



Bendigo NEXT Conference

On Monday 18 February the City of Greater Bendigo and Bendigo Tourism hosted their first Bendigo NEXT Conference. This was a tourism conference for industry leaders and the Loddon Shire Council were lucky have five representatives from the area attend. The day consisted of presentations from Visit Victoria, TripAdvisor, The Urban List, Author Simon Waller and Qantas. There were also three workshops by Melbourne Museum, I Heart Bargains and Great Ocean Stays.

It was extremely informative with some exciting news for tourism in the area. Some key notes were:

- Qantas flights from Bendigo to Sydney are due to commence 31 March and bookings have been made all the way through to Christmas
- Bendigo has had an increase in day visits by 75% which also helps neighbouring regions such as the Loddon Valley benefit from extra tourists travelling throughout the area.
- The Bendigo Art Gallery has a new big profile exhibition running from 16 March to 14 July. There are opportunities for the region to be involved in this. Email shutchinson@loddon.vic.gov.au for any enquires regarding this.



Upcoming events

For more information on events click on the event name.

[Minelab Wedderburn Detector Jamboree 2019](#)
Saturday 9 March to Sunday 10 March

[Inglewood Lions Bridgewater Market](#)
Saturday 9 March

[Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo](#)
Saturday 16 March

[Boort Pacing Cup](#)
Sunday 17 March

[Pyramid Hill Fiesta](#)
Saturday 23 March

[Eddington Vintage Sports Car Club Sprints](#)
Saturday 20 March

[The Great Pumpkin Challenge 2019](#)
Sunday 31 March

[Dunolly & District Field and Game Club Inc](#)
Sunday 31 march

National Eucalypt Day - Saturday 23 March

This is a day to celebrate the important place eucalypts hold in the hearts and lives of Australians. Several events will be happening around the country, and Wedderburn and Inglewood are proud to be taking part in the day of celebration.

Come to the Loddon Visitor Information Centre at Wedderburn for some children's activities including eucalyptus playdough and crafts. The Eucalyptus Stew Pot will be working on the day at the Hard Hill Tourist Reserve.

The Inglewood Eucy Museum will also be open on the day offering two free distillery demonstrations at 11am and 2pm.

Bookings can be made by calling 03 5438 3127.

For more information about Eucalypt Australia visit <https://www.eucalyptaaustralia.org.au/>



Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo

Enjoy the Food and Wine Expo showcasing Loddon produce on Saturday 16 March at the Newbridge Recreation Reserve.

The highlight of the Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo, the River Feast offers a three-course lunch prepared by chef Karen Martini (Better Homes and Gardens) and served grazing platter-style, matched with local wines, as diners overlook the expo in full swing against the background of the picturesque Loddon River.

Afterwards, take a wander around stalls showcasing the region's gourmet food and wine, all to a soundtrack of live music and entertainment.

Luncheon tickets include entry into the event, a three course lunch with grazing platters, all wines and a keepsake wine glass.

Live entertainment and food and wine tastings will be available in the outside area.

For those not attending the lunch, entry to the expo is \$10 (entry only, under 16 free) or \$20 for entry, tastings of food and wine, plus a take home wine glass.

Includes children's entertainment throughout the day.

Gates open at 10am to 5pm.

Tickets are available to purchase from the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival website [Loddon Valley Food and Wine Expo](#) (a surcharge will apply). Gate entry tickets may also be purchased on the day.



Giant Pumpkin Challenge 2019

Sunday 31 March is family fun day raising funds for Cystic Fibrosis.

The giant pumpkin weigh-in will be conducted at Simply Tomatoes at Boort from midday.

Categories include

- Pumpkin decorated by the kids
- Pumpkin decorated by an adult
- Best conditioned pumpkin
- Open giant category - fruit, vegetable and flower.

Visit www.trybooking.com/WQJE for more information.



Boort Trotting Club Cup Day Meeting - Sunday 17 March

St Patrick's Day celebrations for the whole family. There are big prizes to be won including a Gold Coast holiday.

Fashions on the Field include the Whitmores Bus Lines Lady of the Day, Contemporary Local Lady 18-35, Irish Theme of the Day (open to all), Gent of the Day, Milliners' Delight, Stylish Senior School Student, Stylish Junior School Student.

The day will include eight races and there will be an Amity Gold Coin collection for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Entertainment on the day includes the Boort School Canadian style yabby racing, an Irish theme including vocals, and a 'Kids Korner' featuring a jumping castle, games, race book prize and playground.

There will be a kiosk, coffee van and ice cream van as well as free marquees, lawn umbrellas, tables and sports bar bookings available.



Gates open at 12pm and admission is free, with memberships costing \$10. More information is available [here](#).

Tidy Towns - Sustainable Communities Awards

What better way to promote your township to visitors than by showcasing how hard our communities are working to make our areas tidy, sustainable and liveable.

Keep Victoria Beautiful is encouraging communities to think about this year's Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards.

These awards recognise, highlight and celebrate what's great about our towns while acknowledging the hard work going into making our areas special.

Last year's award categories included environmental sustainability, protection of the environment, litter prevention, active schools, resource recovery and waste management, young leaders and community actions and leadership.

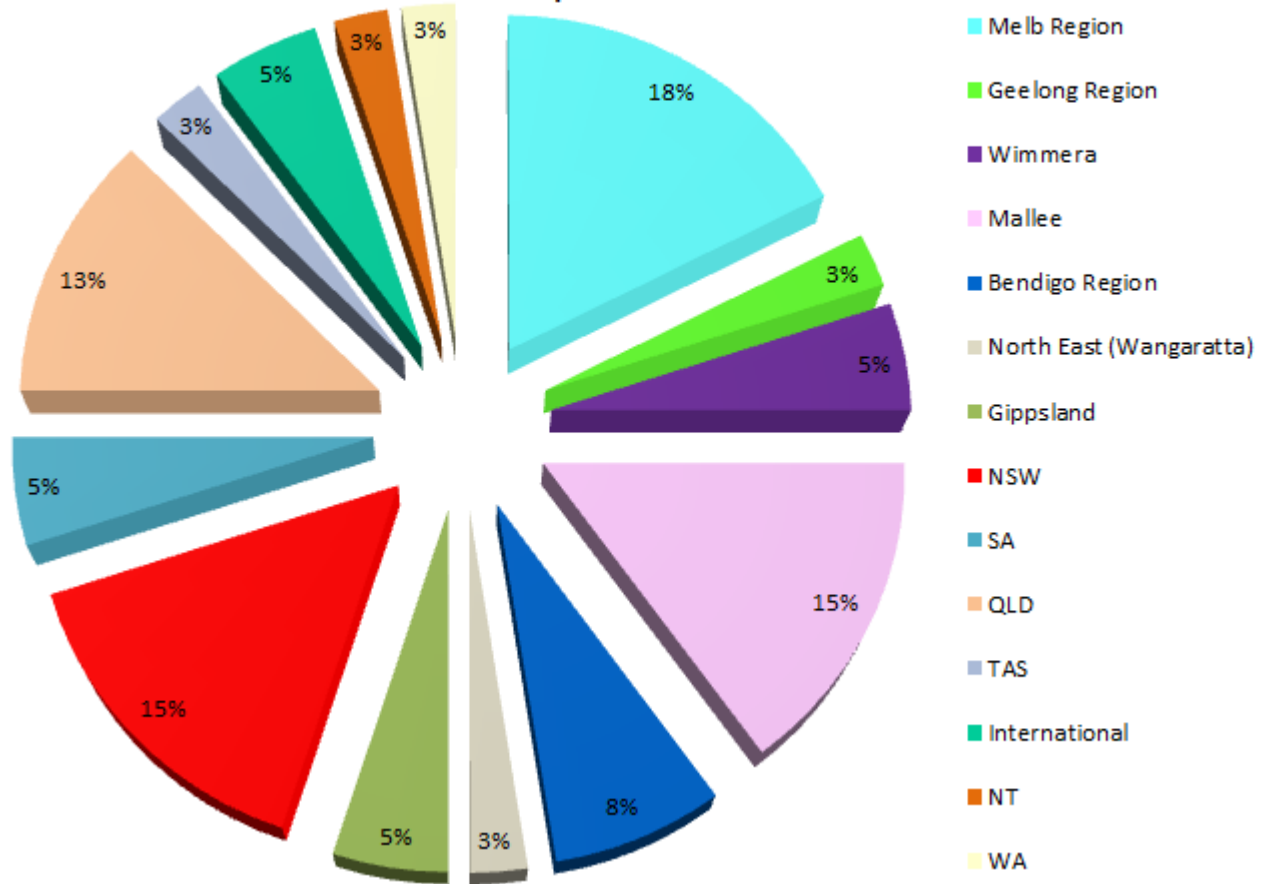
Entries for the 2019 Keep Victoria Beautiful Tidy Towns – Sustainable Communities Awards will open in April. To find out more, visit www.kvb.org.au/.

Keep 
Australia
Beautiful

Tidy
Towns

Visitor statistics to Loddon Visitor Information Centre for January 2019

Visitor area stats to Loddon Visitor Information Centre Jan 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



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