

# Council NEWS

December 2020

BENALLA  
RURAL CITY

## Meet our new Council

The Council that will lead Benalla Rural City until September 2024 was sworn in on Wednesday 18 November, with Cr Danny Claridge elected Mayor and Cr Bernie Hearn elected Deputy Mayor.

The seven Councillors are:

**Mayor, Cr Danny Claridge**

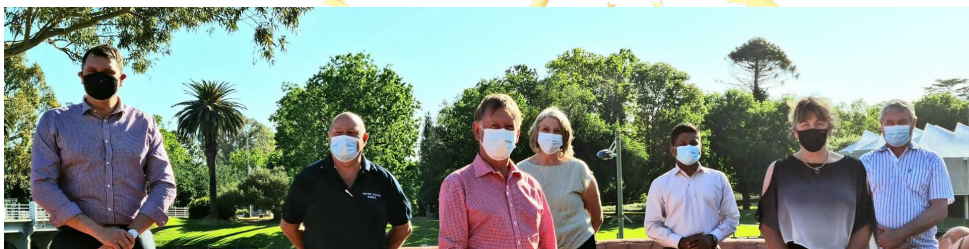
First elected - 2016 – 2020

Mayor - 2019 – 2020

**Deputy Mayor, Cr Bernie Hearn**

First Elected - 2016 – 2020

Deputy Mayor - 2019 – 2020



Cr Justin King, Cr Peter Davis, Mayor, Cr Danny Claridge, Cr Gail O'Brien, Cr Punarji Hewa Gunaratne, Deputy Mayor, Cr Bernie Hearn, Cr Don Firth

**Cr Peter Davis**

First elected – 2005

Councillor for 15 years

Deputy Mayor - 2018 – 2019

**Cr Don Firth**

First elected - 2008 – 2012

Then - 2016 – 2020

Mayor - 2016 to 2018

**Cr Justin King**

First elected - 2012 – 2016

Mayor - 2014 – 2016

**Cr Gail O'Brien and Cr Punarji**

**Hewa Gunaratne** are first-time Councillors.

*The Council, management and staff at Benalla Rural City Council wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year*

## NEW ROAD MAINTENANCE UNIT PURCHASED

We've purchased a road maintenance unit as part of the maintenance program for our large sealed road network.

The unit will be used for repairing potholes, edge maintenance and full width seals. It will be used in conjunction with the current unit, which was purchased in 2005 and has so far completed more than 240,000 kilometres in its operation.



## COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

What are your priorities for the Council? Over the coming months we'll be seeking your input into developing the Council Plan 2021-25.

The Council Plan is our medium-term strategic plan that lays out the planned objectives, ways to achieve the objectives, indicators for measuring progress and the

resources required for the next four years.

It is important that the plan reflects community priorities as it is the guide for setting Council's direction.

Have your say and help us develop the Council Plan 2021-25. Find out more at [benalla.vic.gov.au](http://benalla.vic.gov.au)





## This Christmas it matters where you shop

2020 has been a year like no other. Many businesses are hurting due to the compounded impact of drought, bushfires and the pandemic.

We all have a role to play in helping our local businesses survive. We can all buy local first.

When we shop local, every dollar spent creates a ripple effect in our economy. Our money can help businesses employ staff, purchase from local suppliers and sponsor community groups and events.

This Christmas go to [buyfrombenalla.com.au](http://buyfrombenalla.com.au) to make your dollar count.

Spend more than \$25 to go in the draw for a share of \$1,000 Benalla dollars or gift cards. Look for the window wreath at participating stores or purchase online at [buyfrombenalla.com.au](http://buyfrombenalla.com.au)



**BUY FROM BENALLA**  
SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES & JOBS  
[buyfrombenalla.com.au](http://buyfrombenalla.com.au)



## SWIMMING POOL REGISTRATIONS

The time to register your swimming pool and spa has now closed.

Thanks to everyone who complied with the new Victorian laws, which came into effect at the end of 2019.

All pools and spas capable of holding more than 300mm (30cm) of water must now be registered, including permanent pools, above ground pools, indoor pools, hot tubs, bathing or wading pools and relocatable pools.

Property owners need to register their pool or spa with us. If you don't, you may face on-the-spot fines or penalties. You can learn more about pool registrations at [benalla.vic.gov.au](http://benalla.vic.gov.au) and [vba.vic.gov.au](http://vba.vic.gov.au)

## WORKS AROUND BENALLA RURAL CITY

We've resealed 290 metres of footpath on Goomalibee Road and 400m of footpath on Deas Street. We've replaced 18 metres of kerb and channel in Melrose Street.

Drainage work on Irwin Road is complete and will alleviate flooding.

We've responded to seasonal challenges, including removing fallen trees, repairing the Lake Benalla boardwalk and completing repairs to Dennis Road, Benalla.

## GRADER

We've been grading around Winton and Samaria, on Wattle Creek Road, Extton Road, Spinny Lane and School House Road as well as at Goomalibee.



We completed repairs to the Kilfeera Road overpass, Benalla.

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