



annual report
2019/2020

Benalla district our community

TOMORROW  TODAY



ABOVE: Young people explore an old art – blacksmithing – one of the optional activities available during the Connect9 mentoring program.

FRONT COVER: Tomorrow Today's Connect9 program matches young people with a local mentor to support them as they try new things and meet new people. The young people and their mentors often form strong bonds over the course of the program. Connect9 is unique to Benalla, supporting our young people to thrive at a time in life that can be challenging.

Tomorrow Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development
ABN 19 096 214 907

Tomorrow Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development Public Fund
ABN 98 553 570 389

Tomorrow Today Education Foundation
ABN 90 610 420 123

We'd like to acknowledge that a number of the photos in this publication have been provided thanks to our program partners.



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A stronger tomorrow

Tomorrow Today is Benalla and District's local, independent, community foundation. Launched in 2002, the Foundation is working to help create a stronger, more resilient and prosperous community.

Our Community Fund is an enduring resource that provides local grants to meet changing community needs. Our trailblazing Education Benalla Program is on track to ensure that local children have the opportunity to achieve their individual potential.

By acting today

Tomorrow Today is involved in community philanthropy

– making it easy for people to give their time, money and skills in a way that will have a lasting impact on the community they care about.

We develop strong partnerships with local businesses, organisations, clubs and service groups, to work together in a 'whole-of-community' approach to address deep community challenges. With the active support of funders from beyond Benalla, as well as the preparedness of local organisations and groups to share and contribute their resources, we undertake a significant number of activities that span family, community and school life.

Together, we are making a difference.



Chair's Report

The beauty of an independent community foundation like Tomorrow Today is that it is local – created and managed by community members purely for local community benefit. It brings people together to respond to local issues and gives them a voice in shaping the community's future. Strong local governance allows a community foundation to be nimble in response to unforeseen circumstances.

In the uncharted territory of a global pandemic, Tomorrow Today has been able to adapt quickly to the needs in our community.

Systems were swiftly put in place to ensure our staff and volunteers were safe, supported and learning the new skills required in a changed world. Feedback sought through our networks, combined with research on the effects of previous pandemics, informed our priorities.

The positive, can-do attitude of our staff has shone brightly as they have found new ways of supporting children, young people and families. My thanks to all our staff for their dedication and care. Special thanks to Pat Claridge who we farewelled after nine years of outstanding service and to our new Executive Officer, Rosie Koop, who stepped into the role in February. Rosie has provided invaluable leadership at this challenging time.

Addressing the root cause of disadvantage, by improving the educational outcomes of Benalla's young people, remains our major focus. Children in socially disadvantaged communities, like Benalla, have much lower levels of educational achievement. This perpetuates the cycle of disadvantage. Achieving

success in education is not the sole responsibility of our schools. Learning within family and community settings also plays a critical role in childhood development, wellbeing and aspiration. It is in these environments that children learn many of the skills needed for success. Our Education Benalla Program includes multiple projects across these three environments – family, school and community life.

Community collaboration is the cornerstone of the Program. The preparedness of local organisations and groups to work together and share resources, ensures that local children and young people have the chance to thrive. As Program Convenor Liz Chapman OAM reports, 'our community's focus on healthy child development and improving educational outcomes is second to none'. This has never been more important, with additional effort now essential to combat the negative impacts of COVID-19. As well as extensive local support, philanthropic partners from beyond Benalla actively collaborate and provide critical financial assistance. Thank you to all.

Three years after purchasing our Nunn Street property, Tomorrow Today continues to enjoy the transformational impact of 'home' ownership; a



We farewelled Executive Officer Pat Claridge in February 2020, celebrating her remarkable contribution to our community.

guaranteed base for our operations plus an income stream from leased offices. This year we were very pleased to add a 10.5 kW solar system to a growing list of property improvements. We have exceeded our targets for property equity and net rental income thanks to tremendous community support. Our Property Appeal raised \$320,000 between May 2017 and June 2020, well above our seemingly ambitious target of \$250,000! Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped to provide a secure future for Tomorrow Today.

In November 2019 the Friends of Tomorrow Today held their first major fundraiser. The resulting Open Garden and raffle were a credit to the dedicated organising committee and volunteers who helped in so many ways. It was a wonderful weekend enjoyed by all, with the proceeds supporting the work of the Foundation.

I would like to thank the community members of our Audit and Finance & Investment committees. The latter committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board regarding investment strategies and suitable professional advisers for the Community Fund corpus. A thorough review of our

Investment Policy was undertaken this year, including the integration of socially responsible investment principles.

Tomorrow Today is governed by a skills-based Board of directors offering a diverse range of expertise, experience and local knowledge. We were pleased to welcome Marsha Watson to the Board this year. Marsha is a local pharmacist, business owner and active community member who, like all our directors, is deeply committed to Benalla and district's future.

With the COVID-19 pandemic changing so much in our world, the benefits of a local community foundation are clearer than ever before. Our annual report demonstrates the multiple tangible ways that Tomorrow Today is benefitting the Benalla and district community.

Sally Gamble
Chair



Executive Officer's Report

In September 2018 I had the good fortune to hear Liz Chapman speak to a group of regional leaders about Tomorrow Today's Education Benalla Program. Liz's presentation was an eloquent blend of stories, research and data – and I was staggered. Here, in my own community, was a highly strategic community organisation, using rigorous research to develop their activities and programs, and making positive, lasting change – and I knew almost nothing about them!

As is so often the case, once my interest was piqued, I saw and heard the name Tomorrow Today everywhere. When, eighteen months later, a friend mentioned that Pat Claridge was retiring from her role as Executive Officer, I followed the signs and put my hand up for the role.

That was February this year. Tomorrow Today had a fresh round of community grant applications before us for consideration and 22 educational projects and activities planned for the year ahead. Our energetic volunteer group, the Friends of Tomorrow Today, met in early March to brainstorm fundraising events and plan a whole of community celebration to mark the 10-year anniversary of the Education Benalla Program. There was talk of music and storytelling, a float in the street parade, and much more.

Then COVID-19 arrived and changed the way that we all live.

Strong, resilient communities are connected. The challenge posed by COVID is how do we stay

connected when we cannot meet face to face, hold community events and reach out to our vulnerable? At Tomorrow Today we've had to think laterally, go back to basics and also learn new skills. We've had to change the way we deliver our programs, offering one on one support via phone calls. We've learnt to use Zoom to deliver song time and stories to children online and to pre-record chats with local and national parenting and child development experts. We've learnt how to connect mentors and mentees via Zoom and Facebook for virtual cooking, games and career chats. And our wonderful volunteer Reading Buddies have embraced the challenge of using Skype to assist primary school children with their reading. We've used online delivery to help us reach more people, quickly, and know that truly meaningful support in times of greatest need requires one on one assistance such as phone calls and home visits.

It has been wonderful to see our staff and volunteers adapt to the challenges posed by COVID. They are full of energy and purpose.



Over 80% of local families with young children attend at least one term of PEEP. Our story and song-times continue to be a fixture in the lives of Benalla's children and families.

Whilst our delivery model has changed, our focus as an organisation has remained the same. We are still committed to connecting people, resources and ideas to create a brighter future for Benalla. We are still working with families, schools and the broader community to support our children and young people to achieve their potential in school, work and life. We have the same destination in our sights, but we've taken a necessary side step. This side step is imperative because there is a very real risk that the gains made in Benalla to date will be lost without concerted, collaborative effort.

One of the projects that we've been working on during the COVID period is our new communications strategy. I've heard people glowingly refer to Tomorrow Today as one of the region's best-kept secrets. This is not a title we intend to keep. Telling our story is vital. It draws participants to our programs, locals to volunteer roles, funding partners to our aid. It enables us to keep working with our community, building hope and trust. Community collaboration

is at the heart of everything we do at Tomorrow Today and we hope you'll notice this in our new communications tagline:

'Benalla. Stronger together.'

Nothing could be more true at the moment.

Rosie Koop

Executive Officer



Investment in our community continues to bear fruit – and vegetables! Benalla Central Community Garden was established with the support of a Tomorrow Today grant. In the challenging circumstances of 2020 produce from the garden was delivered to local people at their homes.

Benalla's Community Fund

Local giving for local benefit

Tomorrow Today makes it easy for donors to give locally to support the Benalla and district community

Donations to the Community Fund are pooled and invested for local benefit. Income from the Fund is used to provide community grants that help create a stronger and more resilient community. Because the initial donation is kept in the fund, each gift keeps giving year after year

Over \$1.2 million is held in this perpetual fund for Benalla and District.

Named Funds

Donors can choose to establish a Named Fund to give ongoing support to a particular charitable cause that's important to them. These special accounts within the Community Fund are managed by Tomorrow Today to track donations and grants for a particular donor or cause.

Current Named Funds that are benefiting our community:

- **Education Fund** – which supports young people whose educational opportunities are limited by disadvantage.
- **Kingston Smith Memorial Fund** – established in memory of local toddler Kingston Smith. The Fund supports early intervention programs that enhance the education, health and welfare of young children in need.
- **Lonsdale Fund** – which supports young people whose opportunities are limited by alcohol and/or drug dependency within the family unit.

Further support for the Community Fund generally, or any of these Named Funds, is welcome at any time.



Enjoying reading at home: Our new PEEP Reading Bears take early literacy skills learned at PEEP back to family homes. Every PEEP group has their own Reading Bear. Each week one family from each group takes their bear home and reads to it during family story time. A journal is provided so families can enter in the titles of the books shared with the bear.

This initiative was supported by the Kingston Smith Memorial Fund. The Kingston Smith Memorial Fund also supported our new Kinder Pals program.

Supporting our Community

In 2019-20 financial year Tomorrow Today distributed over **\$57,000** in grants to groups, families and individuals across Benalla and district.

Support for children and young people in families experiencing financial hardship

- **Education** – 32 local children and young people were supported to participate in school and learning, including four Year 12 Scholarships, thanks to the Education and Lonsdale Funds.
\$13,142
- **Sports and Hobbies** – 75 local children and young people were supported to participate in community activities, funded by philanthropic grants and local donations.
\$7,707
- **FRRR Back to School vouchers** – 395 x \$50 Back to School vouchers were distributed to local families thanks to support from FRRR and local donations.
\$19,750

Support for groups and organisations

- **Community Grants program** – a range of local projects are supported each year (detailed on the following pages) funded by income from the Community Fund.
\$16,611



Executive Officer Rosie Koop (right) visits Ride Avenue Preschool, where a new sensory garden will be built for children, with the support of a Tomorrow Today grant.

Support for local projects

In 2019-20 Tomorrow Today distributed \$16,611 in grants to local projects.

Our Annual Grants program provides funding for community groups and organisations to deliver projects that will build skills, strength and resilience in Benalla. Grants of up to \$5,000 are awarded, generally in May each year.

Stepping Stones Grants offer additional flexibility, with up to \$1,000 funding available for community projects throughout the year.

The focus areas for all Tomorrow Today grants align with two major themes:

Building a stronger, more connected community through projects that fit one or more of these objectives:

- Addressing social disadvantage
- Promoting inclusion and increasing involvement in community
- Embracing community diversity

Improving social and educational outcomes for Benalla's children and young people through projects that fit one or more of these objectives:

- Ensuring all Benalla children start school ready to learn
- Improving literacy and numeracy
- Increasing student wellbeing
- Improving student knowledge of careers and career pathways
- Building student aspiration

During 2019-20, six projects were funded through the Annual Grants program, two being jointly funded with Benalla Rural City Council. Three Stepping Stones grants were awarded.

Benalla and District Preschool Partnership STEM EQUIPMENT

\$1,000 - Priority areas: Ensuring all children start school ready to learn; Improving literacy and numeracy

Bernard Briggs Kindergarten recognises that the rapidly changing and increasingly complex nature of modern technology means that children need to be both innovative and adaptable. It is well recognised that STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education in early childhood sets children up for the careers of the future, encouraging experimentation, innovation and teamwork, and building resilience, creativity and communication skills. Tomorrow Today's grant was used to purchase STEM 'learn through play' equipment for the kindergarten's children.

Ride Avenue Pre-School JOLLY LEARNERS

\$3,521 - Priority areas: Ensuring all children start school ready to learn; Improving literacy and numeracy

The Ride Avenue Pre-School curriculum is designed to lay the foundations for ongoing learning. This grant allowed them to purchase a number of additional learning and developmental aids that promote pre-literacy, literacy and numeracy, and contribute to more inclusive practices for children with additional needs. It also funded building materials, specialist equipment and plants for a sensory garden, to provide a calm, safe, and engaging area for pre-schoolers and their families.

Benalla Flexible Learning Centre EQUINE THERAPY GROUPS

\$5,000 - Priority areas: Improving student wellbeing; Building student aspiration

Benalla Flexible Learning Centre works with young people who have previously disengaged from school, to help them reengage with their education in a flexible and supported learning environment. There is often a need to build the trust, skills and self-confidence of students before they are able to resume their learning journey. This grant from Tomorrow Today is funding fees and transport for ten students to attend The Wellbeing Paddock, an equine-assisted program based in Mansfield. Working with horses has been shown to help build confidence, improve

mental and physical health, and develop practical and social skills. The program focuses on reducing stress and increasing the ability of students to cope with the challenges they face in everyday life.

FCJ College LET'S FIND OUR VOICE

\$2,500 - Priority areas: Improving student wellbeing; Promoting inclusion and increasing involvement in community

This very successful project brings together the young and the elderly in our community through storytelling and song. Selected FCJ College Year 10 students meet with residents from Coinda Aged Care Home, to learn about their lives and write their stories. As well as improving their literacy and communication skills, the students discover the talents, successes, strength and resilience of these senior Benalla citizens, developing close bonds and cultivating kindness.

In addition, Year 7 students join with Coinda residents to prepare a musical concert, meeting together regularly to learn and practice songs and plan for the event. The program fosters community connection and has significant health and psychological benefits for both young and old. Funding is used to provide student transport, venue hire and a video to record the event.

Benalla Library PURCHASE OF ROBOTICS EQUIPMENT

\$2,190 - Priority areas: Improving student knowledge of careers and career pathways; Building student aspiration

At school, girls do as well – or even better than – boys in maths and science subjects. However, women make up only 25% of the workforce in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) industries. Benalla Library is working to raise the aspirations of girls in the Benalla community to pursue careers in these fields. Tomorrow Today's grant funded the purchase of robotics equipment to use in workshops for girls aged 11 to 16. The equipment will enable girls in Benalla to work hands-on with robotics and technology. In conjunction with this hands-on experience, the workshops offer information and resources that shine the spotlight on women working in STEM fields and the pathways to those careers.

Benalla P-12 College – Stepping Stones Grant INTERVIEW2IMPRESS

\$800 - Priority areas: Improving student knowledge of careers and career pathways; Building student aspiration

Interview2Impress is a half-day program designed to equip students with the practical skills needed to engage in employment options beyond school. This grant covered the travel costs for 18 Year 10 students to attend KPMG in Melbourne to experience realistic interview scenarios in a corporate environment. The sessions, coordinated by the Australian Business and Community Network, allowed students to practice the theory they learn at school. Students also gain valuable job interview experience with mentors, who provide feedback and advice based on their own professional experiences.

Global Sisters

SISTER TRIBE EDUCATION MEET-UPS

In-kind support - Priority areas: Addressing social disadvantage; Promoting inclusion and increasing involvement in the community; Embracing community diversity

Global Sisters supports women to become financially independent through business. The charity works to improve the economic situation of women by preventing and breaking the cycle of family-based poverty. Their education meet-ups support single mothers and women over 50 to develop the skills, connections and the experience needed to turn potential business ideas into profitable businesses. In Benalla, Global Sisters' monthly face-to-face meet-ups, and their brainstorming workshops to help flesh out 'My Big Ideas', take place at Tomorrow Today's meeting room in Nunn Street – a quiet and safe space. This grant of in-kind support includes free room hire and the provision of childcare by our Early Years staff, valued at up to \$1,500.

Benalla P-12 College – Stepping Stones Grant VICTORIAN SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE

\$600 - Priority areas: Promoting inclusion and increasing involvement in the community; Increasing student wellbeing; Building student aspiration;

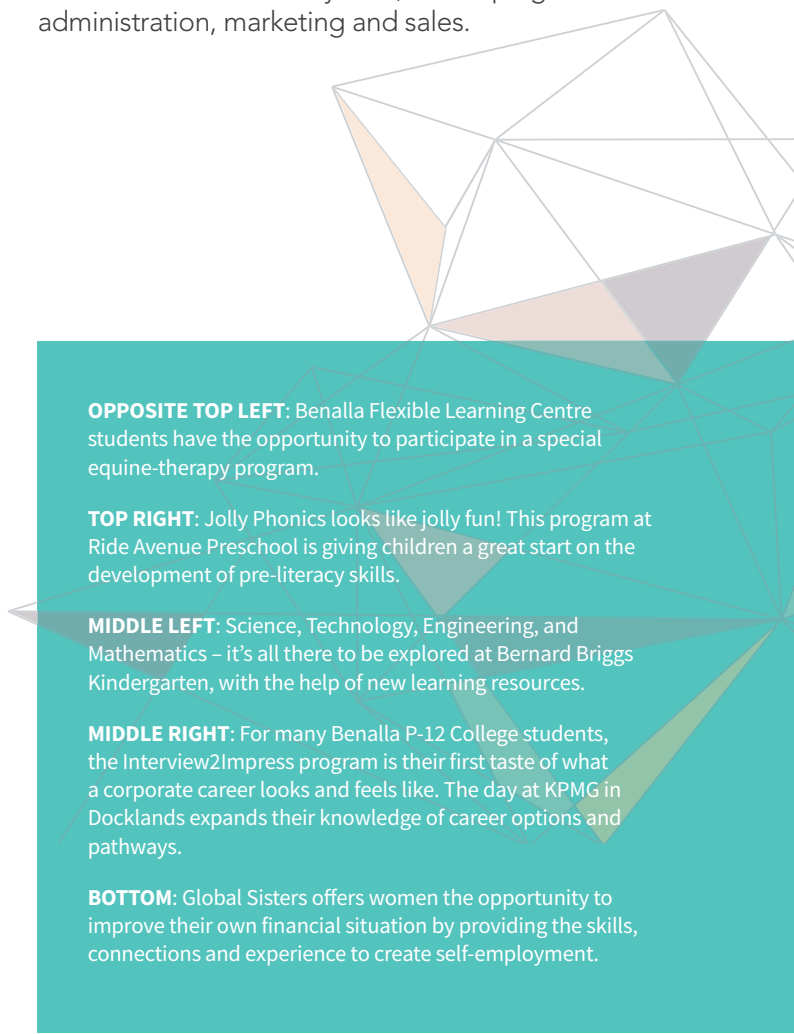
Benalla P-12 College's music program offers students the opportunity of a rich musical education. This grant assisted in meeting transport and participation costs to enable all music students to attend the

Victorian School Music Festival Performance. Students performed at the Hawthorn Arts Centre, one of Victoria's premier performing spaces. Feedback on their performance from a highly skilled adjudicator, as well as the opportunity to watch performances by students from all over Victoria, proved highly valuable in developing skills, resilience and creative collaboration.

North East Artisans – Stepping Stones Grant VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATION AND TRAINING

\$1,000 - Priority area: Promoting inclusion and increasing involvement in community

North East Artisans (NEA) is an inclusive Benalla-based arts organisation committed to creating a thriving local arts community in North East Victoria. Operating under a cooperative model, it provides a support network for local creatives and showcases local work in its gallery shop. This grant assisted in the purchase of a custom-built computer system to meet the current and future needs of NEA. Volunteers are trained to use the new system, developing skills in administration, marketing and sales.



OPPOSITE TOP LEFT: Benalla Flexible Learning Centre students have the opportunity to participate in a special equine-therapy program.

TOP RIGHT: Jolly Phonics looks like jolly fun! This program at Ride Avenue Preschool is giving children a great start on the development of pre-literacy skills.

MIDDLE LEFT: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics – it's all there to be explored at Bernard Briggs Kindergarten, with the help of new learning resources.

MIDDLE RIGHT: For many Benalla P-12 College students, the Interview2Impress program is their first taste of what a corporate career looks and feels like. The day at KPMG in Docklands expands their knowledge of career options and pathways.

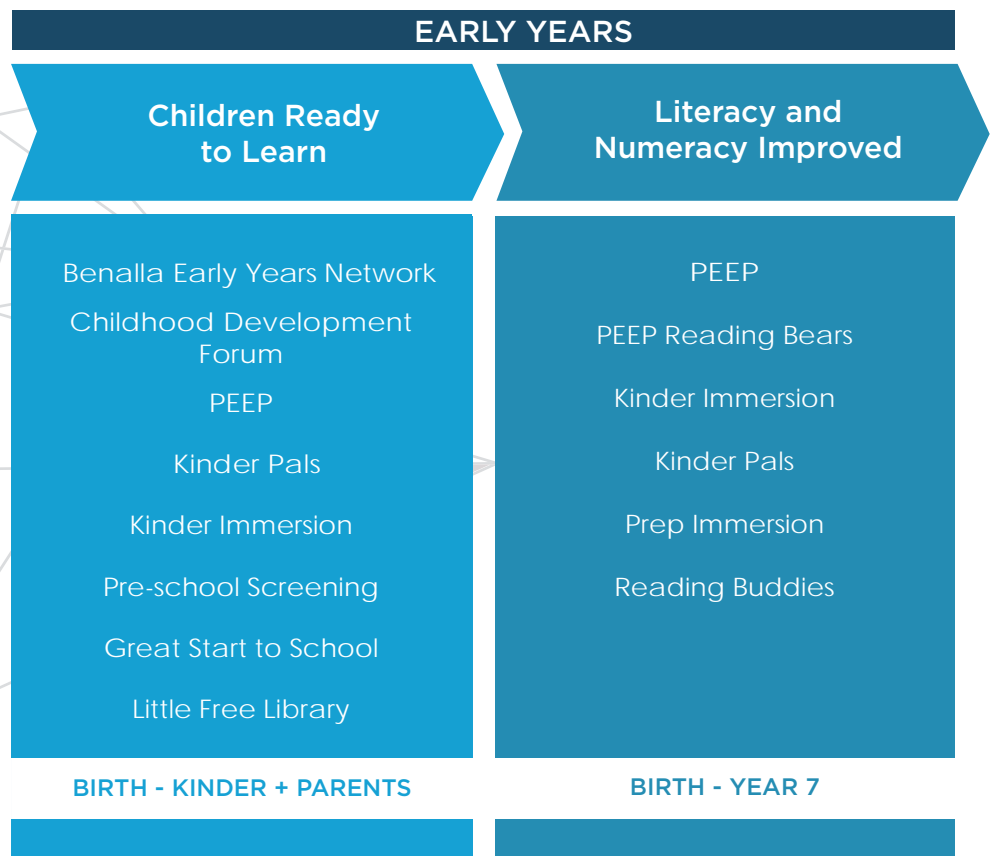
BOTTOM: Global Sisters offers women the opportunity to improve their own financial situation by providing the skills, connections and experience to create self-employment.



The Education Benalla Program

An ambitious community-led approach to addressing disadvantage in Benalla and district by improving educational outcomes for Benalla's young people.

Working with families, schools and the community it gives Benalla's children every chance to prosper in life.



RAISING COMMUNITY

Tomorrow Today also provides funding and staff support to many other projects run by partnering schools, clubs and agencies.



FUTURE WORK

Student Wellbeing Improved

Skilled for Future Work

Transition to Tertiary or Training

Increasing Participation of Young People

Individual Funding Assistance

FRRR Back to School Vouchers

Climate Schools Program

Live4Life

Connect9 Mentoring

KINDER - YEAR 12

Connect9 Mentoring
Digital Literacy Program

Girls STEAM Workshop

Discovery Workshop

Hands On Learning

Great Start To Work

Year 10 Careers Day

Interview2Impress

Increasing work placement opportunities

YEAR 5 - 12 + PARENTS

Year 10 Career Plan Workshops

Year 10 Careers Day

Parents as Career Transition Support

Year 12 Scholarships

Tertiary Student Placements

YEAR 9 - 12 + PARENTS

ASPIRATION FOR BENALLA'S YOUNG PEOPLE



Education Benalla Program

The Education Benalla Program is a Tomorrow Today initiative that works across the whole community to measurably and sustainably improve child development and educational outcomes. It is a long term intervention, and 2020 marks the first ten years of implementation. As you will see on the following pages, the Program consists of multiple, coordinated and complementary projects and activities.

The Education Benalla Program is supported by 140 organisations to ensure that:

- every Benalla child starts school ready to learn,
- numeracy and literacy is measurably improved,
- student wellbeing is improved, and
- community expectations for children's education are raised.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made this a year like no other. The health risks have required a government-dictated shut down with a resulting economic recession. Vulnerable children bear the brunt of interrupted education and parental job loss. Whilst we knew back in 2010 that the Program was benefitting many families, it wasn't until more recently that statistically significant population-level changes started coming through. It is too soon to expect that these improvements are sufficiently embedded to withstand the numerous negative effects brought about as a result of COVID-19. In fact experiences elsewhere show that it can be predicted that Benalla's most vulnerable families will increasingly become more marginalised and not participate in school or other activities outside the home. If these predictions were allowed to eventuate, achievements made in Benalla to date would slip away.

As Benalla's independent community foundation, we are able to shift the design of our activities to fit

the prevailing conditions. With our desired outcome still firmly writ — that our children's education and training completion rates improve to equal or exceed the state average — we have taken a side step to meet the urgent needs of families during the COVID crisis. Children and their families are being supported in a number of new ways. With additional financial resourcing from some wonderful donors and philanthropic partners we have been able to respond to keep families connected; to provide support to nurture safe and caring home environments where children's development can thrive; to provide practical assistance, and to provide opportunity for young people's voices to be heard, valued and integrated into community recovery from COVID-19.

Much more can be done and will need to be done to get back on track post this current lockdown. Please help if you can by volunteering to use your skills and experience, or by making a donation. I expect that our timeline for seeing sustained change in children's educational outcomes will need to be extended, but our commitment is as strong as ever and we will achieve the full promise of the Education Benalla Program.

Fortunately, despite the challenges facing our community, Benalla has shown that it can work together. Organisational partners including schools, health services, clubs, businesses and Benalla Rural



City perform small miracles week in and week out. Our community's focus on healthy child development and improving educational outcomes is second to none.

Adaptability is being discussed (amongst other attributes) as essential. Our staff and many of our volunteers have been extraordinary during this changeable and difficult time and I thank them for the enormous load they have shouldered these past several months.

Liz Chapman OAM

**Convenor – Education Benalla Program
Board Director**

PHOTO: More than 100 people gathered at Benalla's Lakeside Centre for Tomorrow Today's Annual Celebration. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear stories of achievement and change.

Left to right — Tomorrow Today Executive Officer Pat Claridge (retired), Education Benalla Program Manager Sally Matheson, Lorraine Griffiths (June Canavan Foundation), Meghan Weekes (Senior Program Manager, The RE Ross Trust), Tomorrow Today Board Directors Georgina Burston, Liz Chapman OAM, Florent Thivillier, Sally Gamble (Board Chair), Nick Taylor and Melinda Lawley; and Dr. Alberto Furlan (Senior Program Manager, The Ian Potter Foundation).

Overview

We work with parents, families, preschools, schools and an extensive network of business and community partners to improve children's development, literacy and numeracy, school retention and future work opportunities.

From the earliest ages and stages we work with families through multiple activities to prepare children for school and ensure they are 'ready to learn'. As children move through school, we offer assistance, providing funding for school and social needs to ensure equal access to educational and community activities. From Grade 5/6 through secondary school, students are supported by our Future Work activities to strengthen aspiration, literacy, engagement in learning, confidence, and "employability" skills; to set up our young people to enjoy happy, healthy and successful lives.

The following pages report on the multiple projects and activities that form the Education Benalla Program.

PEEP

(Parents Early Education Partnership)

PEEP is a facilitated group program run by Tomorrow Today that values and supports the key role parents play as their child's first and most important educator. At PEEP, parents and children experience the joy of sharing songs, books and rhymes, together at the start of each session. Children then participate in stimulating pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and oral language activities overseen by Tomorrow Today staff and trained volunteers. Their parents engage in facilitated discussions about child health and development, informed by evidence-based parenting research from sources such as the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY).

Participation in PEEP is free and open to all families living in Benalla and surrounds. Families commit to at least ten weeks of the program, and are encouraged to continue attending until their children start kinder. When needed, families are given taxi vouchers and bus passes to assist them to attend. The program is well-known within the community, but also receives referrals of new families from Benalla's Maternal and Child Health service, Family Services, local preschools and schools.

Throughout the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tomorrow Today's staff maintained contact with PEEP families, via regular phone calls, text messages and social media. PEEP sessions were held online, featuring songs, stories and parent talk times. Learning support and parent education continued with local and national parenting experts giving freely of their time to provide tips and advice to Benalla families. We are particularly grateful to Dr Justin Coulson, Jay Laga'aia, North East Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Benalla Rural City Council Maternal and Child Health and Family Services for their input.

PEEP was one of three finalists in the Supporting Parents through Evidence-Based Practice category in the 2019 Victorian Early Years Awards.

217

FAMILIES WITH **281** CHILDREN ATTENDED AT LEAST ONE TERM OF PEEP

13

PEEP GROUPS BEING DELIVERED EACH WEEK BETWEEN JULY 2019 AND MARCH 2020

233

VOLUNTEERS HOURS GIVEN BY **11** VOLUNTEERS

33

PROFESSIONAL HOURS GIVEN BY **9** COMMUNITY PARTNERS

"We have loved meeting other families and have found PEEP very helpful in linking in with various services available in Benalla."

"Staff genuinely care about all families and their children which is something really special."

"My children love it! Great for social and listening skills!"



Despite not being able to meet face-to-face, our Early Years team maintained connection with children and families, using alternate technologies, and still shared plenty of stories.



Children graduated from PEEP at the end of 2019, ready to start school.

PEEP Home Visits

When families are unable to attend PEEP due to geographical isolation, health or accessibility issues, we offer PEEP home visits. This service, delivered to families in their own home, provides them with reassurance and support in fostering their children's development.

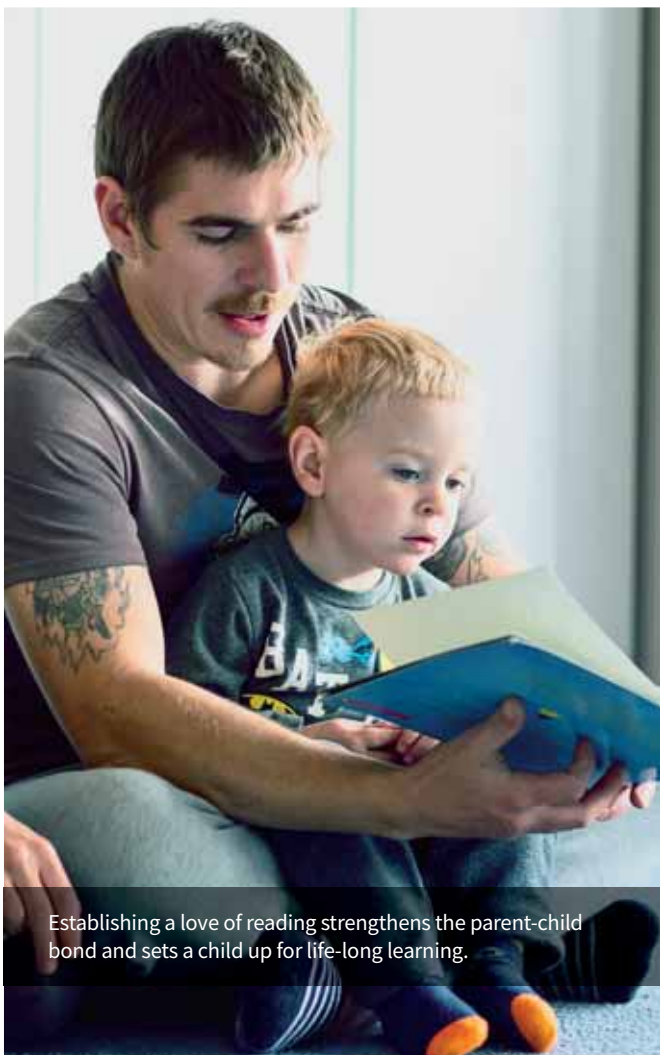
PEEP home visits were temporarily suspended in March 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Phone and text message contact was maintained with all families during this time.

28

HOME VISITS MADE TO 6
FAMILIES WITH 17 CHILDREN

4

FAMILIES HAVE SINCE BEGUN
ATTENDING REGULAR PEEP
SESSIONS



Establishing a love of reading strengthens the parent-child bond and sets a child up for life-long learning.

2019 Childhood Development Forum

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide data collection that measures five domains of early childhood development to assess how children are progressing as they start their first year of full-time school.

In 2015, 32.9% of Benalla and district's children were assessed as developmentally vulnerable on one or more of the AEDC domains – the highest (worst) proportion of any of the 79 local government areas in Victoria.

The AEDC data for 2018, released in March 2019, showed that the same measure had reduced significantly – from 32.9% to 23.5%. Benalla was one of the top four most-improved local government areas in the state, a commendable result. Tomorrow Today's PEEP program has been running weekly in Benalla since October 2012 and is credited with playing an important role in the area's dramatic reduction in levels of child vulnerability and improvement in percentage of children developmentally 'on track'.

To celebrate and build on the success of these AEDC results, Tomorrow Today partnered with the Department of Education and Training and

Benalla Rural City Council to fund and coordinate a community forum. Benalla's preschools, schools, local and state government departments, health and welfare services and community groups came together in August 2019, to share information and ideas to guide the next stage of development of the Benalla Early Years Network Strategic Plan. The strategic plan focuses on improving language and communication skills, physical health and wellbeing, and the social and emotional development of Benalla's young children. The network acknowledges that providing quality parent education is vital, so that families are empowered to assist their children's development.

58

EARLY YEARS PROFESSIONALS FROM ...

23

ORGANISATIONS ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY FORUM TO INFORM THE NEXT STAGE OF THE BENALLA EARLY YEARS NETWORK

Kinder Immersion

Kinder Immersion was offered to children attending preschool in 2019 who had been identified by their pre-school teachers as not being academically or socially 'ready' to commence school in 2020. The program, developed and delivered by Tomorrow Today and run in conjunction with normal kinder sessions, utilises a play-based curriculum designed to enhance children's pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and oral language skills.

Children who participated were assessed before and after the program was implemented. A 'control group' of children who did not participate in the program was also assessed.

Children participating in the Kinder Immersion program showed accelerated growth in their sound-letter knowledge, their ability to identify numbers and their knowledge of how books 'work'.

19

CHILDREN AT ...

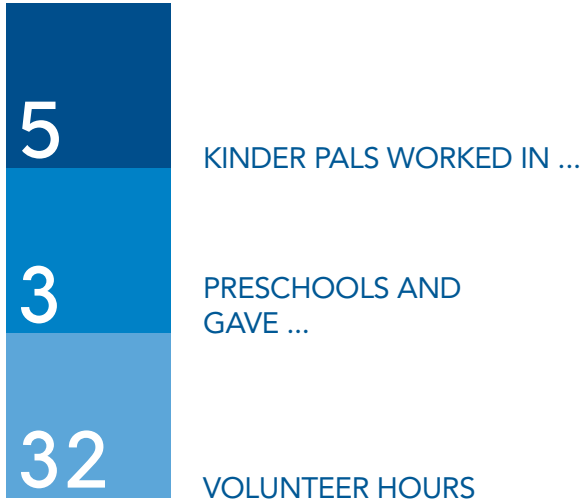
3

PRESCHOOLS COMPLETED THE 90-MINUTE X 6-WEEK PROGRAM

Kinder Pals

Kinder Pals, a new program aimed at improving school readiness, was trialled by Tomorrow Today between October 2019 and March 2020. Kinder Pals are trained volunteers who work with children either one-on-one or in small groups within the preschool setting. The volunteers expand children’s language skills by reading to them, questioning, and engaging in story retelling, picture description and rich conversation. The program has currently been suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“The children love to hear stories that our Kinder Pal reads. She makes all the funny voices and the books come alive.”
Ride Ave Preschool teacher



Preschool Screening

At the beginning of the 2020 preschool year, Tomorrow Today offered pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and oral language screening for 4-year old children attending local preschools. Parents were provided with their child’s results and tips to enhance their skills through everyday activities at home. The preschool teachers were provided with play-based resources and activities to implement in their classroom settings

“You make such a difference for the work that we do with our children. We really appreciate how you help us.”
Preschool teacher



Great Start to School

Tomorrow Today recognises the important role parents play in helping their child transition from preschool to school. Great Start to School supports families to ensure that starting school is a positive experience for parents and children. The four-week program is run in partnership with Benalla P-12 College and held at the school. It focuses on different aspects of school readiness including the importance of morning and bedtime routines, arriving at school on time, strategies to facilitate physical and emotional independence, and activities to help develop pre-

literacy and pre-numeracy skills. Children and parents have an opportunity to get to know the school and staff before school commencement.

51

CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENT/CARERS PARTICIPATED

Little Free Library

Benalla's Little Free Library encourages children to take a book, read it, and keep it or swap it for another. Tomorrow Today stocks and maintains the book houses, which have become a popular fixture at several locations around town, including the Benalla Railway Station, Benalla YMCA, Benalla Carrier Street

Clinic, Waminda Community House and the PEEP room. Books are donated by the Benalla Library, local op shops and community donors. In 2020 the book houses were temporarily removed from circulation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Reading Buddies

Reading Buddy volunteers provide much-valued support to the Year One and Two Literacy Programs at the Avon and Waller Street Campuses of Benalla P-12 College. Buddies develop caring and trusting relationships with their students and make a significant difference to their learning, self-esteem and confidence.

Before commencing, volunteer Buddies are trained in literacy development and how to reinforce the phonological strategies taught in the Jolly Phonics program. Students practice their reading skills with a Reading Buddy up to three times each week. They also enjoy being read to and engage in rich discussions about books by authors such as Pamela Allen and Roald Dahl.

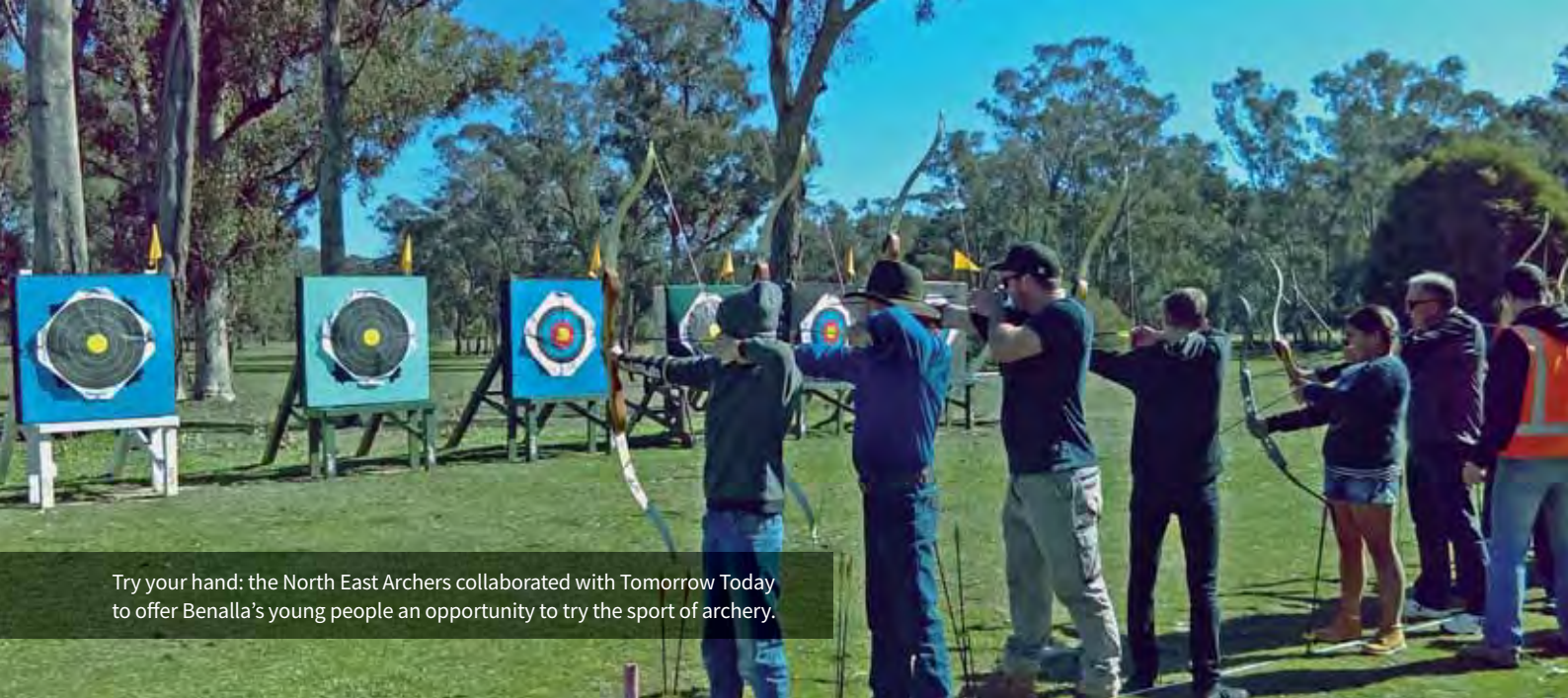
During the COVID-19 pandemic, volunteers were unable to participate in face-to-face sessions in the schools. These restrictions did not stop our committed Buddies! They continued to engage students in literacy activities via telephone calls and Skype conferencing.



“Yesterday I rang my student and listened to him read. He did very well. He likes animals, so I sent him a little video clip about elephants. He loved it and read me a book about building a zoo. Some big words, but he read fluently, no stumbling or hesitation. I’m really enjoying it.”

Reading Buddy conducting sessions via telephone





Try your hand: the North East Archers collaborated with Tomorrow Today to offer Benalla's young people an opportunity to try the sport of archery.

Increasing Participation of Young People

Participating in a sport or recreational activity after school hours improves young people's health and wellbeing, helps them develop life skills, and keeps them engaged with school and learning.

Families with a pension or health care card were offered financial assistance to enable their children to join local clubs.

Unfortunately, the 'Come and Try' day planned for March, where local children could try out many activities in the one location, had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

75

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED 79 TIMES TO JOIN ...

17

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

16

CHILDREN WERE NEW TO THE SPORT OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY

Individual Funding Assistance

For many of Benalla's children and young people, educational opportunities are severely restricted by financial and social disadvantage. The generosity of local donors enables Tomorrow Today to provide financial assistance to enable children and young people to participate in a wide range of school and community activities.

This year families experiencing financial disadvantage have been assisted with funding for bus passes, spectacles, course fees, school camps, educational equipment and fees for special educational settings.

28

CHILDREN WERE ASSISTED ON 29 OCCASIONS

7

AGENCIES REFERRED YOUNG PEOPLE FOR ASSISTANCE

Climate Schools Program

Tomorrow Today received funding from a local family to deliver a drug and alcohol awareness program for local students. The program chosen was the Climate Schools Program, an online animated course to help students make positive and informed choices. Modules address health and personal development with a particular focus on mental health and wellbeing.

FCJ College implemented the Climate Schools program with their Year 8 and Year 10 cohort. Feedback indicated students were responding extremely positively to the messages and loved the interactive side of the program.

Students were able to problem solve a number of scenarios around 'what to do' if put into a hazardous situation e.g. being offered alcohol or cannabis at a party. The program ignited a lot of discussion regarding their own risky behaviours and that of others.

103

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM

FRRR Back to School Vouchers

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Back to School Program makes a real difference in the lives of local children. Families in need, who have school-aged children, can receive one or more \$50 gift vouchers to be used at Target or school uniform shops. Families use the vouchers to purchase items such as school uniforms, clothing, shoes, school bags and stationery items necessary to engage and participate at school.

Tomorrow Today has been participating in the program since its inception in 2005, securing vouchers annually from FRRR, raising money from local donations to purchase extra vouchers, and collating

the vouchers and delivering them to local schools for distribution to families.

This year FRRR awarded Tomorrow Today \$15,000 in vouchers. Through FRRR's matched funding scheme, \$2,250 in local donations, including the proceeds of Benalla Rose City Band's annual concert, resulted in a further \$4,500 worth of vouchers for Benalla families. Five additional vouchers were donated by a school uniform supplier.

11

BENALLA AND DISTRICT SCHOOLS RECEIVED ...

395

VOUCHERS TOTTALLING ...

\$19,750

“On behalf of St. Joseph’s families and the wellbeing team, we admire and appreciate the work and assistance of the Tomorrow Today Foundation within our school community. Your foundation has very much become a part of our school family.”

Welfare Coordinator, St Joseph’s PS



At the end of each Connect9 program, participants take a glider flight over Benalla, then celebrate their achievements at a BBQ with their mentors and families.

Connect9

Mentoring programs have been shown to have positive impacts on academic, behavioural, emotional, and social areas of young people's lives. Connect9 is a mentoring program developed by Tomorrow Today specifically for Benalla's young people.

In Connect9, Year 9 students are matched with a community mentor who is their 'buddy' throughout the program. With the generous support of local partners, the young people and their mentor are able to connect to new skills and hobbies, people, and experiences, as well as opportunities to explore careers and set life goals.

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Connect9 program moved online. Mentees and mentors participated in activities using Zoom teleconferencing and posted their achievements in a closed Facebook group. With the relaxing of restrictions in May, each pair was able to meet up at a gathering in the Benalla Gardens and enjoy a walk around Lake Benalla.

"I now know there are people in the Benalla community that will help young people."

"There are more opportunities in Benalla than I thought."

"My child is a lot more confident and hasn't hesitated to try new things".

28

YOUNG PEOPLE WERE SUPPORTED BY ...

28

VOLUNTEER MENTORS WHO GAVE ...

605

VOLUNTEER HOURS

23

PARTNERS DONATED VENUES, RESOURCES, TIME AND SKILLS



World at their fingertips: young people participating in the Digital Project explored the skills required and opportunities available in coding. For some students this will be a future work option, for others it represents an opportunity to increase digital literacy, confidence and presentation skills.

Digital Literacy

Tomorrow Today values and respects the voice of young people and their ability to meaningfully contribute to the issues and decisions that affect their lives.

Twenty-seven young people aged 11-16 years participated in a project to find innovative ways of tackling social problems in Benalla.

Seer Data & Analytics guided students through a series of workshops to identify local issues and think creatively about how they could be solved. Following consultation with their peers to identify which issue was most important to them, students worked with Seer and local community leaders to co-design a useable digital solution. Students presented the design concepts to their peers and captured feedback from close to 500 young people on whether they would use the digital tool and what features should be incorporated.

The result was www.funinbenalla.com.au, a website for sports and recreation groups to promote their events and inform the Benalla community what activities are available locally. The students confidently pitched the website to members from local sports and entertainment venues. Unfortunately, the website launch has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

27

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN ...

4

WORKSHOPS WITH INPUT FROM ...

15

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

“I enjoyed learning about coding and seeing the end result.”

“Both of my children have grown in confidence. They have more interest in the community and their part in it.”

“Building skills like working in teams, public speaking, problem solving – all skills/traits that employers want.”

Girls Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics (STEAM) Workshop

Australian girls have one of the lowest rates of STEAM involvement in the Western world, with women continuing to be under-represented in the sectors of science, technology, research and industry. Fewer than one in four positions in the overall sector workforce is held by a woman.

To help turn this around, Tomorrow Today partnered with Benalla Rural City Council, local schools, Charles Sturt University, Galen College VEX Robotic team, Wangaratta Digital Hub, NE Tracks LLEN, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning, Goulburn

Broken Catchment Management Authority, and Global Sisters to host a hands-on workshop to engage girls in robotics and virtual reality activities. This was followed by an engaging panel discussion regarding the career paths of local women engaged in STEAM occupations.

31

GIRLS AGED 11-16 ATTENDED

7

PARENTS ATTENDED



Encouraging interest in STEAM subjects – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics – via an opportunity to experiment with robotics and virtual reality.

Hands on Learning

Hands On Learning caters to the different ways young people learn, and was designed to prevent early school leaving. Two artisan-teachers work with small groups of students on authentic 'hands on' projects that provide a platform for students to engage, grow their self-confidence and achieve success at school. Tomorrow Today provides input and financial support to the program.

Hands-On Learning ran at Benalla P-12 College until the end of the 2019 school year. Students participated in a range of agricultural, construction and catering activities.

80% of students reported an improvement in their ability to solve problems when completing work.

93% of students stated Hands On Learning was the key reason why they have been engaged and motivated to come to school.

36

STUDENTS IN YEAR 7 TO 10 AT BENALLA P-12 COLLEGE ATTENDED THE PROGRAM FOR ONE DAY/WEEK



Our Discovery Workshops, held during the July school holidays, supported Benalla's young people to meet peers from outside their school and hone their communication skills, teamwork and problem solving.

Discovery Workshops

To survive and thrive in the workplace, young people need opportunities to develop problem solving, communication, innovative thinking and team work skills.

Tomorrow Today partnered with People Groups Teams (PGT) to offer workshops to engage young people in exciting and energetic team challenges. The young people, from five different Benalla district schools, quickly assimilated and committed to undertaking the tasks together. The sessions included activities such as constructing a pipeline to roll a ball from point A to point B, solving word puzzles and an energetic team skipping challenge.

21

STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED IN 2 X
5-HOUR WORKSHOPS

“I loved the teamwork challenges and getting a chance to work with other people.”

Increasing work placement opportunities

Tomorrow Today convenes the Benalla Future Work Steering Committee. Members include local secondary schools, local employment providers, NE Tracks LLEN, Benalla Rural City Council, Charles Sturt University (CSU), GOTAFE and Benalla Health. The group meets bi-monthly to plan and implement actions related to fostering young people's career development, increasing take-up of school-based apprenticeships and strengthening community aspiration for our young people.

Activities undertaken this year included funding a motivational coach to assist Year 10 students to develop and review their Career Action Plans, contacting local employers to promote the benefits of work experience and school-based apprenticeships, and securing work placements for young people. Several students were offered a school-based apprenticeship and/or part time work as a result of their work experience placements.

Tomorrow Today partnered with Benalla P-12 College, Ella Goose Restaurant, NE Tracks LLEN and Sarina Russo Apprenticeships to coordinate Certificate III Hospitality training for local students. Thanks to the generous support of local businesses, eight students enrolled in this training and commenced their practical placements at cafes and restaurants across Benalla Rural City.

Tomorrow Today hosted a number of work experience students within our own organisation this year, and is currently employing a school-based apprentice. This Year 12 student is completing a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and works within the PEEP program every Wednesday.

94% OF BENALLA'S YEAR 10 STUDENTS COMPLETED WORK EXPERIENCE IN 2019, COMPARED TO 62% IN 2018



Our successful Great Start to Work program would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses such as Coles.

Year 10 Careers Day

Year 10 students are at a point in their schooling where they face many important life and career decisions. In August 2019, Tomorrow Today once again facilitated the annual Year 10 Careers Day to provide local students with the opportunity to learn about study options, careers and career pathways.

Students engaged in workplace visits to Rose City Veterinary Clinic, Benalla Health, Primal Health Club, D&R Henderson (timber manufacturers), and Schneider Electric (global specialist in energy management). A number of universities presented workshop sessions: CSU's School of Communications and Creative Industries, Wagga; CSU Faculty of Science; La Trobe University School of Engineering. A 'What's It Like at Uni?' workshop was presented by the

University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus and current students from CSU. Workshops were also offered by emergency services and local apprenticeship providers.

The popular 'speedy talks' enabled students to hear from twelve local professionals about their career paths. Students also had the opportunity to hear from past and current students about the benefits of completing a school-based apprenticeship. One motivated student secured a work experience placement after visiting D&R Henderson as part of the workplace visits. Several students reconsidered and changed their work experience plans after learning about other career options.

141

STUDENTS ATTENDED FROM 4 SCHOOLS AND THE HOME SCHOOLING NETWORK

33

AGENCIES AND EMPLOYERS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON MORE THAN ...

120

CAREER PATHS



'Speedy talks' are a highlight of the annual Year 10 Careers Day: students hear first-hand about a wide range of careers. Here, students listen intently to a presentation from the Australian Defence Force.



The Benalla CFA ran an interactive workshop to give students insight into the demands of firefighting.



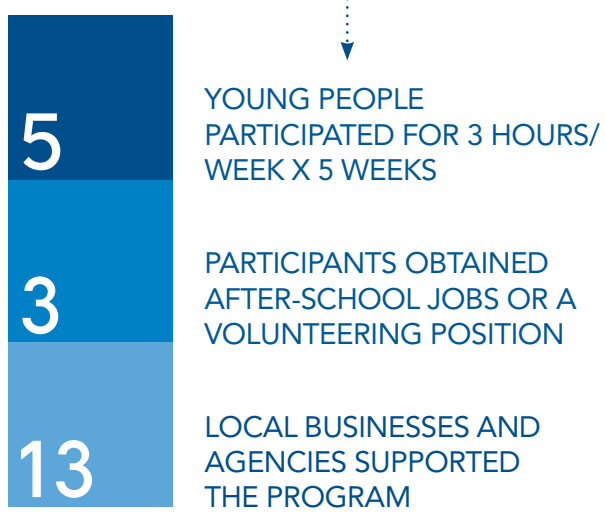
FCJ College students immersed themselves in a science workshop run by Charles Sturt University on our Careers Day.



Great Start to Work equips young people with terrific skills for part-time jobs during high school. Our 2019 graduates proudly shared their achievement with family and friends.

Great Start to Work

Paid part time work provides young people with an insight into future jobs as well as the chance to learn important financial, work and life skills. The Great Start to Work program enables students to learn from local business people about employer expectations, work safety issues, employee roles, and rights and responsibilities in the workplace. The opportunity to participate in mock job interviews is a highlight of the program.



Parents as Career Transition Support (PACTS)

Research shows that parents are the most influential factor in the decisions young people make about their future. However, many parents don't have access to up-to-date information and resources to help with career advice. The PACTS workshop provides parents and carers with the latest information on vocational and tertiary study pathways available for young people. Participants hear from careers specialists from GOTAFE, schools and local universities, and learn practical tips to assist in their conversations with young people about careers.



Year 12 Scholarships

The costs involved in transitioning from Year 12 to further study can be a barrier for many young people.

Tomorrow Today awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two students from Benalla P-12 College and two from FCJ College to assist them in pursuing the career of their choice.

The successful students have been accepted into the following courses:

- Bachelor of Marine Science, Deakin University
- Bachelor of Nursing, Charles Sturt University
- Bachelor of Medical Science, Latrobe University Bendigo
- Bachelor of Science, Latrobe University Bundoora.

Live4Life

Tomorrow Today is a partnering agency in the delivery of this suicide prevention program, which empowers rural communities to improve youth mental health. Free mental health training was provided to teachers, parents, community members, service providers and Year 8 and 11 students attending Benalla P-12 College, FCJ College and Benalla Flexible Learning Centre

Tertiary Student Placements

Tomorrow Today hosted four tertiary students for work placements during the year. All students were studying Community Services through GOTAFE or private institutions. It is our pleasure to contribute to their learning and support the community workers and educators of the future.

Obtaining their Construction Induction Card is an important step for students wanting to take on 'hands on' work experience placements.



Directors



Georgina Burston

Georgina is a long-term Benalla and district resident. As her children were growing her career focused on high level executive support and board governance roles in the private and public sector. She has a long history of community volunteering and fundraising, particularly for the Benalla Art Gallery and more recently for other not-for-profit organisations. After many years of study, she is currently expanding her business in the area of clinical yoga therapy. Georgina joined the Board in September 2018.



Liz Chapman OAM

Convenor, Education Benalla Program

Liz's formal qualifications in agriculture and rural development back up more than 20 years of working at a local, regional and national level with private businesses and industry groups, government agencies, regional authorities and community organisations. Liz was the founding director of Tomorrow Today in 2000 and inaugural Chair. Since 2007 she has led the development and implementation of the Education Benalla Program. In 2017 Liz was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to education and to the community.



Patrick Duffy

Patrick grew up on a grazing property at Thoona, his family having farmed in the Benalla district for many generations. Now based in Melbourne, Patrick started his career at Ernst & Young, before spending many years as a senior mining sector executive in Asia and the Pacific. He has experience working with international community development foundations, with a particular focus on education. Patrick retired from the Board in August 2020.



Sally Gamble

Chair

Sally is a founding director of Tomorrow Today, serving as Chair since 2009, and gives significant time in addition to her board role. Over the last twenty years she has contributed to the community through numerous organisations. Sally is currently a member of the Regent Honeyeater Project committee and the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership. She is a Director and Company Secretary of Australian Community Philanthropy and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Melinda Lawley

Melinda has worked with young people throughout her career, initially as a secondary teacher before moving into community and health fields. This trajectory underpins her commitment to working across sectors to enhance outcomes for young people. Melinda has lived in Benalla for 20 years and worked alongside Tomorrow Today for much of this time. She is currently the CEO of a youth welfare organisation in Shepparton and is Chair of the Committee of Management of the Goulburn Murray LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network).



Louise Pearce

Treasurer

Louise is a vocational education consultant working with the TAFE sector, continuing a career focused on education. Louise and her husband raised their five children in Benalla where she has been an active community member over many years, holding positions of office in sporting clubs, Guides and Scouts. Louise is a member of the Committee of Management of the local NE Tracks LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network).



Nicholas Taylor

Deputy Chair, Company Secretary

Nick is a commercial builder who established his business, Landmark Construction Group Pty Ltd, in Benalla in 2001. His long history of community involvement includes serving on St Joseph's Primary School Council, the Sandhurst Diocese Education Board and the Benalla Racing Club Committee. Nick has been a volunteer with the Samaria CFA for more than 20 years, for a large part of this time as Captain. Nick is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Florent Thivillier

Florent is an industrial engineer who came to Benalla in 2001 from his native France. Originally moving here to work at Schneider Electric, he and his wife fell in love with Benalla and chose to raise their family here. Florent is actively involved in the community, including as a participant and coach in numerous local sporting clubs. He is currently Production Manager at a major regional food manufacturer. Florent is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Marsha Watson

Marsha is a registered pharmacist and successful local business owner. She partnered in the establishment of Jenny Milner – Marsha Watson Pharmacies Pty Ltd in 1999, and has been sole proprietor since 2011. In 2012, Marsha was named Victorian Pharmacist of the Year for 'being a quiet achiever who has passionately served her local community for many years'. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Benalla, Benalla Business Network and Benalla Golf Club. Marsha joined the Board in May 2020.

Organisational Sustainability

Our strategic focus for the period 2017-2022 is to secure the sustainability of the organisation for ongoing community benefit, positioned to respond to long term community challenges and opportunities.

Some of the initiatives undertaken to ensure sustainability

Property Ownership and Solar Installation

In September 2017 Tomorrow Today purchased the property at 66-68 Nunn Street where we had leased offices for many years. Further details about the purchase are included on the adjoining page. The ambitious target of our Property Appeal 2017–2020 was \$250,000. Exceptional local community support has seen \$320,000 raised! As a result, we have achieved 70% equity in the property two years after settlement, well over our 60% target. Rental income provides an independent source of funds to pay for operating costs of the community foundation, so that we can continue delivering long term programs that benefit local people. By reducing loan costs, net rental income is increased.

With a permanent base, Tomorrow Today can plan for the future. Ongoing power costs will be dramatically reduced following the installation of a 10.5 kW solar array and removal of five electricity meters, with their associated daily charges. Our thanks to AGL's Powering our Community Program and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

'Friends' Fundraising

The 'Friends of Tomorrow Today' held their first major fundraiser in November 2019. Sixty-five volunteers contributed to the success of the Open Garden and

raffle, including the dedicated organising committee which ensured that everything ran seamlessly. Our thanks to the many people who helped in so many ways, including preparing and serving food, growing and selling plants, helping with parking and at the entry gate, the musicians, and of course the garden owners, plus all those who helped sell raffle tickets and the generous sponsors of the raffle prizes. Overall, \$11,800 was raised towards the work of the Foundation and it provided a great opportunity to raise the profile of Tomorrow Today in the community.

Improving Communications

Communicating well about the work we do and the results being achieved is vital; to help recruit families and young people into our programs, connect with our local community, share learnings beyond Benalla, achieve ongoing funding for our work, and much more. With funding and support from The RE Ross Trust and generous assistance from Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our marketing and communications. As a result of engaging Disruptive Media we have a clear and comprehensive marketing communications strategy and new resources to help convey our message. In addition, we have appointed a part-time communications coordinator to oversee implementation.



LEFT: We can now generate most of our own power! Thanks to AGL, this solar installation will significantly reduce our electricity costs, year after year.

MIDDLE and RIGHT: The Friends of Tomorrow Today and a great many volunteers worked tirelessly to host a successful Open Garden fundraising event in November.

Tomorrow Today Financials

The following pages include extracts from the audited financial reports of our three charitable entities. Tomorrow Today submits full reports to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) by the reporting deadline each year.

Copies of our audited financial reports for the year ended 30 June 2020 are available on request or from www.tomorrowtoday.com.au.

Tomorrow Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development (ABN 19 096 214 907)

The objective of the company known as Tomorrow Today Foundation is to enable the people of Benalla and district to create a stronger, more resilient and prosperous rural community.

The company is trustee of the Tomorrow Today Public Fund (see page 37) which provides tax deductibility for all gifts over \$2. The combination of the Public Fund and the Open Fund (where supporters do not require a tax deduction) constitute Benalla's Community Fund. During the year, funds were raised to continue building the Community Fund. Grants from Community Fund income were made to benefit the district.

In September 2017 the company purchased the property at 66-68 Nunn Street, Benalla, where it had been leasing offices since 2010. Ownership provides a secure base for our community activities and a long term investment income stream from leased offices. It is a significant step towards the goal of securing financial independence for Benalla's community foundation. The purchase was enabled by philanthropic support from The Ledger Charitable Trust managed by Perpetual and generous local financial support. The William Buckland Foundation provided a \$600,000 fixed rate ten-year loan towards the purchase. As per the loan agreement, the first two principal repayments have reduced the loan balance to \$200,000 which will be repaid over the coming eight years. The Property Equity Reserve in the Statement of Changes in Funds shows the equity the company holds in the property.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Revenue and other income	2	240,109	340,752
Community grants distributed		(16,611)	(9,900)
Interest paid – Investment property		(7,500)	(13,500)
Investment property expenses		(14,852)	(13,805)
Administration expenses		(16,238)	(8,677)
FRRR fees		(636)	(1,179)
Fundraising expenses		(1,121)	–
Management fees		(16,016)	(16,461)
Professional fees		(11,070)	(10,560)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	(1,859)	(1,706)
Investment fees		(1,682)	(1,561)
Current year surplus		152,524	263,403
Other comprehensive income:			
Items to be reclassified subsequent to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:			
Net changes in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets	6	(43,030)	2,534
Other comprehensive income for the year		(43,030)	2,534
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		109,494	265,937

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from operations		64,102	68,779
Grants received		36,460	157,140
Rent received		101,657	92,947
Interest received		3,393	4,659
Dividends received		1,508	5,382
Investment distributions		22,198	19,568
Payments to suppliers		(75,234)	(64,711)
Interest paid		(7,500)	(13,500)
Net cash from operating activities		146,584	270,264
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of investments		–	197,670
Purchase of investments		(100,072)	(171,176)
Purchase of plant and equipment		–	(350)
Net cash (used in) from investing activities		(100,072)	26,144
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of borrowings		(200,000)	(200,000)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(200,000)	(200,000)
Net (decrease) increase in cash		(153,488)	96,408
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		436,594	340,186
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	4	283,106	436,594

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	283,106	436,594
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	12,378	22,553
Total Current Assets		295,484	459,147
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Available-for-sale financial investments	6	390,199	333,157
Property, plant and equipment	7	38,325	19,144
Investment property	8	1,028,051	1,028,051
Total Non-Current Assets		1,456,575	1,380,352
Total Assets		1,752,059	1,839,499
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and other payables	9	7,017	3,951
Borrowings	10	25,000	200,000
Total Current Liabilities		32,017	203,951
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	10	175,000	200,000
Total Non-Current Liabilities		175,000	200,000
Total Liabilities		207,017	403,951
Net Assets		1,545,042	1,435,548
FUNDS			
Reserves		1,367,719	1,301,015
Retained surplus		177,323	134,533
Total Funds	11	1,545,042	1,435,548

Statement of Changes in Funds

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	Note	Open Fund Capital Reserve	Open Fund Income Reserve	Special Purpose Reserve	Property Equity Reserve	Retained Surplus	Total Funds
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2018		554,164	45,018	205,746	275,000	89,683	1,169,611
Transfers to reserves		5,000	38,610	193,598	200,000	(437,208)	–
Transfers from reserves		–	(14,943)	(201,178)	–	216,121	–
Net surplus		–	–	–	–	265,937	265,937
Balance at 30 June 2019	11	559,164	68,685	198,166	475,000	134,533	1,435,548
Transfers to reserves		9,860	25,381	90,902	250,000	(376,143)	–
Transfers from reserves		–	(67,642)	(241,797)	–	309,439	–
Net surplus		–	–	–	–	109,494	109,494
Balance at 30 June 2020	11	569,024	26,424	47,271	725,000	177,323	1,545,042

Tomorrow Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development

Public Fund (ABN 98 553 570 389)

Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Donations	72,835	82,640
Investment income	25,737	25,366
Profit on disposal of investments	-	5,334
Total income	98,572	113,340
EXPENDITURE		
Grants to Tomorrow Today Education Foundation	8,000	4,650
Grants to FRRR for Benalla & District (Note 2)	25,350	47,140
Administration fees	7,444	6,778
Bank fees	75	150
Investment fees	1,783	1,601
Total expenses	42,652	60,319
Surplus	55,920	53,021
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that won't be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Net changes in fair value of available-for-sale financial assets	(39,976)	6,558
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	(39,976)	6,558
Total Comprehensive Income for the year	15,944	59,579

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	228,756	270,680
Accounts receivable and other debtors	200	861
Accrued distributions	10,885	11,744
Accrued interest	47	739
Total Current Assets	239,888	284,024
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Available-for-sale financial investments	421,291	361,211
Total Non-Current Assets	421,291	361,211
Total Assets	661,179	645,235
LIABILITIES		
Total Liabilities	-	-
Net Assets	661,179	645,235
FUNDS		
Settled Sum	100	100
Corpus (Note 3)	580,905	552,545
Accumulated funds (Note 3)	80,174	92,590
Total Funds	661,179	645,235



The Tomorrow Today team. Working to create a bright future for our great rural community.

Tomorrow Today Education Foundation

(ABN 90 610 420 123)

Tomorrow Today Education Foundation is a Public Benevolent Institution with the objective of reducing the level of social disadvantage in Benalla and district.

During the year, the company worked with families, schools and the wider community to deliver the

Education Benalla Program. The Program responds to the multiple effects of high levels of social disadvantage to improve the educational outcomes of Benalla's young people.

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the period ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
Revenue and other income	2	994,642	879,967
Employee benefits expense		(532,577)	(521,741)
Program expenses		(190,084)	(244,145)
Community grants distributed		(42,250)	(44,265)
Office accommodation costs		(8,196)	(8,215)
Administration expenses		(8,236)	(7,210)
Professional fees	3	(7,590)	(6,710)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		(4,265)	(3,332)
Current year surplus		201,444	44,349
Other comprehensive income:			
Items to be reclassified subsequent to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:		-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		201,444	44,349

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Grants received	851,949	820,843
Donations received	37,645	23,547
Interest received	5,019	4,680
Management fees received	16,016	16,461
Other income	54,105	13,420
Revenue received in advance	310,000	-
Payments to suppliers and employees	(770,458)	(822,023)
Net cash from operating activities	504,276	56,928
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(6,000)	(2,356)
Net cash (used in) investing activities	(6,000)	(2,356)
Net increase in cash	498,276	54,572
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July	443,010	388,438
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	4 941,286	443,010

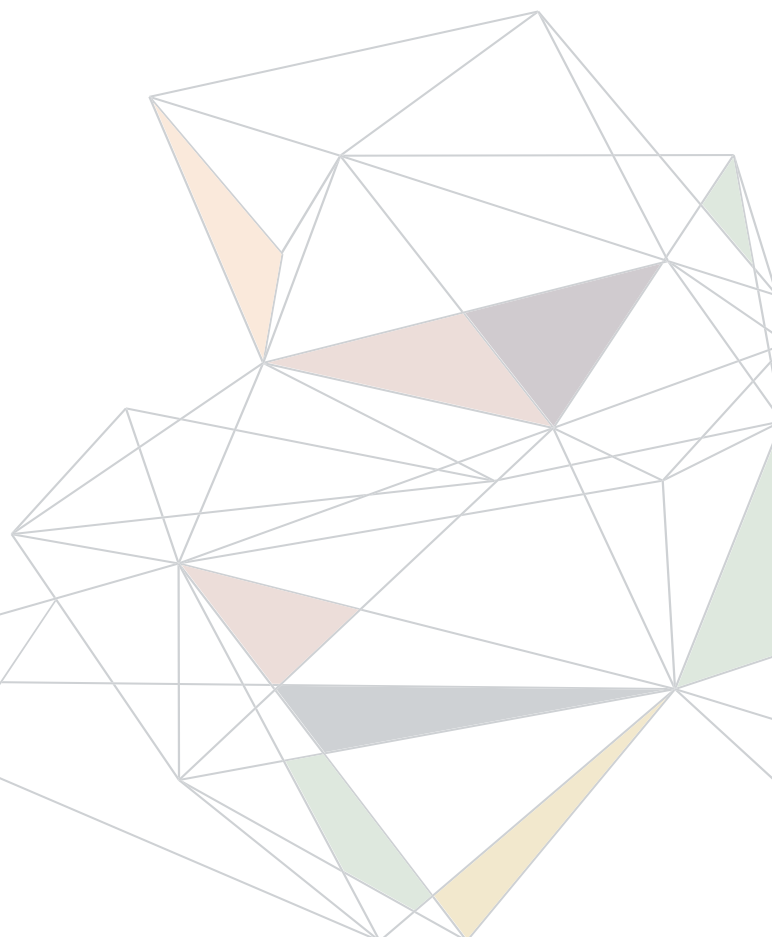


The efforts of Tomorrow Today's wonderful volunteers are recognised at an annual Christmas lunch.

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020	2019
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	941,286	443,010
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	34,852	6,423
Total Current Assets		976,138	449,433
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	6	18,978	17,242
Total Non-Current Assets		18,978	17,242
Total Assets		995,116	466,675
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable and other payables	7	44,179	34,759
Employee provisions	8	59,402	38,581
Funds received in advance	1(c)	310,000	-
Total Current Liabilities		413,581	73,340
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee provisions	8	33,420	46,664
Total Non-Current Liabilities		33,420	46,664
Total Liabilities		447,001	120,004
Net Assets		548,115	346,671
FUNDS			
Reserves		478,151	295,649
Retained surplus		69,964	51,022
Total Funds	9	548,115	346,671



Statement of Changes in Funds

For the period ended 30 June 2020

	Note	Education Benalla Program Reserve	Special Purpose Reserve	Retained Surpluses	Total Funds
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2018		245,898	33,604	22,820	302,322
Transfer to reserves		800,350	47,022	(847,372)	-
Transfers from reserves		(788,487)	(42,738)	831,225	-
Net surplus		-	-	44,349	44,349
Balance at 30 June 2019	9	257,761	37,888	51,022	346,671
Transfer to reserves		912,432	62,704	(975,136)	-
Transfers from reserves		(754,031)	(38,603)	792,634	-
Net surplus		-	-	201,444	201,444
Balance at 30 June 2020	9	416,162	61,989	69,964	548,115



Local businesses were generous supporters of the Friends of Tomorrow Today's inaugural raffle. Pictured – Frank Stephens, Benalla Travel, the lucky first prize winners Barry and Pamela O'Connor, and Board Director Louise Pearce.

Our Supporters

Our board and staff wish to thank the many individuals, families, community groups, businesses and philanthropic funders who have given to Tomorrow Today to support our work. We also appreciate the significant contribution made by local volunteers and partnering organisations.

We are proud to acknowledge the following gifts received during the 2019/20 financial year.

Grants

The Ian Potter Foundation
The William Buckland Foundation
The Ledger Charitable Trust managed by Perpetual
Commonwealth Dept Social Services - Strong and Resilient Communities
Victorian Dept Jobs, Precincts and Regions
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Drakensberg Trust
AGL – Powering our Community Program
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
Newsboys Foundation
June Canavan Foundation
Dennoch Fund, Australian Communities Foundation
Inland Rail

Gifts received during the 2019/20 financial year (cont.)

Donations, sponsorships, fundraisers and in-kind

\$10,000
and above

GOLD SUPPORTERS

Benalla Rural City Council
Brownstein, G & Gamble, S
Dobson, B & K
Friends of Tomorrow Today – Fundraising
Gibson AO, D
NE Tracks LLEN
Smith, B, D & M

\$1,000 to
\$9,999

SILVER SUPPORTERS

Anonymous (2)
Arnott, N
Bailey, A & K
Benalla Baptist Church
Benalla Church Street Surgery
Benalla Rose City Band
Benalla Travel
Benalla Uniting Church
Burstn, G
Burstn, L
Coutts OAM, S
Cuming, A
CVGT Australia
Delatite Steel
Falkiner, D
Happy Wanderers Festival
Jacob, M - in memory of
Jenny Milner - Marsha Watson Pharmacy
Landmark Construction Group
Magistrates' Court of Victoria
Parris, B & J
Phillips, B
Piper, M & S
Pruden, J
Smith Dosser Pty
Sorooptimist International of Benalla
The Reject Shop Benalla
Thivillier, F & Lefebvre, L
Vial, B & Stephenson, K
Widdup, R & J

\$50 to
\$999

BRONZE SUPPORTERS

Alexander AO, B & R
Anonymous (10)
AusNet Services
Barnes, C & G
Bath, G & L
Benalla Commonwealth Bank
Benalla Garden Club
Benalla Gliding Club
Benalla Health
Benalla Mitre 10
Benalla RSL Sub-Branch
Bolte, C
Chapman OAM, L
Coles Benalla
Cowan, R & J
Charles Sturt University
Donnelly, K & F
Dore, M
Eddy, J & C
Edwards, J
Friends of BPACC
Gourley, J
Griffin, J & D
Grubb, N
Hook, L
Howell, E
Hutchens, N & S
Murray, A
Nicholas, V
Noonan, E
Ogilbee, H
Sadler, F & R
Smith, N & L
Smyth, M & S
Tanner, P & L
The Dairy at Marangan
The Northo
The Personnel Group on behalf
of Midland Freight
Whan, K & V
Woolworths Benalla



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