

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 8th January 2005

Susan Fennelly 4575 4095

IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning John,

Our farms are bursting at the seams at the moment - there are loads of luscious summer fruits – local Donsworth blood plums, and Santa Rosa plums, yellow and white peaches and nectarines and Valencia oranges. Also delicious watermelons & rockmelons as well as apricots and although not quite local but on the route west – we have some cherries from Orange. Honey is a natural antiseptic and we have a local beekeeper who supplies an excellent yellow box honey.

The raspberries are fantastic this year along with the strawberries and in the way of salad veges there are lettuces, (green & red oak, cos, iceberg), tomatoes, mushrooms and corn, those delicious baby eggplant and loads of zucchini, squash and pumpkins.

Events

Mt. Tomah Dec. -Jan – Feb

1. **Curly Caley Quercus Quest** Calling all adventurers. Can you solve the clues hidden around the Garden to help explorer Curly Caley Quercus find his way? An adventure for the whole family.
2. **Exploring Collectors – Two Centuries of Botanical Discovery.** The exhibition features objects from botanists from three eras of collecting – 18th, 19th 20th centuries. Highlights include original specimens, maps, images and tools associated with exploration and plant collecting.

Pine Crest Orchard Open Day – 22nd January, 2005

Drive up the mountain to Bilpin and you will find Pine Crest Orchard at 2549 Bells Line of Road Bilpin.

You will be able to wander through the Orchard and select and pick the fruit of your choice. It is a wonderful experience for all ages and you will rarely get an opportunity to do something like this so close to Sydney.

There are quite a few varieties of apples such as Akane, (taste like Jonathon apples) and Gravenstein apples as well as Yellow flesh Peaches, Blood plums and Yellow flesh plums and Nashi pears.

There will be a sausage sizzle on the day and a self guided orchard tour with information boards.

Contact: Contact John Galbraith
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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

Valencia Oranges, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums – Penrith Valley Oranges, Enniskillen Orchard and Orange Spot,
Apricots – Enniskillen and Orange Spot
Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen – Strawberry Farm, Vineyard, Galston Strawberries, Enniskillen Orchard
Raspberries – Enniskillen Orchard, Orange Spot

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.