



Mayor's Message

Welcome to another edition of Connecting our Rural City.

Another January, another storm. It's always sad

to see infrastructure damage but thankfully there were no reports of people being injured. I would like to commend the tireless clean up efforts by our SES and CFA members, agency crews, Council staff and volunteers. We are extremely grateful for your hard work and dedication to our town and its people. We are a resilient and caring community and I thank everyone for coming together in times of need.

A special thanks goes out to the BlazeAid volunteers who have been helping farmers repair fences and with the clean-up. They are getting ready to pack up their camp in Swanpool, so if you need a hand on your farm this is your last chance, give BlazeAid's Greg or Karen a call on 0412 522 626.

We look forward to a positive 2023 with the completion of several major capital and community projects this year. Enjoy the last month of Summer and explore our beautiful region. I would also like to extend best wishes to all the children in Benalla as you navigate the new school year.

See you around town,



Bernie Hearn, Mayor

Australia Day Award winners



Congratulations to the Australia Day award winners (pictured above), who were presented with awards at BPACC on 26 January 2023.

The award winners are:

Barrie Irvine – Benalla Rural City Citizen of the Year

Erin Jenkins – Benalla Rural City Young Citizen of the Year

Live4Life Benalla Crew – Benalla Rural City Community Group of the Year

FCJ College – Finding Our Voice – Community Event or Project of the Year

Doris Billingsley – Benalla Achiever of the Year

Mohamad (Hamoudi) Al Saghir – Benalla Young Achiever of the Year

Paul Dingemans – Gooramab Achiever of the Year

Robert Erskine – Tatong Achiever of the Year

Barrie Irvine – Thoona Achiever of the Year

Shaun Murphy – Lima / Swanpool Achiever of the Year.

Congratulations to all award winners. Thank you for your contribution to your community during 2022.

Community Satisfaction Survey calls to community

Over the next few weeks, you may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services.

They are conducting a community satisfaction survey on behalf of Councils across Victoria.

Your details and individual responses are confidential. The overall results are shared with the Council.

We value the feedback you provide in this survey. If you have any questions, contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 03 5760 2600.

Community Grants program now open

Does your community group have a great idea for a local event or to improve facilities and services for the local community?

Council's 2023 Community Grants Program is now open until 24 March 2023.

The program includes:

- Community Grants up to \$2,500
- Major Event Funding up to \$2,000
- Youth Participation Grants up to \$500
- Quick Response Grants allocated monthly for amounts of up to \$500

A community information session is being held at the Benalla Senior Citizens Building on Thursday 16 February at 5.30pm. RSVPs to grants@benalla.vic.gov.au or call 5760 2600.

Proposed Tesla Charging Station for Benalla

Council is currently seeking community feedback on a proposed Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station to be constructed at Smythe Street Carpark next to Woolworths.

The proposed carpark would include 20 dedicated spaces for electric vehicle charging as well as retaining 21 spaces for general parking. Ten initially with the remaining 10 in the future.

Scan the QR code to make a submission before 2 March 2023 on our Have Your Say community portal.



Single-use plastics ban

To help reduce plastic pollution, the Victorian Government has brought in banning single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers, cotton bud sticks and expanded polystyrene food and drink containers.

Introduced 1 February, the statewide ban is a crucial step to protect Victoria's rivers, waterways and oceans from plastic pollution.

Visit www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/plastics for more information.

Connect with Council on LinkedIn

Keep up to date with industry news, networking and job opportunities by following Benalla Rural City Council on LinkedIn.