

Council NEWS

August 2019

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Each year the Victorian Government undertakes a survey on behalf of all local councils to measure the community's perception of the Council's performance over a period of 12 months.

This year, we are proud that the Council's overall performance rating is the highest it has been since we began tracking results in 2012. There was a significant improvement in the results from last year, with more than four times as many residents rating the Council's overall performance as 'good' or 'very good' than those who rate it as 'poor' or 'very poor', so thank you for your endorsement and support.



In this new financial year, we continue to focus on responding to what is important to the community. We know there are areas where we can continue to get better and we will keep working on that.

It is a great time to reflect on the pride we have in our community. The Freedom of Entry Ceremony recently held on 16

June 2019 in honour of HMAS Benalla allowed us to celebrate the history of our Rural City. On 23 August, we will celebrate 150 years since the Shire was proclaimed in 1869. It was gazetted on 3 September 1869.

Cr Scott Upston
Mayor

PROPERTY VALUATIONS

All properties are now valued every year by the Valuer General Victoria. The rates you pay are apportioned according to the value and type of your property. Higher valued properties contribute more and lower valued properties contribute less.

If you feel your property has been incorrectly valued, see the back of your Valuation, Rate, Charge and Levy Notice and contact the Council's Customer Service Centre.

HOW DO YOU PAY YOUR RATES?

Would you like to receive your Rate Notice electronically? It means you can conveniently view it and pay it with the click of a button. You will also receive reminders when payment is due.

This is done via BPAY View. To set this up, log on to your online banking and choose the BPAY View or View Bills option. Follow the prompts to register for Benalla Rural City Council, using the Biller Code 767657 and the reference number shown on your Valuation, Rate, Charge and Levy Notice.

If you are having trouble setting up BPAY View, contact your online banking provider.

WORKS ACROSS THE RURAL CITY



Footpath replacement in Fraser Street, Benalla



Removing tree from Reef Hills Road, Baddaginnie

We have been busy doing leaf pickups and cleaning kerbs with the street sweeper. We have also:

- Patched gravel on various roads including Barrs Lane, Hairs Lane and Silva Drive
- Cleaned brick gutters in Arundel Street
- Continued repairing and replacing footpaths in Amber Ave, Avon Street, Ballantine Street, Benalla Street, Carlyle Street, Exton Crescent, Fraser Street, Ironbark Ave, Jean Crescent, Kurrajong Court and Mackellar Street
- Removed trees from Escreet Road, Warrenbayne and Reef Hills Road, Baddaginnie
- Organised traffic management and clean up for the HMAS Benalla Freedom of Entry

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 2018/19 financial year, we:



Completed 1,811 operational requests from residents



Had three residents take the Australian citizenship pledge



Registered 3,489 pets



Attended 228 after hours operational callouts



Processed 113 event applications



Greeted 16,485 visitors at the Visitor Information Centre and became an RV friendly town



Trained 242 students and 30 adults in Mental Health First Aid



Coordinated 1,188 hours of supervised driving experience for 46 learner drivers



Supported the work of 486 volunteers across 26 programs



Screened movies for approximately 15,000 cinema patrons



Had 82,754 visits to the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre. There are 5,518 library members.



Collected 1,636 tonnes of recycling and 1,540 of organics from household kerbsides



Awarded approximately \$90,000 in community grants, sponsorships and major event grants to 65 organisations



Received 12,660 tonnes of waste at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre.



Installed 254 metres of new footpath



Visited 324 rural outreach clients



Hosted more than 50 events as part of the 2018 Benalla Festival



Welcomed 126 new babies into our maternal and child health services



Issued 308 building permits and processed 161 planning applications



Issued 26 Schedule 13 permits for burning off

Graded 402 kilometres of unsealed roads and 122 kilometres of unsealed road shoulder



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS BENALLA FESTIVAL



It takes all kinds of people with all kinds of skills to bring the Benalla Festival to life.

If you have time in the lead up to the Festival or on the day, we would love to hear from you. The Festival is from 2-10 November 2019 and includes events in Benalla and our rural villages.

Volunteer roles include:

- Distributing information
- Creative assistance at workshops
- Registering people for events
- Crowd marshalling
- Many other roles based on people's skills

Contact the Council's Customer Service Centre to discuss how you can get involved.

GRADER IN TATONG & BADDAGINNIE



The grader has been working in the **Tatong** area on Mitchell Road, Daly Lane, Coghill Road, Tigerhill Road, Lewis Road and Evans Road.

We have also graded in the **Baddaginnie** area on Carroll Road, Cook Road, Hossack Road, Johnson Lane and Steves Lane.



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