

# Council NEWS

Edition 21, December 2018

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As the newly elected Mayor, I acknowledge the support of my fellow Councillors and the previous leadership of Cr Don Firth and Cr Peter Davis.

We're entering an exciting time for the Benalla Rural City with the upcoming commencement of our new CEO, the ongoing work at the concrete batching plant, the establishment of the hydroponic farm and the final stages of the new retirement facility. The opportunities for employment and investment have never seemed so strong.

With opportunity comes some risk. We must continue to be mindful that those at risk/disadvantaged in our community do not slip through the cracks and we all must benefit from our good fortune.

I am very keen on securing permanent funding for our Rural Outreach Worker by seeking bipartisan support from the State and Federal level and key stakeholders. Those affected understand what a vital role it is.

I will discuss with veteran organisations and community members their views on a suitable memorial for who have served post World War II in either peacekeeping

roles or warlike service.

I'll continue to work with my fellow Councillors and Council staff welcoming in the New Year, our new CEO and getting out and about to the villages, businesses, community groups and schools.

**- Cr Scott Upston  
Mayor**



## FAREWELL TONY AND THANK YOU



To Tony McIlroy, our CEO of 15 years, from the Mayor, Councillors and staff, we say thank you.

Tony has been at the helm of Benalla Rural City Council since the de-amalgamation of Benalla and Mansfield Councils in 2002 – a time of significant financial challenge in the early years.

He has guided the operation of the Council and overseen the expansion of community facilities to improve lifestyle and amenity of the community.

Our Council is now in a strong position to face the present day challenges. We have benefitted from his steady hands and experience.

Tony, we acknowledge and thank you for your significant contribution and wish you all the very best for your next chapter.



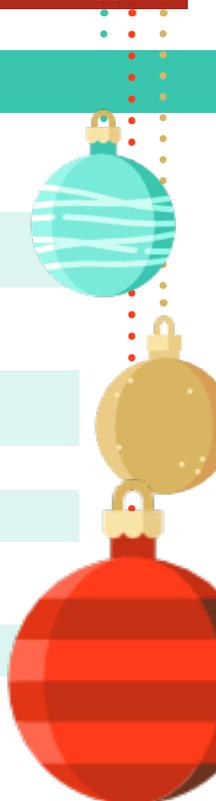
*Merry Christmas from the Mayor, Councillors and staff.*

## COUNCIL VENUE CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

Over the holiday period, Council venues will have different operating hours. Venues will be closed on the following days:

Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre	25 December 2018
Benalla Community Care Ray Sweeney Centre	Services will be provided as arranged in advance
Customer Service Centre	24 December 2018 Reopens 2 January 2019
BPACC	24-25 December 2018
Benalla Art Gallery	25-26 December 2018
Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre	Closed Public Holidays
Visitor Information Centre	25 December 2017

The Customer Service Centre, BPACC, Benalla Art Gallery and the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) close at 2pm on Thursday 20 December 2018.



# WORKS AROUND BENALLA RURAL CITY



We restored the surfaces of Racecourse Road and Ackerly Avenue. We regularly check and report on which roads require patching or other maintenance.



Pipe repair and drainage works have been completed on Lima Road.

## HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR NEWS?

Council News is now in its 21st edition. Thank you for your positive feedback about it.

From time to time we like to check on your preferred method of receiving information and updates from us.

- Council News (delivered to you)
- Community Connect (in the *Benalla Ensign*)
- [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)
- Social media

You can give your feedback to the Customer Service Centre in person, by emailing [council@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@benalla.vic.gov.au) or by calling 03 5760 2600.

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS - BPACC USHERS

Volunteer ushers at BPACC assist with cinema and theatre shows. Volunteering at BPACC is a great way to connect with people who have an interest in cinema and the performing arts. BPACC operates seven days per week. Contact 03 5762 5515 for more information about volunteering at BPACC.



## YOUTH STRATEGY 2019-2022



The Council is developing the 2019-2022 Benalla Rural City Youth Strategy. We've been holding focus sessions with young people and with community groups. If you're aged 12-24 years, or if you're a parent or someone who works with young people, we would like to hear your thoughts and receive your input. Complete the Youth Strategy survey at [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au).

## GRADER

The grader has been working in these areas:

### Goomalibee

- Goomalibee Road
- Burness Road
- Kealy Road
- Porter Road
- Police Paddock Lane
- Hanlon Road
- Terrett Road

### Devenish

- Brown Street
- Dookie-Devenish Road
- McCallum Street
- Hooper Road
- Berger Road

### Boweya

- Leitch Road
- Sammon Road
- Derrick Road

### Swanpool

- Martin Road
- Derrick Road

## STAY COOL IN SUMMER

The best way to survive the heat is to plan ahead. Hot weather can affect anyone, including the young and healthy. Check in on friends, family and neighbours who may fall into a risk group on days of extreme heat or during heat waves.

Remember to also plan to keep your pets cool and comfortable in the hot weather. Walk your dog in the morning or evening as hot pavement can damage a dog's paws.

## LAKE BENALLA – NOT A GREAT PLACE TO SWIM

On a hot summer day Lake Benalla may be a tempting sight, however, swimming in it is not recommended.

Regular water testing indicates a higher than acceptable presence of organisms that includes faecal contamination. Heavy rain and hot weather tend to exacerbate the contamination levels.

There are other waterways around Benalla Rural City that are suitable for recreational swimming. Contact Goulburn-Murray Water for more information.