

# Council NEWS

September 2021

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Once again we find ourselves in challenging times, during a year that has been so difficult for so many, in so many ways.

Benalla Rural City Council has proudly continued to deliver many services and key projects despite the limitations, lockdowns and constantly shifting regulations. Two key projects we look forward to delivering will be the new Council Plan and the Visitor Information Centre and Historical Museum Redevelopment.

On behalf of Council, I wish to thank our community for the way, we, collectively, have supported each other. There have been numerous examples of kindness and care, that make us feel proud and thankful of the place we choose to call home.

As a Council, we remain hopeful, that in the near future lockdowns will be a distant memory and together, we can resume community meetings, festivals and special events, and that our business community will thrive.

Stay safe and take care of loved ones during this time.

Together, as a community, we will get there.



**Cr Danny Claridge,**  
Mayor



### Monash Bridge, Benalla

A spectacular addition to the Benalla streetscape is the project that saw 29 lights replaced on the sides and undercarriage of the Monash Bridge, as well as the repair of six existing lamp posts. Our rural city's iconic bridge has never looked so vibrant! This project was made possible with a grant from the Victorian Government.

## COVID-19

We are aware that multiple COVID-19 lockdowns and being separated from family and friends can have long term impacts on many people in our community.

If you have any symptoms (however mild they may be) please get tested.

If you are experiencing difficulty at this time, please reach out to any of the support organisations including:

### Lifeline Australia

13 11 14 or [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

### Beyond Blue

1800 512 348

### Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Service

[coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au](http://coronavirus.beyondblue.org.au)



## WORKING FOR VICTORIA

During these trying times, Benalla Rural City Council was lucky enough to employ 20 talented people under the Working for Victoria initiative.

These people individually have each made a significant difference to Council's ability to complete numerous projects and implement new strategies in areas including economic development, access and inclusion planning and community support.

*Photo: Kate Storer, Economic Development Officer, Working for Victoria*



## RURAL ROADS UPDATE

We manage a vast network of roads across the Benalla Rural City. The wet winter, whilst welcomed by many of our rural landholders and avid gardeners, has at times posed a dilemma for our grader and road crew to access. If there are dangerous conditions on your road, please, always let us know as soon as possible.

Over winter, you may have seen the grader out upgrading the following roads:

### Boweya area

- Griffiths Track
- Jones Road
- Mt Bruno Road
- Booth Road

### Lurg area

- Greens Road
- Stanley Drive

### Stewarton area

- Love Road
- Berger Road

## COUNCIL KEY PROJECTS

We are committed to ensuring all residents are up-to-date with the latest upcoming Council initiatives and community engagement opportunities.

Community engagement is underway on the following projects:

1. Domestic Animal Management Plan
2. Council Plan 2021-2025
3. Changes to Aged and Disability Care provision
4. Financial Plan 2021-2022 to 2030-2031

Please note further detail with respect to each of these projects can be found on the Council website or phoning the Customer Service Centre.

## DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

All councils across Victoria are required to produce a Domestic Animal Management Plan. This document provides the framework within which we identify and address issues relating to the management and wellbeing of pets over a period of four years.

We are currently seeking community input and consideration into the new 2021-2025 plan. If you have an interest in the care and safety of dogs or cats, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact a member of our Compliance Team by phone, email or visit our website to learn more, complete a survey or provide detailed feedback.

### Did you know...

- We provide free 'poo bag' dispensers at popular dog walking areas
- Keeping registration and microchip details current is important, as it assists us to return your dog or cat quickly if it is lost, found or injured
- We provide a 24/7 after hours call out service to collect and return lost and wandering dogs



## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AND MUSEUM REDEVELOPMENT

Benalla Rural City Council will seek suitable qualified contractors to undertake the redevelopment of the Benalla Visitor Information Centre and Museum.

Once complete, the venue will offer a café bordered by a deck overlooking the lake offering an alfresco, relaxed dining experience and a purpose-built, state-of-the-art cinema catering for 64 patrons, plus a revamped visitor centre and museum. The project will also include the construction of a parents' room and toilets for Lake Benalla foreshore patrons.

It is expected that the build component of the project will take approximately six months with the new precinct open for local and visitor use by mid-2022.

Additional information regarding the plans and process can be found on Council's website.

Once complete, our city will have a revitalised community space on the foreshore of our beautiful lake for the enjoyment of locals and visitors.



The Benalla Rural City Council and Benalla Festival Committee recently made the difficult decision to cancel the Benalla Festival Program scheduled for 30 October – 7 November 2021.

The Benalla Festival Committee Chair, Cr Don Firth, said "While this is a disappointing decision, the Committee considered the health of the wider community and the implications for all involved, we understand that this is not the news everyone was hoping for, but we are keen to explore alternatives."

We would like to thank all committee members, community event organisers and participants for their work in planning for the Festival so far and look forward to doing what we can for the community, when we can.

Fingers crossed for 2022!