

21 October 2014

To all SAGE Farmers Market Stall Holders

Next stall holder consultation meeting

Another winter is behind us and Christmas will be upon us before we know it. Now daylight saving has begun, the committee thinks it's about time we called a stall holder meeting to give you all an opportunity to ask questions you haven't got around to asking, or raise an issue for discussion. A number of committee members, including myself, will be staying back after next week's market **28th October** and we'll provide a few refreshments as well.

New committee member

Big round of applause for Martin Gribble (Soul Patch), who has stepped up as a stall holder representative on the market's management committee. Having stall holders involved in the management of the market is essential, but we know how difficult it is for most of you to make it to the meetings, so we are very grateful that Martin is volunteering his time. Please feel free to bring any issue you might have – good or bad – to Martin, if you don't feel comfortable raising it with me or another committee member. Don't forget: Hughen (Meringo Creek Farm to Plate) and Isabelle (A la Table d'Isabelle) are also stall holder representatives, so you can approach any of these guys if you need to.

Southeast Harvest – 8th November

SAGE's seasonal celebration of local food culture is just weeks away and there is still plenty of room for more stall holders to come along. It's a fantastic event with free admission that attracts a big crowd, making it a great opportunity to promote your business and help spread awareness of our local food industry. Costa is coming again and will be roaming the festival with a microphone, doing what he does so well with the crowd. A site costs the same as the market, but it's a 6-hour day, so is great value. Details are on the website at www.southeastharvest.com.au/stall-holders. I also have a few copies of the application form, if you'd like one.

Egg stamping

This conjurs up a few different visuals, but it's about the new regulation being brought into effect on 26th November by the NSW Food Authority, requiring all eggs to be stamped with a uniquely identifying mark which enables all eggs to be traced back to their origin. Please read the attached flyer for more information, in particular the section "Are you a small egg business" on the second page. It is not the committee's role to police this, but we *strongly* urge you to investigate the requirements and ensure you comply with the new regulations.

Ratio of primary producers to secondary/tertiary producers

The matter of keeping the emphasis of our market firmly on the word "farmer" was discussed at our last committee meeting. We have been receiving an increasing number of enquiries and applications from producers of value-added goods, raising a concern that our primary purpose of supporting local growers could become diluted without a suitable policy to guide our decisions. We have agreed to maintain a ratio of 2:1 primary to secondary/tertiary (combined) producers, give or take. This will fluctuate seasonally, so

we further decided that the ratio should be determined according to *long-term or regular* primary producers, to avoid an imbalance creeping into the market. As such, a waiting list of secondary/tertiary producers has been created. As more growers join us, we will invite producers from the waiting list according to the date their application was received.

That's it for now. Hope to see as many of you as possible at the meeting after next week's market.

Kate Raymond
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on behalf of the
SAGE Farmers Market Committee

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