

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Cover image: Tomorrow Today's PEEP is a free parent education program for families with babies and young children. Multiple PEEP sessions run every school day, building parenting knowledge, confidence and community connection.

Benalla and district is in North East Victoria

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we all live, work, study and volunteer. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

A number of the photos in this publication have been provided thanks to our program partners.

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

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Tomorrow Today Education Foundation – ABN 90 610 420 123



Tomorrow Today is Benalla's independent community foundation. We connect people, resources and ideas to create a bright future for our great rural community.

We believe that everyone should have the chance to thrive - and that education is the answer.

Working together with families, schools and the community, we are leading a long-term project to ensure all our children and young people can achieve their potential in school, work and life.

Local people are able to help shape our community's future by donating time, money and skills to this trusted local organisation, dedicated to responding to local needs.

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Connect9 gives teenagers the chance to connect with a trusted adult and find out what's available in the Benalla community. The Galen College VEX Robotics team runs a fun, interactive session for mentees and mentors.





It is with great pride we present Tomorrow Today's Annual Report for 2021-22. Benalla and district's independent community foundation focuses on enabling local people to create a stronger, more resilient and prosperous community.

CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

As we come out the other side of the pandemic, it has been a joy to run face to face programs again. Our Parent Early Education Partnership (PEEP) attendance numbers have risen to pre-Covid levels and at the time of writing we are running 16 sessions a week. It is reassuring to see, and a credit to our local community, that in the 2021 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Benalla's children have 'held steady' despite the social, emotional and educational impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The data shows there has been no significant change in vulnerability, an encouraging result as this maintains the very large improvements made in Benalla in 2018. You can read more about Benalla's AEDC data on page 13.

We are pleased to report that we distributed our largest ever round of community grants in June 2022. These grants will help strengthen eleven local organisations.

Our major new youth initiative – Full Impact – has been launched with our Full Impact Squad working with us to understand what Benalla's young people need to improve their sense of wellbeing, aspiration and ability to influence their own lives. We hope that in time Full Impact will enable young people to influence and shape civic functioning in Benalla.

Highlights this year have included the development of our relationship with the North East Multicultural Association (NEMA), with a support worker attending PEEP sessions to assist migrant families. In December 2021 we held the much-anticipated PEEP Christmas party at

the Benalla Racing Club – a wonderful event following a challenging year. The sun came out, Santa arrived on a CFA fire truck and over 100 families and their children came together for our first large community event in nearly two years.

We have commenced a major evaluation of our Education Benalla Program to help us better understand the impact and value of the programs we deliver. The evaluation is initially for two years, with the intent to extend so we can continually improve and ensure we achieve maximum effect.

Thank you to all the Board members for continuing to provide strong governance and support. We said goodbye to Liz Chapman OAM and thanked her for her amazing leadership, passion, drive and commitment as a founding Board member and the Education Program Convenor since inception. We welcomed new Board member Larissa Montgomery, who grew up and continues to live in Tatong and has been an active member of many different community groups.

A big thank you to the Tomorrow Today team for their resilience and positivity throughout another challenging 12 months of lockdowns and ever-changing Covid regulations. We also want to acknowledge the great many partners, volunteers, funders, donors and supporters whose continued generosity and goodwill make our work possible.

Louise Pearce – Chair
Rosie Koop – Executive Officer



This year, eleven local groups shared over \$40,000 in funding to further their goals in supporting our local community, furthering education and building skills, resilience and strength in Benalla.

BENALLA'S COMMUNITY FUND

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 \$1.3 million is held in Benalla's Community Fund.

NAMED FUNDS

Some donors 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. This 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.

WE WELCOME DONATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY FUND, OR NAMED FUNDS, AT ANY TIME.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

In the 2021-22 financial year Tomorrow Today distributed over \$89,500 in grants to groups, families and individuals across Benalla and district.

Support for children and young people in families experiencing financial hardship:

Education | \$12,936

23 children and young people were supported to participate in school and learning, including four Year 12 Scholarships, thanks to the Education Fund, Lonsdale Fund and local donations. Funds from the Kingston Smith Memorial Fund were used to purchase six balance bikes and helmets and a range of children's gardening equipment for Tomorrow Today's Outdoor Learning Space. These resources support gross motor skills and encourage physical activity.

Sports and Hobbies | \$4,763

48 local children and young people were supported to participate in community sport and recreational activities, funded by philanthropic grants and local donations.

FRRR Back to School vouchers | \$31,500

630 x \$50 Back to School vouchers were distributed to local families to help meet the cost of school essentials, thanks to support from FRRR and local donations.

Support for groups and organisations:

Annual Community Grants | \$40,735

We support a range of local projects each year (detailed on the following pages) funded by income from the Community Fund.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

Our Annual Grants program awards grants of up to \$5,000 to fund community groups and organisations to deliver projects that will build skills, strength and resilience in Benalla.

Stepping Stones Grants of up to \$2,000 are available for community projects throughout the year.

Tomorrow Today's grants support projects that align with two major themes:

- **Building a stronger, more connected community**
- **Improving social and educational outcomes for Benalla's children and young people**

Wednesdays @ Waminda provides students with a range of practical and creative after school activities.



The Hands on Learning program is an opportunity for community groups to collaborate on a range of projects that assist students to gain practical skills and experience.



During 2021-22, we funded ten projects through the Annual Grants program and two Stepping Stones grants.

**AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE HUME
Computer Loan System | \$5,000**

Australian Christian College is a small, independent P-8 school which aims to see every student enjoy academic achievement and personal success no matter their background or abilities. The school's ageing bank of computers was a barrier for some students accessing the technology they need to participate fully in the school's learning program. Our grant funded the purchase of four new laptops so that no students are disadvantaged.

**BENALLA FLEXIBLE LEARNING CENTRE
Barkly St Precinct Beautification | \$5,000**

At Benalla Flexible Learning Centre the focus is on re-engaging vulnerable young people with education and their community. Our grant supports the continuation of the Hands on Learning (HoL) program at the Centre by funding the purchase of tools and other project materials for students to use to maintain the grounds of the Barkly Street Precinct.

The HoL program provides opportunities for the Centre's students to build group dynamics and practical and social skills in a controlled and safe environment, and to collaborate with the Benalla P-12 College HoL program and local community groups.

**BENALLA MIGRANT ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED**

Siva Singh Children's Picture Book | \$5,000

Benalla Migrant Association's aim is to support new migrants to Benalla to settle and feel welcome in our region. The group works with other local organisations to reduce racism and promote understanding, reconciliation, mutual respect and tolerance through education and storytelling. Our grant will fund the development and publication of a children's book celebrating the life of Siva Singh, a renowned Indian Sikh migrant who settled in Benalla in the 1800s. The book, written by a skilled education specialist, will be published in English and Punjabi and will be made available to all local early learning centres, pre-schools and primary schools.

**BENALLA MIGRANT CAMP INC.
Walk Of Lights | \$2,420**

Since 2013 this group has been dedicated to the interpretation and sharing of the stories of former residents of the Benalla Migrant Camp, which operated from 1947 – 1963. The group's efforts have seen the site placed on the Victorian Heritage Register and helped many people connect with this important part of Benalla's history. The Walk of Lights is a community event that will form part of Benalla's 2023 Harmony Day celebrations. Participants will retrace the steps of former residents and acknowledge the significance of the Camp. The Walk will culminate in a projected art installation and a celebration with food and music. Our grant supports the production, technical costs, marketing and promotion of the event.

BENALLA P-12 COLLEGE

Hands On Learning Veggie Beds | \$1,578

Tomorrow Today has been involved with the Hands on Learning program at Benalla P-12 College since it began in 2010. In what is a true example of successful collaboration across multiple organisations, this project engages HoL students and volunteers to design, construct and install raised veggie beds at Cooinda Aged Care and the Benalla Uniting Church. The students will then work with Cooinda residents to propagate seedlings, and with Benalla Health and Waminda House to distribute the completed garden beds to local families. The beds will assist the community in developing healthy eating habits and will enable locals to grow their own fresh produce. Our grant will cover the cost of materials for constructing the beds.

“Getting the kids in and seeing them grow in the program, learning new skills and so forth it puts a smile on their dial and they enjoy it. And some of these kids learn better with their hands than sitting in the classroom.”

- HoL artisan instructor

BERNARD BRIGGS KINDERGARTEN

Outdoor Equipment | \$3,000

In 2022 Bernard Briggs Kindergarten commenced their 3-year-old play-based learning program. This program engages children in physical activities to enhance brain development, coordination and social and motor skills, helping them to build confidence in their own abilities. Our grant funded the purchase of low and multi-level climbing equipment designed specifically for young children.

MUNRO AVENUE PRESCHOOL

Inclusion Support Resources | \$3,737

Munro Avenue Preschool is developing an enhanced, inclusive program and environment which caters to the very wide range of needs, ages and stages of their current and future cohorts of children and educators. Our grant funded a range of inclusion resources that support children's ability to self-regulate their emotions and behaviour. These resources include fidget toys, weighted blankets, squeezable toys, and props to conduct yoga activities. These items will provide educators with the tools they need to create a more inclusive early learning program that will help to build a stronger and more resilient preschool community.



Benalla Migrant Association supports new migrants to Benalla to settle and feel welcomed to our region. Their Siva Singh Picture Book project will promote respect, tolerance and understanding through education and storytelling.

RIDE AVENUE PRESCHOOL **STEM Explorers | \$5,000**

Ride Avenue's mission is to develop inquiring minds and a love of learning in their 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten children. To further extend children's learning they are expanding their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) resources. Our grant funded the purchase of a broad range of STEM learning materials to help foster curiosity, nurture a love of learning through discovery, and develop decoding skills and an understanding of how symbols and patterns work.

ROOM AT THE TABLE **Creating Connections and Building Soft Skills | \$5,000**

Room at the Table (RATT) is an inclusive not for profit organisation that offers a range of non-sport activities including video games, modern board games and table-top role-playing games to reduce social isolation, particularly within the 'geek subculture'. RATT is extending its reach by running programs in local primary and secondary schools to build connections and soft skills including communication, conflict resolution and relationship building. Our grant will fund the expansion of their game library to meet the needs of their planned programs.



WAMINDA COMMUNITY HOUSE **Wednesdays @ Waminda | \$5,000**

The Waminda Community House objective is to provide a safe, inclusive space for children and their families to gather and learn. In 2021 Wednesdays @ Waminda was launched. It is a program for younger people, run by a small but dedicated team of volunteers which focuses on regular social development and skills-based activities like games, cooking, art, reading, bike repair workshops and gardening. The program now attracts 15-25 children per week. In terms three and four of 2022, Waminda will be extending the program to include sessions for children with special needs, in particular, those on the autism spectrum. Our grant will fund Waminda to engage an experienced facilitator to ensure the quality of the program continues while they seek a more permanent funding solution.

TOMORROW TODAY **STEPPING STONES GRANTS**

This year we awarded Stepping Stones Grants to support the Social Enterprise Schools program in two schools.

BENALLA FLEXIBLE LEARNING CENTRE **Social Enterprise Schools | \$2,000**

EDSPACE **Social Enterprise Schools | \$2,000**

Social Enterprise Schools is a practical, student-led experience that develops citizenship and enterprise capabilities while building resilience in young people. The program is a 10-stage learning journey which re-engages young people with their education. It brings students, teachers, local entrepreneurs and the community together, to build confidence and make a positive social impact.



Inclusion can be colourful! Resources to expand inclusive and diverse programming benefits preschoolers and staff at Munro Avenue Preschool.



Benalla's Ceramic Mural is a wonderful example of what can be achieved through community collaboration. It forms a central part of the lakeside Scavenger Hunt where our Connect9 Mentors and Mentees learn more about the history of Benalla.

EDUCATION BENALLA PROGRAM



OVERVIEW

The Education Benalla Program works with families, preschools, schools and an extensive network of business and community partners to improve children's development, literacy and numeracy, wellbeing, school retention and future work opportunities.

We work with families from the earliest ages and stages to prepare children for school and ensure they are 'ready to learn'. We support children's literacy, numeracy and oral language skills through a range of activities run in preschools and schools. Funding for school and social needs is available to ensure equal access to educational and community activities.

Our Future Work activities strengthen the aspiration, confidence, employability skills and 'voice' of young people aged 11-19 years. Our aim is to help our young people to enjoy happy, healthy and successful lives.

We collaborate with over 120 local 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 following pages report on the multiple projects and activities that form the Education Benalla Program.

AUSTRALIAN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CENSUS 2021

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data is a vital tool in the development of our Early Years programs which aim to improve school readiness and educational outcomes for Benalla's children. The 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. The 2021 AEDC indicates that Benalla's children have 'held steady' despite the social, emotional and educational impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nationally, there has been a small but significant worsening in the percentage of children who are 'developmentally vulnerable', with larger increases in vulnerability for children living in disadvantaged communities. Against this trend, Benalla has had no significant change in vulnerability. This is an encouraging result; particularly because it maintains the very large improvements made in 2018.

Nationally, the 2021 data shows a slight decrease in the percentage of children who are on track in all five domains. Benalla has seen

no significant change in this measure, again maintaining improvements from prior years.

In 2015 Benalla had the worst level of vulnerability of all Local Government Areas in the state. Now in 2021, of the 79 LGAs in Victoria, Benalla has moved up to just above the midpoint of this scale in 42nd position, despite its high level of disadvantage.

"PEEP gave me the skills to ENJOY my child. I learned how to sing and play with my daughter with lots of fun and laughter. I also learned about childhood development and how I can help her to learn and grow."

- Parent

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE

Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domain

	2015	2018	2021
BENALLA COMMUNITY	 32.9	 23.5	 21.2
VICTORIA	19.9	19.9	19.9
AUSTRALIA	22	21.7	22

2021/22 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership)

Tomorrow Today's PEEP program recognises the vital role parents play as their child's first and most important ongoing educator. Parents and children experience the joy of sharing songs, books, rhymes and learning games together. Children engage in a range of stimulating play and craft activities to encourage their pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, oral language, social skills, and fine and gross motor skill development. Parents participate in facilitated discussions exploring child development and parenting topics. The warm, supportive environment at PEEP encourages parents to share and learn from each other's experiences. During the pandemic lockdowns in August/September 2021, the PEEP team offered online song time sessions, one on one Walk and Talks, and distributed over 190 children's art and craft activity packs to local families.

205 families with
281 children attended at least one term of PEEP.
16 PEEP groups delivered each week (when Covid restrictions allowed)

"PEEP gives me a sense of community and that whatever I'm going through, I'm not alone"

- Parent

"Our family appreciates all the thought and effort that goes into running PEEP. I have learnt a great deal from other parents' ideas and suggestions. And my kids have enjoyed wonderful opportunities to socialise and meet other families in our community."

- Parent

Early Years Support program

Visiting children and families in their home helps to build a strong relationship between parents and early years specialists. Tomorrow Today's Early Years Support program works with primary care givers to learn strategies to manage the challenges of parenting and to support their child's learning. Families have been assisted to transition their child from home to preschool, and from preschool to primary school.

65 home visits made to
18 families with
22 children

Benalla Early Years Network

Tomorrow Today chairs the Executive of the Benalla Early Years Network. The quarterly meetings bring together representatives from local preschools and schools, and family support, health, disability and welfare services. The Network provides a forum to discuss emerging issues and to plan activities to improve the learning and development of children aged 0 to 8 years.

PEEP encourages parents to bond and attach with their newborns. Parents are a child's first and most important ongoing educators.



Children learn through using all their senses, including touch. The Outdoor Learning Space lends itself to sensory play which is often messy!





Kinder Pals

Kinder Pals are trained volunteers who work with children in the preschool setting. They spend an hour, once a week, reading picture books with small groups of children. The Pals talk to children about books, helping to build early literacy and language skills. The program ran sporadically in 2021 due to Covid restrictions. Kinder Pals visited preschools regularly between April and June 2022.

6 Kinder Pals worked in
3 preschools and gave
45 volunteer hours

Preschool screening

Pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and oral language skills form the foundation for successful early learning. Tomorrow Today, in partnership with local preschools, offered screening of these skills for all 4-year old children. Parents were provided with tips to further develop these skills through everyday activities at home. Play-based resources and activities were provided to preschool teachers to use in their classroom settings.

125 children at
6 preschools were screened

Great Start to School

Our Great Start to School program helps parents prepare their children for the transition to primary school. Families engage in facilitated discussions about a range of topics related to school readiness, including the importance of before and after school routines, strategies to facilitate physical and emotional independence, and developing pre-literacy and pre-numeracy skills through everyday activities.

10 families starting at
3 schools participated in
2x2 hour sessions at Tomorrow Today

“The preschool screening program has helped us to identify the learning needs of our children early in the year so that we can focus on the most important areas to work on with them. We found the information really helpful to inform our practice.”

- Preschool teacher



Prep Immersion assists children to become 'switched-on' for learning. The children enjoy 'showing off' their skills to their parents.

Prep Immersion

Tomorrow Today proudly partnered with Benalla P-12 College to run the Prep Immersion program. Working with the school's Prep teachers, we identified students who have commenced school but are not 'switched-on' for learning. Students participated in the small group program throughout Term 2, 2022. Teachers and parents commented that the program assisted children's confidence and interest in learning.

21 Foundation students participated in
4x40 minute sessions per week over the
8 week program

Reading Buddies

Trained Reading Buddy volunteers provide invaluable support to the Year One and Two Literacy Program at Benalla P-12 College. Buddies develop warm and nurturing relationships with students, which has a flow on effect to their confidence and learning. The Reading Buddies program was restricted by pandemic lockdowns in 2021. The program recommenced in March 2022.

16 children at Benalla P-12 College were helped by
10 Reading Buddy volunteers who gave
188 hours

Come & Try Day

Participating in an activity outside of school gives children the opportunity to make friends and to learn new skills, including teamwork. Being connected and belonging to a group also has a positive influence on children's engagement in school and learning.

Tomorrow Today offered financial assistance to enable children from families with a pension or health care card to join local clubs.

In March 2022, over 200 local children took the opportunity to try out 21 different sports and recreation activities in the one location, free of charge, at a Come and Try Day.

48 young people were supported to join
11 local clubs and organisations



Come and Try Day is held twice a year to showcase Benalla's huge range of sports and other recreational activities and encourage our young people to participate regularly

Individual funding assistance

For many of Benalla's children and young people, educational opportunities are severely limited by financial and social disadvantage. Thanks to the support of generous local donors, Tomorrow Today provides financial assistance so that children and young people can participate in a wide range of school and community activities.

19 children were assisted on
45 occasions from
8 referral sources

"We've had about four girls join our group that I know for sure found us at the Come and Try Day."

- Benalla Guides Leader

FRRR Back To School vouchers

Getting children ready for school is a costly exercise and can be particularly stressful for families struggling financially. Tomorrow Today, in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), distributed \$50 Target, Kmart or school uniform shop vouchers to local schools. The schools distribute the vouchers to families experiencing financial hardship. Families use the vouchers to purchase essential items such as school uniforms, clothing, shoes, school bags and stationery.

\$31,500 worth of vouchers were distributed to
11 Benalla and district schools

"The vouchers have assisted me to purchase essential school items for my children. I would not have been able to afford them otherwise. Thank you for your kind support"

- Parent



Full Impact

Tomorrow Today recognises the importance of enabling young people to provide input into community decision making. The Full Impact Squad provides a forum for young people to explore local issues and to plan actions for change.

The Squad has participated in multiple training sessions focused on advocacy, planning, and community engagement, facilitated by young people from the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria. The environment, access to education and celebrating diversity are some of the issues The Squad has explored.

21 young people have engaged in training at

23 meetings of The Squad



Federal Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, met with some members of our Full Impact Squad to discuss what is important to Benalla's young people.



The 2022 Connect9 cohort celebrated the end of the program with a gliding day, barbeque and presentation.

Connect9

Connect9 is Tomorrow Today's much-loved community mentoring program for Benalla's Year 9 students. Each mentee is matched with a trained volunteer mentor. Throughout the ten-week program, mentors guide each young person to try new sports, hobbies and set life and career goals. The program is supported by many generous local partners who give willingly of their time and resources to support our young people.

"My mentor was really supportive and a great role model. She helped me find my path for my future career" - Mentee

"Connect9 gives mentees a fantastic opportunity to engage with their community and see what is available there. Having a mentor to guide them along the way is very valuable. It helps them to get to know another adult in a safe environment and gives them confidence for the future" - Parent

25

young people
were supported by

25

volunteer mentors
who gave

541

volunteer
hours.

32

professional
hours donated



Students from Benalla Flexible Learning Centre contributed to Hands On Trades Day by providing a coffee van. Barista and hospitality skills are in strong demand Australia-wide.

Hands On Trades Day

Tomorrow Today is a proud supporter of the Hands On Trades Day. The event provides a fabulous opportunity for students to connect with training providers and employers and to learn about the possibilities of a trades career. Organisations such as Australian Defence Force, Victoria Police, State Emergency Service and a range of local trades, including plumbing, building, hair and beauty, computer modelling, agriculture and mechanics, generously donated their time to support the aspirations of young people.

**over
200**

students from Benalla
P-12 College, FCJ
College, Benalla
Flexible Learning
and EdSpace visited

55

trade
exhibitors

Hands on Learning

Hands on Learning recognises that young people learn in different ways. The program, designed to prevent early school leaving, engages small groups of students in authentic 'hands on' projects that encourage the development of skills and attributes they will need to succeed in life. Tomorrow Today provides input and financial support for the program.

36

students in Years 6-10 at Benalla
P-12 College attended for

1

day per week

"My son enjoys Hands on Learning. It is helping with his confidence, social skills and his sense of belonging"

- Parent

Increasing work placement opportunities

Tomorrow Today chairs the Benalla Future Work Steering Committee. Bi-monthly meetings are attended by local secondary schools, local apprenticeship providers, NETracks LLEN, Benalla Rural City Council, Charles Sturt University, GOTAFE, and D&R Henderson. Attendees share the latest career information, and plan and implement actions related to career development. The group is committed to increasing work experience placements and school-based apprenticeships, and strengthening community aspiration for our young people.

36 young people were enrolled in a school-based apprenticeship in Benalla in 2021-22

Tomorrow Today proudly employed two school-based apprentices. Both enrolled to complete a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. The apprentices attend Benalla P-12 College and Benalla Flexible Learning Centre.

"I really enjoyed coming to Tomorrow Today for work experience and helping with the PEEP Program. I learnt how to interact with the kids, to keep them engaged, and different ways to speak to the kids."

- Past work experience student who is now completing a school-based apprenticeship at Tomorrow Today

"An amazing opportunity to learn new life skills and a way to make more friends, connections and contacts"

- GSTW participant

Great Start to Work

Great Start to Work provides young people with the confidence and 'know how' to apply for paid part time work outside school hours. Participants are connected with local employers to learn about employee roles, employer expectations, and have the chance to practice their interaction skills in a series of mock interviews.

15 young people participated for

3 hours per week for

6 weeks.

14 local businesses supported the program

Bertalli's Bakery is a consistent supporter of Benalla's young people, providing work-place tours as part of our Great Start to Work program. A number of program participants have secured jobs at the Bakery.





Supermarkets like the Benalla Grocer are just one of the local workplaces that welcome young people to their staff. The Great Start to Work program visited to learn more about workplace expectations.

University Bus Trips

Giving young people the opportunity to be immersed in the culture of tertiary life can open a new world of possibilities for their future. For the first time, Tomorrow Today offered senior students from local secondary schools the opportunity to experience rural universities as well as the long-standing trip to urban universities. They learnt about courses, scholarship opportunities and career pathways and visited lecture theatres, recreational and accommodation facilities.

61 Year 10, 11 and 12 students visited the Wangaratta Regional Study Centre, CSU Thurgoona and LaTrobe Wodonga

90 Year 10, 11 and 12 students visited four urban universities

"I haven't been able to go around to Unis before. This trip allowed me to gain the thoughts and opinions of many people and start the conversation with my parents about my career."

- Bus trip participant



Charles Sturt University welcomed Benalla school groups to learn more about what to expect from University.

Career action plans

Career action plans provide young people with a road map to their future occupation. Year 10 students worked with a motivational coach to identify their interests, strengths, skills and talents. This information was used to help guide students to explore future careers opportunities.

87 Year 10 students at Benalla P-12 College and FCJ College completed a Career Action Plan

Live4Life

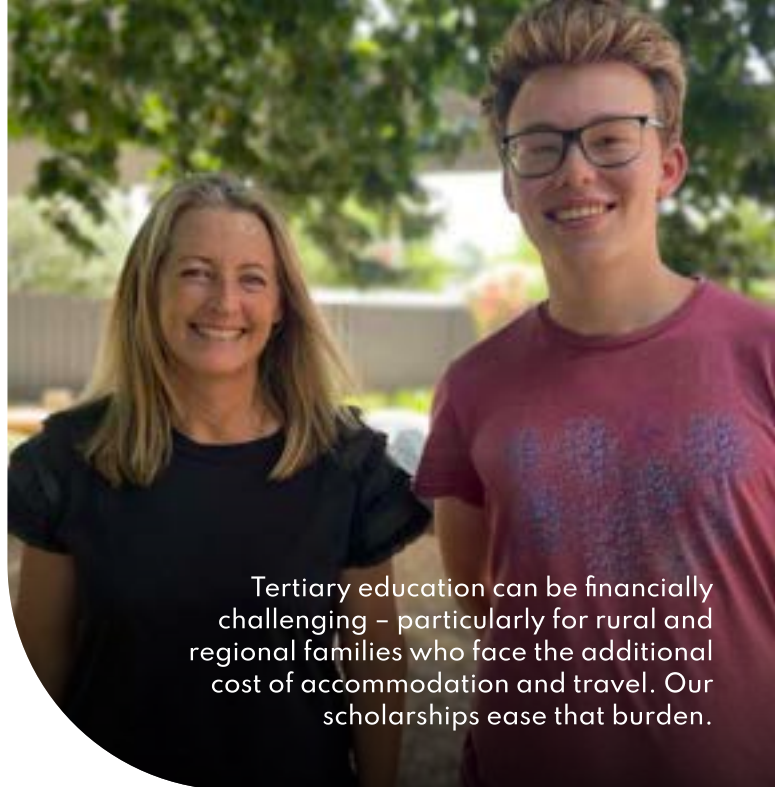
Live4Life aims to increase young people's mental health knowledge and where to seek assistance for mental health issues. Tomorrow Today is a partnering agency in the delivery of this suicide prevention program. Free mental health training was provided to teachers, parents, community members, service providers and Year 8 and 11 students attending Benalla P-12 College, FCJ College, and Benalla Flexible Learning Centre.



Year 12 scholarships

Progressing to tertiary studies can be an exciting but stressful time for many young people and their families. The worry of finding affordable accommodation, while budgeting for course fees, food and course resources 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:



Tertiary education can be financially challenging – particularly for rural and regional families who face the additional cost of accommodation and travel. Our scholarships ease that burden.

Bachelor of Law (honours)/Arts at Monash University
Bachelor of Economics at ANU
Bachelor of Animal and Veterinary Biosciences at LaTrobe University
Bachelor of Engineering (honours) and Bachelor of Computer Science at Monash University

“Thank you very much for awarding me this scholarship. It will make a significant difference to my studies and will be used to buy essential items to set me up for the year.”

- Scholarship recipient

“Receiving this scholarship has helped reduce the financial obstacles involved in going to university. Knowing I have received this assistance will allow me to focus my attention on the challenge of tertiary education.”

- Scholarship recipient

BOARD 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. Georgina is currently President of The Rangers Foundation, fundraising for the breast cancer unit at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and is a member of the Institute of Community Directors Australia.



SALLY GAMBLE

Treasurer
Chair (until Oct 2021)

Sally is a founding director of Tomorrow Today, serving as Chair from 2009 to 2021. Over the last twenty years she has contributed to the community through numerous organisations, including as a long-term member of the Regent Honeyeater Project committee. She is a Director and Company Secretary of the national peak organisation, Community Foundations Australia.



LIZ CHAPMAN OAM

Convenor, Education Benalla Program (retired Nov 2021)

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. She retired from the Board in November 2021.



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).



LARISSA MONTGOMERY

Larissa is a senior project officer with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and has a career background in environmental sustainability. She has experience in project management, community engagement and governance and is passionate about building strong, resilient and connected communities. Larissa grew up and continues to live in Tatong and has been an active member of many different community groups over the past 18 years. She was appointed to the Board in December 2021.



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.



LOUISE PEARCE

Chair (from Nov 2021)

Louise works for Melbourne University and as a consultant in the vocational education sector. Her career is focused on education with a particular passion for supporting young people. Louise and her husband raised their family in Benalla where she has been an active community member 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).



FLORENT THIVILLIER

Convenor, Education Benalla
Program (from Dec 2021)

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's active involvement in the community has included being a participant and coach in numerous local sporting clubs. He is currently Distribution Centre Manager for a major food manufacturer.



MARTIN SMITH

Martin is a senior operational risk manager and Chartered Accountant, with experience in compliance, banking and finance roles in Australia and overseas. Now Melbourne-based, he has been an active member of the local primary school council and a committee member and coach in junior sport. Martin remains connected to his home town of Benalla and joined the Board of Tomorrow Today in September 2020. He 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.

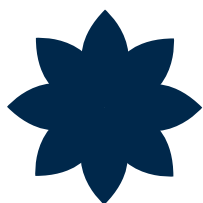
FINANCIALS

TOMORROW TODAY FOUNDATION

The objective of Tomorrow Today Foundation (company name - Tomorrow Today A Foundation for Rural Community Development), 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 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 and grants from Community Fund income were made to benefit the district.

Tomorrow Today Foundation purchased the commercial property at 66-68 Nunn Street, Benalla, in 2017. Ownership provides a secure base for all Tomorrow Today's community activities and a long term rental income stream from leased offices. Substantial pro bono property management and legal support, as well as donated goods, labour and equipment, and the instillation of solar panels, ensure costs are kept to a minimum.



TOMORROW TODAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The objective of Tomorrow Today Education Foundation is to reduce the level of social disadvantage in Benalla and district.

During the year, the Foundation 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. Our staff coordinate and deliver more than 20 different activities that make up the Program.

Generous grant funding from beyond Benalla has supported the Education Benalla Program since it began in 2010. A full list of this year's supporters can be found on page 34

Tomorrow Today is pleased to acknowledge the support of the Victorian Government.



The following pages include financial reports for our three charitable entities. We submit full reports to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) by the reporting deadline each year. Copies of our audited financial reports are available on request or from tomorrowtoday.com.au

TOMORROW TODAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

- ABN 90 610 420 123

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended
30 June 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUE		
Grants	773,182	767,172
Donations	68,871	56,272
Other income	6,643	197,007
Total revenue	848,696	1,020,451
EXPENDITURE		
Employee benefits expense	582,329	598,644
Program expenses	215,800	202,351
Community Grants distributed	76,833	49,203
Other expenses	38,686	22,452
Professional fees	8,460	7,710
Total expenditure	922,108	880,360
Current year surplus	(73,412)	140,091
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	(73,412)	140,091

Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended
30 June 2022

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,296,226	802,213
Accounts receivable and other debtors	16,543	212,365
Total current assets	1,312,769	1,014,578
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant and equipment	29,590	24,929
Total non-current assets	29,590	24,929
Total assets	1,342,359	1,039,507
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other payables	60,802	32,083
Employee provisions	83,546	62,527
Funds in advance	577,513	235,000
Total current liabilities	721,861	329,610
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee provisions	5,704	21,691
Total non-current liabilities	5,704	21,691
Total liabilities	727,565	351,301
Net assets	614,794	688,206
FUNDS		
Education Benalla Program reserve	414,712	537,001
Special purpose reserve	165,936	109,289
Retained surplus	34,146	41,916
Total funds	614,794	688,206

**TOMORROW TODAY A FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - ABN 19 096 214 907**

**Statement of Profit
or Loss and Other
Comprehensive
Income**

For the year ended
30 June 2022

	2022	2021
REVENUE		
Grants	25,000	38,430
Donations, sponsorships & fundraising	29,811	18,159
Rental income	87,949	97,096
Investment income	22,386	28,780
Profit/loss on disposal of investments	7,017	468
Other income	20,444	16,974
Total revenue	192,607	199,907
EXPENDITURE		
Community grants distributed	17,420	23,381
Investment property expenses	20,462	21,495
Investment property loan - interest paid	4,688	5,438
Management fees	37,035	24,256
Professional fees	11,220	8,900
Investment fees	5,054	2,359
Other expenses	28,086	26,459
Total expenditure	123,965	112,288
Current year surplus	68,642	87,619
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items to be reclassified subsequent to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:		
Net changes in fair value of investments	(58,755)	71,537
Net changes in investment property valuation	-	151,694
Other comprehensive income	(58,755)	223,231
Total comprehensive income	9,887	310,850

**Statement of
Financial Position**

For the year ended
30 June 2022

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	272,255	278,508
Accounts receivable and other debtors	21,088	20,172
Total current assets	293,343	298,680
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	483,311	510,101
Property, plant and equipment	30,071	15,983
Investment property	1,220,000	1,220,000
Total non-current assets	1,733,382	1,746,084
Total assets	2,026,725	2,044,764
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other payables	10,946	13,872
Borrowings	25,000	25,000
Total current liabilities	35,946	38,872
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	125,000	150,000
Total non-current liabilities	125,000	150,000
Total liabilities	160,946	188,872
Net assets	1,865,779	1,855,892
FUNDS		
Open Fund capital reserve	583,349	575,956
Open Fund income reserve	30,343	87,458
Special purpose reserve	92,195	44,293
Property equity reserve	951,694	914,194
Retained surplus	208,198	233,991
Total funds	1,865,779	1,855,892

**TOMORROW TODAY A FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC FUND - ABN 98 553 570 389**

Income Statement

For the year ended
30 June 2022

INCOME

Donations	77,421	69,580
Investment income	25,947	30,408
Profit on disposal of investments	2,683	6,779
Total income	106,051	106,767

EXPENDITURE

Grants distributed	33,915	35,580
Investment fees	5,971	2,555
Loss on disposal of investments	3,651	11,573
Other expenses	9,168	7,267
Total expenditure	52,705	56,975
Surplus	53,346	49,792

OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:

Net changes in fair value of investments	(72,211)	61,142
Other comprehensive income	(72,211)	61,142
Total comprehensive income	(18,865)	110,934

**Statement of
Financial Position**

For the year ended
30 June 2022

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	152,885	177,505
Accounts receivable and other debtors	3,400	1,300
Accrued income	14,693	17,919
Total current assets	170,978	196,724

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Investments	582,269	575,389
Total non-current assets	582,269	575,389
Total assets	753,247	772,113

LIABILITIES

Total liabilities	-	-
Net assets	753,247	772,113

FUNDS

Settled Sum	100	100
Corpus	703,931	653,985
Accumulated funds	49,216	118,028
Total funds	753,247	772,113

The Tomorrow Today team is passionate about its work. We feel fortunate to be part of a vibrant and connected community.

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
FUNDING PARTNERS
FOR THE 2021/22
FINANCIAL YEAR**

Victorian Government

The William Buckland Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation

The Ledger Charitable Trust
managed by Perpetual

**Foundation for Rural &
Regional Renewal**

Drakensberg Trust

Sabemo Foundation

The Very Good Foundation
managed by Perpetual

June Canavan Foundation

Goodman Family Foundation



Tomorrow Today staff and several volunteers came together under the elms in our new Outdoor Learning Space. Our wonderful volunteers generously share their time to help make our programs successful.

GIFTS RECEIVED DURING THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

Donations, sponsorships and in-kind



GOLD SUPPORTERS

\$10,000
and above

Anonymous (3)
Dobson, B & K
Jenny Milner - Marsha Watson Pharmacy
Koop Family
Smith, B, D & M

SILVER SUPPORTERS

\$1,000 to
\$9,999

Aldous, A & M	Jenny Milner - Marsha Watson Pharmacy - Workplace giving
Aldous, C	Landmark Construction Group
Anonymous (5)	Magistrates' Court of Victoria
Arnott, N	Marriott, A & J
Benalla Baptist Church	Parris, B & J
Benalla Church Street Surgery	Piper, M & S
Benalla Fore Players Golf Trip	Pruden, J
Brownstein, G & Gamble, S	Rotary Club of Benalla
Burston, G	Smith Dosser Pty
Burston, L	Tallis, M
Duffy, P	Thivillier, F & Lefebvre, L
Falkiner, D	Thompson, P
Gibson AO, D	Widdup, R & J
Goulburn Murray Water	
Healy, T & Gill, J	
James, S	

BRONZE SUPPORTERS

\$50 to
\$999

Anonymous (19)	Hendry, C
Benalla Ensign - Sale of 'Watermark' books	Hilton, J
Benalla Veterinary Clinic	Marangy Olive Oil
Bennison, J	Martin, M
Brown, M	Murphy, H
Chapman OAM, L	Nicholas, V
Collins, E	Ogilbee, H
Count Charitable Foundation	Rees, D
Coutts OAM, S	Smith, L
DeArth, B (in memory of)	Smyth, M & S
Dore, M	St Joseph's Tennis Club
Edwards, J	Sykes, S
Findlay, D	Watson, T
Gourley, J	
Grubb, N	



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