



Mayor’s Message

Hello all, welcome to another edition of Connecting our Rural City. I hope everyone is in good health and high spirits as we settle into spring.

Although, the rain has been relentless, we have still managed a few amazing sunny days. We are relatively lucky to have only experienced some localised flooding while other areas of the country have been not so fortunate. Please remember to be prepared and follow emergency services instructions should conditions change. A good idea is to get a waterproof container and store all of your personal documents. But most importantly, look out for each other.

The intense winter and now spring rains have made it difficult for some of our crews to operate and we appreciate the community’s understanding as we do our best to respond. On another note, I’m excited to let everyone know that the Benalla Live4Life program has been recognised with a national Mental Health First Aid Champion Community award. I’d like to congratulate everyone involved, for their dedication, hard work and belief in this amazing program, that empowers our youth to support their friends and families in times of need.

Until next time,

Bernie Hearn
Mayor

Benalla recognised for mental health resilience

Benalla Rural City has been recognised as a Mental Health First Aid Champion Community for its significant achievements in developing a resilient and connected community through Mental Health First Aid training. Mental Health First Aid is delivered in Benalla through the Live4Life Program. This program teaches people to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health problems. It also gives them skills to help someone in need. Teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid training is delivered to every Benalla and district student in Years 8 and 11. Adult role models, such as teachers and sporting coaches, can also

undertaking Mental Health First Aid training. The Live4Life Program recently received three years of funding through the Victorian Government’s Engage! Funding, ensuring Teen and Youth Mental Health First Aid training will continue to be delivered to every Benalla and district student in Years 8 and 11. The Live4Life Program is led by Benalla Rural City Council in partnership with NE Tracks LLEN, Tomorrow Today Foundation, Victoria Police, Benalla Health and Central Hume Primary Care Partnership, NESAY, NECAHMS and community members. For more information visit www.live4life.org.au

Festival returns in October

It’s October - which means the Benalla Festival returns at the end of this month! Kicking off on Friday 28 October, the Festival returns after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, and is a five day celebration of community, country living and family attractions, split over two weekends. The Festival program is jam-packed with live music, fireworks, art, theatre, children’s entertainment, sport, open gardens, markets, exhibitions and much more. Events will be held across rural townships during the first weekend from 28 to 30 October. The second weekend will feature events in Benalla from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 November. Visit benallafestival.com.au for more details.



Weather not kind but crews get the job done



With a little break in the weather and some sunshine, our crews were busy carrying out routine maintenance works, including roadside mowing, weed spraying and vegetation management.

October Works Update

Sealed and delivered

Improvement works were recently completed near the Benalla Library with the sealing of the roadway with bitumen emulsion. This project was made possible with funds provided by the State Government and will suppress dust in the area, particularly for the popular Benalla Farmers Market.



Solar phone charger and lights make a splash

A solar panel was recently installed at the Benalla Splash Park, offering free mobile charging facilities and an off-grid LED solar system. This project was made possible with \$15,000 in funding received from the Victorian State Government.

Rural road maintenance

Council continues its rural road maintenance and has recently completed grading works in the Devenish area.

