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Australia

Tassie apple grower wins award for best Pinot Noir

The Mercury, Hobart, Tasmania, 11 December 2011

According to the chairman of judges, John Ellis of Victoria, the 2,341 entries in this year's Royal Hobart Wine show were down slightly from last year due to the very difficult 2011 vintage conditions experienced right across south eastern Australia.

Congratulations to Brett Squibb, of the apple-growing Squibb family at Spreyton, whose 2009 Blustery Banks took out the prestigious Etihad Airways Trophy for Best Pinot Noir. Brett took over a neglected 2ha vineyard at Wesley Vale in 2005, effectively learned on the job and produced his first full crop of chardonnay and pinot in 2008. The winning wine was made for him by Rebecca Duffy at Holm Oak. His prize includes a return Etihad flight for two to Paris.

New quarantine station at Yamba, SA Riverland, to help fight against fruit fly

www.freshplaza.com , source: *Get Farming Australia, 14 December 2011*

South Australians have been urged to "protect their own backyard" by ensuring they don't inadvertently bring fruit fly into their State, with the start of a new fruit fly season. Biosecurity SA's Manager Plant and Food Standards, Geoff Raven, said it was crucial that the State's half billion dollar horticultural industry was protected from incursion of fruit fly from other states, or thoughtless carrying of fruit into the Riverland fruit fly free zone.

"Last October long weekend, our Plant Health surveillance staff impounded 880 kilograms of fruit during inspections of 3,234 vehicles travelling through our three quarantine stations operating that weekend. So, the message is clear: don't risk a \$2500 fine by thoughtless actions," he said.

Efforts to defend SA from the threat of fruit fly this summer were substantially boosted last week by the opening of a new quarantine station at Yamba in the Riverland. The opening of the quarantine inspection section of the \$6.3 million facility (funded by both the Federal and State governments) is timely, coinciding with the start of South Australia's fruit fly campaign.

Funding available in Queensland for innovative practices

APAL eNEWS, 9 December 2011

The Queensland Government has announced a \$2 million grants scheme for food businesses to promote innovation, growth and productivity. The Food Innovation and Productivity Incentive (FIPI) program will provide dollar-for-dollar grants of \$25,000 to \$100,000, to Queensland based food businesses, cooperatives and associations with innovative projects.

Preference will be given to projects that embrace new processes and technologies, increase opportunities for collaboration and embed innovative practices into the business or across the industry sector.

The first FIPI funding round will open on 6 February 2012 and close on 2 April 2012. Should you wish to discuss an idea for funding please contact Annie Farrow at APAL on 03 9329 3511. Applicants can also contact the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) on 132523 or email FIPI@deedi.qld.gov.au. [Return to front page](#)

Farm Debt Mediation Scheme introduced in Victoria and present in NSW

Easy Update, Murray Valley Winegrowers Inc., 9 December 2011

Victoria introduced a Farm Debt Mediation Scheme on 1 December, a move that now extends this mediation system across both NSW (which has had it in place for a number of years) and Victoria. The Scheme means that a financial institution must now offer debt mediation to any farmer before foreclosing and selling up the farm to recover debt.

While no guarantee is available that a farmer can avoid the sale of their property, in 70 per cent of farm debt mediations in NSW the parties have been able to reach a negotiated settlement. The key difference in approach between the States is that in Victoria, rather than the bank and farmer equally sharing the cost of employing an independent registered mediator, the two parties pay only \$195 each and the State Government picks up the rest of the mediation bill.

The Victorian scheme will be managed by the Office of the Small Business Commissioner. For more information contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136186 and ask to speak to the Farm Debt Mediation officer. See also www.dpi.vic.gov.au/mediation.

Goulburn Valley SPCA cuts fruit prices

Country News, www.countrynews.com.au, NC Victoria, 13 Dec. 2011, p3

SPC Ardmona growers have been surprised by a cut in pear and peach prices announced by the processor at a grower meeting last week. The news comes on top of a year of over-supply of pears in the fresh fruit market. The base canning pear price has been cut by \$30/tonne, but the company has offered to allow more larger pears in the intake.

Fruit Growers Victoria chairman Andrew Plunkett said that the changes, by his calculations, represent a drop of about \$15/tonne or four per cent down on last year's price. The base peach price is also down by about \$20/t and growers were told there would no access to a \$15/t bonus for mid-season peaches. Mr Plunkett estimated the reductions are equivalent to about seven per cent on last year.

SPCA m/d Vince Pinneri blamed the current economic conditions for the price cuts. He said that the company is committed to engaging regularly with their growers and that such collaboration is critical to SPCA enjoying a long and sustainable future. He said that it is up to Australian consumers to choose to support domestically produced brands, or to understand that supporting cheap imported private label products can come at a cost to Australian producers and food manufacturers.

APAL meet with Coles representatives

APAL eNEWS, 9 December 2011

APAL m/d Jon Durham and market development manager Cassia Ferguson met recently with Montague Fresh and senior staff from Coles supermarket. The meeting was held at the Montague Fresh orchard at Narre Warren. Montague staff demonstrated how apples are tested for maturity for storage and the visitors were given fruit to taste direct from CA storage. The Coles team said they wanted to work with the industry to promote apples and to use more advanced marketing techniques for apples and pears.

Jon said that "it was a very constructive meeting and I really appreciate the time that Coles made to learn more about our industry and how apples are grown and stored. It was great to hear them talking about wanting to work with the industry for mutual benefit. They understand the health benefits of apples and believe it is in the consumer's interest to be aware of those benefits," he said.

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Diuron limited use and banned in high risk situations

APAL eNEWS, 9 December 2011

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has suspended the use of diuron in high risk situations. Diuron is used for the control of both broadleaf and grass weeds in agriculture. It is also used to control weeds and algae in and around water bodies. The suspension affects approximately two thirds of the 101 diuron products currently registered.

The suspension, effective from 28 November 2011 to 31 March 2012, prohibits diuron use 1) in irrigation channels, 2) in drainage ditches, around buildings, sheds and driveways and 3) on tropical crops.

The APVMA has issued strict new use instructions for the suspension period, including additional restrictions designed to minimise run-off. Possession and use in certain situations can continue, provided diuron products carry the new instructions for use. Full details about the diuron suspension and review are available at www.apvma.gov.au.

Rain heavy hit on Young's cherry harvest

www.freshplaza.com , source: *canberratimes.com.au*, 13 December 2011

Rain has ruined much of Tom Eastlake's and the Young district's cherry harvest for the second successive year. Mr Eastlake is packing off the pick of his crop to the Pacific Islands, Indonesia, South-East Asia and the Middle East and won't let the setbacks dampen his determination to crack a spectacular new market in China.

Torrential rain wiped out 85 per cent of his cherries last year. This year, heavy falls returned precisely at the wrong time to claim his Rons, the dark red, sweet signature cherry of Young, which are heavily represented among his 8,000 trees. Instead of producing 25,000 cases, he'll pack about 10,000. He's throwing out four tonnes of damaged cherries a day.

'Last year the trees were healthy and we had a good moisture profile under the trees, we knew the crop was going to be good. To miss a big portion again is disappointing,' he said.

Vegetable prices down by 18 per cent

www.freshplaza.com , source: *farmonline.com.au*, 8 December 2011

Recently released data has shown that vegetable prices are currently 18 per cent lower in comparison to what they were at this time last year, according to Ausveg spokesman Andrew White. "The reason for the fall in prices is the over-supply of produce available in the wholesale markets in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane," said Mr White.

The most significant reductions in comparative prices can be seen in the sales of capsicums, sweet corn, zucchinis, beans, cauliflowers and tomatoes. Ausveg urges consumers to take advantage of the cheaper vegetable prices by buying up lots of fresh Australian vegetables over the holiday season.

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PMA Fresh Connections to be held late June 2012 in Melbourne

www.freshplaza.com , source: pmafreshconnections.com.au, 7 Dec. 2011

The opportunities to learn the latest for local and global success will be available from 26-28 June 2012, at PMA Fresh Connections Conference and Trade Show at Australia's Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Co-hosted by PMA Australia-New Zealand and the Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, organisations will come away with invaluable knowledge for increasing business profitability, and enhanced industry networks. Registration for PMA Fresh Connections opens in early 2012.

Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan release with comments by MVW Inc.

Easy Update, Edition 68, Murray Valley Winegrowers Inc., 2 December 2011

The Draft Plan Water Recovery Figures at a Glance

Extra water required by the basin plan = 2,750 GL; water already recovered from 2009 to 2011 = 1,068 GL; recovery from NVIRP stage 2 = 214 GL; left to still be recovered = 1,468 GL

The New Plan Draft vs the 2010 Guide

The new figure for recovery of water for the environment of 2,750 GL is 50 GL less than expected, but almost unchanged for the Southern Basin, where there is only 7 GL less water to be clawed back for the environment under the new Draft Plan. The Southern Basin will return most of it, a total of 2,360 GL, principally from the Murrumbidgee, Goulburn, Murray and Lower Darling. In other words the impact of the Plan will be the same in total water recovery terms.

Local vs Downstream

The clawbacks fall into two categories. Firstly local or in-valley reductions are aimed at watering local environmental sites and improving the general health of the river eco-systems in those valleys. Secondly, shared or downstream reductions, which are aimed at end-of-system flows; that is keeping the Murray Mouth open through fresh water flows 9 years out of 10 to flush salt and nutrients out to sea.

Southern Basin Figures

In the Southern Basin 1,389 GL will be clawed back for in-valley needs and 971 GL for downstream needs. While there has been some commentary about the fact that the locations where the 971 GL downstream requirement will be drawn from are unknown, if these shared reductions are allocated according to each section of the Basin's share of current diversions, the implied quantities with the prospect of affecting our region are; NSW Murray 209 GL, Lower Darling 7 GL, Victorian Murray 201 GL.

The difficulty is that with the exception of the Lower Darling the two State Murray regional classifications cover hundreds of kilometres of irrigation districts along either side of the Murray. It is almost impossible to estimate how much water currently used for horticulture may be traded out of the Murray/Darling and Swan Hill regions between now and 2019. However a moderate recovery in horticulture commodity prices and the still growing needs of the almond plantings in the region may even see the net import of water into horticulture production in the Valley.

Murrumbidgee & Goulburn Reductions a Hidden Threat

The proposed reductions in irrigation water from the Murrumbidgee and Goulburn Rivers are huge, estimated at 570 GL (including an implied downstream share) for the Murrumbidgee and 537 GL for the Goulburn. Apart from the obvious effect on rice and dairy production in the Riverina and Northern

Victoria, this could have a massive impact on the availability and price of temporary water available for purchase for horticulture along the Murray in drier years.

That is, unless the huge water reserves being held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) can be traded to irrigators in drier periods. The Government has a Discussion Paper covering this and other environmental water management issues out for discussion currently, although the CEWH already favours trading environmental water to irrigators. The rub will be when, how and how much?

What the Draft Plan Doesn't Mention

Most of all the Draft Plan does not provide irrigators with any certainty. The Draft Plan does not have an Environmental Watering Plan; only the framework by which it will be devised. The Plan does not specify in any detail how specific environmental works and measures may be employed to create water efficiencies, although it presents an estimate of 400 GL that could potentially be saved through engineering works etc. That would leave approximately 1,068 GL still to be recovered from additional purchases.

Government Water Purchase Moratorium Until 2013

In parallel with the release of the Draft Plan and in response to the Windsor Inquiry recommendations on more strategic purchase of water, the Federal Government will not reopen water buyback tenders until 2013. We will have to wait to see how it interprets more "strategic" purchase. A new Water Purchase Strategy Document is due for release for consultation and feedback from the Basin communities in the next couple of months.

Renewed Commitment Not To Compulsorily Acquire Water

The Government has again reiterated that no irrigator will be forced to sell water, or will have their water entitlement unilaterally reduced. It says the required water will be secured through infrastructure savings, works and measures, and purchase from willing sellers.

The Bottom Line

However a hidden threat remains if the required quantity of water is not secured by 2019. The MDBA has admitted to MVW that if the water required cannot be secured through purchase or water savings, the States will have to find the savings to fit under the new Basin Cap. That would mean only one thing, annual allocations would be trimmed. Therefore all Murray Valley irrigators may still face a reduction in irrigation water if the Plan targets for clawback are not met in the interim!

FGV chairman doesn't want industry to lose tradeable water option

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, 14 December 2011, p9

Fruit Growers Victoria chairman Andrew Plunkett said at the MDBA public meeting held in Shepparton on Tuesday, that environmental works, further on-farm upgrades and new system management rules are the only farm and community friendly ways to return water to the environment. He said that the removal of tradeable water from the market through buybacks would 'condemn good viable businesses to future failure'.

He said that while he maintained confidence in the fruit industry, many of his fellow orchardists did not. He agreed with the VFF's Richard Anderson that certainty was the key ingredient missing from the draft plan. The Commonwealth and the MDBA need to earn the trust of the community by delivering greater certainty, he said.

GV Environmental Group believes 4,000GL return essential for MDB

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au , 14 December 2011, p9

Goulburn Valley Environment Group (GVEG) water spokesman Terry Court said at the MDBA public meeting held in Shepparton on Tuesday, that GVEG believed that a 4,000GL environmental return was the bare minimum. He said that the group is not anti-community. "It is the long term planning that we must get right. He warned against squabbling between the states and said that the 2019 time frame was too long because of the uncertainty involved for irrigators.

But he said that the 344GL earmarked to come from the Goulburn Broken catchment will be nowhere near enough, as the draft plan fails to take into account future climate change. He said that the 344GL virtually places the Goulburn River in survival mode under the worst case climate change scenario, while even in lower levels of climate change it will remain nowhere near a healthy river. He could not believe that the plan has no regard for climate change.

Minister defends water buyback through willing sellers

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au , 14 December 2011, p9

At the MDBA public meeting held in Shepparton on Tuesday, Federal Water Minister Tony Burke said that when the Food Bowl Modernisation project has wound up, there could potentially be just 1,000GL to find through buybacks for the Murray Darling Basin.

He reassured farmers that no-one would lose a single litre from their water entitlements and that the final plan would endeavor to minimize instances of water holders selling their entire entitlements. He said that the majority of people who tender, only tender for a portion of their water. This mostly has minimal impact on regional communities, although he acknowledged that selling entire entitlements can have a significant impact.

MDBA chairman perception fine, but can the MDBA deliver

Shepparton News, www.sheppnews.com.au, NC Victoria, 14 Dec,2011, p9

Country News editor Geoff Adams described MDBA chairman Craig Knowles as at pains to be conciliatory and understanding in the public meeting held in Shepparton on Tuesday to discuss the new release Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan. While his responses were positive, they were often wordy and mingled with expressions like 'adaptive management'.

Mr Knowles said that he does not engage in public consultation without being willing to make changes. He said that the documents are not set in stone. Editor Geoff Adams concludes that the Goulburn Valley will be waiting to see if Mr Knowles final report reflects whether he was listening as well as talking.

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New Zealand

Fresh produce residue study comes up trumps

Yahoo! NZ News, 15 December 2011

Results from a Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) study that looks at chemical residues in fresh, unwashed produce, indicates that most growers are using pesticides responsibly in the recommended manner. None of the residues found posed health or food safety concerns.

The annual Food Residue Surveillance Programme (FRSP) targets locally-produced and imported crops prone to exceeding the maximum residue limit (MRL) set for agricultural chemicals. MRLs are used to determine whether growers have followed good agricultural practice (GAP). For answers to common questions about agricultural compound residues in food see:

http://www.foodsmart.govt.nz/elibrary/Agricultural_compound_residues_in_food.pdf

Australian market targeted with bumper NZ avocado crop

www.freshplaza.com , source: *Stuff.co.nz*, 14 December 2011

The avocado industry is expecting a record harvest this season, up about 40 per cent on the previous high. NZ Avocado Growers' Association c/e Jen Scoular said the crop estimate this season was for about 5.9 million trays, compared to the previous largest crop of 4.2 million in 2007-08, and just over 3 million trays last year.

"Australia is expected to account for about 75-80 per cent of exports and NZ had about half the market from November to February," Scoular said. The export season harvest runs from September until February.

The association is spending \$500,000 on a marketing campaign aimed at persuading Australians to add an avocado to their daily diet, which included about 30,000 samples since October, magazine advertising and the delivery of recipes by a mobile phone application.

UK / Europe

EU pear prices 'dramatically low'

www.freshplaza.com , source: *evenepoel.com*, 12 December 2011

According to grower Steven Evenepoel of Evenepoel Fruit, Belgium, it's quiet on the top fruit market. He mainly supplies pears to Scandinavian countries. "All of Europe is suffering from it at the moment. There is a lot of fruit on the market due to the high production this year and it's hard to sell."

The pear prices are 'dramatically low' according to the grower. "For the smallest pears, they're around 23 cents and 70/75's 42 cents. At the moment the middle price is 38 cents, this is excluding the price of packaging."

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EU apple market busier, but prices bad

www.freshplaza.com , author: Gerard Lindhout, 14 December 2011

"It is still quiet on the apple market. It is slightly busier than a few months ago, but it is now at a normal level. Except the prices, which are not good as yet, and are between 30 and 50 cents, depending on the quality and the size" a Belgian fruit exporter tells. "Nevertheless we hope that prices will get better after the New Year."

"The cause of the difficult apple market is mainly the result of the large Polish production" he said. "Poland will supply Russia with a lot more this year and that is troublesome for us." Also the pear market is not doing too well. "These prices are between 35 and 45 cents."

New apple variety Chanteloup set for SW France

www.freshplaza.com , source: blue-whale.com, 12 December 2011

At the end of the year French apple producer Blue Whale will introduce their new apple variety Chanteloup. The variety is family of the Chantecler. The apple has a red-orange color and is crunchy, juicy and sweet. A dash of aniseed brings the unique flavor. The Chanteloup will be exclusively sold by Blue Whale in the South West of France.

New pear varieties in the EU

www.freshplaza.com , source: newstrackindia.com, 1 December 2011

Jef Vercammen from PC Fruit Belgium spoke about experiences with new pear varieties in Belgium during the Kennisdag Fruitteelt 2011. "We are the only country in the world with more pears than apples and see an increase of Conference area each year." The pear and apple areas in Belgium were respectively 8,324 and 7,404 hectares in 2011. The pear harvest in 2011 was 288,000 tonnes. The next few years an increase in production is expected and it could go up to 350,000 tonnes."

Jeff talked about various new pear varieties such as Corina, Celina, Sweet Sensation, P6R31A18, Dicolor, Xenia and Dazzling Gold. The area of Sweet Sensation will be extended in the next few years. Not just in Belgium and Holland, but also in other European countries and in the future the plan is to plant 400 hectares outside of Europe.

The Moldavian Xenia-pear was first commercially planted in 2008/09. A production extension is also expected for this variety. The German pear variety Dazzling Gold was first commercially planted in 2010/11. It's expected that this pear will also be grown outside of Europe in countries such as Chile, Argentina and South-Africa.

Jef closed with the comment that Conference will remain the main pear variety in Belgium for a long time.

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Area of club varieties to increase in EU

www.freshplaza.com , 8 December 2011

Gerhard Baab, DLR Rheinpfalz, spoke about perspective-full top fruit varieties in West-Europe during the Kennisdag Fruitteelt 2011, Holland (Information for Fruit growing). He talked about various club varieties such as Junami, Rubens, Kanzi and Wellant. "The area of the club varieties in the EU was 6,908 hectare in 2008. In 2011 it was 9,114 hectares. This will increase a lot in the next few years."

Research was done by Germany on the new apple varieties Zari, Evelina, Mairac and Natyra and Xenia is a new pear variety of which the yield is very high. "This variety's problem is that the fruit is extremely big. This means the market value is still questionable and is still being discussed in Germany.

North America

US Washington apple crop third largest

Fruitnet.com, 12 December 2011

Apple growers in Washington State, US are expecting to record their third largest crop in the industry's history at an estimated 104.3m cartons, an increase of 2.6m cartons from the forecast a month previously. According to data from the Yakima Valley Growers-Shippers Association and the Wenatchee Valley Traffic Association, this year's crop will be 5m cartons lower than the 109m carton harvest achieved in 2010. It is also likely to be lower than 2008's 108m carton crop.

Weekly sales record for Washington apples

www.freshplaza.com , source: *Capital Press, Dan Wheat, 14 Dec. 2011*

A new record for Washington apples shipped in one week has been set at 3.2 million, 40-pound boxes. It was for the week ending 11 Dec. and surpassed the prior weekly high of 3.05 million set 5 Dec. 2004, said Dan Kelly, assistant manager of Washington Growers Clearing House Association in Wenatchee.

"If this continues we might set a new monthly record. It's hard to say," Kelly said. "Every warehouse has to be close to records. Everyone is shipping high." Last season, new all-time monthly records were set in November, December and March. The March record still stands at 11.556 million boxes of apples sold.

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Snokist Growers processor files for bankruptcy

www.freshplaza.com , source: *Yakima-herald.com*, 8 December 2011

Amid a pile of debt and safety concerns over its products, Yakima-based Snokist Growers filed for bankruptcy, leaving the fate of the food-processing operation and hundreds of seasonal employees in the air. The 108-year-old company cited orders lost in the wake of a critical Federal Food and Drug Administration report and inflexibility on the part of its lender.

Snokist employs more than 600 mostly seasonal workers in its food processing plant in Terrace Heights and several warehouses across the Yakima Valley. The cooperative is owned by more than 150 growers who bring in their apples, pears, cherries and plums to be canned or turned into fruit cups, purees and juices.

Pesticides found in Canada organic apples

www.freshplaza.com , source: *cbc.ca*, 9 December 2011

Some organic produce in Canada contains pesticides, according to government inspection documents obtained by CBC News, including nearly 24 per cent of organic apples. Records released to CBC News by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency show 23.6 per cent of the 178 organic apples tested in 2009 and 2010 contained pesticide residue.

Dr. Walter Krol, who tests produce for the State of Connecticut's Department of Consumer Protection, said he has found similar levels of pesticide residue on organic produce. "Pesticides are ending up in produce somehow and it's not supposed to happen so there are flaws in the integrity," he said in an interview.

Krol noted that pesticides can come from several sources, including post-harvest processing, spray drift or the soil in which the produce was grown. However, he said, the CFIA's test results will not likely reassure consumers.

South America

Chile looks to Far East markets

Fruitnet.com, 12 December 2011

With Chilean exports increasing year on year, the country is becoming more reliant on developing markets in Latin America, Asia and Middle East. According to a media report from the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association, the country saw fresh fruit exports increase by 7.2 per cent to more than 2.64m tonnes in 2010-11.

Chilean Exporters Association (ASOEX) chairman, Ronald Bown said that sales into the Far East spiked last year and an increase of 28.4 per cent saw its share of the Chilean export pie grow from 11 to 13 per cent. "There was good growth registered in several countries in the Far East, while direct imports into China have increased twofold in the last two seasons," said Bown.

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North Asia

China apple production on the up

www.freshplaza.com , source: USDA, 7 December 2011

China's apple production is forecast at 35 million tonnes for marketing year (MY) 2011/12 (July/June), up five percent from the previous year. Production for apple juice concentrate (AJC) is forecast at 600,000 mt in 2011/12 (July/June), a 15 percent decrease from the revised MY 2010/11 estimate and largely due to lesser supplies of low quality apples and higher prices associated with juice production.

Los Angeles Market Report

LA wholesale on 13 December 2011 provided by: Fruit and Vegetable Market News, USDA.

Source	Variety	Pack	US \$ Min	US\$ Max	AU \$ Min	AU \$ Max
Washington	Red Del	18 kg	22.00	33.00	22.04	33.07
Washington	Golden Del	18 kg	22.00	33.00	22.04	33.07
Washington	Fuji	18 kg	21.00	31.00	21.04	31.06
Washington	G Smith	18 kg	18.00	25.00	18.04	25.05
Washington	Gala	18 kg	22.00	30.00	22.04	30.06
Oregon	Anjou	20 kg	19.00	19.00	19.04	19.04
Washington	Anjou	20 kg	24.00	26.00	24.05	26.05

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).

Every effort is taken to interpret and report accurately on information and events but no responsibility is taken for the source or accuracy of either the information or the interpretation placed upon it in this publication. Similarly the authors do not accept any responsibility for any action that may be taken by an individual following their interpretation of statements made in this report. Currency conversions are for guidance only and were obtained from the Bloomberg Currency Calculator which can be found at <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/currencies/fxc.html>

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