

FARM GATE ROUNDUP

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Jen: What's happening on the trail this weekend David?

Today is Market Day being the second Saturday of the month. The Hawkesbury Harvest Farmers and Gourmet Food Market is on from 8am to 12 noon at the Castle Hill Showground. The Hawkesbury Harvest stand will be showcasing strawberries fresh from one of our member's farm. People can also pick up a Farm Gate Trail map from our stand.

Each market the Hawkesbury Harvest stand showcases and sells one or more of the fruits grown by its members that are in season at that time. Over the past few months it has been oranges but today it is strawberries. This will be second last market for the year.

Jen: Anything else happening?

Now Jen with all the end of year exams going on I have a test for you as well. I asked you this question last week so we will see how good a student you are - Where else in Sydney would you expect to find a flock of over 400 sheep, 100 working dogs, alpacas, miniature cattle, vintage machinery,a snake handler, assorted tractors, headers and farm equipment, free information, exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on fun . . .?

Jen: The Farming Small Areas Expo at Clarendon between Windsor and Richmond of course

Correct Jen and that is on today. Entry is \$2 per person (children under 16 free). Parking is also available on site for \$5. Gates open at 9.00 am and close at 4.30 pm

Hawkesbury Harvest will be there in the NSW Department of Primary Industries Pavilion and we want to talk to anyone who grows fruit and vegetables, even backyarders who would like to become part of a network of growers to develop options for marketing and distributing the produce they grow.

Also this weekend we have the **Arcadian Artists Weekend** i.e. today and tomorrow which involves the works of 36 artists at 8 venues or studios.

Jen: What type of art can visitors expect to see?

The art includes jewellery, glasswork, sculpture, leatherwork, silk painting, watercolours, oils, drawings, etchings, linocuts, quilts, felt making, wrought iron and steel, timber furniture, wood turning, pottery, pastels and photography. One of the venues is the Farm Gates's famous Charlton Creek Studio Gallery.

A map of where the studios are is available from venues in the Galston Village Shops and the Dural Tourist Information Centre. Listeners can also go to the Hawkesbury Harvest web site and click on 'Coming Events' and follow the links to the Sydney Hills web site which has all the Arcadian Artists Weekend details

Jen: What is the connection between art and agriculture?

Hawkesbury Harvest began in 2000 and the reason for this was that a small group of people were looking for ways to make agriculture viable on small areas of land in NW Sydney. The idea of linking agriculture and agribusiness with tourism was mooted and thus the Farm Gate Trail was formed. The first map in October 2000 had 13 destinations that showcased the local agriculture, tourism, and hospitality industries and included two arts and craft outlets. Today we have over 43 Farm Gate outlets including six artisans. In the New Year Hawkesbury Harvest will be putting in place a program that will target the expansion of food, wine and the arts across the Hornsby, Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury local government areas. If anyone would like to know more about this they can send an email to info@hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Now I have a couple of questions for your listeners Jen

Is there anyone out there who is interested in growing grapes or producing wine?

And if so:

Would they like more information on these two topics?

If anyone answered yes to both of those questions then they can participate in a free workshop that will be held at UWS Hawkesbury at Richmond on Saturday 19th November from 1 pm to 4.30 pm.

Jen: What will be the topics?

Topic 1: Introduction to grape growing and grape varieties for the Sydney Basin – eg varieties that are mildew and bunchy top tolerant such as Chambourcin.

Topic 2: Sustainable pest and disease management for grape producers

Topic 3: Visit to UWS research vineyard, discussion of trellising, pruning, vine management

Topic 4: Wine making and tasting of wines produced in the Sydney Basin

Please register early, as places in the workshop are limited.

This free workshop is jointly sponsored by: The Hawkesbury Sustainable Farmers' Network, Hawkesbury Harvest, University of Western Sydney

Please contact Rosalie Laing by Wednesday 16 November: on 4570 1125

or

Go to the Hawkesbury Harvest website www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au and click on 'Latest News' and fill out the application form on line.