

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 15th January 2005

Susan Fennelly 4575 4095

IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning John,

T'is the season to eat lots of fruit – we are so lucky to live in a climate where there is an abundance of fresh fruit and veges – from old favourites like Lory slipstone yellow peaches to modern improved varieties. Many of our growers, like Phil at the strawberry farm on the Hills run, are so proud of their fruit that they insist you taste the fruit before you buy! Of course there is nothing liking picking your own and we now coming into the **apple season**.

This week I spoke with John Gailbraith from Pine Crest Orchard – 2549 Bells Line of Road, Bilpin....

A bit of background ... John grew up in Victoria around Beechworth and always had an interest in horticulture – he had an aunt who was a botanist and well known gardener and author who died not long ago in her 90's. He studied Horticulture at Albury and then went to work for the Dept. of Agric. at Shepparton and then moved to managing a farm at Batlow – which is where he got the apple bug. He also did an undergraduate diploma in Hort. at UWS.

So how did he come to be on a farm at Bilpin?

He and his wife Erica, had been looking for a farm of their own and so in 1972 they bought a 40 acre farm at Bilpin. They replanted some sections with new varieties of apples, as well as plums and peaches. They now have 20 odd varieties of apples – a mix of both new and old. You'll find Gravenstein, the new Japanese variety Akane, which are ready now and granny smith, royal gala, Jonathon, and delicious and golden delicious which will be ready in the next few weeks.

And this is a well known 'pick your own' orchard...

Yes, great fun especially when you have kids and an 'educational' way to entertain them. He also has peaches and plums for self pick and nashi pears will be ripe in early February.

John is not only a farmer but he is very active in the industry....

Yes, he lectures at TAFE both at Hawkesbury and Ryde as well as being president of the Bilpin branch of the NSW Farmers Assn. He organizes TAFE correspondence courses especially for farming small areas – so if you have an area and don't know what to do with it then this course might just fit the bill.

So next Saturday is the...

Pine Crest Orchard Open Day – 22nd January, 2005

You will be able to wander through the Orchard and select and pick the fruit of your choice which is a rare opportunity so close to Sydney.

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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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.

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

Apples – Pinecrest Orchard, Enniskillen Orchard
Valencia Oranges, – Penrith Valley Oranges (**open Fridays only till 1st week of February**),
Enniskillen Orchard and Orange Spot
Nectarines, Peaches, Plums - Enniskillen Orchard and Orange Spot
Apricots – Enniskillen and Orange Spot
Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen – Strawberry Farm, Vineyard, 359 Galston
Strawberries, Enniskillen Orchard, The Orange Spot
Raspberries – Enniskillen Orchard

Veges on the Trail

Roma and round Tomatoes, corn, potatoes, lettuce, rhubarb, eggplant, beans, snow peas, mushrooms, cabbage, beetroot, Lebanese cucumbers, shallots, capsicum, eggplant, broccoli, butternut pumpkins.

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.