



# Minutes RAP Advisory Committee

14 February 2024

## Meeting details

<b>Date of meeting</b>	Wednesday, 14 February 2024
<b>Time</b>	5:30pm – 7:00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Barrbunin Beek
<b>Chair/Facilitator</b>	Shelley Ware
<b>Minutes</b>	Blair Colwell

## Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

“Banyule City Council is proud to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as traditional custodians of the land and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region’s history.”

## Inclusive Banyule Statement

“Our community is made up of diverse cultures, beliefs, abilities, bodies, sexualities, ages and genders. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone: principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.”

## Attendee

<b>Attendee name</b>	<b>Affiliation/Organisation</b>
Uncle Charles Pakana	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Wally Johnson	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Shelley Ware	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Catherine Bradley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Sue Harris	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Maddi Miller	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Jo Southwell	Banyule Community Health
Zali Mifsud	Banyule Council
Georgie Meyer	Banyule Council
Blair Colwell	Banyule Council
Cr Elizabeth Nealy	Banyule Council
Cr Peter Castaldo	Banyule Council
Tom Conley	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Uncle Owen Butler	Banyule RAP Advisory Group Committee Member
Will Priestley	Consultant Designer
Amy Harris	Banyule Council (Economic Development)
Dani Ahimastos	Banyule Council (Economic Development)

# Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Kath Brackett	Banyule Council

# Items

## 1. Introduction 5:30pm – 5:35pm

- Acknowledgement of traditional custodians
- Inclusive Banyule Statement
- Welcome to members
- Apologies
- Housekeeping

## 2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:35pm – 5:45pm

- Confirmation of minutes
- Action arising

Action	Outcome or Update	Status
Action 1: Sub-working group including Uncle Owen, Tom and Shelley to meet with the Repat hospital and then report back to RAP committee on discussions on how to progress the plaque.	Update: Wording for the plaque is to be confirmed and reported back on, working through budget. Investigate some opportunities for some grants.	Ongoing
Action 2: Council Officer to arrange a sub-working group consistent of Uncle Charles and Shelley to discuss Uluru Statement from the Heart Communications Plan.	Update: Post referendum conversations being complete what is the approach for the next 12 months. Meeting held late last year with working group. Meetings coming up over the next two weeks with reconciliation stake holders and community. Continue to meet with the sub working group as the draft Communications Plan is developed.	Ongoing
Action 3: Council Officer to investigate a formal relationship with Reconciliation Victoria.	Update: Ongoing Working with Reconciliation Victoria's internal team.	Ongoing
Action 4: Zali to facilitate a meeting of representatives from Banyule and Reconciliation Victoria.	Ongoing work with Reconciliation Victoria.	Ongoing
Action 6 Council officer to organise meeting with Paty to organise further consultation. Uncle Charles to post to Barrbunin Beek to committee for consultation opportunities.		Ongoing

### Discussion

Motion that the minutes be adopted.

Mover: Uncle Charles

Seconded: Catherine Bradley

Unanimous

### Action

Minutes from the November 15 RAP Committee meeting be adopted.

### 3. Shaping Banyule - Artwork – 5:45pm to 5:55pm

- Kristen Munro to present new Shaping Banyule Artwork

#### Discussion

Last year the shaping Banyule team came to Banyule RAP Committee to discuss development of potential art to be on all the Shaping Banyule consultation. The artist commissioned to design and produce the art work was Baily Mifsud and the art work is now available for viewing.

Baily produced the following description of her art. This artwork tells a story of community connection and collaboration, through the rich tradition of Aboriginal storytelling. It portrays the enduring and harmonious relationship between Banyule City Council and the land, reflecting a timeless connection embedded in the cultural fabric of Country.

The central meeting place serves as a symbol of Banyule City Council, echoing its commitment to actively listen to the diverse voices within the community. This space becomes a metaphor for creating an inviting and resilient environment, a place where people can come together.

The river that flows through the piece pays acknowledgement to the significance of rivers and waterways for the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung peoples, the Traditional Owners. In the upper left-hand corner, three journey lines are seen, representing the past, present, and future endeavours of the Council.

The artwork shows a diverse array of figures—people of all shapes, sizes, and colours—forming a mosaic that radiates from the core of the community. This visual celebration underscores the truth that people are the heartbeat of any thriving community, symbolizing the inclusive spirit that Banyule City Council values.

Other symbolic recognition includes the hills in the bottom right-hand corner and the native animals scattered throughout. The hills are a reflection of the Council's name "Banyule" meaning "Big hill" in Woi-Wurrung language. The stars in the top right-hand corner are for past local Elders that played a key role in continuing culture.

Ultimately, the artwork stands as a gentle declaration of the Council's dedication to recognition and reconciliation with the First Nations peoples, fostering a harmonious coexistence that bridges the past, present, and future.

The RAP Advisory Committee expressed consensus support for the art and the work of the artist Baily. The art represents a clear understanding of what makes Banyule unique.

The art will be prominently featured with any key engagement Council does through Shaping Banyule, branding of our community engagement. A video of Baily explaining the meaning of her artwork will also be available.

Launch of Art will be in March or April and an invitation extended to the RAP Committee.

Uncle Charles do we want to look at recording a panel of First Nations artists?

Through this process of selecting the artist Banyule Council developed a matrix which can assess and prioritise potential artists.

## Action

No Actions

## 4. La Trobe NEIC 5:55pm – 6:10pm

- Dani Ahimastos to present La Trobe NEIC masterplan

## Discussion

Dani presented on Northern Precinct and Heidelberg West Business Park

Norther Precinct Project crosses the boarder with Darebin Council and Banyule Council is working in collaboration with them in the development. Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place is situated in the heart of this precinct and for context the Darebin Creek is the metaphorical spine in the middle of the precinct.

To align values, Banyule Council and Darebin Council have drafted a Precinct Opportunity Statement. This statement sets a vision for achieving positive outcomes for the precinct. It identifies the precinct's strengths and opportunities to inform how we'll live, work and play in Melbourne's North into the future. This statement is a starting point that will guide future engagement in the development of a detailed Precinct Structure Plan and aims to capture the transformation and investment taking place around us.

The purpose of the consultation is to hear the group's aspiration for the precinct in the development of a Precinct Opportunity Statement for the Northern Precinct and the development of a Masterplan for the Heidelberg West Business Park.

Will: Is the planning consultant engaged by Council to lead the Master Plan for the Precinct? The Master Plan is how we set up a framework to guide the change. This is the beginning of a conversation and how the group wants to be involved. What is the public benefit for the development and how do we deal with the future challenges, such as climate change? Often, we start this process with thinking about themes.

Uncle Charles: What do you want from us?

Well there is a relationship with Darebin Creek and the business park, what has the displaced? What do we want to bring back?

Green open space as an opportunity to bring back.

Uncle Charles: It is difficult for this group to respond to what has been displaced. This is a more appropriate question for Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people and we encourage engagement with them in the development of the Precinct Master Plan.

Uncle Owen: This creek is not just flowing water it is culturally significant and important to the community but more importantly to Traditional Owners acknowledging how first nations people are included in the conversation.

Charles: Is this an opportunity to engage Kinaway, First Nations Business Directory in the development or execution of the plan and promote the use of First Nations business?

What are the limitations? What are the opportunities? Need to be clear about what you can and can't influence on.

Will: We are keen to have a deep conversation on the development of the plan.

Amy this is the start of the conversation.

Shelly: Highlighted the deep connection to country that First Nations people have and how we can have development which is sustainable. Shelly expressed interest to go and look at the precinct and have an understanding of the land/space. Is the Bell St Mall part of the precinct? No it's not. The Mall has a stigma and is this plan an opportunity to address some of these issues?

Tom: Is there an opportunity to design in a not for profit hub or business incubator as part of the Precinct Master Plan?

How We Got Here: State Government released a draft framework which has remained in draft. The Victorian Government identified Northern Precinct as a priority precinct alongside six other precincts including Monash and Parkville. These precincts were strategically identified for jobs growth and targeted infrastructure investments due to their growing population and new and diverse economic opportunities.

Vision:

An economic powerhouse driving education, health and research innovation supported by a well-connected transport network, knowledge economy, jobs and affordable housing suited to employment. Supported by a net zero future for transformative impact.

Goals:

- 1) A highly connected and accessible place
- 2) Single largest provider of affordable housing suited to employment
- 3) A knowledge economy globally renowned for cutting-edge research and innovation
- 4) An exemplar in world-class health facilities and allied businesses
- 5) A healthy and resilient environment

Which goals outlined above resonate with you? Why?

What are your aspirations for the northern precinct and the HWBP that align with the goals listed?

Uncle Charles: Concern that gentrification can push working class people out of the precinct.

Uncle Owen: Principles of a welcoming city that caters for all socioeconomic levels. A place for all community to connect and engage, to get out of the house and participate in community to the fullest.

Tom: Made the point that Covid has potentially had consequences on the way in which people interact with their community.

Shelley: Wellbeing and thinking about what connection is for First Nations people and thinking about family and kinship and connection to place. How do we get businesses to be good corporate citizens as part of the Master Plan?

Peter: As a group of Councillors seeing this move forward we wanted to make sure there is ample infrastructure to want the allocation of additional resources (including stat gov or federal) better public transport and social infrastructure.

Uncle Charles: How do we stay engaged?

Consensus from the Reconciliation Action Plan Advisory Committee we want to stay engaged and shape the development of the Master Plan.

Zali: Outlined that the conversations will be taking place on the February 15 with Wurundjeri Land Council seeking their input.

Cath: Sought clarification on the term appropriate housing suited to employment opportunities.

Housing needs to compliment the employment opportunity so people can live, work and play in their local community and are not forced to commute large distances outside of their community.

Uncle Owen: Raised concern that some of the sporting infrastructure isn't accessible for local young people due to financial constraints.

### Action

Council Officers work with RAP Committee Members in establishing a working group and continue to work with the consultants on the development of the Master Plan.

## 5. Jan 26 Public Holiday Discussion 6:10pm – 6:20pm

- Uncle Charles to present Jan 26 Discussion

### Discussion

Uncle Charles: Propose that the RAP Advisory Committee start discussions on a community driven plan for 26<sup>th</sup> of January for next year. About 40% of local governments have chosen not to celebrate/hold events on the dates. Uncle Charles addressed an event at Mooney Valley and attended Merri-Bek event on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January. Concerns that elements with alternative views would overwhelm the conversations has not eventuated and there is broad and growing support in the community to have dialogue on this issue.

Should we have a healing ceremony?

Establish a working group to work with key stakeholders that this group drives an event on this day.

Motion: Working group be established by this committee to explore a 26<sup>th</sup> January event in the local area

Mover: Uncle Charles

Seconder: Cath Bradely

Jo: Expressed her support for motion and highlighted the Monty Allies and Reconciliation Banyule event that she attended. It was done in an extremely respectful way and was well organised and could only get stronger with support for this group.

Maddi: Extend support to this motion as a Dharug women with ties to Botany Bay and Sydney cove support this.

Be mindful of a careful and considered approach. This would not be a Council event however consultation would take place with Council officers.

### Action

Working group be established by this committee to explore a 26<sup>th</sup> January event in the local area.



## 6. Co-Chair Discussion 6:20pm – 6:30pm

- Zali Mifsud to present chair elections

### Discussion

Zali: Maddi in her role as Co-Chair has confirmed her intention to return to the committee from her leave of absence. We would like to inform, seek any objections, and formally welcome Maddi back to the role.

No objections and consensus support to welcome Maddi back.

### Action

No action

## 7. General Business 6:30pm – 6:55pm

- Call for any general business items:
- First Nations Employment Update: Zali
- Calendar of events: Zali
- Treaty: Uncle Charles

### Discussion

Walley: Informed the committee of his intention to withdraw from RAP Advisory Committee. Walley has been an active member for several years.

The RAP Advisory Committee congratulations Walley on his contribution.

Wally was asked what was the highlight from his time on the committee: Aboriginal issues and reconciliation are taken seriously in Banyule Council and he has seen this change over time.

One thing for the future? Keep getting the message out to the citizens of Banyule that these issues are for everyone to consider.

### First Nations Employment

Zali: RAP Advisory Committee supported the First Nations Inclusive Employment program and appointment of a dedicated role. Sara Renouf has been appointed to Council as the First Nations Traineeship Lead and will attend future meetings to introduce herself to the group. Sara will support traineeships with 3 First Nations trainees per year.

### Calendar of Events

Jo: Calendar of events for Reconciliation Week.

Yes the First Nations Team has been working on events for Reconciliation week, dates will be circulated to the Banyule RAP Advisory Committee.

### Treaty

Uncle Charles: Treaty ongoing communications strategy. Spoken to the assembly and minister... What with treaty in context of the referendum. Minister was non-committal and is preparing internal departments. Raised concern that alternative views in the community can be detrimental to treaty negotiations. We need more consultation with the broader community so we can avoid errors of the referendum.

I am prepared to put myself up to engage the community.

Zali: We can play a role in promoting and educating the community on Treaty and how we keep these conversations front and centre.

Uncle Charles: How do we engage the community that isn't supportive?

Zali: Different channels that are inclusive of the Banyule Banner and letterbox drops and information sessions. How do we keep the Councillor group involved?

How do we get those with alternative views involved?

Peter: It was discussed we would invite Banyule RAP Advisory Committee members to a briefing dinner to have a meal and discussion with Councillors with a possible presentation after the dinner.

Shelley: lets address the misinformation and disinformation.

Uncle Charles: Wants the opportunity to answer questions.

Zali: This is an ongoing and continuing piece of work around promoting Voice Truth Treaty.

Zali: The policy platform for the discussion is the endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Communications department is very supportive around how we engage the community in this space.

Cath: What was the general feel and feedback about the public meetings?

We have Councillors that represent diverse views that sometimes shaped the debate. We were careful to involve all voices and the sincerity in which we approached the discussion.

Cath: What did the survey show?

Zali: 97 community responses, 4 were counter view to self-determination, overwhelming supportive and informed views on the SDS

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Zali: Meeting with Banyule Council's internal working group, which see the opportunity in their core business to contribute to the strategy.

We have our first dreaming coming up with the RAP Advisory Committee and Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place Committee of Management on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Public forum on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March.

Georgie: We are very happy with the work of the consultants.

## Action

Officers to distribute the dates for all community consultation.

## 8. Close and date of next meeting 6:55pm – 7:00pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next meeting: 28 February