

# Giving Matters Tomorrow:Today Foundation News

The first half of 2009 has been very busy and exciting for **Tomorrow:Today Foundation**. The year started with a strategic planning session which identified the need to build our Donor base and increase the awareness of the Foundation in the community. As a result, we launched our first Annual Appeal in May, which has had a marvellous response. In addition, a great deal of work is continuing on our Education Program which will involve the whole of the community in improving Benalla student outcomes.



*Mr Wayne Weaire, recently resigned from the Board and Ms Sally Gamble was elected Chair.*

## Comings and Goings

**Tomorrow:Today Foundation's** chair, Mr. Wayne Weaire has recently resigned from the Board as he pursues his career beyond Benalla and District. Wayne was an original Board member of the Foundation, was the Foundation's first public officer and has been Chair of the Foundation for the last four years. In his position as Chair he has overseen many developments, including the Ambassador Program, and has been instrumental in developing an Australia wide community foundation network. We wish Wayne the very best for the future.

Ms. Sally Gamble was elected Chair at our last Board Meeting. Sally has been involved with the **Tomorrow:Today Foundation** since its inception and was the inaugural Treasurer. Sally is engaged in many community activities especially around her love of gardens and the environment. Sally is President of the Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens and Riverine Parkland

and is Vice President of the Regent Honeyeater Project. Sally has been actively involved with the Indigenous Community Garden project and has ensured its success to date.

Due to business commitments Ms. Tanya Mitchell has resigned as a Director of the Foundation. We thank Tanya for her contribution to the development of the **Tomorrow:Today Foundation** and particularly the establishment of the Benalla Social Network.

We welcome back to the Board of the **Tomorrow:Today Foundation**, Mr. Tony Schneider, who is a very active community member and supporter of many projects in Benalla and District.

Our Board membership is as follows:-

- Sally Gamble, *Chair*
- Adrian Aldous
- Liz Chapman
- Bill Dobson
- Geoff Oliver
- Tony Schneider

## Education Program

The Foundation is presently working very hard on an Education Program for Benalla students. The purpose of the program is to improve Benalla student outcomes by addressing the effects of social and financial disadvantage on our kids. The outcome we seek from the program is that education and training completion rates for Benalla's 17-24 year olds will equal or exceed the Victorian average for non-disadvantaged districts. As it stands, educational results are much poorer in socially disadvantaged districts such as Benalla; and a major predictor of ongoing (lifelong) disadvantage in educational outcomes.

There's a lot of truth in the saying "it takes a village to raise a child". We're working with schools and community organisations to develop specific programs that will involve families,

*together we make a difference*





Some of Benalla's school leaders in a recent meeting with Tomorrow:Today Foundation Board Director and convenor of the Education Program, Liz Chapman (at right).

the community and all schools. These include

- community based small groups for mums and babies, carers and toddlers;
- literacy and numeracy projects;
- "Slingshot" careers mentoring;
- 'hands on learning' linked to trades and community;
- music and arts performance in schools and the community.

We can report that there is unprecedented support for the Education Program. All the agencies in town that have some focus on education, youth, training, employment, childhood development, etc., have, via Benalla Rural City's "Taskforce", given the program the thumbs up. This is a great beginning.

Now we are working at raising the financial resources needed to implement the Program as we've been for it to begin at the start of the 2010 school year. It will be several months before we know whether we've been able to attract the money needed.

Your ideas, input and questions are encouraged. Whether you've got a fundraising idea, would like to donate, or just want to find out more about the program, please phone one of the contacts below.

Liz Chapman - Ph: 5763 3214

David Dore - Ph: 0434 358 375

Barbara Alexander - Ph: 5760 2317

## Winter Back to School Vouchers

**Tomorrow:Today Foundation** has received tremendous support from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) in their latest Winter program. For the past three years we have received around \$5000 worth of vouchers from the Winter Program to distribute to families throughout Benalla and District. This year we alerted FRRR to the increasing financial hardship in Benalla and received \$12,500 to help families purchase warm school clothing.

These vouchers are distributed via school principals to local families in need. Keeping warm is vital in these winter months and these vouchers assist with the purchase of much needed shoes and clothes.

## Open Garden Helpers Needed

Benalla garden 'Marangy' will be opening again this year in Australia's Open Garden Scheme on the weekend of November 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, the weekend of the Benalla Festival. As a fundraiser for the Foundation, Tomorrow:Today organises the morning and afternoon teas over the weekend. Last year there were over 300 visitors to the garden and we made \$765.00 for the Indigenous Community Garden.

We're looking for support from our Ambassadors to help bake the goodies for morning and afternoon tea and to help staff the stall over the weekend. Any and all help will be much appreciated and every dollar raised will go towards improving Benalla student outcomes through our Education Program. As

well as raising much needed funds, the weekend is a great opportunity to help spread the word about **Tomorrow:Today Foundation**.

## Marangy Olive Oil

Local Marangy olive oil is sold in Benalla in support of **Tomorrow:Today Foundation**. Last financial year over \$1,000 worth of sponsorship was provided for our Indigenous Community Garden project.



This extra virgin olive oil is available at Rambling Rose, Fruits'n'Fare and Hook and Spoon in 250 ml and 500 ml bottles. It makes a great gift which also gives to our community.

## Annual Appeal

We've had an excellent response to our Inaugural Annual Appeal. These donations have been placed in our corpus to grow for the benefit of the Benalla District community in future years. If you wish to donate, please:

- send a cheque made payable to **Tomorrow:Today Foundation** to PO Box 281, Benalla.
- or ring Barbara Alexander on 5760 2317 to organise a credit card payment.

All donations are tax deductible and will benefit our community.

### More Information - Please send me information on:

- Donating to the Foundation
- Workplace giving
- Remembering the Foundation in my Will
- Tomorrow:Today Foundation's Annual Report
- Becoming a Foundation Ambassador

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

Tomorrow:Today Foundation: **PO Box 281, Benalla, Victoria 3672** or visit [www.tomorrowtoday.com.au](http://www.tomorrowtoday.com.au)