

Connecting our Rural City



Mayor's Message

It has been a frosty start to July – that means it's time for our amazing parks staff to prune the roses in the Botanical Garden.

Call into the gardens over the next week or so, say 'hi' to our staff and take home some free rose clippings if you'd like.

Signage for the Aboriginal Garden has been installed recently, marking the near completion of this wonderful project. Watch this space as the weather warms up for an official opening celebration.

Council has adopted the 2022/23 Budget and Financial Plan 2023 to 2032 and both point towards Council being in a strong financial position. This is something we can be very proud of as we have allocated money for roads, bridges, footpaths, maintenance of our infrastructure, and a dog park.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the staff and volunteers from the Aged and Disability Services team, who we have recently farewelled. It is sad to say goodbye, as many of you have been with us for years, some as many as 35 years. Thank you for your dedication, love, and care of our precious residents, we wish you the very best for your future, be it retirement or future work prospects.

Until next time,

Bernie Hearn
Mayor



Council farewelled our Aged and Disability Services team (above) on 30 June. The team supported community members with services that enabled them to remain living independently in their homes for more than 35 years. We thank the team for their years of service.

Council adopts 2022/23 Budget and Financial Plan

Benalla Rural City Council adopted the 2022/23 Budget and Financial Plan 2023 to 2032 at the Council Meeting on Wednesday 29 June.

Council enters the 2022/23 financial year in a strong position thanks to reduced wage costs and external capital works funding. The 2022/23 Budget forecasts a \$1.529 million surplus.

Our capital works program for the 2022/23 financial year will include \$2.821 million on roads, \$420,000 on bridges and \$600,000 on footpaths. Drainage works total \$948,000, \$170,000 has been allocated to a playground renewal program, and \$100,000 to dog park construction costs.

Rate revenue for the period will increase by 1.75 per cent in accordance with the state government's Fair Go Rates system, while waste services charges will increase by 5 per cent.

Annual rose prune

Council will undertake the annual rose prune in the Benalla Botanical Gardens, commencing this week.

Members of the public wishing to obtain rose prunings and for gardening advice can meet with the Council's horticulture staff onsite between 8am and 3pm, Tuesday to Friday from 19 to 29 July.



New signage a milestone for Aboriginal Garden

Progress at the Aboriginal Garden reached a milestone recently with the installation of signage at the Lake Benalla site.

Visitors are now welcomed to the Aboriginal Garden by a large interpretive sign at each of the two main entrances.

Designed in consultation with Uncle Chris Thorne and Elders from the three local mobs, the totem carvings featured in the signs represent the Yorta Yorta Nation, the Bpangerang and the Taungurung.

Mayor Cr Bernie Hearn thanked Uncle Chris Thorne for his vision and Sally Gamble for the hard work and perseverance the Tomorrow Today Foundation has committed to this important community project.

Working with Uncle Chris, Tomorrow Today has coordinated the project from inception, bringing together Aboriginal Elders, community members, Council and funders including the Victorian State Government.

An official opening celebration will be held in the warmer months.



Benalla Art Gallery

Discover something new at the Benalla Art Gallery.

Workshop: *From Subject to Painting* with Frank Burgers, Saturday 23 July

Concert: *24 Caprices* by Jonathon Glonek, Saturday 30 July

For more information or to book, visit benallaartgallery.com.au