

## **FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 8 April 2006**

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### **What's happening on the trail this weekend David?**

1. Latest update for Bilpin apples - Braeburn – late March; Red Fuji – early April to late April; Pink Lady – May; Granny Smith – late may to end of season in July

Don't forget the Cedric Lethbridge apple advice:

- ◆ Look for apples that are firm and have an even skin colour with a fresh bloom or gloss
- ◆ Don't be tempted by shiny apples. They are not necessarily the best because some apples are coated wax to make them look more appealing
- ◆ Apples continue to ripen after they are picked, so buy only as many as you will eat in 2-3 days
- ◆ You can store apples in the fridge to extend their ripeness to a week but for the best flavour let apples return to room temperature before they are eaten.
- ◆ Each apple variety has a phase of about three weeks where fruit produced in the time will be at their best for the season

2. Hawkesbury National Fiddle Festival. Started yesterday and is on all weekend.

Hawkesbury Showground at Clarendon opposite the Richmond RAAF base

The program includes:

Entertainers - Martin Lass, George Washing Machine, Ian Cooper and the Penleigh Essendon Grammar School Chinese Orchestra

Workshops –

Children's Program -

Mass Fiddle Rally -

Website – [www.fiddlefestival.com](http://www.fiddlefestival.com)

**3. The second Collectors' Plant Fair will be held at Bilpin on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 April from 10am to 4pm.**

**The inaugural Fair last year was a great success!**

**This year there will be 47 specialist growers - 21 more than last year - coming from all around NSW as well as Victoria, South Australia and**

Queensland and selling an extensive and diverse array of distinctive and not-easy-to-come-by plants.

There will be rare and unusual native and exotic plants suitable for dry-climate, cool-climate and coastal gardens....from balconies to acreage.

The Fair is being held in the beautiful mountain setting of *Woodgreen* Angus Stud in Powells Road Bilpin which features Peta Trahar's wonderful plant collectors garden.

There is also a speaker program:

**MICHAEL COOKE** will speak about *How a Plant Collection Becomes a Garden* on Sunday 23 April from 10.30-11.30am (his Saturday talk is already fully booked) and

**STEPHEN RYAN** of Dicksonia Rare Plants in Victoria will talk about *The Passion and Pleasure of Growing Rare and Unusual Plants* from 2-3pm on both Sat 22 & Sun 23 April.

.....but you will need to book as soon as possible as seating is limited.  
Speaker Sessions \$20.

***Bilpin is approximately 95 km west of Sydney on Bells Line of Road (Route 40) between Richmond and Lithgow (35 km west of Richmond or 48 km east of Lithgow). The recently opened M7 has made access much easier for Sydneysiders. Take the Richmond Rd exit from the M7 to Richmond and take Bells Line of Road, signposted to Lithgow. Follow the Collectors' Plant Fair signs to the Powells Road turn-off which is approximately 5 km west of Bilpin Post Office.***

Parking, refreshments and garden open from 8.30am. Stalls will not open until 10am.

There will be a plant-holding area with drive-to pick up, and a shuttle-bus will take people and plants to coaches.

Entry \$10 (\$6 if pre-booked). Under 18's free entry with an adult. Free parking.

**25% of proceeds go to the Bilpin Bush Fire Brigade.**

Anzac day is on the Tuesday so why not enjoy a 4 day long weekend in the lovely Hawkesbury area!

For further information and bookings contact  
visit the website [www.collectorsplantfair.com](http://www.collectorsplantfair.com)

4. Autumn Harvest Fair – Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

29 Apr 06 - 30 Apr 06

Celebrating nature's bounty in the Bilpin district, this three day event includes the Autumn Harvest on Saturday 29 April at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden with food stalls, cooking demonstrations and children's activities.

A definite must for foodies the event on Saturday features fresh produce from the famous orchards of Bilpin, cooking demonstrations, wine tasting from Mudgee, live music, guided walks and a gourmet sausage sizzle.

On Sunday, learn how to plant a culinary herb hanging basket in this demonstration class which includes a guided walk of the Herb Garden. Information sheet and basket kits are for sale.