

# Council NEWS

May 2019

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE - THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS

From 20 - 26 May we will celebrate National Volunteer Week. We are a community with a strong volunteering culture, from canteen duties at the local footy club, coaching sport, the L2P Program and aged and disability services. These are just a small diverse snapshot. The Council currently supports 31 programs and coordinates approximately 500 volunteers. So thank you to those of you who give up your time so willingly to support activities throughout our community. Volunteering is a timeless Australian tradition and without your dedication, kids would miss out on sport, our rose gardens would



not be maintained to the highest of standards and our events and festivals could not go ahead.

A special mention to our volunteer CFA and SES members who go above and beyond in your duties keeping our rural

community safe in times of fire, flood and natural disasters.

**Cr Scott Upston**  
Mayor

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS



2019 is the 30th anniversary of National Volunteer Week. This year it runs from 20-26 May and again celebrates the contribution of volunteers around Australia.

Benalla Rural City's strong sense of community spirit is demonstrated through our higher level of volunteerism than the Victorian and Australian averages. In the last 12 months, 25.1% of Benalla residents did voluntary work through an organisation or group, compared to 19.2% of Victorians and 19% of Australians.

If you're interested in volunteering, contact the Council's Customer Service Centre and speak to the Volunteer Coordinator on 03 5760 2600.

## DID YOU KNOW? VOLUNTEERS

In the 2017/18 financial year:



Volunteers supervised 1,141 hours of driving experience for 57 learner drivers



Volunteers assisted 13,725 visitors at the Visitor Information Centre



Volunteer ushers greeted 13,738 cinema patrons



Volunteers collected an average of 140 litres of litter each per week



Two mornings a week volunteers pruned the spent roses from an estimated 1,000 rose bushes



Volunteers delivered more than 11,000 Meals on Wheels



We had 486 volunteers across 26 programs

## BUSINESS EVENTS

More than 200 people have attended business events in Benalla this year, as part of the Startup Shakeup program, including business bootcamps, training modules for business owners and programs for those who want to run a business.

The Startup Shakeup program is the result of the Council, in partnership with other Council's across North East Victoria, being granted \$400,000 through LaunchVic to support North East Victorian entrepreneurs with their start-up ideas, and to connect them to mentoring and investment opportunities.

Startup Shakeup partners include LaunchVic, Charles Sturt University, NE Tracks LLEN, Smart Seeds, Australian Centre for Rural Entrepreneurship (ACRE), JumpStartMe, GOTAFE and Global Sisters.

Got a big business idea? A PitchFest is scheduled for 26 July 2019. To find out more follow @StartupShakeup on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.



# SCHOOL READINESS IMPROVING

Since 2015, the number of Benalla children starting school 'ready to learn' as recorded by the 2018 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) has dramatically increased.

'Ready to Learn' is measured by physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, communication skills and general knowledge.

In 2015 Benalla's AEDC results were among the worst in Victoria. The turnaround to 2018 has come from groups including the Council, through the Benalla Library and Maternal Child Health services, Tomorrow Today Foundation and Benalla Health



collaborating through the delivery of the Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP).

The PEEP works with families and their children from birth to five years, helping deliver fun learning activities to develop pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills.

## WORKS AROUND BENALLA RURAL CITY



### Road patching in Waller Street

This month, we have:

- Patched roads in Waller Street
- Replaced 12 metres of kerb and channel in Swanlea Avenue
- Replaced 30m<sup>2</sup> of concrete footpaths in Harold Street and Oak Avenue
- Cleaned gutters and table drains in Calder Street, Ryan Street, Barc Avenue, Gray Street, Neil Avenue, McConnan Street, Garden Street, Ballintine Street, Gaskin Street and Witt Street
- Repainted the directional arrows in Denny Street car park and remarked edge and centre lines in Ackerly Avenue

## YOUTH POLITICS CAMP



Six students from Benalla Rural City participated in the 2019 Youth Politics Camp from 8-10 April, held in Harrierville, learning how to influence change, about different levels of government and meeting key people.

The Youth Politics Camp is a collaboration between five Councils across north east Victoria including Benalla Rural City Council, Alpine Shire, Strathbogie Shire, Indigo Shire and Towong Shire.

Young people were given the opportunity to meet guest speakers from a range of different levels of government, including Cathy McGowan in her last official engagement as an MP.

The Youth Politics Camp has provided a pathway for young people to be involved in Youth Parliament, a program designed to give young Victorians between 16-25 years a chance to be heard at the highest levels of State Government.

For more information about Youth Politics Camp, visit [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

## COUNCIL ACQUIRES BACKHOE



The Council has purchased a backhoe under its plant replacement and renewal program.

The backhoe it replaced was built in 1992 and has been in Council operation for more than 20 years and 12,500 hours of service.

## GRADER



The grader has been working in:

### Winton

- Grimwade Road
- Knight Road
- Webster Road

### Tarnook

- Nursery Lane
- Four Mile Road
- Basin Road

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