

Humble pear is celebrated

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Country News

The humble pear was celebrated with a variety of gastronomic delights at Shepparton's inaugural pear festival recently.

The Goulburn Valley grows more than 85 per cent of Australia's pears, so the Goulburn Valley Women in Horticulture Committee organised the festival, which was enjoyed by about 100 people.

Committee member Rien Silvertein said the pear's nutritious characteristics meant it was often the first food people ate as babies and the last they ate as elderly citizens.

A baking competition attracted more than 25 entrants from across the region.

The attendees enjoyed a scrumptious CWA afternoon tea, thanks to the ladies from Shepparton East CWA.

Shepparton East orchardist and businesswoman Vera Fleming gave a cooking demonstration of a "pear upside down pudding" and recipes were handed out.

Cocktails, alcoholic and non alcoholic, finished the day using pear liqueur donated by Shepp Distilleries, Bianca Furphy and Valley Fruits.

The committee is looking forward to the next Shepparton Pear Fest on April 11 (Easter Saturday) next year at the Shepparton showgrounds, at which time there will be another baking competition and wider involvement from restaurants in the district.

The day was sponsored by the Goulburn Broken CMA, Fruit Growers Victoria, Shepparton distilleries, Goulburn Murray Landcare and GVWinHort with support from DPI.



Delicious ... Margaret Farrell from Congupna won the best home-baked pear pie section with a delightful recipe.