

## GivingMatters



*Students at Munro Avenue Preschool enjoy some of the new indoor play equipment purchased thanks to our Small Grants program.*

## Ready to Learn

Helping all Benalla children to start Prep with a zest for life is a powerful motivation for our staff and volunteers. Sadly school readiness is not always the case at the moment with almost 25% of Benalla and district children assessed as developmentally vulnerable when they enter primary school.

We offer free playgroups for children 0 to 5 with an emphasis on babies and toddlers. Our qualified Early Years Specialist provides structured play activities where parents and carers help their children to learn through play. Our playgroups are free, fun, friendly and open to all. Guest speakers talk to parents on subjects of interest, and up-to date information

on a wide range of topics is freely available. The very popular Mother Goose program, which helps develop speech and movement skills, is run at our Tuesday playgroup. Through local partnerships we provide parenting classes and organise social functions so parents can get to know each other and make new friends.

Attending pre-school plays a vital role in preparing kids for school so we promote the importance of kinder at every opportunity. Through our Small Grants Program we recently helped Munro Avenue Preschool with a \$4000 grant to buy new indoor play equipment and funded Bernard Briggs Pre-School \$1400 to develop their outdoor play area. A grant of \$3500 has helped establish the Tatong playgroup with quality toys and equipment, and a previous grant round saw Little Footprints playgroup awarded money to purchase multi-cultural toys. Our Early Years Program is driven by our commitment to see that all Benalla and district children start school ready to learn.

## Bringing up great kids!

So many agencies and groups in Benalla have something to do with parents or child development. We're very pleased to be combining forces with Benalla Rural City Council and Benalla Health to focus on what some might say is the nub of the issue – Parents Bringing Up Great Kids.

Over six weeks our three organisations are trialling this parental course – with a full enrolment. Pooling resources is a great way to bring innovative programs to our town. **Stay tuned for the results of the trial!**



Thanks to the substantial growth of our Community Fund we have been able to give more cash to local groups than ever before. Our 2011 Small Grants supported ten different local projects totalling over \$25,000.

The December announcement of Tomorrow:Today's Small Grants was held at our offices in Cecily Court as a joint event with the national Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) as our two organisations work closely to deliver the best results for Benalla. The total amount distributed between FRRR and Tomorrow:Today Foundation was over \$48,000.

The highlight of the afternoon was hearing a representative from each of the successful groups speak about the difference their Grant would make to their organisation. Our Small Grants make it easier for local people to get on with the activities they care about and that help strengthen our community. Our grants were awarded to:

- Broken River Potters (\$5000) relocate kiln and connect three phase power
- Life Youth - Life Church Benalla (\$2944) equipment upgrade for Friday night youth program
- NE Tracks LLEN (\$2000) Benalla Careers Day for Year 10's
- Tatong Young Bloods Inc. (\$3430) equipment and toys for Tatong Playgroup
- Bernard Briggs Kindergarten (\$1200) upgrade of sandpit (jointly funded with FRRR)
- Waminda Neighbourhood House (\$720) new resident 'welcome kits'
- Munro Avenue Preschool Centre (\$4128) refurbishment of dramatic play space
- Benalla College (\$2365) Year 12 Study Camp
- Waminda Neighbourhood House (\$2000) Benalla West Community Festival
- Benalla Music Camp (\$1500)

## Connect Girls

Tomorrow:Today Foundation is working with Benalla College and the Local Learning Employment Network on a new activity that will improve school attendance and help strengthen Year 9 and 10 girls' connection to school and community.

## New Scholarships

In December our first tertiary scholarships were awarded: \$1,000 each to Chloe Ellis of FCJ College and Elise Facey of Benalla College.

Funding from local families makes it possible to help students who will benefit from this financial support for their tertiary study.



AGM: Eda Ritchie with Ed, Jamielea & DJ.

**2011 AGM:** Mrs Eda N Ritchie, a trustee of the RE Ross Trust, was an outstanding guest speaker at our 2011 AGM. The audience was also impressed by students from Benalla College who spoke about the benefits of the Hands on Learning Program.



## Ways of Giving

Maxine Roach volunteers as our Little Giggles playgroup assistant because she enjoys working with young children. She especially loves to see the quieter children coming out of their shells with the passing weeks.

Volunteer work is an investment in Benalla's kids. It's a vital part of our Education Benalla Program that over 10 years is designed to improve educational outcomes for all our children. Many people invest in Benalla's kids through volunteering with Tomorrow:Today Foundation. For example, our Connect9 mentor program, piloted last year, was such a success that this year we're running two Connect9 programs, April to June and July to September. Volunteers are supported through an induction process, training and ongoing support to mentor a Year 9 student. Whilst our first program is full, **we still need more female mentors for July to September.**

We're also working with Benalla East Primary to help children improve their literacy skills. **Volunteers are needed to work with Prep and Grade 1 students, one or preferably more mornings per week at the School.**

**Anyone interested in finding out more about being a Connect9 mentor or literacy volunteer is invited to make contact with Sabine by e-mail [admin@tomorrowtoday.info](mailto:admin@tomorrowtoday.info) or telephone 03 5762 1211.**

## Volunteer Award

Our Connect9 Mentors have been recognised for their contribution to the community. Tomorrow:Today Foundation volunteer Warren Tucker, joined by Foundation Chair Sally Gamble, accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for the National Volunteer Awards last December on behalf of all the Connect9 Mentors.



## Annual Board Planning Day

On 1st March 2012, the Board held their annual planning day to set the strategic direction for the Foundation for 2012 and beyond. All Board Directors donate their time, expertise, skills and experience to help achieve the Foundation's purpose – to enable the people of Benalla and district to create a stronger, more resilient and prosperous community.

## Back to School Help

Local families in need benefited once again from Sidney Myer Back to School vouchers. We distributed \$22,500 worth of \$50 Target vouchers to schools in Benalla and the surrounding area at the start of the school year. School principals ensured the vouchers reached families in need to help purchase essential items such as books, stationery and school bags as well as shoes and clothing. Last year, in addition to the substantial distribution at the start of the school year, the need was so great that we distributed an

extra \$4,000 worth of vouchers to Benalla schools at the end of 2011. Since 2005, when this outstanding program began, we've distributed over \$160,000 worth of vouchers to Benalla & district schools.

The 2012 Back to School Program is an initiative of the Sidney Myer Fund and FRRR, supported by The Wyatt Benevolent Institution, The Pratt Foundation, The Estate of the Late Edward Wilson, Aussie Farmers Foundation, QR National Community Giving Fund, The Julian Flett Foundation managed by Perpetual, Target and the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

### Board Directors of Tomorrow:Today Foundation

Sally Gamble (Chair - 0428 755 138)  
Adrian Aldous

Liz Chapman  
Bill Dobson

Geoff Oliver  
Tony Schneider

## 'Little Giggles' Playgroups

**Mondays 9.30am – 11.30am**  
Twin & multiple birth playgroup  
Shop 4 Cecily Court

**Tuesdays 9.30am – 12.00 noon**  
Waminda Community House  
19 Ballintine Street

**Wednesdays & Thursdays**  
**9.30am – 12.00 noon**  
Shop 4 Cecily Court



# Giving Back

Benalla College teenagers are giving back to the community through the Hands on Learning program. Constructing seating in the children's section of Benalla Cemetery is their latest contribution. Other projects have included work with the Regent Honeyeater Project, helping at Benalla's Indigenous Garden, making tapping sticks for our Little Giggles playgroups and installing seating around the community pizza oven at Benalla 31 Primary.

Hands on Learning is able to run thanks to a substantial funding partnership between Tomorrow:Today Foundation and Benalla College. Two groups of up to ten students spend one day a week on 'hands on' maintenance and construction activities and the remaining four days in their normal school program. Hands on Learning keeps kids at school and helps them to move into apprenticeships and employment. It's also connecting them to their local community and that's good for everyone.

## Support Benalla's Community Fund

Donations to Tomorrow:Today Foundation's Community Fund are kept forever, to benefit the Benalla and district community. The money is invested, with the income providing a reliable, independent source of local funding to provide grants for local projects.

The Community Fund consists of two funds where donations are held and from which grants are given: the Public Fund and the Grant Making 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.

All donations help to create a significant community fund, solely for the benefit of the Benalla and district community.

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



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**GivingMatters**

To make a donation please complete the donation form below and return it with payment to Tomorrow:Today Foundation

Please find enclosed my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Tomorrow:Today Foundation.

Please tick your payment option.

I am donating by Electronic Funds Transfer to the following bank 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, 28 Bridge Street

Please tick your fund option:

- I would like this to be a tax deductible donation to the Public Fund
- I would like this to be a donation to the Grant Making Fund

**Contact Details**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

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