

FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 13th October 2006

Alan Eagle:

Alan Good Morning,

Good to be with you again Ian.

What's Fresh on the Farm Gate Trail;

The Valencia Oranges have arrived. I dropped into Penrith Valley Oranges to catch up with Ivan and Lynne this week and the trees are bursting with juicy Valencia's. Penrith Valley Oranges is a pick your own farm gate and right at this moment they are squeezing the freshest juice you can get. I tasted a small bottle of the juice freshly squeezed that day and can I tell you it so fresh, so refreshing and so tasty.

What's happening on the Vege Front.

Vicki, called as she does each week from the Hawkesbury Vege Farm and she has given me a list of fresh veges out on the trail that are a must for lovers of Fresh Tucker.

There is Spring Onions, Silverbeet, 3 types of Cabbage, Red, Plain and Savoy, 2 types of Lettuce, Cos and Iceburg as well as Celery, Endive, Chicory, Leeks, Fresh Garlic, Baby and large Beetroot, Rhubarb, Baby Carrots, Broccoli and Broccolini, Potatoes, Parsley, Broad Beans, Dycon Radish and Free Ranges Eggs

Is it true that Vicki has a unique approach to picking Fresh?

Yes Ian, that when you visit Vicki's farm she takes you onto the farm, you pickout the vegetable and she either pulls it out of the ground or chop it off for you. It is so much better when it is this fresh.

A couple of weeks back you said the Strawberries were coming, Are they here?

They have arrived Ian, I dropped in to both Berry Good farm at Dural and Enniskillen Orchard at Grose Vale, in the past few days and their Strawberries are terrific, but Philip Barba from Galston Strawberries at 359 called yesterday. He says his strawberries are out of the ground and taste wonderful.

Phillip and his family have been farming in the Galston area for almost 36 years. His father moved into Galston in 1970 having emigrated to Australia in 1950, first settling in Marsfield on one and half acres. They are the true Italian farming story.

How large is Philip's property ?

The family has purchased around 15 acres. Philip and his brother manage the farms and they grow, Strawberries, Nectarines, Peaches, Tomatoes and a few vege lines.

Philip runs a small stall outside his farm at 359 Galston Road Galston. Philip only sells produce grown on the local farms. You can tell they are real local farmers as they are only open from October to late March, just growing seasonal produce.

What other produce will Philip have in the next few months?

His told me that in about two weeks he will have some White Nectarines, and White Peaches and he has just put down some Raspberries that will be ready for Christmas.

Are the Markets on today.

Yes Ian, I'll be on my way very shortly. They kick off at 8am at the Castle Hill showground and your listeners can pick up a great array of local fresh produce and values added products.

Sounds mouth watering, what is available?

Fresh Vegies, Smoke Trout, Duck, Honey, Herbs, Cheeses, Nuts, Oranges, Small Plants, Roses, Ham, Bread, Jams, Sauces, Pasta, Native Foods, Flowers, Egg and Bacon rolls, Coffee, Teas, Cakes and Condiments of all types.

Also Ian, Philip will be meeting me there shortly to drop of his strawberries. I can't wait to taste them. Look for the Strawberries on the Hawkesbury Harvest stand.

Anything else is happening in the area

The Waratah Festival finishes this weekend at Mount Tomah Botanical Gardens and next weekend (21st and 22nd) the RAAF are having one of their famous Air shows at the RAAF base at Richmond.

The Elsewhere Exhibition by Lucy Child starts today at St Albans Gallery, St Albans.

The following weekend is the Scarecrow Festival at Kurrajong as well as the Dural Fair. More about those events later.

Last week David said he was going overseas to study Urban Agriculture, has he left yet?

He jets out at 3pm Today for Singapore and we will be receiving regular updates over the next 7 weeks, but listeners can keep track of David's trip by going to his website:

www.urbanagricultureworldwide.com

Listeners can get all this information on the website by going to

www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Good Morning Ian, I have enjoyed your shows on the radio in the last few weeks, thanks to Cath working away in the background, we will catch you both soon. See you on the Trail.