

Council NEWS

Edition 7, 2017

National Student Volunteer Week



Image - Leo Lions volunteering
with Benalla Rural City Council

National Student Volunteer Week is held from 14-20 August 2017.

During this week, we get to celebrate young people who strive to make a change by volunteering in our community.

We have many youth-specific volunteering opportunities, including the Youth Action Committee (YAC), FReeZA and Live4Life. Young people can participate across the spectrum of volunteering opportunities with the Council, from reducing litter to supporting older people in the community.

Volunteering for the Council is a great way to develop a range of skills and meet like-minded people.

Contact us the Customer Service Centre to discuss volunteering opportunities.



SPEED ZONE CHANGES

We asked for community feedback about traffic safety around the health precinct in Benalla earlier this year. As a result, the speed limit in the health precinct has been reduced from 60 kph to 50 kph.

The speed limit will be reduced in:

- Smythe Street from Bridge Street to Gray Street
- Coster Street from Gray Street to the Samaria Road roundabout
- Samaria Road from the Bridge Street roundabout to the roundabout at the intersection with Kilfeera Road and Benalla Tatong Road
- Kilfeera Road from Wattletree Grove to the Samaria Road roundabout



- Benalla-Tatong Road from Shawbrook Avenue to the Samaria Road roundabout.

New speed limit signs will be in place to remind motorists to slow down.

TRAINING TO SUPPORT YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Live4Life is a community-based pilot program aimed at improving mental health knowledge and preventing youth suicide.

As part of the Live4Life program, 15 local parents recently completed a 14 hour training course in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Course participants learnt about the signs and symptoms of disabling mental health problems and where to get help when a young person is struggling.

The Council is leading the initiative and partnering with Youth Live4Life Inc, Benalla P-12, FCJ College, Benalla Flexible Learning Centre, NE Tracks LLEN, Benalla Health, Tomorrow Today Foundation, Victoria Police, NESAY, North East Support and Action for Youth Inc, North East Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (NECAMHS), Central Hume Primary Care Partnership and



community members.

The course is an important component in our approach to ensuring better mental health supports for young people and across the community. It compliments the Teen Mental Health First Aid training and other mental health education strategies delivered by local schools. Participants and parents gave feedback that the course provides practical and useful information that helps support young people. To register an expression of interest for Mental Health First Aid Training, contact the Customer Service Centre on 03 5760 2600.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES PROJECT

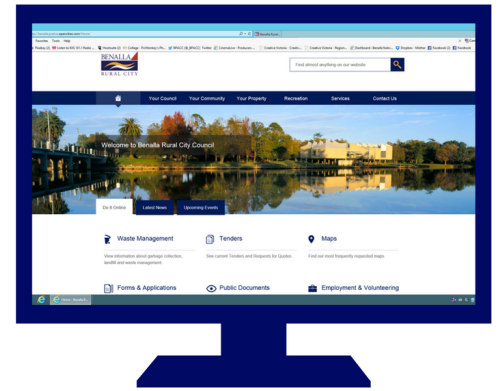
Did you know that more than forty percent of Benalla Rural City's population is aged over 55? Given our ageing community, we are at the forefront of many opportunities and challenges in supporting our demographic into the future.

The Council is supporting Cooinda and volunteers to implement the Benalla Age-Friendly Communities Project. The Project aims to develop Benalla Rural City as an 'age-friendly community', with established structures to enable and empower older people to live happier and healthier lives.

The Project is funded by the State Government. Cooinda is partnering with the Council and Central Hume Primary Care Partnership (a partnership that includes Councils and health services in Alpine, Benalla, Mansfield and Wangaratta), which will provide skills training.

A community-based committee comprising a diverse mix of older people will drive the Project, which will examine our current communities, work on ways to ensure older people are central to decision making, and ensure opportunities for active participation in community life. The project concludes in 2019.

Contact Cooinda for further information about the age-friendly audit or steering committee.



Did you know?

The Council has redeveloped its website, which has improved usability, superior search functions and easy-to-navigate design.

The new site has:

- More than 700 pages
- Approximately 150,000 words
- More than 1,300 users visited within the first week
- Of the people who access our site, 67% use a desktop, 27% mobile and 6% use a tablet
- Some of our most popular pages include the 'Positions Available' page and the 'Contact Us' page
- The highest amount of users (26%) are aged 25-34 years. 25% of users are over 55 years

The website can be viewed at www.benalla.vic.gov.au.



Feedback invited: Pathways to the Future

Do you walk, cycle or scoot? We are inviting community feedback on the 'Pathways to the Future' project, which aims to deliver safe, shared path spaces for all pedestrians, cyclists and scooter drivers.

The project aims to ensure Benalla's town footpath and cycle network continues to meet design, safety and community expectations.

Feedback on the Pathways to the Future draft strategy is open until 21 August 2017.

To view the report or provide feedback, contact the Customer Service Centre or visit www.benalla.vic.gov.au



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