



Mayor's Message

As the scissor lifts were folded away and the cans of paint were packed up, the

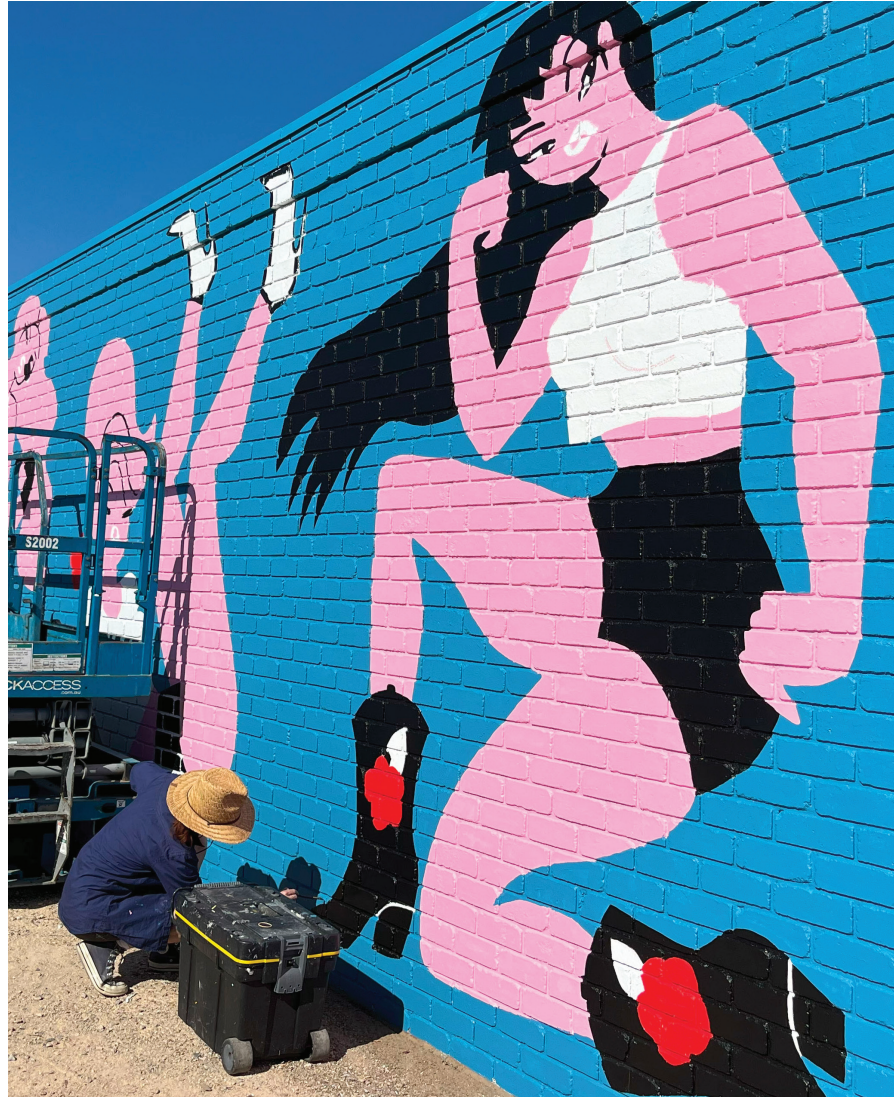
return of the Benalla Street Art Festival has reinvigorated our community, sparking numerous connections and conversations, and bringing thousands of visitors to our region.

Whether it's admiring a new mural, debating the merits of a design, or simply appreciating the beauty of street art, it's clear that these artworks connect people from all walks of life

An event of this size is not possible without the tireless work of the many hands that made light work. Thank you to our curator Eddie Zammit and his team, the 16 amazing artists, sponsors, volunteers, businesses and Council staff - the overwhelming response has been positive, reaffirming the enduring power of art to inspire and connect us.

Until next time,

Mayor Cr Danny Claridge



Artist Neryl Walker at work on her mural in Denny Street Carpark.

Council moves to renewable energy future

Marking a significant step towards a sustainable and environmentally responsible future, Council has recently joined the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO).

VECO is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by local government in Australia.

Initiated in July 2021, VECO saw more than 46 Victorian Councils commit to sourcing 100 per cent of their energy from renewable sources.

Now, with over 50 Councils participating, Council joins this collective effort towards a greener future.

Community Grants 2024 program closing

Council's Community Grants Program is accepting applications, with funding of up to \$2,500 available to support the development of facilities, programs, activities, and projects that directly benefit residents within the community.

Applications close on Friday 28 April 2024 at midnight.

We encourage anyone considering applying for a grant to discuss their application with the Community Development Team on 03 5760 2600.

You can find the online application and more information about the grants program at www.benalla.vic.gov.au/Your-Community/Grants-Program

Holland Bio Link Channel enters next phase



Mokoan Discovery Trail.

Council is set to begin community engagement on the Holland Bio Link Management Plan starting with adjoining landholders this month, before extending the opportunity to provide input to the wider community.

The Holland Bio Link Channel Project aims to increase biodiversity along the channel.

Initially a drainage channel, with Zone A now complete, the bio-link has undergone a remarkable transformation into a crucial wildlife

corridor, connecting Hollands Creek to Winton Wetlands, complementing the Mokoan Discovery Trail.

More than 9,000 trees and shrubs have been planted along Zone A of the Hollands Bio-link Channel to date.

Now, as the project progresses into Zones B and C, community input will help shape the future use and management of this important community asset.

Council will begin wider community consultation in the coming weeks.

Pet owners reminded regos are now overdue

Reminder to all pet owners, animal registration fees are now overdue. Annual renewal notices have been issued and payment was due by 10

April 2024. Council is pleased that over 50 per cent of registered animals in Benalla Rural City were renewed prior to the due date and reminds

residents they need to renew their registration online, in person or over the phone by contacting our Customer Service Centre on 03 5760 2600.