

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 9th December 2006
Alan Eagle: 0415244477 (M)

Alan Good Morning,

Good to be with you again Simon.

What's happening on the Farm Gate Trail this weekend;

Simon I thought I would start with some thing the children can do during the holidays coming up.

Where are we off to first:

Renaissance Rocking Horse where you will find Chris and Viktoria. Chris is a restorer of and hand made rocking horses. If you are interested in seeing how to make a rocking horse drop in and ask Chris.

Is there any thing to cuddle on the Trail?

Yes Simon, Alpaca especially the Cria, the baby Alpaca. At Tanglin Lodge Alpaca Cheryl and Jeff will tell the children all about the Alpaca, where they come from, how they shear them. The children can be photographs and get an opportunity to cuddle one. They are most beautiful creatures.

Can the Children pick their own Fruit ?

Yes Simon, at Penrith Valley Oranges you can pick your own Oranges, but you have to be quick as the fruit is just about finished and they will shut for the season on Christmas eve.

What about Apples?

The season is very close Simon, we have two pick your own Orchards up in the mountains.

Pine Crest Orchard and Shields Orchard will both be open in January for pick your own. I hope we can catch with John and Bill for a small chat

during 2007 so the listeners can get the story directly from the farmer. Both families have been farming in the region for more than half a century. They will have some rich history to share with the listeners.

and what can the children do with Vegies

Simon as you know Vicki call most weeks from the Hawkesbury Vegie Farm and gives us a list of what is fresh, but when the children go to her farm she tests their knowledge by playing a few games, like 'guessing what vegie this is'. It helps them understand what they are eating and how the vegetable is grown.

and speaking about vegies what is currently fresh;

Leeks, Beetroot, Rhubarb, Carrots, Potatoes, Beans, Chinese and Plain Cabbage, Cos Lettuce, Chicory, and Free Ranges Eggs.

and the Fruit ?

Plenty of stone fruit and roma tomatoes around in the Galston area. Drop into the road side stall at Galston and chat with the Farmer

Down in Grose Vale, you can get Local, Raspberries, Strawberries, nectarines, plums, peaches, apricots and cherries as well as the last of the Navel oranges.

As I mention last week we will have some of Philips Barba fresh fruit at Farmers and Gourmet Food Market this morning.

Anything extra special happening at the markets beside the fresh tucker.

Yes Simon, you can get an Australian Christmas Tree,

Town and Country Gardens are bringing along some on the Wollemi Pines. This is the living fossil from the time of the dinosaurs was first discovered in the Wollemi National Park just west of Sydney in 1994. There are less than 100 trees surviving the wild. A breeding programme was set up and trees were first released to the public in April this year.

So this is the first time we can have a Wollemi as a truly Australian Christmas Tree.

Yes, Simon, Christmas 2006 is the first Christmas that we will see them decorated with all the frill of Christmas. They are easy to grow. They tolerate heat cold full sun and shade. They can be pruned to the size you want. They grow quickly in the ground and in pots. Listeners should come to the Markets and say hello to the two gardeners Peter and Peta who will have them their with your name on one.

Anything else for the kids to do over Christmas

Yes Simon, Kate called from Mount Tomah Botanical Garden and they have a whole range of activities over summer for the small and big kids.

Things like

Create Your Own Gumnut Pot, where you will work with sculptor Heather Jones to create your gumnut using air-drying clay and sawdust firing a fabulous summer holiday family activity

and as you know Simon, Summer is lightening season in the mountains and you can discover the effects of lightening strikes on trees through a trail they have created throughout the Gardens.

What about the bird life in the mountains.

Kate and her team have created the Birds and the Beasts event, where you search through the spectacular garden to find the elusive wildlife of Mount Tomah, you'll learn about Australian animals and the birds that hide amongst the colourful plants

These are all hands on experiences, I think I'll get along to the Gumnut Pot making

Listeners can get all this information on the website by going to www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Catch you later Simon, see you on the Trail.