

Council NEWS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the new monthly Council Newsletter. In the 2016 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, you told us your preferred way to get information from the Council is through a newsletter delivered directly to your home. You spoke. We listened. We take your feedback seriously and are committed to responding to it. This newsletter is designed to reach every person living in Benalla Rural City. It will come out every month and will include important information about Council business, events, projects and developments.

Thank you for your interest in the Council and in your local community.

We hope you enjoy this Council Newsletter.

Cr Don Firth, Mayor



Have your say in the 2017-2021 Benalla Rural City Council Plan

We want to hear what you have to say. Come to one of our open house sessions to participate:

- Tuesday 21 March, 10am-12pm, **Benalla Town Hall**
- Tuesday 21 March, 7pm-9pm, **Baddaginnie Jubilee Hall**
- Thursday 23 March, 4pm-6pm, **Benalla Town Hall**
- Monday 27 March, 7pm-9pm, **CWA Hall, Bridge Street, Benalla**
- Tuesday 28 March, 7pm-9pm, **Swanpool Memorial Hall**
- Saturday 1 April, 10am-12pm, **CWA Hall, Bridge Street, Benalla**
- Monday 3 April, 7pm-9pm, **Molyullah Memorial Hall**
- Tuesday 4 April, 7pm-9pm, **Thoona Memorial Hall.**

Have your say.

Contact the Customer Service Centre to find out how you can participate on 03 5760 2600.

2017-2021 Council Plan

Every four years Councils across Victoria must develop a four year plan that identifies key priorities, projects and the best use of Council resources.

Community input provides the foundation for this key strategic document and we want to hear from you.

- What can the Council do over the next four years to help achieve the objectives of the *Benalla Rural City Community Plan 2016-2036*
- What health and wellbeing issues are of concern
- Where should our limited resources be targeted

Please come to one of our open house sessions to share your thoughts.

2017 Community Satisfaction Survey

Over the next few weeks you may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services. The company is conducting a community satisfaction survey on behalf of Councils across Victoria.

We appreciate you taking the time to assist it with your valuable feedback.

Please be assured that your details and individual responses are confidential. Only the overall results are shared with the Council. If you have any questions, contact us on 03 5760 2600.

Did you know?

- In the 2015-2016 financial year we graded 509 kilometres of Benalla Rural City's unsealed road network.
- It costs \$969 per kilometre to grade an unsealed road.
- In 2015-2016 the unsealed road maintenance budget spend was \$876,083. Grading made up just part of this.
- There are 791 kilometres of unsealed road within Benalla Rural City.
- The Council grades an average of 531 kilometres of unsealed roads per year depending on weather and road conditions.

Bridge replacement program



WATCHBOX CREEK ROAD BRIDGE

The Council will rebuild Watchbox Creek Road bridge, which is essential for local business and residents in Molyullah. The project is planned for completion by the end of June.



WILLIAMS ROAD BRIDGE

The Williams Road bridge is being strengthened to support the expanding operations of Lima South Quarry. The business has 35 employees and needs the bridge to be upgraded to maintain operations.

ADVENTURE PARK

Parts of the children's Adventure Park in the Benalla Botanical Gardens have opened. The Adventure Park is designed for imaginative play by children of all ages and abilities.

It includes water and sand for play, ropes to swing on and climb, and hobbit holes to explore. The iconic rocket slide has been refurbished and the swings have been installed.

It has taken seven months of construction to get the park to this stage. It took 16 weeks to have the designs approved by Heritage Victoria and further negotiations throughout the construction process. Works will continue for the next month as planting and other items are finalised.



Family Day Care and In-Home Family Care delivery is changing

The Council is transferring the delivery of Family Day Care and In-Home Family Care. Industry operators will take over from the end of February. The Council's current Family Day Care program will be transferred to the Greater Hume Shire.

The In-Home Family Care program also has nine current Care Providers and offers care to 27 children. Operation of this service will be transferred to Family Friend, which is based in Lavington, NSW and provides services across NSW and Victoria.

The Council has transferred these services to ensure they can be delivered well into the future. Larger operators like Greater Hume Shire and Family Friend are able to attract the required Educators.

In 2015/16, the net cost to the Council for providing these services was \$28,808.



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