

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 17th June 2006

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Hi Alan, Welcome:

Howdy Ian,

Ian, we had a terrific long weekend on the trail. The Alpaca Open Day was a huge success. I met Arrow the baby Alpaca David mentioned last week.

Do you remember what baby Alpacas are called?

A CRIA. (CREE – A)

Well done Ian, the Cria is a lovely gentle animal

What's is Fresh on the Farm gate trail this weekend?

Vicki from the Hawkesbury Vege Farm tells me that there is plenty of

Spinach, Butternut and Jap Pumpkin, Cabbage, Rhubarb, Endive, Chicory, Baby Beetroot and Baby Carrots as well as Large Beetroot,

There are heaps of Corn, Lettuce, (Iceberg and Cos), Cauliflowers Broccoli and Celery.

Vicki also has some fresh farm free range eggs from a local farm.

How is the Fruit Going?

I was speaking with Cynthia from Tutti Frutti this week and she tells me that Pink Ladies and Granny Smith Apples will be around until the end of June.

Also some Local Lady Williams Apples have surfaced. These apples are a late season apple and are bright pinkish-red with a stripe over most of the surface. They are smooth, firm and have crisp texture and a taste terrific.

Ivan called from Penrith Valley Oranges and he advises me that although last weeks rain dampened the opening of the farm but they really appreciated the rain and are looking forward to a bumper season. They have plenty of oranges, mandarins local olives, Bilpin Apple Cider Vinegar, Local Honey Jams and Pickles and Eggs.

Can visitors can pick their own oranges straight from the tree?

Yes, Ian people visiting the Farm Gate Trail over this season can pick their own Oranges and Mandarins at Penrith Valley Oranges or pick their own Mandarins at Fords Farm down at Wisemans Ferry. Nicky Alexanders tells me the Satsuma Mandarins are just busting with juice.

Are the (Sat-su-ma) Satsuma Mandarins the ones that have no seeds?

Yes Ian, well usually no seeds, which make it easy for the kids. They don't get sticky hands carrying the seeds around and then mum suddenly does not find a handful of seeds on top of the good furniture.

I have tasted these Mandarins last weekend and let me tell you cannot stop at one. You just keep peeling them back and popping them into your mouth.

Enniskillen Orchard and Galston Strawberries have called to say they have put down several thousand strawberry plants. I just can't wait until late August.

Tomatoes are excellent at this time of the year, especially the local Zolas and Romas.

How is the Growth of the Farm Gate Trail ?

Ian, it is really going strong. It extends from Berowra in the east to Mount Irvine in the North West. We are getting lots of local support because people want to eat fresh local produce. You can't fool the consumer Ian, they know fresh and they understand the value of Fresh.

With the Trail being that long can you complete it in a Day ?

No Ian it is too much to do, you could not chat with the farmer and still have time to smell the roses. Your experience should be one you enjoy. So to help out those who are in search of fresh produce we have split the trail into 4 Itineraries.

What area does each itineraries cover?

1. The Gorge Itineraries, cover the Galston, Dural, Kenthurst, Glenorie areas.
2. The North River Run, basically follows the river and takes into account Maroota, Ebenezer, Wiseman's Ferry, St Albans, Windsor and Wilberforce
3. The West River run covers Richmond, Castlereagh, North Richmond , Grose Vale and the
4. Mountains run starts at Kurrajong, Kurrajong Heights, Bilpin, Mount Tomah and Mount Irvine.

As you can see there is a lot of ground to cover. Each of the runs will take about a leisurely 4 hours.

Where can people find out about these Itineraries?

I have uploaded the winter Itineraries onto our website, which is www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

What is on this weekend?

Down at the St Albans Gallery you will find the Edna Marion Watson & Friends Exhibition. This event is a must see as it involves authentic aboriginal art and craft.

The Watson family and friends are integral to the richly evolving arts of the Darug people of the Hawkesbury Region

Edna and her family and friends live and paint in close proximity to their Darug traditional tribal land. The work in this exhibition represents lived experiences as well as stories and customs of traditional Darug culture and features paintings, carvings and didgeridoos.

Larna Ezzy from the Packing Shed Patchwork is another of our true artisans on the trail. This old packing shed has been converted into Patchwork heaven.

They are open this weekend where visitors can chat with Larna about her Vintage Sewing Collectables, her embellishment techniques and her Crazy patchwork evening bag weekend workshops. There are 6 weekend workshop coming up over the next few months where you can complete your patchwork in the most beautiful grounds of the Grose.

Macquarie Valley Food and Wine Markets.

All details are on the website: which is again

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Thanks Alan

Thanks Ian, Chat with you again soon.