

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 31st July, 2004

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IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

We are in the middle of the citrus season & there are plenty of juicy - navel oranges, lemons grapefruit and Seville oranges, & this weeks we have **Emperor mandarins**, (I was told to quote that they have 'a sharp & full taste like a good wine'! You can still pick up locally grown granny smiths and **Lady Williams** & both Packham & **Burbosk** pears. Don't forget those very sweet winter pajeros strawberries.

In the vege line – plenty of tomatoes, and if you are into brussel sprouts – they are out now! Also leeks, celery and the first of the snow peas. Also pecans and some Bilpin grown **macadamias**.

For the latest update of the fruit and veges in season from our farms, check out the website.

This week I spoke with Ingrid Nemetz from Helleborus Downunder -13 Mountain Lagoon Road, Bilpin

A bit of background information

Nemetz Nursery has been established since 1952 when the late Mr L ludwig Nemetz came over from Austria and settled in North Richmond. He worked as a fettler on the 'Pansy' which was the steam train that used to run from Richmond to Kurrajong, (it closed around 1956 due to wash aways along the Richmond line).

He also started a nursery growing citrus as well as vegetable crops. He then moved to Bilpin (18 acres) where he grew citrus and stone and pome fruit trees, (he grew approx. 12000 trees) & about 70% of orchards in the Bilpin and surrounding area where supplied by him.

Did Ingrid have a background in Horticulture?

No, actually Ingrid was a nurse and she had been looking after L ludwig - she had married his son, Robert, in 1976, & she was talked into taking over the nursery & keeping it going, something she said that she had absolutely no concept of. He had taught her to bud and graft & so she started growing all kinds of plants.

Why did you choose Hellebores?

Ingrid said that she had been introduced to these wonderful plants & had grown roses, and decided that it was time to specialize, so aprox 20 years ago she started what she calls her 'love affair with Helleborus'. Since then she breeds them & of course sells them all over Australia, as well as giving talks to garden clubs & she has quiet a number of the rarer species.

The nursery isn't open all year?

The nursery is open from June to Sept and you can get lot's of information and of course see them growing.

Events

Helleborus Festival 31 Jul 04 - 1 Aug 04

This most beautiful flower springs to life in Winter. Ingrid, your host, will tell you all about this fantastic flower. How to look after it and how to grow it.

Your journey to the Helleborus Nursey at Bilpin (turn left of Bells Line of Road at Mountain Lagoon Road) will take you through some of the best picturesque country.

Contact Details: Ingrid on 02 45671107

Email: nemetz@bigpond.com

Recipes on the Web site – Seeing that it is citrus time, we have put some great lemon & orange butter recipes up on the website!

If your listeners haven't been able to download the map from the website they can call into the Visitor Centre at Clarendon (opposite the RAAF Base) and pick up a copy.

All details on the website at www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

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, & Sevilles**) & 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 (**Macadamias, pecans**, honey, zola tomatoes, mandarins), Blue Mountains Natural Spring Water at Grose Vale, Heavenly Belle Café at Kurrajong Heights, Tutti Fruitti (hot soup, oranges & mandarins), 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, lettuce, beetroot and rhubarb, sweet potato, leek, green capsicums, cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, cabbage (savoy & plain), silverbeet, bok choy, Lebanese & gherkin cucumbers; parsnips, butternut, jap & Qld blue pumpkins, both red and white radishes, potatoes, flat and swiss brown mushrooms

Fruit on the Trail

Mandarins – Imperials, Susumi – Enniskillen, Penrith Valley Oranges, Orange Spot

Apples - Granny smiths, pink lady, Lady William

Navel Oranges – Penrith Valley Oranges – Hawkesbury Estate

Seville Oranges – Hawkesbury Estate and The Orange Spot, Enniskillen Orchard

Winter Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen – Strawberry Farm, Vineyard; Galston S'berries

Pears – Packham, Burbosk – Orange Spot, Enniskillen Orchard

Pecan nuts & Macadamias - Enniskillen Orchard

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.
