



Benalla - Information for Visiting Pilots and Crew

Version 1.0

BAV welcomes you to Benalla

This document provides information to balloon teams to assist them enjoy their stay, and protect and promote ballooning in North East Victoria. Pilots please be sure to share this document with your crew.

The Balloon Association of Victoria was founded in 1985 and has since become one of Australia's most active balloon clubs. BAV has hosted the Nationals at [Benalla](#) in 1990, 2007, and 2009, and looks forward to hosting many events in the future. Benalla has hosted two World Gliding Championships and is sport aviation friendly.

Membership of BAV

If you are involved in hot air ballooning in any way, you can become a member of BAV. Single membership is \$40 and family membership is \$50. You can find the membership form on our website at <https://www.balloonsvictoria.com/membership>. Bank Details - Please deposit your membership fees and accommodation fees to: Balloon Association of Vic ANZ BSB: 013-040 Account: 2954-47247

BAV Hut

The BAV hut is located within the Aeropark at the [Benalla Airport](#), providing affordable accommodation for members and friends. There are 5 bunk rooms, 1 room with a double bed, a kitchen and lounge/dining area. Toilet block & shower facilities are outside and shared with the Aeropark. The code for the toilet block can be found on the whiteboard. **Speed limit in the Aeropark is 5 kph.**

You must book the hut by calling Lu Michell (Treasurer) on 0414836913. The cost is \$15 per person per night for members and \$25 for non members. Children under 16 years are free. You need to BYO bedding and rooms are very cold in wintertime. Lu will provide you with the hut code when you book.

Heating and cooling is provided by the split system located in the common area. A woodfire heater is also available to use. There is WiFi, but it can be patchy - the password is on the whiteboard. Pets are not permitted in the hut, including the entry area. Please use the dishwasher and keep the common kitchen area tidy.

Upon leaving the hut, we ask that you vacuum your room and the common area and ensure the kitchen is clean and you take all food with you. For security, ensure the windows are closed, curtains drawn and doors locked. You can leave the electricity, power and fridge on. **Tip:** To work the oven, the clock must be on. The manual for the oven can be found under the cutlery draw opposite.

Landowner Relations

We welcome visiting pilots to our flying area and we ask you to be very respectful to landowners. You must obtain landowner permission when landing and launching and respect existing SZ's. Farmers prefer that their animals (particularly horses, lambs, calves, feedlots and intensive poultry) are not disturbed so use quiet burners and leave good space (500' overfly recommended) when near to livestock. Avoid landing in crop, seed or hay paddocks (rye grass hay in spring); not tearing up paddocks when wet (winter and spring); managing fire danger; and being biosecurity aware

Good practice is to carry a couple of bottles of wine or champagne and offer this to the landowner as appropriate. Goldrush Ballooning can supply a half dozen case of Brown Brothers Prosecco NV at cost (\$60) with prior request by email to flights@goldrushballooning.com.au - pick up at the BAV Hut.



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Everyone has a role to play in biosecurity

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

<p>Don't feed pigs meat, or food containing or that has touched meat</p>	<p>Avoid interacting with livestock or visiting a farm for 7 days after return from overseas</p>
<p>Wash clothes and boots before and after visiting farms or interacting with livestock</p>	<p>Don't bring/mail any meat into Australia without a permit</p>
<p>Talk to your vet if your animals or livestock are sick</p>	<p>If you have livestock, keep your PIC and biosecurity plan up to date</p>

Benalla Airport (YBLA, ELEV 569ft)

The Benalla Airport is certified and operated by the Benalla Rural City Council, 03 5760 2600. There are a number of users on the airport including the [Gliding Club of Victoria](#) and the [Benalla Aviation Museum](#) amongst others - please be friendly, wave, say hello and promote the BAV and ballooning as part of the aviation community.

Pilots must have a **Balloon Aerodrome Endorsement** on their PP(B)P or be a CP(B)L holder to operate below 2,000ft and 3NM of Benalla. A copy of the **FAC** for Benalla can be found on the noticeboard in the hut. Please refer to the latest **ERSA** for the latest copy. Check **NOTAMS** - the aerodrome is often very wet on grassed areas during winter and should be avoided. You will also find a runway layout and satellite photo view on the noticeboard..



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An airside access gate is electronically controlled and located on the west side of the airport in the car park, near the State Gliding Centre. **An access token** is required to operate the gate. Call the council and ask for an application form well in advance of your visit. **Vehicles operated airside** must be registered and in roadworthy condition and insured, must have a bright approved **roof mounted flashing light** (this is a good one - <https://visionsafe.com.au/product/dome-led-beacon-by-visionsafe/>) and (ideally) be monitoring Benalla CTAF VHF 125.6. Crew who do not hold an Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate (AROC) are not permitted to transmit. **Movement area speed limits** are 20km/h. **Hi-Viz vests must be worn when airside.**

Balloon launch: The airfield is usually quiet in the early morning but air ambulance is a frequent user of the airfield at any time of day or night. The afternoon is usually busy with glider and glider tug activity. We recommend to avoid flying over the 08/26 sealed runway so if you expect to be tracking in a northerly direction, the best place to launch is north of the sealed runway near the glider command hut. If you expect to be tracking southerly direction we recommend launching from the west side of the 35 grass runway. **Balloon landing:** The airfield is often used for balloon landings. We recommend landing on the grass runways and avoid the main sealed runway and movement areas (or move off as soon as possible).

CFA Fire Permit (needed November to March approximately - depends on the season)

Hot Air Ballooning during the fire danger period requires a permit from the CFA (Schedule 14). The Fire Danger Period may be declared as early as October and typically remains in place until the fire danger lessens, which could be as late as May. **You must apply well in advance of your visit (3 weeks at least)** and Information on permits and how to apply can be found here:

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-permits/fire-danger-period-permits>

You must notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) for each balloon flight, ideally **between 2 to 24 hours beforehand** using the online form provided in the information sent to you with your permit. If you are starting your flight, or changing location, within 2 hours, call **1800668511**. The operator will ask for your take off location, nearest cross road, duration of burn (flight), type of fuel used (propane), and permit number. Have this information ready as the operators can sometimes be busy with 000 calls.

Launch Sites

Common launch sites we use are:

Benalla Airfield - see information above and refer to ERSA

Goorambat Oval - SMS Kevin Nolan prior 0457 541 308 before to confirm any special instructions

Devenish Oval - Drive on. Close gate if there are sheep. Diane Young 0419 728 912 / 03 5764 4216

Lake Mokohan Hub and Cafe - SMS Gil Cunneen prior 0427 904 600 north side of Lake Mokohan

Maps

A map of the flying area is displayed in the common area of the hut. It includes all known SZ's. You can obtain electronic versions of the map from:

Paul Gibbs - 0418255480 - OziExplorer

Mitch - 0428858903 - HotAir KML (SZ's only, no comp targets)

Refueling

Caltex Benalla - 92-94 Bridge St West. Closes at 7pm.

Ampol Benalla - 191 Bridge St East. Nearly always says NO, but depends on the console operator.



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Power Companies (add these numbers to pilot & crew chief phones)

AusNet power company (most of Benalla area) - 131 799

Powercor power company (north west of Benalla area) - 132 412

Note - invisible **SWER lines** exist in the northern part of the flying area

Emergencies

Call 000 for life-threatening emergencies

Victoria State Emergency Service - 132 500

Commercial Operator

Goldrush Ballooning is based in Benalla and currently rents the BAV Hut office as their ops base. Passenger ride operations up to 6 days each week take place in both **King Valley** and **Mansfield** and above the canola in **Benalla** throughout September. Please pass on GRBs number if a member of the public wants a flight - 1300 255 666. They are happy to have you fly alongside and have a wealth of knowledge of the local conditions, friendly launch and landing areas. Message Paul Gibbs (SMS / WhatsApp 0418 255 480) a few days before you arrive to talk about the planned flying locations, weather forecast & balloon to balloon UHF comms channel.

Club Balloon - "Vicky"

Vicky, our club balloon, is a Kavanagh C77. Vicky is available to all club members for recreational and training purposes. Hire rates are \$150 per hour for pilots and \$100 for students. A \$150 insurance contribution is required once per calendar year. For more information and operating rules, [click here](#). To book Vicky please contact Chris Brown on 0497017617.

Other Accommodation Providers

There are many other accommodation providers in Benalla but the town can get quite busy during a festival or event - especially when there is car racing on at Winton Raceway.

Places to eat in town and surrounding area

There are many places for breakfast, coffee and dinner. BAV members recommend the following:

Spot for Coffee - cnr Bridge & Samaria Road. Good coffee. Fridays & Sundays Bacon and Egg rolls. Icecream.

Brew and Toasties - 4 Bridge St West, Benalla. Great coffee plus the heavenly Gourmet Chicken toastie. Limited hours, refer to Google Maps.

The Cake Makers Daughter - 91 Nunn St, Benalla. Great toasted sandwiches, cakes and coffee. Lunch venue.

The Merchant Benalla - 28 Bridge St, Benalla. Good all round sister cafe of MCM.

Zeus Coffee Co - Friendly, tasty, reliable.

The Northo - 1 Nunn St, Benalla. Benalla's dinner goto, sit down, relax, always good. Book ahead.

Bangkok Corner Thai - 50 Bridge St East, Benalla. Quick and yummy, Special Crispy Pork Belly is a fav.

Tandoori Hut Indian - 121 Bridge St East, Benalla. Authentic and delicious. T/O or eat in.

Dumpling Kitchen Chinese - 46 Bridge St East, Benalla. Pork & Prawn dumplings are great.

Benalla Golf Club, Benalla Bowls Club, The Royal Hotel, Farmers Arms Hotel all serve reliable fare.

Brookfield Maze - 1121 Benalla-Whitfield Road, Myrhee. Good balloon friends Francois & Tanya operate the maze. Open 10-4 all weekends, public holidays and Victorian school holidays. Pulled pork rolls & waffles !

King River Cafe - 1143 Snow Road, Oxley. Best value fine dining around. Book 2+ days ahead. 25 minute drive from Benalla. Judy, Ben and William offer a fantastic meal.

Tatong Tavern - 2581 Benalla-Tatong Rd, Tatong. 18 minutes from Benalla. Great parmies.