

**SELWYN FARMERS MARKET AGM 2008
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The second season of the Selwyn Farmers Market was notable for a mix of issues: Being the lack of a permanent site, a change of Market Manager during the season, a lack of sellers and the loss of committee members.

A large vote of thanks goes to my committee as the second season has been more trying than the first.

A big vote of thanks to Janet Mansell who has been vital to the early period of the Markets' existence, who with a change of employment has resigned from committee. Prior to the start of the selling season, Phillip Eyton resigned as Market Manager due to work pressure. The vacancy was offered to a previous unsuccessful candidate in Jettie Zeestraten. This appointment was very effective, as Jettie has excelled as the Manager during a very testing season.

A shortage of sellers was probably the biggest problem for the Market this year. With late frosts removing much of Canterbury's top fruit crop, fewer vegetable growers, no egg or cheese suppliers, and lack of flowers late in the season.

We started the season with the Santa Parade and operated from the carpark next to the Famous Grouse Hotel. We then moved to the grassed area next to the Community Centre for the remainder of the season. This site proved to be admirably suitable with a new coffee shop and bakery over the road.

As noted the lack of suppliers led to a lack of customers, causing frustration for the consistent stall holders.

The weather was very different this season with only 1 wet day and the new Gazebos showcased the market very professionally.

The site issue is ongoing and we still don't have a permanent site. We approached the Lincoln Primary School Board of Trustees in August 2007 and within a couple of months received approval from them. We then had to apply to the Ministry of Education to use the School Site and as yet have not heard back from them. We were allowed to use the Lincoln Community Centre site for 12 weeks without a consent requirement. This site will be redeveloped in the near future, so the site issue is still open.

With two seasons under our belt the site issue is possibly the most pressing issue and some other sites have been identified recently after a meeting with the Mayor of Selwyn.

I wish to thank all Market Suppliers for their endeavors and wish them a better selling season next year.

**Graeme Rogers
President**