

Harvest Trail Round Up 28th of May 2005

Adrian Maguire 45721124

Good morning Simon,

Well hasn't it gotten bitterly cold? Of course this hasn't stopped many of our favourite apple trees from producing nice crisp fruit this weekend like the granny smith, pink lady, Fuji and the **lady Williams** which is a darker skinned relative of the pink lady.

All this week we have continued picking the old fashioned varieties of persimmon and the Zola tomatoes, with the first of our **pecans** to be ready for sale within days.

From our market gardens this week, we have beetroot, spinach, cauliflower, corn and a wide range of **Asian vegetables** like Bok Choy.

As we head further into winter now, the biggest crop the Hawkesbury region is about to begin harvesting is of course citrus fruits. There are many farms on the trail that grow and sell not only the sweetest **oranges** you will ever eat, but **mandarins** as well. Lemons, limes and Seville oranges are also grown in the Hawkesbury and are available at different times in the season.

You know I learnt recently Simon that Australia's first citrus trees came from Rio de Janeiro aboard the first fleet... The first commercial orchards were planted in and around Parramatta, Ryde and Baulkham Hills.

I suppose it's hard to believe that back in the mid-19th century some of the earliest road side stalls were actually along the banks of the Parramatta river where farmers would sell oranges to people about steam boats as they chugged up and down stream.

Now of course many of Sydney's oranges are transported up from the Murrumbidgee irrigation region. However there are still some large family orchards along the banks of the Hawkesbury-Nepean river and amid the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

Local navel oranges are now available on the farm gate trail with some farms featuring "pick-your-own". (Ford's farm, Enniskillen orchard and the Orange Spot)

Events

On the 11th and 12th of June, Penrith Valley Oranges will be hosting open days to mark the start of their season and the re-opening of the orchard to the public.

For more information you can call 4776 2332

Or of course visit the Harvest Website.

Also from now right until the 10th of July St Albans is hosting the 8th annual "Ways with wood" exhibition which includes exhibitors from all over the St Albans region.

To find out more you can contact the St Albans Gallery

Or visit the Harvest website

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Fruit on the Trail

Apples – Enniskillen Orchard, Orange Spot,

Mandarins and Navel Oranges – The Orange Spot, Ford's Farm

Raspberries & Figs – Enniskillen Orchard

Limes – Ford’s Farm

Persimmons – Waddell’s Orchard

Vegetables on the Trail

Tomatoes, corn, potatoes, lettuce, rhubarb, eggplant, mushrooms, cabbage, beetroot, shallots, capsicum, eggplant, cauliflower, broccoli & carrots.

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.