



## Ready to Learn

These bright young graduates from Tomorrow Today's 'Parents Early Education Partnership' (PEEP) were happy and excited at the thought of starting school in 2018. And from comments made by teachers and Principals at Benalla schools, they are definitely starting school "ready to learn".

Unfortunately, this has not been the case in the past for over one-third of Benalla's children. Sadly, many of them

never catch up, falling further behind each year and often disengaging from learning in their teenage years.

Indications are, however, that PEEP is starting to make a real difference. PEEP commenced in October 2012 with 23 babies and toddlers and their families. The program is now attended by over 200 families and 250 children each year.

The PEEP program values parents and carers as their child's first and most important educator and ensures

they have the information and support necessary to give their child the best possible start in life. Tomorrow Today delivers PEEP in partnership with many other agencies, health and education professionals, local business people and a number of dedicated volunteers.

In 2018, we had over 25 PEEP graduates start school, many of whom had been attending the program since birth.

When we began the roll out of our ambitious Education Benalla Program eight years ago, Tomorrow Today rented an office in Cecily Court, Nunn Street. It proved an ideal location.

Today, working with partners and volunteers throughout our community, the Education Benalla Program is actively involved with more than 1,500 children and their

parents and carers, with flow-on effects to approximately 3,000 more. We are beginning to see real change.

Last September, Tomorrow Today achieved a historic milestone with the purchase of the whole Cecily Court property. This provides security to continue giving Benalla's younger generation every chance to prosper in life.

A heartfelt thank you to the people and organisations that made this purchase possible (read more on page 4). The property will remain the focus of our fundraising for the next 18 months. I hope you will consider giving generously.

**Sally Gamble, Chair**

# Grants Awarded

Ten wonderful local projects will go ahead this year with funding support from Tomorrow Today's 2018 Grants Program. Over \$27,000 was awarded to a great range of initiatives on Thursday 17th May. The grants are possible thanks to the investment of funds received from generous local donors.

Grants were awarded to:

- Australian Christian College Hume (\$1,600) Fun maths resources to help children explore maths with their parents
- Benalla & District Pre-school Partnership (\$2,300) Outdoor table settings and a 'mud kitchen'
- Benalla Community Garden (\$4,160) To establish a Community Garden at Uniting Church in Carrier Street, open to all
- Benalla Flexible Learning Centre (\$5,000) Convert a shipping container to a 'tiny house'
- Broken River Potters (\$1,500) Contribution to the purchase of a new kiln
- Central Hume Primary Care Partnership (\$2,500) Stage "Benalla Proud and Deadly" Awards 2018 for local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children
- FCJ College (\$1,600) Twice weekly Breakfast Club led by senior students
- Ride Avenue Pre-school (\$3,700) Kitchen garden project
- St Joseph's Primary School (\$2,000) Cooking and life skills social club
- Waminda Inc (up to \$3,000) Facilitated 'Café Club' for people from all walks of life to meet and socialise

## Reading crucial

Being able to read proficiently is crucial to a child's future. Research shows that children who have developed strong reading skills perform better in school and have a healthier self-image. Children who do not have access to books or read regularly are vulnerable to falling behind.

Our Reading Buddies program matches trained volunteers one-on-one with children in the early years of school who need some extra help to improve their reading skills. Children develop a special relationship with their Buddies and look forward to spending time with them. The Buddies admit that they enjoy the program as much as the children, and get a big 'kick' out of seeing the children improve on their reading levels. If you are interested in becoming a Reading Buddy or wish to enquire about other opportunities to volunteer with Tomorrow Today, call us on 5762 1211.



## Hands On Learning at Parliament House

The work of students from Benalla P-12 College and FCJ College was proudly on display at a recent event held at Parliament House, Melbourne, to showcase the Hands on Learning Program. This national program helps young people develop employability skills by engaging in practical projects around their school and local community. A survey of past Hands on Learning students found only 2.2% were unemployed, compared to the national average of 10.8% for 15-24 year-old Australians at the time. Tomorrow Today helps fund the program in Benalla.

Hands on Learning received international recognition last year with its inclusion in the Finnish not-for-profit HundrED's list of top 100 most inspiring education innovations worldwide.



*Save the Date*

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

Thursday 25 October • 5.30pm - 7.00pm • All welcome



# Preparing Young People for Future Work

'Future Work' is an exciting new project developed by Tomorrow Today to improve the employability of Benalla's young people. A suite of activities for 11 to 16 year-olds will expose young people to multiple career opportunities and help them develop a range of skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, creativity, working as part of a team, and communicating effectively with others. These skills are all applicable and transferable to the many existing and emerging career pathways that characterise our modern world.

'Future Work' encompasses and complements many of Tomorrow Today's existing activities, including Hands on Learning, Paid Part-Time Work training, Careers Day, and Connect9 mentoring. It will improve the

chances of our young people gaining employment or transitioning to further study or training after completing their schooling.

A major component of 'Future Work' will focus on improving young people's digital literacy by working with them to develop digital solutions or tools that address community issues or boost

tourism and economic development. With the help of a number of community partners including NETracks LLEN, schools and businesses, over 400 young people will be engaged in the project over three years. If you are interested in helping with this project or would like to find out more, phone Tomorrow Today on 5762 1211.



## Active Partners

We are fortunate to be supported to deliver the Education Benalla Program by a number of major philanthropic partners. As well as providing significant funds, they are active participants in our Program Management Committee contributing their knowledge and expertise. The Program continually seeks new funding partners to help resource the substantial range of projects and activities.



*Our Education Benalla Program Management Committee meets twice yearly in Benalla. Pictured left to right – Pat Claridge (Executive Officer), Alberto Furlan (The Ian Potter Foundation), Kate Atkin (Department of Education and Training), Sally Matheson (Education Benalla Program Manager), Sally Gamble (Director), Liz Chapman OAM (Director), Natalie Elliott (The William Buckland Foundation), Sarah Hardy (The RE Ross Trust), Bill Dobson (Director).*

## Sally Matheson welcomed

In May we welcomed Sally Matheson to Tomorrow Today to coordinate the Education Benalla Program including the delivery of the new 'Future Work' program. Sally has extensive involvement with the Benalla community, having worked for more than 18 years at Benalla Health, being a long-term talented member of Benalla Rose City Band and a current Assistant District Governor for Rotary.

## Australia Day recognition

All at Tomorrow Today are delighted and proud that our Chair Sally Gamble was the recipient of the 2018 Benalla Achiever award. Sally has made an outstanding contribution to Benalla through her involvement with many community organisations and projects over more than 20 years. Sally is a quiet achiever who leads by example and devotes hundreds of hours each year to Tomorrow Today. Thank you Sally, and well done!

### Tomorrow Today Board Directors

- Sally Gamble: Chair (0428 755 138)
- Adrian Aldous
- Liz Chapman OAM
- Bill Dobson
- Patrick Duffy
- Louise Pearce
- Nick Taylor



# Property Appeal

Mayor Don Firth, Cr Danny Claridge and Cr Bernie Hearn pictured with the Tomorrow Today Board and Executive Officer.

A big thank you to Benalla Rural City Council and the many local people and organisations that gave a combined total of over \$100,000 to our Cecily Court Property Appeal last year.

The benefits of ownership are already clear. With a permanent base Tomorrow Today can plan for the future. We recently modified one of the shops we use for the Education Benalla Program, creating extra office space for the 'Future Work' project


plus a much-needed food preparation area. As we make improvements, donated goods and services have kept costs to a minimum. Rental income from tenants provides a vital source of income for Tomorrow Today to keep its focus on delivering long term programs that benefit local people.

Of critical importance in buying the property were grant commitments from the Ledger Charitable Trust, managed by Perpetual and a low interest loan from

the William Buckland Foundation. We are now seeking community support to make capital payments in September 2018 and 2019 to rapidly reduce this loan. Our partnership with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal allows donations to be tax deductible.

Your donation will 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  
 ABN 19 096 214 907

## 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](http://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**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: ..... Email: .....

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