



VOLUNTEERING DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Volunteers: making the world of difference

VOLUNTEERING: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



*Dom Testoni,
Chief Executive Officer*

We value and celebrate the contribution of our volunteers in Benalla Rural City. We celebrated young volunteers at the Benalla Rural City Student Volunteering Awards on Tuesday 3 September 2019. The event, held

at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library), provided an opportunity for the Council to acknowledge and thank the many students who volunteer across the Rural City.

International Volunteer Day is on Thursday 5 December 2019. The Council is proud to participate in an international acknowledgement to volunteers.

Volunteers are important on so many levels. On a personal level, as they touch the lives of the people they spend time with and help. They make a difference to the communities they serve, to the Rural City overall and, as

International Volunteer Day recognises, they make a difference to the world.

I continue to be impressed by the Rural City's volunteers. Each volunteer contributes to making Benalla Rural City a stronger and more connected place to live.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered this year.

Dom Testoni
Chief Executive Officer



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COMMUNITY SERVICES: CALLING ON BUS DRIVERS



Volunteer drivers for the Social Support Group.

The Social Support Group increases the social interaction of community members living in their own homes. Volunteers work closely with staff to

take people on planned activities, such as visits to neighbouring towns to see Silo Art or catch ups for morning tea at local cafes.

We especially need volunteers with a licence to drive medium rigid vehicles so they can help take participants on planned activities across the region.

Volunteers enjoy connecting with members of the community and have some options with choosing activities that interest them.

For more information about volunteering with the Social Support Group, contact the Council's Volunteer Development Coordinator on 03 5760 2600.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE : TIM SHIRLEY

Tim Shirley has been associated with Benalla cinema for many years, since he was a projectionist dealing with cinema reels in the pre-digital age and more recently by volunteering with the Friends of BPACC. Now, Tim has decided to add to his suite of volunteering activities by becoming an usher at BPACC.

Tim is a well-rounded volunteer having also contributed to the Meals on Wheels program and at the Visitor Information Centre. He was recently awarded a life membership with the Gliding Federation of Australia in recognition of his 40-year involvement with the sport.

Congratulations Tim on your achievements and thank you for all you do as a volunteer in Benalla Rural City.



Tim Shirley receiving his life membership from the Gliding Federation of Australia.



Volunteer Robyn assisting a young student to make her own book.

BOOK WEEK AT THE LIBRARY

Book Week at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) was celebrated with a 'make your own book' session.

Volunteers helped children as they chose an animal and wrote clues for readers to guess their chosen animal.

Each child enjoyed the activity so much that they each made two books.

Volunteers help with a range of activities at the Benalla Library.

Speak to staff at the Library to discuss volunteering opportunities on 03 5762 2069.

TAC L2P PROGRAM MOVES AHEAD

In 2019 the L2P program was renamed the TAC L2P program, to acknowledge the support provided by the Traffic Accident Commission.

In addition, the program has increased the number of young people it can support. To manage the extra demand, we are looking for additional volunteers who could help a young person gain the mandatory 120 hours of supervised driving.

Contact the L2P Coordinator at the Council on 03 5760 2600 if you can spare a minimum of an hour per week to supervise a young person learning to drive.



Recent graduate Danielle with her mentor Graeme Pitts after another successful driving test.

**BENALLA
ART
GALLERY**

GALLERY VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers at the Benalla Art Gallery assist patrons to get the most out of their visit. They provide information about current exhibition, workshops and activities.

If you are interested in art and like to help people, contact the Benalla Art Gallery to discuss volunteering opportunities on 03 5760 2619.

HIGH COUNTRY VIC SUMMIT

On Wednesday 16 October, Visitor Information Centre volunteers from across North East Victoria came to Benalla to learn all that the Rural City has to offer to visitors.

The day included presentations from local groups, tours of Street and Silo Art, visits to local wineries and a discussion about how volunteers contribute to tourism across the region. Volunteers at the Benalla Visitor Information Centre come from a range of backgrounds with varying levels of knowledge about the region. What they have in common is a love of helping people discover Benalla and surrounds.

If you're interested in travel and helping people make the most of their time in our region, contact the Tourism Coordinator on 03 5672 1749 to find out about volunteering opportunities.



Pictured are volunteers from the Benalla Visitor Information Centre L-R Jane, Joan, Alison (Tourism Coordinator), Wendy, Christine, Merrilyn and Heather.



Members of the Benalla FReeZA crew L-R Maggie, Taryn, Leon, Zoe, Windi, Riley, Ben, Indri and Nathan at 'The Push' event in October

FReeZA EVENTS

The Benalla FReeZA Crew has delivered a range of great events in Benalla. They put together the Triple J event 'The Push', which brought acclaimed artists Baker Boy and Ruby Fields to a major all-ages event at the Benalla Town Hall. They have also organised a Halloween movie night for young people at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre and a skate event for the Benalla Festival.

If you're a young person and want to volunteer for FReeZA or with any of the Council's programs, contact the Youth Development team at the Council on 03 5760 2600.

TOMORROW TODAY FOUNDATION

Tomorrow Today Foundation works for the good of Benalla and the district, helping to build a stronger, more resilient and prosperous community.

Tomorrow Today run many different programs that rely heavily on the support of volunteers. Some of these programs include working with young children in PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) and Connect 9 program which is a mentor program for Year 9 students.

Volunteers are required to obtain a Working with Children check and are provided with training and ongoing support.

Volunteering opportunities at Tomorrow Today Foundation suit a variety of interests and lifestyles and can help fulfil Centrelink obligations. For more information visit tomorrowtoday.com.au or call Tomorrow Today on 03 5762 1211.



Tomorrow Today volunteer Annie, who loves assisting in the PEEP playroom.

Want to know more about volunteering opportunities?

Visit our website: www.benalla.vic.gov.au

Email: council@benalla.vic.gov.au

Contact the Customer Service Centre on **03 5760 2600**



BENALLA STUDENT VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Sixteen students and five student groups were recognised for their volunteering efforts within their school and community during Benalla's Student Volunteer Awards.

The students were presented with their awards by Mayor, Cr Scott Upston at a ceremony which was attended by family and friends. Congratulations to all the students who were nominated. We look forward to seeing your volunteering evolution and how you will pave the way for volunteers into the future.



The youngest recipient, Scarlett Bament from St Joseph's Primary School receiving her award from Cr Scott Upston.



A Benalla rose in bloom, one of over 2,000 rose bushes which are cared for in the Benalla Botanical Gardens.

ROSE DEADHEADING IN FULL SWING

The Deadheaders have been doing a great job keeping Benalla's trademark rose garden healthy and in full bloom.

You can see them on Tuesday and Friday mornings before the heat sets in for the day. The work they do keeps our gardens beautiful for many months of the year.

If you love gardening, volunteering with the Deadheaders might be for you. You'll enjoy the company of others and help bring joy to all who delight in the roses throughout the year.

Contact the Volunteer Development Coordinator on 03 5760 2600 for more information.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Benalla Rural City has a full calendar of events throughout the year.

Some of these take months of planning and many people to deliver, such as the Benalla Australia Day awards, Historic Winton and the Benalla Festival.

If you're interested helping to plan, produce or run events around the Rural City, contact the Events Coordinator on 03 5760 2600 for more information.



Classic cars travelling through Benalla for the Historic Winton event in May.

The *Volunteer Connection* newsletter is distributed twice a year to volunteers and partner organisations. We invite community groups with volunteer programs to share their news, events and stories.

For further information about *Volunteer Connection*, contact:

Natalie Phillips, Volunteer Development Coordinator on **03 5760 2600** or natalie.phillips@benalla.vic.gov.au

Want to know more about volunteering opportunities?

Visit our website: www.benalla.vic.gov.au Email: council@benalla.vic.gov.au

Contact the Customer Service Centre on **03 5760 2600**



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