TOMORROW TODAY

Benalla. Stronger together

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



Cover image:

Year 5 & 6 students from five Benalla schools explored the wonders of the night sky through the immersive 'Cosmodome' experience. Funded by Tomorrow Today, the giant inflatable dome captured students' imaginations and sparked curiosity about the universe. Tailored to the senior primary science curriculum, the experience exposed students to new fields of interest and broadened their sense of future study and career possibilities.

Benalla and district is in North East Victoria.
Tomorrow Today acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which we live, learn and work: the Yorta Yorta, Bangerang and Taungurung peoples and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from other lands who are part of our community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and endeavour to continually value and learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and practices.

A number of the photos in this publication have been provided thanks to our program partners.
Professional photography by Christine Knight Photography and James Bugg Photography.
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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

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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It is with great pride that we present Tomorrow Today's Annual Report for 2025/26.

CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

This year has demonstrated what is possible when a community works together with generosity, purpose and optimism. We have focused on reaffirming what makes Tomorrow Today special, while challenging ourselves to adapt for the future. Our new five-year strategic plan builds on strong foundations and sets a clear direction for deepening impact, strengthening partnerships and responding to the changing needs of children, young people and families across Benalla and district.

Tomorrow Today is special because it is deeply grounded in the wonderful Benalla and district community, and driven by their aspirations and capability. Since 2002 Tomorrow Today has helped to transform the generosity of Benalla people into impact for children, young people, families and the whole community. That enduring commitment is testament to the strength of the community and its willingness to work together for a brighter future. This year we were proud to represent Benalla at national events about place-based impact, where we have been recognised as a leading example of how place-based change can improve whole community outcomes.

Through our Annual Grants program we support others in the community to achieve positive change. A highlight this year was visiting the new Indigenous Garden at St Joseph's Primary School, created with the involvement of students and support from a Tomorrow Today grant in 2025. The garden provides a culturally enriching space for the whole school community. Similarly, we are proud to continue our investment in Benalla's Aboriginal Garden, a place where locals and visitors can walk on Country and connect with our region's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Our grants reflect the range of organisations who are contributing to Benalla's future. Since 2012, we have provided more than $62,000 to local not-for-profit preschools, enabling them to regularly renew learning resources and outdoor equipment. This support helps create engaging early learning environments where children can learn, grow and thrive. Our grants also support projects that benefit all age groups, such as helping create a more welcoming space at Benalla's Centre Against Violence. You can discover more about our grant recipients on page 8.

A core component of our work is the Education Benalla Program, which incorporates over 20 programs to support learning and development. Each year, our team responds to emerging evidence about what children and families need to make our suite of programs even better. For example,

- We know that healthy family relationships that support children's learning begin before a baby is born, so we started our first ante-natal program.

- Data showed us that our support for children in the first year of school needed to last longer, so we found new funding to extend our Prep Immersion program in partnership with local schools.

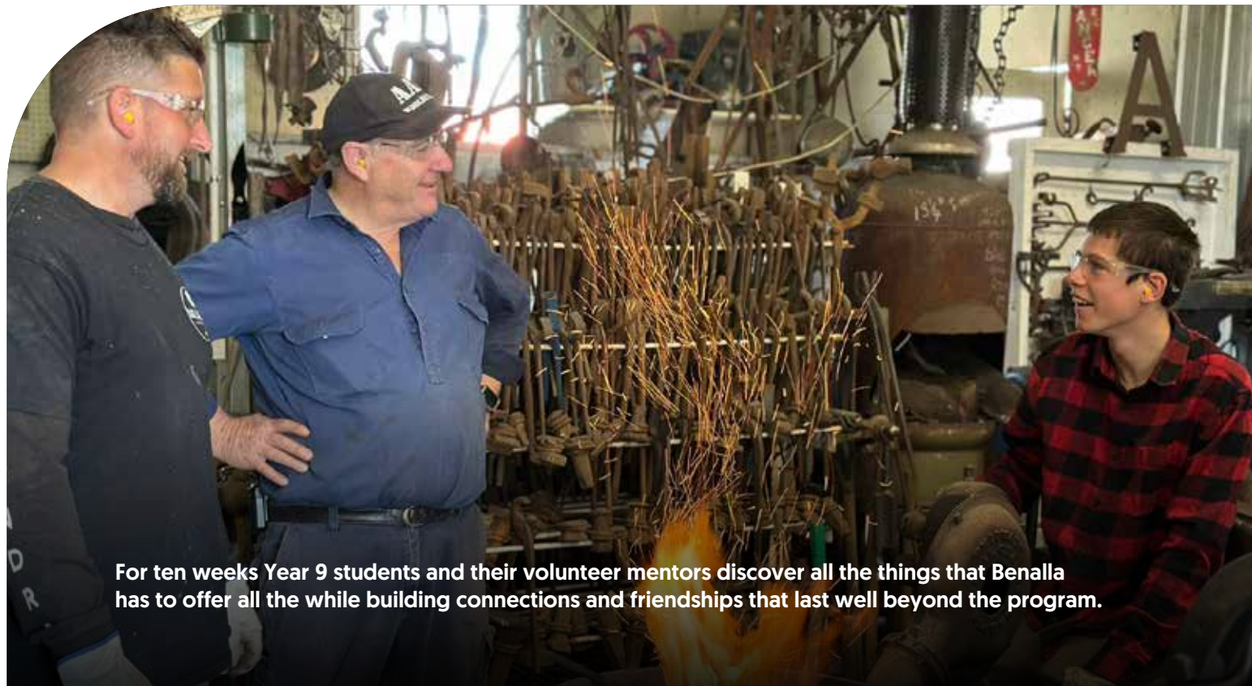
- Our young people told us that they needed support with socio-emotional skills as well as learning, so we've worked with leading providers to deliver workshops that help young people thrive in an increasingly complex world.

Alongside our programs, we are working to strengthen our organisation so that our impact can be sustained for years to come. We are fortunate to have long-term partnerships with our philanthropic funders that enable us to think beyond the next program or milestone and imagine what continued support for the Benalla and district community looks like over time. This year we are especially grateful to the William Buckland Foundation for their generous, untied grant to support all aspects of our work. We are also grateful for funding from the Victorian Government during a constrained budget cycle, which recognises what Benalla is achieving for young learners. The support we attract from beyond Benalla is strengthened by the commitment shown here at home. The generosity of our local donors demonstrates a community willing to invest in its own future and gives others confidence to invest in us.

We thank the many local volunteers who contribute their time, energy and ideas to our organisation and programs. This includes our volunteer Board, who have steered Tomorrow Today through a leadership transition, as well as navigating an increasingly complex landscape of working with children and young people and the challenges arising from cost-of-living pressures. We know many families have been doing it tough this year, but we are continually inspired by the way everyone who works with us keeps showing up and giving whatever they can.

Lastly, a shout-out to our incredible team. We refreshed our values this year to reflect how we work: with collaboration, respect, creativity, trust and determination. As the world becomes more complex, our team's infectious sense of optimism makes it a joy to come to work. Together we create safe, welcoming spaces for our program participants, volunteers and visitors. We warmly invite you to visit us in Nunn Street, learn more about the work and hear the stories behind it. Working with our participants, families, volunteers, donors, partners and funders we look forward to building on this year's achievements and creating even greater opportunities for Benalla's children, young people, families and our community.

Louise Pearce – Board Chair
Jen Jackson – Executive Officer



For ten weeks Year 9 students and their volunteer mentors discover all the things that Benalla has to offer all the while building connections and friendships that last well beyond the program.



In 2026 we awarded $39,298 in community grants to 12 local projects.

BENALLA'S COMMUNITY FUND

The Community Fund exists to give back to Benalla and district by turning local generosity into lasting impact. Donations are pooled and carefully invested, with the income used to provide grants that strengthen and support our community. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we're able to fund a range of local projects year after year that help build a more connected, resilient and thriving rural community.

Over $1.85 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 and is aligned with our work. These are special accounts within the Community Fund managed by Tomorrow Today to track donations and grants for a particular donor or cause.

Current Named Funds that are benefitting our community:

Education Fund - supports young people to access educational opportunities.

Kingston Smith Memorial Fund - established in memory of local toddler Kingston Smith. This Fund supports early intervention programs that enhance the education, health and wellbeing of young children.

Lonsdale Fund - provides financial support for young people whose educational opportunities are limited by alcohol or drug use within the family unit.

Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop Memorial Fund - this fund supports students in Years 10-12 to access educational opportunities.

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

Donations can be made over the phone, in person, by cheque or online.

Scan the QR code to donate online

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

In the 2025/26 financial year Tomorrow Today distributed $120,966 in funding to groups, families and individuals across Benalla and district.

Support for children and young people in families experiencing financial hardship I $75,668

Education, Sport and Hobbies I $45,668
Through funding from local sponsors and donors, Education Fund and Lonsdale Fund and philanthropic grants, we supported 196 children and young people to access items including shoes and clothing, spectacles, laptops, travel and paediatric appointments; or participate in sport and recreation activities, school excursions and camps. A further four students received Year 12 Scholarships.

The Kingston Smith Memorial Fund supported three children to access swimming lessons and 24 families with 36 children aged 2-5 to participate in weekly Creative Movement classes.

Back to School vouchers I $30,000
The Back to School program provides financial support for students to purchase educational items like uniforms, bags and books. Each year we source funding to purchase vouchers for local schools to distribute to students as need arises. In 2025/26 this was made possible through several funding sources including the Olive Tree Op Shop, Benalla Open Gardens fundraiser and from the generous support of individual donors.

400 vouchers valued at $75 each were given to local schools to distribute to families to help meet the cost of school essentials.

Support for groups and organisations I $45,298

Tomorrow Today supports a range of local projects each year through our Annual Grants Program and Stepping Stones Grants. Both programs are funded by income from the Community Fund.

Our 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.**

Our Annual Grants Program awards grants of up to $5,000 to fund community groups and organisations to deliver projects that build skills, strength and resilience in Benalla. Annual grants open in February each year and are announced in June. In 2026, we awarded $39,298 to fund 12 community projects.

Stepping Stones Grants of up to $2,000 are available for community projects throughout the year. This year we awarded $6,000 to fund three projects.

The successful projects are detailed in the following pages.

ANNUAL GRANTS

BENALLA GYMNASTICS CLUB
Drumming with 'In the Groove' I $1,040

Two 'In the Groove' drumming sessions will be available for free for Benalla children and young people during the 2026 school holidays. The program will give the participants a chance to try a new activity together and build new friendships.

BENALLA MIGRANT CAMP INC.
Walk of Lights I $3,500

Formed in 2013, Benalla Migrant Camp Inc. brings to life the stories of the 60,000 refugees and displaced people who called the camp home between 1949 and 1967, many of whom went on to make Benalla their home. The Walk of Lights event will retrace the steps of former camp residents, acknowledging their ancestors, family and friends through a community ritual of placing a light in their memory. The walk will end with a light painting display by artist Peter Solness and a celebratory gathering which will be open to the whole community.

BENALLA P-12 COLLEGE
Future Makers Social Groups I $3,000

With support from the school's wellbeing team, students will form a range of small social groups across the College's Faithfull St campus. Each group will be unique and will become a platform for developing communication, collaboration and confidence in an inclusive, supportive social environment. Groups will be of mixed ages, genders and personalities but will be united through common interests. One of the first groups planned is a Coffee Club for students to develop the practical and entrepreneurial skills to run a cafe.



Making a great latte is a skill that's in high demand at Benalla P-12 College. The Coffee Club is one of a range of Future Makers Social Groups designed to help students connect while they learn valuable skills.

BERNARD BRIGGS KINDERGARTEN
Outdoor Play Wet Weather Gear I $2,364

This grant will fund a class set of locally sourced, durable, waterproof overalls and raincoats in a range of sizes as well as storage equipment for the gear. This will allow all children to fully participate in the indoor-outdoor play program which supports essential skills including physical coordination, resilience and problem-solving while fostering healthy habits and mental wellbeing.

CENTRE AGAINST VIOLENCE (CAV)
Improving access and inclusion for victim survivors in Benalla I $3,000

CAV provides outreach support in Benalla for people impacted by sexual assault and family violence. This grant will help create a safer, more welcoming space through improvements to the décor and expansion of their therapeutic resources, including books, creative materials and sensory items for children and young people.

MUNRO AVENUE PRESCHOOL
Outdoor Physical activity equipment I $4,884

Quality equipment that is safe, durable and developmentally appropriate allows educators to intentionally design outdoor experiences that support school readiness. This grant will fund the purchase of high-quality outdoor play equipment that will enhance the physical, social and cognitive development for children in the preschool's three and four year old programs.

NORTH EAST MULTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION (NEMA)
Connecting Cultures - Celebrating Together I $2,150

In partnership with Waminda Community House, NEMA will host a multicultural family engagement event that will benefit multicultural children, their parents and the broader community by strengthening social connections, promoting inclusion and building confidence in accessing local community spaces. It will also foster cross-cultural interaction between families and other local residents, contributing to stronger community cohesion and a sense of belonging within the Benalla region.

RIDE AVENUE PRESCHOOL
'Let's Pretend': Supporting learning through role play I $5,000

Role play enables children to explore real world experiences, build empathy and practice communication in meaningful contexts. This project will provide diverse, culturally inclusive materials such as play kitchens, nursery furnishings and open-ended props that reflect children's lives and broaden their perspectives. The grant will support the purchase of durable, safe and developmentally appropriate resources. These materials will encourage collaborative play, problem solving and creativity.



Children at Bernard Briggs Kindergarten are outside regardless of the weather thanks to our annual grant.



The Jammin' After School sessions at Waminda Community House are an outlet for children and young people to expand their creative expression through drumming and dance workshops.

ROOM AT THE TABLE
Studio Mentoring I $5,000

Room at the Table is an inclusive non-profit organisation building community for the people of Benalla and surrounds through a range of non-sport, geek-subculture activities. This grant will build on the previous Studio Training Project funded in 2024. Killer Pig Productions will mentor people to enhance their practical studio skills and create projects that will be published on the Room at the Table YouTube channel.

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Little Lambs Playtime I $1,890

Little Lambs Playtime is a new playgroup open to all families with preschool aged children. The funds will be used to help create a welcoming space where parents, carers and young children can build friendships and find support during their child's preschool years.

WAMINDA COMMUNITY HOUSE
Jammin' After School I $4,970

Jammin' After School is a series of six drumming and dance classes for school aged children who attend Waminda Community House after school. The sessions are designed to enhance participants' creative expression, helping to build their confidence and strengthen their relationships, while improving their health and wellbeing. The sessions will culminate in an end of term concert and barbecue for families.

WANGARATTA DISTRICT SPECIALIST SCHOOL, BENALLA CAMPUS
Sensory Garden I $2,500

Sensory experiences can assist children to regulate their behaviour, emotions and feelings which helps them to better engage in education and classroom settings. The grant will help to establish a sensory garden in the school grounds.

STEPPING STONES GRANTS

BENALLA RURAL CITY COUNCIL
Benalla Street Art Festival Kids Zone Art Activities I $2,000

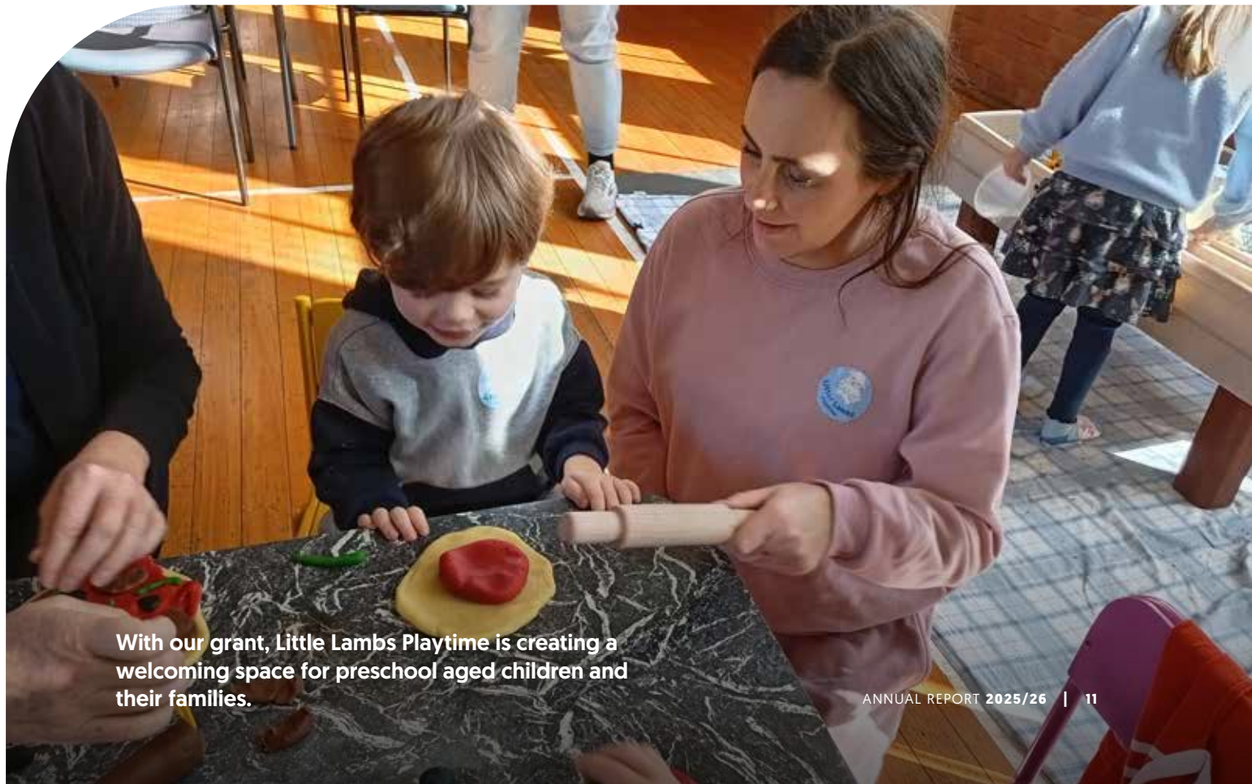
The Kids Zone at the 2026 Benalla Street Art Festival was a free hands-on creative space located near Benalla's iconic Ceramic Mural. The family-friendly activities included rock painting, chalk art and open-ended nature-based craft activities facilitated by local artists and volunteers.

WAMINDA COMMUNITY HOUSE
Improving Road Safety – Helmets for Kids I $2,000

This grant funded the purchase and distribution of 54 approved bike helmets for students who faced financial barriers to acquire a suitable helmet. Students learned about the importance of helmet use during bike safety education programs conducted with Benalla Police and Waminda.

BENALLA HEALTH
Benalla NAIDOC Week Celebrations I $2,000

As part of week-long NAIDOC celebrations, Benalla Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Caucus and Advisory Group (auspiced by Benalla Health) have planned a Family Fun Day for July 2026. This grant will help fund the event which aims to create a welcoming space for First Nations Peoples and the broader community to come together through a range of culturally inclusive activities for people of all ages and abilities.



With our grant, Little Lambs Playtime is creating a welcoming space for preschool aged children and their families.

EDUCATION BENALLA PROGRAM



CONVENOR REPORT

This is my first report as Convenor of the Education Benalla Program (EBP), and what a pleasure it is to be part of such a great community initiative. The EBP has an unwavering goal: to improve the learning and life outcomes of Benalla's children and young people.

Launched in 2010, the EBP was designed by locals, for locals. It brings our community together - families, volunteers, staff, partners, service providers, businesses, donors and funders - driven by a shared commitment to giving our children and young people the best possible start in life. And it works because we have a clear strategy and we genuinely care. These are our kids, we want the best for them, and it feels good to be part of something so positive.

A community approach to education

The EBP works in a number of ways. We connect people to the services they need and facilitate collaboration between organisations and service providers. We enable by providing resources and support. We activate by bringing people together and catalysing collective effort. And we design and deliver programs, in partnership with others, to support our children and young people to succeed in learning.

We're fortunate to have a knowledgeable and deeply committed group of people guiding this work through the EBP Management Committee. At our twice-yearly meetings, our staff and Board share what we're seeing on the ground - Benalla's progress, challenges and emerging needs - while Committee members bring their own knowledge, experience and ideas to the table. They ask the hard questions. They challenge us to understand issues from every angle. To our EBP Management Committee: thank you.

Getting children ready to learn

We know families are children's first and most important ongoing teachers, and that what happens at home has a huge influence on educational attainment. That's why one of our key goals is making sure every Benalla child starts school ready to learn.

Our much-loved PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) program is going strong. We're currently running 14 sessions every week, reaching 278 children and 236 families - our highest number of registrations in five years! It's wonderful to see parents and carers building connections with each other, swapping ideas and learning from one another as well as from our fabulous PEEP facilitators.

Parental confidence and wellbeing matter. So does the quality of everyday interactions between adults and children. It's often the simple things that make the biggest difference - reading together, talking, playing and sharing time.

Reading to a littlie is one of life's great joys. It's also a brilliant way to support brain development while strengthening the emotional bond between children and the adults who care for them.

Another highlight this year was celebrating the distribution of the 5,000th children's book through the Benalla Imagination Library - a fitting tribute to Dolly Parton's legacy, who founded the global Imagination Library program. This year 316 children aged 0-2 years receive a storybook in the post every month. Thanks to Benalla Rural City Council and the Rotary Club of Benalla for helping bring this world-leading program to Benalla.

Helping children switch on to learning

Even with the best efforts of families, some children arrive at school without all the foundations they need to confidently engage in learning.

Since 2017, Tomorrow Today's Prep Immersion program has been supporting students identified by their schools as needing some extra, focused support to help them switch on to learning.

The results are encouraging. Our data shows growth in students' comprehension, literacy, communication and socialisation skills throughout the program. But we also know that maintaining those gains once the program finishes is a challenge.

In early 2026, an exciting opportunity came our way through a grant from a new supporter. It has allowed us to expand Prep Immersion from eight weeks to 20 weeks at Benalla P-12 College. This extra time gives students more opportunity to consolidate their learning and gives those gains a better chance of sticking.

Learning, culture and connection

One of the highlights of 2026 has been watching our young Anganya participants work alongside local Aboriginal artist Uncle Chris Thorne to create a circular mural during the Benalla Street Art Festival.

Anganya, which Tomorrow Today runs in partnership with Ganbina, a Shepparton-based Aboriginal-led organisation, supports the learning and connection of 72 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students who attend mainstream schools in Benalla.

The mural they created tells a powerful story about learning, mentorship and the passing on of cultural knowledge. At its centre is a campfire, surrounded by seated Elders and young people. From there, large and small footprints branch out towards the sky, water, wildlife and to men's and women's business. It is a beautiful expression of culture, connection and the journey of learning.
This artwork now has a permanent home on one of the external walls at Tomorrow Today.

In Benalla, education matters. Thank you to everyone who gives their precious time to our programs, and to everyone who supports our work through donations. Your generosity makes this work possible. We are enormously grateful.

Rosie Koop
Education Benalla Program - Convenor



In December we celebrated 30 years of PEEP internationally with PEEP families past and present.

OVERVIEW

The Education Benalla Program (EBP) was established in 2010 in response to clear evidence that Benalla's children and young people were not achieving the same educational outcomes as students elsewhere in Victoria. More than 15 years on, the EBP is firmly embedded in the Benalla community, bringing together families, schools, government, business and community organisations to help ensure every child and young person has the opportunity to thrive in learning and in life.

Our Early Years programs support parents to recognise and embrace their role as their child's first and most enduring educator. Our literacy, numeracy and oral language programs are delivered in local preschools and schools and provide targeted support for young children as they build the foundations for lifelong learning. Funding for school and community activities also helps remove financial barriers, ensuring children have opportunities to participate in education and extracurricular experiences.

Through our Future Work programs, young people aged 11–19 are encouraged and supported to broaden their aspirations, build confidence and develop the skills needed for further education, training and employment.

In partnership with schools and other organisations, young people are connected with opportunities to explore careers, develop leadership skills, discover ways to contribute to their community and have their voices heard.

Community partnerships are central to our work. Through a diverse network of government, business and community organisations, and with the support of more than 80 dedicated program volunteers, we build connections and opportunities that enhance the learning and developmental outcomes for Benalla's children and young people.

As a community we strive to ensure that:

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

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



ConnectParent links new parents with an experienced local person to help them in the early days of their child's life. The trained volunteers are an invaluable part of the 'village' it takes to raise a child.

2025/26 PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

ANTENATAL PROGRAMS

Our suite of antenatal programs offers expectant parents different ways to connect, learn and access support, recognising that every family's needs are different. From informal opportunities to meet other local parents-to-be, through to individual support and practical education, our programs help families build connections and confidence before their baby arrives.

ConnectParent

Trained volunteer Community Connectors support families from pregnancy through to their child's second birthday. By building a trusted relationship with families and helping them navigate and connect with local services, resources and opportunities, ConnectParent supports parents to strengthen their confidence, knowledge and connections within the community.

Antenatal PEEP

Antenatal PEEP is a free five-week program for Benalla parents-to-be, designed to complement traditional antenatal education that focuses on pregnancy, birth and the physical aspects of becoming a parent. Sessions provide participants with practical information, activities and skills to develop a secure attachment with their baby and manage the emotional changes that pregnancy and early parenthood bring.

"Becoming a new parent can be hard and having someone to reach out to for support can help a lot as not all people have a village to help raise their children. Pairing with a Community Connector has helped me to branch out and learn more about the Benalla community and what it offers as a new parent."

- ConnectParent participant

Expectant Parents' Social Group

The Expectant Parents' Social Group provides a welcoming space for local parents-to-be to meet, chat and build connections. There is no formal agenda or expectation to attend for a set period; people can drop in for 10 minutes or stay for an hour. As well as creating connections between expectant parents, the group offers an easy introduction to the broader range of programs and support available for Benalla families.

9 active ConnectParent pairings

11 new Connectors trained

319 volunteer hours given



PEEP is an opportunity for beautiful friendships to grow.

Benalla Imagination Library

Part of the international Dolly Parton's Imagination Library scheme, the Benalla Imagination Library was launched in 2024 with the financial support of Benalla Rural City Council and the Rotary Club of Benalla. Children aged 0-2 who live in Benalla local government area are eligible to receive a free, high quality, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. Families also receive resources to help them engage with the books in ways that promote early literacy and language development.

316 children registered

3,057 books distributed

PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership)

Since its commencement in 2012, PEEP has become part of the fabric of the Benalla community for families with preschool aged children. Approximately 80% of Benalla families with children aged 0-5 enrol in at least one term of the program with most attending for much longer. PEEP provides a free, welcoming space where parents can connect with other families, share experiences and build confidence through learning together. Children enjoy play and craft activities that support the development of early literacy, numeracy, language, social and motor skills; while parents take part in facilitated conversations about child development and parenting. Families also learn and play together through songs, stories, rhymes and games. Regular outings and family events extend these connections into the wider community.

236 families with

278 children attended at least one term of PEEP

14 PEEP groups delivered each week assisted by

16 volunteers

"My daughter really loves coming and singing songs, dancing and then getting to play in the playroom. She also loves interacting with other kids and parents."

- Parent

Early Years Support program

Our Early Years Support program provides tailored assistance for families experiencing geographical isolation, health, or accessibility challenges. Our trained early years specialist works alongside families to help primary caregivers develop strategies to support their child's learning and navigate the challenges of parenting. The program helps them to build and maintain important connections and supports them to transition their child from home to preschool, and from preschool to primary school.

159 home visits made to

43 families with

43 children

"My child has thrived doing this program and absolutely loved having the visits throughout the year. I feel as though she is starting school very confident thanks to the things she has learnt. It has been awesome and I am so grateful for the support."

- Parent

Creative Movement

In our Creative Movement classes, a trained facilitator leads fun, energetic sessions incorporating music, movement and singing. In weekly hour-long sessions throughout the school term, children aged 18 months to 5 years, together with their parent or caregiver, engage in a range of gross motor activities that encourage exploration of space, creativity and expression of emotions.

21 families with

29 children participated in

35 sessions



Creative Movement invites children aged 2-5 and their parents to get busy moving and expressing themselves through dancing and music.

Preschool screening

Working with local preschools, we offer pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and oral language screening for all 4 year old children. In addition to the screening, preschool teachers are supported with play-based resources and activities to expand children's knowledge, and parents receive support to further enhance their child's learning with everyday activities at home.

252 children were screened at

5 preschools

Preschool intentional teaching support

For the first time we are actively helping preschool educators to enhance their teaching strategies. This year we piloted weekly sessions at one of Benalla's preschools to model intentional teaching through play-based activities with the whole preschool group.

Kinder Immersion

In our Kinder Immersion program, our staff work with children who need a little extra help to prepare for school entry. Over six weeks, using targeted, play-based activities, staff work with children in small groups to enhance their pre-literacy, pre-numeracy and oral language skills.

14 children participated for

3x40 minute sessions per week

Great Start to School

Starting school is a big milestone for children and their families. Great Start to School gives parents and caregivers practical ideas and strategies to help make the transition a positive one. Across two sessions, families explore ways to build independence, establish helpful before and after school routines, and weave early literacy and numeracy learning into everyday activities. The program empowers parents to support their child as they take their first steps into school.

35 families starting at

2 Benalla schools participated in

2x2 hour sessions across three sites

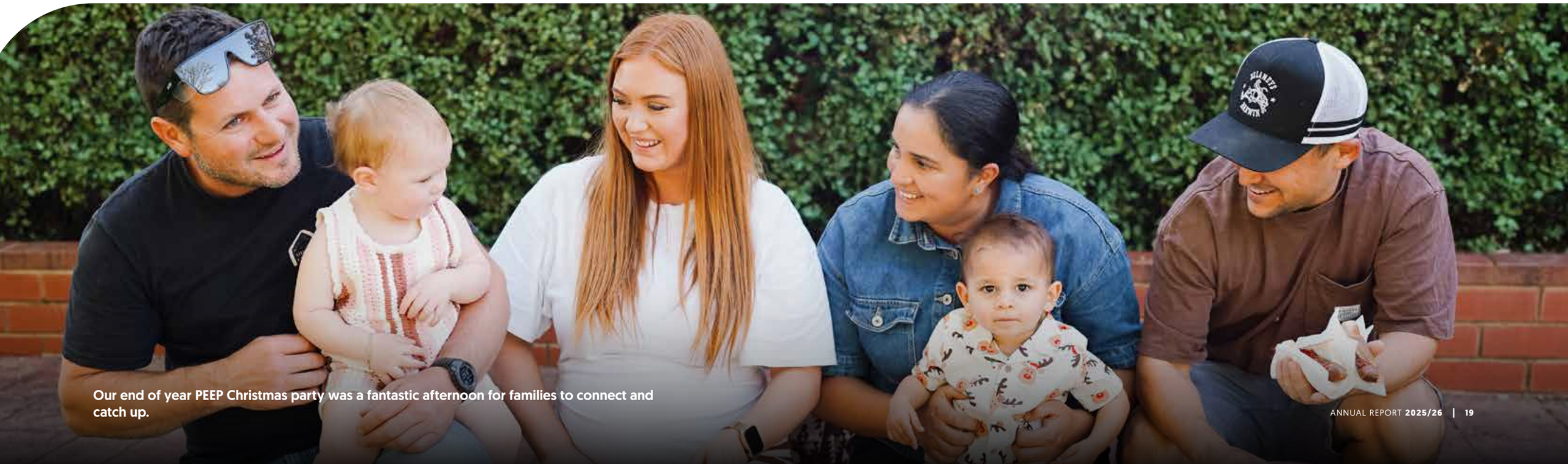
Kinder Pals

Volunteer Kinder Pals give preschool children extra opportunities to talk, listen, read and explore ideas together. They work with small groups of children in Benalla's preschools, using picture books, storytelling and conversation to strengthen early literacy and numeracy skills. These regular interactions help children build the language, confidence and understanding that provide a strong foundation for starting school.

12 Kinder Pals worked in

4 preschools and gave

103 volunteer hours



Our end of year PEEP Christmas party was a fantastic afternoon for families to connect and catch up.

Prep Immersion

Together with Prep teachers, our staff identify students who would benefit from additional learning support. The targeted activities help students' comprehension, literacy, communication and socialisation skills. In 2026 we increased the program length so students can consolidate the skills they learn resulting in longer-lasting benefits. Five weeks of the 20-week program were completed in the 2026 financial year.

18 Prep students participated for

4x40 minutes sessions per week

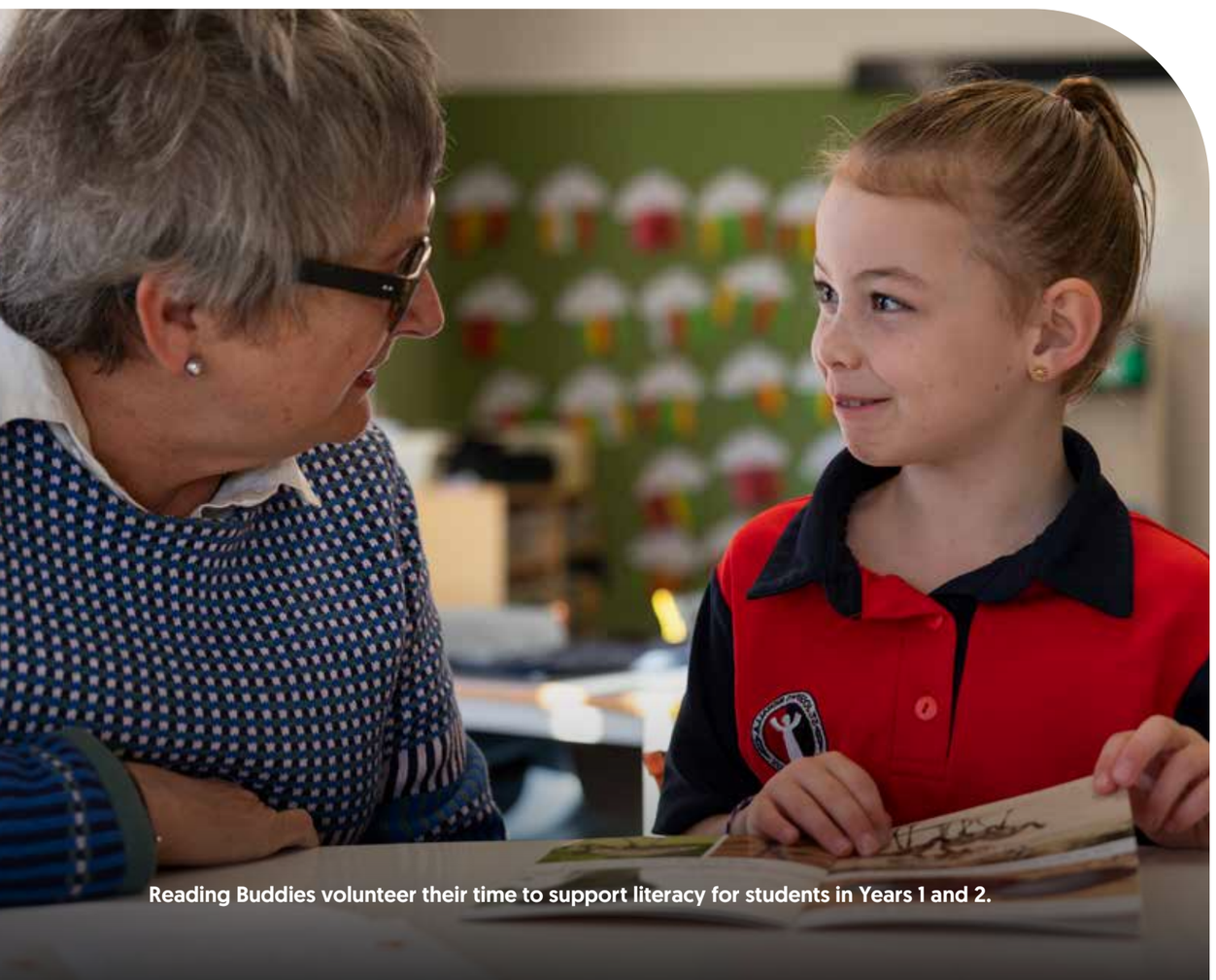
Reading Buddies

Our trained Reading Buddies help students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 improve their reading and writing skills. The nurturing relationships developed between the students and their Buddies improves students' confidence in their learning.

62 students were helped by

20 Reading Buddies who gave

867 volunteer hours



Reading Buddies volunteer their time to support literacy for students in Years 1 and 2.



PEEP evening events, like Harmony Day are colourful and interactive for multiple generations.

Benalla Early Years Network

Tomorrow Today co-ordinates the Benalla Early Years Network which brings together representatives from local preschools and schools, family support, health, disability and welfare services. The Network's purpose is to increase local professional development opportunities for the sector.

Individual funding assistance

Generous donor support helps remove financial barriers that can prevent children and young people from getting involved in school and community life. Through referrals from local schools, clubs and organisations, we provide assistance to help students participate in a wide range of activities and opportunities. This year we have experienced a 62% increase in children needing assistance.

52 children were assisted on

60 occasions

Back To School vouchers

We provide Back to School vouchers to schools so that they can be given to students as need arises. The vouchers can be used to purchase education-related items like school uniforms, shoes, school bags and stationery.

400 $75 vouchers distributed to

10 Benalla and district schools

"This lovely offer goes much further than just the monetary amount. As a recipient of these vouchers I felt seen, valued and part of our generous community. Thank you."

- Parent

Come and Try Day and Participate! Funding

Being involved in activities outside school helps children and young people build friendships, develop new skills and feel a stronger sense of belonging in their community. These connections can also support wellbeing, confidence and engagement in learning. Our Participate! Funding provides financial assistance to help children from families with a government concession card join local clubs and take part in regular community activities, ensuring cost is not a barrier to participation. In September 2025 we hosted Come and Try Day which brought together 20 local sporting and recreational clubs to showcase what they offer for children and young people.

92 young people were supported to join

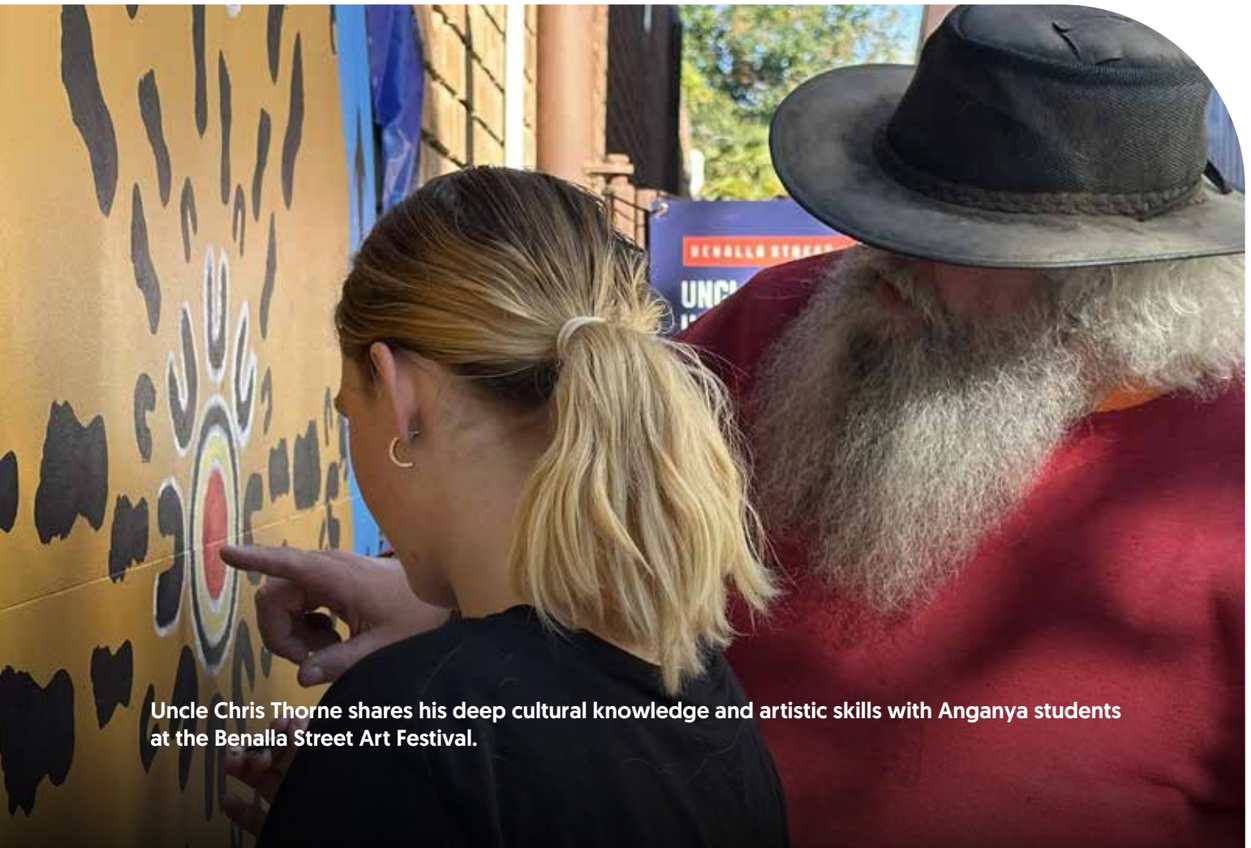
12 local clubs and organisations

Anganya

Now in its second year, Anganya continues to strengthen cultural connection and create opportunities for Benalla's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students attending mainstream schools. Developed and delivered in partnership with Ganbina, the program draws on the knowledge of local Elders and trained staff to support students across education, employment and training, motor vehicle driving skills, and funding for educational needs.

72 students from

6 schools



Uncle Chris Thorne shares his deep cultural knowledge and artistic skills with Anganya students at the Benalla Street Art Festival.



Living Library Books broaden the horizons for Benalla's Year 5 & 6 students.

Year 5 & 6 Careers Activities

Through our partnership with Youthrive Victoria, local businesses, tertiary institutions and schools, we deliver a range of careers activities for Year 5 & 6 students. The aim of these experiences is to encourage students to broaden their horizons before they make the move to secondary school.

This year students developed practical financial skills through an online financial literacy program, toured the Wangaratta GOTAFE facility and stepped into the shoes of professionals at the popular 'Living Libraries' event. In the STEM fields we hosted a one-day robotics workshop facilitated by the enthusiastic team from Galen College Wangaratta's VEX Robotics Program; and funded the 'Cosmodome', an immersive experience inside a giant inflatable planetarium which supported the senior primary science curriculum.

251 students from

4 schools attended Living Libraries

60 professional hours contributed.

167 students from

5 schools were part of an interactive Cosmodome experience

Motiv8

Motiv8 provides opportunities for Year 8 students to connect, build confidence and learn to work well with others. The fortnightly sessions occur over three school terms. The program encourages team work and collaboration through hands-on activities and shared projects. Following the first full program in 2025, what we learned from participants has helped shape and strengthen Motiv8 for a new cohort in 2026. The program continues to develop as we learn more about what best supports young people to feel connected to their peers and community.

12 students in 2025 and

12 students in 2026 participated in

3 terms of planned activities



Motiv8 participants discover that team work makes the dream work.



Full Impact Squad empowers young people aged 11-19 to raise their voices and represent the young people of our district.

Full Impact Squad

Full Impact Squad gives young people aged 11-19 a platform to have their say and make a difference in their community. Through regular meetings, leadership activities and an overnight camp, Squad members explore the issues that matter to them and work together to turn their ideas into action. Working with other local community groups to plan and host events, Squad members learn how collaboration can strengthen their impact and create positive change. This year, Full Impact Squad has continued to evolve as older members 'age out' of the program and younger members step up, taking on greater responsibility and growing into leadership roles.

37 young people engaged in

1 leadership camp and

4 community events planned and implemented

"Squad gives my son something to look forward to. It's fantastic to see him being so passionate and motivated towards something like this. Squad is definitely an invaluable program for young people."

- Parent

A twilight scavenger hunt around Benalla's landmarks is one of the highlights of our Connect9 program. This year participants embraced the Disney+ theme.

Connect9

Over 15 years, Connect9 has evolved to become one of Tomorrow Today's most impactful programs for young people. The 10-week community mentoring program pairs Year 9 students with local volunteer mentors, opening the door to new experiences, connections and opportunities. Through sport, hobbies, volunteering and career exploration, participants build confidence, strengthen their connection to community and broaden their aspirations for the future. Importantly, the relationships formed with mentors and fellow participants often continue well beyond the program.

27 young people were supported by

27 volunteer mentors who gave

1,175 volunteer hours

"Connect9 improved my confidence and helped me to experience things I would never have imagined."

- Mentee



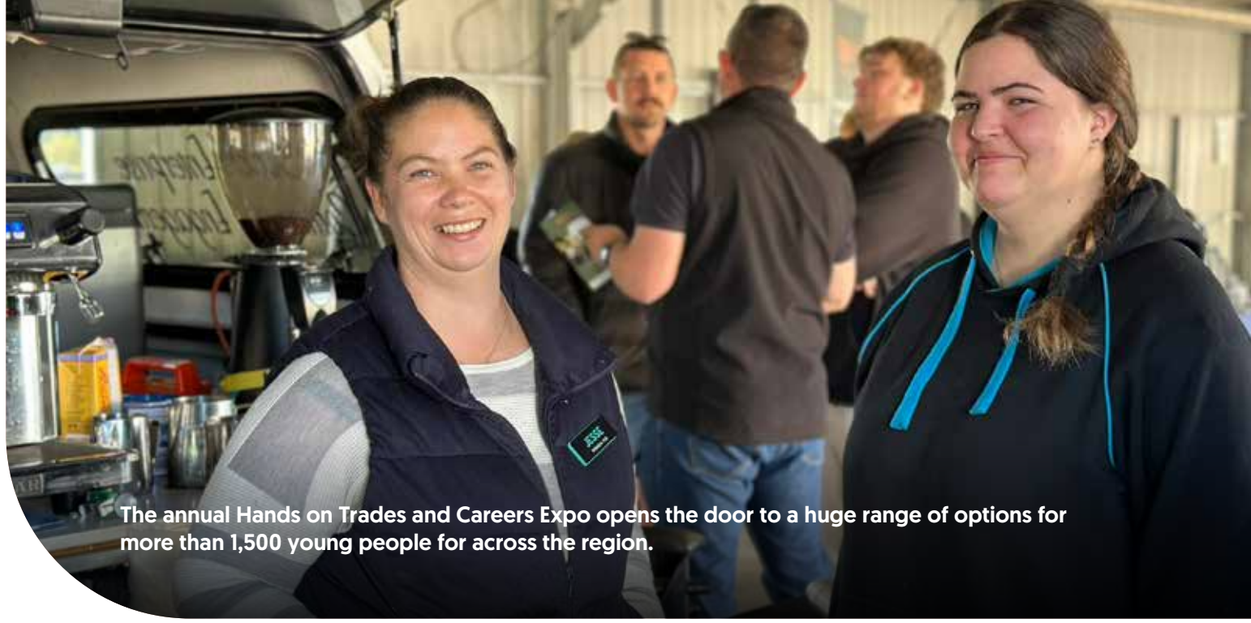
Connect9 concludes with a glider flight over Benalla where students see their world from a new perspective.

Hands on Learning

Our long partnership with Hands on Learning at Benalla P-12 College continues to create positive outcomes for students who find traditional classroom settings challenging. Through authentic, hands-on projects, students develop practical skills, build confidence and see the value of their contribution. Some projects are delivered in collaboration with local organisations, including Benalla Health, giving students valuable real-world experience while contributing to projects with a lasting community impact.

32 students in Years 7 to 10 attended for at least

1 term of Hands on Learning



The annual Hands on Trades and Careers Expo opens the door to a huge range of options for more than 1,500 young people for across the region.

"Without HOL I probably wouldn't have stayed at school. It kept me motivated, safe and within my comfort zone. I've taken on leadership as well that wouldn't have happened in the classroom."

- Participant

Hands on Trades and Careers Expo

Hands on Trades and Careers Expo is a region-wide initiative of NE Tracks LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network) which draws together 60 exhibitors and around 1,500 students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Tomorrow Today funded the transport of 165 Benalla students to attend the event at Winton Motor Raceway in 2025.

Live4Life

Designed specifically for rural communities, Live4Life is a mental health education and youth suicide prevention model. Since 2017, Tomorrow Today has financially supported the delivery of free mental health training for teachers, parents, community members, service providers and students in Years 8 and 10.

University Bus Trips

For young people in regional communities, distance, transport and financial barriers can make exploring further study difficult. Our University Bus Trips give local students the opportunity to experience university life first-hand, helping them picture what further study could look like for them. This year, students from Benalla P-12 College and FCJ College visited Victoria University, the Wagga Wagga and Thurgoona campuses of Charles Sturt University, and the University of Melbourne.

107 students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from

4 Benalla schools visited

4 university campuses

"The day helped me understand what I want from a university."

- Student

Year 12 Scholarships

Whether pursuing university, TAFE or a trade, our Year 12 scholarships help students overcome the barriers that regional students face in accessing further study opportunities. They help local young people take their next step beyond school by easing some of the financial pressures associated with further study and training. In 2025, four students received $2,000 scholarships to support pathways in paramedicine, nursing, business and science/law.

"Moving away is already a big transition and knowing I had the financial support gave me a sense of stability and confidence."

- Scholarship recipient

Benalla Future Work Steering Committee

Tomorrow Today chairs the Benalla Future Work Steering Committee, bringing together schools, education and training providers, employers and community organisations to strengthen career pathways for Benalla's young people. Meeting every two months, partners share knowledge, identify opportunities and coordinate efforts to help young people connect with further education, training and employment.

Committee members include: key representatives from Benalla's schools, Benalla Health, Benalla Rural City Council, Charles Sturt University, University of Melbourne, Cooinda Aged Care, Geared4Careers, GOTAFE, NE Tracks LLEN, Schneider Electric, Ovens Murray Country University Centre and Benalla Business Network.



Three of the four 2025 Year 12 scholarship recipients.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an integral part of Tomorrow Today, bringing their time, experience and enthusiasm to our work across the Benalla community. More than 100 people volunteered with us this year, contributing in a host of different ways to create opportunities for local children, young people and families.

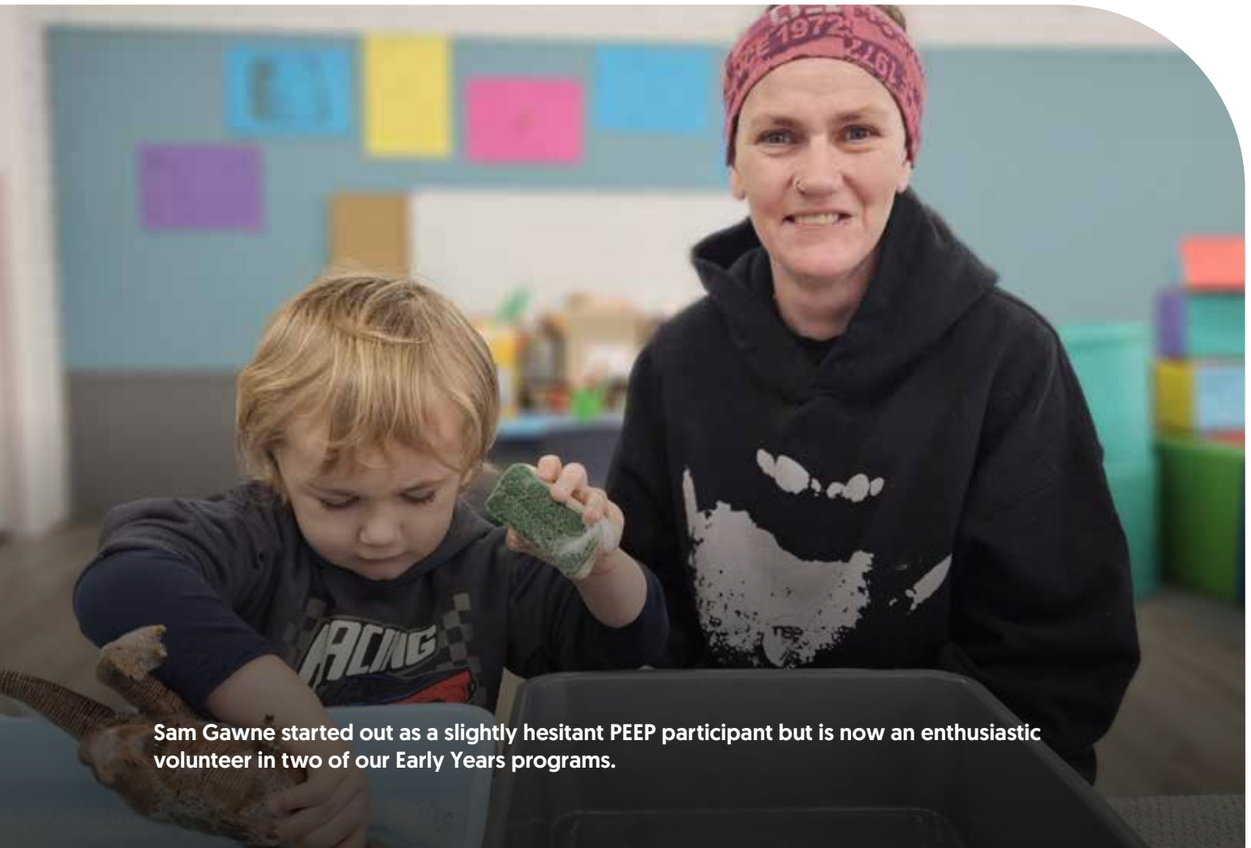
Some work directly within our programs as Kinder Pals, Reading Buddies, Connect9 Mentors, PEEP volunteers and Community Connectors. Others share their skills and experience through our Board and committees, or lend a hand with events, activities and practical tasks throughout the year.

Each contribution is different, but collectively they extend the reach and impact of our work. We are enormously grateful to the people who choose to give their time to Tomorrow Today.

105 volunteers gave

4,216 hours to support the EBP and Tomorrow Today

$307,101 is the value of time donated



Sam Gawne started out as a slightly hesitant PEEP participant but is now an enthusiastic volunteer in two of our Early Years programs.

FROM PARTICIPANTS TO VOLUNTEERS

SAM'S STORY

When Sam Gawne moved to Benalla while pregnant with her son Tayte, she was starting a new chapter in her life. After Tayte was born, Benalla Rural City Council's first-time mums' group introduced her to PEEP. Initially, she wasn't convinced it was for her.

"When I first heard about it, I was dead against it. I was like, 'No, that's not for me.' I was nervous about being with new people."

But when the group took part in a mini-PEEP session, Sam decided to give it a try.

"I found that actually it was for me! I really liked the structure and the whole environment. I felt very welcomed and then I just kept coming."

What began as an opportunity for Sam and Tayte to get out of the house and meet other families gradually became an important source of connection and belonging.

"Everything has changed for me since becoming a mum. Coming to PEEP has given both of us a chance to socialise and become part of a community."

Over time, the relationships Sam formed at Tomorrow Today also became a source of encouragement when she was navigating a difficult period in her life.

"This time last year I was between a rock and a hard place. I spoke to (Tomorrow Today staff) Rachael and Karen about it and they really helped me understand things and gave me the confidence to get myself out of it. They inspired me to volunteer too."

Taking that next step proved significant. Through volunteer training, Sam began to see not only how far she had come, but how her own experiences could be used to support others.

"The volunteer training helped me a lot to understand the circumstances I was in. It helped me get out of that, and I feel like now I can help others."

Today, Sam volunteers with two of Tomorrow Today's Early Years programs. With Tayte now attending daycare on Mondays, she returns to PEEP, this time as a volunteer. She has also trained as a Community Connector with the ConnectParent program.

In that role, Sam has been matched with someone who is new to Benalla and expecting another child. Over the next two years, she will offer the friendship, encouragement and connection that can make such a difference during the early years of parenting.

"Being part of her life ... it feels like a huge responsibility, but a good one."

For Sam, volunteering is another step in a transformation that began when she reluctantly walked into PEEP. She is meeting new people, becoming more involved in her community and discovering confidence in herself.

"I'm becoming more open. I'm enjoying being out more. I'm not confining myself to just being home. I've learned that a bad experience doesn't define me."

And while Sam is looking ahead to new possibilities for herself, what she wants most for Tayte is simple; "I just want him to live his best life."

LUKE'S STORY

Joining Connect9 was a turning point for Luke Ward. At 15, like many teens, he found meeting and talking to new people difficult. The friendships and experiences he gained through the program helped build his confidence and sparked an interest in working with people that is now shaping his future.

"I did Connect9 when I was in Year 9 and I had a blast. I was very socially awkward back then. I just never really liked talking to strangers, but going through Connect9, it became easier for me to do it. Connecting with new people was great for me."

Four years later, Luke is studying a Diploma of Community Services and hopes to pursue a career supporting young people.

"I found I love working with people. In particular, I'd like to work in juvenile justice."

That desire to work with young people also brought Luke back to Connect9, this time as a volunteer mentor. It was something he had been determined to do since completing the program himself.

"I definitely wanted to come back as a mentor. I tried to do it as soon as I turned 18 and found out that I couldn't because I was only on my red Ps, so I came back at 19."

Now Luke is drawing on his own experiences to build a connection with his first mentee. A shared passion for cars gave the pair some initial common ground, and Luke also recognises something familiar in the quieter teenager he first met.

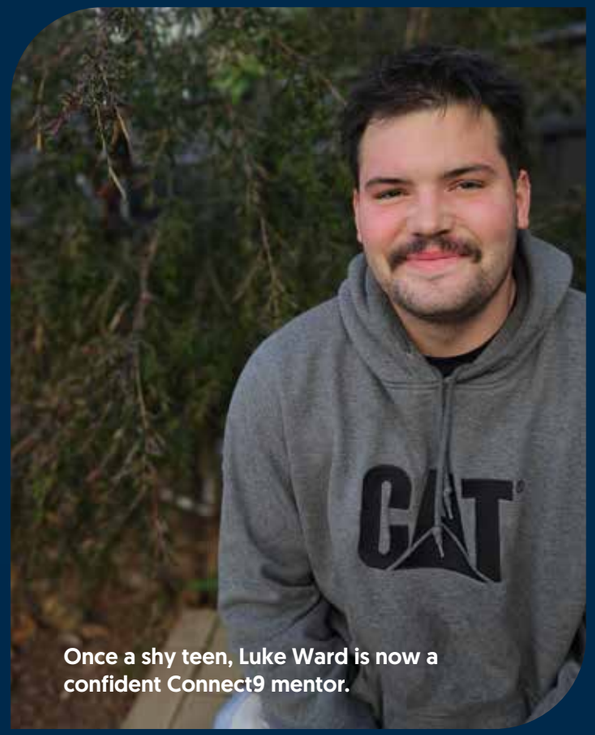
"My mentee has a passion for cars like I do, so it enables me to connect with him a bit better. I see a little bit of myself in how quiet he was at the start - which is exactly what I did. But he's also had more experience being around other people because he does Scouts as well. He's a very switched-on kid who is into learning new things."

Luke is also bringing some of his other interests to the mentoring relationship, whether his mentee is ready for them or not.

"I love cooking, so I'm really looking forward to Masterchef week. I don't know if my mentee likes cooking, but he's going to learn! He's going to know how to make excellent bruschetta by the end!"

Behind the humour is a genuine appreciation of what it means to now be the person offering encouragement and helping another young person discover what might be possible for them.

"Knowing that you can have an impact on someone else's life is amazing, and giving back to the community is important for me. All my life, pretty much, I've been getting help from different resources. So knowing that I can give it back is like peace of mind for me."



Once a shy teen, Luke Ward is now a confident Connect9 mentor.

ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS DURING THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Thank you to all our volunteers, without you our work would not be possible.

Every effort has been made to identify all our active volunteers.
Our apologies to anyone who we have inadvertently omitted.

Adkins, Scott
Aldous, Adrian
Allan, Tahlia
Arandall, Aunty Gayelene
Bailey, Katrina
Benalla CFA Members
Besselaar, Vicki
Bowman, Gary
Boyd, Ruby
Brandellero, Hayley
Branigan, Vince
Bridgfoot, Cathy
Briggs, Pauline
Brownstein, Gerard
Canty, Rachael
Capewell, Barbara
Carlisle, Lucy
Challis, Jane
Claridge, Pat
Clarke, Rebecca
Coles, Kidji
Cooper, Ann-Maree
Cooper, Aunty Cheryl
Daw, Margie
Desailly, Sue
Durance, Denise
Dwyer, Lainey
Erskine, Irene
Farken, Annie
Gamble OAM, Sally
Gardner, Paul
Gawne, Sam
Gommers, Tammy
Gonzaga, Ian
Gray, Cameron
Hadden, Fiona
Hammond, Abby
Hewitt, Bre
Heywood, Rachael
Heywood, Richard
Hill, Geoff
Huett, Ruth
Humphries, Dean
Humphries, Janene
Humphries, Michaela
Kimberley, Ann
Kinderis, Erin
King, Peter
Koop, Rosie
Lawley, Melinda
Lefebvre, Leanne
Leith, Kate
Levy, Dee
Matheson, Peter
May, Eni
McKean, Erina
Meggs, Jacqui
Mills, Del
Montgomery, Larissa
Newton, Krystal
Norman, Bryan
Norman, Chantay
Norman, Shanaih
O'Kane, Joanna
O'Kane, Xavier
Osborne, Mark
Osborne, Tom
Paez, Deb
Pearce, Louise
Perry, Gavin
Perry, Vicki
Petch, Lisa
Plum, Natalee
Ransom, Karen
Raschke, Lisa
Ray, Lisa
Reaburn, Jenny
Reaburn, Katie
Rees, Phil
Richards, Abbey
Roper, Sarah
Ross, Heather
Rotary Club of Benalla
Simpson, Melissa
Smith, Martin
Smith, Tony
Spencer, Joel
Tanner, Denise
Taylor, Nicholas
Teichert, Cayla
Thivillier, Florent
Thorne, Uncle Chris
Trethowan, Lorraine
Trounson, Terry
Turner, Josh
Visagie, Liesl
Walker, Tanya
Walker-Chiswell, Cassie
Wallis, Sarah
Ward, Luke
Warren-Foody, Trish
Watson, Shanae
Whitmore, Jake
Winkler OAM, Carmyl
Yaru, Sandy

Scan the QR Code to learn more about volunteering with Tomorrow Today

BOARD DIRECTORS



LOUISE PEARCE
Chair

Louise works as a Senior Skills Advisor for the Victorian Skills Authority. 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.

Committees: Audit, Education Benalla Program Management



NICHOLAS TAYLOR
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 30 years, for a large part of this time as Captain.

Committees: Audit (Chair), Finance and Investment



MELINDA LAWLEY
Deputy Chair

Melinda is the CEO of The Bridge Youth + Family Services, and a non-executive director of Benalla Health. She has worked with young people throughout her career, initially as a secondary teacher before moving into community and health fields. She has extensive experience working with Boards and Executive teams across Health, Education and Community Services and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Effective Directors course. Her focus is on prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce health and education disparities.

Committees: Aboriginal Garden Advisory (Chair), Education Benalla Program Management, Risk Management



SALLY GAMBLE OAM
Treasurer

Sally is one of the founding directors of Tomorrow Today, serving as Chair from 2009 to 2021. She is a long-term Benalla resident who has contributed to numerous other local community organisations over the years. Nationally, Sally was on the board of Community Foundations Australia for many years and was a member of the Community Leadership Council for the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children. In 2024 Sally received an Order of Australia Medal for services to education and to the community.

Committees: Audit, Education Benalla Program Management, Finance and Investment (Chair), Grants



ROSIE KOOP
Convenor,
Education Benalla Program

Rosie, along with her husband and four children, has a farming enterprise near Benalla. She has strong ties to the North-East region having served on the boards of Tourism North East and Alpine Valleys Community Leadership and as a member of Ovens Murray Regional Partnership. She has a deep knowledge of Tomorrow Today and the broader philanthropic sector. Rosie was Executive Officer at Tomorrow Today from 2020-2023.

Committees: Education Benalla Program Management, Risk Management



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 has worked across the North East in a range of upper management and consulting roles. Florent's active involvement in the community has included being a participant and coach in numerous local sporting clubs. He is a regular volunteer mentor in our Connect9 program.

Committees: Education Benalla Program Management, Grants



LARISSA MONTGOMERY

Larissa is Team Leader Operational Programs with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action in Hume 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 20 years.

Committees: Aboriginal Garden Advisory, Grants (Chair)



MARTIN SMITH

Martin is a senior operational risk manager, Chartered Accountant and CPA with experience in compliance, banking and finance roles in Australia and overseas. Now Melbourne-based, he is Head of Risk & Compliance at CPA Australia, a membership organisation. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Martin has been an active member of school councils and community junior sports administration, and he remains connected to his home-town of Benalla.

Committees: Finance and Investment, Risk Management (Chair)



SARAH WALLIS
(until November 2025)

As well as working for Agriculture Victoria as the Young Farmer Coordinator, supporting the delivery of programs to support those new to farming, Sarah has been involved in several community groups in the Benalla district including Landcare as a facilitator, delivering accredited training, administering scholarships and mentoring programs; Tatong Playgroup; and roles in emergency response. Sarah left the board in November 2025.

Committee: Grants

WITH THANKS TO OUR SKILLED VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Adrian Aldous (Audit, Finance and Investment)
Gerard Brownstein (Aboriginal Garden Advisory)
Aunty Cheryl Cooper (Aboriginal Garden Advisory)
Cameron Gray (Audit)
Geoff Hill (Audit)
Uncle Chris Thorne (Aboriginal Garden Advisory)
Terry Trounson (Finance and Investment)

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 Public Fund and the Open Fund (for supporters not needing a tax deduction) together make up 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. Costs are kept to a minimum thanks to substantial pro bono property management, legal and other support, plus a 10 kW solar system.

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 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. Our staff coordinate and deliver more than 20 different activities that make up the Program, working in partnership with other organisations throughout the community.

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 pages 42 & 43.

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

VICTORIA State 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 **www.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 2026

	2026	2025
REVENUE		
Grants	1,488,120	1,361,554
Donations	72,732	93,328
Other income	40,478	35,775
Total revenue	**1,601,330**	**1,490,657**
EXPENDITURE		
Employee benefits expense	1,095,796	919,061
Program expenses	293,588	248,709
Community Grants distributed	84,277	85,246
Other expenses	55,974	49,566
Professional fees	12,500	6,720
Total expenditure	**1,542,135**	**1,309,302**
Current year surplus	**59,195**	**181,355**
Other comprehensive income	**-**	**-**
Total comprehensive income	**59,195**	**181,355**

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2026

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,513,694	1,164,191
Accounts receivable and other debtors	349,963	221,292
Total current assets	**1,863,657**	**1,385,483**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Plant and equipment	43,019	44,231
Total non-current assets	**43,019**	**44,231**
Total assets	**1,906,676**	**1,429,714**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other payables	85,751	51,712
Employee benefits	154,798	139,955
Funds in advance	1,072,787	703,902
Total current liabilities	**1,313,336**	**895,569**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Total non-current liabilities	**-**	**-**
Total liabilities	**1,313,336**	**895,569**
Net assets	**593,340**	**534,145**
FUNDS		
Education Benalla Program reserve	322,512	257,925
Special purpose reserve	233,035	204,360
Retained surplus	37,793	71,860
Total funds	**593,340**	**534,145**

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 2026

	2026	2025
REVENUE		
Grants	270,000	-
Donations, sponsorships & fundraising	65,632	8,796
Rental income	121,368	125,966
Investment income	27,541	33,108
Profit on disposal of investments	33,921	1,535
Other income	31,913	28,062
Total revenue	**550,375**	**197,467**
EXPENDITURE		
Community grants distributed	33,759	26,425
Investment property expenses	23,876	17,670
Investment property loan - interest paid	1,687	2,437
Management fees	61,230	67,894
Professional fees	12,335	11,215
Investment fees	7,568	4,540
Other expenses	34,654	25,823
Total expenditure	**175,109**	**156,004**
Current year surplus	**375,266**	**41,463**
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items to be reclassified subsequent to profit or loss when specific conditions are met:		
Net changes in fair value of investments	(5,052)	26,558
Net changes in investment property valuation	-	-
Other comprehensive income	**(5,052)**	**26,558**
Total comprehensive income	**370,214**	**68,021**

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2026

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	562,837	274,083
Accounts receivable and other debtors	22,894	31,256
Total current assets	**585,731**	**305,339**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	703,629	634,770
Plant, equipment and improvements	28,716	32,417
Investment property	1,675,000	1,675,000
Total non-current assets	**2,407,345**	**2,342,187**
Total assets	**2,993,076**	**2,647,526**
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and other payables	18,780	18,444
Borrowings	25,000	25,000
Total current liabilities	**43,780**	**43,444**
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Borrowings	25,000	50,000
Total non-current liabilities	**25,000**	**50,000**
Total liabilities	**68,780**	**93,444**
Net assets	**2,924,296**	**2,554,082**
FUNDS		
Open Fund capital reserve	881,933	666,300
Open Fund income reserve	82,271	77,409
Special purpose reserve	183,732	68,050
Property equity reserve	1,550,723	1,513,223
Retained surplus	225,637	229,100
Total funds	**2,924,296**	**2,554,082**

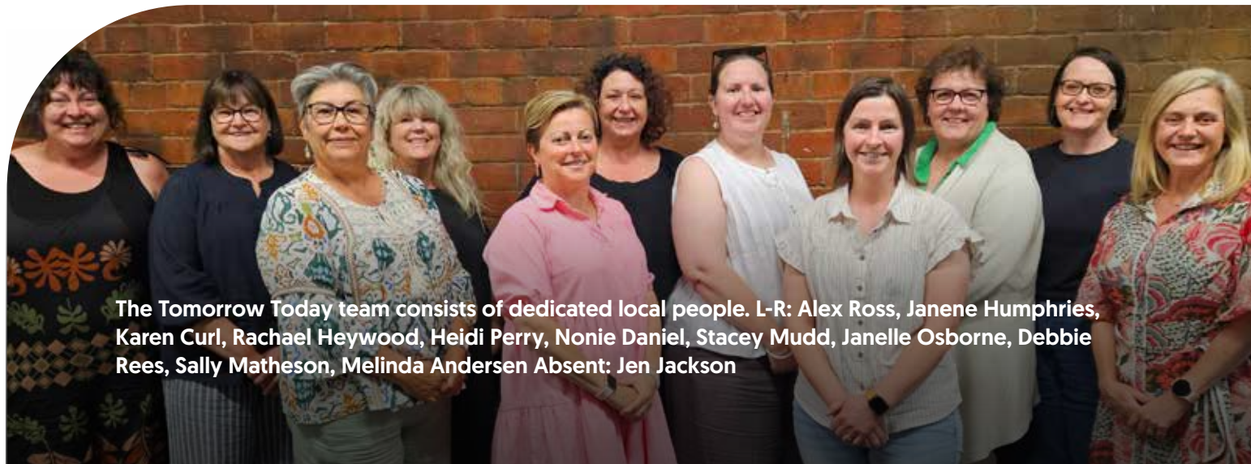
TOMORROW TODAY A FOUNDATION FOR RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC FUND - ABN 98 553 570 389

Income Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
INCOME		
Donations	64,904	90,818
Investment income	44,493	48,499
Profit on disposal of investments	31,463	2,599
Total income	**140,860**	**141,916**
EXPENDITURE		
Grants distributed	45,476	40,500
Investment fees	10,850	6,584
Loss on disposal of investments	13,516	1,350
Other expenses	10,226	8,885
Total expenditure	**80,068**	**57,319**
Surplus	**60,792**	**84,597**
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss:		
Net changes in fair value of investments	351	33,851
Other comprehensive income	**351**	**33,851**
Total comprehensive income	**61,143**	**118,448**

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 30 June 2026

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	228,079	273,530
Accounts receivable and other debtors	1,482	7,802
Accrued income	8,450	16,856
Total current assets	**238,011**	**298,188**
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Investments	925,518	804,197
Total non-current assets	**925,518**	**804,197**
Total assets	**1,163,529**	**1,102,385**
LIABILITIES		
Total liabilities	**-**	**-**
Net assets	**1,163,529**	**1,102,385**
FUNDS		
Settled Sum	100	100
Corpus	967,653	953,601
Accumulated funds	195,776	148,684
Total funds	**1,163,529**	**1,102,385**



The Tomorrow Today team consists of dedicated local people. L-R: Alex Ross, Janene Humphries, Karen Curl, Rachael Heywood, Heidi Perry, Nonie Daniel, Stacey Mudd, Janelle Osborne, Debbie Rees, Sally Matheson, Melinda Andersen Absent: Jen Jackson

OUR SUPPORTERS

Our Board and staff wish to thank the many individuals, families, community groups, government organisations, 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. Their generosity makes our work possible.

WE ARE PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING FUNDING PARTNERS FOR THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

Victorian Government

The William Buckland Foundation

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Ganbina

Paul Ramsay Foundation

The Ledger Charitable Trust
managed by Perpetual

Mazda Foundation

The Ian Potter Foundation

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal

Rotary Club of Benalla

Benalla Rural City Council



Our annual community gathering celebrates the generous contributions of our many donors, volunteers, partners and supporters. Representing long-time Tomorrow Today supporter, the Rotary Club of Benalla: Kelly Macnamara, Graeme Beck, Noel Hutchens, Hans Dartmann.

GIFTS RECEIVED DURING THE 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

We know that **people give what they can, when they can. It all makes a difference**. The following people, organisations and businesses have donated, sponsored or provided in-kind support this financial year. We are very grateful to everyone who has chosen to support us.

Aldous, C
Aldous OAM, M & A
Alexander OAM, B & R
Anonymous (20)
Balloon Association of Victoria
Begley, C
Benalla Aquatic Centre
Benalla Baptist Church
Benalla Church Street Surgery
Benalla Foreplayers Golf Group
Benalla Golf Club
Benalla Information Centre
Benalla Mitre 10
Benalla Post Office
Benalla Toyota
Benalla Veterinary Clinic
Bennison, J
Big W
Bill Bo Pop
Bridgfoot, C
Brown, M
Brownstein, G & Gamble OAM, S
Burston, G
Burston, L
Chapman OAM, L
Cinderella Drycleaning
Cooke, D
Dobbin, P
Dobson, B & K
Edwards, J
Ellis, S
Ellis-Ragg, K
Falkiner, D
Free Spirited with Sonia
Friends of Benalla Library
Gilder, R
Grimwade, A
Hair, C
Hairdressing Lane
Heywood, R
HSF Kramer
Jenny Milner Marsha Watson Pharmacy workplace giving
Kazenwadel, U & B
Kelly, P & R
Kirkwood, S
Lindsay, B
Lions Club of Benalla
M & B Richardson Trust
Martin, D
Martin, M
Matheson, S
McIntosh, K
Millers Department Store
Monger OAM, A
Morton, E
Mulberry Lane Property Styling
Myconas, J & A
Nicholas, V
O'Connor, B & P
Parris, B & J
Polished Agencies and Galleria
Pruden, J
RBR Refrigeration
Read, U
Ross, J
Rubira, F & R
Sandra's Nursery
Schneider Electric
Sinjen Group
Smith, N & L
Smyth, M & S
Stevenson, A
Stolz Furnishings
Tallis, M
Tanner, L & P
Terry White Pharmacy
The Merchant Benalla
Thivillier, F & Lefebvre, L
Thompson, P
Vial, B

TOMORROW TODAY

Benalla. Stronger together

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