

## Mayor's Message



With winter firmly upon us, it's hard to believe that we are halfway through 2024.

Moving into the second half of the year we continue to be busy

with many projects on the go and more key projects in the planning stage.

As we approach the end of the financial year, we look forward to the Council adopting the proposed 2024-25 Budget on the 26 June 2024.

It was great to see the community take advantage of Council's Free Green Waste weekend held on the last weekend of May.

Approximately 38.25 tonnes of green waste was deposited at the Benalla Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre over the two days.

The Council will shortly undertake the annual rose prune in the Benalla Botanical Gardens, commencing mid-July.

Members of the public wishing to obtain free rose prunings or gardening advice can meet with the Council's horticulture staff onsite.

With school holidays just around the corner, keep an eye on the Council's social media for a comprehensive list of what's on this Winter break.

Stay safe and warm.



Mayor Cr Danny Claridge

## Draft Climate and Environment Strategy

The Council has released its Draft Climate and Environment Strategy 2024-2029 for public exhibition. The strategy is now open for community feedback for a period of at least 28 days.

The Draft Climate and Environment Strategy outlines the proactive and strategic approach to environment and climate change and identifies priorities for management for Benalla Rural City over the next five years.

To review the draft strategy and provide input visit [www.haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.benalla.vic.gov.au) or attend at the Customer Service Centre. Submissions close at 9am Thursday 27 June 2024.



Benalla Festival returns this year from 1 to 10 November.

## Benalla Festival taking shape

Are you interested in holding an event as part of the 2024 Benalla Festival?

The Benalla Festival Advisory Committee is now taking expressions of interest from interested individuals, groups and organisations to run an event or activity as part of the Benalla Festival program.

A celebration of Benalla Rural City's lifestyle, the Benalla Festival has been running for more than 50 years. This year's event theme is 'Hidden Gems.'

The festival will be held from Friday 1 November to Sunday 10 November.

The Benalla Festival program will highlight our rural communities with events across our townships during the Festival's first weekend from Saturday 2 to Sunday 3 November 2024. The focus for the second weekend shifts to events in Benalla from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 November.

To apply and for more information visit [benallafestival.com.au](http://benallafestival.com.au). Applications close Monday 31 July 2024.

## Arthur Baird Memorial Sculpture official opening



Credit: Rene Martens

The community is invited to the official opening of the Arthur Baird sculpture, *Taking Flight*, this weekend.

The project opening will be held from midday on Saturday 22 June, adjacent to the sculpture, located at

the entrance of the Benalla Library in Fawckner Drive.

Arthur Baird was born and educated in Benalla and went on to become the first chief engineer for Qantas, leaving a lasting legacy to Australian aviation.

## Maintenance Works

The community is asked to seek an alternative route while renewal works are undertaken on the Lake Benalla Boardwalk (on the Art Gallery side).

The boardwalk path is currently closed from the bridge underpass on the Gallery side of the lake. Pedestrians will need to use the alternate route over Bridge Street.

Once this section is completed, further renewal works will take place on the boardwalk alongside the Gallery. Pedestrians will need to detour around this area during this time.

Council will use an environmentally friendly material in the boardwalk upgrade, one that utilises waste wood and recycled plastic.

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Council thanks the community for their patience while maintenance works are completed.

## Celebrating diversity



The Council raised the pride flag on Friday 17 May to celebrate IDAHOBIT - International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia.

Alice Meravi, Vice President of LINE Wangaratta Inc., shared her insights on the experiences of our regional and rural LGBTQIA+ community and the intersectionality of the challenges faced.

The event demonstrated that Benalla is a welcoming, diverse and safe place for all.