

# Connecting our Rural City



## Mayor's Message

Hello again, and welcome to the August edition of Connecting our Rural City, your council newsletter.

It has been another busy month at Council with a number of key projects getting underway.

It was with great pleasure that I was able to turn the first sod on the Mair Street Visitor Information Centre and Museum redevelopment. With the safety fences up and ground broken we can now forge ahead with this exciting project.

It was also great to see works on the Bridge Street Pergolas ramp up, with wooden fences installed as a first step towards delivering more seating along our busy main street. These fences will help keep diners safe, especially our children, who will be able to sit at the tables due to be installed over the coming weeks. A range of high and low tables are being fitted, with wheelchair and pram access for the low tables.

As always there is plenty to do and see in and around Benalla, and here at Council we are super excited to see Benalla Festival returning later in the year, with the addition of the Benalla Airshow, but I'll tell you more about that next month.

Until then,

**Bernie Hearn**  
Mayor



## Visitor Centre Redevelopment underway

Redevelopment work on the Mair Street Visitor Information Centre and Museum has officially begun with a sod turning ceremony held last month.

The primary use of the redeveloped building will be for the Visitor Information Centre to have a permanent home to be shared with the Costume and Kelly Museum.

The redevelopment also brings a number of facilities to the CBD-side of Lake Benalla that the community has been asking for.

The redevelopment work includes public toilets for users of the splash park, while adding a number of secondary uses to the building including a cinema, café and exhibition space.

"Once completed, we will have a revitalised community space on the foreshore of our beautiful lake for both locals and visitors to enjoy," Benalla Rural City Mayor, Cr Bernie Hearn said.

It is expected that the \$3 million redevelopment will take nine months, with the Visitor Information Centre relocating from its temporary home at the Commercial Hotel in Bridge Street.

## Yarnbombers strike again

Colourful knitted creations are adorning bollards and pergolas across the central business district, as part of the Benalla Yarnbombers' winter installation.

Community volunteers have been knitting and crocheting a range of colourful decorative ornaments to brighten up our rural city and beautify public spaces.

The installation will be in place until 3 September.



## Bridge Street pergolas get a facelift

Work to improve the Bridge Street pergolas is underway as Council continues to deliver projects using funding received under the Victorian Government's Outdoor Activation Fund.

Timber screening surrounding the pergolas has been installed and tables and seating inside the fenced area will go in soon. High tables and stools will also be installed under the pergolas over the coming weeks.

"Benalla's main street isn't the only area Council is improving with this funding. We have already installed pod seating around Lake Benalla and have delivered new picnic seating to Swanpool, Goorambat and Devenish townships," Benalla Rural City Mayor, Cr Bernie Hearn said.

"People might have also noticed the new lighting in the pergolas and laneway from Bridge Street to Denny Street carpark, which was also funded by the State Government as part of this COVID recovery initiative."

Benalla Rural City Council received \$300,000 from the state government's \$40 million Outdoor Activation Fund.



## Benalla Library

Discover something new at the Benalla Library.

**Author Talk:** *The Woman in the Library* with Sulari Gentill, 6.30pm  
Wednesday 10 August

**Workshop:** *Raising Children Across Time* with Dr Carla Pascoe Leahy, EVENT POSTPONED

Bookings essential 03 5762 2069  
[facebook.com/benallalibrary](https://facebook.com/benallalibrary)

