



## Benalla Local Food Network Meeting: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Benalla Central Community Garden- Carrier St Benalla

**Attendees:** Peter Maddock, Bev Lee, Kathryn McQualter

**Apologies:** Larissa Montgomery

1. What is happening in Benalla?

### 3.1 Food policy Advocacy

- The North East Local Food Strategy 2018-2022: A guide for all local governments to include sustainable food systems in their next 4 year plans  
[https://gatewayhealth.org.au/images/brochures/NE\\_Local\\_Food\\_Strategy\\_2018\\_2022.pdf](https://gatewayhealth.org.au/images/brochures/NE_Local_Food_Strategy_2018_2022.pdf)
- **Open Food Network; Open Road Project: Launched a media release (see attached).** OFN will be running a project as a delivery service around North East Victoria to enable local producers to act independently. **A Hume Highway loop is being established with food hubs in Strathbogie, Wangaratta Farmers Market, Beechworth Food Coop.** EOIs are open for any local producers, coops and retailers. Email [openroad@openfoodnetwork.org.au](mailto:openroad@openfoodnetwork.org.au)

### 3.2 Support Local Food Activities

- Benalla Food Coop see website for upcoming dates [Benalla Food Co-operative \(bsfg.org.au\)](http://bsfg.org.au)
- Grow Free food swap cart (was at Benalla Health) has just been moved to Cecily Court with the Tomorrow Today Foundation! A great way to share excess produce with the community!
- Benalla Central Community Garden have applied for a Vic Health grant to host after school kitchen/garden sessions with children in Grade 5-8 at the community garden.
- Benalla Central Community Garden hosting garden open days  
<https://www.facebook.com/Benalla-Central-Community-Garden-106810107405039/>
- Benalla Health and St Vincent de Paul Society have applied for more grants to continue to build wicking garden beds for vulnerable community members. Rather than using



apple crates (issues with leaking, unable to move, labour to build) we are looking at portable, smaller ones e.g. raised on wheels. If successful Benalla men's Shed will be constructing these. We are open to ideas on how to build these portable garden beds!

- Waminda Neighbourhood House have set up a drop in food pick up, in partnership with Second Bite. Running On Thursday mornings.
- Waminda neighbourhood house has been granted funding to construct public garden beds for the community at the front of the house (ballintine st).
- Delivery of fruit and veg boxes- Fruits N Fare, Good Vibes Wholefoods Store- Balaji and Karthika
- Online platforms available to share excess food. Ripe Near me- an online platform to sell/give away free food. Web based platform <https://www.ripenear.me/>

## 2. Ideas for the future

- Beechworth Food Coop hosted a Patch to Patch event (18<sup>th</sup> April 2021) where people could visit open gardens and orchards. This is a day of backyard garden inspirations. Perhaps we could run one similar to this in Benalla in 2021/2022? Could involve Waminda, Benalla Central Community Garden. Benalla Community Health staff garden, Waller St Garden and other private gardens around Benalla?

[PATCH TO PATCH - Beechworth Food Co-op \(beechworthfoodcoop.org.au\)](https://www.beechworthfoodcoop.org.au)

- Buy from North East Victoria (Buy From Benalla) online platform for small and medium local businesses has been given more grant money to continue to build online markets. <https://www.buyfrombenalla.com.au>
- **NEW:** Acres and Acres is a community market garden that has started in Corryong. <https://acresandacres.com.au/> The mission is to create a network of Market Gardens across the Upper Murray and North East Victoria, to build resilience through the production of fresh produce across the local area.

## 3. Next Catch Up:

July/August – date TBC

Place: (Weather permitting) Benalla Central Community Garden