

AUSTRALIA'S
TOP 50
PHILANTHROPIC
GIFTS



Early Years programs



Hands On Learning



Connect9

Education Benalla Program listed in national 'Top 50'

Tomorrow:Today Foundation's major endeavour, the Education Benalla Program, has been named in the "Top 50 Australian Philanthropic Gifts" of all time. The award states that 'since the Education Benalla Program began, Tomorrow: Today has been considered a model for community-led investment in rural communities to address inequity and inequality'.

"We feel quite humbled to be amongst an extraordinary group of nation-building projects from the last 150 years" said Liz Chapman, Convenor of the Education Benalla Program and Board Director of Tomorrow:Today Foundation. "The philanthropic organisations that took the initial leap of faith with our program design and vision for our rural future deserve to be recognised - FRRR's Rural Education Program, The R E Ross Trust and The Yulgilbar Foundation."

From over 700 publicly nominated gifts, the Top 50 list was compiled by a working group that included the Myer Family Company, The Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Fund, Pro Bono Australia, Philanthropy Australia and the Asia-Pacific Centre for Social Investment and Philanthropy at Swinburne University of Technology.

Commenting on the Education Benalla Program's inclusion in the Top 50, Louise Walsh, CEO of Philanthropy Australia, said "this program is helping young people within the local community to engage more actively in their education, and helping them aspire to achieve. In three-short years the Education Benalla Program has had a significant impact on this rural community, helping to shape and change the lives of children and their families."

We are honoured

to be included in the 'Top 50' list, which highlights the importance of philanthropy in building stronger communities. Special thanks to The RE Ross Trust, Yulgilbar Foundation and FRRR's Rural Education Program who trusted us to deliver on our well

researched but unproven idea, of a long-term whole of community approach to improving educational outcomes. Thanks also to the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development and The Ian Potter Foundation and our other philanthropic funders for their ongoing support. I'd particularly like

to acknowledge the outstanding volunteers who contribute so much to the Education Benalla Program and also the many local organisations working in partnership throughout the community. The 2013 Evaluation Report by the University of Melbourne demonstrates that the program really is making a difference.

Sally Gamble, **Chair**



Fun and Learning

Families celebrated a great year of fun and learning at our Early Years Christmas party held at the Benalla Botanical Gardens in December. Santa was couriered to the park courtesy of the Benalla Fire Brigade and presented each child with a lovely new book. Everyone then enjoyed a tasty barbecue lunch.

One of the goals of our Education Benalla Program is that every child in Benalla commences school ready to learn. We work with many agencies to offer fun, interactive and free activities for families with babies and young children. Over 140 families with more than 220 children attended our early years playgroup and PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) programs in 2013.

Scholarships

In 2013 we awarded four tertiary scholarships of \$1,000 each to students at both secondary schools. Funding from local families makes it possible to help students who will benefit from this financial support for their tertiary study.

"I would like to once again thank the Tomorrow:Today Foundation for the scholarship which I was privileged to be awarded. The money I received had a phenomenal impact on my first year at LaTrobe University and I will be forever grateful." 2011 Scholarship recipient

'Best' AGM

International guest speaker Dr Diana Leat, former trustee of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund said that she had often shed tears at AGMs, "but not from joy. The many stories told at this AGM by children and teenagers have made this the most moving and best AGM I have ever attended".



National interest

Liz Chapman, Board Director and Convenor of the Education Benalla Program, was one of the key speakers at the two day Collective Impact 2014 conference in Sydney in March. Collective Impact is an approach to solving complex community wide problems through a whole of community approach. Tomorrow:Today Foundation's Education Benalla Program was the Australian case study presented as an example of collective impact, demonstrating the increasing national interest in the success of our program.

Liz Chapman speaking at our 2013 AGM

Our thanks to students from St Joseph's Primary School who for our AGM coloured in 623 children and 150 adults to represent the local people reached by our Education Benalla Program in the year to June 2013.

Connect9

Connect9 is Tomorrow:Today's unique community based mentoring program for Year 9's. Young people participate in fun weekly activities that connect them to new people and new experiences. Program mentors are active local adults who have hobbies and skills to share and who are well connected in our community. Mentors assist teenagers to find out what's available for them locally – sports, skills and hobbies, music and the arts, career help, work experience and after-school part-time work.

Research shows that community connectedness assists young people to stay focused on their education and achieve positive results from their learning. It also promotes wellbeing.

Over 70 Benalla young people have participated in the program since 2011. Valued partners in Connect9 are Benalla P-12 College and FCJ College, Benalla YMCA Aquatic Centre, Benalla Library, numerous Benalla clubs and sporting groups.



Phil and Josh cooking up a storm in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen at Benalla P-12 College's Waller St campus



Making a difference

Young students at Benalla P-12 College Avon St campus have made significant progress in their literacy levels and academic confidence thanks to the help of volunteer Reading Buddies. The excellent results have been highlighted in a recent evaluation by the University of Melbourne.

Reading Buddies work with identified students in Prep, Grade 1 and 2.

Volunteer Reading Buddies Maureen Freshwater and Robert Scott at Reading Buddy training

The 'Buddies' come to the school at regular times each week and spend quality reading, writing and listening time with their young charges. The children look forward to the days their Reading Buddies come and establish a special relationship with them.

The Reading Buddy program, a partnership between Tomorrow:Today Foundation and Benalla P-12 College, commenced midway through 2012 and has been so successful that in 2014 it has been extended to all Benalla Primary Schools. Currently twenty-five buddies have been recruited and trained and are working on four campuses to ensure young Benalla students have a great start to their schooling.



Board Director, Geoff Oliver, presents Winton Primary School Head Teacher, Alanna Bell, with Back to School vouchers for families in need. Photo courtesy of the Benalla Ensign.

'Back to School' Help

In February this year Tomorrow:Today Foundation distributed 'Back To School' Vouchers worth \$22,500 to fourteen Benalla and district schools.

The \$50 vouchers are delivered to school principals who arrange for them to be given to families experiencing financial hardship. The vouchers assist families to purchase essential items such as shoes and clothing as well as books, stationery and school bags at the start of the school year.

The vouchers are made possible by the Sidney Myer Fund FRRR Back to School Program, which is supported by the Origin Foundation, the Pratt Foundation, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation, the Julian Flett Foundation managed by Perpetual, other generous donors, Target and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development.

'Challenge' met

The Community Fund received a significant boost during 2013 thanks to wonderful community support for the Foundation's 'Challenge' Fundraising Appeal. Ten generous local supporters pledged up to \$5,000 each if \$50,000 could be raised locally during the 2013 calendar year. This challenge was met, with \$50,726 in donations received to 31 December. As a result the maximum pledged amount was also contributed, meaning that more than \$100,000 was added to the Community Fund. This is a remarkably generous response and has boosted the total amount held in the fund to over \$700,000.

Income produced by the Community Fund through interest and investments goes directly back into Benalla and District through our annual Small Grants to local community groups.

FREE EARLY YEARS ACTIVITIES

We offer many opportunities for parents and carers to help their children (0 to 6) to learn through fun play activities. For a complete list of times and venues contact our office on 5762 1211.

Little Explorers Playgroup

Offers structured play activities and circle time for all ages – Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Fun, friendly and open to all. No registration, just drop in.

Dads' Playgroup

Meets one Saturday per month, hosted by local dads.

PEEP

Parents Early Education Partnership

Caters for different ages and stages. It's all about parents and children singing, reading playing and learning together. We also explore a wide variety of child development and parenting topics. Registration is required.

Board Directors of Tomorrow:Today Foundation

Sally Gamble (Chair - 0428 755 138)

Liz Chapman

Geoff Oliver

Adrian Aldous

Bill Dobson

Tony Schneider

Great team effort



In a wonderful collaboration, a cubby built by Building and Construction students at Benalla P-12 College and painted by the College's Hands On Learning students was recently installed at Waminda Community House. The cubby is already providing great enjoyment to local children in the Benalla West area.

The purchase and installation of the cubby, organised by HOL's Ed Bishop on behalf of Waminda, was funded through Tomorrow:Today's Small Grants Program. The grant is also paying for a much needed upgrade to the Waminda sandpit, with the work being undertaken by the Rotary Club of Benalla in partnership with the Hands On Learning team.

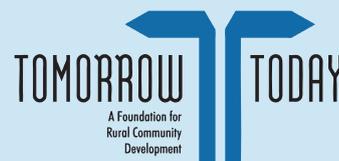
Interest earned from local donations to the Foundation's Community Fund has enabled this great team effort.

Support Benalla's Community Fund

All donations to Tomorrow:Today Foundation's permanent Community Fund are solely for the benefit of the Benalla and district community. The money is invested, with the income providing a reliable, independent source of local funding for community grants - year after year.

The Foundation has two funds where donations are held and from which grants are given: the Public Fund and the Grant Making Fund. When donors require a personal tax deduction, the gift must be deposited into the Public Fund. Gifts over \$2 to the Public Fund are tax deductible. Business sponsorships and gifts not requiring a tax deductible receipt are invested in the Grant Making Fund and allow the Foundation to make grants to a broader range of charitable community needs.

Please consider making a donation to support Benalla's Community Fund



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To make a donation please complete this form and send with payment to Tomorrow:Today Foundation.

Step 1: Please tick your fund option:

- A personal donation to the Public Fund that is tax deductible
- A business sponsorship of the Grant Making Fund that is tax deductible (GST applies)
- A donation to the Grant Making Fund (no tax deduction required)

Step 2: Please tick your payment option.

- I am donating by Electronic Funds Transfer to the Public Fund bank account
Account Name: **TTF Donation** Bank: **NAB** BSB: **083-541** Account No. **147 647 263**
Customer Reference (your surname): _____
- I am donating by Electronic Funds Transfer to the Grant Making Fund account
Account Name: **TTF Donation** Bank: **Bendigo Bank** BSB: **633-000** Account No. **140 847 021**
Customer Reference (your surname): _____

- My cheque is enclosed (made out to Tomorrow:Today Foundation)
- I am making a cash donation at the Benalla branch of Bendigo Bank, 53 Bridge Street, Benalla

Step 3: Please find enclosed my donation of \$ _____ to Tomorrow:Today Foundation.

Contact Details:

Name:

Address:

Telephone: Mobile:

Email: **Thank you for your donation. A receipt will be posted to you.**