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## Buy Me, I'm a Local

**Years ago, amongst the fresh fruit and vegetables in the IGA supermarket in Young, NSW was displayed a cute hand-written sign saying "Buy Me, I'm a Local".**

That's the message Granite Belt producers want to get out ahead of next week's relaunch of the Granite Belt Farmers Market.



**For those who love regional, seasonal produce – head to the gardens of the Stanthorpe Civic Centre on Sunday 12 October 2008.**

To give visitors a chance to enjoy their Sunday lie in, trading will begin at 9am.

As Queensland's apple and grape capital, the official opening at 9.30am will be performed by none other than Isabella Grape and Jonathon Apple! *[pictured left with recent visitors from the Queensland Winelander]*

Already almost 20 producers of food, wine and pamper products have booked their stalls for the markets. Many have organic produce. All will display a "Buy Me, I'm a Local" sign.

Market co-ordinator Sandra Miiller confirmed the markets will be open for business until 1pm with many stall holders providing the opportunity to try before you buy. Amongst the vendors will be producers of tofu, cheese, vinegar, pesto and other gourmet items, plus fresh fruit and vegetables. A butcher and a number of award-winning wineries and lavender producers will complete the line-up.

The farmers markets are the latest initiative following the Granite Belt Wine & Tourism Inc's (GBWT) Food Forum held in June this year. Ms Miiller said, "The farmers markets will run on the second and fourth Sunday each month in association with the successful Market in the Mountains. After six months GBWT will review all elements to enable them to plan future markets."

The Granite Belt Farmers Market at home will build on recent successes by Granite Belt producers at Brisbane's South Bank markets each quarter.

**Situated at 1000 metres above sea level, these markets "at home" might be amongst the highest markets in the land. Granite Belt farmers say it's the altitude which makes all the difference to the flavour and invite you to elevate your taste buds when you visit.**

The next "away market" will be on Sunday 16 November at South Bank from 10am.

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 or (07) 4681 2057.

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### NOTES:

1. For the farmers markets, new Granite Belt Produce banners have been purchased with a \$500 donation from the 2008 Stanthorpe Apple & Grape Harvest Festival.
2. The Granite Belt is Queensland's premier wine region. As a food producer, the total gross value of fruit and vegetable production in the region is estimated at \$130million per annum.