



# VOLUNTEERING DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



**Volunteers: helping people, changing lives**

## VOLUNTEERING: MAKING COMMUNITY STRONGER



*Tony McIlroy,  
Chief Executive Officer*

Welcome to the latest issue of the Volunteer Connection Newsletter. On Wednesday 5 December 2018 we celebrate International Volunteer Day. This provides an opportunity for the people and organisations committed to volunteering to celebrate their efforts

and showcase the difference they make in their communities.

We have an extraordinarily strong ethos of volunteering in Benalla Rural City. Many of the events and services we enjoy as a community could not continue without the contribution of our volunteers.

On International Volunteer Day, we take a moment to be grateful for the contributions of all volunteers within the community and thank them all for their efforts.

Earlier this year we celebrated the future of volunteering in a series of National Student Volunteering Week events held at local schools. It is encouraging to see young people

develop into the leaders and role models of tomorrow.

On behalf of the Council and staff, I sincerely congratulate and thank all volunteers across the community for your efforts to make Benalla Rural City a stronger and better connected place to live during 2018. I wish you all a safe and happy new year.

**Tony McIlroy**  
Chief Executive Officer



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### PLANNED ACTIVITIES GROUP



*Planned Activities Group enjoying afternoon tea at Birchwood.*

The Planned Activities Group increases the social interaction of community members living in their own homes. Activities range from trips to neighbouring towns, pub lunches, coffee outings and street art tours. Our volunteers experience the joy of connecting

with the community in small group environments.

For more information about Community Service volunteering opportunities, including the Planned Activities Group, please contact the Volunteer Development Coordinator on 03 5760 2620.



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE : ROTARY AND MEALS ON WHEELS



*Current members of Benalla Rotary who deliver meals to Meals on Wheels recipients in Benalla on weekends.*

Did you know that Meals on Wheels has been running in Benalla for 50 years? The first meals were delivered in 1968 and were organised by the Benalla Rotary Club.

The Benalla Rotary Club have remained involved with the Meals on Wheels program, ensuring the delivery of meals to Benalla residents on weekends and public holidays.

The Meals on Wheels program plays a key role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of our community. Seeing a volunteer's friendly face at the door with a nutritious meal brightens the day for many of our senior citizens.

## FESTIVAL THANKS YOU!

Volunteers are essential to the success of events across the Rural City. The Benalla Festival is always well supported by volunteers to assist, plan and help deliver the nine day festival. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the Festival fabulous once again.

Can you help with an event? Call Sharon Geer, Events Coordinator on 03 5760 2649.



*Event volunteer Melanie Stretton and Sally Sykes from Rotary who assisted with the Benalla Festival Street Parade registration and line up*



*Students and volunteer mentors from the pilot project.*

## #GIVING BACK PILOT PROJECT

Three young people had the opportunity to volunteer at Benalla Health, Benalla Art Gallery and the Visitor Information Centre for four weeks during Term 4 as part of a collaboration between Benalla P-12 College, Benalla Health and the Council.

Students involved in the #givingback program have developed valuable workplace knowledge and employment skills through volunteering. Research indicates that young people who are volunteers are more likely to be engaged and connected in their communities in the future. Volunteering offers students an ideal pathway into a range of industries.

To find out more about the project, contact the Volunteer Development Coordinator Natalie Phillips on 03 5760 2600.

## HERE'S ONE FOR THE MOVIE BUFFS

Are you a cinephile? Would you like to see a variety of films and talk to other people about movies?

Volunteer ushers provide assistance for patrons at all films and many other events at BPACC.

Ushering is a great activity for those who enjoy cinema, are able to climb stairs and can assist in an emergency situation.

Talk to the staff at BPACC today if you can help and would like the opportunity to volunteer.

Call on 03 5762 5515 or drop in and see the team for more information.



## BENALLA UNPACKED BUS TRIP

The Council worked with volunteer groups to conduct two bus tours of Benalla Rural City's key attractions in July and October.

The volunteer Community Plan Implementation Steering Committee (CPISC) and the Age Friendly Benalla Committee partnered with the Council to deliver bus tours to new residents and representatives from community groups. The tours provided participants with an opportunity to meet new people and learn about what Benalla Rural City has to offer.

The tours were made possible by the community champions and volunteers who showcased their facilities and communities.

To find out more about the CPISC Actions Teams please contact the Customer Service Centre on 03 5760 2600.

Age Friendly Benalla can be followed on Facebook at [Facebook.com/AgeFriendlyBenalla](https://www.facebook.com/AgeFriendlyBenalla)



*Some of the attendees of the second bus tour in front of Swanpool Cinema.*

## NATIONAL STUDENT VOLUNTEER WEEK

Twenty-three students and six student groups were recognised for their volunteering efforts within their schools and communities in August as part of National Student Volunteering Week.

Each individual or group was awarded with a medal and certificate presented by the Mayor, Cr Don Firth at FCJ College, Benalla Flexible Learning Centre, St Joseph's Primary and P-12 whole of campus assemblies.



*Students from Benalla P-12 campus with members of Rotary, teacher Stefanie Arendshorst and Cr. Don Firth.*

**Want to know more about volunteering opportunities?**

Visit our website: [www.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.benalla.vic.gov.au)

Email: [council@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@benalla.vic.gov.au)

Contact the Customer Service Centre on **03 5760 2600**



## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

Library volunteers like Geraldine are busy making sure visitors can find what they are after at the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Learning Centre (Benalla Library).

The Friends of Benalla Library run the not-for-profit RedB4 Bookstore at 111 Bridge Street Benalla.

The store is open six days a week and is run solely by volunteers.

Profits from the bookshop are used to support library programs and purchase resources.

Thank you to all of the volunteers at the library and RedB4 for your efforts throughout the year.



*Geraldine seen here shelving books at the library, can also be found at the RedB4 bookstore.*

## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE TEAM GO TO BRIGHT

An important part of being a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) volunteer is understanding what Benalla and Victoria's north east has to offer. What better way than to explore it yourself? Ten VIC volunteers attended the annual High Country VIC Volunteers Summit at Bright on Wednesday 17 October. The summit provides networking opportunities with VIC volunteers across the High Country and familiarisation tours in Bright and surrounds.

Contact Alison Angus, the Tourism Coordinator on 03 5762 1749 to find out about volunteering opportunities.



*VIC volunteers visiting Bright*

## SARAH A STAR WITH KIDS

For more than two years, volunteer Sarah Bismire has volunteered at the Benalla Art Gallery to help run school holiday activities. If you'd like to help capture the imagination of creative 5-18 year olds, contact the Benalla Art Gallery on 03 5760 2619.

*Sarah with her National Student Volunteer Award presented to her for efforts at the Benalla Art Gallery.*



## KEEPING BENALLA BEAUTIFUL

Are you interested in keeping Benalla beautiful? Some groups that keep our parks, gardens and streets clean include the Friends of Benalla Gardens, the 'Deadheaders' and the Litter Gatherers.

Contact the Volunteer Development Coordinator on 03 5760 2600 if you would like to help keep Benalla beautiful.

The *Volunteer Connection* newsletter is distributed twice a year to volunteers and partner organisations. We invite community groups with volunteer programs to share their news, events and stories.

For further information about *Volunteer Connection*, contact:

Natalie Phillips, Volunteer Development Coordinator on **03 5760 2600** or [natalie.phillips@benalla.vic.gov.au](mailto:natalie.phillips@benalla.vic.gov.au)

**Want to know more about volunteering opportunities?**

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