

# community CONNECT

## Benalla Art Gallery

**Michelle Nikou: a e i o u**  
Until 2 April 2017

**Brett Whiteley: West of the Divide**  
11 February 2017 until 23 April 2017  
[www.benallaartgallery.com.au](http://www.benallaartgallery.com.au)

## BPACC /Benalla Cinema

Check website for cinema screenings.  
(03) 5762 5515  
[www.bpacc.com.au](http://www.bpacc.com.au)

## Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Learning Centre

**Wednesday 8 February**  
2pm: Benalla Library: Sit and Knit.

**Thursday 9 February**  
11am: Benalla Library: Film Lovers' Lounge.

**Friday 10 February**  
10.30am: Benalla Library: Story Time.  
This week's theme is "Valentine's Day".

**Tuesday 14 February**  
Benalla Library: Library Lovers' Day.

**Wednesday 15 February**  
2pm: Benalla Library: Sit and Knit.

**Thursday 16 February**  
2pm: Benalla Library: Book Chat.

For more information, call the Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) on 03 5762 2069.

## Business Events

### Small Business Bus

**Monday February 13** 10am–4pm  
Outside Stolz, Nunn Street, Benalla  
Free 45 minute 1:1 business mentoring.  
Limited places. Bookings essential.  
[Facebook.com/SupportingBenallaBusiness](https://www.facebook.com/SupportingBenallaBusiness)  
or [www.sbms.org.au](http://www.sbms.org.au)

### Business Planning Essentials

**Tuesday February 21** 6pm–8pm  
Presented by Small Business Victoria  
Tickets \$20 (\$10 BBN members)  
[Facebook.com/SupportingBenallaBusiness](https://www.facebook.com/SupportingBenallaBusiness)  
or contact the Council on 03 5760 2600

## Council Meetings

Council meetings are open to the public.  
Meetings are held in the Civic Centre, 13 Mair St Benalla from 6pm.

Agendas are available at the  
Customer Service Centre or  
[www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

### Council Meeting

8 February 2017

**Planning & Development Committee**  
1 March 2017

**Finance & Operations Committee**  
8 March 2017

Meet our Councillors by visiting  
[www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

## Mayor's Message

Officiating at Australia Day ceremonies is not one of those things you think of when you decide to run for Council, but I'm sure I can say with confidence that all seven Councillors would agree it's a part of the job that's a pleasure. I had the honour of swearing in 13 new Australian citizens in front of a packed BPACC auditorium on Australia Day. Cr Barbara Alexander, as Chair of the Australia Day Advisory Committee, had the honour of announcing the Citizen of the Year for Benalla Rural City.

As you may have read, the State Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, visited Benalla on Friday 20 January to announce a \$75,000 grant for the Wall To Wall festival. This is just fantastic and a great shot in the arm to the committed group of volunteers who have done such an incredible job to make Benalla the home

of the biggest and, I will say, the best street art festival in regional Australia. So get ready Benalla, 5-9 April 2017 will be huge.

Another thing I'd like to say is how proud you all should be of how well the 34th FAI World Gliding Championships went. Every one of our international and interstate visitors I spoke to were impressed with every facet of the Championships. Part of that was the great job the Rotary Club of Benalla and Benalla SES did with crowd and traffic control on the day of the opening. Thanks to all those club members, volunteers and community members who helped make it a great event.

Speaking of events, I would like to give a special mention to the Council's Events Coordinator, Sharon Zimmerman. Along



with many other Council staff, Sharon does a great job that very few people ever know about. Sharon makes events across Benalla Rural City go like clockwork, including the Benalla Festival, the World Gliding Championships, Australia Day Celebrations (all 11 of them) and the Jayco Herald Sun Tour 2017 (Stage 3 start) all in four months. Well done, Sharon.

**Cr Don Firth – Mayor**

## Community Support Program

The annual Community Support Program opened on Monday 6 February 2017.

Incorporated, community-based not-for-profit groups and organisations are eligible to apply for financial grants to assist in hosting events, activities and community-based initiatives.

The range of activities and initiatives is broad. Examples of previously funded projects include:

- Personal Assistance Beacons were purchased by the Tatong Angler's Group.
- The Devenish High Tea, part of the Benalla Festival, received funding to help with the event.
- Swanpool Cinema Inc. were able to purchase and install hearing induction loops at the Swanpool Hall.
- Two Sustainable Housing Forums were held in an initiative by Benalla Sustainable Futures Group.

### Information Sessions

- Monday 13 February, 2017  
7.00pm–8.30pm  
Devenish Public Hall, Main St, Devenish.
- Monday 20 February, 2017  
7.00pm–8.30pm  
Lurg Hall, Winton-Lurg Road, Lurg.

### Grant Writing Workshop

- Monday 27 February, 2017  
5.30pm–7.30pm  
Ray Sweeney Community Care Building, Coster Street, Benalla.

Bookings for information sessions and the workshop are essential as places are limited. Bookings can be made by calling the Council on 03 5760 2600.



**Community Support 2016 funding assisted the Devenish High Tea.**

For grant guidelines and application forms please visit:  
[www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

## Time to downsize your bin?

Residents of Benalla Rural City can choose to downsize their roadside collection bins each year.

Visit [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au) to complete and submit an application form by Friday 17 February 2017.

Bins may also be upsized at any time of the year. There is no charge for upsizing a recycling bin.

Application forms and further information are available from the Council's Customer Service Centre or by phoning 03 5760 2600.

Visit [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au) for more information.

 [Facebook.com/BenallaRuralCity](https://www.facebook.com/BenallaRuralCity)

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