

Victorian Electoral Commission

Report on the Benalla District by-election

13 May 2000



VIEC

Report on the Benalla District by-election 13 May 2000

The Hon Bruce Chamberlain, MLC
President of the Legislative Council

The Hon Alex Andrianopoulos, MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I am pleased to submit to you, for presentation to Parliament, my report on the administration of the Benalla District by-election held on 13 May 2000.

The report is presented to Parliament as required by section 144D(1)(d) of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Colin Barry
Electoral Commissioner
1 August 2000

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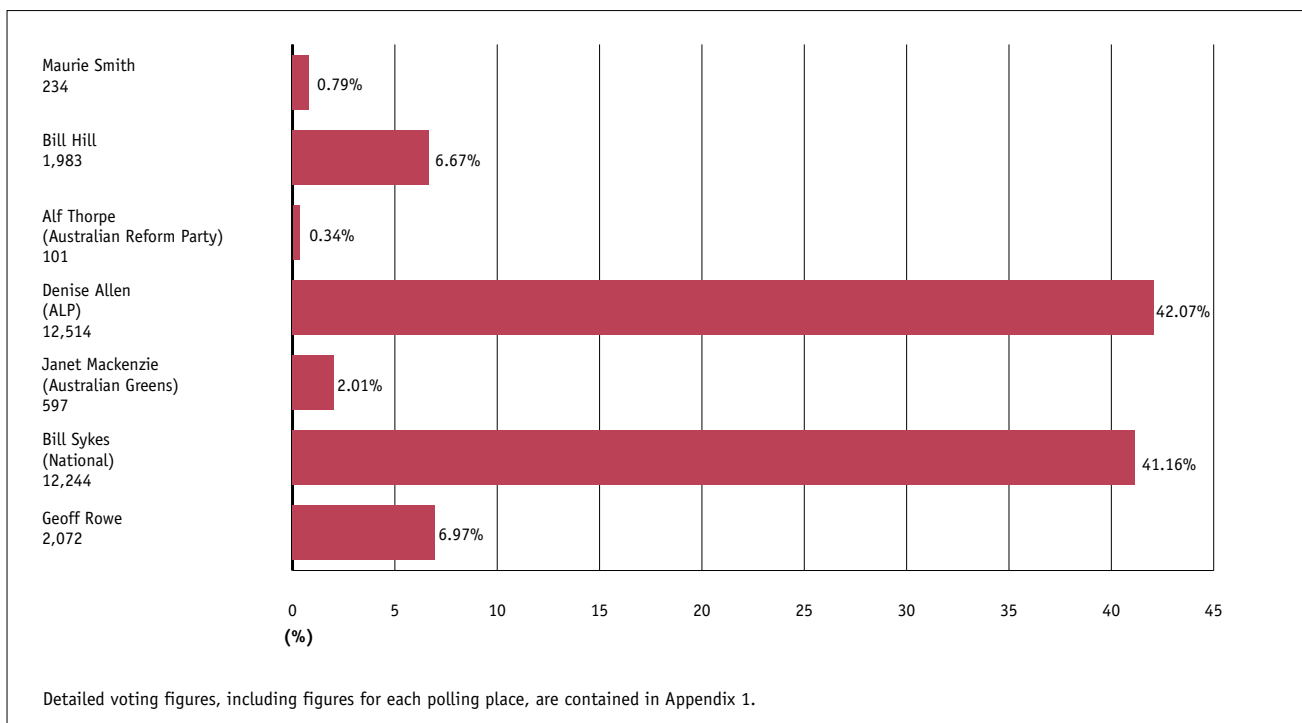
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The Benalla District by-election at a glance

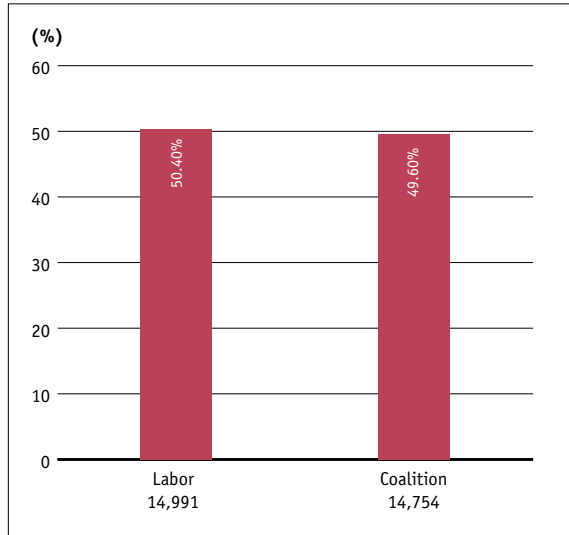
Result

Enrolment:	34,144
Formal votes:	29,745
Informal votes:	849 (2.78% of total votes)
Total votes:	30,594 (89.60% of electors enrolled)

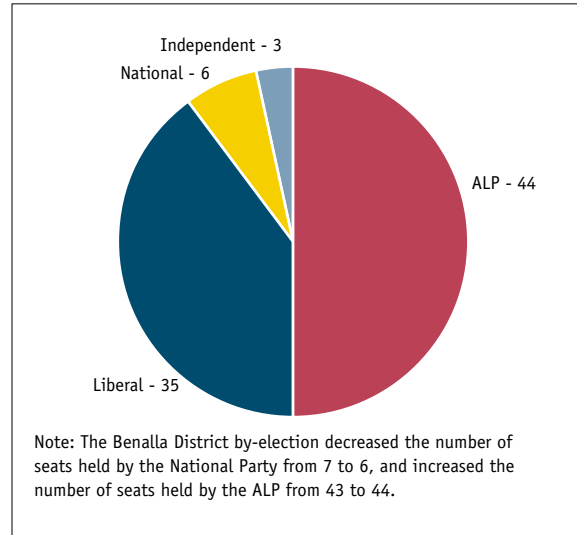
First-preference votes



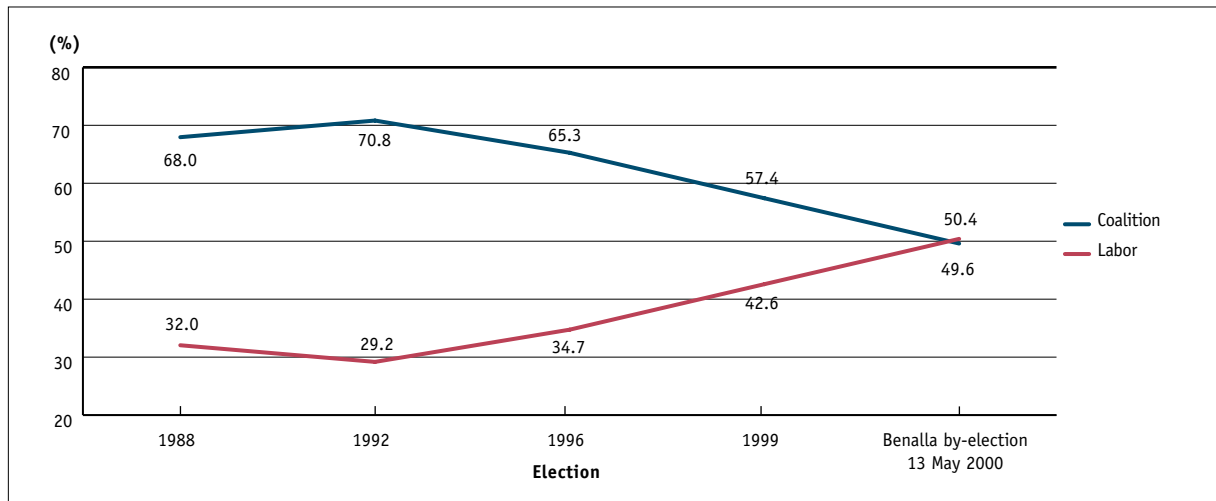
Two-party-preferred vote: Benalla District by-election 2000



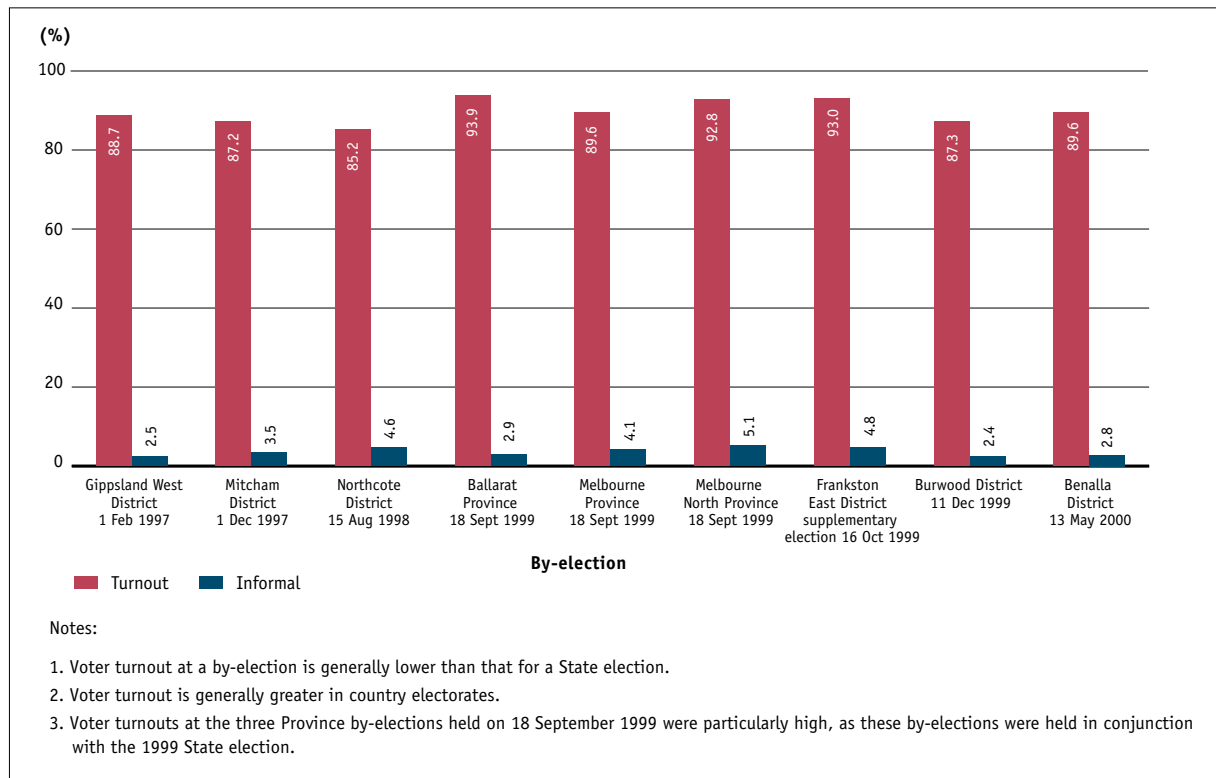
Composition of the Legislative Assembly following the Benalla District by-election



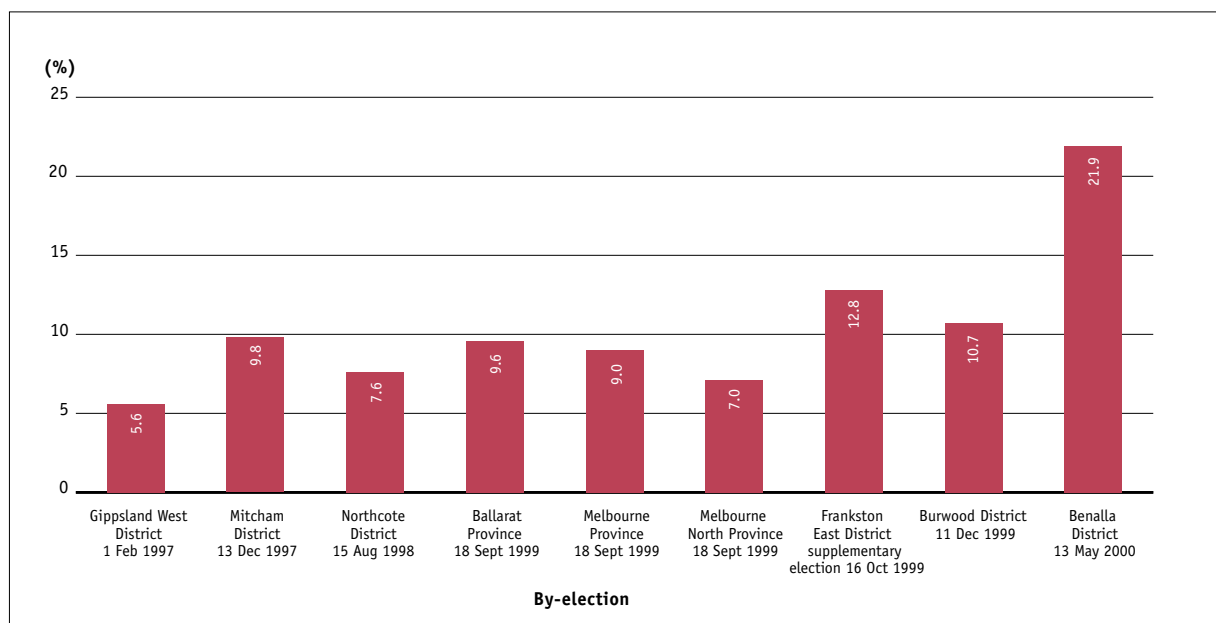
Two-party-preferred vote: Benalla District 1988 to 2000



Voter turnout and informal votes at Victorian State by-elections 1997-2000



Votes cast before election day at Victorian State by-elections 1997-2000



Cost

The cost of the Benalla by-election was \$201,100. This cost includes all direct costs, plus apportioned costs of VEC general expenses.

Background information

The Honourable Patrick McNamara, MP, Member for the Electoral District of Benalla, resigned from the Legislative Assembly, effective on 12 April 2000.

By-election dates

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly announced the following dates for the by-election.

Issue of writ	17 April 2000
Close of roll	20 April 2000
Close of nominations	27 April 2000
Election day	13 May 2000
Return of writ	on or before 2 June 2000

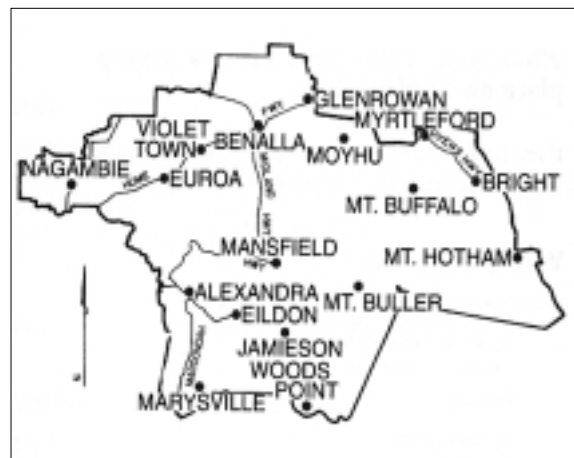
The former Member

Mr McNamara was the Member for Benalla from April 1982 and was the Deputy Premier from 1992 until September 1999. His Ministerial portfolios comprised Agriculture (a caretaker position in 1992), Police and Emergency Services, Corrections and Tourism (1992 to 1996), and Agriculture and Resources (1996 to 1999). Mr McNamara was the leader of the National Party from 1988, and was the National Party spokesperson, in turn, for Labour in 1986, Police and Emergency Services from 1986 to 1990, and Premier, Treasury and Corrections from 1988 to 1990. He was also a Coalition Shadow Minister from 1990 to 1992, with his portfolios comprising Police and Emergency Services, Corrections and Tourism. He served in local government between 1974 and 1983 as a Councillor (and president in 1978) of the Goulburn Shire, and as a member of both the Nagambie Water Board and Nagambie Sewerage Authority. Before entering Parliament, Mr McNamara was a farmer and a real estate agent and auctioneer.

The electorate

Part of the Central Highlands Province, Benalla District is a rural electorate covering 17,155 square kilometres (making it the sixth-largest District in Victoria). Its major centres include Benalla, Euroa, Nagambie, Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville, Mansfield, Myrtleford, Bright and Violet Town.

Map of Benalla District



Past results

1999 State election results

Electors enrolled	34,087
Total votes	31,684 (92.95% of electors enrolled)
Informal votes	1,128 (3.56% of total votes)

First-preference votes

Denise Allen (ALP)	13,013	42.59%
Pat McNamara (National)	17,543	57.41%

Two-party-preferred vote

Labor	13,013	42.59%
Coalition	17,543	57.41%

1996 State election results

Electors enrolled	32,966
Total votes	31,274 (94.87% of electors enrolled)
Informal votes	601 (1.92% of total votes)

First-preference votes

Bill Hill	4,711	15.36%
Zuvele Leschen (ALP)	7,250	23.64%
Pat McNamara (National)	18,055	58.86%
Brian Lumsden	382	1.25%
James Charwood (Natural Law Party)	275	0.90%

Two-party-preferred vote

Labor	10,628	34.74%
Coalition	19,969	65.26%

Historical pattern

Conservative	1904-07
Fusion	1907-08
Liberal	1908-09
Fusion Liberal/Liberal	1909-16
Economy	1916-18
NP	1918-20
VFU/Country	1920-26
Independent	1926-27
Country Progressive	1927-30
Country	1930-36
Independent UAP	1936-37
Independent	1937-39
Liberal Country	1939-43
Country/NP	1943-2000
ALP	2000-present

Services to registered political parties and candidates

Appointment of a returning officer

Mr David Zeplin was appointed as the returning officer for the Benalla by-election.

The returning officer's duties included:

- staffing an office;
- receiving candidates' nominations;
- conducting the draw for ballot paper positions;
- dealing with electoral enquiries;
- issuing postal votes;
- securing venues for polling places within the electorate;
- employing polling place managers and polling officials;
- training polling place managers;
- training electoral visitors for special hospitals;
- the registration of how-to-vote cards;
- supervising polling, and receiving and recording voting figures; and
- declaring the poll.

Mr Zeplin was assisted in the conduct of the by-election by experienced election staff who had worked in the returning officer's office at recent State and municipal elections.

Support for candidates

Candidates' information kits containing electoral information and material were made available to candidates for the by-election. The kits contained:

- a copy of the *Candidate's Handbook for State Elections*;
- a map of the electorate and information about the electorate;
- previous election results for the electorate;
- contact details of the returning officer's office;

- a list of names and addresses of polling places appointed for the by-election;
- a candidate nomination form;
- *Appointment of Scrutineer* forms;
- a *How-to-vote Card Declaration* form; and
- a supply of postal vote application forms.

Candidates were also provided with reference rolls for the Benalla District in hardcopy format, or on CD if requested. Candidates had to apply to the Electoral Commissioner for a list of general postal voters.

Registration of how-to-vote cards

As at all State by-elections, how-to-vote cards registered by the VEC were the only printed electoral material permitted to be distributed within 400 metres of a polling place on election day. Any person or organisation could submit a how-to-vote card for registration. The following eight cards were registered by the returning officer for the Benalla by-election.

William Hill	1 card
Australian Reform Party	1 card
Australian Labor Party–Victorian Branch	2 cards
The Australian Greens–Victoria	1 card
National Party of Australia–Victoria	1 card
Geoffrey Rowe	2 cards

Appendix 2 contains samples of how-to-vote cards registered for the by-election.

Provision of election results

Results were received by the VEC and relayed by e-mail and fax to candidates and political parties. In addition the results were available on the VEC's web site.



The how-to-vote cards handed out at polling places on election day must be officially registered by the returning officer.

The VEC's performance in providing services to registered political parties and candidates

At the ceremony for the declaration of the poll all candidates complimented the Victorian Electoral Commission, the returning officer and staff on the professional way in which the by-election was conducted, and for the assistance provided throughout the election process. Comment was also made commending the site for the declaration of the poll—the Weary Dunlop Memorial.

The VEC did not receive any formal complaints from registered political parties or candidates during the period of the by-election.

Services to voters

Enrolment

Benalla voters had the opportunity to update their enrolment for a three day period once the by-election was announced. Enrolment forms were available at the usual outlets prior to the close of the roll (post offices and the returning officer's office). In addition, enrolment forms were able to be downloaded from the VEC's web site. During the enrolment period, from the issue of the writ on 17 April, to the close of roll on 20 April 2000, 415 people updated their enrolment for the District.

Arrangements for voting before election day

There is a continuing trend towards an increasing number of voters opting to vote before election day. This is because of a growing awareness amongst voters of pre-poll and postal voting facilities and because of greater availability of such facilities. In addition, Benalla electors were accustomed to voting by post, as they had participated in postal elections for their municipal Councils only a month earlier. There were 6,693 people who voted before election day (21.88% of voters). This is the highest proportion on record for a Victorian State election or by-election.

Voting in person—extended use of pre-poll voting

Following the 1999 State election, the Victorian Electoral Commission engaged ACNielsen to undertake a survey of key stakeholders, including Parliamentary political parties, regarding the VEC's performance in providing election services. Pre-poll voting was identified as an area where the VEC should consider providing services in more locations.

In most cases the returning officer's office is considered to be appropriately located for the purposes of voting prior to election day. However, at the 1999 State election, additional voting centres were established to supplement returning officer's offices where locations were inconvenient for a large number of voters.

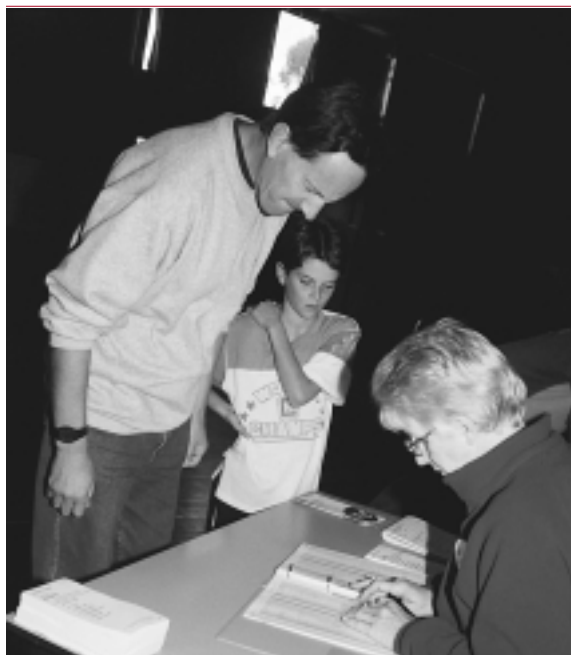
In response to the suggestion that the VEC extend pre-poll voting services at future elections, the Benalla by-election was an excellent opportunity to further trial additional pre-poll voting services, in order to determine whether there was a strong demand from the public for the service. The District of Benalla was an ideal electorate in which to conduct the trial as it is one of the largest rural electorates in Victoria, and it has a number of key business and commercial centres that serve the electorate.

The returning officer's office, located at 56 Bridge Street East, Benalla, was the principal pre-poll voting location. The office was open to the public from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on weekdays from Tuesday, 18 April to Thursday, 11 May, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, 6 May, and until 6.00 pm on Friday, 12 May for pre-poll voting purposes. Pre-poll voting commenced from the close of nominations (27 April 2000), at the returning officer's office.

Additional pre-poll centres were established at Mansfield and Myrtleford from Monday, 1 May to Friday, 12 May.

The reasons for selecting Mansfield and Myrtleford were that:

- both locations have commercial centres that service sizeable sections of the electorate;
- both are on significant highways; and
- suitable shop front venues were readily available.



Over 2,300 people voted at the Benalla Secondary College, making it the second largest polling place.

The shops were fitted out with the VEC's cardboard furniture and the VEC produced signage for the windows and footpaths. Each pre-poll centre was staffed by two trained election officials.

The VEC also provided facilities for Benalla electors to vote in person at the VEC's office at 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

The candidates were advised of the operation of the pre-poll voting centres and some arranged for their workers and representatives to distribute how-to-vote cards outside the centres.

The pre-poll services were very well used, with 2,370 people voting at the returning officer's office in Benalla, 784 at Mansfield, 979 at Myrtleford and 189 at the VEC's office in Melbourne. The number of pre-poll votes received at the returning officer's office in Benalla alone almost equalled the total pre-poll and written postal votes recorded for Benalla District at the 1999 State election.

The Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner visited the centres during the course of the election to observe the operations and to gauge the level of support for the service from electors and candidate representatives. Positive feedback was received from electors and the candidate representatives regarding the service.

Based on the number of electors who used the service and the favourable comments from electors and candidate's workers, the trial was considered to be successful.

The success of the trial at Benalla suggests that at future by-elections, particularly in large rural and regional electorates, there is merit in providing additional pre-poll voting centres as a service to electors.

The VEC will also consider expanding the number of pre-poll centres at the next State election. Key stakeholders will be consulted in this process.

Voting by post

Benalla electors who applied for and were qualified to receive a postal vote were able to vote by post. Postal voting services were provided for Benalla electors travelling interstate or overseas at the time of the by-election at interstate electoral offices, and at Victoria House, London. Eighteen Benalla electors took advantage of these services. Postal voting material was issued to 3,235 people. Subsequently, 2,349 of these votes were returned and admitted to the count.

Voting at special hospitals

The Electoral Commissioner may appoint certain institutions to be 'special hospitals'. Mobile polling teams visit these 'special hospitals' in the week before polling day to enable patients or residents to vote without having to apply for a postal vote or go to a polling place on election day.

The Electoral Commissioner appointed the Benalla District Hospital to be a special hospital for the by-election. The number of votes cast there was 22.

Registered general postal voters

Electors who are permanently disabled or who care for those who are permanently disabled, who live 20 kilometres or more from a polling place, who cannot vote on a Saturday for religious reasons, who are 'silent' electors, or who have another lawful reason why it is always extremely difficult to get to a polling place on election day, may apply to be registered as general postal voters.

Registered general postal voters are automatically sent postal voting material when an election is announced to enable them to vote.

Postal voting material was sent to 342 general postal voters at the by-election. (General postal voters are included in the 2,349 postal votes quoted above.)



The voter turnout (89.60%) was better than average for rural and regional by-elections.



Handing out how-to-vote cards at Baddaginnie, a small rural community in the Benalla District.

Arrangements for voting on election day

Polling place arrangements

Forty-four polling places were appointed for the Benalla by-election. The Mt Buller and Mt Hotham polling places were not appointed for the by-election because there was no demand at that time of year. Nearly all of the venues used as polling places were the same as those used for the State election held on 18 September 1999. Polling places were located throughout the electorate and were generally known to electors.

Information to voters

Voter information campaign

During the Benalla by-election, a campaign to provide information to the electorate on enrolment and postal voting, and on how, when and where to vote was developed by the VEC.

The main elements of the VEC's voter information campaign were:

- an information leaflet posted to every elector;
- newspaper advertisements in metropolitan daily newspapers, thirteen local newspapers and the *Weekly Times*;
- news releases; and
- interviews with the media.

Voter information leaflet

The VEC produced a voter information leaflet for the by-election, which was posted to every elector. The leaflet, which was posted on 4 May 2000, informed people of:

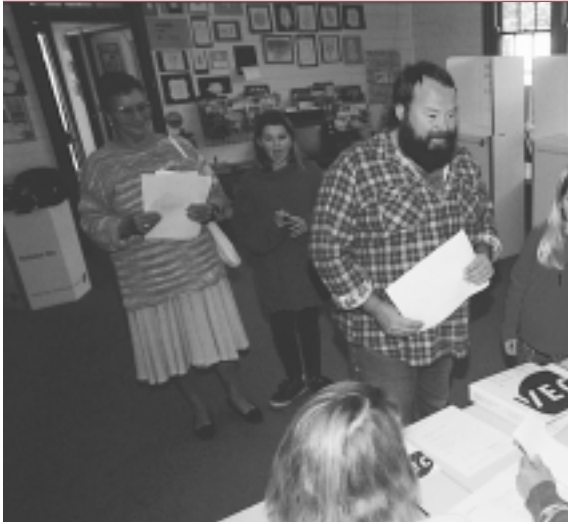
- the date of the by-election;
- the fact that voting was compulsory;
- when and where to vote on election day;
- how to obtain a postal vote;
- where to vote in person before election day; and
- how to vote correctly.

Appendix 3 contains a copy of the voter information leaflet.

Newspaper advertisements

Advertisements were placed in two metropolitan daily newspapers (*Herald Sun* and *The Age*), thirteen local newspapers covering the Benalla District (*Alexandra and Eildon Standard*, *Benalla Ensign*, *Euroa Gazette*, *Healesville Mountain Views*, *High Country Times*, *Mansfield Courier*, *Myrtleford Alpine Times*, *Ovens and Kiewa Valley Echo*, *Seymour-Nagambie Advertiser*, *Seymour Telegraph*, *Shepparton News*, *Wangaratta Chronicle* and *Wangaratta Weekly Telegraph*), and the *Weekly Times* in order to convey information to the entire electorate at various stages of the voter information campaign.

The advertisements provided information about enrolment, publicised the key dates for the by-election, invited nominations, informed voters how they could vote if they were unable to vote on election day,



Voting at the Baddaginnie polling place.

advertised the location of polling places and provided information on how to complete a ballot paper. The telephone numbers of a multi-language enquiry service were included in major advertisements to assist electors from non-English speaking backgrounds.

The newspaper advertisements are reproduced in Appendix 4.

Telephone enquiry service

During the early period of the by-election, the VEC operated a telephone enquiry service from its Melbourne office. From 17 April 2000, experienced staff were employed in the returning officer's office to provide information such as names of candidates, polling place addresses and what to do if an elector could not vote on election day. The service at the Melbourne office was then used as an 'overflow' service.

The VEC's performance in providing services to voters

The voter turnout at the by-election was 89.60 per cent of all enrolled electors, and the informal voting rate was 2.78 per cent of total votes. These figures are better than the average figure for rural and regional by-elections, and are considerably better than the average for all by-elections held during the past ten years. It seems that the substantial media and political attention focussed on the by-election supplemented the VEC's voter information campaign, ensuring that electors were made well aware of the by-election.

In early May the returning officer's office received a considerable number of calls from electors who had seen the VEC's voter information leaflet and 'voting before election day' advertisement, and who were under the impression that this was to be a postal election. Any confusion was soon cleared up, but the calls indicated uncertainty in view of the recent Council elections that were conducted entirely by post. This will be taken into account in future by-election advertising.

Information services to the media

Information kit and information on the web site

An information kit, prepared for the by-election, and the VEC's web site: www.vec.vic.gov.au provided detailed information about the Benalla District for the media.

News releases

The VEC distributed to the media five news releases, which supplemented advertisements, and an electorate profile containing key electoral information.

Media enquiries

The Benalla by-election raised a good deal of media interest from the outset because of the high profile of the retiring Member and the finely balanced position in the Legislative Assembly.

Enquiries received from the media related to:

- key dates and arrangements for the by-election;
- the names and contact details of candidates;
- requests for descriptive information and maps of the electorate;
- previous election results for the electorate; and
- arrangements for receiving election results on election night.

VEC spokespeople participated in several interviews on local radio, providing essential election information to listeners.

There was also a large contingent of media present at the returning officer's office to witness the draw for candidates' positions on the ballot paper after the close of nominations.

Provision of results and the media centre

The VEC established a media centre at the Delatite Civic Centre in Benalla for election night, where media representatives congregated to receive results. The results were phoned through from polling places promptly to the returning officer's office and were distributed to the media representatives present. The results, down to polling place level, were also displayed on a tally board at the media centre, were e-mailed to a number of media organisations and were available on the VEC's web site.

Left to right: Michael Rowland (ABC Radio), David Broadbent (Channel 9), Brendan Donohoe (Channel 7) and Misha Schubert (The Australian) at the media centre set up for the Benalla by-election.





Results were displayed on the tally board and distributed at the media centre, as well as being posted on the VEC's web site on election night.

The VEC's performance in providing information services to the media

Background information provided by the VEC was well used in a variety of media reports during the course of the by-election. The VEC was thanked for the excellent support it gave the media on election night.

On election night the first results from polling places were provided to the media at approximately 6.45 pm and the last by about 8.30 pm. All pre-poll and postal votes received up to 12 May were then counted. It was not until after the completion of the count at midnight that the result of the by-election became clear.

VEC personnel

VEC support

The role of the VEC at the by-election was to support the returning officer by providing:

- advice on election management;
- equipment and furniture, telephone and facsimile installation, ballot boxes, voting screens and polling place furniture;
- Help Desk support and assistance for the VEC's election management system and other technical issues;
- electoral materials, including polling place and office manuals and forms;
- a voter information campaign for the by-election;
- assistance with public and media relations; and
- electoral rolls for use in polling places.

Employment of staff

The returning officer employed 142 staff to work as election officials on election day. The electorate is vast and needed forty-four polling places. Thirty-six of these had only one issuing point. Training was conducted for

the forty-four polling place managers (PPMs) appointed for the by-election.

The training enabled the returning officer to:

- explain arrangements for preliminary counting of votes and for the two-candidate-preferred distribution of votes;
- emphasise procedures and draw the PPMs' attention to by-election requirements;
- explain polling place staffing and equipment arrangements; and
- discuss issues raised by the PPMs.

Election liaison officers (ELOs) were trialed for the first time at this by-election. Six officers were employed to visit polling places on election day. The vast area of the Benalla District meant that each ELO covered approximately 400 kilometres during the day and night. There were a number of occasions where having an ELO on the road proved to be invaluable.

The returning officer was very satisfied with the level of support provided by the VEC.

Polling officials at the Baddaginnie polling place.



Counting the votes and return of the writ

Votes were counted in the polling places and progressively relayed to the returning officer after 6.00 pm on election night. All pre-poll and postal votes on hand were also counted on election night. A recheck of ballot papers and a preference distribution were conducted by the Tuesday after election day.

Eighty-four declaration votes were checked after election day, using the State Roll System to determine the eligibility of voters whose names could not be found on the by-election roll. Forty-three declaration votes were admitted to the count.

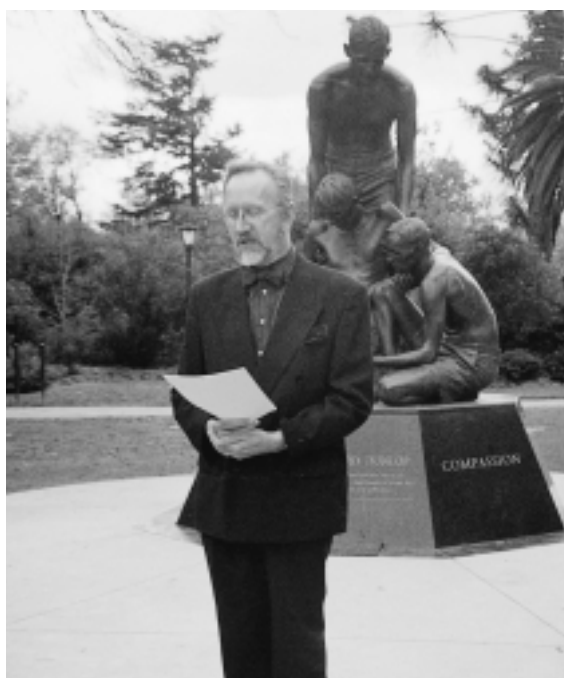
On 19 May 2000, the returning officer declared Ms Denise Allen (Australian Labor Party) elected, and the Electoral Commissioner returned the writ to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

On 23 May 2000, Ms Allen was duly sworn-in by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly as the Member for the Electoral District of Benalla.

Pre-poll and postal votes were counted at the Delatite Civic Centre on election night. The Hon Bill Baxter, MLC (second from left) and the Hon Peter Batchelor, MP (right) were amongst the scrutineers.



The returning officer, David Zeplin, declared the poll at the Weary Dunlop Memorial in Benalla.



Appendices

Appendix 1

Detailed voting statistics

Benalla District by-election: 13 May 2000

Total number of electors enrolled:	34,144
Formal votes:	29,745
Informal votes:	849 (2.78% of total votes)
Total votes:	30,594 (89.60% of electors enrolled)

Number of first-preference votes polled by each candidate

Polling place	SMITH, Maurie	HILL, Bill	THORPE, Alf Australian Reform Party	ALLEN, Denise Australian Labor Party	MACKENZIE, Janet Australian Greens	SYKES, Bill National Party	ROWE, Geoff	Informal votes	Total votes
Alexandra	22	67	2	682	30	650	80	53	1586
Arcadia	2	15	0	51	0	114	25	6	213
Baddaginnie	0	40	0	69	0	71	22	6	208
Benalla	5	216	3	1029	32	1041	242	77	2645
Benalla West	5	177	2	960	32	872	202	61	2311
Bonnie Doon	4	18	0	105	5	116	14	3	265
Bright	12	88	4	640	51	507	45	42	1389
Buxton	3	11	2	91	2	105	18	7	239
Caniambo	0	7	0	11	1	62	5	0	86
Cheshunt	0	7	0	59	1	68	6	2	143
Devenish	0	11	0	44	2	77	12	8	154
Eildon	4	32	0	243	7	184	35	24	529
Euroa	14	149	8	960	30	888	114	57	2220
Glenrowan	0	43	2	285	9	258	61	15	673
Goorambat	0	25	1	45	1	104	29	4	209
Greta West	1	11	0	33	1	74	27	3	150
Harrietville	0	12	0	70	17	70	19	3	191
Jamieson	1	13	0	96	1	58	14	4	187
Longwood	1	16	0	95	7	102	17	12	250
Lurg	1	13	1	41	2	60	53	1	172
Mansfield	12	110	3	825	70	746	129	51	1946
Marysville	2	15	0	139	6	149	38	10	359
Merrijig	0	11	0	79	5	57	9	12	173
Merton	2	7	0	40	1	56	13	5	124
Moyhu	2	30	4	159	3	272	32	8	510
Mudgegonga	1	3	0	31	1	34	6	1	77
Myrree	0	7	1	28	2	31	13	0	82
Myrtleford	27	89	18	786	31	633	79	70	1733
Nagambie	6	60	3	575	24	474	64	38	1244

continued next page

Benalla District by-election: 13 May 2000 (continued)

Polling place	SMITH, Maurie	HILL, Bill	THORPE, Alf	ALLEN, Denise	MACKENZIE, Janet	SYKES, Bill	ROWE, Geoff	Informal votes	Total votes
Narbethong	0	7	1	53	5	64	13	2	145
Piries-Goughs Bay	1	4	0	35	1	34	5	1	81
Porepunkah	4	23	2	232	10	196	44	17	528
Ruffy	0	16	1	32	6	81	7	1	144
Strathbogie	0	20	0	80	2	86	16	6	210
Swanpool	3	40	3	116	7	139	46	6	360
Taggerty	1	11	0	87	6	99	10	5	219
Tatong	0	22	0	57	2	75	29	3	188
Thoona	0	18	1	46	2	98	18	5	188
Thornton	4	14	2	111	5	129	14	9	288
Tolmie	0	7	0	58	3	21	9	8	106
Violet Town	4	96	1	270	17	270	66	13	737
Wandiligong	1	5	1	81	4	53	11	3	159
Whitfield	5	18	0	101	5	109	10	12	260
Yarck	0	14	0	52	0	94	13	3	176
Ordinary votes	150	1618	66	9682	449	9481	1734	677	23857
Postal votes	84	359	35	2806	147	2735	335	170	6671
Section	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Unenrolled votes	0	4	0	15	1	19	2	2	43
Special hospitals	0	1	0	11	0	9	1	0	22
Total	234	1983	101	12514	597	12244	2072	849	30594
Percentage of formal vote	0.79%	6.67%	0.34%	42.07%	2.01%	41.16%	6.97%		

Distribution of preference votes

Benalla District by-election: 13 May 2000

Total formal first-preference votes polled for all candidates:	29,745
Number of votes required to constitute an absolute majority (50% + 1 of first-preference votes):	14,873
Number of informal votes:	849

Candidates' names (in ballot paper order)	SMITH, Maurie	HILL, Bill	THORPE, Alf	ALLEN, Denise	MACKENZIE, Janet	SYKES, Bill	ROWE, Geoff	Total
Total first-preference votes recorded for each candidate	234	1983	101	12514	597	12244	2072	29745
Transfer of 101 ballot papers of THORPE, Alf (1st excluded candidate)	10	30		19	9	10	23	101
Progressive total	244	2013		12533	606	12254	2095	29745
Transfer of 244 ballot papers of SMITH, Maurie (2nd excluded candidate)		160		22	14	19	29	244
Progressive total		2173		12555	620	12273	2124	29745
Transfer of 620 ballot papers of MACKENZIE, Janet (3rd excluded candidate)		85		247		101	187	620
Progressive total		2258		12802		12374	2311	29745
Transfer of 2258 ballot papers of HILL, Bill (4th excluded candidate)				492		352	1414	2258
Progressive total				13294		12726	3725	29745
Transfer of 3725 ballot papers of ROWE, Geoff (5th excluded candidate)				1697		2028		3725
Final total				14991		14754		29745
Percentage of formal vote				50.40%		49.60%		

Name of elected candidate: ALLEN, Denise

Two-party-preferred vote:

Labor:	14,991	50.40%
Coalition:	14,754	49.60%

Two-candidate-preferred summary

Benalla District by-election: 13 May 2000

These results are the indicative two-candidate-preferred (2CP) count. The Electoral Commissioner may direct the returning officer to conduct a two-candidate-preferred count, under which the preferences on ballot papers for 'minor' candidates are distributed to the two candidates considered by the Electoral Commissioner to be the most likely to be in the lead on election night. The purpose of the two-candidate-preferred count is to provide an early indication of the result of the election, to provide two-party-preferred statistics by polling place, and, if no preference distribution is required, to provide a two-party-preferred statistic for the electorate.

Polling place	ALLEN, Denise	SYKES, Bill	Informal votes	Total votes
Alexandra	772	761	53	1586
Arcadia	68	139	6	213
Baddaginnie	96	106	6	208
Benalla	1282	1294	67	2643
Benalla West	1152	1106	53	2311
Bonnie Doon	129	133	3	265
Bright	751	600	38	1389
Buxton	103	129	7	239
Caniambo	16	70	0	86
Cheshunt	70	71	2	143
Devenish	50	96	8	154
Eildon	275	230	23	528
Euroa	1122	1045	50	2217
Glenrowan	336	323	14	673
Goorambat	73	132	4	209
Greta West	55	92	3	150
Harrietville	96	92	3	191
Jamieson	114	69	4	187
Longwood	110	127	13	250
Lurg	81	90	1	172
Mansfield	1002	900	44	1946
Marysville	172	178	9	359
Merrijig	88	73	12	173
Merton	50	69	5	124
Moyhu	191	312	6	509
Mudgegonga	36	40	1	77
Myrrhee	36	46	0	82
Myrtleford	922	756	55	1733
Nagambie	656	552	36	1244
Narbethong	62	80	3	145
Piries-Goughs Bay	39	42	0	81
Porepunkah	278	234	16	528
Ruffy	51	93	0	144
Strathbogie	100	104	6	210
Swanpool	172	182	6	360
Taggerty	105	109	5	219

Benalla District by-election: 13 May 2000 (continued)

Polling place	ALLEN, Denise	SYKES, Bill	Informal votes	Total votes
Tatong	76	109	3	188
Thoon	66	118	4	188
Thornton	130	148	10	288
Tolmie	70	28	8	106
Violet Town	365	362	9	736
Wandiligong	95	62	2	159
Whitfield	126	122	12	260
Yarck	68	105	3	176
Ordinary votes	11707	11529	613	23849
Postal votes	3329	3211	155	6695
Section	0	1	0	1
Unenrolled votes	17	24	2	43
Special hospitals	12	10	0	22
Total	15065	14775	770	30610
Percentage of formal vote	50.49%	49.51%		




Appendix 2

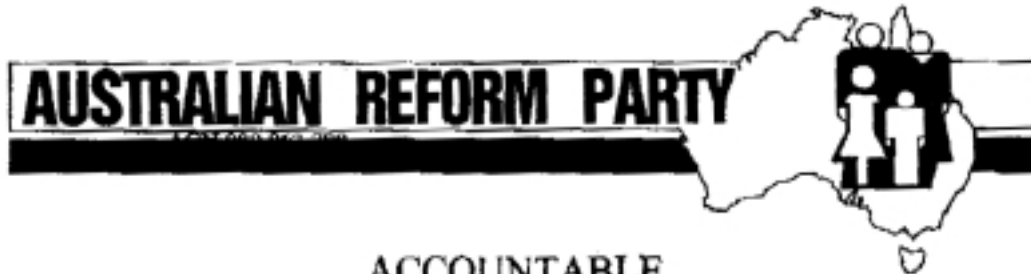
Registered how-to-vote cards

This appendix shows samples of how-to-vote cards that were registered for the by-election.

How-to-vote cards were registered on behalf of the following organisations:

- William Hill
- Australian Reform Party
- Australian Labor Party–Victorian Branch
- The Australian Greens–Victoria
- National Party of Australia–Victoria
- Geoffrey Rowe

<p>To preference the LABOR PARTY, number all the boxes THIS WAY</p> 	<p>VOTE 1 BILL HILL</p>  <p>Your True Country Independent</p>	<p>To preference the NATIONAL PARTY number all the boxes THIS WAY</p> 
<p>5 SMITH, Maurie</p> <p>1 HILL, BILL</p> <p>6 THORPE, Alf</p> <p>4 ALLEN, Denise</p> <p>3 MACKENZIE, Janet</p> <p>7 SYKES, Bill</p> <p>2 ROWE, Geoff</p>		<p>4 SMITH, Maurie</p> <p>1 HILL, BILL</p> <p>5 THORPE, Alf</p> <p>7 ALLEN, Denise</p> <p>6 MACKENZIE, Janet</p> <p>3 SYKES, Bill</p> <p>2 ROWE, Geoff</p>
<p><small>Authorized by Mary Bridgland, Fairview Baddaginnie 3670</small></p>	<p><small>Printed by Benalla College Printing, Faithfull Street, Benalla.</small></p>	<p><small>Registered by Returning Officer, Benalla District</small></p>



**ACCOUNTABLE
REPRESENTATION**
for the people of
BENALLA

How To Vote For ALF THORPE

VOTE 1 ALF THORPE
Australian Reform Party

Number all the remaining boxes in order of your preference

Authorised by Leigh McDonald, Voeges Rd, Digby 3309
Printed by Hamilton Spectator, 59 Gray Street, Hamilton 3300
Registered by the Electoral Commission

Vote Labor - Let's get on with the Job!



Denise Allen

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Benalla

White Ballot Paper

4	SMITH, Maurie
5	HILL, Bill
6	THORPE, Alf
1	ALLEN, Denise AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
2	MACKENZIE, Janet
7	SYKES, Bill
3	ROWE, Geoff

To vote Labor number the squares as shown



Authorised by David Peasey, 303 King Street, West Melbourne 3202 and passed by 99% 100 Dever Street, Richmond 3121. Registered by the Returning Officer for the Benalla District.

You must place a number in every square

5	SMITH, Maurie
3	HILL, Bill
6	THORPE, Alf (Reform Party)
4	ALLEN, Denise (ALP)
1	MACKENZIE, Janet AUSTRALIAN GREENS
7	SYKES, Bill (National Party)
2	ROWE, Geoff

How to vote for Janet Mackenzie

www.vic.greens.org.au


- Better Communications
- Protect Crops from Genetic Engineering
- Fair go for Country Superannuation
- Supporting Local Infrastructure




please return this card for recycling



Authorised by Al Rozefsky, Monkey Gully Rd, Mansfield 3722
 Printed by Mansfield Printing, 96 High St, Mansfield 3722
 Authorised by The Electoral Commissioner. Printed on 100% Recycled Paper

 **National Party**

Country first



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
WHITE BALLOT PAPER
BENALLA by-election


3 SMITH, Maurie
4 HILL, Bill
5 THORPE, Alf
6 ALLEN, Denise
7 MACKENZIE, Janet
1 SYKES, Bill
National Party
2 ROWE, Geoff

I will not let you down!

AUTHORISED BY KEVIN SYMES, RMB 1044 MIDLAND HIGHWAY, BENALLA 3672, PRINTED BY EUROPA PRINTERS PTY, 45 RAILWAY STREET, EUROA 3666, REGISTERED BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

VOTE 1 GEOFF ROWE

INDEPENDENT for BENALLA by-election
you must number every box. Preferences are your choice



Preference to ALP

6	SMITH, Maurie
2	HILL, Bill
5	THORPE, Alf <small>Australian Reform Party</small>
4	ALLEN, Denise <small>Australian Labor Party</small>
3	MACKENZIE, Janet <small>Australian Greens</small>
7	SYKES, Bill <small>National Party</small>
1	ROWE, Geoff

OR

Preference to National Party

6	SMITH, Maurie
2	HILL, Bill
5	THORPE, Alf <small>Australian Reform Party</small>
7	ALLEN, Denise <small>Australian Labor Party</small>
4	MACKENZIE, Janet <small>Australian Greens</small>
3	SYKES, Bill <small>National Party</small>
1	ROWE, Geoff

“Action: Not Party Games”

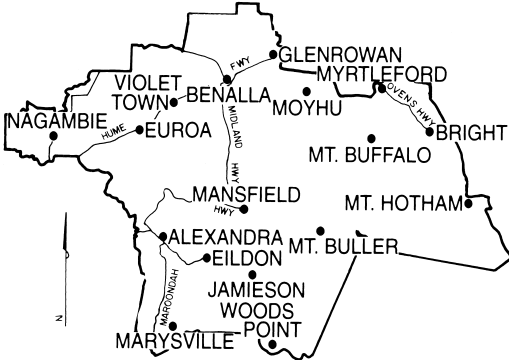

AUTHORISED BY ANTHONY SCHNEIDER, RMB 2557, RAYNER RD, BENALLA VIC, 3673. PRINTED BY MANSFIELD PRINTING, 96 HIGH ST. MANSFIELD VIC. 3722.
 REGISTERED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER BENALLA DISTRICT.

Appendix 3

Voter information leaflet

A voter information leaflet was posted to every elector in the Benalla District during the by-election period. The leaflet, which was posted on 4 May 2000 (a week after nominations closed), informed people of:

- the date of the by-election;
- the fact that voting was compulsory;
- when and where to vote on election day;
- how to obtain a postal vote;
- where to vote in person before election day; and
- how to vote correctly.

<p>Polling places</p> <p>On election day, Saturday, 13 May 2000, you can vote at any polling place listed below from 8 am to 6 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Alexandra Alexandra Secondary College, Downey Street *Arcadia CFA Hall *Baddaginnie Perambin Primary College, Clarendon Street *Benalla Benalla Secondary College, Dunlop Campus ECA Centre, Cnr Barkly & Church Sts *Benalla West Benalla Secondary College, Faithfull Campus Assembly Hall, Faithfull Street Bonnie Doon Public Library, Bon Crescent *Bright Senior Citizens Centre, Cobden Street *Buxton Buxton Primary School, Maroondah Highway *Caniambat Caniambat Hall, Bridge Road *Cheshunt Cheshunt Hall **Devenish Devenish Primary School, Main Road *Eildon Eildon Primary School, Centre Avenue *Euroa Shire Supper Room, Bury Street *Glenrowan Glenrowan Primary School, Beaconsfield Parade *Goorambat Goorambat Primary School *Greta West Greta Valley School *Harrierville Community Hall, Main Road *Jamieson Memorial Hall, Perkins Street *Longwood Longwood Community Centre *Lurg Public Hall, Winton-Lurg Road *Mansfield Sporting Complex, 35 Highett Street *Marysville Marysville Primary School, Falls Road *Merrijig Merrijig Primary School, Mt Buller Road *Merton Memorial Hall *Moyhu Masonic Hall, Byrne Street *Mudgegonga Mudgegonga Primary School, Yackandandah-Myrtleford Road *Myrree Myrree Primary School *Myrtleford Anglican Hall, Clyde Street *Nagambie Senior Citizens Hall, High Street *Narbethong Public Hall, Maroondah Highway *Piries-Goughs Bay Fire Station, Bayside Boulevard, Goughs Bay *Porepukah Porepukah Primary School, Martley Street *Ruffy Ruffy Primary School, Nolans Road *Strathbogie Memorial Hall, Main Street *Swanpool Bunya Bunya Pine Pre-School, Lima East Road *Taggerty Mechanics Hall *Tatong Memorial Hall, Fern Hill Road *Thoona Thoona Primary School, Sargeant Street *Thornton Thornton Primary School, 9 Back Eildon Road *Tolmie Hall, Tolmie Sports Reserve *Violet Town Community Centre, Cowslip Street *Wandiligong Wandiligong Primary School, School Road *Whitfield Whitfield Primary School, Mansfield Road *Yarck Public Hall, Maroondah Highway * Disabled access ** Access with assistance 	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h1>Your guide to the BENALLA by-election</h1>  </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Saturday, 13 May 2000 Voting is compulsory</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>
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A by-election is being held in the Benalla District due to the resignation of the Hon Pat McNamara, MP on 12 April 2000.

Voting for the Benalla by-election is on Saturday, 13 May 2000, from 8 am to 6 pm.

Polling places are listed on the back of this leaflet.

What to do if you can't get to a polling place on 13 May 2000

If you can't get to a polling place on Saturday, 13 May 2000, you can vote before election day in person or by post.

Voting in person

You can vote at any of the following offices:

Returning Officer's Office
56 Bridge Street East
Benalla

46 High Street
Mansfield

111 Myrtle Street
Myrtleford

Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street
Melbourne

Hours:

Mon, 1 to Fri, 5 May:	9 am to 5 pm
Sat, 6 May (excluding Melbourne):	9 am to 5 pm
Mon, 8 to Thur, 11 May:	9 am to 5 pm
Fri, 12 May:	9 am to 6 pm

Voting by post

You can pick up an application for a postal vote at any post office in the Benalla District, or you can telephone **5762 3304** and ask for an application form to be sent to you. Alternatively, you could download an application form from www.vec.vic.gov.au

Post your completed application form as soon as possible or fax it to **5762 3423**.

How to vote

Read the instructions on the ballot paper before you vote. Choose the person you want to see elected and write the number **1** in the box next to that persons name. Then write **2** in the box next to your second choice, **3** in the box next to your third choice and so on, until all the boxes have been filled in.

All the boxes must be filled in for your vote to count.

Voting is compulsory

If you are on the electoral roll for Benalla District, you must vote in this election or you may be fined.

Enquiries

Telephone 5762 3304.

Authorised by C A Barry, Electoral Commissioner
8/505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000

Appendix 4

Advertisements

The advertisements included in Appendix 4 appeared in the following newspapers:

Metropolitan dailies:

- *Herald Sun*
- *The Age*

Local newspapers:

- *Alexandra and Eildon Standard*
- *Benalla Ensign*
- *Euroa Gazette*
- *Healesville Mountain Views*
- *High Country Times*
- *Mansfield Courier*
- *Myrtleford Alpine Times*
- *Ovens and Kiewa Valley Echo*
- *Seymour-Nagambie Advertiser*
- *Seymour Telegraph*
- *Shepparton News*
- *Wangaratta Chronicle*
- *Wangaratta Weekly Telegraph*

- *Weekly Times*

Enrolment information: 'Electoral Roll Closes 6pm Thursday'*(The Age, Herald Sun, Shepparton News and Wangaratta Chronicle)***BENALLA BY-ELECTION
ELECTORAL ROLL CLOSES 6 PM THURSDAY**

A by-election for the State Electoral District of Benalla will be held on Saturday, 13 May 2000. If you're an Australian citizen 18

years of age or over, living in the District of Benalla and you are not enrolled, or if you have changed your address and have not updated your enrolment details, then enrol to vote now.

Just go to one of the following offices (open 9 am to 5 pm Tuesday and Wednesday, and 9 am to 6 pm this Thursday) and enrol on the spot:

Benalla, 56 Bridge Street East

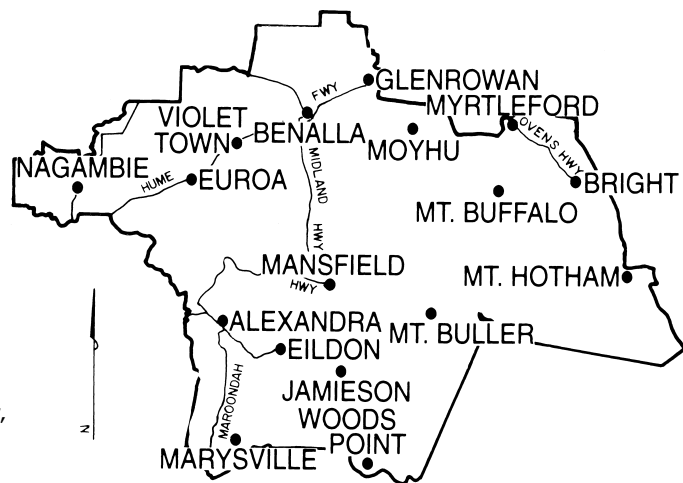
Seymour, 4/30 Wallis Street

Wangaratta, 3/31 Ely Street

Melbourne, Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street

Remember, the roll closes at 6 pm sharp on Thursday, 20 April 2000.

For enrolment information, please phone 13 18 32 from 8.30 am to 5 pm.



Authorised by C. A. Barry, Electoral Commissioner,
505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000.

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Issue of writ and notice of election

(The Age and Herald Sun)

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
BY-ELECTION
DISTRICT OF BENALLA**

On Monday, 17 April 2000,
I received from the Speaker
of the Legislative Assembly,
the Honourable Alex
Andrianopoulos, MP, a writ for the
election of one Member of the
Legislative Assembly for the
Electoral District of Benalla.

The writ specifies the following dates for the
by-election:

Close of roll: Thursday, 20 April 2000

Close of nominations: Thursday,
27 April 2000

Polling day: Saturday, 13 May 2000

Return of the writ: on or before Friday,
2 June 2000

This notice is placed as required by Section 155A
of *The Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958*.

**C. A. Barry, Electoral Commissioner,
505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000.**

Victorian Electoral Commission 

Nominations information

(*The Age, Herald Sun, Shepparton News and Wangaratta Chronicle*)

Nominations for the Benalla by-election



**Nominations close at
12 noon on Thursday,
27 April 2000**

If you wish to be a candidate for the Benalla by-election taking place on Saturday, 13 May 2000, you should contact:

Mr David Zeplin
Returning Officer
56 Bridge Street East
Benalla

Nomination forms and a *Candidate's Handbook* are available from the Returning Officer.

Nominations must be received by 12 noon on Thursday, 27 April 2000. We recommend that candidates nominate well before the deadline.

**For nomination enquiries,
please telephone (03) 5762 3304.**

Authorised by C. A. Barry, Electoral Commissioner,
505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000.

Voting before election day

(Metropolitan daily newspapers and local newspapers)

Benalla by-election 13 May 2000



What to do if you can't get to a polling place on election day

If you can't get to a polling place on Saturday, 13 May 2000, you can vote before election day in person or by post.

How to vote in person

You can vote at:
Returning Officer's Office
56 Bridge Street East
Benalla

46 High Street
Mansfield

111 Myrtle Street
Myrtleford

Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street
Melbourne

Hours:

Mon 1 to Fri 5 May	9 am to 5 pm
Sat 6 May (excluding Melbourne)	9 am to 5 pm
Mon 8 to Thur 11 May	9 am to 5 pm
Fri 12 May	9 am to 6 pm

How to vote by post

You can pick up an application for a postal vote at any post office in the Benalla District, or you can telephone **5762 3304** and ask for an application form to be sent to you. Alternatively, you could download an application form from **www.vec.vic.gov.au**

Post your completed application form as soon as possible or fax it to 5762 3423.

VOTING IS COMPULSORY

If you're on the electoral roll for Benalla District, you must vote.

You may be fined if you don't vote.

For further information, please contact 5762 3304 or


- العربية 9209 0100 Arabic • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek
- Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian (Slavonic) • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
- Српски 9209 0107 Serbian • Soomali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
- Việt-ngữ 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

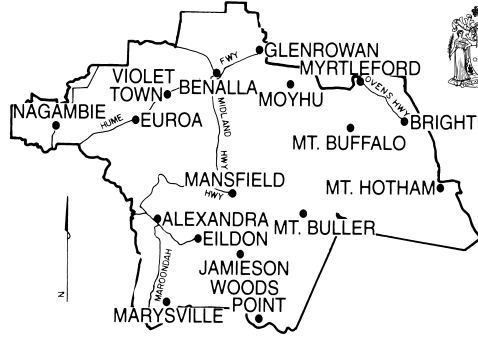
Authorised by C. A. Barry, Electoral Commissioner, 505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000.

Polling place information

(Local newspapers and *Weekly Times*)

Benalla by-election
Saturday, 13 May 2000






When to vote
From 8.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday, 13 May 2000

Where to vote
You can vote at any polling place listed below.

- ***Alexandra** Alexandra Secondary College, Downey Street
- ***Arcadia** CFA Hall
- ***Baddaginnie** Perambin Primary College, Clarendon Street
- ***Benalla** Benalla Secondary College, Dunlop Campus
ECA Centre, Cnr Barkly & Church Sts
- ***Benalla West** Benalla Secondary College,
Faithful Campus Assembly Hall, Faithful Street
- ***Bonnie Doon** Public Library, Bon Crescent
- ***Bright** Senior Citizens Centre, Cobden Street
- ***Buxton** Buxton Primary School, MaroonDAH Highway
- ***Canlambo** Canlambo Hall, Bridge Road
- ***Cheshunt** Cheshunt Hall
- ***Devenish** Devenish Primary School, Main Road
- ***Eildon** Eildon Primary School, Centre Avenue
- ***Euroa** Shire Supper Room, Bury Street
- ***Glenrowan** Glenrowan Primary School,
Beaconsfield Parade
- ***Goorambat** Gooramab Primary School
- ***Greta West** Greta Valley School
- ***Harrietville** Community Hall, Main Road
- ***Jamieson** Memorial Hall, Perkins Street
- ***Longwood** Longwood Community Centre
- ***Lurg** Public Hall, Winton-Lurg Road
- ***Mansfield** Sporting Complex, 35 Highett Street
- ***Marysville** Marysville Primary School, Falls Road
- ***Merrifig** Merrifig Primary School, Mt Buller Road
- ***Merton** Memorial Hall
- ***Moyhu** Masonic Hall, Byrne Street
- ***Mudgegonga** Mudgegonga Primary School,
Yackandandah-Myrtleford Road
- ***Myrrhee** Myrrhee Primary School
- ***Myrtleford** Anglican Hall, Clyde Street
- ***Nagambie** Senior Citizens Hall, High Street
- ***Narberthong** Public Hall, MaroonDAH Highway
- ***Pirles-Goughs Bay** Fire Station,
Bayside Boulevard, Goughs Bay
- ***Porepunkah** Porepunkah Primary School, Martley Street
- ***Ruffy** Ruffy Primary School, Nolans Road
- ***Strathbogie** Memorial Hall, Main Street
- ***Swanpool** Bunya Bunya Pine Pre-School, Lima East Road
- ***Taggerty** Mechanics Hall
- ***Tatong** Memorial Hall, Fern Hill Road
- ***Thoono** Thoono Primary School, Sargeant Street
- ***Thornton** Thornton Primary School, 9 Back Eildon Road
- ***Tolmie** Hall, Tolmie Sports Reserve
- ***Violet Town** Community Centre, Cowslip Street
- ***Wandiligong** Wandiligong Primary School, School Road
- ***Whitfield** Whitfield Primary School, Mansfield Road
- ***Yarck** Public Hall, MaroonDAH Highway

* Disabled access ** Access with assistance

Ballot Paper




How to vote
The ballot paper that you will be given on election day will look like the sample.
Please read the instructions on the ballot paper before you vote. Choose the person you want to see elected and write the number 1 in the box next to that person's name. Then write 2 in the box next to your second choice, 3 in the box next to your third choice and so on, until all seven boxes have been filled in.

What to do if you can't get to a polling place on election day
If you can't get to a polling place on Saturday, 13 May 2000, you can vote before election day between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Thursday and until 6.00 pm on Friday, 12 May at:
Returning Officer's office
56 Bridge Street East
Benalla
46 High Street
Mansfield
111 Myrtle Street
Myrtleford
Victorian Electoral Commission
Level 8, 505 Little Collins Street
Melbourne

Voting is compulsory
If you're on the electoral roll for Benalla District, you must vote. You may be fined if you don't vote.

For further information, please contact 5762 3304 or:

• 阿拉伯文 9209 0100 Arabic • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek
• Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian (Slavonic) • 普通话 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
• Čeština 9209 0107 Serbian • Slovenščina 9209 0108 Slovenian • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkçe 9209 0110 Turkish
• Tiếng Việt 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Victorian Electoral Commission 


Authorised by C. A. Barry, Electoral Commissioner,
505 Little Collins Street, Melbourne Vic. 3000.

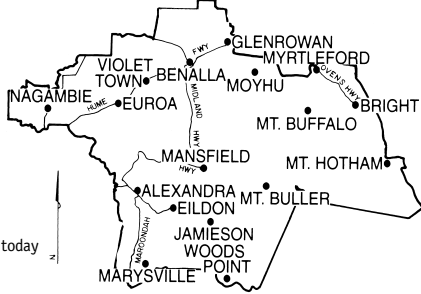
Election day information

(The Age and Herald Sun)

Benalla by-election

TODAY - 13 May 2000





When to vote
From 8.00 am to 6.00 pm today

Where to vote
You can vote at any polling place listed below.

How to vote

Ballot Paper

DISTRICT OF
Benalla

*Number the boxes 1 to 7
in the order of your choice!*

Number every box to make your vote count.

SMITH, Maurie

HILL, Bill

THORPE, Alf
ALEXANDER FERDINAND

ALLEN, Denise
ROSEMARY WILSON

MACKENZIE, Janet
ANDREW WILSON

SVKES, Bill
DAVID WILSON

ROWE, Geoff

Fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box
or declaration envelope as appropriate.

The ballot paper that you will be given today will look like the sample.

Please read the instructions on the ballot paper before you vote. Choose the person you want to see elected and write the number **1** in the box next to that person's name. Then write **2** in the box next to your second choice, **3** in the box next to your third choice and so on, until all seven boxes have been filled in.

Voting is compulsory

If you're on the electoral roll for Benalla District, you must vote. You may be fined if you don't vote.

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• 9209 0100 Arabic • 粵語 9209 0101 Chinese (Cantonese) • Hrvatski 9209 0102 Croatian • Ελληνικά 9209 0103 Greek
 • Italiano 9209 0104 Italian • Македонски 9209 0105 Macedonian (Slavonic) • 國語 9209 0106 Chinese (Mandarin)
 • Омонгол 9209 0107 Serbian • Somali 9209 0108 Somali • Español 9209 0109 Spanish • Türkiye 9209 0110 Turkish
 • Tiếng Việt 9209 0111 Vietnamese • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by C. A. Barry, Electoral Commissioner,
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