

Council NEWS

Autumn 2022



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the many local community groups, organisations and individuals who work tirelessly to make our rural city such a special, positive, vibrant place to call home.

As a Council, we continue to deliver key projects in partnership with you, our residents and I am delighted to announce the new Road Management Plan, Community Engagement Policy and Domestic Animal Management Plan were all recently adopted.

On behalf of all at Council, I wish everyone a happy and safe Easter break. I encourage you all to get out and about, in this amazing autumn weather and enjoy the many festivals, events and celebrations happening in the Northeast.

Cr Bernie Hearn
Mayor



BENALLA ART GALLERY

Situated in our beautiful town, the Benalla Art Gallery was named by Time Out Magazine Melbourne as one of the top 10 regional art galleries to visit across the state.

We are so lucky to have this beauty on our doorstep – offering stunning views of Lake Benalla and the Botanical Gardens, an ever-changing exhibitions program, café and gift store.

It truly is the perfect place to take visiting friends and relatives of all ages, and wander through the rose gardens, take the little ones to the rocket park, admire the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop sculpture and the Lake Benalla foreshore.



CONGRATULATIONS

A big congratulations and thank you to all our Australia Day nominees, achievers and community groups! Special mention goes to 2022 award winners, Citizen of the Year Dr Lee Manning and Young Citizen of the Year Sophie Humphries. We look forward to celebrating your achievements throughout the year.



INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

We manage a vast network of roads, bridges, buildings, footpaths and assets across the Benalla Rural City. If there are dangerous conditions in your area, please let us know as soon as possible.

You may have seen the grader out upgrading the following rural roads:

- Cooper Road, Devenish
- Watchbox Creek Road, Molyullah
- Flynn Road, Devenish

DRAINAGE WORKS FAWCKNER DRIVE COMPLETED

We wish to thank everyone for their assistance and patience during the changed road conditions in Fawckner Drive. While the drainage works are now complete, construction work continues. Road closures and pedestrian detours are in place until April 29.



HAVE YOUR SAY

BUDGET 2022 - 2023

The budget outlines how we will deliver services and programs to our community. It covers services like managing waste, upgrading our infrastructure, community facilities and parks, operating our library, managing events and services to people at all stages of life.

What do you think the priorities should be for the Benalla Rural City's budget for 2022 - 2023? Visit our website, complete the survey and have your say on "the priorities" moving forward. Open from 1 March to 1 April.

 haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au

KEY PROJECTS

2022 ANNUAL GRANTS PROGRAM

We have been delighted with the response from local community groups to this year's Grants Program. Applications close March 25, so there is still limited time to lodge a submission. Please visit Council's website for more information and to lodge an application.

RE-SEAL AND LANDSCAPING OF THE DENNY STREET CARPARK AND AMENITIES

Major works to re-seal Denny Street carpark will be undertaken in mid March. We advise all users to prepare for delays and motorists to park elsewhere if possible. Importantly, we ask that all users take care while in the vicinity and prepare for changing conditions. Specific timing for the re-seal will be announced once confirmed.



HOW WE SHARE NEWS WITH YOU IN 2022

Council is committed to improving the way we communicate with you, our residents, ratepayers and business owners. Following extensive community consultation through the Ensign, social media and online community surveys, we have listened and how we share news and engage with you in 2022 will, in the future be through the following communication channels:

- **Full page updates in the Benalla Ensign – print and digital edition**
- **Social media updates on Facebook and Instagram**
- **Increased interaction with community groups in all the rural city's towns and villages through email, social media and face to face meetings**
- **Monthly Council meet and greet coffee catchups in various locations throughout the rural city**
- **Annual Council news snapshot publication distributed with the rates notices in August**
- **Updates on Council's YouTube channel covering broad topics from live streamed Council meetings to guest speaker presentations and special events**

We acknowledge we needed to improve, and thank all those who took the time to provide such invaluable feedback. The cost savings and positive environmental impacts of not printing thousands of newsletters, eleven times a year will be considerable.