



Mayor's Message

April is a great time of year with autumn bringing fine, sunny days

and cooler nights.

I have enjoyed meeting and connecting with many of you at local community events recently.

Easter was a busy time for our town, with an increased number of visitors, some tourists and others taking the time to visit friends and family.

I'm sure they all enjoyed exploring our attractions, taking a break in our cafes and restaurants, exploring the region and soaking up our art and culture offerings.

As always, we welcome and encourage community input into Council's community projects, and currently we are asking for feedback on a number of arts and culture projects. To have your say, visit haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au

Stay safe and until next time,



Mayor Cr Bernie Hearn

New playgrounds to brighten our parks



Benalla families can now enjoy new playgrounds throughout the district with four playgrounds recently receiving upgrades.

The playgrounds provide a great public area for the local community to come together, socialise and play, and will improve the overall amenity of

local townships.

The locations are:

- Bicentennial Park, Devenish
- Cook Street Reserve, Benalla
- Jaycee Island Reserve, Benalla
- Mackellar Street Reserve, Benalla.

Council acknowledges the support of the Australian Government for providing funding through its Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.

Proposed sculpture to honour Arthur Baird

Council is seeking community input for the proposed installation of a commissioned sculpture piece, dedicated to Arthur Baird, the first chief engineer for Qantas and an inductee into the Australian Aviation Hall of Fame.

Commissioned by Victorian artist, Alex Sanson, the sculpture is based on a de Havilland DH-50 aircraft and spans more than five metres high. The work, constructed entirely of satin-finish marine grade stainless steel, is

carefully balanced to move freely in the wind.

The proposed location for the sculpture is outside the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre.

Local community members Barry O'Connor and Beverley 'Chick' Walker researched the achievements and career of Arthur Baird and then presented this research to Council with the proposal of honouring Baird with a permanent memorial.

To have your say on the proposed

aviation sculpture and to view the sculpture design, visit haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au/proposed-arthur-baird-sculpture. Submissions close 5pm Friday 14 April 2023.



EV Charging Station coming to Benalla

Works to install a public electric vehicle (EV) charger at Benalla's Denny Street carpark are currently underway.

Council is supporting EV charger company Evie Networks who are installing a 50kW EV charger, servicing two parking bays in the Denny Street carpark.

Council is also finalising negotiations on a separate charging station with Tesla.

The installation of these chargers is in line with Council's commitment to support the community to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Author Talk at Library

Join author, Robert M. Smith, at the Benalla Library next Tuesday night as he discusses his debut novel, *Purgatory*.

Purgatory is a captivating crime novel set in the 1980s, following a senior constable who is transferred to a remote and dying Mallee town. He begins to investigate the disappearance and murder of a wayward girl, leading him down a path of darkness and deception.

Robert M. Smith's author talk will be held at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library) next Tuesday 18 April from 3pm to 4pm. Bookings are essential on 5762 2069.

VicRoads or Council?

Did you know that VicRoads is responsible for arterial roads and highways within our Shire and that not all of the roads within our boundaries are owned and maintained by Council?

We understand that it can be confusing to identify who to get in touch with when you have a road-related question or concern, so next time you're wondering who you need to talk to, head to our website to find a number of resources to assist.

www.benalla.vic.gov.au/Services/Roads-Footpaths/Road-Management