

Banyule Banner

July 2024

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Mayor's Message

Mayor Cr Tom Melican



Council Budget

Banyule remains in a secure and sustainable financial position following the adoption of the 2024/25 Budget.

This is the result of a lot of hard work and difficult decisions by Councillors, with the support of staff at all levels of Council.

Thank you to the community members who helped us prepare the Budget by attending planning sessions, telling us your priorities and giving feedback. We've balanced community expectations with maintaining a sustainable outlook within the constraints of limited revenue sources and a rate cap.

We will continue to provide a high standard of facilities and services while ensuring great value for every dollar of rates collected.

See **page 3** for a summary.

Housing targets

We know Banyule is a desirable place to live with good transport and infrastructure and we will continue to see an increase in housing.

The Victorian Government's new draft housing targets propose an 87% increase in the number of dwellings in Banyule by 2051. The government is consulting with councils and will release the final targets later this year.

We are working with the government to ensure Banyule gets the housing we need, in the places we need it, while preserving our liveability, neighbourhood character and tree canopy, in line with Council's Draft Housing Strategy and Draft Neighbourhood Character Strategy.

Building a great future

We're delighted to feature some of the infrastructure and facilities we've recently completed or have

well underway. There are seven new playgrounds to explore, progress on major projects like Watsonia Town Square and upgrades to facilities like Rosanna Fire Station Neighbourhood House.

Walking and bike riding

One of the things I love about Banyule is our fantastic network of walking and bike paths. Take a look at our review of Banyule's walking and cycling connections and let us know your thoughts. See more on **page 4**.

Cats and dogs in public places

We received 3,800+ responses to the survey about Council's Public Order Review of cats and dogs in public places. More people attended the information sessions. This issue of the Banyule Banner goes to print before Council makes a final decision. We'll have details in the next issue.

Stay in touch with us online

 Email newsletters

banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe



@BanyuleCouncil

Have your say on important projects and local initiatives

 shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

 Upcoming dates:

15 July

5 August

 From 7pm

 Council Chambers @ Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

For agendas, minutes, public question time and request to speak forms, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings

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 Islander Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the region's history.

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

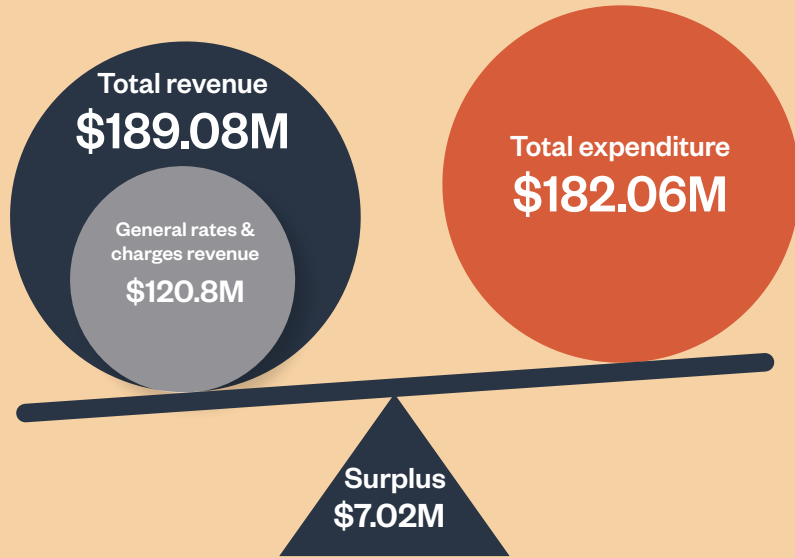
COVER: L-R at Banyule Volunteer Celebration, Jane from Banyule Community Health with volunteers Nik and Aunty Robyn, who worked on a healthy eating project.

2024/25

Budget at a glance

Our Budget aligns with the priorities and aspirations of our community identified in the Banyule Community Vision 2041. It builds on what we have and continues to enhance Banyule as a great place to live, work, play and do business.

See the 2024/25 Budget here: shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/DeliveringOurBudget



How the budget is allocated

Operations (e.g. waste collection and street cleaning) \$29.07M



Family & Community Services \$16.75M



Healthy & Active Communities \$14.84M



Parks & Natural Environment \$15.14M



Planning & Building Laws \$8.53M



Transport & Environment \$5.75M



Delivery & Assets \$6.92M



Resilient & Connected Communities \$6.36M



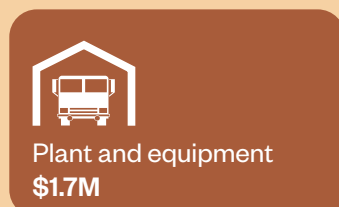
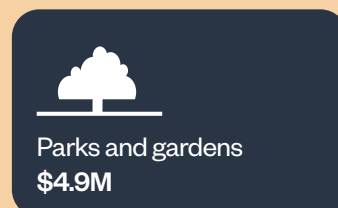
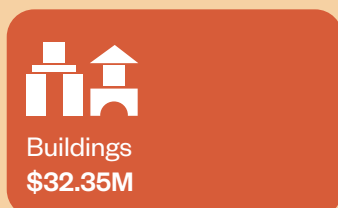
Inclusive & Creative Communities \$1.72M



City Futures \$4.05M



Capital Works Program \$65.07 million



Shaping Banyule

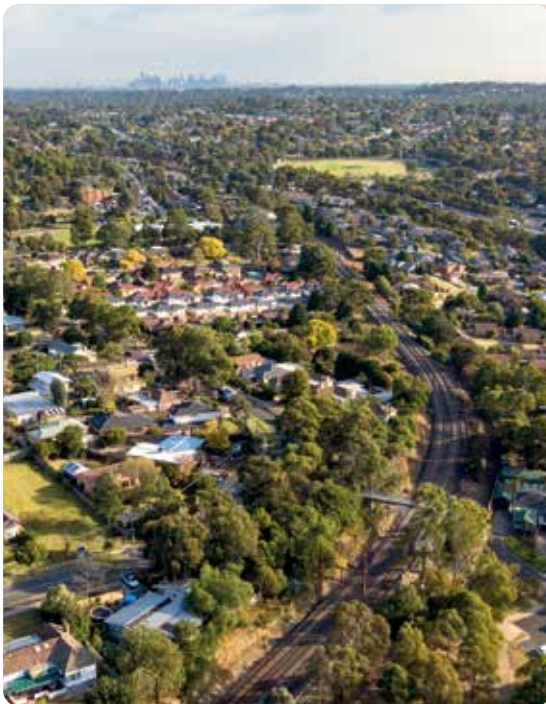
Get involved in local projects



A big welcome to Shaping Banyule

First Nations artist Merindah-Gunya has created a new artwork for Banyule's online community engagement platform, Shaping Banyule.

The artwork, which can be seen in the banner above, celebrates First Nations design and creates a more inclusive and welcoming space for First Nations people and the broader community. Watch a video and read about the artist and the story behind the artwork at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/TheArtwork



Build a strong community with Local Laws

Local Laws help protect our community's public health, safety and amenity. They cover local issues such as rules around construction sites, behaviour on Council land and impacts on neighbourhood amenity. Council's General Local Law No. 1 (2015) must be reviewed every 10 years. With the current local law expiring in April 2025, it is time to share your thoughts on the proposed changes.

To register for a community workshop in July and August, or to complete the online survey by 7 August, scan the code below or visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/LocalLaws

Your Council contact:

Justine Busuttil, Municipal Laws Coordinator
Phone: 9490 4273
Email: justine.busuttil@banyule.vic.gov.au



Walking and bike riding in Banyule

Footpaths and bike paths are an important part of the transport network, connecting with schools, shops and sporting facilities and linking to buses, trams and trains. They make travelling by bike or on foot easier, safer and more convenient. However, barriers such as a lack of safe crossing points or footpaths can stop us from wanting to use them.

We've identified areas where improvements are needed. Share your thoughts and ideas by 11 August at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/WalkingBikeRiding

Your Council contact:

Michelle Herbert, Lead Transport Planner
Phone: 9457 9824
Email: transport@banyule.vic.gov.au



Stand for Council

Council elections happen every four years in Victoria. The next election is in October. We talk with Banyule Chief Executive Officer, Allison Beckwith, to see what it means for Banyule.

What is your role as CEO of Banyule Council?

I support the Mayor and Councillors in their roles and I'm responsible for the overall management of day-to-day operations of Banyule Council. I make sure the decisions of Council are implemented in a timely manner.

What is the role of a Banyule councillor?

Councillors make important decisions on behalf of the community. They decide what council spends its money on and how to manage development in Banyule. While councillors support the people in the ward they are elected to, they are required to represent the interests of the whole Banyule community when making decisions.

So, they can decide whatever they want!?

Not quite! All councils work within state and federal requirements and strict governance regulations. Banyule has policies and plans that set our direction for the future. Each council builds on the work of previous councillors.

What do councillors actually do?

Each councillor will do things a little differently, however they must operate in line with the Councillor Code of Conduct and legislation that sets strict parameters on things that they can and cannot do. There are council meetings, briefings and reports to read. They manage enquiries from residents and businesses about council services and programs. They might make a speech at an event one day then sit on a council committee the next. Many balance their council role with work and family responsibilities, so they are very busy people.

It sounds like hard work! Why would you do it?

Councillors want to contribute to making Banyule a better place for our community and future generations.



What makes a good councillor?

A good councillor considers the whole community in the decisions they make. They are available and accessible, have strong interpersonal skills and work well in teams. They are leaders who can challenge the status quo. They keep up with changing policies, legislation and community expectations. They act within the laws and are respectful to other councillors, the community and council staff.

Are they paid?

Councillor allowances are set by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal. At Banyule, the current annual allowances are \$130,390 for the Mayor, \$65,195 for the Deputy Mayor and \$39,390 for other councillors.

Who can stand as a candidate for Banyule Council?

Most adult residents who are Australian citizens are eligible to stand for council. Check the elections page on our website for more information (details below).

I've heard about a 'caretaker' period; what is that?


It is the time between when candidate nominations open and the day of the election. This election, it begins at 12pm on 17 September and ends at 6pm on 26 October. There are strict rules on what council staff and councillors can and cannot do during the caretaker period. This is to ensure there is no interference in the election and to safeguard the authority of newly elected councillors. We're busy putting everything in place to keep things running smoothly and all council services will operate as normal during caretaker.

If you have a passion for Banyule and making a positive contribution to your community, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is running a series of information sessions to provide information and inspiration.

Banyule is teaming with its Northern Councils Alliance partners for the session in Melbourne's north. Hear from a panel of experts including Banyule CEO Allison Beckwith.

Candidate information session

 Thursday 18 July, 6.30pm

 Town Hall, 10 Dimboola Road, Broadmeadows

Attend online or in person.
Register at mav.asn.au or scan the code.



Find out more about the election, enrolling to vote, how to nominate and important dates. Scan the code or head to banyule.vic.gov.au/elections





Have you seen our newest playgrounds?

There's plenty of choice if you're looking for a fresh playground to visit with the family. We've created seven new playgrounds in our 2023/24 Playground Replacement Program.

Each year we renew a number of Banyule's 150 playgrounds as they reach the end of their functional life, replacing them with new designs for the community. The old playgrounds don't go to waste. They are upcycled by the Rotary Club of Nunawading, who refurbish and rebuild them in countries such as Sri Lanka and Fiji.

Over the past 12 months we've renewed:

- Bolton Street Playground, Eltham
- Malcolm Blair Reserve Playground, Greensborough
- Larool Avenue Reserve Playground, St Helena
- Glendale Reserve Playground, Eltham North
- Yulong Reserve Playground, Bundoora
- Weidlich Road Reserve Playground, Eltham North
- Montmorency Park Playground, Montmorency

Check out the new basketball court in Weidlich Road Reserve, fitness equipment at Montmorency Park Playground and wall climbing areas in Malcolm Blair Reserve.

We've also built nature play areas at these playgrounds:

- Buna Reserve, Heidelberg West
- Haward Walkway, Rosanna
- The Righi Reserve, Eaglemont
- Nellie Ibbott Reserve, Ivanhoe

Banyule's Urban Forestry Team will add the finishing touches over the coming months, planting more than 40 trees around these playgrounds to provide natural shade.

Find out what's coming next at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Playgrounds



Banyule residents and visitors have a strong connection to natural and green spaces, including more than 150,000 public trees, plus many more on private land.

Protection for trees on private property

Banyule's planning rules protect trees on private property. You may need to apply for a permit to remove or prune a tree on your property. It will be assessed by our planning arborists, Michael and Karl.

Council receives about 600 applications for tree removal each year. Around 40% are either refused, withdrawn by the applicant after assessment by our arborists, or converted to pruning applications. Where a private tree is approved for removal, two replacement trees must be planted.

"We try to take out the emotional factors. Each application is assessed on its merits and we are always guided by Banyule's planning scheme," said Michael.

Illegal tree removals

Part of their job is to investigate illegal tree removals. A worrying trend is an increase in poisoning of significant trees.

Each year Council investigates around 100 cases of illegal removal, poisoning or damage of trees. Successful prosecutions in the Magistrates' Court have resulted in substantial penalties to property owners and contractors who carry out the work – up to \$65,000 in one recent case.

Find out about tree removal permits at banyule.vic.gov.au/TreePermit



Trees and vegetation provide environmental, economic, health and community benefits:

- Habitat, food and shelter for birds, animals, insects and other plants and fungi
- A more appealing environment
- Improved air quality by removing pollutants
- Shade to help reduce extreme temperatures

Growing our urban forest

Council's Urban Forest team is planting 1,600 trees in streets and parks over the cooler months. At the same time, the team will assess trees planted in the previous two years to ensure they are healthy and growing well. We'll be planting in Banyule streets and parks, with an emphasis on the northern suburbs that have less tree cover.

You can help look after new trees by removing any rubbish around the base and watering it once a month in winter or each week during summer.

Some of the trees being planted are kurrajongs propagated in Council's nursery in Bellfield. Urban Forester Ryan, right, pictured at the nursery with Nursery Officer Alistair, is proud to be making Banyule a better place.

"My legacy will be more canopy cover in Banyule," he said.

Read more about the Urban Forest Strategy at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Urbanforest



Banyule Council secures \$14 million for community sport

Chelsworth Park will get two new public pavilions in an agreement between Banyule Council and Ivanhoe Grammar School.

The school will pay for the pavilions under the terms of a 40-year lease to use the park sporting facilities.

The pavilions will be used by nine other community clubs that share use of Chelsworth Park and the park will remain open to the public for casual sports and recreation.

“This is a great deal for Council, for the sporting clubs, for residents, and for the school,” said Banyule Mayor Cr Tom Melican.

Community support

Council included new clauses in the lease after extensive community consultation. These included traffic and parking management plans, limiting the hours of use, protection for heritage buildings and a requirement that no new fences could be erected.

“The vast majority of people who we spoke to supported this lease,” Cr Melican said.

The school has priority use of the sports grounds and pavilions for approximately 7% of usable (daylight) hours, primarily weekdays after school until 5.30pm and Saturday mornings. Other clubs that use the park are community cricket and athletics clubs and Auskick.

Making the most of our public assets

Cr Melican said Council would continue to work with Ivanhoe Grammar to deliver the pavilions and other terms of the agreement. A Council officer would be appointed to a steering group to manage the project.

“This new lease is about improving the facilities, respecting the past and building for the future. It was a very clear choice,” he said.

Council aims for public assets to be shared amongst community groups so they are used more of the time. Banyule has joint user agreements with other schools and is investigating further opportunities for collaboration to secure priority infrastructure.



Never bin your batteries

We've had two battery fires in Banyule in the last 5 months, caused by batteries in kerbside bins.

Batteries are a serious fire risk in bins, collection vehicles and processing facilities as well as being bad for the environment if they end up in landfill. Rechargeable and lithium-ion batteries can and do overheat and explode in kerbside bins.

Vapes, laptops, mobiles, cameras, power tools and electronic toys often have batteries, and they are not welcome in kerbside bins. For more tips on how to dispose of e-waste (anything that requires a charge, plug in or batteries), visit banyule.vic.gov.au/ewaste

Free battery drop-offs in Banyule

Instead of binning your batteries, there are many places to safely dispose of them for free.

Recycle your household batteries here:

- Banyule Waste Recovery Centre, 307 Waterdale Rd, Bellfield (also accepts car batteries)
- WaterMarc, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough
- Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe
- Shop 48 – The Harmony Centre, 48 The Mall, Heidelberg West
- Supermarkets, retailers and other recycling drop-off points – find out more at bcycle.com.au



College cultivates community connections

A new agriculture centre at Bundoora Secondary College will benefit the school and the Banyule community.

The college has joined with Banyule Council, the Victorian Government and community group Local Food Connect to establish an Urban Agricultural Education Centre.

While the school already has a thriving farm and environment program, the centre will enable it to offer more programs in urban food production, agriculture, horticulture and conservation. This will include Vocational Education and Training qualifications for senior students studying at all schools in northern Melbourne through the Northern Melbourne VET Cluster.

Local Food Connect will contribute \$250,000 to establish the urban agriculture centre. The group's successful government grant of \$200,000 was originally earmarked for a farm in Eltham, however the funding was redirected after talks between Local Food Connect and Council identified Bundoora Secondary College as the ideal place for an educational and community food hub.

Community involvement

The agriculture centre and market garden will be available for community use outside school hours. Likely activities include food gardening activities and produce markets. It aligns with Council's vision outlined in the Urban Food Strategy, which emphasises local food sustainability and food security.



Bundoora Secondary College is in the midst of upgrades that include a new science building and adjoining piazza for school and community events.

The new buildings, part of the Victorian Government schools upgrade and modernisation program, are due to be completed by the end of the year.

Building a Better Banyule

We're building a better Banyule by creating new and refreshed spaces for our community – including community buildings, parks, sportsgrounds, carparks and playgrounds.

We are investing more than \$65 million into our capital works program and \$59.1 million to renew and upgrade our existing assets. Council is also seeking other sources of funding, such as Government grants, to make big projects possible. Here's the latest on some of Banyule's major projects. Turn to page 6 for more about Banyule's newest playgrounds.

East Ivanhoe Preschool is growing

East Ivanhoe Preschool is expanding from one to two kindergarten rooms, which means more 3- and 4-year old kinder places for local families.

The \$3.6 million construction project is funded by the Victorian Government to increase the number of preschool places. The new kinder will be operational next year.

While the new building takes shape, the kinder has temporarily relocated to 26 Leicester Street, Heidelberg Heights. For more about attending a kinder in Banyule, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/kindergartens



Game on Banyule!

Ready to play? We've recently celebrated the official openings of some fantastic new and upgraded sporting facilities and they're ready for you to take the field (or the greens, or the court).

All welcome to tee off in Ivanhoe

Major renovations at Ivanhoe Public Golf Course have made the facilities more accessible to everyone.



Footy is back at Warringal Park

The \$2.4 million Warringal Park sports field redevelopment in Heidelberg is ready for play. This project was fully funded by Banyule Council.

Time for tennis with new courts, easy booking

We've redeveloped the Chelsworth Park tennis courts in Ivanhoe with new surfaces, drainage, lighting and fencing. Chelsworth Park tennis club has invested in an online booking system that will make the courts available for all to access and book. Book at play.tennis.com.au/chelsworthparktennisclub

Olympic Park redevelopment opens

An \$18.5 million transformation of the Olympic Park precinct in Heidelberg West, including refurbishing Barrbunin Beek, refurbished sports grounds, cricket pitch, landscaping, and a new slip road opened in May. We're working on the final stage of the development now. Stay up to date on the project at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/OlympicPark

The Olympic Park and East Ivanhoe Golf projects received funding support from the Victorian Government.



Next stage for Watsonia Town Square

We can't wait to see the landscaping work begin in Watsonia Town Square later this year now that the substantial structural work on roads, drainage and parking is finished.

There will be new shared user paths, shade structures, and more plants. The Morwell Avenue car park will be finished in the next quarter, including new lighting ready to switch on to make it safer for you to get around at night.

Later we will shift the focus to the library side of Watsonia Road to create a new playground and an accessible toilet block.

This huge project is on track to be finished around mid-2025. We know that Watsonia is feeling the impact of this build and the North East Link works, and we appreciate your patience as we build the town square. It's a significant investment in Watsonia that will result in an even better place for people to shop and enjoy.

Find out more at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/WatsoniaTownSquare

Rosanna Library build gets going

Works will start soon on the new Rosanna Library, which will be double the size of the existing 50-year-old library and will have a much larger space for children, co-working and study spaces, community meeting rooms, reading areas, quiet spaces and a terrace on level 2.

Council approved a fixed-cost build of the library at \$7.9 million, with fit-out costs to be confirmed as the project progresses.

The cost is offset by a \$1.5 million Victorian Government grant and \$2.75 million from the sale of land to Woolworths.

Woolworths is also covering the cost of town planning, building permits, authority approvals, demolition of the old library and construction of the shared underground carpark.

Find out more about the great features and services planned for the new library at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/rosannalibrary



Rosanna Library pop-up is open at 56 Beetham Parade, Rosanna.



Generations unite at Bellfield Hub

Many people may have watched the popular ABC show *Old People’s Home For 4 year olds* and now Banyule is excited to host its very own intergenerational program at Bellfield Community Hub.

Once a week, children from Audrey Brooks Preschool have been visiting a group of older adults who attend a social support program at the Hub. They’ve enjoyed art and craft, singing, gentle movement, gardening and reading together. Staff involved in the program said it had been heartwarming watching relationships develop between young and old.

Research shows both generations benefit from spending time together. The children develop language and vocabulary skills along with improved sharing behaviour

and empathy towards others, while the seniors experience increased mobility, a reduction in feelings of isolation and loneliness and a renewed sense of meaning and purpose.

After the six-week pilot has been evaluated, it is expected the program will be ongoing at Bellfield Community Hub. It contributes to some of Council’s commitments in our Ageing Well in Banyule Framework 2024–2030 and Child and Youth Framework 2021–2030.

Upgrade old gas hot water with heat pump system



New ways to a comfier home with Solar Savers

The popular Solar Savers program now includes energy-efficient split systems and heat pump hot water systems.

Heating accounts for 43% of energy costs in the average Victorian home. Replacing an older heating system with an energy efficient split system will save money and make your home safer and more comfortable.

Heat pump hot water systems use up to 75% less electricity than a conventional electric system and are a smart change from gas. Instead of using an element, heat pump systems transfer heat from the air to the water. If you already have solar, a heat pump consumes excess power during peak sun. It’s like having a virtual battery in your home.

Learn more at solarsavers.org.au

Keep up with all our environmental programs and news with Banyule’s Greenwrap eNewsletter. Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/Greenwrap or scan the code to sign up.



Order your 2025 Community Calendar

Put a little bit of Banyule on your wall with our 2025 calendar. To request a calendar, call us on 9490 4222, scan the code or order online at banyule.vic.gov.au/calendar



Joint effort secures road safety funding

Persistence has paid off for Banyule's advocacy work, with the Victorian Budget including \$2.78 million for a pedestrian crossing on Diamond Creek Road in Greensborough.

Working with community members and local MPs, Council advocated strongly for a crossing after two car accidents involving local students last year.

Cr Elizabeth Nealy said the crossing would improve safety on the busy road and commended community members who collected a petition that was presented to Parliament.

"This shows that when we all work together we can achieve great outcomes for our community," she said.

With Cr Nealy and MPs Colin Brooks and Vicki Ward at the announcement were two people with a special interest in the issue - Eliza, who was injured when hit by a car while crossing the road after school, and her mum Louise. Also there for the good news were Montmorency Secondary College principal Frances Ibbott and Greensborough Joanne, who started the petition.

The location of the crossing is to be determined. Council will continue to advocate on what it believes to be the best site.



Stats add up for inclusive employment program

Andrew Close is one of 12 employees in Banyule's 2024 Inclusive Employment Program.

A data and information management officer in Council's Digital Transformation team, Andrew holds a Bachelor of Science majoring in maths and statistics and a Master of Data Science. He has already produced a report on the importance of clean data for Council's Digital Futures project.

Surgery to remove a brain tumour when he was eight left Andrew with very little sight, though he is adamant the crippling headaches and nausea that disappeared with the tumour were worse than the vision impairment that resulted from the surgery.

Andrew uses JAWS (Job Access With Speech) screen reader technology for computer applications and is accompanied by his guide dog Fred.

Outside of work, Andrew is a keen athlete, recording a personal best over 100m in the Australian Athletics Championships in Adelaide in April. His other events include 200m, 400m, 600m, shot put, long jump, javelin and discus.

Andrew hopes to find further employment at the end of the six-month Inclusive Employment Program

"This is good for my resume and I want to say thanks to Banyule for the opportunity to show my skills," he said.

A model for fighting unemployment

Now in its sixth year, the Inclusive Employment Program has helped 81 Banyule residents who were facing barriers to employment.

Employees are given six months paid work at Council. They are supported by individual and group coaching and development opportunities that build work skills and professional networks.

Banyule's Inclusive Employment Program was the first of its kind and has been used as a model by other councils to help combat local unemployment.





Youth step up to challenge and change

Body image, cultural inclusion and gender equality. Banyule's young people are not afraid of tackling the big issues affecting them and their peers.

These were just three of the priority concerns from Banyule Youth Summit 2023, when 100 young people met to discuss community issues that matter to them. They came up with more than 40 recommendations that Banyule Youth Services and a panel of Youth Summit Representatives have been working to implement.

While Youth Summit happens every two years, in the in-between year Youth Services holds a community 'report card' forum where they report on progress toward the recommendations of the summit.

In preparation for the report card session at the end of July, Youth Summit Representatives met with councillors, CEO Allison Beckwith and the Youth Services team to share what they have been working on. Initiatives included a social media campaign challenging gender stereotypes and sharing the stories of culturally diverse young people.

Many spoke of the leadership skills they have developed while serving as Youth Summit Representatives.



Planting the Seed for eco success

Another pocket of Rosanna Parklands has been planted back to health thanks to Banyule Primary School students.

The children helped revegetate a degraded patch in the Parklands, collecting seeds and taking cuttings from indigenous plants, propagating and caring for seedlings and preparing the area for planting.

A Wurundjeri representative provided a link with local cultural history and knowledge of native plants and wildlife. The children enjoyed traditional storytelling and exploring bush tucker and medicine plants.

The Planting the Seed project was made possible by a Banyule Environment Grant to Eco Warriors Australia. Ecologists from Ecology & Restoration Australia advised on revegetation activities. The project aligns with Council's strategy to protect and enhance our natural environment.

The children are monitoring the success of the revegetation project with simple data collection tools.

"Many children today have little experience of our natural environments," said ecologist Fiona, pictured with students.

"We hope this experience will enhance their understanding of native plants and animals and encourage them to value our natural environments and Aboriginal cultural heritage."

Building news

Rosanna Neighbourhood House

We've completed improvements to make Rosanna Fire Station Neighbourhood House more accessible, safer and more efficient. In addition to new accessible toilets, some asbestos sheeting in was removed and new floor coverings were installed in the kitchen and hallways. The electricity system was upgraded to meet building regulations and some lighting was converted to more efficient LED fittings.



Macleod toilets

The new public toilets in Macleod will soon be open. The toilet block is centrally located on the village green, closer to the playground and the main shopping strip on Aberdeen Road. The new facilities include four cubicles, a fully accessible cubicle and a separate baby change room.

Kalparrin Gardens bridge

You may have noticed the bridge in Kalparrin Gardens was closed for a bit. It had become unsafe, so we had to repair it. It is now safe and open again.

Yarra Flats boardwalk

Council has built a new boardwalk at Yarra Flats in Ivanhoe near Ivanhoe Public Golf Course. The old timber boardwalk was replaced with a steel construction.



School crossing supervisors needed

Do you enjoy working outdoors and meeting new people? Would you like some extra income and have free time before and after school? We're looking for responsible and reliable people to join our team of casual school crossing supervisors across Banyule. We'll train you and provide a uniform. If you're interested, phone our Customer Service team on **9490 4222**.

Banyule Carer Support Program

Council hosts regular free wellbeing sessions for carers of all ages and abilities. Join one of the groups below or exercise/relax at a time of your choosing with free Carer Wellbeing Passes to fitness classes, the gym or aquatic facilities at WaterMarc and Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre.

Gentle Yoga for Carers

Learn tools for self-care through gentle movements in these restorative yoga classes.

📅 Thursdays, 9.30am – 10.30am

📍 Watsonia

Tai Chi Qigong

Flowing movements, gentle stretches and stillness help deepen your mind-body connection to find ease and calm.

📅 Fridays 11am-12pm

📍 Greensborough

Art Therapy

Explore a variety of materials in a supportive and safe group environment. No art experience necessary in these gentle, nurturing classes run by a registered art therapist.

📅 4th Tuesday of the month, 1pm – 2.30pm

📍 Watsonia

Find out more and register:

🌐 banyule.vic.gov.au/CarerSupport

☎ 9422 8396

✉ carers@banyule.vic.gov.au



Tea and music for food relief

Thank you to U3A Banyule for hosting a fundraising event raising more than \$1,500 for the Banyule Community Fund. Members enjoyed afternoon tea with live music from Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar students and Colombian singer/guitar duo Edilson and Omaira Arenas.

Banyule Community Fund is a new non-profit fund to benefit Banyule charities that need more support. It's all about local donations and local recipients. Donations are tax deductible and you can choose where your donation is spent in one of eight priority areas. The U3A chose to allocate its donation to food security, which can be granted to local food relief organisations and food hubs for people in need. Proceeds from Banyule U3A knitting group also go to Banyule Community Fund. Buy hand-knitted goodies from their display at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub every Wednesday morning.

Find out how your club, business or group of friends can hold a fun event to raise funds for your local community.

- ☎ 9490 4222 and ask to speak with Banyule Community Fund Development Officer Catherine Corbett
- ✉ catherine.corbett@banyule.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 banyule.vic.gov.au/BCF



July is Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride aims to challenge the stigma people with disability can experience, which can lead to discrimination and exclusion. This is why Council works to create more accessible and inclusive spaces, places, services, and programs for everyone in our community.

During July, we'll fly the Disability Pride Flag at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub and the Council offices in Greensborough. Each colour of the flag represents a different type of disability. The charcoal background symbolises mourning and rage for the victims of violence and abuse and the coloured bands are placed diagonally to convey 'cutting across' societal barriers.

Join us in making Banyule a more inclusive and welcoming community for everyone.

Support for disability rights can be found at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission at humanrights.vic.gov.au



Be a part of Banyule's major events

Apply to be a food vendor, stallholder or sponsor at Banyule festivals and events. With our festival season kicking off in November, now is the time to get involved.

Be a stallholder

We're seeking stallholders for our annual Malahang Festival on Sunday 17 November.

It's a family-friendly celebration of the cultural diversity in our community. With a range of hands-on workshops, family activities and live entertainment, it's a great opportunity to engage with Banyule locals, share information and promote your service or business.

Local businesses, market stalls, community clubs, cultural groups and service providers may apply.

Partner with us to promote your business

Are you a Banyule-based business looking to promote your services and engage with the local community? Banyule is seeking sponsors and partners for our 2024/25 program of major events and festivals. Interested? Contact arts@banyule.vic.gov.au



Make great food?

We're calling for expressions of interest from food vendors for our four major events: Malahang Festival, Carols by Candlelight, Twilight Sounds and Lantern Festival. Each event attracts crowds of between 3,000 and 6,000.

Applications are now open and close on Sunday 21 July. Apply at banyule.vic.gov.au/StallholderProposal

Planning an event in Banyule?

From music festivals to weddings, community gatherings, cultural celebrations and neighbourhood street parties, Council supports local events in our streets, parks and bushlands.

If you're planning an event on Council land you may be required to obtain a permit.

Our website has resources and templates for planning events. Answer a few short questions to find out if your event requires a permit. Please submit your application at least four weeks before the date of your event. Large events require a minimum of eight weeks.

Find out more at banyule.vic.gov.au/ProposeEvent




Save the date!

Malahang Festival

Banyule's annual celebration of culture community.

Face painting, community stalls, food trucks, entertainment stage with local performers

 **Sunday 17 November**
11am – 4pm

 **Malahang Reserve,**
Heidelberg West

Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

Events & activities

📍 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe
🌐 banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH
✉ arts@banyule.vic.gov.au
☎ 9490 4222

Art Gallery 275: Wed to Fri 10am – 5pm, Sat 10am – 4pm, Sun 11am – 4pm (Mon & Tue closed)
Loft 275: open during library hours



Conduit With Peta Clancy and Jo Scicluna

📅 until 21 July

📍 Art Gallery 275

First Nations Bangerang artist Peta Clancy and first-generation migrant Jo Scicluna investigate complex histories of this land we live on and explore the significance of the Birrarung. We invite conversations between the artists, the land, First Nations Elders and the wider community.

Image: (left) detail of from the Birrarung/Dirrabeen by Peta Clancy; (right) detail of Where The River Takes Us by Jo Scicluna



My Two Homes By Junko Azukawa

📅 3-25 August
Opening: Friday 2 August, 6.30pm

📍 Art Gallery 275

Take a journey between two cultures as Junko uses traditional techniques from her birth country, Japan, to explore the wildlife and plants from her current home in Australia.

Image: Ever glow (2024) by Junko Azukawa



Barrbunin Beek Gathering Place Community Art Exhibition

📅 until 28 July

📍 Loft 275

Barrbunin Beek is a gathering place in Heidelberg West for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to connect with Elders and community, to practice and celebrate culture and build community wellbeing. This is a great opportunity to support local artists and purchase Aboriginal art.

Image: Artworks at Barrbunin Beek



From the wild - the Art of Bonsai With Kevin Ritchie Artist-in-Residence: 2 - 25 August

📅 2 - 25 August

📍 Mungga Artist Studios

Every plant has wild origins. Kevin Ritchie interprets and develops these wild origins, working with the characteristics of each tree and combining with pottery and other arts to create inspiring Bonsai artworks.

Image: Coastal Tea Tree Bonsai by Kevin Ritchie



2025 Banyule Arts & Culture Program Information session and call for applications

Would you like to be part of Banyule Arts & Culture Program in 2025? You must attend an information session to apply. Last information session, applications close soon! Book at banyule.vic.gov.au/ArtsProgram

 **Friday 19 July, 11am**

 **Yarra-me Djila Theatrette**

Image: Secret Stories in the Night Garden by Jutta Pryor.

Outside the Box

Challenging assumptions and celebrating all abilities

 **2 August – 1 September**
Opening: Friday 2 August, 6.30pm

 **Loft 275**

An exhibition of artworks by First Nations artists with disability.

The exhibition is complemented by a mini film festival of films made with and by people with disability, curated by artist Jodie OhmZutt.


Bookings required, check the website for details: banyule.vic.gov.au/outsidethebox


Arts events




August is National Poetry Month and we are celebrating with a bang. Mother Tongue Poetry, with the support of a grant from Council, presents Voices in The Streets. Join a Poetry Hunt to discover stories hidden in streets and parks. Take a writing workshop at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.


Writing workshops

 **Saturday 24 August, 1.30pm**
Storylines with Aunty Sharon Hughes and Kristen Munro

 **Sunday 25 August, 10.30am**
Writing for Belonging with Fleassy Malay

 **Saturday 7 September, 1.30pm**
Yucky with Sam Petersen

 **Sunday 8 September, 10.30 am**
Emerge Louder with Hawraa Kash

 **Saturday 14 September, 1.30pm**
Writing to be Heard (Poetry) with Es Foong

For more information and to book, head to mothertonguepoetry.com/voices-in-the-streets-2024



Art in Public Spaces Neighbourhood Watch

 **Throughout July**

 **Greensborough (check for details: banyule.vic.gov.au/WhatsOn)**

Neighbourhood Watch tests our imagination and memory of familiar places through a series of photographs by Banyule resident and photographic artist Aldona Kmiec.

View exciting close-ups of Greensborough streets and subtleties in our surroundings that often go unnoticed.

Part of Banyule's Art in Public Spaces program, supporting temporary original works by Banyule artists.

Ward Rounds

Banyule is made up of nine wards. To find out which ward you belong to scan the code



Cr Peter Castaldo
Griffin Ward

peter.castaldo@banyule.vic.gov.au
0466 502 698

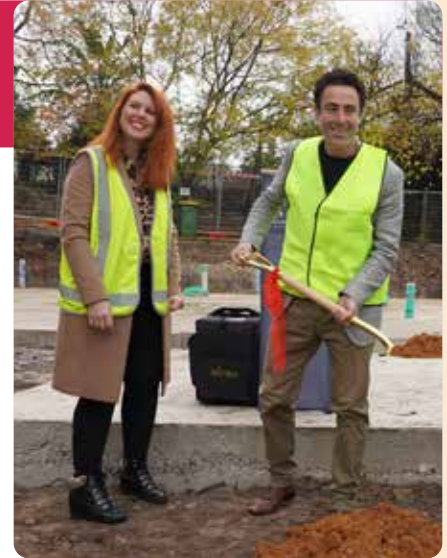
I was pleased to 'turn the sod' at the East Ivanhoe Preschool building site, along with architect Loretta Cassisi – a former East Ivanhoe Preschool student herself! We're grateful to the Victorian Government for funding this project. See more on [page 10](#).

The East Ivanhoe streetscape upgrade is underway. We'll soon be working on several stages at once to help finish it faster, after

discussions with local traders and community representatives.

The works included improvements like safer new side-street crossings. There will be some inconvenience while we get the job done, but the result will be a safer and more appealing shopping village.

See what's planned and get project updates at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/EastIvanhoe



Cr Alison Champion
Sherbourne Ward

alison.champion@banyule.vic.gov.au
0466 486 593

We're renewing the playground at Bolton Street Reserve in Lower Plenty. The reserve is in a lovely bushland setting and is well-used by local residents of all ages.

People told us they love the bushland setting of Bolton Street Reserve, so the new playground has been designed with a natural look and feel and places for nature play.

There will be new play equipment, including swings, new seating and a picnic table. We'll also plant some new trees to create more natural shade.

It's great to see the new trees flourishing at the new playground in Montmorency Park. Thanks for your patience staying out of the new gardens while they become established.



Cr Fiona Mitsinikos
Hawdon Ward

fiona.mitsinikos@banyule.vic.gov.au
0434 891 077

I recently visited an enthusiastic and engaged group of Year 4 students at Viewbank Primary with Cr Melican.

They've been learning about Australia's three levels of government and what it means to be an active citizen.

I look forward to seeing how these leaders of tomorrow explore ways of helping the local

community in the future.

One way we can all help our community is to shop and dine locally.

We are so lucky in Banyule to have a thriving food scene with a diverse range of family-owned restaurants and cafes across the municipality.

Whatever food you feel like, you can find it in Banyule and you will be supporting a small



Ward Rounds



Cr Elizabeth Nealy
Beale Ward

elizabeth.nealy@banyule.vic.gov.au
0435 243 598



Partingtons Flat Reserve in Greensborough is a popular place for families to enjoy the new playground equipment. It's a lovely green space, with playground, tables and benches located close to the sports pavilion, carpark and the Plenty River trail.

I'm glad to see the improved space is meeting the needs of the local community. Thanks to everyone who

took the time to make suggestions about this and other playground renewals throughout Banyule.

Check out **page 6** for some more of our recent playground renewals. You can find out how Council plans playground upgrades, share your ideas and help to design great local playgrounds at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Playgrounds



Cr Mark Di Pasquale
Bakewell Ward

mark.dipasquale@banyule.vic.gov.au
0481 002 299



Local businesses and shopping villages like Watsonia's Diamond Village are the lifeblood of our community.

The Rediscover Diamond Village Project provided funding to rejuvenate the centre after a successful application for a Victorian Government Living Local Fund Suburban Grant. The upgrade has resulted in an inviting setting with fresh paint, signage and seats and new

garden beds. With the Diamond Village upgrade complete and Watsonia Town Square rapidly taking shape, there are still great places to shop and gather.

I encourage you to continue supporting our local businesses. Shop local, spread the word to help our local businesses thrive, and enjoy all the improvements we're making to our shopping villages.



Cr Alida McKern
Chelsworth Ward

alida.mckern@banyule.vic.gov.au
0435 316 318



Around one in five Chelsworth residents are active volunteers, a figure much higher than the average for Greater Melbourne.

I enjoyed meeting many of them at the 2024 Banyule Volunteer Celebration. Ivanhoe resident Karlene is a member of Banyule's Age Friendly Committee, which advises Council on matters affecting older adults. She does this and other volunteer roles on top of work as a nurse.

"I am grateful to be able to contribute. Volunteering is a joy and a privilege," she said.

Thank you Karlene and all volunteers who contribute so much to our community. Find opportunities at banyule.vic.gov.au/Volunteering
Next Chelsworth Community Meeting: Tuesday 23 July, 6.15pm at Ivanhoe Library. Send your questions to me at Alida.McKern@banyule.vic.gov.au

Banyule is made up of nine wards. To find out which ward you belong to scan the code



Cr Peter Dimarelos
Olympia Ward

peter.dimarelos@banyule.vic.gov.au
0434 891 065

Another milestone for Olympic Park, with the opening of stages 3 and 4 of the Masterplan. Council started Stage 1 back in 2020 with construction of the main pitch and lighting.

In just four years we've also built a synthetic mini-roofs pitch, new carpark, playground and community spaces, 1956 Memorial Olympic Garden, acrylic futsal and basketball area, refurbishment of

Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal gathering place, northern cricket pitch and practice nets and redevelopment of the north and south ovals.

A new pavilion next year will complete this amazing regional recreation and sporting precinct.

Thanks to the Victorian Government for contributing \$8 million, on top of Council's \$10 million for this project.



Cr Rick Garotti
Grimshaw Ward

rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au
0402 846 845

I'm proud to see Banyule's Infrastructure team leading the way on use of tools that are better for the environment, our team members and the community.

I asked the team to give me a demonstration and was blown away by the improvements on so many levels.

Not only are the new battery-operated tools lighter and easier to use, they are

much quieter and safer, with no pull cords that contributed to injuries and no diesel fumes.

It means the team doesn't have to handle dirty flammable fuels and the band saw doesn't even emit sparks, which makes it safer, especially during the fire danger period. On top of all this, the tools are cheaper to run and require less maintenance.



Cr Tom Melican
Ibbott Ward

tom.melican@banyule.vic.gov.au
0413 043 015

It's great to see the new toilet block in Macleod opening soon. It is well overdue as the old toilet block was passed its used-by date. Crossing the road for little ones can be dangerous, especially if they are in a hurry!

People told us they wanted accessible amenities closer to the playground and main shopping area, so that is what we have done.

The new toilets are on the Village Green, an easy stroll from Council's award-winning playground, the train station, Macleod Community Hall and the shopping centre. There are four toilets, a fully accessible cubicle and a separate baby change room.

Hopefully the new toilets will enable people to stay longer and enjoy all the fabulous Macleod shops have to offer.





Weed in focus

English ivy (*Hedra Helix*)

English ivy is a vigorous, hardy creeper that grows quickly and can smother indigenous vegetation. It produces hundreds of seeds that native birds feed on and then distribute widely.

Control of this invasive species is simple if you get onto it quickly. Small plants are easily removed by hand and it's important to hand-weed regularly to stay on top of it. Large plants can be controlled by cutting the stems in 20-30cm lengths close to the base of the plant. The top of the plant will die off while you control regrowth at the base. For larger plants you may need professional help.

Banyule's Bushland Management team and Environmental Friends groups work tirelessly to remove English ivy from bushland sites and would love your help in controlling it on your property.

Indigenous plant in focus

Purple coral-pea (*Hardenbergia violacea*)

The purple coral-pea is a good replacement for non-native climbers. Its abundant purple flowers attract local butterflies and native bees. It is easy to grow and can be trained to climb on trellises and arches. Purple coral-peas and other indigenous plants can be purchased from one of Banyule's indigenous nurseries.



La Trobe University indigenous plant nursery, Bundoora



Victoria Indigenous Nurseries Co-op, Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield

Indigenous plants voucher - buy one, get one free

Every address in Banyule is eligible for one voucher each financial year. Get a free plant for every one you purchase, up to a maximum of 10. The nursery staff can help with plants suitable to your area. Apply online - scan the code or head to banyule.vic.gov.au/IndigenousPlants



Wurundjeri seasons

The months of April to July are known as *Waring* to people of the Kulin Nations, of which the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung are part. *Waring* is the Woi-wurrung word for wombat, which emerge from their borrows on cool days to bask in the sun.

You will notice silver wattle trees flowering and rain moths emerging from the ground after years living underground as grubs, eating the tree roots. The empty pupal cases, from which the moths have emerged, can be found under trees such as red gums.

Male lyrebirds build their display mounds, on which to parade, showing off their spectacular tail feathers and singing songs to attract a mate.

Silver Wattle trees are of significant use to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung. The tree produces long, straight, strong stems that are ideal for making spears.



The hard wood has been used for boomerangs, spear throwers, clubs, shields, axe handles, chisels, coolamons, digging sticks and clap sticks. The bark is used for implements and dishes.

Above: 'Wombat Season' by Aunty Judy Nicholson



**Never bin batteries.
They start fires in our waste trucks.**

Free battery disposal, page 8



Contact us

All enquiries

PO Box 94, Greensborough, VIC 3088
Phone 9490 4222
enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au
banyule.vic.gov.au

Council Service Centres

Greensborough 1 Flintoff St
Ivanhoe 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd
Rosanna 72 Turnham Ave (currently closed)
COVID-19 restrictions may impact operations so please check our website for up-to-date information.
Our customer service staff can also assist you over the phone.

Hearing or speech impaired

Call us through the National Relay Service on 133 677 (TTY) or 1300 555 727 (ordinary handset) and contact 9490 4222.

Interpreter service

إذا كنتم بحاجة إلى مترجم يرجى الاتصال
بالخط القومي للترجمة الهاتفية على الرقم
131 450 وطلب إيصالكم ببلدية بانبول على
الرقم 9490 4222.

如果你需要一名翻译, 请打电话到国家电话翻译服务处 (TIS National) 131 450, 再转接到 Banyule 市政府 9490 4222

若你需要口譯員, 請致電 131 450 聯絡 TIS National, 要求他們為你致電 9490 4222 接通 Banyule 市政廳。

Ako vam je potreban tumač, molimo vas, nazovite TIS National na broj 131 450 i zatražite da vas se spoji sa Vijećim općine Banyule na broj 9490 4222.

Se hai bisogno di un interprete chiama TIS National al numero 131 450 e chiedi di essere messo in comunicazione con il Comune di Bayule al numero 9490 4222.

Αν χρειάζεστε διερμηνέα τηλεφωνήστε στην Εθνική Υπηρεσία Διερμηνέων Μεταφραστών στον αριθμό 131 450 και ζητήστε να σας συνδέσουν με τη Δημαρχία Banyule στο 9490 4222.

Ако ви треба преведувач ве молиме јавете се на TIS NATIONAL на 131 450 и замовете да ве поврзат со Banyule Council на 9490 4222.

Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS 131 450 weydiina in lagugu xiro Degmada Banyule tel: 9490 4222.

Nếu cần thông dịch, xin gọi cho TIS Toàn Quốc qua số 131 450 rồi nhờ họ gọi cho Hội Đồng Thành Phố Banyule theo số 9490 4222 giúp quý vị.