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June 2009

Regional Flavours

If you are in Brisbane on Saturday 13 June then make your way to South Bank and taste your way through southeast Queensland.

The inaugural Regional Flavours activities this Saturday form part of the Q150 celebrations. Dozens of the Granite Belt's top producers of wine, food and pamper products will be there, so come and say hello.

The event will be held in Little Stanley Street, South Bank from 10am to 3pm. Beginning at 10am celebrity chef Peter Howard will be cooking up a storm with Granite Belt produce. Visit us at [South Bank's Regional Flavours](#)

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Christmas in Winter

There's no actual promise of a white Christmas on the Granite Belt, though heavy white frosts are a regular feature of our [Brass Monkey Season](#). Sleet makes an occasional appearance and we do get snow. Yes, snow!

A number of places actually host Christmas themed events during winter. Try these: [The Rocks Restaurant](#), [Felsberg Winery](#), [Whiskey Gully Wines](#), [Claudia's Country Restaurant](#), [Murray Gardens](#), [Giardino Cafe](#) and [Queensland College of Wine Tourism](#), plus the Market in the Mountains. Better still view our [events calendar](#) for June, July and August.

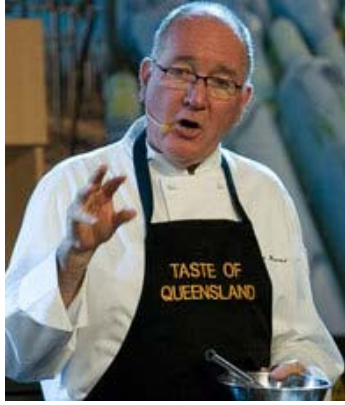
Just for the record it did actually snow here on 29 July last year - the day wine guru James Halliday visited. That experience reinforced the fact that Queensland is cold enough to produce quality wines! Certainly when the temperatures drop, visitor numbers rise.



[Wineries](#)



Food



Peter Howard's cooking demonstrations at [South Bank's Regional Flavours](#) will feature Granite Belt food and wine. From 10am on Saturday 13 June see Peter prepare these and more:

- Venison with raspberry vinegar glaze and spiced pears.
- Italian pork sausages and braised borlotti beans.
- Mediterranean vegetable salad with pesto dressing and Pepato.

Peter's dishes will be matched with a selection of Granite Belt Wines. To learn more visit the Queensland Wine Appreciation marquee onsite too.



Nude Food



Wine



Eighteen months after Strange Bird first left the nest to create the Granite Belt alternative wine trail, there's been another hatching. Three new wineries have joined the trail ([Felsberg](#), [Heritage](#) and [Rumbalara](#)) and Cabernet Franc and Jacquez [Ja-kes] are now on the list. The total number of alternative wines has passed the 50 mark. You can view more online and download the new [Strange Bird map](#).

STOP PRESS... vinegar and verjus supremo LiraH has just picked their Nebbiolo grapes for their one and only wine. Apparently these are the last to be harvested in the Southern Hemisphere this year - taste LiraH at South Bank on June 13.



StrangeBird



Events



Market in the Mountains join the Christmas in winter line-up with themed markets on Sundays 12 and 26 July phone 0417 760529.

But if you are not ready for Christmas, try these:

- Bastille Day 12 July at [Thunderbolt Farm](#).
- 12 July Jazz and 25 July Spain on a Plate both at Robert Channon Wines phone 07 4683 3260.
- Degustation Dinners, Music Nights and What's Cooking at Beverley Restaurant phone 07 4683 5100.
- Showing at the Gallery *Namatjira Until Now*, also a series of arts films for details phone 07 4681 1711.
- [Music at Lucas Estate](#), alternate Sundays.

Markets are also held at the Wallangarra Railway Station. The next Border Rail market is Sunday 5 July phone 07 4684 3300.



Events

Calendar Girls...and Guys

In creating a 2010 Granite Belt calendar we've decided not to print one featuring a whole lot of pretty landscapes. Instead we will treat you to a series of photos themed around Strange Bird and Nude Food...our two self-drive trails.

We created a community photo competition, encouraging our snappers to show a little flair and a little flesh. The final judging for the photo competition took place last week. The final 12 images are under wraps until the calendar launch in early spring, but a preview will appear shortly on our blog. Those on twitter will receive an alert. One thing we have learned is that if you say to a Granite Belt farmer "get your shirt off", he won't hesitate!

Visitor Tips

Here's how to get the best from us:

- Don't drink and drive - book a [winery tour](#). These usually include stops to other outlets such as producers of olives, berries, chocolates, lavender and soap. Full day tours provide a door to door service.

- This is peak season so be sure to make your dinner and lunch reservations prior to arrival. View the [eating out options](#) online and talk to your accommodation provider. Weekend accommodation is in great demand during June, July and August so plan for midweek if you can.
- We've had our first frost so be sure to bring your woolies. Locals dress in layers as the day [temperatures](#) during winter are mild. Even after a heavy white frost in the morning you could be down to shirt sleeves by 11am.
- Get the locals' advice in person at the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre daily 9am-5pm or phone 1800 SO COOL.



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