

# **FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

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## ***REMINDER : Solicit Community Announcement Calls***

**Alan Good Morning,**

Good Morning Simon, The Castle Hill Farmers and Fine Food markets are on today, and do we have not one but two award winning farmers at this market.

**I know about 'Over the Moon milk' with their title for Champion Milk from the 2008 RAS Cheese and Dairy Awards, but who is the other.**

It is Pasta Italia, who won Champion Pasta at the Sydney Royal Pasta Competition. They won gold for their Penne, Silver for their Fettuchini, and Bronze for their Bucatini. They are so excited and will be their today so the listeners can chat with them about the awards.

**And it is only 2 weeks until you open your second Farmers market at Rouse Hill**

Yes Simon, that right, 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Rouse Hill Town Centre, Market Square. 35 stalls of fresh local and regional produce will be there to tempt the local people to turn to fresh is best. Two markets a month will great.

**Are the Chestnuts ready ?**

Yes Simon, 15<sup>th</sup> March is opening day, both Nutwood Farm and Kookootonga Chestnut and Walnut Farm are ready to go. I have spoken to both farmers this week and the 15<sup>th</sup> is the date, both a telling me the tress are bountiful and the properties are looking beautiful.

**Where is Nutwood Farm and Kookootonga Chestnut & Walnut Farm ?**

Both are in Mt Irvine Simon, Follow the Bells Line of Road from Richmond , past Mount Tomah to the Mount Wilson turn off (55km) and then to Mt5 Wilson and then to Mt Irvine. It is a most beautiful drive. A little long but worth it. The Walnuts will be along in early April.

**What is happening with the Apples ?**

Bilpin Springs Orchard will open this Sunday with Breaburn Apples after a hail storm damaged some of his crop, Bill Shields from Shields Orchard rang me and again nature has stepped in does not have enough for pick your own and he will not be opening this weekend, but will be opening next Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

However Enniskillen Orchard at Grose Vale has escaped the hail and the lack of pollination and John tells me he has his own Fuji, Jonathan and Granny Smith Apples as well as some Gala Apples, Peaches and Plums from over the range at Bathurst.

**You can really see the impacts of nature at different location across the region when you look at one produce?**

Yes Simon, I am not a farmer, I just eat the food, its an important part of the food chain, but over the last four years or so, I have learnt about the importance of knowing about the impact of different micro climates on a property and how the elevation of a farm impacts on a crop . It is really interesting to just chat with the farmer.

**I suppose most farmers are happy to chat with the consumers about their produce.**

That correct Simon, One of Hawkesbury Harvest key phrases is 'Taste, Buy and Learn and we encourage all members to chat with the consumer about their industry. You'll learn heaps especially on the pick your own farms.

## **And the Vegies,**

Plenty of fresh vegies down at the Hawkesbury Vegie Farm and you can take a tour of that farm whilst they harvest your vegies. There is a lot to do on the trail

## **David mentioned a Taste of Slow in Victoria a few weeks back how did it go?**

Simon, the Hawkesbury supplied, Honey, Honey combs, Figs, The Hawkesbury pie that David mentioned, went down really well, no pun intended and Blue Mountains Honey owner Steve Craig, said it was amazing, 1000's of people enjoying themselves tasting, local and regional food in a slow way. Plenty of fresh and value added food produce was present from all over Australia. A great food event support by NSW produce.

## **You have found a Plant of the month?**

Yes Simon, I chatted with Peta Trahar from the Collectors Plant Fair which is on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April and asked her to tell me about the rare plants that will be at the fair. She sent me one.

Here is one called a Tassel Fern.



Tassel Fern or Huperzia, is a most beautiful fern very soft, native to Australia, Indonesia, Fiji and Brazil. It is rare because it is slow going and hard to propagate. It likes to be situated on a cool patio or in the shade, there are up to 20 species of which 10 to 15 will be at the fair.

## **Anything Else:**

Wine Week starts on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Plenty of Food and Wine events in Sydney and around the state.

Plenty of Galleries open this weekend, with Breewood Gallery and Purple Noon Gallery having their openings on tonight.

**All the details are on the website which is**

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