

Loddon Valley

Victoria's backyard



LODDON VALLEY TOURISM NEWSLETTER

April 2019

Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo

On Saturday 16 March, Newbridge hosted the inaugural Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo. This event, as part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, showcased the best produce and wine the region has to offer. From olives at Boort, pistachios at Rheola to saffron out at Dunolly, just to name a few!

These products were all on display and there were over 40 stalls scattered around the Newbridge Recreation Reserve.

Attendees were able to sample the produce and a wide selection of wines and ciders. The scene was set with music by local groups Oozin' Blues and Silvertops. The children were also entertained with many getting their face painted and running around with balloon animals.

Inside the pavilion the luncheon was held. In here celebrity chef Karen Martini (*Better Homes and Gardens*) cooked eight different courses using locally sourced products for 160 guests. Karen enjoyed the challenge of producing a menu using as much local produce as possible which also reflected her Tunisian-Italian heritage. The crowd was entertained by host Rachel Buckley and had opportunities to have questions answered by Karen Martini herself. The Newbridge Football and Netball Club provided wait staff for the event who dressed in black and white, providing exceptional service.

The day as a whole was a large success with hopes it will continue in the future. It is a day for the region as a whole to celebrate who we are and to 'show-off' our talents to the rest of the state. The event was the idea of Jill Temby, President of the Loddon Southern Tourism and Development Committee. She then recruited Dot Silke, Norma Sokolowski and Sue Horsley to assist her to make her vision come to life. Regional Development Victoria and the Loddon Shire Council helped fund and organise the event, and there was an overwhelming amount of support from local sponsors.



(Inside the LVFW luncheon)



(Karen Martini with the Red Dog Chilies Stall)



Upcoming events

For more information on events click on the event name.

[Inglewood Lions Bridgewater Market](#)
Saturday 13 April

[Connecting to Country Event](#)
Monday 15 April

[Wedderburn Bowls Club Easter Carnival](#)
Thursday 18 April

[Boort Tennis Club Easter Tournament](#)
Friday 19 April

[149th Rheola Charity Carnival](#)
Monday 22 April

[L'Elisir d'Amore](#)
Saturday 27 April

Boort Trotting Club Cup Day Meeting

Boort Park was awash with green on Sunday 17 March for a St Patricks day themed Boort Trotting Club Cup Day.

The day had perfect weather for its large crowd, all gathered to watch 90 horses compete in nine races.

The big race of the day was the Honourable Peter Walsh Trotters Cup which shocked punters when race favourite Stress Factor was beaten by outsider Belts who is trained by Damien Burns of Ballarat.

Other highlights of the day included the Fashions on the Field, yabby racing, children's activities and Irish vocals by Susan Foley & all female band Bhan Tre.



(Trotters Cup)



(Fashions on the Field)

Calling all local 'Country Legends'!

We're on the look out for remarkable and heart warming stories of 'Country Legends' from across our region to feature in the Herald Sun. If you know of a local country legend who currently lives in the Loddon Valley and you wish to nominate them please let us know!

Photos, stories and contact information can be sent to shutchinson@loddon.vic.gov.au

Naturally Loddon Festival 2019

Are you a local committee or community group that would like to have your event as part of this year's Naturally Loddon Festival? The 2019 spring festival calendar is currently being put together. To get involved please send an email to shutchinson@loddon.vic.gov.au or call 03 5494 3489. Send through as much information as you can provide as well as photos. Submissions to be sent through by COB 12 April 2019. Don't miss out!

Connecting to Country in Boort

Come along to a free family fun day at Little Lake Boort, Nolen's Park on Monday 15 April between 12.30pm and 3.30pm. Hear and learn from local Traditional Owners and Elders. Heaps of activities including:

- Welcome to Country and BBQ Lunch
- Weaving workshop
- Boomerang painting
- Traditional stories
- Cultural artefacts display

Please RSVP for the BBQ to the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124 by Thursday 11 April.



(Inglewood Alive 2018)

Pyramid Hill Fiesta 2019

Last Saturday saw another super successful year for the Pyramid Hill Fiesta. Upwards of 720 people attended the event, and were treated to all the fabulous sights, smells, sounds and tastes of our multi-cultural community.

There were plenty of fun activities: climbing to dizzying heights on the rock wall race, pretending to be Police Officer Joy while sitting in her police car, bouncing like a buccaneer over the rolling waves in the Pirate Jumping Castle, making slime and bubbles or getting your skin covered in amazing art at the face painting station.

Patrons were entertained by a variety of live musicians and dance performances by the schools. Also, traditional Filipino dances Sayaw Sa Bangko were performed, where dancers skilfully dance on a bench, and Tinikling, a dance with bamboo poles for the quick footed.

There was plenty of Fiesta feasting with Filipino and Australian delicacies served side by side to tempt the taste buds. There was something tasty for everyone to sink their teeth into. It is always great to see everyone, young and old, coming together to celebrate and have a fun time. It's what small country towns are all about.

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Pyramid Hill Fiesta 2019 Arts & Crafts competition.

It's exciting to watch the festival evolve and grow with each year. We look forward to what's in store. See you at the next Fiesta!



(Street dancing)



(Sayaw Sa Bangko)

Wedderburn Detector Jamboree 2019

The March long weekend saw both experienced and amateur prospectors flock to Wedderburn to partake in the Minelab Detector Jamboree at Hard Hill Tourist Reserve.

The weekend started with the Monster Town garage sale. This year there were 19 garage sales spread throughout Wedderburn, all offering something different.

The Saturday had senior competitions running throughout the day. This included the token hunt where prospectors used a variety of modern and vintage detectors, and the gold panning knockout. Each token went towards winning the big prizes for the weekend which included a Minelab GPX 5000 worth \$5999. Anthony Taylor was the lucky winner of the big prize this year.

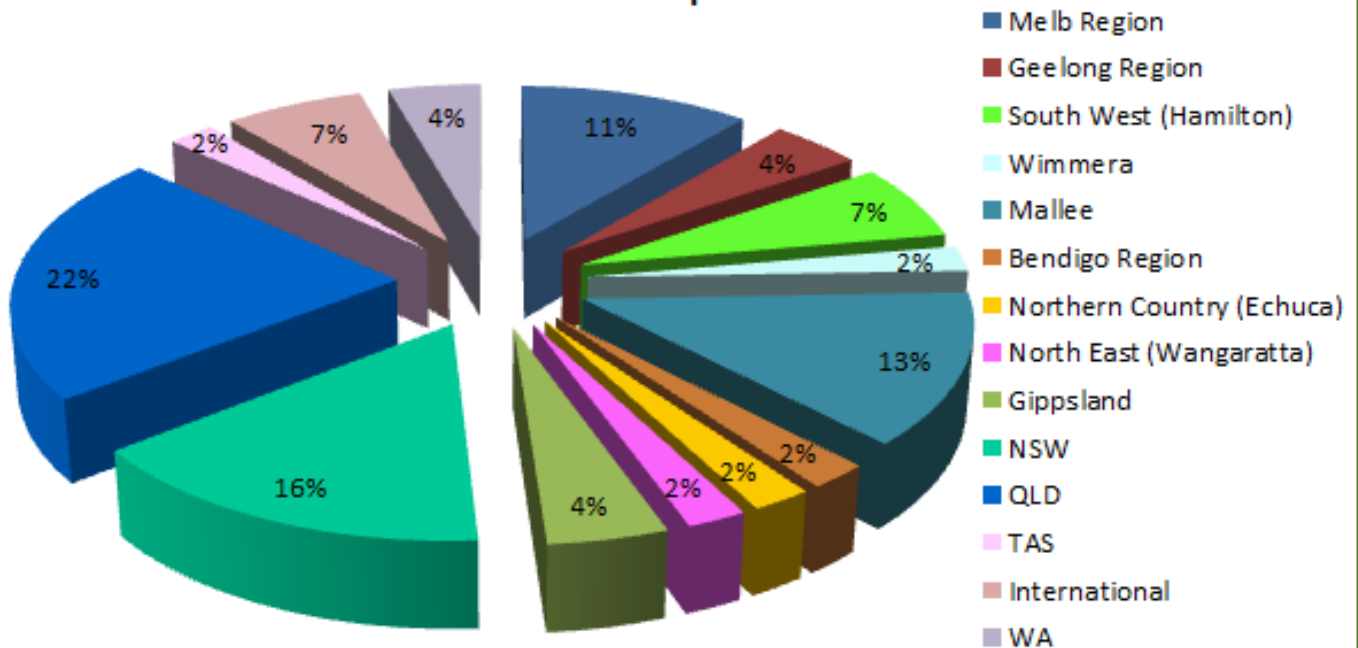


(Junior gold panning)

On Sunday the Wedderburn Country Market was on in the town at Soldiers Memorial Park. Up at Hard Hill the juniors had their chance to either pan for gold or to do their own token hunt. Prospecting demonstrations were also held over the weekend for those less experienced.

Visitor statistics to Loddon Visitor Information Centre for February 2019

Visitor area stats to Loddon Visitor Information Centre Feb 2019. Each colour represents a region or state. The numbers represent a collection of individual postcodes



Ordering brochures and Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide (OVG)

Council encourages all tourism operators who have brochures, maps and the Official Visitor Guide on display to order their stock through the Loddon Visitor Information Centre.

Listing an event

If you are having an event and would like it listed on the Loddon Shire website Calendar of Events page, submit the information and a photo on [Calendar of Events](#) or email information to loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

Download the FREE Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide App

