

TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT



The Benalla Town Hall is one of Benalla's most grand and historic buildings. A two-storey Italianate structure, it was built in 1882-1883, with the portico and extensions added in 1929. The Benalla Town Hall was formerly known as the Municipal Chambers and Shire Hall. The auditorium can seat up to 250 people.

It recently underwent refurbishment, with works including:

- The facade had significant plaster repairs to fix cracking and damaged decorative plaster
- The facade was recoated
- The installation of a server room
- Repairs to the mezzanine external exit staircase
- Repairs to the stage curtains and curtain track system
- The stage floor was repaired
- A new split system was installed in the ground floor meeting room



AUTUMN LEAF PICK UP



BENALLA FESTIVAL 2017



READING AT THE LIBRARY



CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

FOOTPATH WORKS



Our footpath maintenance program includes regular inspection of our concrete footpaths for cracks and other damage that may create an uneven surface. Uneven concrete surfaces can be a hazard. We've been grinding lips, or small rises, in concrete footpaths to ensure flat walking surfaces. We are repairing or replacing concrete footpaths across Benalla, including Goodwin Street, Third Avenue and Coish Avenue. We'll also be working on kerb & channel replacements in George Street, Wedge Street and Carrier Street to help with the flow of storm water.

Council NEWS

Edition 18, August 2018

BENALLA
RURAL CITY

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Last year, I wrote in this special edition of the newsletter that the next 12 months would see great growth in construction and investment in Benalla Rural City. It's with great pleasure that I report that the year has been successful in achieving these outcomes and in creating the foundations for continuing success in the future.

The construction of a new 120 bed aged care facility in Cowan Street, the new concrete plant in Murray Road and extensions to Benalla P-12 College would normally be cause enough to celebrate. However, with existing major employers in Benalla such as Schneider Electric, Cooida, Australian Munitions and D&R Henderson all strong and, in



some cases growing, we can be truly thankful on the jobs front. While jobs are critical to the success of a community, we also have challenges that need to be faced. We continue to work toward solutions to issues, such as improving mental health outcomes, increasing the reliability of public transport and enhancing the condition of our roads, to name a few. Over the

next twelve months, the Council will continue to work towards ensuring that Benalla Rural City remains the best place in rural Victoria to live and work. Finally, I would like to thank the Council staff and Councillors for their dedicated efforts throughout the year.

- Mayor, Cr Don Firth.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE



Are you passionate about our region? We are looking for Visitor Information Centre ambassadors to help people make the most of their stay in Benalla Rural City. People who volunteer as ambassadors in the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) also promote our Rural City at consumer

shows and events and are given the opportunity to experience some of the best our region has to offer. As a VIC ambassador, your customer service skills will influence how people experience our region. If this sounds like you, contact the Visitor Information Centre on 03 5762 1749.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP



Are you unsure about how to check the oil in your car? Would you know how to change a tyre if you needed to? Benalla Toyota, the major sponsor of Benalla's L2P Learner Driver program, is running a free workshop for people who want to learn the basics of vehicle ownership.

When: Thursday 6 September 6-8.30pm
Where: Benalla Toyota
28 Sydney Road, Benalla

Places are limited. Contact the Customer Service Centre to book on 03 5760 2600.

Facebook.com/BenallaRuralCity

Twitter.com/BenallaRuralCity

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NEW GRADER AT WORK

2018/19 COUNCIL BUDGET DOING THE SAME WITH LESS

The increased cost of managing recycled waste and the impact of rate capping are big features of the 2018/19 Council Budget, which was adopted on 27 June 2018.

In 2015 the Victorian Government introduced rate capping legislation which provided for an annual rate cap set by the Minister for Local Government which controls general rate increases, and revenue, for all councils during that financial year. The cap for 2018/19 is 2.25%.

The financial impact of managing waste

In the 2017/18 financial year,

Benalla Rural City produced 1,562 tonnes of recycled material.

In late 2017, China announced it would stop taking "foreign garbage", including the 600,000 tonnes annually of low quality recyclable materials from Australia.

Recycling in Benalla Rural City is collected by Cleanaway. It is then delivered to the JJ Richards processing plant in Wangaratta which removes contamination, such as non-allowable items, to improve overall quality. JJ Richards then on-sell the material to domestic and international markets.

Historically China allowed up to 10% contamination in bales and this is now required to be less than 0.5% contamination.

Our waste contractors have had to find new markets for the waste material. The cost for our contractors to sell to new markets has increased and the margin for waste bales has decreased. This burden has been shared with all Councils across Victoria.

Budget Summary

Total Revenue	\$27.127m
Total Expenditure	\$29.135m
Year end forecast surplus (deficit)	(\$2.008m)

This deficit position is primarily due to an early payment of the Federal Government financial assistance grant of \$2.083m, which was received in June 2018. This funding will be spent in the 2018/19 financial year, which shows no matching revenue, hence the deficit.



IMAGES - BENALLA
FESTIVAL 2017



DID YOU KNOW?

In the 2017/18 financial year, we:



Completed 1,553 operational requests from residents



Attended 233 after hours operational callouts



Successfully rehomed 10 dogs



Registered 3,454 cats and dogs



Processed 111 event applications



Coordinated 1,141 hours of supervised driving experience for 57 learner drivers



Trained 249 students and 70 adults in Mental Health First Aid



Processed 155 planning applications with 92% decided within 60 days



Had 486 volunteers across 26 programs



Had more than 15,000 visitors to the Devenish Silo within its first three months



Had two residents take the Australian citizenship pledge



Had 80,759 visits to the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre. There are 5,389 library members.



Awarded more than \$90,660 in community grants and sponsorships to more than 60 organisations



Received 2,067.5 tonnes of waste, 1,562 tonnes of recycling and 1,549.5 of organics at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre



Installed 550 metres of new footpath



Visited 329 rural outreach clients



Greeted 13,725 visitors at the Visitor Information Centre



Issued 213 building permits



Issued 106 permits for burning off (Schedule 13 permits)



Managed twelve social media accounts with an audience of 13,193



Attracted 335,000 tourism visitors who spent \$41m in the year ending September 2017



Administered 480 vaccines during twelve mobile immunisation sessions



Welcomed 163 new babies into our maternal and child health services



Hosted more than 50 events as part of the 2017 Benalla Festival



Screened movies for 13,738 cinema patrons



In the 2017/18 Financial Year, we graded 519 kilometres of unsealed roads and 233 kilometres of unsealed road shoulder

GRADER IN WINTON & GOORAMBAT

The grader has been working in the **Winton** area on Greta Road, Wattle Creek Road, Fox Street, Grant Road, Kennedy Lane. In the **Goorambat** area, the grader has been working on Hooper Road, Nooramunga Road, Cleary Road, Dicker Road and Trask Road.

THE 2018/19 CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM

The Capital Projects Program ensures continued investment in infrastructure assets, which for 2018/19 is \$4,434m, including projects carried forward from 2017/18.

The Capital Projects Program is funded by:

Funding source	Amount
Council operations	\$2,971,000
External Grants	\$721,000
Borrowings	\$500,000

Project	Amount
Sealed road improvements	\$650,000
Unsealed road resheeting	\$644,000
Part construction of Cell 2 at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre	\$700,000
Transfer station improvements	\$450,000
Footpaths	\$215,000
Plant machinery, including the purchase of a street sweeper	\$380,000

PROPERTY VALUATIONS

All properties have been revalued by valuers appointed by the Valuer General Victoria.

This means your rate charge may be different. If you have a question about the value of your property or would like to make an objection, more information is available on the back of your Annual Valuation and Rate Charge Levy Notice.