



Successful year: Pictured at Tomorrow Today's annual celebration, executive officer Pat Claridge; Tomorrow Today directors Louise Pearce, Florent Thivillier, Nick Taylor, Liz Chapman, Sally Gamble, Bill Dobson (retired), Melinda Lawley and Adrian Aldous with The Ian Potter Foundation senior program manager Alberto Furlan, and Trustee of the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust Winsome McCaughey.

Programs lauded

By BENALLA ENSINE

Tomorrow Today recently held its annual celebration at Benalla's Lakeside Community Centre with delighted organisers exclaiming that "Everyone left with a smile on their face".

More than 90 people attended the event, which showcased the great work being done by the foundation to build strength and resilience in the Benalla community.

The program kicked off with a short video depicting two of Tomorrow Today's flagship programs, PEEP (Parents Early Education Partnership) and Connect9, followed by interviews with a number of families and organisations who have been involved in

Tomorrow Today's activities. One of those interviews told the story of successful outcomes for four siblings from a family that has faced significant financial hardship.

Three of the young people have gained apprenticeships with local employers, and their younger brother has landed a part-time after-school job.

All four children participated in Tomorrow Today's Connect9 mentoring program and Paid Part-Time Work Training.

Their mum attributes much of their growth in skills and confidence to these programs. In the final interview another mother praised the Hands-on Learning program supported by Tomorrow Today at Benalla

P-12 College, which she said had been crucial in keeping her young son engaged with learning.

Tomorrow Today Chair Sally Gamble reported on a successful year, particularly noting the purchase of the Cecily Crt property where the organisation hosts parenting, mentoring, work skills and community development-related activities.

The purchase gives Tomorrow Today a permanent home and will ensure that the foundation can continue to work for the good of Benalla long into the future.

In more recent developments, three new board members have been recruited who together

bring a variety of skills, experience and new ideas to the foundation.

In closing, Ms Gamble thanked the many donors, funders, community partners and volunteers who make the work of Tomorrow Today possible.

At the end of the evening, State Member for Euroa Steph Ryan announced that if elected the Nationals would provide \$1 million to Tomorrow Today to support their successful PEEP program for the next four years.

- For more information about Tomorrow Today, or to view their new video and annual report, visit www.tomorrowtoday.com.au