

Pears showcased
New festival is set to celebrate this most versatile fruit

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Do you love the taste of pears but struggle to think of different ways to present them?

Well, look no further than the local celebration of the pear _ Goulburn Valley Pear Fest _ which comprises a number of events from Wednesday, April 1 to Saturday, April 11.

There will be a ``Pear Shaped'' art exhibition held on Friday, April 3, for which art group Splinters' members have created their own pear masterpieces.



A number of local restaurants will be creating a variety of pear dishes throughout the festival to show just how many ways the humble pear can be transformed, while local businesses will decorate their shopfront windows with a pear theme.

However, the major drawcard of the event will be Pear Fest, to be held on Saturday, April 11.

It will be held at the Macintosh Centre, Shepparton Showgrounds, from 10am.

Entry to Pear Fest is free and there will be plenty of attractions on the day, including a cooking demonstration by celebrity chef Janelle Bloom from television show Ready, Steady, Cook. There will also be tastings and judging of pear cakes, pies, flans and muffins.

Fruit Growers Victoria's Kath Boast said the festival would be ``an experience of pears''.

The festival will be a great day for the whole family, with entertainment by Nigel Parsons and a dressing-the-pear competition for the children.

`Packy the Pear' will also make an appearance.

If you would like to enter the baking competition with your prized pear recipe, visit www.pearfest.com.au or phone Kath on 58253700.