

**Susan Fennelly 4575 4095**

## **IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL**

Good Morning Ian,

We've just come into apple season – and you can pick up varieties like Anna, Akane, Tydeman Early and Gravenstein and of course there are all those delicious berries around at the moment – strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and blueberries. Plenty of stone fruit – Queen Rosa plums, black plums and peaches and nectarines. This week there are some great tasting seedless watermelons. If you take the Mountain Run you can also pick up some ice cream made with all the berries straight from the orchard. Plenty of salad veges – eggplant, zucchini and squash and snow peas and tomatoes are fantastic .. all washed down with a great bottle of wine from one of the wineries found in the Hawkesbury ...

### **This week I spoke with David Moss from Talai Estate , Wiseman's Ferry Road, Maroota**

A bit of background ... David had been an industrial sales rep and also a manager of a cocoa and copra plantation in New Guinea and was coming up for retirement and was looking for something to do so he decided that as he liked wine, a vineyard and subsequent winery might be something he and his wife Eleanor might enjoy.

### **So how big is their vineyard and what varieties do they grow?**

They purchased a 25 acre block in Maroota in 1969 when they moved from New Guinea – great rural location and good soil and planted 5 acres of vines which is about 3000 vines. The varieties grown are Semillon, merlot, chardonnay, shiraz, pinot, villard blanc and more recent chambourcin. Their new release aged Semillon (it has spent some time in French oak) is ready for tasting now.

### **I believe the property has also become famous for something other than wine...**

Yes Ian, when David was building the cellars he discovered some footprints which have been authenticated by the Australian Museum as being a Paracyclotossaurus davidi which is a crocodile like fish sucking monster (2.25m) prehistoric amphibian loosely resembling today's salamander, lived Middle Triassic (235 MYA).

So, along with the views and a great drop of wine, you can also tour the winery and see how the wine is made. If you are not into wine, then it's a great place for a coffee too!

## **EVENTS**

### **Pine Crest Orchard Open Day – Today**

You will be able to wander through the Orchard and select and pick the fruit of your choice which is a rare opportunity so close to Sydney.

There will be a sausage sizzle on the day and a self guided orchard tour with information boards.

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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 – 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Highlights include original specimens, maps, images and tools associated with exploration and plant collecting.

### Update on fruit and veges in season

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

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

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

Friday or Saturday are the recommended days for self-drive tours of the Farm Gate Trail.

### Fruit on the Trail

Apples – Pinecrest Orchard, Enniskillen Orchard

Valencia Oranges, – Penrith Valley Oranges (**open Fridays only till 1<sup>st</sup> week of February**), Enniskillen Orchard and Orange Spot

Nectarines, Peaches, Plums - Enniskillen Orchard and Orange Spot

Apricots – Enniskillen and Orange Spot

Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen – Strawberry Farm, Vineyard, 359 Galston

Strawberries, Enniskillen Orchard, The Orange Spot

Raspberries – Enniskillen Orchard

### Veges on the Trail

Roma and round Tomatoes, corn, potatoes, lettuce, rhubarb, eggplant, beans, snow peas, mushrooms, cabbage, beetroot, Lebanese cucumbers, shallots, capsicum, eggplant, broccoli, butternut pumpkins.

### 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.