

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 18th December, 2004

Susan Fennelly 4575 4095

IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Jennifer, Plenty of luscious summer fruits – local **blood plums**, raspberries, stone fruit and Valencia oranges. Also lots of strawberries, rockmelon, lettuces, (green & red oak, cos, iceberg), tomatoes, mushrooms and corn.

And a Christmas message to all:

'From those long ago days,
On the outskirts of a city
Our farms still flourish - their produce a plenty.

Then, as now, as the city sleeps
The harvest begins in the hush of the morn
From leafy greens for summer fare
To golden silk sheathed corn.

Our farmers' delight in the tasks they perform
The food they produce healthy and fresh.
Generations continue through drought & through storm
To sow & to reap a bountiful harvest.

From the river flats to the mountains high
And the Hills in this rural belt
Oranges, peaches, nectarines and figs
Grow blissfully - unaware of an urban threat.

From ducklings to cheese, past vineyards and gardens
The travelers' reward from our farms is immense
To chat and to taste and sometimes to pick
Gives adults and children a pleasurable sense.

So from us all on our farms – so many quite small
We wish all our friends another wonderful year
May your tables be blest with fruits from our harvest
and your Christmas be happy and filled with good cheer.'

Events

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

We have juicy – apricots, yellow and white flesh nectarines & the yellow and white peaches and Valencia oranges, blood plums, plums and of course those delicious strawberries, raspberries, and rockmelons.

In the way of veges – There's corn, potatoes, squash, zucchini, capsicums, bok choy, lettuce, spring onions, cauliflowers, silverbeet, cabbages, rhubarb, fresh olives, olive oil, cucumbers, beetroot, mushrooms and tomatoes.

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

If your listeners haven't been able to download the map from the website they can call into the Visitor Centre at Clarendon (opposite the RAAF Base) and pick up a copy.

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

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

Corn, tomatoes, squash, lettuce, beetroot and rhubarb, sweet potato, leek, green capsicums, cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, cabbage (savoy & plain), silverbeet, bok choy, Lebanese & gherkin cucumbers; parsnips, butternut, jap & Qld blue pumpkins, both red and white radishes, potatoes, flat and swiss brown mushrooms

Fruit on the Trail

Valencia Oranges, Nectarines, Peaches, Plums – Penrith Valley Oranges, Enniskillen Orchard and Orange Spot, Basha's Orchard

Apricots – Enniskillen and Orange Spot

Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen – Strawberry Farm, Vineyard, Galston Strawberries, Enniskillen Orchard

Raspberries – Enniskillen Orchard, Orange Spot

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.