



SUMMER

Summer is in full swing and as the days heat up, harvesting begins.

Grains, stone fruit, canola, nut varieties, table grapes and stock feed are harvested by busy farmers over summer. Macroinvertebrates are also busy as the warm summer water triggers the emergence of thousands of larvae.

People are out and about making the most of the river and bushland - swimming in the cool lakes and rivers, fishing, bird watching, bush walking, and water skiing.

- 1 Abundance of butterflies
- 2 Bird watching
- 3 Harvesting is underway
- 4 Fishing is popular during the summer
- 5 Fruit crops are a major contributor to the Loddon region's economy

AUTUMN

Autumn brings the rains, transforming the vegetation and dampening the landscape.

The wet dampens the soils, allowing the wheat, barley and canola crops to be sown and the annual olive harvest begins.

The endangered Bibron's toadlets call out as they begin to lay their eggs in damp leaf litter, awaiting the winter rain.

The rain mixes the scents of autumn flowering eucalypts and the sweet smell of the bush fills the air. The eucalypt flowers provide food for the butterflies, bees and birds that thrive on the abundant nectar.

- 6 Barley, wheat and canola crops are sown
- 7 Bibron's toadlet eggs are laid
- 8 Nectar feeding bees and birds are abundant
- 9 Flowering eucalypts
- 10 Bee keepers extract honey in early autumn

WINTER

Winter months are cold and wet with thick heavy frosts and chilly winter winds.

The rains top up the freshwater runoff into the rivers and wetlands. With water storages replenished, irrigation can begin and continue over the next nine months.

The eerie wailing of the endangered Bush Stone-Curlew can be heard around the woodlands and waterbirds flock to nest amongst the reeds.

As the end of winter nears, lambing begins as it has every year in the Loddon region since the 1840s.

- 11 Native winter pastures
- 12 Birds nest among the reeds and trees
- 13 Rain supplies freshwater to the wetlands
- 14 Winter lambing begins
- 15 The Loddon region's climate allows for year round milk production

SPRING

As the weather warms in Spring, the landscape bursts into life.

Insects emerge en masse, feeding an abundance of birds. Wildflowers carpet the woodlands and grasslands.

Sporting finals are underway in the warm spring sunshine. Proud supporters cheer on their local teams in the battle for victory.

Many fish begin their spring migration to breed in the river. The iconic endangered Murray Cod awaits the warmer flows before laying thousands of eggs.

- 16 Murray Cod
- 17 Wildflowers flourish
- 18 Insects emerge en masse
- 19 Bush stone curlew breeding begins
- 20 Dense leaf litter protects ground nesting birds