

December 2011: Inaugural tertiary scholarship

The winner of the inaugural Tomorrow:Today Foundation tertiary scholarship is Chloe Ellis of FCJ College. This \$1,000 scholarship is designed to help a current Year 12 student successfully transition to tertiary studies beyond Benalla.

"The Benalla community wants to support our young people to strive to be the best they can be" said Sally Gamble, Chair of Tomorrow:Today Foundation. "The Foundation is pleased to bring together funding from local families who want to make a difference with students with a plan for tertiary study who will really benefit from some financial support."



December 2011: Volunteers recognised in national award

Local volunteer, Warren Tucker, on behalf of 15 Tomorrow:Today Foundation mentors, last week accepted a Certificate of Appreciation for the National Volunteer Awards, which were announced earlier this year by the Minister for Social Inclusion, Tanya Plibersek. Tomorrow:Today Foundation Chair Sally Gamble said that it was very rewarding to see the work of Connect9 mentors recognised in this way. "The inaugural Connect9 Community Mentoring Program has been such a wonderful program for Benalla's teenagers.

"Mentors can, just by giving their time, change a young person's life." Connect9 is an important component of our Education Benalla Program, it shows our young people that their community is right behind them, when they are ready to spread their wings and actively pursue a happy life."

"Young people learn by example, and our mentors have shown them the value of volunteering in their community. I think many of our young people have found this infectious and are now volunteering to help us promote the program to their peers at school next year."



August 2011: Masters of the kitchen

If weekly attendance is a guide, Benalla's community mentoring program for teenagers is highly successful.

With a long table set for 28, Oliver's Restaurant at Goulburn ovens Institute of TAFE was bursting at the seams and filled with happy chatter and the clinking of water glasses. Everyone enjoyed the pizza and muffins freshly prepared in the campus' commercial kitchen by many of the 16 teenagers and 16 mentors who are part of this first Connect9 community mentoring program.

An initiative of the Tomorrow:Today Foundation, the Connect9 program runs weekly from July to September and is aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of our young people by connecting them to opportunities in our community.



August 2011: Group sees double

Life can be tough enough for parents of newborns, with all the sleepless nights and constant changing and feeding sessions, imagine what it's like for parents of twins.

While many parenting groups provide support for mums and dads, they often don't understand the pressures of having two young children.

That's where the newly established Twins Plus Benalla playgroup comes in. Set up eight weeks ago by Angela Hurd, mum to six month olds Amity and Lucinda, the Twins Club aims to provide support and a sounding board for parents.

The group is funded by the Tomorrow:Today Foundation and is based at the Little Giggles facility in Cecily Court.



Photo: Courtesy of Benalla Ensign

July 2011: Youth program lauded

The Hands On Learning program at Benalla College continues to go from strength to strength after taking out the Group Program category in the 12 to 16 years old age group in the Get Out There Youth Awards earlier this year.

Year 9 student Jamielee (pictured second from left), said the program makes students "a part of something".

"The program got me back on track when I was struggling at school." Jamielee said.

Tomorrow:Today sponsors Hands On Learning at Benalla College through its Education Benalla Program, which aims to improve the educational outcomes of local students.



May 2011: Pat set to manage new role

Well known by all in Benalla, Pat Claridge is making a move to Tomorrow:Today Foundation to lead its innovative Education Benalla Program.

"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," Cr Claridge said. "In taking on the role of Education Benalla Program manager with Tomorrow:Today I will be able to concentrate all my efforts on helping to reduce the level of disadvantage in Benalla."

March 2011: Getting boys to the library

Someone who knows about books that boys love is much adored and recently retired teacher Marilyn Bourke. Marilyn is holding books for teenage boys that were purchased through donations by the CWA and Benalla Rotary and will be given away for free during the 'More than Words' program at Benalla Library on March 9 at 5.30pm.

'More than Words' is a partnership project between the Tomorrow:Today Foundation and the High Country Library.

February 2011: Strong start to year

Benalla College Year 12 students began their year with a demanding two day study camp at Myrtleford.

As a result of generous sponsorship this year from Tomorrow:Today Foundation, the program provided a range of activities including sessions to develop study skills, preparing resumes, traffic safety and general tips regarding looking after yourself in Year 12.