



# SHEPPARTON PEAR FESTIVAL

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THE PEAR IS THE GRANDFATHER OF THE APPLE, THE BOOR RELATION OF A BAHEN ARISTOCRAT, THE MAN AT ARMS DOMAIN WHICH WE ONCE IN OUR BEAMID LAND, LIVES LONELY AND LORDLY PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF ITS PRESTIGE BY ITS HAUGHTY COMPORTMENT.

*Francis Pierre de la Vierge 1615-1678*

The Goulburn Valley Women in Horticulture (GVWinHort) Committee celebrated the Inaugural Pear Festival, a celebration of the 2008-2009 Pear Season. The Pear festival, held on the 23rd of November, has come together as a means of recognizing the pear industry in Shepparton and the importance it plays in this regions economy.

The committee wanted to help put Shepparton on the map for its pear growing as there is no official recognition of the extent of our involvement economically and socially in this area. The Goulburn Valley grows 85% of Australia's pears supplying our processors, local and international markets. Pears are often the first food we eat as babies and the last food we are able to eat as elderly citizens.

As part of the day a baking competition created widespread attention and next year we hope to see even more local entrants. Over 25 entrants participated from all over the region. The winners were evenly distributed and the judges said they were impressed with the calibre of the entries, we even had one male entry, well done to men of the Goulburn Valley, try again next year! The professional entries were heavily out of balance with Mooroopna Bakery scoring all but one of the prizes. Come on Bakeries of Shepp - put in next year! The prizes were reasonable sums of cash and gifts also.

The judging was conducted professionally by staff from GO Tafe Shepparton who had no idea of who the contestants were and awarded marks on the

external appearance, the internal appearance and taste. We would like to thank Kim Bamfield and Steve Pinick for their time and look forward to their involvement again next year.

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

Vera Fleming kindly gave a cooking demo of a 'Pear upside down pudding' and recipes were handed out. It was a successful demo with feedback that there are pear upside down puddings being made all over the valley this week.

Cocktails finished the day, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic using pear liquor donated by Shepp Distilleries, Bianca Furphy, and Valley Fruits. Yes, our own humble Williams juice bins were converted to pear liquor and we enjoyed the result very much.

The hard working committee had fun on the day and look forward to next year when we will spread the word again of the importance of the pear industry in our region.

The next Shepparton Pear Fest will be held on the 11th of April on Easter Saturday 2009 at the Showground, at which time there will be another baking competition, and wider involvement from restaurants in the district. Also there will be displays and industry information, farm visits and broader community organisations involvement such as the schools and Art centre. Keep your eyes open for more information as the day comes closer.

The day was sponsored by the Goulburn Broken CMA (our main supporter), also Fruit Growers Victoria, Shepparton distilleries, Goulburn Murray Landcare and GVWinHort support by DPI. ☺