

## **FARM GATE ROUNDUP Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

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*REMINDER : Solicit Community Announcement Calls*

**Alan Good Morning,**

G'Day Ian, what great journey David took the listeners on last week. You had a question on the 'Back to Back' challenge.

**Yes, How long did it take them to shear the sheep and spin the wool and knit the jumper.**

They did it in 6 hours, 34 mins. 19 seconds and came third in the world, a team from Toronto, Canada won this year in 6 hours 18 seconds and 2nd was Bairnsdale team from Victoria in 6 hours 10 mins and they raised some money for Breast Cancer research.

**How are the vegies coming along ?**

I spoke to Vicki and Joe from the Vegie Farm on Wednesday and they have plenty of

Silverbeet spinach, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, leeks, celery, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumber, corn, radish, endive, chicory, freerange eggs, capsicum, eggplant, broccoli, caulis, parsley, zucchini, melons, rhubarb, beetroot, spring onions and pumpkins.

**How the Fruit ?**

Over in Galston Philip from 359 tells me he has plenty of yellow peaches and white peaches. I tasted some of his raspberries and they just melt in your mouth. They still have some nice strawberries and nectarines.

## **The Fruit at Grose Vale?**

John from Enniskillen Orchard rang and they have plenty of delicious white and yellow peaches also and plenty of their own nectarines and they have their own Apples. Hi first crop of Gala and Snow Whites Apples has arrived and Pears including the Nashi and Kousi.

## **Eggs**

At Llandilo you can taste the freshest in the eggs at the Llandilo Egg farm. Michael tells me they are just so tasty.

**David mentioned Oysters in the House; do you have a date for that yet.**

Yes, Ian. 22<sup>nd</sup> February is the date, don't have a lot of detail but it should be a great afternoon. I'll have some details early next week and we will keep the listeners informed. Nothing like fresh Oysters and matching wines from all each of the Oyster growing regions in NSW. Do you like Oysters and Wine?

## **Response**

**David also mentioned the Pine Crest Orchard Open Day, which kicks off the Apple season in the mountains.**

Yes Ian, it kicks off today and it includes a sausage sizzle. John will have plenty of White and Yellow Peaches, Plums and possibly some Pears to pick today, but unfortunately the Apples will not arrive until the first weekend in February.

**Why no Apples ?**

John is not that sure, he thinks it has a lot to do with the drought or with the pollination of the fruit. I called Bill Shields from Shields Orchard and he says this is the first time in fifty years he has had no Apples to in January.

**When they do come in at Pine Crest what type will they be**

The Royal Gala Ian, there are many strains of Gala apples which only vary in the amount of red on the skin. These are called "Royal Gala", "Imperial G", "Galaxy", "Buckeye" and whatever name the person patenting the particular strain chose. The colour not the flavour is different.

**How large is the property ?**

The farm is 40 Acres of which 15 acres are under Orchard and one of the most interesting things about John is Ian is that he is one farmer that believes in educating all visitors about what makes up a good farm, in fact he supplements his income by teaching farming via the TAFE system.

He completed a course on farming in Victoria and worked for the Depart of Ag and then 4 years at Batlow, managing an Apple Farm and then bought Pine Crest Orchard at Bilpin in 1972. It is a real delight to walk amongst the orchard and if you have a farming question John will answer it.

**Should be a great day, Anything else?**

Yes Ian, I got a call from Bev Carruthers from Nutwood Farm at Mt Irvine and although the Nut season is about 6 to 8 weeks away she tells me the trees a really loaded with Walnuts and Chestnuts. More in a few weeks, but

picking your own Walnuts and Chestnuts is a great experience everyone should partake in.

And if you are in Richmond tonight drop into Breewood Gallery at 6pm for the Opening of the Mary Donnelly Exhibition: titled ‘.....in seeking centric vectors.’

I don't know what that really means but the paintings look terrific and ‘ the Art of Sydney’ exhibition kicks off on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and runs for 4 days at the National Maritime museum. About half a dozen excellent Hawkesbury Artists will be exhibiting.

**All the details are on the website which is**

[www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au](http://www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au)