



Community mentor Jeanette Medley with Connect9 member Ashleigh Rowarth at week 5 of the program.

enjoy with their mentor, including Venturers, table tennis, pistol shooting, canoeing and relaxation classes. The opportunity to visit a number of workplaces is another important feature of Connect9. The program finishes on a high with a glider flight over Benalla.

'Our great group of Connect9 mentors give their time to support young people. They are the essential ingredient in the program's success. Through their generosity as volunteers they are making a huge difference to a young person's life,' says Volunteer Programs Coordinator Sabine Smyth.

Partnerships with a host of local service providers, businesses and community groups are another key to the success of Tomorrow:Today Foundation's activities. The Connect9 program enjoys the enthusiastic participation of community partners such as Goulburn Ovens TAFE, the YMCA Benalla Aquatic Centre as well as Benalla Library. Both secondary colleges are also key supporters by providing the Connect9 group with venues for their activities.

Connect9 takes off

Tomorrow:Today Foundation has developed a mentoring program that targets students at Year 9 - at the threshold of having to make important decisions about where they are heading in life. Connect9 helps teenagers to get out and try a range of new experiences with the support of a community mentor. The program commenced as a pilot project this year with an intake of 15 Year 9 teenagers, matched with 15 community volunteers.

The weekly program started with a range of group activities, from boxing and a gym circuit to creating animated computerised characters. Students then chose from a range of different activities offered by local clubs and organisations to

The common theme of the last six months across business, community groups and government is the desire to work together to make a difference for Benalla's kids. Donations of goods, cash and time are many and varied and highly valued. Examples include the staff from Vinnies who choose books suited to our Little Giggles

playgroups and bring them to add to our parent supply box; our Connect9 mentors commit on average three hours a week to help their Connect9 member explore new experiences; in the coming months we have a Mental Health First Aid course provided to us free for staff and Connect9 mentors and parents; and free dance and movement

lessons from TDA Performing Arts for our Waminda playgroup.

Community response to our Challenge Grant Appeal was outstanding. Our banner thanking supporters will be on display in the foyer at Westpac Benalla for the month of October.

Sally Gamble, Chair

Community embraces the Challenge

Remarkable community support, combined with an outstanding Victorian Government initiative, has transformed Tomorrow:Today Foundation's community fund. From just over \$40,000 in June 2010 it's now a permanent fund for Benalla of more than \$460,000.

Tomorrow:Today was chosen to receive a unique 'challenge' grant. If the Benalla community could raise \$100,000 in the year to 30 June 2011, the State Government would contribute up to \$300,000. Support from across our community saw the target reached in just six months.

Benalla Rural City Council gave strong support and Schneider Electric (Australia) Pty Limited was our largest business sponsor. Many other businesses, large and small, also demonstrated great generosity, including Godfrey Hirst Australia Pty Ltd, HD&C Securities, Jenny Milner Marsha Watson Pharmacy, McDonald's Benalla, Benalla Ensign and many more. There were also a great many individual supporters: the many generous donors, everyone involved in the Rubik's Cube World Record attempt, Community Services staff at Benalla Rural City Council and numerous community and service groups. Around half of all donations received were for \$100 or less – a fantastic demonstration of community 'buy in' to the work of Tomorrow:Today.

It's a world record!

Anna Sonogan led a successful community bid to set a Guinness World Record for **'Most people solving Rubik's Cubes'**.

Congratulations to Anna and the team and thank you for their sponsorship of our Challenge Grant Appeal.



Early learning

Sharing a story develops 'wonder at the world' as well as pre-literacy skills – both important elements for starting school ready to learn.

Pictured here are Isobel and Heather from our Little Giggles Tuesday playgroup at Waminda Community House.



Directors of the Board of Tomorrow:Today Foundation with our local member, Dr Bill Sykes MP. L to R: Adrian Aldous, Geoff Oliver, Liz Chapman, Sally Gamble (Chair), Dr Bill Sykes MP, Bill Dobson and Tony Schneider. Photo courtesy of Benalla Ensign.

Small Grants for good ideas

The response was huge to our Challenge Grant Appeal – with contributions of tens of dollars to ten thousand dollars. This money will work forever in a perpetual community fund to benefit Benalla district. As the fund grows so does the Foundation's ability to support local charitable projects that strengthen the community.

In 2010 a terrific range of projects was supported, ranging from welcoming new families into the community in Swanpool and the Thoono Wheelie Bin Rally to the Career's Day for all Benalla Year 10 students.

As we go to press applications are closing on 30th September for our 2011 Small Grants round. We're hoping to get even more applications from local groups with good ideas that will benefit the community. Funding priorities include; projects for families with young children, youth development, activities that strengthen community connectedness, and projects that help address social disadvantage.

Tomorrow:Today Foundation will again be working in collaboration with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR). Applications for grants to the Foundation will also be considered by FRRR as part of their grants round; and vice versa. Funds from Perpetual Trustees – via the Ledger Trust – have been made available through FRRR for eligible projects in Benalla and district.

Diary Date

**Annual General Meeting
5.30pm - Wednesday
26th October at Oliver's
Restaurant, GO TAFE**

Come along to an AGM with a difference as we showcase the many great projects we've supported over the past year.



“Little Giggles” Playgroup



In order to achieve the Education Benalla Program objective that ‘all Benalla and district children start school ready to learn’ it’s important to start at the start – with a focus on 0, 1 and 2 year olds and their families.

Our ‘Little Giggles’ free community playgroups are immensely popular, and we’ll continue to add new playgroups to meet demand.

Leonie Daniel, our dedicated Early Years specialist, organises a great range of fun activities for babies and toddlers and their parents. In addition to the ‘Little Giggles’ playgroups, we host a parent-led playgroup for twins and their busy parents.

Waminda Community House
19 Ballintine Street
Tuesdays 9:30am – 12:30pm

Tomorrow:Today Foundation
Shop 4 Cecily Court, 66 Nunn Street
Wednesday 10.00am – 12.00 noon
Thursday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Marketing award

Tomorrow:Today Foundation picked up the Marketing Excellence Award at the recent Benalla Business Network Business Excellence Awards night. We were also a finalist in the Business Commitment to the Community Award – congratulations to Central Access Limited on winning this category. The Marketing Excellence Award was in recognition of our community fundraising campaign in 2010-11, and was sponsored by Anytime Fitness.

Board Directors of Tomorrow:Today Foundation

Sally Gamble (Chair - 0428 755 138)
Adrian Aldous

Liz Chapman
Bill Dobson

Geoff Oliver
Tony Schneider

Pat welcomed

In June we welcomed Pat Claridge to Tomorrow:Today Foundation to lead our Education Benalla Program activities. Pat is well known by all in Benalla as a local councillor, former Mayor, small business operator and active community member. “I’ve followed with great interest the development of Tomorrow:Today Foundation’s program to improve Benalla student outcomes and felt this was an opportunity I couldn’t let pass. In taking on the role of Education Benalla Program Manager I will be able to concentrate my efforts on helping Benalla kids to succeed at school and in the community”, said Pat.



Photo courtesy of Benalla Ensign

Helping hands



Thank you to the staff and residents at Odyssey House for their ongoing help at the Indigenous Garden.

Hands On Learning

Now in its second year at Benalla College, Hands On Learning continues to demonstrate excellent results from both the students' and school's perspectives. It took out a first prize in Benalla's Get Out There Youth Awards 2011 thanks to the nomination of Year 9 student Jamielea (pictured 2nd left), who recommended the program for "making you a part of something, building things together." Jamielea said "the program got me back on track when I was struggling at school."

Two groups of ten students each spend one day a week on hands-on maintenance and construction projects in and around the school. They learn through a team approach to work on 'real' projects with an experienced 'tradie' and a teacher. Hands On Learning is able to run thanks to a substantial funding partnership between Tomorrow:Today Foundation and Benalla College.



We'd like to acknowledge our current major funding partners of the Education Benalla Program - Ian Potter Foundation, RE Ross Trust, the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Perpetual Trustees and Newsboys Foundation.

Support Benalla's Community Fund

Donations to Tomorrow:Today Foundation are added to a permanent Community Fund 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 good ideas - year after year. It's flexible and can respond to changing community needs.

The Foundation has two funds where donations are held and from which grants are given: the **Public Fund** and the **Grant Making Fund**. When a donor makes a gift to the Foundation for which he or she requires 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.

All donations to both funds 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 and help reach our target of \$500,000.



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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.