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# Australia

## **MDB drought, impact of climate change or natural variability?**

*Weekly Times, Vic Regional, 3 March 2010, p3*

Professor Neville Nichols, lead author on the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said that the claim that the Murray Darling Basin is experiencing a drought due to global warming 'might still just be a fluke or a natural variability'. Prof. Steven Sherwood of the University of NSW Climate Change Research Centre said that the sceptics, for once, may be technically correct in that there is not yet a proven link between climate change and the MDB drought.

In support of Federal Climate Change and Water Minister Senator Wong's claim of the climate change impact on the MDB, a spokeswoman for Senator Wong said that greenhouse gas emissions may not account for all the variations in the extended drought, but they are clearly identified as a factor in the severity of the drought.

## **Exceptional Circumstances support cuts**

*Weekly Times, Vic Regional, 3 March 2010, p4*

Exceptional Circumstances (EC) assistance has been cancelled for one third of the areas currently receiving it. Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke has announced that SW Victoria, the Hume region of NSW and 11 areas of South Australia will no longer receive EC support.

## **Government picks up water at lower prices than 2008/09**

*Weekly Times, Vic Regional, 3 March 2010, p23*

The Federal Government has purchased water from willing sellers for about 20 to 30 per cent less cost in the first of three tenders in 2009/10 compared to 2008/09 prices. NSW general security water has been sold to the Government for \$830 to \$1050/ML, compared to \$1320/ML in 2008/09. High reliability Murray river shares sold for about \$2050/ML, compared to an average \$2377 last season. Water brokers who urged clients to put in higher offer prices were stunned that their clients missed out. Irrigators have asked for the prices to be released before the opening of the next tender process. A Senator Wong spokeswoman said that this will be done.

## **NW Victorian horticulture on roller coaster ride**

*Weekly Times, Vic Regional, 3 March 2010, p103*

A 95 page report titled Mallee Irrigated Horticulture 1997-2009, produced by mapping service SunRISE21 for the Mallee Catchment Management Authority shows that the area of irrigated horticulture in NW Victoria, along the Murray river from Nyah to the South Australian border, grew 74.9 per cent in the 12 years to February 2009. The area under irrigation increased from 40,185ha to 70,315ha, average property size increased from 16.4ha to 30.9ha, while the number of farms fell by 7 per cent to 2,275.

Grapevines covered 21,720ha last year, followed by almonds with 19,905ha. Wine grapes increased by 43 per cent between 1997 and 2006, then declined by 15 per cent between 2006 and 2009. Table grapes went up by 44 per cent and came down by 6 per cent in the same time periods. Dried grape plantings declined by 53 per cent in the 12 years. More than one-quarter of the crop area in the four pumped irrigation districts around Mildura and Robinvale was vacant or not irrigated last year.

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## **Stone fruit air freight exports to Hong Kong compete for freight space**

*Weekly Times, Vic Regional, 3 March 2010, p103*

David Minnis, former deputy chairman of the Australian Horticultural Exporters Association, said that trying to export stone fruit to Hong Kong (and Thailand) leading up to the Chinese New Year was a nightmare. He said that airlines take seafood in preference because it pays more.

Cathay Pacific spokesman David Bell said that it is 'just one of those things that couldn't be helped...we have to keep the freight service viable. Seafood pays \$2.50/kg, while stone fruit pays 45 cents/kg. Qantas airlines agreed that their services were over booked between 7 to 11 February leading up to the Chinese New Year. The loss in freight capacity, particularly out of Melbourne, was also attributed to reduced passenger services.

## **Market Access group gets down to business**

*Weekly Times, Vic Regional, 3 March 2010, p103*

Sydney's Hilton Hotel will be the location next Wednesday for a meeting by the Domestic Quarantine and Market Access Working Group to discuss activities in gaining, maintaining and improving market access for horticultural commodities. Also on the agenda is domestic and international market access processes, Queensland fruit fly, phylloxera and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) reviews of dimethoate and fenthion.

## **Tasmania apple industry statistics**

*The Examiner, TAS Regional, 3 March 2010, p26*

Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that Tasmania produced 30,222 tonnes of apples in 2008. Despite producing less than 20 per cent of Australia's crop, Tasmania is responsible for about 55 per cent of all exports. Exports make up about 35 per cent of the crop. About 20 to 25 per cent is sold interstate, 15 per cent on the local market and about 25 per cent is processed. There are about 90 apple growers in the state and the gross value of the industry is about \$50m.

## **Early days saw Tasmania apple industry go from strength to strength**

*The Examiner, TAS Regional, 3 March 2010, p26*

Tasmania's first apples were planted by Capt. William Bligh at Adventure Bay, Bruny Island in 1788. By the 1860's there were more than 100 apple varieties grown in Tasmania, mainly near Hobart and Launceston. By 1890 greater production had moved south (and away from Launceston). A regular steamship service between Britain and Australia and the onset of refrigeration accelerated overseas exports. Refrigerated coolstores came into use in 1886.

Exports peaked in 1939, but collapsed during WWII. In the 50's and 60's the industry employed 8,000 people, increasing to 25,000 during the harvest period. After Britain joined the European Common Market (late 60's/early 70's), barriers and quotas were imposed and the industry experienced a downturn, with some orchards bulldozed and burnt.

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## **Events in the Goulburn Valley for women, plus a pear cooking school**

### *Fruit Growers Victoria, Goulburn Valley Events, 3 March 2010*

A workshop for women discussing the role of women in biotechnology and farming will provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion with experts about the science and issues surrounding biotechnology in agriculture. Venue is the Quest Hotel, 177-183 Welsford St Shepparton, to be held on **Wednesday 10 March**, 11am to 12.30pm (lunch included). Contact Melanie Carew on 03 9479 1698 for more details.

An afternoon, 1.30pm to 3pm on **Friday 12 March**, at 'The Connection,' is offered to women who work or live in horticulture to discuss business advice, the latest information from Centrelink and women's health issues. Afternoon tea and door prizes offered. Feel free to bring a friend. Contact FGVL office on 5825 3700 to book your place.

A pear cooking school will be held at Shepparton GOTAFE on **Tuesday 23 March**, 6pm to 9.30pm. Participants will cook a three course meal with three different pear varieties, then sit down to eat the meal at the GOTAFE restaurant, with a glass of local wine. Cost is \$40.00. Contact Ross Graham at GOTAFE on 5833 2710.

## **EC support continued for the North, but South misses out, VFF questions process**

### *VFF, Melbourne, Victoria, 3 March 2010*

Victorian Farmers Federation President Andrew Broad said that the extension of Exceptional Circumstances (EC) areas in the North of the state is recognition of the continuing difficult conditions that farmers are now facing. The irrigation districts, dairy farmers and horticulturalists in particular, remain on allocations well below their long term averages.

However, while it is true that farmers in the South have enjoyed a kinder set of seasonal conditions, the reality is that market circumstances remain poor throughout Victoria. He said that the fact that the South missed out, highlights the inadequacies of the current EC 'lines on maps' approach to determining who deserves support and who doesn't.

## **Climate change impact needs farming to be prepared**

### *Canberra Times, ACT, 2 March 2010, p4*

Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change, published by CSIRO scientists, reviews the impact of climate change on agriculture and the adaptive responses that will be needed to counter the climate change impacts. Challenges include sunburnt apples and not so sweet strawberries as a result of lower sugar content caused by warmer nights. Late season frosts for northern NSW stone fruit growers has resulted in testing of wind machines to prevent crop damage.

The report warns that Australia's farming will be 'substantially worse off' unless urgent action is taken to develop new farming techniques and technologies. Spray on sunscreens for apples, more labour intensive orchards and shade cloth shelters for dairy cows are noted as examples.

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## **Pears at their sweet and juicy best**

*The Age, Epicure supplement, Melbourne Vic., 2 March 2010, pp10, 11*

Deliciously sweet and juicy when ripe, pears make a great snack, according to Caroline Velik in this double page feature. Packham pears are available from May to November, Josephine from April to November, Red Sensation from February to May, Red Anjou from April to November, Corella from April to October and her favourite, Beurre Bosc from March to November.

Pears are usually sold before they are ripe, so allow a few days for them to ripen at room temperature. Ripe fruit can then be stored in the refrigerator to keep them fresh. Do a second take to purchase pears on the retailer shelf and then try the following delicious recipes 1) Baked pears with blue cheese, prosciutto, walnuts and honey mustard dressing, 2) Upside down caramel pear cake and 3) Pear chutney.

## **Irrigation allocations up slightly as rain eases evaporation losses**

*Shepparton News, NC Victoria, 2 March 2010, p6*

Summer rainfall in the Goulburn Valley is up slightly on the long term average after 11mm in December, 7mm in January and 75mm in February, a total of 93mm against the long term average of 79mm. Goulburn-Murray Water resource manager Graeme Hannan said that the main advantage of rainfall at this time of the year is that it helps to offset high levels of evaporation.

As a result, irrigation allocations on the Murray are up 3 per cent to 66 per cent, the Broken River system is now at 6 per cent and the Goulburn system is up two per cent to 60 per cent. The autumn outlook provides a better than 50/50 chance of higher than average rainfall.

## **Anxiety or depression hits can't be solved alone, seek help**

*Country News, [www.countrynews.com.au](http://www.countrynews.com.au), NC Victoria, 2 March 2010, p6*

National depression initiative Beyond Blue deputy chairman John McGrath, said that farmers are often a jack-of-all-trades, fixing the pump, repairing the tractor and doing the fencing. When depression and anxiety hits, they often think that they can fix that as well. He urged members of rural communities to look out for each other and to seek help, whether for themselves or for a friend.

He said that farmers may withdraw from their social contacts as they try to sort it out themselves. Isolation of farming has been exacerbated in recent years by the stress of drought and the vagaries of commodity markets. Help can be obtained by phoning Lifeline on 131 114, Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or by consulting your local doctor.

## **Dairy farmer keeps chin up after depression, while battling the drought**

*Country News, [www.countrynews.com.au](http://www.countrynews.com.au), NE Victoria, 2 March 2010, p7*

Joe Morrison, originally from New Zealand, and despite a successful career in the construction industry, always wanted to own a farm. He bought a dairy farm at Bunbartha in 2000 that became a financial nightmare, cost him his marriage and almost his life. He said that in hindsight they paid too much for the herd and despite researching water allocations and rainfall prior to purchase, were not prepared for the drought that has followed. Upgrading the farm in the spring of 2002/03 also resulted in over commitment before the severity of the drought hit.

He is over his depression, but still looks for early signs, such as not making the tough decisions or not dealing with his legal or accounting team when you know you can't pay. He may have to sell part or all of his Bunbartha farm. But he looks forward to the future, he still has his health and the people who are important to him.

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## **Flying fox influx sparks fears for Orange apple crops**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *abc.net.au*, 2 March 2010

Hundreds of flying foxes descending on Orange are threatening orchards just outside of town. Locals have grave fears for the apple crops after an estimated 500 to 1,000 grey-headed flying foxes arrived on Friday and took up residence in the central part of the city.

NSW Farmers Association horticulture committee chairman Peter Darley said that he is urgently warning orchardists to be on guard for the animals, especially at night when they feed. "In the last week they've done devastating damage to the fruit crops in Bilpin, they've probably taken 50 per cent of their apples down there," he said.

Mr Darley said NSW Farmers is lobbying the State Government for subsidies for netting to protect the fruit of growers in the Sydney basin. However, he said if Orange's cold weather does not force the current influx away, there could also be devastating local losses.

## **Tasmania apple harvest underway**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *abc.net.au*, 2 March 2010

Andrew Griggs is an apple farmer in the Huon Valley, Tasmania and had a small team starting to pick last Saturday. Mr Griggs is starting with a light pick over some Jonathan apples and will move onto Galas and Golden Delicious during the next week. Tasmanian apples are expected to be on supermarket shelves within the next couple of weeks.

The seasons have treated the southern Tasmanian crop well, though Mr Griggs says a decent fall of rain would be perfect. "We're still irrigating now so some good rain now would be terrific for the apples," he said. "But the nights are getting cooler which is doing wonders for the colour."

## **Pacific Island labour hire not such an easy task**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com) , source: *The Australian*, 2 March 2010

Fruit grower Michael Tripodi is still struggling to find the scores of reliable workers needed to help his family harvest its crops, despite a government vow to bring in Pacific islanders. "I was meant to get some workers," said Tripodi, who grows peaches, plums, apricots and nectarines in Victoria's Swan Hill region on the Murray River.

He is disappointed with the way the scheme has been managed so far. One of the problems with the Pacific scheme, he said, is that there are too many people with their fingers in the pie all the way. "You have to get through the red tape and then pay 10 per cent or more to the labour hire firms given responsibility for bringing the workers from the islands."

Mr Tripodi said that he can't pass the extra cost on to the consumers. This is because international competition is so tough and he would risk losing his Asian export markets in Hong Kong, Singapore and China. He said that in New Zealand the growers employ the Pacific workers directly.

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## **Stanthorpe Apple and Grape Festival, 5-7 March**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), source: [growcom.com.au](http://growcom.com.au), 1 March 2010

Held every two years, the festival is the biggest event on the Granite Belt region's calendar and in addition to this, has been voted as one Queensland's favourite Iconic Festival Events. This year's event is expected to attract up to 80 000 interstate and international visitors.

Growcom and the Apple Committee have been busy planning promotional activities for this season with funding through Apple and Pear Australia Ltd's (APAL) state promotional allocation. Friday, 5 March has been nominated as Apple Day with multiple competitions and novelty events planned. For more information on this event contact the festival hotline on 07 4681 4111 or log onto <http://www.appleandgrape.org>.

## **Gold mining shafts in Tully's Beechworth orchard a sign of the past**

*Border Mail, NSW Regional, Albury, 27 February 2010, p56*

Rob Tully has farmed apples at Beechworth for 40 years, where once the orchard land had a gold mining past. He said that in wet years it's quite common to have mine shafts open up in the orchard. He said that a lot of influence has gone out of the apple and pear industry when 40 years ago there were 2,300 growers and now there are 600 to 700. In Beechworth and Stanley there were 35 families, now there are only seven or eight.

His harvest of 2,000 Royal Gala trees is nearly complete and 300 trees of Buerre Bosc and Corella pears are currently being picked. 2,000 Fuji trees will follow and then 10,000 Pink Lady trees into early May. He said that yields will be down after such a difficult last season, including being caught up in the Black Saturday bushfires. He and his wife Jenny are a part of HiCountry Fruits, which continues to market the fruit of the original six local families that started the business.

## **Carryover apples remain contentious for the industry**

*Border Mail, NSW Regional, Albury, 27 February 2010, p57*

Beechworth fruit grower Rob Tully has slammed the industry for allowing out of season fruit onto the market. He said that the overuse of cold storage is a 'blight on the industry' and called for apple growers to embrace seasonality. He said that a huge carryover of fruit from last season is not doing anyone any favours selling at this time of the year.

He said that it's difficult for him, even as a fruit grower, to tell the difference between new season and stored fruit, as it looks like the 'real deal'. But if the public loses confidence in a product it impacts on future sales. He said that the industry should refocus on seasonality, perhaps with a regulated cut off date for sales.

APAL communications manager Stuart Gray said that there is more carryover fruit this season, but quality has not been affected. He said that research has indicated that consumers prefer convenience over seasonality. He said that a cut-off date was impractical as there is no secondary market for juice fruit as the market is already flooded with juice concentrate from China. Consumers can now select new season varieties like Gala, while Pink Lady sales will be from stored fruit. See the APAL website at [www.apal.org.au](http://www.apal.org.au) for more information.

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## **Orange district has a Gala season**

*Central Western Daily, NSW Regional, 26 February 2010, p3*

Apple grower David Gartrell said that rain and cooler weather has come at just the right time for growers in Orange. He said that Gala apples are off the trees and the harvest will continue until the last Pink Lady apples in late April.

Fellow grower Guy Gaeta said that the weather was extremely positive. He said that they have had just enough rain to prevent having to use irrigation water, he has only watered on one day, and as a result the dams are still 50 per cent full. He said that he has healthy demand and prices for his apples, despite the carryover of apples from last season.

## **Greater scrutiny of imported produce needed**

*The Land, NSW Regional, 25 February 2010, p25*

Peter Darley, v/p NSW Farmers, said that part of the success of farm businesses relates directly to consumer confidence. He said that NSW Farmers is particularly concerned about fresh vegetables imported from China when for example, certain chemicals used in China are illegal in Australia. If a grower in China has used an unregistered chemical on produce imported here, it is not tested here in Australia for that chemical. He concluded that there needs to be greater scrutiny of the importing process for the benefit of both our farmers and Australian consumers.

## **WA apple crop down and diversifying to minimize threats ahead**

*Manjimup Bridgetown Times, WA Regional, 24 February 2010, p4*

Former APAL WA director Vick Grozotis said that cold wet weather conditions last spring will result in WA apple crops being 15 per cent down compared to previous years. He said that excellent eating quality and reduced supply will make apples slightly more expensive this year. He said that apples will present real value to consumers again this year.

He said that the apple industry faced four major issues ahead. These are the risk of imported apples from China, upward pressure on wages, increasing energy costs and water licensing issues. He has diversified with three to four hectares of avocados and hopes that they will not parody the wine industry with a glut situation in the future.

## **Illegal workers deported after picking fruit in Stanthorpe**

*Warwick Daily News, Qld Regional, 24 February 2010, p1*

Fourteen illegal Indonesian workers, who were picking fruit near Stanthorpe, have been detained for overstaying their visas. Twelve of the workers will be removed from Australia as soon as possible and two have been granted bridging visas to make their own arrangements to depart Australia.

Ready Workforce senior recruitment officer Sue Frances said that their organisation does visa checks, but farmers need to know who they are employing and they need to check contractor's ethics. Substantial fines and possible imprisonment apply to employers (up to \$13,200 and two years imprisonment) or labour hire companies (fines up to \$66,000 per illegal worker) convicted of harbouring illegal workers.

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## **Grower slams lack of support for struggling irrigators**

*Sunraysia Daily, NW Victoria, Mildura, 24 February 2010, pp1, 4*

A study has found that a 'snap decision' by the Victorian Planning Minister, Justin Madden, last September, that prevented farm blocks from being subdivided has cost the farmers and the region \$250m in lost property values, slashing \$150,000 from the average property value and leaving the land virtually worthless except for the value of its water.

Red Cliffs wine grape grower Bill McClumpha said that the wine industry has now banded together to conduct a travelling road show to explain to growers how they must confront the reality of over supply when their own production and MIS schemes with loaded tax incentives created the problem for ordinary wine grape growers. He said that the Victorian Government has let the situation get way out of hand, because they don't know what to do. He said it's not just about water security and getting people out of the industry in the name of saving water for the environment.

## **Growers on full irrigation allocations still exiting the industry in SW NSW Murray region**

*Sunraysia Daily, NW Victoria, Mildura, 24 February 2010, p4*

Irrigators on the NSW side of the Murray over the river from Mildura have received full allocations of water in recent years due to the NSW priority on water licences for horticultural plantings or high security allocations. Western Murray Irrigation (WMI) controls 60,000ML of allocation on the NSW side and ceo Cheryl Rix said that they are also at risk of becoming unviable as water is traded out of the district.

They expect to lose six per cent of allocations by the end of June and as sales continue the situation will become less stable as WMI looks to recoup costs from fewer growers. Fewer families also mean fewer people to support regional facilities such as schools and retail outlets. Selling off permanent water for up to \$3,000/ML is an option for growers and the good thing is that they can buy temporary water at current low prices of around \$150/ML.

## **Murray Darling Basin water reserves**

*Sunraysia Daily, NW Victoria, Mildura, 22 February 2010, p11*

Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) active storage (which currently excludes the Menindee Lakes) increased during the last week by 9 gegalitres (GL) to 1,874GL or 22 per cent capacity. Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir was steady at 1,189GL or 30 per cent capacity and is expected to remain steady over the coming weeks. Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 17GL to 552GL, or 18 per cent capacity and this storage will continue to decrease over the coming weeks.

Total storages in the Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) increased by 115GL to 584GL or 34 per cent capacity and will continue to increase during the week. There are currently about 12,400ML/day passing over the Wentworth Weir (on the Murray) and this is expected to peak at around 14,000ML/day in three weeks time.

Total storage in Lake Victoria (below Wentworth), has increased by 26GL to 343GL or 51 per cent capacity. The flow to South Australia (SA) over the past week has averaged about 8,250ML /day. Water flows over Lock 1 are providing high inflows to the Lower Lakes, at the mouth of the Murray in SA, at an average of 4,250ML/day.

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## **Carbendazim banned for most crops, but not the neighbour's macadamias**

*Noosa News, Qld Regional, 19 February 2010, p5*

Fish hatchery owner Gen Gibson has had enough trouble dealing with two headed fish, but it's the double standard by the APVMA spray watchdog that has really rocked her. Carbendazim, a fungicide, has been found in lake samples and has been suspended for use on grapes, melons, citrus, custard apples, mangoes, pome fruit, stone fruit and turf. Ms Gibson said that it has been found to cause male infertility in some animals, yet it can be sprayed on macadamia trees growing on the neighbour's property. She attributes spray drift as the most likely cause of the hatchling deformities.

The APVMA has defended its actions, but said that a review of the fungicide is ongoing. The Noosa Fish health Investigation Task force continues to investigate the fish hatchery deaths and abnormalities.

## **New Zealand**

### **Ample labour for Nelson apple harvest**

*Nelson Mail, NZ, 22 February 2010, p3*

Nelson's apple harvest is about to begin with a distinctly Kiwi flavour this season with Kiwi workers making up about 70 per cent of the workers, compared to 60 per cent in previous years. Hundreds of backpackers have few jobs on offer with growers having full picking crews. More locals are looking for work and many backpackers aren't finding jobs in the hospitality or retail sectors this year, said pipfruit NZ chairman Ian Palmer. There will be no excuses for not picking apples at their optimum this year, he said.

The exchange rate is still too high but some markets, including the US, seem to be in better shape this year. Earnings of NZ \$100m for Nelson growers last year was NZ \$25m down on the previous year. This year the crop forecast is 4.5m cartons, down from 4.7m last year. Nationally the crop forecast is down 15 per cent to 14.8m cartons.

## **UK / Europe**

### **Apple stocks up, pears down in EU market**

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), source: WAPA, 25 February 2010

WAPA reports 1 February EU apple stocks up 3.4 per cent compared to the same time last year. Tonnages are 2,975,291 compared to 2,878,824 last year. WAPA reports 1 February EU pear stocks up 65.6 per cent compared to last year. Tonnages are 494,006 compared to 298,239 at the same time last year.

At 1 February 2010 Golden Delicious made up 988,952 tonnes, down 4.5 per cent on the previous year, but well ahead of next variety Jonagold with 312,162t, up 10.6 per cent year on year. Conference is the dominant pear with 338,867 tonnes, up 62 per cent year on year.

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## North America

### Apple and pear stocks, US market report, week 7

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), source: Mark Greenberg, 26 February 2010

The US Apple Association recently published the fresh apple storage statistics as of February 1, 2010. With 64 million cases of fresh apples in storage, total fresh apple stocks are 10 per cent below last season (as of the same date) and 2.74 per cent higher than the five year average.

The first Argentine Summer Bartletts are expected to arrive in Philadelphia on 22 February. While we expect to see opening prices in the traditional high range (the mid US\$20's to low US\$30's, size depending) the Argentines will find a market that has substantially more winter pears than last season, led by a D'Anjou inventory that is 43 per cent higher than the inventory one year earlier. Bosc and Red D'Anjou volumes remain close to last season's levels (both in terms of remaining inventory and percentage of the crop that remains to be sold).

## South America

### Earthquake impact on Chile fresh fruit will allow supply to keep flowing

[www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), source: [hawkesbay.co.nz](http://hawkesbay.co.nz), 2 March 2010

Chile was woken up on Saturday morning (February 27) by an 8.8 magnitude earthquake in some areas, one of the strongest ever recorded, and its effects were felt throughout much of the country. The epicentre was about 70 miles (116km) off the coast of the southern city of Concepcion, one of Chile's largest cities, and around 270 miles (435km) from the capital, Santiago.

Ronald Bown, Chairman of the Board of ASOEX, said: "Although it's too early to measure the likely mid - long-term impact of the earthquake on fruit supplies for export, initial reports are encouraging. He said that a number of the key packing facilities escaped with minimal damage and where roads and bridges are impassible, alternate routes are available.

The Chilean Exporters Association (ASOEX) is working on a complete diagnosis of the situation and updates will be posted on the [www.chileanfreshfruit.com](http://www.chileanfreshfruit.com) website in an effort to keep receivers / importers and trade colleagues posted.

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## Netherlands Market Report

Average free on truck (FOT) prices at the Dutch fresh produce market, both exports and domestic, being an average on the price lists of importers/exporters and an indication of European prices:-

Source	Variety	Pack	count/size	Euros lowest	AU \$	Count /size	Euros Highest	AU \$
France	G. Delicious	18.0kg	125	12.00	18.10	56&64	14.63	22.07
France	G. Smith	18.0kg	120	11.00	16.59	56	15.00	22.63
France	R. Delicious	18.0kg	135	11.75	17.73	64	15.20	22.93
France	Royal Gala	18.0kg	125&135	13.00	19.61	64-88	14.00	21.12
China	Fuji	10.0kg	44	8.64	13.03	32	9.36	14.12
Sth Africa	WBC	12.5kg	96	9.77	14.74	52&60	12.50	18.86
Sth Africa	Rosemarie	12.5kg	96	16.00	24.14	80	17.40	26.25
Not named	Abate Fetel	7.0kg	75/80	10.00	15.09	80/85	11.50	17.35
Not named	Packham	18.0kg			0	100-120	16.50	24.89

Information sourced from [www.freshplaza.com](http://www.freshplaza.com), week 9, w/e 5 March 2010

## Los Angeles Market Report

LA wholesale on 3 March 2010 provided by: Fruit and Vegetable Market News, USDA.

Source	Variety	Pack	US \$ Min	US\$ Max	AU \$ Min	AU \$ Max
Washington	Red Del	18 kg	14.00	24.00	15.54	26.65
Washington	Golden Del	18 kg	20.00	26.50	22.20	29.42
Washington	Fuji	18 kg	18.00	34.00	19.98	37.75
Washington	G Smith	18 kg	15.00	26.00	16.65	28.87
Washington	Gala	18 kg	22.00	32.00	24.43	35.53
Washington	Pink Lady™	18 kg	22.00	24.00	24.43	26.65
Oregon	Anjou	20 kg	20.00	24.00	22.20	26.65
Washington	Anjou	20 kg	18.00	22.00	19.98	24.43
Oregon	Red Anjou	10 kg	16.00	16.00	17.76	17.76

## Information About APWN and Disclaimer

This bulletin is prepared weekly to bring you up to date with the latest information about apples and pears with some reference to other commodities. Information is sourced from weekly and monthly publications and the electronic media and is used in the next issue of the bulletin after it is received. All sources are referenced.

The Bulletin is compiled and edited by Apple & Pear Australia Ltd (APAL) from information researched by APAL staff and consultants, in particular Ross Wall. APAL also gratefully acknowledges assistance provided by the Agribusiness Initiative of the Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

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