

November 2012 – Alexandra Gartmann praises Foundation

“We are so lucky to have an organisation like this in Benalla.” This was a typical response from the over 60 guests who attended Tomorrow:Today Foundation’s AGM last month.

This was the second year the Foundation has used the occasion of their Annual General Meeting to celebrate Benalla through the eyes of people involved in Tomorrow:Today’s range of programs. Young children and parents, volunteers and students, teenagers, community mentors and school teachers all showcased their involvement in a wide range of projects; all aimed at ‘building a stronger tomorrow by acting today’.

Chair, Sally Gamble, reported on another extremely successful year for Tomorrow:Today Foundation.

“One of the outstanding features of this year has been the contribution made by volunteers through our Education Benalla Program. Volunteers lend a hand with playgroups; work with young children in schools to improve their reading; support teenagers in activities that connect them with the broader community; and give one-on-one tutoring in maths and literacy. Benalla citizens are helping to make a real difference for Benalla’s young people,” she said.

Guest speaker was Alexandra Gartmann, CEO of the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR). She spoke about the long standing partnership between FRRR and Tomorrow:Today with both organisations focused on sustaining and creating vibrant rural communities.

Ms Gartmann said “Your achievements have truly been remarkable. Look at the achievements over the last 12 months: 60 donors, 45 regular volunteers, the dollars and the impact! Tomorrow:Today Foundation is certainly one of the most impressive and focused community foundations in Australia”.

There was good news on the growth of the Community Fund.

“From the outset, we aimed to build a permanent endowment or Community Fund for long term community benefit. It’s very satisfying at this ten year milestone to see that among our many achievements we have now reached our initial target of \$500,000 in the permanent Community Fund”, said Ms Gamble.

She thanked the many donors and sponsors who supported the Annual Appeal this year and said “We’ll continue working to increase the Community Fund to benefit Benalla and district.”

Tax deductible donations to Tomorrow:Today Foundation can be made over the counter at the local Bendigo Bank, by downloading a donation form at www.tomorrowtoday.com.au or by contacting the Foundation on 5762 1211.

October 2012 - Group marks 10 years

It is 10 years since Tomorrow:Today Foundation launched.

With its sole purpose to help develop Benalla and district, the Annual General Meeting tomorrow evening will be a celebration of what has been achieved so far.

“It’s been another extremely busy and successful year for the Foundation,” chair Sally Gamble said. “The Community Fund has reached a significant milestone and our Education Benalla Program is benefiting an increasing number of local families.”

Many families, community groups, clubs and schools have received support from Tomorrow:Today Foundation through funding over the past 10 years and the Annual General Meeting will showcase some of the projects that Tomorrow:Today has either initiated or helped to fund this year. The valuable contribution made by local volunteers will also be celebrated.

Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Chief Executive Officer Alexandra Gartmann will be guest speaker.

Many different groups in Benalla have received support from FRRR through its Small Grants for Small Rural Communities program.

Tomorrow:Today has also enjoyed strong support from FRRR, including a grant for its initial establishment, support for the Education Benalla Program and the much needed Back to School vouchers which are distributed throughout our district.

Tomorrow:Today Foundation’s Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 25th October, 5.30pm to 7pm at Oliver’s Restaurant, Goulburn Ovens TAFE. RSVP by email to admin@tomorrowtoday.info or on 5762 1211.

September 2012 - Potters have new home at Hut 66

Last year, after a long wait to find new premises, Broken River Potters was finally given permission to use BARC Hut 66. With grants from council, Tomorrow:Today Foundation and FRRR, the kiln was relocated, cupboards built and three-phase power installed.

Members spent many months of hard work cleaning and renovating the hut for their recent open night to showcase their facilities. Long-time supporter Dulcie Sanderson was invited to open the facilities, and spoke of her experiences during the establishment of the first potters group, which was located under the Art Gallery.

June 2012 - Donations Needed

Local business Peter Davis Rural has supported Tomorrow:Today Foundation's 2012 appeal with a sponsorship of \$2,500. Owners Peter Davis and Therese Alexander said they chose to contribute to the appeal during these tough economic times because it helps the Foundation to give much needed support to local projects.

"Since I've been involved in council I've become more aware of the work Tomorrow:Today does in helping our community," Cr Davis said.

"Tomorrow:Today Foundation has funded so many activities and there is always more that can be done," foundation chair Sally Gamble said.

"As Benalla's community foundation, we provide the mechanism for local people to do important things for their district," she said. "By donating money or volunteering time we have, this year alone, been able to provide benefits to literally hundreds of toddlers and their parents, scores of teenagers and their families, as well as numerous clubs, schools and community groups."

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Photo: Courtesy of Benalla Ensign

May 2012 - Future Garden Gurus

Students from the Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE Rural Industries Campus at Wangaratta enjoyed a productive day at Benalla's Indigenous Garden recently. In the morning the students planted out a number of areas that had been affected by previous flooding and in the afternoon they learned about plant identification.

The day was part of a subject called 'Grow What Where' that contributes to a Certificate III in Horticulture. Teacher Robyn Saunders thanked Tomorrow:Today Foundation for the work it has done over many years, bringing community volunteers and resources together to create the garden.



April 2012: Great Start for Appeal

Tomorrow:Today Foundations 2012 Annual Appeal has begun, with a generous contribution from McDonalds Benalla. Thanks to local franchisees Ed and Lisa Aldridge, McDonalds Benalla gave a sponsorship of \$5000 - the second of a four-year commitment totalling \$20,000.

Board director Adrian Aldous thanked the Aldridges for their ongoing support. "It is wonderful to see this kind of commitment to the local community," Mr Aldous said.

Tomorrow:Today Foundation is Benalla and districts community foundation, formed and run by local people to help create a stronger community. All money raised by the appeal is added to a permanent community fund, the income from which supports a broad range of local charitable projects.



Photo: Courtesy of Benalla Ensign

February 2012: Back to School Vouchers Support Local Families

For the eighth consecutive year, Tomorrow:Today Foundation has helped local families in need with back to school expenses for their children's education. During January the Foundation distributed \$22,500 worth of Sidney Myer Back to School vouchers to schools in Benalla and the surrounding area.

School principals arrange for the \$50 Target vouchers to be distributed to families experiencing financial hardship. The vouchers assist families in need to purchase essential items such as books, stationary and school bags as well as shoes and clothing at the start of the school year.

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.

