewood Galleries today until 2 September. These works are drawn from the journals and private papers of the explorer and navigator, Matthew Flinders, which act as a catalyst for the symbolic expressionism of the painter who has long recorded harbours, coastline and waterways.

Interestingly, in 1803, after his greatest journey of discovery and circumnavigation, Flinders recorded in his diary, "I took this opportunity of making and excursion to the Hawkesbury settlement, near the foot of the black mountains; and the fresh air there, with a vegetable diet and medical care soon made a great alteration... (To his scurvy condition) **Even in these early days, Hawkesbury vegetables played an important role in the development of the colony.**

Breewood Galleries – 310 Windsor Street, Richmond. Open Mon to Sat. 9am

### 3. FED UP! WINE'd DOWN 2005

If people are looking for an event that is different Hawkesbury Harvest is proud to support the FED UP! WINE'd DOWN 2005 food and wine week in the central west town of Dubbo.

This event runs over one week in the beautiful Macquarie Valley beginning with FED UP! WINE'd DOWN at St Brigid's Church on Friday night 26 August. Eight of Dubbo's leading chefs have created a canape menu entirely from locally grown or value added produce from the Macquarie Valley Region. Canape's will be served all night along with local wines and local entertainment. Ring 6882 0055 to make reservations.

This evening will be followed by a weekend wine trail and restaurants featuring local produce on their menus and during the following week people can visit local restaurants for lunch or dinner.

The event culminates in the FED UP! WINE'd DOWN Farmers' Market on Saturday 3 September.

Contact: Macquarie Valley Food and Wine Inc. 6885 4300

**Details of all that has been mentioned this morning can be found on the HH web site:**

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

Farm Gate Trail maps can be downloaded from this site or are available at the tourism information centre at Clarendon.