

Harvest Roundup December 15th

And now with the latest on the Hawkesbury Farm Gate Trail we cross to Adrian Maguire from Enniskillen Orchard. Adrian Good Morning.

Good Morning Simon.

Now we haven't spoken since the harvest showcase at parliament house the other week- how's the fruit coming along?

Well this dry weather we've had the last few months is great for stonefruit. Peaches and nectarines from the Hawkesbury and Hills districts are extra sweet and juicy this year.

You mention the dry weather, but wasn't it raining yesterday?

Sure, but I like to think of that as just a bit of compensation for the hot humid weather we've been working in.

So it's hard work out in the sun for our farmers- but in return we're getting great tasting fruit.

You're dead right there Simon. It's hot, but you really can taste the difference in the fruit.

Great! So what else is happening this week on the Hawkesbury Harvest Farm Gate Trail?

Well as Alan mentioned to you last week Simon, PLENTY! Especially for the kids. There's veggies to be picked, the last of the oranges have to be cleared up by Christmas and not forgetting of course the alpacas that need cuddling at Tanglin Lodge.

Now you mentioned Christmas. If people want the freshest produce for the dinner table, what do they need to do?

Take a trip out on the trail of course Simon. You just don't get any fresher than buying direct from the farm. Right now the farms are a buzz with harvesting stonefruit, citrus, veggies of course, berries, eggs, ducks... As well as great experiences, views and dining available to everyone who takes the short trip out to Sydney's little food basket.

So before taking a trip out on the trail, it'd be a good idea for people to visit the website and plan their trip in advance right?

Absolutely- www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Now while there Adrian, there's a range of different things for people to do over the Christmas/school holiday break aren't there?

That's right Simon, under the "coming events" icon people can look up details on all kinds of things that are happening both now and in the new year.

Right and I see one of those is another art exhibition up at St Albans.

Yes, Suzie Startin has been creating ceramic artwork for around 30 years now and has had her gallery open for the past ten. To celebrate she's running an retrospective exhibition of her ceramic work from now until the end of January open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

And hers isn't the only exhibition to see?

No, sassafras Creek café and gallery at Kurrajong is displaying works from the Windsor pastel group which is headed by Greg Hansell who infact uses handmade pastels to record a lot of the Hawkesbury's beauty and character in a style he refers to as "Earth Pastels"

Now Kurrajong is only a short drive to Bilpin isn't it?

That's right.

Now Alan mentioned last week that Bilpin's apples will be back in season in a few weeks and that there'll be the first pick your own apples available sometime in January.

Yeah that's right- Bill shield's can get back to getting his apples ready now that the fires have died down and John Galbraith will be getting the season into full swing with his open day and bbq on the 20th of January.

So by visiting the website and planning ahead people can fit in a number of different visits in the one day.

Yes and it helps maximise their experience. The trail has just become so wide spread now that you can not see it all in one day.

Now has David Mason returned from his round the world urban-agriculture tour yet?

He certainly has Simon and I know he's very keen to speak to you and give an overview of what he's discovered overseas about agriculture co-existing with cities.

Well I know from what we've mentioned in the last few weeks about his work it'll certainly be a rich discussion. Adrian thanks for talking to us. Hopefully the weather doesn't get too hot for you out there- Thanks Simon.