



Biological Farmers of Australia Media Release, 8 October 2009

## NATIONAL ORGANIC WEEK –NSW EVENTS

**Be Organic “Taste the Difference, Feel the Difference, Make a Difference”**

**Launch featuring: Costa Georgiadis, SBS television’s Costa’s Garden Odyssey & Annalise Braakensiek, Australian model, actress and TV presenter**

**Costa Georgiadis**, the highly-popular landscape architect of SBS television’s *Costa’s Garden Odyssey*, will join other luminaries at the NSW launch of National Organic Week (NOW).

Nicknamed “the Greek Garden Guru”, Costa has an all-consuming passion for plants and people, knowing how to find the best in both of them, and taking great pleasure in bringing them together. Costa will share some warm and wonderful observations on the benefits of gardening at the organic wine and cocktail event hosted by the BFA Organic Vignerons Group. The event will be held at the Hughendon Hotel on 20 October from 6pm to mark the launch of NOW 2009.

“My whole philosophy is based on the importance of gardening not just soil, but soul,” Costa says. “It’s never too early –and it’s never too late – to go organic.”

Not only will there be gardening tips but the night will celebrate with an organic tippie for the launch of the BFA Vignerons Group new ‘Why Organic Wine?’ website. The Group includes some of the most prestigious organic wine producers in Australia, creating wines that are becoming increasingly popular on both domestic and international markets. Certified organic wine, universally recognised as a premium product, has many benefits for the environment and consumers.

“Organic wine is a way of avoiding the cocktail of chemicals that you *don’t* want in your drink!” says Alan Clare, of the Vignerons Group. “Many people don’t realise the advantages of organic wine; we’re hoping that this new initiative will open the minds of more consumers about the benefits of choosing a bottle of organic wine.”

Organic wine will also feature significantly at a separate special Organic Wine Dinner to be held at Agape Organic Restaurant and Bar, in the historic suburb of Botany, on Thursday 21 October.

Sam Statham, spokesman for the Vignerons Group and General Manager of Rosnay Organic Wines in Cowra, has a long-range view of organic wine.

“Our family has been farming for nearly thirty years, growing organic wine for the last twelve years,” he says. ‘Our region now has four out of twelve vineyards certified organic; in many regions vineyards are leading the change into organics for the whole of agriculture.

“We hope that this is the crest of an organic wine wave that we’ll surf into the future; organic is the best way for the industry to remain financially viable.”

Also assisting in the launch celebrations will be **Annalise Braakensiek**, Australian model, actress and TV presenter who grew up on a biodynamic farm and among many



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talents is an accomplished organic vegetarian cook, advocating “you are what you eat”. She is a firm believer not only in organic for health, but for animal cruelty-free farming. Recently, Annalise has launched an organic cotton and bamboo lingerie line which is turning heads, and looks forward to raising awareness of organic food and fibres for National Organic Week.

The launch of National Organic Week, marks the beginning of a national showcase of organic events and activities taking place from Friday 16 to Sunday 25 October.

The awareness week, now in its second year running, is being coordinated by the Centre for Organic & Resource Enterprises (CORE) in collaboration with Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) and is an opportunity for organic producers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, markets, restaurants, community groups, councils and schools to present the organic message with the aim of increasing awareness and understanding of the personal and environmental benefits of organics.

The launch celebration is open to media, organic industry members, wine lovers, retailers and others with an interest in organic. RSVPs are essential! Quality organic wines will be available for purchase from the hotel bar on the night.

Details include:

**National Organic Week Official Launch: Organic Wine and Cocktail Evening**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 20th October, 6.30pm

**Venue:** Atrium Room, Hughendon Hotel, Woollahra, (ph. 02 9363 4333)

**RSVPs:** BFA Brisbane Head Office, Ph. 07 3350 5716 ext 225

Join us in the festivity – check the National Organic Week Calendar on the NOW website [www.organicweek.net.au](http://www.organicweek.net.au) for a participating organic centre near you.

For more details contact BFA on 07 3350 5716, or Eric Love CORE, Chairman Ph: (02) 9922 1591; Mob: 0419 619 455 or write to [info@bfa.com.au](mailto:info@bfa.com.au).

**ORGANIC – in a nutshell**

Certified organic operators may not use GMOs or synthetic pesticides, fertilisers or additives and must observe stringent environmental and animal welfare regulations. A recently-released report by the French Agency for Food Safety (AFSSA) disclosed that organic foods are more nutritious than conventionally-produced foods and contain lower levels of pesticides and nitrates which have been linked to a range of health problems, including diabetes and Alzheimer’s. Organic production is a system where everybody wins.

**ENDS**

**Media Contacts:**

**Jan Nary, BFA, ph. 07 3350 5716 ext 275**

**Eric Love, Centre for Organic & Resource Enterprises, ph. 02 9922 1591**



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**NOW Events in NSW** (for full details and the latest updates check individual company websites or [www.organicweek.net.au](http://www.organicweek.net.au).)

*Complimentary copies of the highly- respected magazine, **ABC Organic Gardener**, will be available at various NOW events alongside industry's most popular trade resource Australian Certified Organic Magazine*

**Organic Wine and Cocktail Evening**

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 20th October 6.30pm

**Venue:** Atrium Room, Hughendon Hotel, Woollahra, (ph. 02 9363 4333)

**Contact:** BFA Vignerons Group Alan Clare (0412 000 041)

**Spring Long Lunch with Biodynamics**

**Date and Time:** Sat 24 October 12noon – 2.30pm

**Venue:** Lark Hill Vineyard Restaurant, 521 Bungendore Rd, BUNGENDORE

**Description:** \$100pp Long lunch using local organic biodynamic produce, 4 courses matched with Lark Hill Gold Medal certified Biodynamic wines

**Contact:** Chris Carpenter (02) 62381393or [larkhill@larkhillwine.com.au](mailto:larkhill@larkhillwine.com.au)

**Agape Organic Restaurant and Bar**

**Date and Time:** 21 & 22 October

**Venue:** 1385-1387 Botany Road BOTANY

**Description:** 21 Oct Organic Wine Dinner with Tamburlaine and Rosnay wines Thursday 22 October - official launch of the Restaurant

**Contact:** (02) 8668 5777 or Email: [agapeorganic@gmail.com.au](mailto:agapeorganic@gmail.com.au)

**Wholefoods House**

**Date and Time:** Starts Fri 16 October - *ongoing through NOW*

**Venue:** 3/9 Danks Street Waterloo and 109 Queen St, Woollahra

**Description:** In-store tastings between 16 – 25 October

**Contact:** Amanda Meggison: ph 02 9319 4459

**Peasants Feast** (an Australian Certified Organic restaurant)\_\_\_

**Date and Time:** **Starts** Fri 16 October - *ongoing through NOW*

**Venue:** 121A King Street Newtown

**Description:** The restaurant will offer 10% off all menu items between 16 – 25 October 2009.

**Contact:** (02) 9516 5998

**Marrickville Organic Food & Farmers Market**

**Date and Time:** Sun 18 October 9am - 3pm

**Venue:** Addison Road Community Centre 142 Addison Road MARRICKVILLE

[www.organicfoodmarkets.com.au](http://www.organicfoodmarkets.com.au)

**Always Organic**

**Date and Time:** Starts Fri 16 October - *ongoing through NOW*

**Venue:** Granny Smith Natural Food Market, 6 Princes Street, Turramurra

**Description:** Granny Smith Natural Food Market celebrates organic, local and seasonal everyday. As a certified organic retailer, you can trust us to bring you the best in quality organic foods. During National Organic Week come in for free tastings and special



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information on organic farming and food production. Winner of the 2009 Foodies Guide Best Organic Retailer!

**Contact:** (02) 9988 3787

### **Lettuce Deliver Organics**

**Date and Time:** Starts Mon 19 October - *ongoing through NOW*

**Description:** Lettuce Deliver (Certified NASAA Retailer 9291R) specialise in the Home Delivery of Fresh Australian Certified Organic Fruit & Veg + 1000's of Groceries for your convenience. During the week starting 19th October we will send an Organic Gift to anyone mentioning this website.

**Contact:** (02) 9763 7337 Email: [sales@lettucedeliver.com.au](mailto:sales@lettucedeliver.com.au)

### **Hornsby Organic Food & Farmers Market**

**Date and Time:** Thu 15 October and Wed 30 November 9.00am - 3.00pm

**Venue:** Hornsby Mall (by the Fountain)

**Description:** Selling a variety of certified organic dried fruits and nuts, oils, rice, flour, dried goods and pastas

**Contact:** 0411 787 920 or check out [www.organicfoodmarkets.com.au](http://www.organicfoodmarkets.com.au)

### **Specials @ Santos on local Biodynamic and Organic products**

**Date and Time:** Fri 16 October 9am - 5pm

**Venue:** Santos Warehouse 3/7 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay

**Description:** Daily specials on local/Australian organic and biodynamic products.

**Contact:** (02) 6685 5685

### **Organic Masterclass**

**Date and Time:** Sun 18 October 11am – 2pm

**Venue:** Gowings Food and Health, Byron Bay

**Description:** Celebrate organics with a cooking class with Samantha Gowing. [www.samanthagowing.com](http://www.samanthagowing.com)  
[www.foodandhealth.com.au](http://www.foodandhealth.com.au)

**Price:** \$165 inc. gst

**Contact:** 02 6685 5400 or 0411 852 387

### **Byron Farmers Market**

**Date and Time:** Every Thursday 8-11am

**Venue:** Butler Street Reserve, Byron Bay

**Description:** A feast of stalls, activities and discounts in celebration of NOW. Approximately 25% of Byron Farmers Market members are CERTIFIED organic or biodynamic. Look out for the green placard to ensure the stall holder is certified organic or biodynamic.

**Contact:** Donald Recsei (market manager) (02) 6687 1137

### **Dam Fest 2009**

**Date and Time:** Sun 25 October 9am – 7pm

**Venue:** Warragamba Recreation Reserve

**Description:** Dam Fest is an annual exciting community recreational event including a large number of attractions such as performing arts, car and bike shows, rides and stalls... Dam Fest is Dam Fun for Everyone!

**Contact:** [damfest09@hotmail.com](mailto:damfest09@hotmail.com) 02 4774 1273

### **Organic Wine tasting**

**Date and Time:** Sat 10 October 8am - 1pm

**Venue:** Wagga Wagga Civic Precinct



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**Description:** Retief Organic Wines available monthly at Wagga Wagga Farmers' Market & at Cellar Door by appointment - proudly ACO certified Biodynamic - to be savoured & shared with good company, not only on special occasions.

**Contact:** 0412 692 524 or [retiefs@sctelco.net.au](mailto:retiefs@sctelco.net.au)

### **Nourish Organics**

**Date and Time:** starting Fri 16 October - *ongoing through NOW*

**Description:** daily specials - Australian made certified organic body, hair, home, nutritional, baby, cosmetic products. Best quality - no compromise. For details [www.nourishorganics.com](http://www.nourishorganics.com)

**Contact:** Kiama (02)42331967 or [info@nourishorganics.com](mailto:info@nourishorganics.com)

### **Northside Produce Market**

**Date and Time:** Sat 17 October 8am – midday

**Venue:** Open Parkland, cnr Miller and McLaren Streets, North Sydney

**Description:** 65 farmers and producers every month on the third Saturday. Though not exclusively an organic market, Northside does have organic stalls and organic produce with an emphasis on the small producer and safe and humane farming practices for other stalls.

Free Entry

**Contact:** Simona Green - (02) 9922 2299 or 0411597705

### **Organic Food and Farmers Market**

**Date and Time:** Every Sunday 7am – 1pm

**Venue:** Parkway Hotel, 5 Frenchs Forest Rd East, Frenchs Forest

**Description:** Weekly Organic and Food Market, including four large stalls selling certified organic produce...Lots of other great gourmet food stalls, organic meat, bread, crafts general goods and plants etc..come along for breakfast or lunch and bring the family to enjoy the bouncy castle and pony rides

**Contact:** 02 9999 2226



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