

Farmgate Roundup 19<sup>th</sup> November 2005  
Simon Marnie @ 702 radio with Liz Stephens 4567 7804.

### **Whats new on the Farmgate Trail Liz?**

For *really* fresh vegetables you can visit the Hawkesbury Vegetable Farm in Wilberforce, they'll take you out in the fields and you can watch as your vegies are being picked, now that *is* fresh. At the moment they have crunchy baby carrots, Sebago potatoes, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, silverbeet and fresh garlic. Try the fresh garlic for a change, it's absolutely delicious but they do have the dried variety if you prefer.

### **The summer fruits are coming in now.**

It's time for stonefruit, lovely juicy peaches, plums and nectarines are available from various locations on the trail. If you're heading into the mountains, Enniskillen Orchard in Grose Vale have new season peaches and nectarines, they're also having an open day later this month, we'll keep you posted. Over towards Wisemans Ferry in Sth Maroota, Basha Produce have the most wonderful nectarines, peaches and the yellow fleshed Bute plums. These are straight from the trees to you, you won't believe how good they taste, and because they're so fresh, they'll keep longer too.

### **You could pick up some local wine while you're in Sth Maroota.**

Yes, just further down on Wisemans Ferry Road is the Talai Estate. David and Eleanor have just bottled their 2005 Chardonnay Semillon and their latest Shiraz, these are being released this weekend. David tells me he's delighted with this years wine, last year Talai won Silver for their Shiraz and Merlot but he thinks they should do even better next time. You can order personalised bottle labels too, what a great Xmas gift idea. By the way, if you do visit Talai, David makes a really good coffee.

### **There are some great wines being made in the Sydney Basin now.**

Yes, the main feature of that is that all the wine producers in the Sydney basin are small, they control the entire process, they grow the grapes, they make the wine and bottle it themselves, the wine doesn't go to a major bottler and isn't mixed with any other wine so it stays highly individual and the resulting product is quite unique.

### **University of Western Sydney have a free workshop for those who may be interested in growing grapes or producing wine.**

If you have some land this just might be for you. The University of Western Sydney Hawkesbury Campus are presenting a wine growing and winemaking workshop in their Horticulture Dept, all the details are on the Hawkesbury Harvest website but you better be quick, because it's on today from 1pm until 4.30. No need to book at this late stage but do check the directions on the website or you might get lost.

### **That web address?**

[www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)

### **They actually have a winery on campus there in Richmond.**

The university set up Yarramundi Winery, a small experimental vineyard, in 1999 which was planted with Shiraz and Chardonnay vines. Right now they're developing wines with high antioxidant levels using enzymes, they've managed to boost the antioxidant levels by 27%, this means these wines are good for the heart, that's great news. Apparently they are already using these wines in Western Australia. I'm sure they'll take off here too.

### **It would be a very interesting topic to study.**

Well you can, the university established a Masters in Wine Quality course in 2004, they teach wine appreciation, viticulture and winemaking. You can also visit the Yarramundi winery, groups are welcome too but only by appointment. Again check the website for details.

### **Lots more fresh produce on the Farmgate trail this weekend.**

If you're in the Dural area, Farmgate has two berry growers in Galston, you'll find them on our Farmgate map. You can pick up the most delicious fresh strawberries and blueberries. Berry Good Farms supply many of our top establishments with hydroponically grown strawberries. Tony Jones tells me they are able to get the look and the taste perfect in these controlled conditions. You can purchase these gorgeous strawberries but you won't be able to pick your own here.

### **Might be a good time to look at some other plants on the Farmgate Trail.**

While you're in the area you can drop into the Geranium cottage in Dural, they are a specialist pelargonium nursery, you won't believe the variety, also a visit to the Crepe Myrtle Man in Glenorie is a must. You may not realize that Crepe Myrtle can be trees, shrubs or even groundcovers, they come in 12 colours and are bred for various climate conditions. Very versatile and gorgeous plants.

### **Always lots to do and lots of fresh local produce available on the Farmgate trail. How can we find out more?**

You can log onto [www.hawkesburyharvest.com](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com) and download a map or just have a look at what is happening on the trail.

If you're not computer savvy please just write to us at Hawkesbury Harvest PO Box 447 Windsor and we'll send you a map.

### **Have a great weekend!!**