

# Pears to take centre stage

By Lisa Anderson

## Pear-tinent facts:

In 2008, 113 308 tonnes of pears were grown in Victoria, roughly 85 per cent of Australian production, and the majority of this was grown in the Goulburn Valley.

The Goulburn Valley orchard census for 2007 numbered 1 643 617 pear trees covering 3560 ha.

Pears make up 19.2 per cent of fruit grown in the Goulburn Valley.

There are 28 different varieties of pears grown in the Goulburn Valley.

WBC Williams pears is the most popular variety and, together with Packham pears, these account for more than 80 per cent of all pears grown.

Forty per cent of all fresh fruit processed by SPC Ardmona at Shepparton/Mooroopna is pears.

Institute of TAFE at the Pear Fest, while celebrity chef Janelle Bloom from television show *Ready Steady Cook* will demonstrate how to cook delectable pear dishes at 11.30 am and 1.30 pm.

Shepparton Rotary Club will hold a sausage sizzle, and Lutfiye's Shish Kebab will provide lunch on the day.

Notre Dame College Year 9 students and novelty character Packy the Pear will help with children's activities, while Word and Mouth is organising music, art and entertainment.

Goulburn Valley Pear Fest is on Saturday, April 11 in Shepparton Showgrounds' McIntosh Pavilion, and a gold coin donation at the entry will go towards the Red Cross bushfire appeal.

For more information phone Rien Silverstein on 5829 2307 or Kath Boast on 5825 3700.



Pear promo . . . Rien Silverstein says it's time for pears to shine.

Picture: Julie Mercer



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