

January 2025

Mayor's Message



Happy New Year! As we welcome 2025, I'm eager for the opportunities ahead for our wonderful community.

This week also marks a significant transition as we farewell our Chief Executive Officer, Mr Dom Testoni. Since taking on the role in January 2019, Dom has been an integral leader whose dedication has left a lasting impact. While we'll miss his presence, we're thrilled for his exciting new role as Director of Assets and Operations at Macedon Ranges Shire Council. On behalf of the Council and the community, we thank Dom for his service and wish him every success.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be transformative for Benalla. Key projects, including the redevelopment of the Benalla Art Gallery, the Fawckner Drive Pump Track, and the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre, will move from planning to reality, delivering lasting benefits for all.



Cr Bernie Hearn
Mayor
Benalla Rural City Council

SIAG grants closing soon

Applications for Council's Social Connection Grants close on Friday, 24 January 2025. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available to support community groups and organisations in hosting events and activities that foster inclusion and connection within our community.

Don't miss this chance to strengthen community ties and make a positive impact. Visit benalla.vic.gov.au/Your-Community/Community-Grants-and-Funding to apply today!



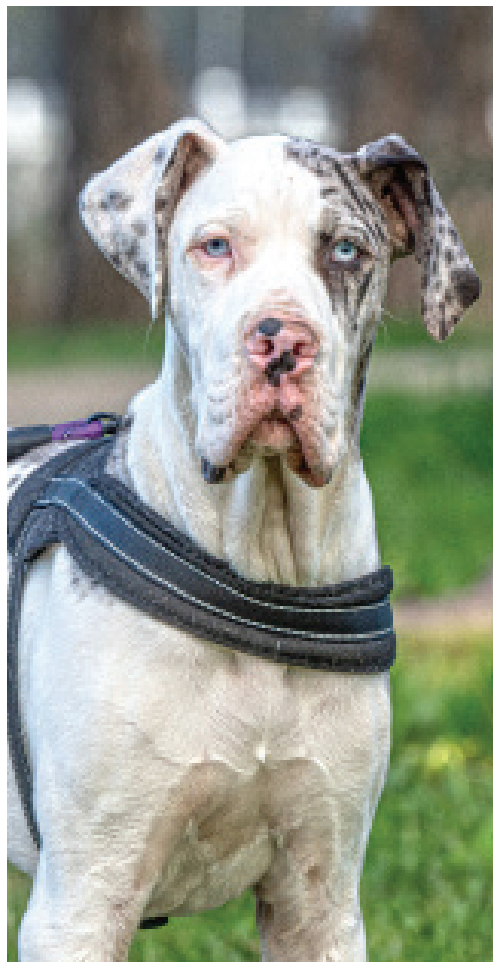
Shaping Benalla's future together

The community is invited to help shape the Council Plan 2025–2029 and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan. These plans will guide actions to meet community priorities, enhance health and wellbeing, and create a sustainable future for all.

Community involvement is essential to ensuring the plans reflect local needs and aspirations. From January 2025, residents, community groups, and organisations can participate through surveys, workshops, and feedback sessions. A selected Community Panel of diverse residents will also contribute to refining the plans.

This collaborative approach aims to build on past achievements and create a vision for a healthier, more inclusive, and thriving Benalla. By sharing ideas and input, the community can help shape plans that reflect shared goals and opportunities for the future.

Information on workshops and community surveys will be available soon.



Update your details ready for Online Pet Registrations

Council is excited to introduce a new Customer Portal for pet registrations. Coming in March 2025, the new system is designed to provide efficient and convenient services to our community.

If you haven't already, please take a moment to update your pet's registration details online.

Maintaining up-to-date information helps us provide better care for your pets and enables quicker communication when needed.

Visit this link or scan the QR code to update your details today.



Important notice for our community

We want to inform our residents that the previous "Benalla Rural City" Facebook page has been compromised and subsequently deleted. To continue providing our community with updates and information, a new official Facebook page has been created – search for "Benalla Rural City Council".

Be Vigilant Against Scammers

Please be cautious of potential impersonation attempts online or by phone. Do not share personal information with anyone claiming to represent the Council unless their identity can be verified.

Stay Connected

We encourage everyone to follow our new Facebook page for all official news, events, and community updates. You can find it by searching "Benalla Rural City Council" on Facebook.

Community satisfaction survey

Starting from 20 January until mid-March, you may receive a call from an independent market research agency, National Field Services.

They are conducting a community satisfaction survey on behalf of Councils across Victoria. Your details and individual responses are confidential. The overall results are shared with the Council.

We value the feedback you provide in this survey

If you have any questions, contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 03 5760 2600.