



VOLUNTEERING NEWSLETTER

MAY 2018



Volunteers: helping people, changing lives

VOLUNTEERS GIVE A LITTLE - CHANGE A LOT



*Tony McIlroy,
Chief Executive Officer*

National Volunteer Week (21-27 May) recognises the work of everyday volunteers around Australia. This year's theme, Give a little – Change a lot, reflects the millions of volunteers who make a profound impact in their communities and on society. This is true for many of the Council's community programs, which would not be possible without the generosity and

efforts of dedicated volunteers. As a volunteer, you may not see how much your individual contribution matters. But the time and energy of each of the 450 Council volunteers certainly adds up. In this issue of Volunteer Connection, we highlight the difference volunteers make when providing services to those in need, enriching the culture of the community or caring for our parks and gardens.

During National Volunteer Week, we also take the time to thank the Friends Groups who fundraise and support key community facilities, such as the Benalla Art Gallery, BPACC, the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) and the Benalla Botanical Gardens.

The Council is also grateful for its strong partnerships with community,

educational and service groups whose volunteers help raise funds, help run community events, assist in an emergency and care for our environment. National Volunteer Week is not the time to be humble about volunteering. Tell others about your volunteering experiences and the difference you make. Let them know how they too can give a little and change a lot. On behalf of the Council, I sincerely congratulate and thank all volunteers across the community for your efforts to make Benalla Rural City a better place to live and enjoy.

Tony McIlroy
Chief Executive Officer



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MILK BAR A DRAW CARD FOR ART GALLERY



Katherine Hauptmann, Benalla Art Gallery's Customer Relations Officer, and volunteer Robyn Gould at the recent Milk Bar exhibition.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE : RODNEY GUNSTON



Rod celebrates with Ashleigh on achieving her driver licence.

Rod Gunston has volunteered as a Benalla L2P Driver Mentor for four years. We asked him what he finds most satisfying about being an L2P Mentor:

If the young driver gets their licence, it's a real victory for me. I don't do it for accolades, the satisfying thing is when you see them later on and they looked settled and happy. I enjoy seeing how getting their licence improves their independence and gives them confidence in life.

Congratulations to Rod and all L2P mentors who make a real difference to opportunities for young people who need a licence to access work and study.

2018 LIVE4LIFE CREW

More than 180 Year 8 Benalla students were part of the official launch of the 2018 Benalla Live4Life program on 26 March. The Live4Life Crew are student volunteers who coordinate activities and events to promote youth mental health in Benalla. We congratulate the crew on successfully organising this important event. For more information on the Live4Life program visit www.benalla.vic.gov.au



The new 2018 Live4Life crew Nathan Tolliday, Holly Morrison, William Tilton, Bailey Kubeil, Elisha Kubeil, Sienna Herbert, Taryn Schulz, Olivia Hounsell, Haylie Carter and Maggie Powell (front).



New volunteers to the Meals on Wheels and Volunteer Driver programs met with Aged and Disability Services staff at a recent group orientation session and are set to hit the road to help deliver meals and provide volunteer transport to medical appointments.

NEW RECRUITS READY TO HIT THE ROAD

Starting a volunteer role can be nerve racking. All recruits to the Council's volunteer programs are given information and training about volunteer policies, procedures and workplace safety to make sure they are confident in their role.

VOLUNTEERS BRINGING COMMUNITY PLAN TO LIFE

The Benalla Rural City Community Plan 2016-2036 reflects the community's aspirations for the next 20 years. Driven by the community, the plan was developed by a diverse range of volunteers representing a broad cross-section of the community.

Three action groups have been established to bring the plan to life. These are: Connecting Community, Progressive Economy and Sustainable Environment. Freida Andrews, Chair of the Connected Community Action Group, said that

implementing the Community Plan will take a great effort from volunteers. Freida acknowledged the work that volunteers have already contributed to developing the plan and the support given by the Council through its staff and resources.

ARG IMPROVING ACCESS FOR ALL



Members of the ARG, with Cr Firth, proudly show off the Communication Access symbol.

The Accessibility Reference Group (ARG) was established in 2015 and involves community representatives passionate about improving community access and inclusion for people of all ages and abilities. The ARG meets monthly and aims to help the Council respond to access and inclusion needs of the community and provide feedback on Council policy, planning and programs.

Major achievements for the ARG include the launch of the Benalla Mobility Map in 2017 and the Council's Community Access accreditation. This means that Council staff at the Customer Service Centre, Benalla Art Gallery and BPACC are trained to assist customers who have communication difficulties. The Group is now assisting with a review of the Council's Community Access and Inclusion Plan.

We congratulate the ARG for their commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible environment for everyone.

VIC PUTTING BENALLA ON THE MAP

Volunteers from the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) exhibited at the annual Seymour Alternative Farming Expo for the first time earlier this year. Visitors to the Benalla VIC stall were keen to see and hear what Benalla has to offer.

Guided coach tours are another first for the VIC and a successful collaboration with regional coach tour companies. In March, volunteers Suzanne and John Berry boarded a visiting tour bus to present a 45 minute guided tour of the Wall to Wall exhibits. Suzanne said "I have always enjoyed meeting new people and helping them plan their visit. It was fun to try something new." The inaugural tour was a great success with more bookings received for the coming months.



VIC volunteer Suzanne Berry was very proud to show off Benalla's amazing street art.

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**



VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

We are currently looking for people who have the passion, skills and time to help with the following programs:

Aged Services Social Groups

We are currently seeking volunteers with good communication skills and empathy for older clients to assist staff with social activities, serving meals,

entertainment and local outings.

Volunteers provide two to three hours of their time once a week or fortnight with times available Monday to Thursday. Contact the Service Delivery Team Leader on 03 5761 2253.

Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre (BPACC)

Volunteer ushers play a vital front-of-house role at BPACC. As a member

of our friendly team, you will help staff ensure events, live performances and films run smoothly. Volunteering at BPACC is a great way to meet other people with an interest in the performing arts.

For more information contact BPACC on 03 5762 5515 or visit BPACC at 57 Samaria Road, Benalla (10am-4pm Monday to Friday).

STOP PRESS: WHO? WHAT? WHERE?

You can now search for local volunteering activities on Who? What? Where? Benalla, the online directory for community organisations and services. Simple search 'volunteering' on www.benallaservices.com.au

To register your community organisation on the directory contact 03 5760 2600.

HOCUS GROUP: LITTER GATHERERS



The Hang Out and Catch Up Sometimes (HOCUS) youth group have participated in a number of volunteer activities over the past year, including rubbish collection around the lake. Litter Gatherers Anne Cresswell and Greg Clarke recently spoke to the group about safe work practices in preparation for further litter patrol sessions.

CURL UP WITH GOOD READS



Volunteers Noela Van Kerkwijk and Rosemary Cameron, on hand at the RedB4 Bookshop. Drop into 111 Bridge Street to bag a bargain and ask about becoming a volunteer.

The *Volunteer Connection* newsletter is distributed three times 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:

Jane Taylor, Volunteer Development Coordinator on **03 5760 2600** or jane.taylor@benalla.vic.gov.au

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