

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 19 June, 2004

Susan Fennelly – 4575 4095

IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

It's top up Vitamin C time – juicy navel orange & imperial mandarins! Sundowner apples also some pink lady and granny smiths. Tomatoes, corn, broccoli, cauliflower & pumpkins. For the latest update of the fruit and veges in season from our farms, check out the website.

This week Simon I was up to a bit of fishy business!

Rosalie & Col Challoner – Kenthurst Fish Farm – 88 Porters Road, Kenthurst

30 years ago Col brought home a fish bowl and 4 goldfish – and now what started as a hobby is a very interesting business!

How did that happen?

Col worked in the printing business and they lived in leafy Thornleigh & back then they used to travel to the Hills to buy fresh produce from the farmgates and also admire the rural landscape. The traveling and stress of busy city working and the desire to be their own boss prompted them to expand their hobby and move to that rural area that they visited on weekends and so they bought 5 acres at Kenthurst.

Do they only have goldfish?

No, as well as goldfish and exotic goldfish, they also breed ornamental pond fish – koi carp and they 'grow out' native fish which are suitable for dams – both for eating and sport. They buy these as fingerlings (about 2 cms) and grow them to about 4-6 cms.

I believe that koi are not allowed to be imported into Australia?

Yes, it is only legal in NSW and WA. & Col & Rosalie have been licensed since 1993. In ornamental ponds they are an excellent fish – they live, in Japan, to around 210 years and so far in Australia there are some around which are over 100 years old, and they can grow up to 1.3 m long.

Mt Tomah Botanic Garden – Plant of the week

Scientific Name: *Protea neriifolia* R. Br.
Common Names: **Oleanderleaf Protea, Baardsuikerbos, Baardsuikerkan, Blousuikerkan**
Plant Family: **PROTEACEAE**

Head for the road that runs through the middle of the Rock Garden! In the African section, you'll be surrounded by many other forms and colours of Proteas, & you will find *Protea neriifolia*.

Our featured plant is a cream flowered form of a species with flower colours ranging from deep pink through to creamy-green and the black fringes you see here may intergrade to pure white within the species. Of course this is why these are named after Proteus who is the Greek sea-god

so capable of changing form when captured. Added to this, *Protea neriifolia* is one of the easiest Proteas to grow and rewards gardeners with an abundance of blooms. Variety and change then are everywhere at present and the Garden has plenty of colour.

Events

FLORAL ARTISTRY at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

Saturday 19 June 1pm – 4pm. Cost \$39.

Create a fresh flower basket. Tuition by internationally renowned florist Robyn Matthews, who is well qualified and greatly respected in the industry. Robyn will be sharing some of her tips on successful flower arranging that will help participants make eye-catching floral art.

Afternoon tea and materials incl.

Bookings 4567 3015.

Photographic Odyssey – Breewood Galleries – 310 Windsor St, Richmond

Saturday, 26 June, - photographic exhibition of local photographer (Vineyard) Jeff Drewitz (pronounced Draywits). It deals with Jeff's travels in Australia which have spanned more than 200,000km in search of wildlife and landscape subjects. The exhibition will also contain some work from his travels in 11 countries other than Australia.

The exhibition opens at 9am on 26th June and will be launched at 6pm with the artist. It will run till 23 July. All works are for sale and admission to the gallery is free. Enquiries: 4578 9100

I JUST WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FAREWELL A LONG TIME ABC LISTENER, ENTERTAINER AND FRIEND, WHO USED TO GIVE ME LOTS OF FEEDBACK EACH WEEK – JAMES PEGLER, WHO DIED ON WEDNESDAY, WELL BEFORE HIS TIME. A LOVELY MAN, GIFTED WITH A WONDERFUL VOICE, QUICK REPARTEE AND TYPICAL AUSSIE SENSE OF HUMOUR ... WE'LL MISS YOU!

The River Drive: Penrith Valley Oranges – navel oranges, Strawberry Farm at Vineyard (local strawberries & corn), Tizzana Winery and The Orange Spot, (Navels, Mandarins, 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 (advanced trees), Galston Strawberries, Berry Good Farms, and Nati Roses, Geranium Cottage, The Bay Road Gallery & Charltons Creek Studio Gallery at Arcadia, Kenthurst Fish Farm, 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 Fruitti (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

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

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

Fruit on the Trail

Mandarins – Imperials - Mountain Drive this weekend & Orange Spot

Apples - Granny smiths, pink lady, sundowners

Navel Oranges – Penrith Valley Oranges

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.
