



VOLUNTEERING MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER



Volunteers: helping people, changing lives

VOLUNTEERING: NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



Dom Testoni,
Chief Executive Officer

2019 marks the 30th anniversary of National Volunteer Week, which runs from 20-26 May and celebrates the contribution of volunteers around

Australia.

This year, the theme is 'Making a World of Difference'. From some of our longest serving volunteers, Helen Davies and Ray Wittingslow (48 and 47 years respectively) to the new residents who have just started volunteering in Benalla Rural City, we thank you for the world of difference you make every day.

One of the most impressive things about Benalla Rural City is the strong sense of community spirit. One of the ways this is demonstrated is in the higher level of volunteerism than the Victorian and Australian averages.

I'm very proud to have moved to a community that embraces the spirit of volunteerism. For National Volunteer Week 2019, I'd like to thank each and every one of you for helping to make Benalla Rural City a great place to be.

Dom Testoni
Chief Executive Officer



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COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY



The Renkin family, include the father/daughter team of Jim and Cathryn who are Group Officer and Secretary of the Benalla Group, as well as members of the Swanpool brigade.

Volunteering with CFA isn't just about fighting fires. Volunteers fill many crucial behind-the-scenes roles to keep each brigade running effectively. Volunteers can build valuable skills that can be applied in other areas of their lives, as well as meet and connect with their local community.

There are 17 CFA brigades in Benalla Rural City. These reflect the wider community and stretch across the

entire Rural City. From small stations such as the one in Samaria, to the large station in Benalla, all the people involved as CFA volunteers perform a role that is critical to the safety of our community.

If you're interested in finding out more about what it takes to be a CFA volunteer, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au and go to the Volunteers and Careers section.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE : LINDA TULLBERG

Linda has been able to turn her love for art into a rewarding volunteering opportunity with Benalla Art Gallery. While volunteering at the Art Gallery she is able to surround herself with the beautiful pieces on display.

Linda grew up in Melbourne before moving to New York where she was involved in the theatre community and volunteered her time and energy in fundraising, primarily with the Pearl Theatre. Linda came to Benalla in 2016 to care for her mother and has been volunteering at the Gallery for about a year. During that time she has helped visitors with questions about the art gallery, the street art and silo trail, and Benalla generally. She loves what Benalla offers for people who enjoy the arts, including the art classes at the Gallery.

For more information about the Gallery's exhibitions or to enquire about volunteering, contact the Art Gallery on 5760 2619.



Linda with one of her favourite portraits in the current exhibition "Judy Garland" by Ivan Durrant.



Reverb organised live music for young people during the Wall to Wall Festival.

FReeZA CELEBRATES WALL TO WALL

Benalla's FReeZA Crew (Reverb) is a group of young volunteers aged between 12 and 24 who organise events for young people that are alcohol, drug and smoke free. Reverb recently hosted a successful event during the 2019 Wall to Wall Festival. They coordinated several bands from across the region who performed at the Benalla Skate Park on Saturday 6 April.

If you're a young person who is interested in music performance or event management, you can learn some new skills and get some great projects on your CV by contacting Meg Sheehan, Youth Development Officer on 5760 2600.

BPACC VOLUNTEERS FAREWELLED

BPACC bid a fond farewell to three volunteer ushers and members of the Friends of BPACC when Geoff and Bernice Wallis moved to the Ballarat area and Mona Cappelhorn moved to Lakes Entrance in late 2018.

Geoff had been an usher, punch maker extraordinaire and Friend of BPACC for 10 years, as well as being an L2P mentor. Bernice and Mona were also active volunteers in the wider Benalla community. We wish them all well in their new adventures.

Volunteering with BPACC is a great way to be involved in the community as well as enjoy the odd movie! If you are interested in volunteering at BPACC, please contact Ashley Merbach, BPACC Coordinator on 5762 5515.



L-R: Mona, Geoff and Bernice who will all be missed.

L2P - 100 LICENCES AND MORE

Congratulations to the Council's L2P Program for reaching the 100 successful probationary driver licences milestone in January 2019.

The milestone was celebrated by volunteers and sponsors at Benalla Toyota, major sponsor of the program.

The L2P Program helps young learner drivers facing significant barriers to getting the 120 hours of mandatory on-the-road driving experience. The L2P Program is a state-wide initiative sponsored by VicRoads and is delivered by the Council with the help of volunteers.

If you would like to help young people get their driver licence, contact Charlene Ham, L2P Coordinator on 5760 2600.



Maddy became the 100th young person to get her driver licence through the L2P program. Maddie is pictured with her Volunteer Mentors Michael and Laurie.



Village by the Lake was a part of the 2018 Benalla Festival

VOLUNTEERING FOR MAJOR EVENTS

Benalla Rural City has an extensive calendar of major events, such as the Benalla Festival, Benalla Historic Vehicle tour as part of Historic Winton, Wall to Wall Festival and Australia Day ceremonies. Our events and festivals attract visitors and brings the community together to interact, feel good, learn, celebrate and grow. Volunteers are essential to the delivery and success of the many events held in Benalla.

If you are interested in becoming involved or have an idea for a community event call Sharon Geer, Events Coordinator on 5760 2649.

NEW TROLLEY FOR LIBRARY

Thank you to the Friends of Benalla Library for their recent donation of a trolley to the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library). The trolley will assist volunteers who visit readers at Coinda Aged Care and the Morrie Evans Wing at Benalla Health.

There are lots of opportunities for volunteers who are interested in the library. For example, Christine is on hand to help with tech issues on Tuesday afternoons and Garry helps with reshelving books. Contact Marlies Tammes, Library Coordinator on 5762 2069 if you're interested in volunteering at the Library.



Garry, with the new trolley provided by the Friends of Benalla Library.

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**



VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Volunteers at the Visitor Information Centre were treated to a tour of the King Valley with local tourism operator North East Vineyard Tours on their most recent famils.

Famils give volunteers first-hand experience on what is on offer in the region and allows volunteers to experience products and services first-hand. The volunteers on this experience sampled delights from Red Feet Wines, Gracebrook Wines, La Cantina, John Gehrig Wines and the Milawa Cheese Factory. Volunteers are now equipped with a greater understanding of all that our region has to offer so they can assist visitors.

Contact Alison Angus, Tourism Coordinator on 5762 1749 to find out about volunteering opportunities.



Visitor Information Centre Volunteers at the recent tour of North East Vineyards



Key speakers from the Age Friendly Community Update (L-R) Mardi Scharp, Margaret Jenkins, Kathleen Brasher and Jan Osmotherly.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY UPDATE

The Age Friendly Project Benalla hosted an update for the community on 26 March 2019.

The Age Friendly Project is supported by a volunteer steering committee who helped survey more than 400 people aged 55 and over to find what would make Benalla a more Age Friendly place. Anyone interested in participating in the next stage of the Age Friendly project should contact Natalie Phillips, Volunteer Development Coordinator on 5760 2620 for more information.

COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

In January, more than 50 volunteers who help with Meals on Wheels, Volunteer Transport and Social Support got together to celebrate their efforts for the previous year. Some volunteers have volunteered for Meals on Wheels for more than 40 years. Thank you to all the Community Service volunteers for your time and effort.

To join the team, contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 5760 2600.

COMMUNITY PLAN WEBSITE GOES LIVE

The Community Plan Implementation Steering Committee has launched a website to provide information about Benalla Rural City's Community Plan and the work being done by volunteers to achieve our long-term community vision. The site is accessible from **www.connectingbenalla.org**

To find out more or to become involved email connectingbenalla@gmail.com or visit the new website.

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?

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