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## **New Farmers Market for Granite Belt**

**The Granite Belt's energetic food group is calling for expressions of interest for participation in their new farmers market. Situated at 1000 metres above sea level, these might be amongst the highest markets in the land.**

The markets are the latest initiative following the Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc's (GBWT) Food Forum held in June this year.

Following discussions with the popular Market in the Mountains, GBWT's food group have today confirmed that their farmers and produce markets will be **launched on Sunday 12 October 2008.**

The produce market will run fortnightly alongside the Granite Belt Market in the Mountains, which operates on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

Co-ordinating the farmers markets for the Granite Belt food group is organic pesto producer Sandra Miiller. She said, "We would like to invite all local growers, producers and those who value add to participate. This provides an excellent opportunity not only to sell their produce to locals and visitors, but to network with one another as well as with restaurateurs and accommodation owners who may include those products in their menus."

"We are hoping that this sort of networking will help to broadcast information about what fresh produce is available and what's in demand," Ms Miiller added.

The new farmer's market will run from 9am to 1pm at the Stanthorpe Civic Centre for a six month trial period and then the frequency, trading hours and location will be evaluated.

**Growers, producers and those who value add and are interested in participating should contact Sandra Miiller on 07 4681 0694 or email [sandmill@hotmail.com](mailto:sandmill@hotmail.com)**

New President of GBWT, Mr Phil Moya said, "We are already known as the Queensland wine capital, now we are pairing food and wine. The food group's aim is to help local growers and producers, as well as to develop the Granite Belt as a food region under the 'Elevated Taste' tagline."

The new markets within the region build on recent successes by Granite Belt producers at Brisbane's South Bank.

To learn more about this Queensland wine and food region visit [www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au](http://www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au) or phone 1800 SO COOL and experience **Elevated Taste!**

### EDITOR'S NOTES

- Wine** The history of the Queensland wine industry dates back to the 1860s - and like all good wines it has developed with age. Of Queensland's current 1100 hectares planted to wine grapes, approximately half of these are on the Granite Belt. The Granite Belt is Queensland's premier wine region and one of ten wine regions in the state, of which only two have official GI status. The Granite Belt is home to approximately 50 wine cellar doors, the state's most awarded winemakers, plus the Queensland College of Wine Tourism - the first of its type in the world.
- Food** The Granite Belt is the only area in Queensland to produce apples: creating a gross value of approximately \$35m per annum (DPI&F 2006). Agriculture is the largest employer in the area, which boasts a vibrant and diverse horticultural sector. In this part of Queensland, the food production sector is expected to experience an average annual growth rate of approximately 8.0% per annum, despite the drought. Over the 10 years to 2017, growth in the sector is expected to result in a 12.7% increase in the regional economy's turnover (source Darling Downs & South West Queensland Centre of Enterprise and AEC Group 2007.)

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