

# Loddon Valley

Victoria's backyard



LODDON VALLEY TOURISM NEWSLETTER

May 2018

## Billabong Organics—Linked with nature

Billabong Organics' owners Sue Bennett and husband Brian Smith believe families should be able to enjoy the bounty that nature provides with minimal interference. Founded from a desire to produce quality organic apples and apple products, the Yarrowalla business has since found success in the organic fruit market.

The couple decided to grow apples in 1997 after trialling different produce to value add to their grain farm. Billabong Organics apples are grown according to organic principles; this includes what products are allowed to be put on the apples.

Billabong Organics grows Pink Lady, Sundowner and Royal Gala apple varieties. Its apple products include dried organic apple, chewy apple leather, cooked apple puree and cooked sliced apples. Their products have received positive feedback, and there are plans to possibly expand their range.

The business has started selling their apples and products at markets and shops in Melbourne. Billabong Organics apples and apple products are also available locally at the Pyramid Hill Butchery and Boort IGA, as well as direct from the Billabong Organics farm at 125 Smiths Road Yarrowalla. To find out more about Billabong Organics visit [www.organicapples.com.au](http://www.organicapples.com.au) or call 5455 1275 or 0428 551 275.



## Upcoming events

For more information on events click on the event name.

### The Inglewood Lions Bridgewater Market

Saturday 9 June

### Tarnagulla & District Golf Club Inc "Queens Birthday Bash"

Sunday 10 June

### Dunolly & District Field & Game Club

Sunday 24 June

### Mozart's Don Giovanni production

Saturday 30 June

## Local tracks and trails in Loddon Valley to visit

Follow link <http://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/Visit/Walking-and-Cycling-Trails> for information.



Little Lake Boort Trail



Pon Pon Trail Serpentine



Bridgewater River Track

## What are your thoughts about volunteering?



Council is asking local residents to provide their thoughts on volunteering in the Loddon Shire, including supporting and encouraging volunteering into the future. The feedback will help Council to develop a Volunteer Strategy.

To help in the development of the strategy, Council is seeking the community's thoughts about volunteering, via a short survey. The survey asks about the type of volunteer activities, reasons for volunteering as well as its benefits and training for volunteers.

The survey also asks about informal volunteering (providing unpaid help directly to people – not through a group or organisation), non-volunteering and ideas to improve the rate of volunteering into the future.

A number of community workshops were held in May at various towns in the Shire for residents to further provide their thoughts and ideas on volunteering in the Loddon Shire.

Feedback from the surveys and workshops will be incorporated into the draft Volunteer Strategy. It is anticipated this draft strategy will go to November's of Council meeting for consideration to release it for public comment.

To complete the survey visit

[www.research.net/r/LoddonShire\\_VolunteeringCommunitySurvey2018](http://www.research.net/r/LoddonShire_VolunteeringCommunitySurvey2018)

Hard copies of the survey are also available from Council's Wedderburn and Serpentine offices.

The survey, which only takes around five minutes to complete, closes at 5pm on Tuesday 12 June.

Community members who fill out the survey have the chance to enter the draw to win a hamper of local produce valued at \$100.

### 2018—2019 Calendar of Events

To be released in mid-June, the 2018-2019 calendar of events has something for everyone.

Discover what's happening in the beautiful Loddon Valley for the coming year.

The calendar, which lists events from July 2018 to May 2019, will be distributed to all tourist stands in Loddon Shire and available at the Loddon Visitor Information Centre in Wedderburn.

**Visitor statistics to Loddon Visitor Information Centre for April 2018**

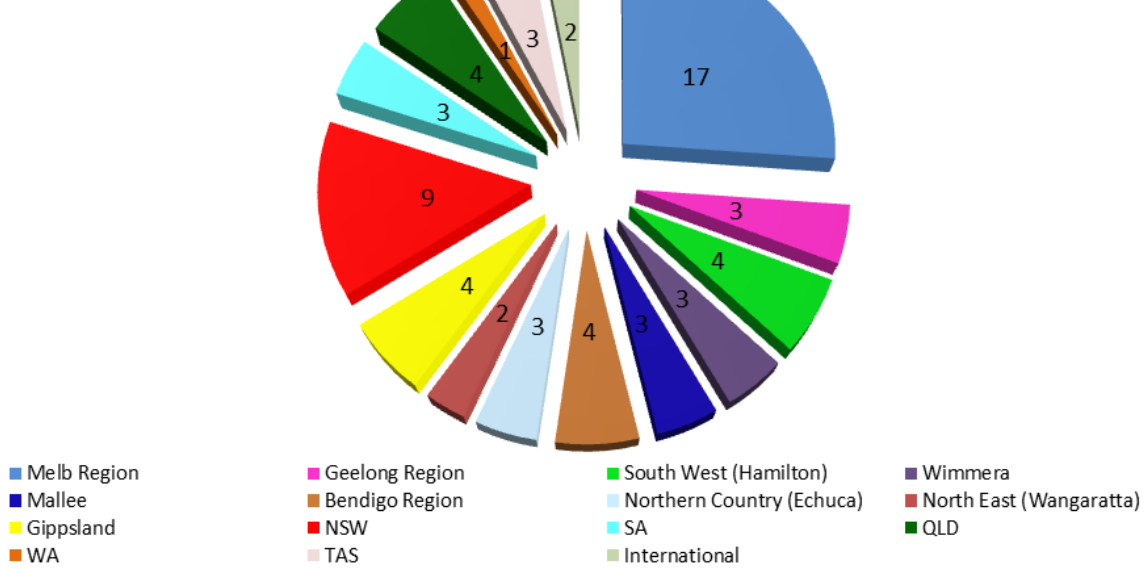
Loddon Shire is continually marketing the tourism region and events within Loddon Valley covering a wide range of Victoria and interstate.

The statistics below were taken from the Visitor Information Centre for the month of April.

**Visitor Area Stats to Loddon Visitor Information Centre April 2018**

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](mailto:loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au) Should you have any queries please contact the staff at the Loddon Visitor Information Centre.

Download FREE Loddon Valley Official Visitor Guide App



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