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## ORANGE AND THE NEXT AGM

When you think of Orange you will probably think of apples. In recent years the locals have been diversifying into slow foods, farmer's markets, vineyards, boutique production and paddock to plate experiences with many local farming products. All this is promoted by the now 20 year old. "FOOD Week" extravaganza.

The Orange region has a strong passion for food and a long history of supporting its local producers. A case in point is the F.O.O.D. (Food of Orange District) Inc. F.O.O.D. Week was one of the first food festivals in regional Australia and is organised by a voluntary group. The FOOD week has a program of over 100 events each April. In 2009, FOOD Week will be held between 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

The philosophy outlined in their publicity is verging on the hedonistic – "We believe that everyone has a fundamental right to pleasure and consequently the responsibility to protect the heritage of food, tradition and culture that make this pleasure possible. Our movement is founded upon this concept of eco-gastronomy – a recognition of the strong connections between the plate and the planet. Slow food is good food. We believe that the food we eat should taste good; that it should be produced in a clean way that does not harm the environment, animal welfare or our health and that food producers should receive fair compensation for their work." Sounds exactly what we need!!!

The Orange Region Farmer's Market is on the second Saturday of the month. It is an ideal time to meet the person who farms the product and discuss production methods. Unfortunately our AGM does not coincide with this week-end, but the FOOD week will make up for this.

It is possible to sign up for a cooking class with a focus on local, seasonal produce which may involve veggies, fruit and berries that you have picked yourself. What can be found locally? A veritable feast of seasonal food including vegetables, meats, jams, pickles, sauces, olive oils, wines, hazelnuts and apples of course. If that is now what you want you can try the local fine dining restaurants that are nationally celebrated, with several in receipt of Sydney Morning Herald Chef Hats.

## **SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!**

**THE AGM WILL BE HELD IN ORANGE  
ON  
SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009**

**THE VENUE OF THE AGM IS YET TO BE ANNOUNCED**