



VOLUNTEERING DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



Volunteers: helping people, changing lives

BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH VOLUNTEERING



*Tony McIlroy,
Chief Executive Officer*

Benalla Rural City has a strong social, environmental and cultural fabric in its community, which is underpinned by the incredible work of our volunteers.

At this time of the year we take a moment to be grateful for our own volunteer base, from those who participate in keeping the Visitor Information Centre open to those who deliver meals on wheels.

In addition, we thank the volunteers who directly contribute to community facilities through active Friends Groups such as the Friends of the Benalla Art Gallery, Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens, Friends of the Benalla Library and Friends of the Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre (BPACC).

Lastly, many of our major community events, such as the Benalla Festival,

would not be possible without the support of community based volunteering organisations including Benalla SES, Benalla Rotary Club, Benalla CFA, Benalla P-12 College and Benalla Lions Club. Thank you to all our event partners for their ongoing support. As we approach the beginning of the festive season, on behalf of the Council and staff I want to thank all those who volunteer in the Rural City for your efforts throughout 2017 and wish you all a wonderful and prosperous new year.

Tony McIlroy
Chief Executive Officer

DECEMBER 5 IS INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY
International Volunteer Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations to shine a spotlight on volunteering around the world.

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EVENTS VOLUNTEERS KEEP WHEELS TURNING

Events volunteers Michael Tabe and Kristy Harding help out at the 2017 Australia Supercar Championship driver appearance. Michael contributes many volunteer hours to assist the Council with hosting major events. Kristy is studying event management and volunteering has assisted with her studies.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE: BENALLA ART GALLERY - MEET HAZEL



Hazel (right) assists a visitor to the Gallery gift shop.

Motivated by a passion for the visual arts, Hazel has volunteered with the Benalla Art Gallery for the past year.

Volunteers like Hazel help bring art and people together. "I always get a buzz when visitors discover they can enjoy this wonderful, public space for free," Hazel says. Volunteers welcome and direct gallery visitors to exhibitions and special displays while maintaining the Gallery's gift shop. Volunteering has had a significant impact on Hazel's life. "I have gained confidence with setting up my own art studio and producing my own art

work. I am inspired by the support for local art," Hazel explains. Hazel enjoys discovering more about the Gallery's collections. She says she was amused to learn the Sidney Nolan tapestry depicting the Glenrowan siege is regularly put into the deep freeze to destroy moth eggs.

To enquire about volunteering at the Benalla Art Gallery, please contact the Benalla Art Gallery's Customer Relations Officer on 03 5760 2619.

FAREWELL TO VOLUNTEER MEL MACDONALD

After sixteen years with the Benalla Litter Gatherers, Mel MacDonald is hanging up his high-vis jacket. Mel has always been a keen walker and when a friend suggested he could combine his walking with doing something useful for the community, he was on board. "Being involved with the Litter Gatherers has given me the motivation to get out and about. I have really enjoyed the

regular toots and waves from people who appreciate what we do," Mel says. Fellow Litter Gatherers and Council staff met to thank Mel for his years of dedication to keeping Benalla litter free. To enquire about the Benalla Litter Gatherers program contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 03 5760 2600 or email council@benalla.vic.gov.au



Anne Cresswell, Anthea Lavis (Benalla Rural City Council) Graham Jackson, Tracy Long, Mel McDonald, Laurie Melgaard, Max Tilbury and Paul Scipione (Benalla Rural City Council).



LIVE4LIFE CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to outgoing members of the 2017 Live4Life Crew (pictured left) Sophie, Nathan, Holly, Maggie and Molly with Amanda Aldous, Council's Youth and Community Development Coordinator. As Mental Health Ambassadors these young people have promoted positive mental health messages within their schools and the wider community.

VIC VOLUNTEER SUMMIT

Tourism staff and volunteers from across North East Victoria attended the 2017 Visitor Information Centre Volunteer Summit at Milawa on 10 October. The theme was 'Adapting to Change'. The event, hosted by the Rural City of Wangaratta, included guest speakers, familiarisation tours and networking opportunities.



Benalla Visitor Information Centre volunteers Anne Hillis, Rosemary Cameron, Heather Hartland, Wendy Rettke, Alison Angus (Tourism Coordinator), Beth Bergmann and Suzanne Berry at Brown Brothers Winery, Milawa.

PATRICIA 'PAT' GARDNER STUDIO OFFICIALLY NAMED



Mayor, Cr Don Firth officially named the Patricia Gardner Studio.

The Friends of Benalla Art Gallery is an active social group which provides important support to the Art Gallery. The Friends hosted an afternoon tea to officially name the Patricia 'Pat' Gardner Studio, a wonderful education space at the Benalla Art Gallery. The space was named in honour of Patricia Gardner, who was a champion of

the Benalla Ceramic Mural, working tirelessly for many years to promote the mural and raise funds for its construction during difficult times.

The celebration was enjoyed by many local guests and visitors who came to remember the life and work of this remarkable local woman.

STUDENT VOLUNTEER WELCOMED AT LIBRARY

Elly Miechel, a senior student at Goulburn Valley Grammar School, recently completed student community service at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library).

"I was lucky enough to undertake my community service experience at the Benalla Library. I gained the

wonderful sense of helping others and thoroughly enjoyed being involved in my community as going to school out of town has made this difficult for me. It was lovely to be welcomed with open arms! I feel very sad to be leaving - it has been such a fantastic time."

- Elly Miechel.



Elly Miechel volunteering at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library).



Erna Howell, Betty and John Lindsay, Barbara Tatterson and Laurie Melgaard are ready to welcome new members.

ROSE DEADHEADERS SEEK HELP

The stunning display of rose specimens at the Benalla Botanical Gardens is a major drawcard for rose enthusiasts and visitors. Throughout the six month flowering season, the dedicated Rose Deadheaders meet weekly to remove spent rose blooms. Extra pairs of hands are sought to help keep the garden blooming and weed free. Training and good company is provided. To register, contact the Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens on 03 5762 3210.

Want to know more about volunteering opportunities?

Visit our website: www.benalla.vic.gov.au

Email: council@benalla.vic.gov.au

Contact the Customer Service Centre on **03 5760 2600**



VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

We are currently looking for people who have the passion, skills and time to help with the following programs:

Visitor Information Centre (VIC)

Volunteers are ambassadors for our region and provide information to help people make the most out of their visit. Volunteers are needed for

four hour shifts weekly, fortnightly or monthly. Contact the VIC on 03 5762 1749.

Benalla Art Gallery

Volunteers assist staff with public programs, special events, research and social functions (four hour shifts weekly, fortnightly or monthly). Contact the Art Gallery Customer Relations Officer on 03 5760 2619.

Learner Mentor Driver Program (L2P)

L2P mentors assist young people to complete the mandatory 120 hours of supervised driving experience required to obtain their probationary licence. There are currently nine young people waiting to be matched with a mentor. If you would like to support a young person in this way call the L2P Coordinator on 03 5760 2600.

TECH HELP@BENALLA LIBRARY

Free one-on-one Tech Help Sessions are available at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) every second Tuesday starting 10 October.

The sessions are held between 1pm and 3pm. If you need personalised tech advise or if you have an hour to spare and can help others, contact the Library on 03 5762 2069.



Volunteer Christine Glynn, with Trevor Banfield, has enjoyed assisting people with a range of tech related tasks.

BPACC VOLUNTEERS AT SENIORS WEEK



Seniors Festival participants Jean Holmes, Ishbel Wales and Sue Milner are greeted by volunteer ushers Bernice Vance and Dale Jackman at the Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre for a special film screening of Victoria and Abdul.

HOLIDAY READING AT REDB4



Looking for some holiday reading? Drop into the RedB4 Bookshop at 111 Bridge Street Benalla. The Bookshop offers an interesting range of quality second hand books for sale and is open six days a week thanks to dedicated volunteers like Mary-Lou Keogh.

The *Volunteer Connection* newsletter is distributed three times a year to volunteers and partner organisations. We invite community groups with volunteer programs to share their news, events and stories.

For further information about *Volunteer Connection*, contact:

Jane Taylor, Volunteer Development Coordinator on **03 5760 2600** or jane.taylor@benalla.vic.gov.au

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