



**"SlingShot Mentoring - Benalla will inspire local youth to broaden their career aspirations by linking them with mentors who have been educated in Benalla and excelled in their field of endeavour."**

**PROGRAM AIMS:**

- To link Benalla's young people with locally educated mentors who have excelled in the students area of interest.
- To compile a list of mentors who have been educated in Benalla and have excelled in their field of endeavour.
- To encourage Benalla's youth to broaden their career aspirations
- To empower Benalla's youth to use their local education as a positive stepping stone for a diverse range of career possibilities
- To design, implement and evaluate SlingShot Mentoring – Benalla so it can be launched on a broader scale in the future

The Tomorrow: Today Foundation has provided funding to conduct a pilot mentoring program - SlingShot Mentoring –Benalla.

SlingShot Mentoring – Benalla, will locate past students who have been educated in Benalla and have gone on to be leaders in their chosen field. The program will compile a list of these former Benalla residents who are willing to act as mentors to a Year 10 student who has expressed an interest in pursuing a career in a similar or related field.

SlingShot Mentoring - Benalla will utilise face-to-face meetings, new technology and telephone communication to establish a relationship between the mentor and the young person. The mentor relationship will provide the student with an introduction to a mentor who otherwise may have been outside the student's circle of contacts; information about career pathways; introduction to networks; a first-hand view of the mentor's workplace and ultimately inspire Benalla's youth to broaden their horizons.

This pilot program will also conduct a media campaign that highlights the successes of locally educated students and builds pride in, and recognition of the Benalla education system.

The two Benalla secondary schools (Benalla College and FCJ College) are enthusiastic participants in the project and a staff member from each school will be part of the project steering committee. The school representative will assist in identifying student participants and facilitate the student involvement in the project.

There are many reports, case studies and evaluations that suggest that investing in mentoring can have enormous benefits for young people, mentors and communities. It is with this in mind that SlingShot Mentoring – Benalla, aims to impact on the young people involved in the project, the mentors and the wider Benalla community.

Would you like to volunteer as a mentor? Were you educated in Benalla and have a career that may inspire local students. Mentors will be matched with students for an eight week period which will include email, phone and possible one-on-one contact. Contact the Program Manager, Annie Hart on 5762 4311 or via email [annie.hart@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:annie.hart@thecentre.vic.edu.au) to register your interest in becoming a SlingShot Mentor.

Would you like further information about the program? Please contact Annie Hart – [annie.hart@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:annie.hart@thecentre.vic.edu.au) or phone 57624311

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## **Ireland, New Zealand, Bundaberg – Benalla students are everywhere!**

An embalmer, a political advisor, a physiotherapist, a metallurgical engineer and a Ford executive – what do these people all have in common? All were educated in Benalla and have volunteered to be mentors as part of the new SlingShot Mentoring program in Benalla.

Students who were educated locally and have gone on to have diverse and interesting careers are signing up to be part of this new program.

SlingShot Mentoring - Benalla will link Year 10 students from Benalla College and FCJ with professionals who were educated in Benalla. SlingShot Program Manager, Annie Hart, is compiling a list of potential mentors and will link Year 10 students who have similar career aspirations with a mentor who now works in that field.

“I’ve had local residents providing me with information about the career successes of Benalla students and I’d love to hear about more of our local success stories. We have over 60 occupations on the mentor list already and the range of careers is inspiring,” Ms Hart said.

“SlingShot Mentoring aims to show local students the huge array of careers that are available to them, we hope we can inspire them to dream big and follow their dreams. The mentor-student relationship will introduce the students to information and experiences that may help shape their career decisions and empower them in their career choices,” she said.

Once the list has been compiled, some of these past students will be asked to be involved in an eight-week mentoring program. Mentors will make contact with a current Year 10 student who is interested in the same area of expertise. The program will involve email contact, phone calls and in some instances one-on-one meetings, depending on the availability of the mentors and the field of work. This will provide an opportunity for past students to reconnect to Benalla and share their expertise and inspire some of our current students.

SlingShot Mentoring – Benalla is a pilot program funded by the Tomorrow: Today foundation and auspiced by The Centre. Tomorrow: Today Foundation Board Member, Alana Johnson, initiated the project and hopes that stories of past students and their careers will give us a picture of just how successful Benalla educated students have become.

Over the next few weeks the Benalla Ensign will profile some of those Benalla educated people who have gone on to exciting careers. Local residents can pass on the information about Benalla educated students to Annie Hart on 5762 4311 or via email [annie.hart@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:annie.hart@thecentre.vic.edu.au)



Following is a list of some of the occupations on the SlingShot Mentor database

Actor	Information Technology/Systems Administrator
Artist	Journalist
Automotive engineer	Landscape Architect
Banker (overseas)	Mathematics Professor
Business/Motivational speaker	Metallurgical Engineer
Chartered Accountant	Music master
Chief Executive - not for profit organisation	Musician
Circus performer - acrobatics	Nuclear Medicine
Comedian	Opera Singer
Cosmetic Surgeon	Parachutist
Cyclist	Park ranger
Dancer/ Dance instructor	Patent and Trade Mark Attorney (Mech. engineering /designs)
Diplomat	Pharmacist
Doctor	Physiotherapist
Embalmer	Police Officer
Engineer	Political advisor
Environmental Science (Zoology)	Raceway Management
Fashion designer	Retail Executive
Film Producer	Science/Food Technology
Formula One Mechanic	Scuba Diving Instructor
Formula One Racing Manager	Software company executive
Graphic Artist/Author/Illustrator	Sound engineer
Hotelier/hospitality	Winemaker
Industrial Electrician	