



Mayor's Message

Christmas is a wonderful time of year and means different things to each one of us. So, for whatever it means to you, I hope you have time to celebrate, relax with family and friends, reflect on the past year and recharge for the year ahead.

Our Christmas spirit is strong this year, and Council has many community celebrations for you to enjoy. A community Christmas party will be held at the Splash Park on Friday 16 December, a family movie night screening on the Lake Foreshore will be held Saturday 17 December and the Benalla Lions Club Carols by Candlelight will be Sunday night 18 December.

There is much to look forward to in 2023 as Council works to deliver new and improved community assets that all community members can enjoy.

I also understand, for some in our community, Christmas can be a lonely and difficult time. Our Community has a big heart. I ask that you reach out to a neighbour, someone that may be living alone or anyone that is vulnerable. Please know that my thoughts are with you.

For all those heading away over the break, travel safe and take extra care during this busy time on our roads.

On behalf of my fellow Councillors and Council Staff, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



Cr Bernie Hearn,
Mayor



Sustainable Christmas

Christmas time and summer holidays means taking time with friends and family to enjoy a well-deserved break.

However, a time for celebration does not need to come at the cost of the environment.

Avoid waste and save energy this festive season with these handy tips:

- ★ Send E-cards instead of traditional cards to save paper.
- ★ Use colourful tea towels to wrap gifts – two gifts in one!
- ★ Use LED lights to reduce energy consumption.
- ★ Make eco-friendly decorations inspired by nature - using branches, fallen leaves, hessian etc.
- ★ Gift an 'experience' and remember, it's the thought that counts (quality, not quantity).
- ★ Regift unwanted gifts – donate them or leave them under a Giving Tree.
- ★ Grow a live potted 'Christmas Tree' that you can keep year-round.
- ★ Compost your food leftovers or make a worm farm.

★ Christmas Calendar of Events ★



Friday 16 December

The Benalla Rural City Community Christmas Party will be held at the Splash Park on Friday 16 December from 3pm to 6pm.

This free event is an opportunity for the community to gather in a relaxed setting and discuss local issues with the Mayor and Councillors.

Enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Lake Benalla while the kids cool off in the Splash Park.

A free barbeque will be provided by the Rotary Club of Benalla, with free Zooper Doopers and face painting for the kids.



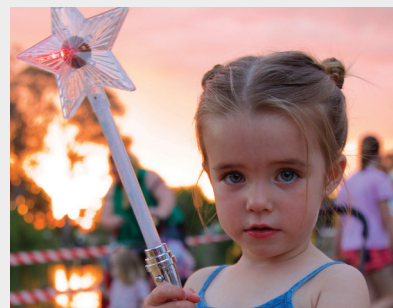
Saturday 17 December



The popular pop-up cinema returns to the Lake Benalla Foreshore just after sunset on Saturday 17 December for a

free night of movie magic, with the screening of The Grinch (G).

Free popcorn, fairy floss, snow cones and face painting available thanks to FReeZA. This youth event is strictly alcohol, drug, vape and smoke-free.



Sunday 18 December

The Benalla Lions Club will host the 2022 Carols by Candlelight event at the Benalla Botanical Gardens Rotunda on Sunday 18 December, from 7pm to 10pm.

The free, community event will feature local bands and a special visit from Santa.

