

## **FARM GATE TRAIL ROUNDUP – Saturday 2 June 2007**

**David Mason – 45882144; 0411 128 456**

### **Good Morning David. What's on the FGT this weekend?**

Ghosts of the Hawkesbury - a Daphne Kingston Exhibition at Breewood Gallery in Richmond opens at 6pm tonight.

#### **Ghosts?**

For over thirty years Daphne Kingston's love of the Hawkesbury has never waned. She has faithfully recorded its landscape and built heritage including its buildings such as settler's cottages and imposing barns over that time. And now, most of what she has recorded has become all the more valuable, because much of it is lost through the ravages of time, flood, neglect or development.

There is an open invitation to the preview and drinks with the artist at 6pm tonight.

#### **A big fund raiser for breast cancer research**

Tomorrow there is an event called "The 13th International "Back to Back" Wool Challenge - the challenge being to shear a sheep, spin the wool and knit a sweater in under 8 hours. The "Back to Back" team, made up of members of the Kurrajong Handspun Crafts Inc, consists of eight people - a blade shearer (a lady) and seven spinners and knitters.

#### **What does "Back to Back" mean?**

It means taking the wool from the back of the sheep and creating a garment able to be worn on the back of the shearer

#### **Where is the venue?**

The Turpentine Tree, 1665 Bells Line of Road, Kurrajong Heights, 2758.

#### **What time is the sheep shorn?**

The sheep is shorn at 8 am – with the aim to finish before 4 pm.

Last year, the "Back to Back" team finished the sweater in 7 hours, 6 minutes and came 5th in the world and raised over \$1,500 for Breast Cancer Research. A team from Japan has won for the past 2 years.

#### **What is the history of this event?**

It began in 1811 (at Newbury in Berkshire, England) when a one thousand pounds wager was made to make a coat from the sheep's back to a man's back in ONE DAY. Watched by 5,000 people, the coat was completed in 13 hours. The sheep was EATEN with much quaffing of beer to celebrate.

The event was revived in 1992 when a young spinner in Scotland who developed thyroid cancer decided to raise funds for Cancer Research and named it the “Back to Back Challenge”. Australia became involved in 1994 and previous records held in the UK were broken by Merriwa Jumbucks in 2004 with a record of 4 hours 51 minutes which still stands in the Guinness Book of Records today. Merriwa have raised over \$40,000 for Cancer Research since they first participated in the event.

There will also be an Antique Machinery Display as well as Textile Displays and Sales, Craft Stalls, Cake and Biscuit Stall and it is all set in 10 acres of garden which people will be able to walk around and enjoy.

Refreshments: Mountain Lagoon Fire Brigade Breakfast & Sausage Sizzle, Hot Soup, Apple Pies, Cakes & Biscuits, Tea & Coffee, and cold drinks.

### Wrapt in Wool Market Day

There is also another event involving wool next Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June where visitors can watch hand spinning and weaving and buy fleeces, hand spun wool, garments and accessories which have been hand made and dyed by Hawkesbury region craftspeople.

#### **And where is this?**

Virginia Farm, 122 Annangrove Road, Annangrove 10am - 3pm  
email: [woolfarm@bigpond.com](mailto:woolfarm@bigpond.com)

### Paddocks to Peri-Urban Workshop

This Tuesday and Wednesday at UWS – Hawkesbury Campus put together by Greening Australia. Highlights include:

- \* The latest research on Peri-Urban issues from Professor Daryl Low Chow from Griffith University and Land and Water Australia's Peri-Urban issues
- \* The Sydney Catchment Authority who will talk about how they manage expanding urbanization in Sydney's water catchment area.
- \* The Growth Centre Commission who are charged with planning Sydney's expansion west (180,000 new residences over the next 30 years).
- \* David Mason from the DPI who will present about the future of the \$1 billion annual peri-urban agricultural sector in Sydney and what he has learnt from his Churchill Fellowship study tour of North America, Asia and Europe
- \* Immediate Past President of the UDIA Ralph Bruce to give a developers perspective on Peri-Urban issues
- \* Greening Australia and how they deal with environmental issues on the urban fringe.

There is no cost associated with this event and people can find the details under the ‘Coming Events’ tab of HH web site.

Macquarie Valley Food and Wine Farmers Market is on today at Dubbo Lions Park – lots of great local and regional foods and beverages.

Don't forget the Tanglin Lodge Alpaca Open Day at Tennyson on Monday 11th June – the Queens Birthday holiday

All details are available by going to [www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)