

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 13th October 2007

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REMINDER : Solicit Community Announcement Calls

Alan Good Morning,

Good Morning Simon,

What happening on the Farm Gate Trail this weekend ?

Simon our Markets are on again at the Castle Hill Showground and Iain Hewitson, Big Huey, will be there. He wont be cooking but he will be chatting with the growers and producers, and filming their stories. Listeners should drop in and have a chat with Huey. Markets kick off at 8am and by the way Simon we are running an extra market in November and December. You can purchase fresh produce 3 days out from Christmas. That must be a first at a Market.

Is Iain in the Hawkesbury for the whole week.

Yes Simon he will be visiting various farms and filming segments of the beautiful Hawkesbury. Today at around 12 noon and tomorrow Heuy is at the Renaissance Rocking Horses Open Weekend at McGraths Hill. This is an event to show off the Hawkesbury's world class, fresh & gourmet food bounty and the diverse number of artists, artisans and crafts persons. Should be a top weekend.

Speaking of Fresh what is around at the moment?

Joe called from the Hawkesbury Vegetable Farm and there is plenty of lovely fresh local vegies on the farm.

Vegies like Cabbage, Caulis, Broccoli, Silver beet, Lettuce, Dycon Radish, Chicory, Endives, Celery and Leek. Plus they pickup some local fresh free range Eggs and Tobago Potatoes.

Strawberries ?

Simon, Phil Barba called from Galston 359 and they are in. Phil loves a chat and he reckons they are beautiful and better than last year. I am going over in couple of days so I'll let you know. They also have tomatoes and the peaches are a few weeks away.

And the other Fruit.

Plenty of Late Lane Oranges down at Grose Vale, although their mandarins are just about finished. They still have some fresh local Pecans from the banks of the Hawkesbury are really tasty and it won't belong before the Peaches and Nectarines will be here.

What happening at Penrith Valley Oranges.

Well Simon as you know Ivan and Lyn have headed south to Swan Hill and we wish them well and Janey Thorpe has taken over the management of the Farm at Penrith.

I spoke with her this week and she tells me the Washingtons are just finishing and their Late Lane Oranges are in and are so juicy. Their stone fruit season will be kicking off in a month or so. They have some Allandale Mandarins but these are also finishing.

Are they still operating their ‘Pick your Own’ as part of the business.

Not at the moment Simon, they run Horses on the property and you probably know what I am going to say. They have closed that part of the orchard to visitors due to the bio security aspect in relation to Equine Influenza.

As soon as the Equine Flu crises is over they will be open for picking.

With plenty of local food around is it getting from the Paddock to the Plate:

Yes Simon, More of the local restaurants are using local tucker. It is a great feeling to know that when you visit to local eatery you can taste the flavours of the Hawkesbury.

Toque Restaurant as part of Good Food Month and doing a ‘Lets Do Lunch’ promotion using local food for this month and Sassafras are having their second ‘Flavours of the Hawkesbury Weekend’ next weekend using local foods and Monique and Tony at Lochiel with their Chefs hat use just about only local foods

Hawkesbury Harvest are very proud of what these people have achieved.

What is happening in the Garden part of the Trail.

Well Simon, the Bilpin Garden Club have their Spring Show on this weekend and it is such a delight to drive through the mountains at this time of the year. It runs all weekend and there plants look really healthy.

Fernbrook Garden are open and it looks fantastic and talking about Gardens, tomorrow in the gardens of the Sebel at Windsor there will be a fantastic Jazz Festival and along with a few Hawkesbury Harvest food stall it should be a great day.

Plenty of Galleries open this weekend check the website for details but one that deserves a mention one run by the Birds of a Feather art group. They are having their annual show at Judy Brownlie’s Le Nid Studio Gallery at 42 Sackville Ferry Road Sackville North.

Part of the proceeds go to this year to the Paraplegic and Quadriplegic association of NSW. That’s got to be a winner.

Just a quick final story Simon, Penrith City Council as part of Nutrition Week are organising for Castlereagh Strawberries to deliver punnets of strawberries to their staff. What a great initiative, bringing fresh local produce to your own staff. Well done Penrith City Council.

The details and full story is up on the website which is

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au