



**Peary nice:** Orrvale orchardist and artist Lyn Patone with *Nesting Pear* (oil on canvas), an entry in the inaugural *Pear Shaped* exhibition.

Pictures: Bethanie Sessions

# Tasteful show

EXHIBITION CELEBRATES ALL THINGS PERTAINING TO PEARS

The humble pear steps into the limelight at Shepparton's Eastbank Centre from today, with an art exhibition titled *Pear Shaped*.

Along the walls of the building's main foyer and cafe area are more than 30 paintings, sculptures, mixed media and textile works, curated by Orrvale orchardist and artist Lyn Patone as part of the inaugural Pear Fest.

The festival, organised by Goulburn Valley Women in Horticulture (GV WinHort) together with Fruit Growers Victoria, kicked off this week with a free bus tour of local orchards and packing sheds.

Last night it continued with the opening of *Pear Shaped* by Ardmona fruit grower and Apple and Pear Australia Ltd director Phillip Turnbull.

Ms Patone said the exhibition represented the work of 18 local artists and was a collaboration between members of the Goulburn Valley-based Splinter Contemporary Art Group and the local pear industry.

"Pears have been undervalued for a long time," Ms Patone said.

"We see this as a chance to promote pears for their intrinsic worth — as an art form and as a healthy food."

She said artists were given eight weeks to come up with a piece that played around with the different meanings of the words 'pair' 'pare' and 'pear'.

"A lot have responded with images of pear-shaped bodies. Some are playful, others are curious. They have all done really well."



**Fruit:** Glend Cornell's *Just Peachy* ceramic.



**Just pear-fect:** The exhibition opened at the Eastbank Centre last night.



**Shapely:** Ms Patone with John Head's work *Here's 2 a Nice Shaped Pair* (oil on canvas).

tinues until May 3.

Other Pear Fest events include an orchard bus tour leaving from Shepparton East football grounds at 10 am on Wednesday, April 8, and a special festival day of pear tastings, stalls, a bake-off competition and cooking demonstrations with celebrity chef Janelle Bloom from TV show *Ready Steady Cook* — at Shepparton Showgrounds' McIntosh Centre next Saturday, April 11, from 10 am to 4 pm.

● **For more details, go to** [www.pearfest.com.au](http://www.pearfest.com.au)



**Cheeky:** Andrea Thompson's *Celebrate the Harvest* (gouache on canvas).