



At PEEP 'song time' parents and babies build connections essential for a great start in life.

Lifelong benefits

We know that many children growing up in communities like ours, where there is significant financial hardship, have lower educational, health and 'life' outcomes than those from more advantaged communities. Tomorrow Today is part of a major effort in Benalla to respond to the effects of disadvantage. This community effort is now paying off! Recent results from the national survey of childhood development - Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) - show a dramatic improvement in the school readiness of Benalla's children.

In 2015 one third of our children were assessed as developmentally vulnerable on commencing school. They were not 'ready to learn'. Benalla had the worst results of 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Victoria. In an amazing turnaround for a disadvantaged community, Benalla's 2018 results have improved significantly, with less than one quarter of children deemed vulnerable; and now ranking 19th of 79 LGA's. ***Benalla made greater improvement in levels of vulnerability than 75 of the other 78 Victorian LGAs.***

The dramatic improvement in Benalla's AEDC results can be attributed to Benalla's strong community collaboration. Agencies in the 'early years' field are working together with the common aim that 'all Benalla children start school ready to learn'. Tomorrow Today's PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) program is central to this approach. Our weekly facilitated playgroup now has over 200 Benalla families with children 0-5 attending annually. Supporting children's early years - when their brains are developing rapidly - brings lifelong benefits.

Benalla's outstanding improvement in child development results are a fabulous demonstration of the power of a community working together with a common purpose. It is incredibly heartening to see this progress, while staying committed to the further effort needed.

We are indebted to the large number

of volunteers who give their time to help deliver results for Benalla's kids. And it's wonderful to see our newly formed 'Friends' group off to a great start, pledging their time and talent to assist the Foundation.

Tomorrow Today provides the structure to 'give where you live' to make a real difference in Benalla.

Our current fundraising priority is the Property Appeal (see page 4) or you can choose to make a difference by supporting other aspects of our work. Please don't hesitate to contact our office or any of our directors if we can help in any way.

Sally Gamble, Chair

Meet one of our volunteers

Annie is one of our wonderful early years volunteers. You may know her smiling face from Marsha Watson Pharmacy. She assists in the PEEP program because she's passionate about children's learning. Annie said she very much enjoys volunteering for Tomorrow Today.

"It has been a wonderful experience for me to be able to give back to the community, especially to families and children. I so look forward to Fridays when I can help out again."

For more information about volunteering with Tomorrow Today, particularly supervising, reading to and talking with young children, call (03) 5762 1211.



Connect9 - Blacksmithing

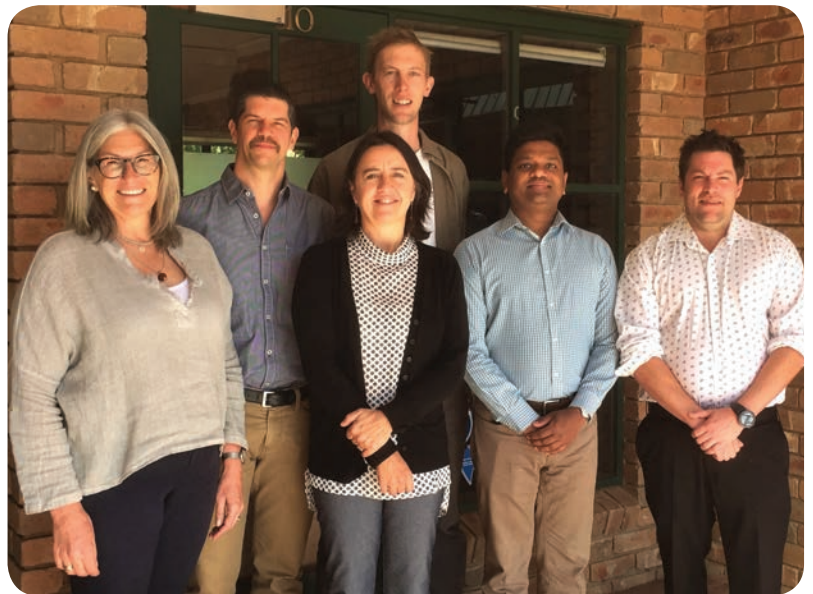
Blacksmithing is one of the optional activities available during Tomorrow Today's unique Connect9 mentoring program.



Board Renewal

With the retirement of long standing Board member Bill Dobson last July, Tomorrow Today advertised for new Directors. We were delighted that three outstanding local citizens offered their services. Georgina Burston, Melinda Lawley and Florent Thivillier were welcomed as Directors in September. All bring the necessary skills and qualities required for strong governance and their breadth of experience is a great asset to our community foundation.

We also welcomed Punarji Gunaratne, Steve James and Tim Murphy to Tomorrow Today's new twelve-month Board Associate Program. This Program has the complementary aims of increasing the range of skills and viewpoints available to the Board; strengthening the Foundation's connection to the community, and building the capacity of local people to serve on not-for-profit boards. Steve withdrew from the program in May due to business commitments.



Pictured left to right: new Board Directors - Georgina Burston, Florent Thivillier and Melinda Lawley; and Board Associates - Tim Murphy, Punarji Gunaratne and Steve James.

Tomorrow Today Board Directors

- Sally Gamble: Chair (0428 755 138)
- Adrian Aldous
- Georgina Burston
- Liz Chapman OAM
- Patrick Duffy
- Melinda Lawley
- Louise Pearce
- Nick Taylor
- Florent Thivillier

Young people creating solutions

Dedicated, creative, highly motivated, team-players are some of the words that spring to mind when describing the thirty young people aged 11-16 years involved in Tomorrow Today's first ever Digital Project. Their brief was to design and develop a digital solution, like an 'app' or website, to a local issue of importance to them. Students would be strengthening their skills for future work while supporting their community.

The students participated in three workshops held at Tomorrow Today outside of school hours. Sessions were facilitated by Seer Data & Analytics, an organisation at the forefront of finding innovative ways to tackle social problems. The ideas developed were put out to the broader youth community, with over 280 local young people providing input. The spectacular result is 'Benalla Works', launched on 9th May 2019 at the Hands On Trades Expo at Winton Motor Raceway.

Benalla Works is a Benalla specific website for young people, aged 15-25 years, that enables them to search for local employment, work experience and volunteering

opportunities. Young people are able to sign up to the secure site and upload their resume. Businesses are able to post job and volunteering opportunities.

If you have a job or volunteering vacancy or you are searching for work, why not log on to www.benallaworks.com.au and see if you can find your perfect match!



One of the digital workshops at Tomorrow Today.

Launch of 'Friends' Group

In February we were delighted to launch the 'Friends of Tomorrow Today'. The Friends are a group of community-minded people who fundraise for the Foundation and support and promote our work across Benalla.

Their first major fundraising project will be an Open Garden at Marangy, the home of Tomorrow Today Board Chair, Sally Gamble on the second weekend of the Benalla Festival – 9/10 November.

"We would be thrilled to have interested local people on board in whatever capacity they can, giving whatever time they can," Sally said. "All monies raised will benefit the Benalla community."

If you are interested in joining the Friends or are available to help at the event, please contact us on admin@tomorrowtoday.com.au or (03) 5762 1211.



Join us at our Open Garden fundraiser at 'Marangy', Benalla, 9/10 November.

School-Based Apprenticeship

Tomorrow Today is proud to support the training and employment of Benalla's young people. Bianca O'Keefe, a Year 11 student from Benalla P-12 College, is completing a School-Based Apprenticeship with us in 2019. Bianca spends Wednesdays in the PEEP room, assisting with children's play, language and socialisation development. She is completing a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education at GOTAFE Benalla.

Diary Date

Please join us at

Tomorrow Today's Annual Celebration

Lakeside Community Centre

Tuesday 29 October 5.30pm – 7.00 pm

All welcome

Benalla gets active

Nearly 200 excited young people and their families attended the annual 'Come and Try' day organised by Tomorrow Today and Valley Sport. Over twenty local clubs and recreation groups provided fun and interactive activities, from the very physical such as boxing and rugby, to the more leisurely such as fishing and yoga. There was even a blow-up squash court!

Being involved in sport and recreational activities connects young people to their community and keeps them engaged with learning. To ensure all Benalla students are able to participate in an activity they enjoy, Tomorrow Today offers financial assistance for registration costs to families with pension and health care cards. For more information, phone our office on (03) 5762 1211.



Property Appeal


Our purchase of Cecily Court has proved enormously successful. Ownership has allowed us to make necessary improvements and we now enjoy steady income from other tenants. We are sharing our facilities with an increasing number

of partner organisations to further our common aims.

A low interest loan from The William Buckland Foundation made the purchase possible. In September a large capital repayment is due, after which repayments

can be covered by rental income. We are thrilled with the way the Benalla community has embraced our Property Appeal to date. Please consider giving generously to help make a real and ongoing difference in your community.

Please help spread the word about the work of Tomorrow Today by liking us on facebook.

Find us on  @TomorrowTodayAU



Tomorrow Today Foundation
 PO Box 281, Benalla Victoria 3671
 Shop 10, Cecily Court
 66 Nunn Street, Benalla 3672
 Phone: (03) 5762 1211
www.tomorrowtoday.com.au
admin@tomorrowtoday.com.au

Yes, I want to support the work of Tomorrow Today in Benalla.

I wish to support:

- Cecily Court Property Appeal
- Work of Tomorrow Today, area of greatest need
- Community Fund for local grants
- Other (please contact us)

Please select your payment option:

1 **DONATE ONLINE** by credit card www.tomorrowtoday.com.au and click on **DONATE NOW**

2 Or, you can donate by one of the options below (return form to Tomorrow Today)

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

- EFT to Tomorrow Today Foundation
 BSB: 083-541 Account No: 78-993-7916
- Cheque payable to Tomorrow Today Foundation
- Credit Card by mail - Visa and Master Card accepted

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____

My Details

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Thank you for your donation. A receipt will be posted to you.

- Please send me information about becoming a Regular Donor
- Please send me information about leaving a Gift in my Will

All donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

If your business would like to provide sponsorship, please contact our office and a tax invoice will be issued.

GivingMatters