



SECOND PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2011

Project number	Title	Commenced	Planning	Partial implementation	Full implementation	Completed
1	Street Art at Rosanna					
2	Safety at Olympic Village					
3	Bus timetables					
4	Community diversity					
5	Accessible park					
6	Sustainable homes					
7	Broadband blackspots					
8	Greener streets					
9	Children's health					
10	History of Olympic Village					

PROJECT 1

Theme: A safe and clean city

Description: Develop a street art program within Rosanna shopping centre that enhances amenity and reduces opportunities for graffitists.

Progress:

Project is now complete. The Street Art program has been very successful and attracted a large number of positive comments from shoppers and traders. Everyone in the community - young and old - has embraced it.

Similar projects have also been conducted at Greensborough shopping centre and Bundoora Square.

Status: Completed

PROJECT 2

Theme: A safe and clean city.

Description: Improve the sense of safety and wellbeing around Olympic Village shopping centre.

Progress:

Key initiatives include:

Heidelberg West Neighbourhood Renewal Project

The Heidelberg West Neighbourhood Renewal Community Safety Working Group consists of local residents, Neighbourhood Watch, Victoria Police and Banyule Council representatives. The group provides a voice for community safety concerns, and the activities it has undertaken to date have included:

- Advocating for action within the Olympic Village Shops area – particularly graffiti and safety concerns.
- Interviewing local residents to gain their views on how to make the Olympic Village Shops area safer - this informed the Our Voice Our Community project.
- Piloting street audits of the neighbourhood in response to concerns around amenity, trees, footpaths, and safety in public realms.
- Holding community forums in the areas of preventing Hoon Driving, preventing burglary, White Ribbon Advocacy and Graffiti removal.

'Our Voice Our Community' Project

A consortium comprised of Neighbourhood Renewal, Victoria Police and Banyule City Council was successful in securing funding from the Federal Government's Proceeds of Crime Grants for the 'Our Voice Our Community' project. This project focuses on two places in Heidelberg West and provides \$159,000 to support three core initiatives:

1. Community development – crime prevention focus – encouraging people to reclaim public spaces (Olympic Village shopping centre and Tarakan Housing Estate).
2. Community education – a series of information and awareness workshops.
3. Strengthening law enforcement capabilities – purchase of CCTV cameras.

The Community Cultural Development (CCD) Worker, in the 'Our Voice Our Community' Project, commenced at the end of August 2011. The aim of this role is to build relationships with the community and improve perceptions of safety, using art as an engagement tool.

Neighbourhood Renewal and the 'Our Voice Our Community' project are working together to improve the sense of safety and wellbeing in the Olympic Village shops area. Activities to date include:

- A Graffiti Expo held at the Olympic Village shopping centre on 4th October 2011. Partners included Neighbourhood Renewal Community Safety Working Group, Council, Victoria Police, Transition 3081, Our Voice Our Community and Traders. Approximately 100 people attended and residents were canvassed for the top three safety issues.
- 'Friends of Olympic Village' was launched at the Expo. This is an opportunity for those who want to be involved in creating a safe and vibrant Olympic Village - 40 people have signed up.
- A comprehensive Graffiti Management action plan is being developed for the shops in partnership with Council, Department of Justice Corrections Crews and a local company.
- Council has supported two art projects for the shops through the Graffiti Management Strategy, involving a local Indigenous group and local primary school.
- Neighbourhood Renewal is discussing refurbishment opportunities for the shopping strip with Council, to freshen up the streetscape.
- Through its Economic Development area, Council has also been providing support and some marketing advice to traders.

- Neighbourhood Renewal and 'Our Voice Our Community' are partnering with Olympic Leisure Centre and local community groups to develop a 'Summer in the Village' activities program.

Transition 3081 Group

'Transition 3081' is a local community group that promotes sustainable living. They hold their monthly community 'vegie-swap' at the Olympic Village shopping centre to support local businesses and bring the community together for fun, safe, inspiring and positive activities.

Police Commitment to the Village

Victoria Police are committed to respond to local safety concerns. They are a key partner in the Community Safety Working Group and the 'Our Voice Our Community' project. Their role is to respond to criminal activity and to improve perceptions of safety for local residents. The 'Our Voice Our Community' project included provision for police to purchase a small number of mobile CCTV cameras. This equipment provides an additional surveillance tool for police to use to respond to crime and safety concerns, and could also be used as part of the approach to enhance safety at the Olympic Village shopping centre.

Status: Full implementation (ongoing)

PROJECT 3

Theme: A free moving city.

Description: Improve timetable connections between bus and train services by participating in a review of bus timetables and services.

Progress:

The former State Government appointed Booz and Co to conduct a review of bus timetables in the cities of Banyule, Moreland and Darebin.

Community consultation sessions were conducted in December 2009, and the final report was released in mid October 2010 by the former State Government. The report contains a number of recommendations for improving the frequency of bus services on routes that affect Banyule residents, as well as improving connections with train services.

Unfortunately very few of the recommendations were taken up by the previous State Government, and the report has basically not been supported or acted upon by the new State Government.

Recent Council discussions with the Department of Transport (DoT) regarding the review have indicated that:

- the current government has not provided further funding for this financial year
- some recommendations may be achievable without requiring funds (ie. through adjustments), subject to consultation with community and Council
- at this stage, DoT are not aware of any proposed route or service changes in Banyule

There is scope to investigate some of the routes and connections on a reactive basis.

Council has been advocating on this issue and has to date not received a response. It also continues to advocate for Modal Interchange @ Greensborough.

Status: Full implementation (ongoing)

PROJECT 4

Theme: A diverse, cohesive and happy community.

Description: Celebrate our cultural richness and promote harmony and understanding by featuring more of Banyule's diverse communities in our festivals and events.

Progress:

Cultural Diversity Week was conducted in March 2011. Council provided \$1,120 in grants to three community groups to support cultural diversity activities. They were:

- \$650 – Yarra Plenty Regional Library towards Japanese story time, Chinese story time and Indian Culture Day.
- \$220 – Olympic Adult Education towards Cultural Diversity Week Community Lunch.
- \$250 – Bell Street Mall Traders Association towards their Taste of Harmony lunch.

Leisure and Cultural Services have implemented four community reference and advisory groups to support Council in its Arts and Cultural Development.

These Committees are:

- Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee
- Public Art Advisory Committee
- Art Collection Advisory Committee
- Cultural Vault Reference Group.

A Festival Working Group of local residents was established and has been involved in the planning and programming for Malahang Festival to be held in November 2011.

Further examples of involvement of Banyule's diverse communities in festivals and events include:

- the Ivanhoe Makers Market
- children's week celebrations
- the Indian Festival
- Traders' festivals such as the Ivanhoe Fiesta in May 2011, and the Christmas Carnival and cultural harmony events at Bell Street Mall
- Council has partnered with Creativity Australia to launch a culturally diverse choir at the Austin Hospital in Heidelberg
- the annual Youthfest event, funded by Council to celebrate youth culture and held during Youth Week
- The local Somali community hosts annual 'Eid Al Fitr' celebrations for the community to celebrate the end of Ramadan
- Neighbourhood Renewal Heidelberg West hold a series of community activities and events to increase community connections, including an annual celebration of International Women's Day and the establishment of a local community choir – the Keynote Singers.
- Council hosts a community event for International Day with a Disability, with a recent focus on involvement in local sports
- Funding was secured from the Victorian Multicultural Commission for the Feast of all Nations - an event celebrating refugee and asylum seekers, collaboratively managed with Watsonia Library for refugee week held in June
- Banyule's traditional land owners, the Wurundjeri willam people, have continued involvement in council and community events such as the Reconciliation Flag Raising ceremony, and Welcome to Country and Citizenship ceremonies.
- Over 400 Banyule residents became Australian Citizens over the past 12 months. Council held four citizenship ceremonies during the year.

Status: Full implementation (ongoing)

PROJECT 5

Theme: A comprehensive range of services and facilities.

Description: Undertake a joint project with a disability group to establish facilities within a designated park that are suitable and accessible for people with a disability.

Progress:

The Ivanhoe Diamond Valley Centre (IDVC) is the designated community group for the project.

The Warringal Parklands redevelopment was selected as the Park to focus on. The project was launched in August 2010, with support from the former State Government, Sports and Recreation Victoria, and endorsed by the Playground and Recreation Association of Victoria.

Staff and clients of IDVC reviewed the concept plans for the redevelopment. A site meeting was held in December 2010 to review and discuss the feedback from IDVC, including satisfaction with the location, design elements, amenities and access issues.

The tender process has been undertaken and it is hoped that works will commence in November/December, with estimated completion by March-April 2012.

IDVC is also interested in assisting with other activities at the Park, such as tree planting.

Status: Partial implementation

PROJECT 6

Theme: A sustainable city

Description: Develop a program supporting community champions to assist residents to develop practical strategies to live a more sustainable lifestyle.

Progress:

The Sustainable Homes and Communities Program is a \$700K project jointly funded by Sustainability Victoria, Darebin and Banyule, running over a 3 year period 2010/11–2012/13.

A program co-ordinator was employed in December 2010 and is currently backfilling another position. A new co-ordinator will start in October 2011.

The program involves the engagement of 'community champions' who will help deliver the program. In 2011, four themed workshops have been held and the program has engaged with CALD communities in postcode 3081. For 2012 there are plans for five themed workshops, one hands-on event and one award ceremony. Community and Council venues are utilised to host the workshops across the municipality.

Banyule is partnering with Darebin City Council in the Sustainable Homes and Communities program which is launching its brand new website in Oct 2011:

www.sustainablehomes.vic.gov.au

An evening discussion was held in June 2011 to determine how the Sustainable Homes and Communities Program can support local community groups. Invitations encouraged leaders of any local community groups from both the Darebin and Banyule municipalities. All community group leaders were welcome, eg. faith groups, sports groups, environment groups, multicultural groups, etc.

The workshops include hearing from expert presenters and local community champions about a range of environmental opportunities (eg. water, energy, waste, transport, gardening and food). Examples of workshops from the program in 2011 include:

- A Sustainable Food Workshop held in May 2011 - this included 'reducing your footprint with regards to your food choices'.
- A 'Create an Energy Efficient Home' Workshop in August 2011 – included how to create a home that stays warm in winter and cool in summer without huge energy bills. This workshop gave practical information and included hands-on activities.
- A 'Create a Sustainable Garden' workshop – held on 20 October 2011- included how poultry, fruit trees, growing your own vegetables, composting and mulching can all be used to create a small urban garden.
- A workshop on 'Avoiding Waste' and 'Smart Shopping' - to be held on 15 November 2011 – includes how the choices we make when we are shopping are important.
- Water and Energy Workshops - SHCP is working with a Somalian Women's Group in West Heidelberg to deliver Water and Energy Workshops. These workshops are practical, hands on educative sessions on water and energy issues.

Ongoing evaluation of the program has indicated a high level of satisfaction and learning outcomes. The workshops have had around 50-90 people in attendance. Planning is about to begin for years 2011/12 and 2012/13 of this program.

Status: Full implementation (ongoing)

PROJECT 7

Theme: Vibrant local economy

Description: Enable the capacity to access modern communications technology by ensuring all properties in Banyule have access to broadband internet.

Progress:

There are areas around the Macleod Shopping Centre that are unable to access ADSL or cable broadband. An inability to access this facility is a significant impediment for many local businesses in this area.

The Macleod Traders opted to undertake a survey of Macleod residents during August 2010 in order to gauge the extent and location of the problem. The Survey was distributed by the Traders, and could also be downloaded from Council's website.

The issue received coverage through the August/ September 2010 edition of the Banner with follow up press releases. Follow up articles also appeared in the Heidelberg Leader and The Age.

The Survey confirmed the significance of the issue to the local community.

This issue remains a priority for the Macleod Traders Group. However, to date it has been unable to gain a satisfactory response from either the Federal Government or Telstra.

Council is investigating opportunities through the NBN rollout that may deliver on improved access for businesses and the local community. Our investigation will consider the implications of any NBN rollout on our community and, if appropriate, opportunities to lobby the Federal Government and NBN Co - that Banyule, as part of the northern region, receive the early introduction of high speed cabling.

Alternative options are continuing to be investigated and pursued.

Status: Full implementation (ongoing)

PROJECT 8

Theme: A treed city

Description: Improve the 'greenness' of some parts of Banyule by undertaking complementary tree and shrub planting on nature strips and private gardens.

Progress:

An article on the project appeared in the June/ July 2010 edition of the Banyule. Expressions of interest were invited from the community. Five EOIs were received, and two streets selected – North Crescent West Heidelberg and Wilkinson Crescent Bellfield.

The planting seeks to:

- Improve the visual amenity of the area
- Contribute to improved health outcomes by providing shade and reducing heat stress
- Reducing household heating and cooling costs
- Help strengthen the sense of community.

Council's Parks & Gardens team prepared planting concept plans. The team met with neighbourhood representatives, who in turn met with their neighbours to discuss the plans. Both streets were happy with the plans (with the addition of one tree). In brief, the plans included:

- North Crescent – about 20-30 advanced street trees to be planted, and tube stock supplied to residents for use in private gardens
- Wilkinson Crescent – about 40 advanced trees to be planted.

Parks & Gardens liaised with neighbourhood representatives to determine a suitable date to undertake the planting.

In June 2011, holes were pre-dug in naturestrips in preparation for the plantings. Several varieties of advanced plants were purchased and selected based on powerline considerations. The trees were planted by residents with the assistance of Parks & Gardens on two consecutive Saturdays in July 2011. These plants are 1-2 metres tall, and will require aftercare by the residents.

Status: Completed

PROJECT 9

Theme: An active involved community

Description: Promote physical health in children by promoting active transport strategies in local schools.

Progress:

The project initially looked at encouraging children to walk or ride their bikes to Olympic Village Primary School. However it was quickly established that there was already a high level of involvement in these forms of active transport at the school.

The issue of body image and self esteem for girls aged 11-12 years was identified as an emerging issue. A 'SELF' group has been established for these girls (as part of the self esteem confidence building program), which meets once per week. At the group the girls learn about nutrition, physical exercise, hygiene and social skills.

The project is a joint project between the YMCA, Banyule Council Youth Services, Banyule Community Health Service (BCHS), and Olympic Village Primary School.

The project was conducted in term three last year, and involved 10 grade six girls from Olympic Village Primary School. BCHS worked in partnership with YMCA, Council and the school. The project was funded by Vichealth. Although the BCHS's role was limited, it has built on the 'healthy eating' projects it was delivering at the school.

Status: Completed

PROJECT 10

Theme: A valued heritage

Description: Capture the history of Olympic Village by recording the stories and experiences of people who have lived there.

Progress:

Heidelberg West Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) is taking a leading co-ordination role and is working in partnership to support local people in their activities to capture the history of Olympic Village. NR has identified the following three projects:

- NR (Community Development worker – Banyule Community Health Service) is working in partnership with Yarra Plenty Regional Library and the Heidelberg Historical Society to create a permanent collection of the Olympic Village History for West Heidelberg. A stall for this project is to be included at Malahang Festival in November 2011.
- NR (Community Development worker – Banyule Community Health Service) is working with Women of West Heidelberg to collect stories of local women in the community (a current history snapshot) - to be displayed at a local International Women's Day Event in March 2012
- NR Place Manager and Community Cultural Development Worker are meeting with a biographer who is interested in capturing the stories of local West Heidelberg residents.

These projects are in their planning phase. As a next step, NR plans to consider the relationship these individual projects could have together, and potential for them to be collated and displayed together.

Status: Planning phase
