

December 2010: Appeal is beefed up

McDonalds Benalla has come forward with possibly the largest donation so far to the Tomorrow:Today \$100,000 community challenge grant appeal, with a commitment of \$5000 per annum for each of the next four years.

Support by local franchisees, Edward and Elisa Aldridge and the world's biggest name in family restaurants won't stop at the financial commitment.

In making his announcement of the contribution that will total \$20,000 Mr Aldridge last week had a further offer to make "We would love as a local business to contribute more in terms of training and mentoring young people in our community and have asked Tomorrow:Today to let us know how they can see us involved".

December 2010: World Record Challenge

Benalla's Anna Sonogan was the force behind the recent Rubik's Cube Challenge which broke a Guinness World Record and raised \$1,460 for the Tomorrow:Today Foundation.

The challenge saw the greatest number of people complete the Rubik's cubes successfully last month in a one hour period. A total of 134 people needed to complete the cube and the event was successful with 135 completed cubes in the allotted time.



December 2010: Community wishes granted

The Tomorrow:Today Foundation presented its annual round of funding for 2010 last Friday, along with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR).

Tomorrow:Today chair Sally Gamble said including this year's grants, the Foundation has distributed \$65,000 to local charitable projects since 2002.

"Here today is the reason for all the effort in raising money through the Foundation's Challenge Grant Appeal; the ability to resource groups throughout Benalla and district that commit time and energy to creating a stronger, more prosperous and resilient community," Ms Gamble said.

October 2010: Support for Appeal

Jenny Milner-Marsha Watson Pharmacy has donated \$5000 towards the Tomorrow:Today Foundation's Challenge Grant Appeal, helping the Foundation on its way to meeting its \$100,000 target.

Launched at BPACC in August, the appeal seeks to raise \$100,000 to ensure the locally formed and run philanthropic organisation secures a further \$200 000 for the benefit of the Benalla and district community, on top of the \$100,000 already granted by the Victorian Government.

Tomorrow:Today directors also acknowledged the generosity of Benalla Spinners and HD&C Securities with their \$5000 donations.



Photo: Courtesy of Benalla Ensign

September 2010: Giving the garden a good spring clean

Benalla's Indigenous Garden received a real spring clean this week. Following the floods there was debris spread throughout the garden and mulch had disappeared.

When local indigenous personality Chris Thorne asked residents at Odyssey House for volunteers to help give the area a spruce up, he was bowled over by the positive response.

The Indigenous Garden is a community project undertaken by the Tomorrow:Today Foundation to recognise the history of the district before European settlement and provides a fitting place for education about indigenous culture and the environment.



Photo: Courtesy of Benalla Ensign

August 2010: Challenge Grant Appeal launched

The Tomorrow:Today Foundation launched its Challenge Grant Appeal last Thursday at BPACC. Tomorrow:Today Foundation Chair, Sally Gamble, outlined the generous 'challenge' grant they've received from the Victorian State Government.

"The Foundation has received a \$100,000 grant to create a permanent community fund for Benalla," she said. "If, by June 30 next year, we raise \$100,000 locally through this Challenge Grant Appeal we will receive a further \$200,000".

"This is a wonderful opportunity to create a substantial community fund for the benefit of Benalla and District, forever. The community fund is very flexible and can respond to the changing needs of the community, providing a permanent source of funding for local charitable grants," Ms Gamble said.

"We are very optimistic we can reach the \$100,000 target. It's a significant amount to raise but we've already received a number of generous individual donations and business sponsorships. And I am delighted to announce tonight that Benalla Rural City council has decided to contribute \$10,000 to this appeal."

July 2010: \$100,000 Grant Announced

Benalla's Tomorrow:Today Foundation has received a \$100,000 boost from the Victorian Government, with Community Development Minister Lily D'Ambrosio laying down a challenge to the local community.

Ms D'Ambrosio said in addition to the grant, the government would also offer a fundraising challenge - if the foundation matched the money within 12 months, it would be eligible for another \$200,000.



Photo: Courtesy of Benalla Ensign