

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 3rd May 2008

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REMINDER : Solicit Community Announcement Calls

Alan Good Morning,

Good Morning Simon, it a wee chilly out at the foot of the mountains.

Are you heading out somewhere ?

Yes Simon, I am on my way to the grounds of the Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens for their Famous Autumn Harvest Food and Wine Fair. It will be kicking off at 9am.

What will be there ?

Apples of course, plus juices, cider, mushrooms, pecans, tomatoes, pears, Jams, and Jellies
Organic Vegetables, gourmet potatoes, Protea cut flowers.
Wine, Persimmons, Honey, Honeycomb and Beeswax Products
Gourmet BBQ, Baked Hazelnut treats, Plants, Green teas, Woodland & Water Irises
You can also take a guide tour of the Garden

Whats on around the region.?

Firstly don't forget the Hawkesbury Harvest Farmers and Fine Food Market at Castle Hill next Saturday the 10th, there will be over 50 stalls of local and regional tucker.

Thats the Mothers Day weekend anything special happening for the Mothers Day ?

Yes Simon, at the markets there will be plenty of flowers and value added food gifts for the mums, and for all you sons and daughter out there is a special weekend happening in Mount Wilson and Mount Irvine just for mum.

What is that ?

It is an event called 'Mountains in May for Mothers Day'. You can enjoy the Autumn colours in 10 inspirational gardens there are plenty of food options and entertainment in an around the two villages.

Also Simon, part of the proceeds go to MS research. Listeners can find details on our website or they can visit their website www.mountainsinmay.org which has a full colour brochure of the event.

Sound like a great treat for the mums.

You have sent me a picture that looks like the top end of a rocket, what is this all about.



Simon that is a Whole Tree Chamber and is a part of a project called Hawkesbury Forrest Experiment.

Tell us more?

Hawkesbury Forrest Experiment is a project that started in 2005, that is a partnership of five universities and DPI. UNSW is the lead University and UWS is housing the whole tree chambers on their land in Richmond.

What is the purpose of the whole Tree Chambers and the project.

It is about Climate Change Simon, the partnership is concerned about the CO₂ levels in the future, 50 years into the future and they are measuring the impact of possible rises in CO₂ level on certain trees. The ones I saw were the Sydney Blue Gums. So they are simulating what the impacts on the Sydney Blue Gums will be if the CO₂ rises to their projected levels.

The whole tree chambers are 6.5 metres high and can extended to 9.5 metres as the trees grow and as you said they are cylindrical and rise to a point at the top, they are air tight but have their air changed every hour.

There are 12 Whole Tree Chambers and 6 of these running at the current CO₂ Level

What is the current CO₂ level at Richmond?

According to Craig Barton who manages the project for DPI it is 380ppm, the other 6 Chambers Simon have extra CO₂ push into the Chamber at plus 240ppm. That is a total of 640 ppm of CO₂ in those 6 chambers.

Craig was saying that the trees are taking in the extra carbon through their leaves and although it is early days there appears to be less evaporation of water from the leaves because the tree loves taking in the CO₂ and make it a priority and as such it makes the tree more water efficient.

Is that good for the tree ?

It is early days Simon and the data from the project will be used for modelling different scenarios about the impact on trees and hopefully that will assist in the reduction of carbon.

I am not a researcher Simon, but it sounds like a good project that will be needed to assist with the impacts of climate change. They have only just recently finished collecting one full years worth of data and the project has funding until July 2009, so I get an update for the listeners in about 8 months. Listeners can do an internet search for Hawkesbury Forrest Experiment for more information.

You told us last time we spoke about Richard driving down from Charleville to pick up his Duck breasts did they make it back?

Yes Simon, Richard picked them up from Pepes last Thursday and they are winging their way back to Western Queensland.

Anything Else:

Not at the moment Simon, except it is beautiful in the surrounds of Sydney and I would like to wish all the mums a happy mothers day for tomorrow week.

All the details are on the website;

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au