

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As we roll into 2018, this is looking like a wonderful year for investment and growth in our community. There are projects in the planning and design stage, out for tender and under construction, meaning job opportunities for existing and future residents.

I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for their work and commitment to the job at hand. As a group we are in full swing and everyone is doing their job wonderfully. I would also like to thank the staff for their ongoing commitment and support.

This year we'll continue to focus on Council's fundamental responsibilities and be mindful of a capacity restrained by budget. Budget restraints are the new normal for the foreseeable future.

Last year we put more graders on our rural roads and we are committed to continuing with this increased maintenance.

The construction of Cell 2 at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre is scheduled for this year and the design of the transfer station is underway.



Benalla will have new and improved footpaths on the ground (excuse the pun) this year, for the first time in many years.

Lake Benalla is being lowered over the coming months to help manage the invasive cabomba weed. This drawdown has been requested by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and has been scheduled to fit into the hottest part of the year, to get the best result, and also around the breeding season of the resident platypus. The timing will unfortunately coincide with events including the MND Walk and the Wall to Wall Festival, which is disappointing, but regrettably, unavoidable.

Cr Don Firth
Mayor



ROAD MAINTENANCE

You may have seen trucks and road plant equipment out recently. Maintenance work has now been completed on a number of roads within the Council's sealed road network including;

- Boxwood Road, Devenish
- Bungeet Road, Bungeet
- Molyullah-Tatong Road, Molyullah
- Stewarton Road, Stewarton
- Devenish-St James Road, Devenish
- Sayers Road, Thoona
- Thoona-Boweya Road, Boweya





Benalla Fact

The Benalla Ceramic Mural on the foreshore of Lake Benalla was created by some of Australia's leading ceramic artists, local community members and school students.

The ceramic and terracotta mural includes a frieze wall and an upper terrace with views across Lake Benalla, an amphitheatre, and a thongaphone (sculpted tuned pipes), a circular seat and landscaped surrounds.

The Benalla Ceramic Mural began as a community project in 1983 and has been called 'the largest community artwork in Australia.'



VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT



Litter Gatherers is a group of dedicated local volunteers who work hard cleaning up litter hot spots across Benalla.

Celebrating 17 years of litter prevention and reduction, the hardworking and friendly team is calling for new members to assist with rubbish collection and keeping Benalla beautiful.

If you want to meet new people, get outdoors and help the community provide a safer, cleaner environment, join the Litter Gatherers for an hour or two each fortnight.

For more information about being involved and volunteering with the Litter Gatherers, contact the Council on 03 5760 2600 or email council@benalla.vic.gov.au.



Litter Gatherers (L – R:) Volunteers Anne Creswell, Graham Jackson, Tracy Long, Mel MacDonald, Laurie Melgaard, Max Tilbury with the Council's Anthea Lavis (second from left) and Paul Scipione (far right).

Community Grants now open

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

The Council's 2018 Community Grants program is now open. Find out about current grant opportunities by attending the free information session on how to prepare, plan and write a successful Community Grant application.

The Community Grants information session will be held on Wednesday 28 February at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre from 6pm – 8pm.

For further information and to register your interest email council@benalla.vic.gov.au or phone 03 5760 2600.



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