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.

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.

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VOLUNTEER PROFILE: BENALLA ART GALLERY - MEET HAZEL

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

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.

Things get solved if you get involved.
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
DECEMBER 2017

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.

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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