

July 2024



Mayor's Message

Welcome to another edition of Connecting our Rural City.

As the weather continues to freeze our lawns and windscreens each morning, it is time again to prune our wonderful rose garden at the Botanical Gardens.

The Dead Headers will be back again to give our parks and gardens staff a hand and residents are reminded they can pick up free clippings if they drop by the gardens over the next week or so.

This month I'm also pleased to announce that the Council has adopted its 2024/25 Budget. I thank the community for their input into a budget that balances Council's need for long-term financial sustainability with the community's capacity to pay as the cost of living continues to increase.

Last Sunday, we hosted our second Clothes Swap, drawing more than 70 participants who browsed through a variety of clothing to exchange items they no longer wanted. This event highlights an exciting and eco-friendly way to refresh your wardrobe.

Colourful knitted creations will soon adorn bollards and pergolas across the central business district as part of the Benalla Yarnbombers' winter installation.

Community volunteers have been knitting and crocheting a range of colourful decorative ornaments to brighten up our Rural City and beautify public spaces.

The installation will be in place from Saturday 27 July to Sunday 8 September 2024.

Keep warm



Cr Danny Claridge
Mayor

National Tree Day event in Benalla

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make a positive impact on the environment as the Benalla Rural City community comes together to plant trees for a greener future.

National Tree Day is Australia's largest tree planting event and Council is inviting people to take part in a community planting in the reserve from the Jaycee Island RV Parking to Psaltis Parade on Sunday 28 July from 11am to 1pm.

Go to <https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10030145> to sign up.

National Tree Day is an annual initiative of Planet Ark, which provides an opportunity for people of all ages to get involved and reconnect with nature, while helping to protect and enhance our natural environment.

SIAG brings villages together

Nearly 700 local residents recently participated in 11 rural community events organised by Council's Social Inclusion Action Group (SIAG) program.

Funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health, the program strengthens community bonds and improves mental wellbeing. Events included pizza and movie nights as well as community morning teas, held across Benalla Rural City.



Local residents gathered at the Molyullah Recreation Reserve for the Social Inclusion Action Group event.

NAIDOC celebrations in Benalla



Yorta Yorta Singer Madi Colville-Walker with Aunty Sharon Nylen, Aunty Gayelene Arandall, Aunty Cheryl Cooper, Aunty Carol Alliman at the NAIDOC Week Celebrations.

NAIDOC Week returned to Benalla Rural City last Tuesday as the community gathered to celebrate and honour the rich history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

At 10.30am, a Flag Raising Ceremony took place at the Benalla Civic Centre in Mair Street. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were raised against a cloudy winter sky, emphasising unity and the enduring connection to country.

At 11am, the celebration

shifted to the Benalla Lakeside Community Centre, drawing in a crowd of 250. The atmosphere buzzed as attendees immersed themselves in a range of cultural activities.

NAIDOC Week in Benalla Rural City was organised by the Benalla Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, with support from the Benalla Social Inclusion Action Group, Benalla Health, Benalla Rural City Council and the First People's Assembly of Victoria - Treaty for Victoria.

Changes to Kerbside Collection

Starting 1 July 2024, the Council entered a new contract with FOOTT Waste for kerbside and recycling waste collection.

Collection days remain the same across the region, but routes may differ from the previous contract. This could result in your bin being collected at a different time.

Please remember to place your bins out on the kerbside the night before your collection day.