

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 7th September 2007

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REMINDER : Solicit Community Announcement Calls

Alan Good Morning,

Hello Simon, Live Green was a really good event a couple of weeks back, there was a lot of interest in fresh local produce.

What about those vegies you had?

Simon, those vegies were terrific, as fresh as could be, just harvested on the Friday, they came from few farms in the Hawkesbury, one at Pitt Town bottoms, along the river, one in Kurmond, another in Tennyson and the Mushrooms were from Freemans Reach. The Broccoli, Rhubarb, Caulis, the lettuces, Zucchini Flowers, Artichoke were so Fresh.

Ad Lib here Simon but finish up on jams.

Speaking of Jams Simon, we have another success story from the Farm Gate Trail.

Who is that ?

Deschamps Delights Simon,

Shirley Deschamp and her partner Paul started buying Honey from a local beekeeper (I'll tell you the story of the local beekeeper in the next few weeks) which she poured and creamed and then on sold it. That was about 7 years ago.

How did Shirley branch out into Jams,

About 3 years ago Simon, her friends kept asking to make something else so she started with one of my favourites Lemon Butter. This went really well and next came, lime, mango and passionfruit butter.

Can you grow Mangos in the Hawkesbury?

There are one or two trees Simon, but they are not a raging success. A bit cold for them, but Shirley manages to get to them for her Jam. All the other products are sourced locally from the Hawkesbury in making her fine fare.

What came next ?

Shirley then added strawberry and plum jam and several other varieties. She had no experience in this type of cooking but had a go and now she has 80 varieties.

The growth has been quite remarkable. They have a commercial kitchen at home and are also opening a retail outlet in the Wisemans Ferry Village that has a semi commercial kitchen. They also trade out of a stall right near the Ferry at Wisemans.

What are some of those 80 varieties.

Their mouth watering range of jams include, chilli jams, marmalades, butters, honeys, pickles, chutneys and sauces. There is a traditional apple, green tomato, mango, tomato, red tomato with sultanas, and bread and butter varieties of chutney. The modern twist chutneys include chilli peach, chilli tomato, capsicum, cucumber, egg plant and one called early settlers which is a green and red chilli chutney.

I see they are at the Country Music Festival at Fagan Park tomorrow

Yes that right Simon you can catch all the great local jams at Galston as well as some terrific music.

The Farmers Markets are on today ?

Yes Simon, they kick off at 8am today at Castle Hill. All those fabulous fresh food stall holders will be there. There is still a buzz around the place after your visit last month.

You can pick up some lovely fresh mushrooms and wine jellies from Tizanna on the Hawkesbury Harvest stall. Lovely Roses from Dural will be in abundance and at the October Hawkesbury Harvest have managed to entice Iain Hewitson to come along and prepare something yummy.

An the Fruits;

As David said a few weeks back it is a little quite, but Oranges straight from the tree can be found at Castlereagh. Eggs at Llandilo, Wine at Ebenezer, South Maroota and Luddenham, fresh local cuts of meat at Wilberforce and lots more.

We are extending our FGT into the Penrith Region and if any growers in the Penrith LGA are thinking about selling produce from the Farm Gate they should contact Hawkesbury Harvest.

Is Artburst is next weekend ?

Yes Simon, Artburst celebrates a fusion of Wine Food and Art

Showcasing Hawkesbury Wines and Artists on the Harvest Wine Trail. It is a unique Harvest of goods on Sydney's doorstep. Visitors can meet the artists in their studio or their gallery. Talk to the grape growers or wine makers taste - their latest wines.

It is a special weekend.

There are also three other exhibitions on this weekend and running over Artburst these are.

Art of Nature at Fernbrook Garden and Gallery
Waratahs & Wildflowers at the Purple Noon Gallery

and if you are down at Wisemans Ferry checking out Deschamps Delights it is only 20 minutes to St Albans where you will find the Carolyn Clarke Exhibition at the St Albans Gallery.

The details and full story is up on the website which is

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au