



Connecting kids to clubs

Involvement in sport and recreational activities is great for children and young people. Participation helps improve physical development and motor skills as well as enhancing health, wellbeing and social skills. Connection to friends and community helps young people to stay engaged with school and learning. Studies show however that around half of children living in disadvantaged communities do not participate in such activities.

Tomorrow Today has worked closely with local clubs and groups to introduce a funding support system so that financial hardship in local families is not a barrier to their children's participation. More than 100 children and young people were able to sample activities available in Benalla,

thanks to local clubs and groups who staged activities for our 2017 'Come and Try' day (pictured above). Funding has then helped students to join a sporting club or hobby group or participate in cultural activities such as music, art, dance and drama.

Since it began last year, this initiative has connected over 200 students (from Foundation to Year 12) to more than 20 different local clubs. At least one-third of the students assisted to participate had not undertaken that activity before. And this boost in numbers has been a significant benefit for Benalla's clubs, some of which were struggling to attract new members. Great for kids and for clubs.

With the goodwill and 'can-do' attitude of our rural community, there is a remarkable level of activity underway to ensure that local children have every opportunity to thrive, despite Benalla's high level of disadvantage. We thank the donors, volunteers, partners across the local community and funders from beyond Benalla,

who have joined us in this whole of community approach to improving educational outcomes.

In an exciting development that will provide enduring community benefit, Tomorrow Today will be purchasing the Cecily Court property where we are currently based (read more on page 3). As with our

Education Benalla Program, external philanthropic funding is vital to make the purchase possible; but we also need local support. I hope you will consider digging deep, to secure the financial sustainability of this wonderful independent organisation that is achieving so much for Benalla and district.

Sally Gamble, Chair

Loyal Supporters

We are fortunate to have many loyal and generous supporters who help us to make a difference in our community. Dot Falkiner is one of these amazing benefactors, a generous donor who has introduced others to the Foundation.

For her 90th birthday Dot requested that in lieu of presents, friends and family could make a donation to Tomorrow Today. The money donated will help to generate funds for our annual community grants program – year after year. Dot is such a devoted advocate that she joined us at our Annual Celebration even though it fell on the day of her birthday.



Dot Falkiner (centre) at Tomorrow Today's 2016 Annual Celebration with Chair Sally Gamble and Deputy Chair Liz Chapman OAM.

Diary Dates

Friday 25 August, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

**Gala Launch 2017 Swanpool
Bald Archy Exhibition**

All proceeds to Tomorrow Today

Thursday 9 November,
5.30pm – 7.00pm

**Tomorrow Today Annual Celebration
at Lakeside Community Centre**

All welcome

Students welcome

Tomorrow Today regularly hosts placements for students undertaking GOTAFE and University courses such as Community Development and Early Years studies. In this way local students are assisted to build their knowledge and skills and we get an extra pair of hands to help with programs and activities. We were pleased to recently have had local Swanpool girl Carly Mennen on placement with us.

Liz Chapman OAM

We are thrilled that Liz Chapman (pictured above) has been recognised in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours, with a Medal of the Order of Australia for services to education and to the community. Additional to a range of community commitments in the 1980's and 1990's, from 2000 Liz led the initial establishment of Tomorrow Today, was founding Chair and is Convenor of our ambitious Education Benalla Program. She has given countless hours over the last 17 years, applying her community development knowledge and research skills. Her ongoing contribution is a remarkable gift to our community.

Volunteers Invaluable

More than 80 registered volunteers provide invaluable help with Tomorrow Today programs, administrative duties and strategic planning and direction. Many volunteers tell us that they choose Tomorrow Today because they want to help make a difference in their own community. Volunteers in the Education Benalla Program are vitally important to our goal of improving student outcomes. They work with families and young children in our early year's program, assist Foundation to Year Two students with reading and literacy, and act as mentors to students at Year 9 level. Other opportunities are available to help with admin tasks and events such as our Come and Try Day and Annual Celebration.

Currently we are looking for volunteers to help with our early year's program and Connect9 mentors for 2018. If you are interested in volunteering at Tomorrow Today you can find out more on our website or phone Cathy Hair on 03 5762 1211.



Connect9 mentor Brendan with mentee, Charlie in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen at Benalla P-12 College's Waller St campus

Cecily Court Property Appeal

One of the great benefits of being an independent community foundation like Tomorrow Today, is that we can take a long term approach to addressing community needs. Our Community Fund is a permanent local asset, invested to provide ongoing benefit for current and future generations. And through our Education Benalla Program we've embarked on a generational journey to give local children every chance to prosper in life.

Also with a long term view, we have secured the opportunity to purchase the Cecily Court property where we are

currently based. This will ensure that we can continue the work of building a stronger, more resilient community into the future.

Owning Cecily Court will increase our self-reliance, providing a permanent base for Tomorrow Today and the activities we run for Benalla and district children and families. Rental income from other tenants will cover our core operational costs and build the financial sustainability of the organisation.

Two of our longstanding philanthropic funders are providing financial assistance. Their generous support

makes the purchase possible but we need local support as well to make it a reality.

We are calling on all who are in a position to be able to help, to please support this Cecily Court Property Appeal. Your donation will ensure that Tomorrow Today is able to keep its focus on developing and delivering long term programs that benefit local people.

For details of how to donate turn to page 4. If you would like further information, please call our office or contact any of our Board Directors.



Grants awarded

Eleven fantastic local projects will be undertaken this year with funding support from Tomorrow Today Foundation's 2017 Grants Program. Over \$22,000 was awarded for a diverse range of initiatives at a well-attended ceremony on Friday 12 May (recipients pictured above with Tomorrow Today Directors and Executive Officer).

Grant recipients were:

- Australian Christian College Hume (\$2,605) Sensory garden and outdoor play space
- Benalla Flexible Learning Centre (\$2,000) Student healthy eating and exercise program
- Benalla Health in partnership with St Vincent de Paul (\$500) Seedlings and seeds so local families can grow fresh produce
- Benalla P-12 Avon Campus (\$4,000) Community pizza

- oven to build strong parent/community relationships
- Benalla P-12 College (\$2,000) Beacon Polish Program for Year 9 job skills and employment opportunities
- Benalla Scout Group (\$3,012) Set up a Joey Mob for 5 to 7 year olds
- Benalla YMCA Aquatic Centre (\$1,500) Water safety and survival program for Year 6 students
- Bernard Briggs Preschool (\$2,605) Maths resources to help children explore maths with their parents
- Broken River Writers (\$2,500) Expert guest speakers to coach and encourage aspiring writers of all ages
- Cooina Village and FCJ College (\$2,000) Intergenerational music and storytelling project
- Greta Valley Playgroup (\$1,000) Equipment and resources to aid children's development

Tomorrow Today Board Directors

- Sally Gamble: Chair (0428 755 138)
- Bill Dobson

- Adrian Aldous
- Louise Pearce

- Liz Chapman OAM
- Nick Taylor



Child by Child


Benalla P-12 College primary school students invited PEEP children to join them for a fun reading and craft session at the Benalla library. Both age groups benefitted from the activities.

In Australia, by Grade 3, there are wide differences in children's levels of achievement in reading and mathematics. Some children are already well behind year-level expectations, and many of these children remain behind throughout their schooling. They are locked into trajectories of 'underperformance' that often lead to disengagement, poor attendance and early

exit from school. There is little evidence that, as a nation, we are doing a better job of reducing the numbers of students on long-term trajectories of low achievement or of reducing the resulting 'tail' of student underperformance. Benalla is challenging the national trend, thanks to Tomorrow Today and over 140 participating local agencies, schools and community groups.

Every week during school term more than 100 families take part in one of our PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) sessions. Additionally, we work with schools to train and support "Reading Buddies" to work in the classroom, one-on-one with identified children; and we support a wide range of in-community and in-school activities to build connection and aspiration.

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

Find us on  @TomorrowTodayAU



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GivingMatters

To make a donation please complete this form and send with payment to Tomorrow Today Foundation.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to Tomorrow Today Foundation.

Your Contribution (please tick contribution option)

- For the Cecily Court Property Appeal
- For the Community Fund

Payment Information (please tick payment option)

For a personal donation that is tax deductible. All amounts over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

- EFT to Tomorrow Today Foundation BSB: 083-541 Account No. 147 647 263
- Cheque payable to Tomorrow Today Foundation
- Online donation through Tomorrow Today's secure website: www.tomorrowtoday.com.au

Or for a business sponsorship (please add GST) or donation that does not need a tax deduction.

- EFT to Tomorrow Today Foundation BSB: 633-000 Account No. 149 928 566
- Cheque payable to Tomorrow Today Foundation
- Please invoice

Your Details

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