

## Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 15th May, 2004

Susan Fennelly – 4575 4095

### IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

There are still plenty of apples around , fuji's, pink lady and granny smiths; there are pears & persimmons, last of the grapes & in the way of veges there are snow white caulis, leafy spinach, nice tomatoes, pumpkins and grammas. **New** this week is **natural honeycomb** – along with plenty of honey (as we are coming into the sniffle season) . We'll have oranges and mandarins soon but for the latest update of the fruit and veges in season from our farms, check out the website.

Also like to mention that the Vege Farm will be closed for the next two weeks as Vicky has just had a baby girl (Nicole) her 7<sup>th</sup> child and she'll be resting up a bit before digging up those veges!

### An interview.... This week we I spoke with Cheryl Uren from Tanglin Lodge Alpacas

Cheryl and Geoff (who is a pharmacist) lived on an acre in Tennyson and Cheryl has always loved alpacas. They started with two – a whether and a female but gradually added to the flock and eventually had to move to a 25 acre block (which they had bought as their super).

They joined the Alpaca Association and really got passionate about alpacas – they now have over 40.

#### **What do they breed them for?**

They breed to sell the progeny and also for fleece. Each animal when shorn, they shear once a year, produces about 4 kilos of fleece. Cheryl has it made into garments which they also sell from the farmgate.

#### **What sort of animals are they?**

Alpacas are very peaceful animals and are very relaxing to be around. They are known for spitting – don't get 'into their space' and they are also very intelligent animals, more than the horse.

#### **Any babes on the way?**

Actually there are two mums ready to give birth any day – the gestation period for alpacas is 335 days and so both are actually due today! Young alpacas are called cria and so those visiting this Sunday for the Open Day may even get to see one being born or one very new.

<http://www.bonnydoonalpacas.org/factshx.htm>

### Events

**16<sup>th</sup> May** Tanglin Lodge Alpacas Open Day 10.00 am – 3.00 pm (Ph 4576 6929)  
**22nd - 23rd of May.** Fernbrook Garden and Gallery Open Garden Weekend

### **Mt Tomah Botanic Garden – Plant of the week**

Scientific Name: *Tilia kiusiana* Common Name: Lime, Linden

In May 1971 they received seed of *Tilia kiusiana* from the Higashiyama Botanic Garden, Nagoya, Japan. By 1984 the one resulting specimen was robust enough to be planted out – it is about half-way along the Plant Explorers Walk. Now a small tree of some 5 meters in height and quite spectacular in autumn. The species name is a latinised form of Kyushu, southernmost of the main islands of Japan, where this species is native. *Tilia kiusiana* has the distinction of being the most “un-lime” looking member of the genus. There are about 30 species of *Tilia*.

**The River Drive:** Strawberry Farm at Vineyard, Tizzana Winery and The Orange Spot, (Grammas & Honeycomb) & M & N Butchery at Wilberforce, Pepe’s Ducks at South Windsor, Tanglin Lodge Alpacas at Tennyson. Then cross the River - Basha’s Orchard (persimmons & advanced trees), Galston Strawberries, Berry Good Farms, and Nati Roses, Geranium Cottage, The Bay Road Gallery & Charltons Creek Studio Gallery at Arcadia, Kenthurst Fish & Filters, Butterfly Café all at the Hills & Hornsby end of the trail.

Along the **Mountain Drive** - Enniskillen Orchard, Blue Mountains Natural Spring Water at Grose Vale, Heavenly Belle Café at Kurrajong Heights, Tutti Frutti (also sells cut roses) The Local Harvest, Bell’s Line of Road, at Bilpin;

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. Or **visit our website go to [www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)**

### **Best Days to Drive the Trail**

Friday or Saturday are the recommended days for self-drive tours of the Farm Gate Trail or, if you prefer not to drive, take a guided tour, all the details are on the back of the map.

### **Vegetables on the Trail**

Beans, corn, tomatoes, beetroot and rhubarb, leek, green capsicums, cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, cabbage, silverbeet, lettuce – cos, butter, greenoak, red oak, iceberg; bok choy, Lebanese & gherkin, cucumbers; butternut, jap & Qld blue pumpkins, grammas as well as both red and white radishes, potatoes & flat and swiss brown mushrooms.

### **Fruit on the Trail**

Persimmons  
Apples - Granny smiths, pink lady, Fuji  
grapes – black Muscat, red and Thompson seedless green grapes – nearly finished  
Strawberries – fresh and frozen  
Pears – Packham  
Pecan nuts

### **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, pelargoniums and geraniums, alpacas & alpaca products such as jumpers, scarves etc. Open gardens and galleries with pottery, paintings and bowls and platters.