

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 26 June, 2004

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IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

There's delicious juicy Ryan navel oranges & Imperial mandarins & this week the first of the **Seville oranges!** In the way of apples there are also some pink lady and granny smiths. It's also fresh **Pecan** season, there are fabulous Tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, zucchini, lettuce & pumpkins. For the latest update of the fruit and veges in season from our farms, check out the website.

This week Simon I had a chat with Susan and Stephen Fennelly who have Hawkesbury Estate at 820 Lower Colo Road, Lower Portland

Now what will we find at Hawkesbury Estate?

Well, Susan and Stephen have over 350 Seville orange trees, mandarins and navels. They moved from the Hills district where they lived on acreage for over 30 years to a larger property, now 28 acres in the Hawkesbury, nearly 2 years ago.

Why did they want a larger property & surely more work?

Stephen was an accountant & they both enjoyed the less stressful life of the country. They loved pottering about with plenty of room to grow things – they have always had orange trees, have grown potatoes, yabbies and some flowers, but wanted a larger area to plant wine grapes, which Susan has always been interested in (and in fact is now studying viticulture & winemaking at uni). Stephen wanted to try something different and has 100 lemon myrtle trees.

This is a family business as well?

Yes, they have 4 children who lend a hand and sometimes bring along their friends when the oranges need to be harvested. They don't use any chemicals on the property – nature & pest management along with improved soil conditions make for a little less work.

Why did they join Hawkesbury Harvest?

As a tour operator, Susan joined as soon as she heard about HH – it was a great idea for the local tourist industry & the international market they she catered to loved the farms they visited. They then decided that this would be a great way to promote their farm and become a fully fledged agri-tourism business.

Mt Tomah Botanic Garden – Plant of the week

Scientific Name: *Erica Bodkinii*

Plant Family: Ericaceae

This plant is found in the heath and heather garden below the Northern Pavilion & there are also more recent plantings in the African Rock Garden section and opposite the Entry Booth.

Erica bodkinii, is surprisingly under-represented in botanical literature and seldom seen in cultivation though it was described in 1905 and has an appealing form.

The Fernlook Nursery in Hermanus, Western Cape Province, South Africa was our 'wild collected seed' supplier with the dormant cargo arriving in February 1997

Events

Mind Body & Spirit Festival – 26th June, Heavenly Belle Café, Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Hills

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

The River Drive: Penrith Valley Oranges – navel oranges, Strawberry Farm at Vineyard (local strawberries & corn), Tizzana Winery, Hawkesbury Estate (Seville oranges) and The Orange Spot, (**Navels, Mandarins, & 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 (pecans, honey, mandarins), Blue Mountains Natural Spring Water at Grose Vale, Heavenly Belle Café at Kurrajong Heights, Tutti Fruitti, 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.
