

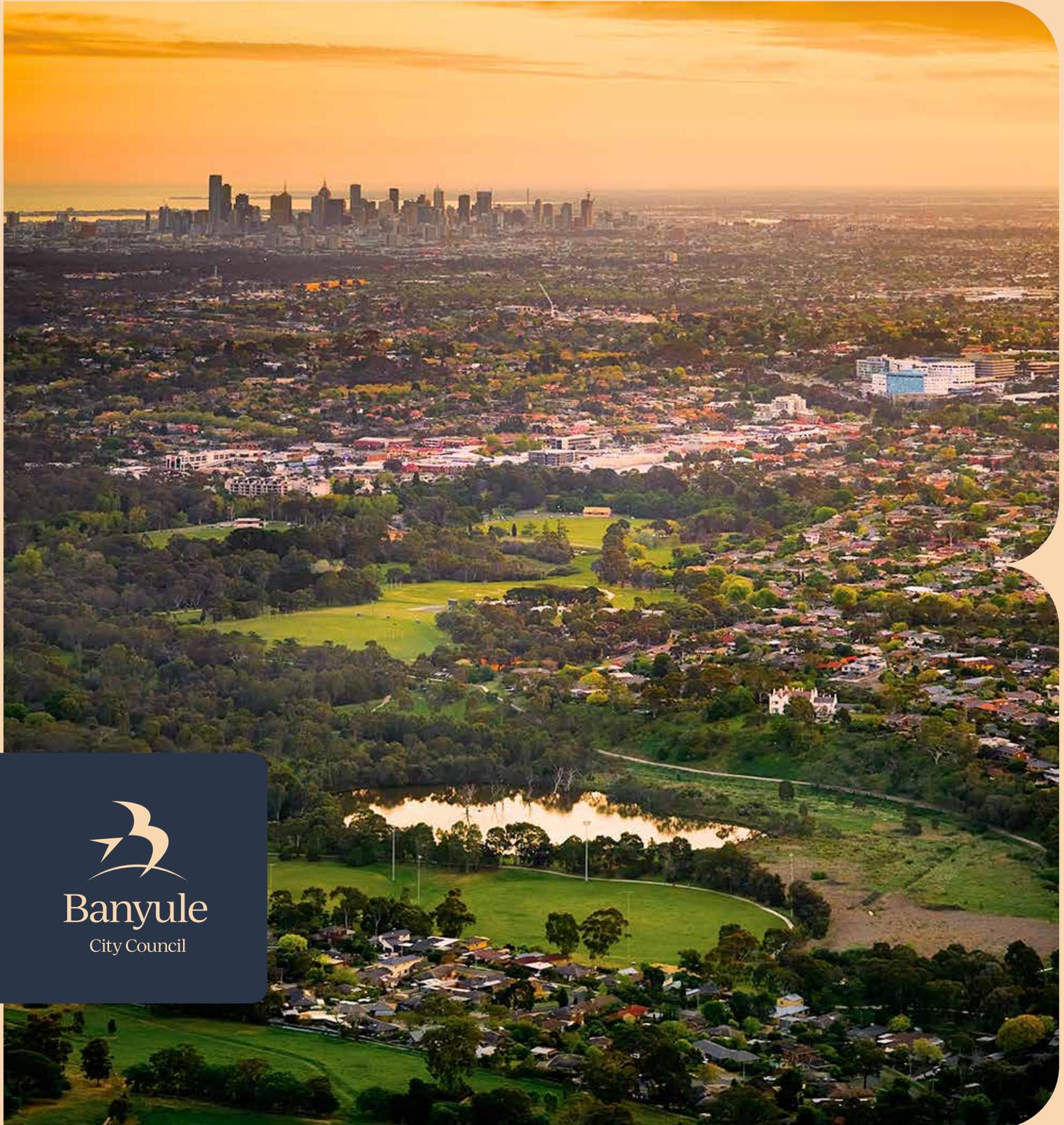
Banyule Banner

March 2025

-
- 3 Electrifying WaterMarc

 - 6 Roads and construction

 - 9 Banyule Community Fund grants



Mayor's Message

Mayor
Cr Elizabeth Nealy



Have your say on what we have planned

Council is working on five important plans that will guide our work over the next ten years and we want your input to make sure we are on track.

Many of you have already told us your priorities and concerns as part of our Banyule Futures project, when Council officers conducted a series of community consultation sessions and workshops last year.

Then there was the Banyule ThinkTank, in which 50 community members worked with us to set priorities for Council.

We listened to what you told us and feel we are on track with your concerns as we have drafted these plans, including the Budget 2025 – 2029. Please tell us what you think. Feedback is open until Sunday

6 April. Turn to **page 5** for more information.

Advocacy success

We've had a win in our work advocating for the Banyule Community. Council has won a Federal Government grant of \$2.3 million to convert to 100% electricity at WaterMarc aquatic centre in Greensborough.

This will reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 37% and bring us much closer to our target of having zero emissions from Council operations by 2028. Read the full story on **page 3**.

Giving local

I had a wonderful day visiting the community organisations that received funding in the first round of grants from Banyule Community Fund.

I'm proud that this fund, set up last year by Council with the support of the Australian Communities Foundation, is already making a real difference in our community.

Read the story on **page 9** and please consider making a donation.

Changes to dog poo bins

Don't be alarmed if you see a dog poo bin removed from your local park. When you clean up after your dog you can put it in any Council rubbish bin. Read more on **page 10**.

Autumn events

It's been an amazing summer of community events in Banyule, starting with our biggest-ever Carols by Candlelight in December. There's plenty more to keep you entertained and connected through autumn and winter and most of them are free events. Read on to find your next outing.

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:**
24 March
14 April

 **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: Autumn sunset over Banyule with Melbourne skyline.



L-R: Hon Chris Bowen MP, Hon Kate Thwaites MP, Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealey and Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Castaldo at the announcement at WaterMarc.

WaterMarc is on the way to 100% renewable energy

Council has secured a \$2.3 million grant to electrify WaterMarc and transition to 100% renewable energy in Banyule's largest aquatic centre.

It will save our community money, significantly cut emissions and bring us closer to our goal of net zero corporate emissions by 2028.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen and Jagajaga MP Kate Thwaites announced the new funding at WaterMarc last month.

The grant from the Australian Government's \$100 million Community Energy Upgrades Fund is a fantastic result for Council's advocacy efforts.

Only 58 out of 165 applications were successful in this round of funding.

We'll save more than \$465,000 a year on energy bills and significantly lower our emissions.

WaterMarc's four gas boilers heat its pools, public areas and the four-storey office building above. With this funding, Council will replace the boilers with electric heat pumps. It will be Australia's first integrated aquatic and office precinct electrification.

We cannot reach our target of zero corporate emissions by 2028 without electrifying all three of Banyule's aquatic centres, which together use 93% of the gas used in all Council operations.

WaterMarc uses more than three times as much gas as either Ivanhoe Aquatic or Olympic Leisure Centre. The new heat pumps will be up to five times more energy efficient than WaterMarc's gas boilers, reducing total emissions from Council operations by 37%.



Welcoming our new employees

We're excited to welcome 12 new employees as part of Banyule's 2025 Inclusive Employment Program.

The program is designed for people facing barriers to employment. They receive six months' work at Council in a role tailored to their interests and strengths, as well as personalised coaching and professional development.

The new employees met with Banyule councillors, managers and executives during their induction last month.

Shaping Banyule

Get involved in local projects



New nature strip guidelines: shape your green space

Share your thoughts on Banyule's first Nature Strip Planting Guidelines.

Creating beautiful, biodiverse spaces is important, but we also need to consider accessibility and safety. The guidelines will help the community create attractive, safe and sustainable nature strips that enhance biodiversity.

Have your say on the draft guidelines. Complete the online survey until 18 April or attend an information session with Council officers:

- Tuesday 25 March, 6pm – 7pm, online
- Thursday 27 March, 6pm – 7pm, Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub
- Tuesday 1 April, 12.30pm – 1.30pm, Watsonia Library

Your Council contact:

Jimena Acevedo, Parks and Natural Environment, Education & Advocacy Officer

Phone: 0432 300 894

Email: jimena.acevedo@banyule.vic.gov.au

For more information and to participate, scan the code or visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/NatureStrips



Revitalising Bell Street Mall

Bell Street Mall and the surrounding area in Heidelberg West is a central hub for shopping and socialising. To unlock its potential, we're developing a Masterplan and design guide that will include well-designed high density housing and open spaces for the community.

The Masterplan will set a strategic vision for the Mall and surrounding area to meet the changing needs of the Heidelberg West community.

To make sure we get it right, we want your thoughts. Complete the online survey before 1 April or come and chat with Council staff at:

Malahang Reserve

- Thursday 20 March, 3.30pm – 5pm

Bell Street Mall

- Saturday 22 March, 9.30am – 11am
- Friday 28 March, 12pm – 2pm

Your Council contact:

Maria Farokhi, Urban Designer

Phone: 9490 4222

Email: strategic.planning@banyule.vic.gov.au

For more information and to get involved, scan the code or visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/BellStMallIMP



Banyule Plan, Budget and more!

After hearing priorities from more than 970 community members and the Banyule Community ThinkTank, we've drafted key documents that respond. We would love to hear what you think.

The documents

These connected documents show Council's focus and approach for the future.

Banyule Plan 2025 – 2029 and Delivery Plan

Includes our Health and Wellbeing Plan and outlines key initiatives and services that Council will deliver to bring us closer to Banyule's Community Vision 2041.

Budget 2025 – 2029

Shows the overall income and expenses for Council and outlines the funding for Council services and projects.

Revenue and Rating Plan 2025 – 2029

Outlines how Council will generate income to build the Budget and deliver the Banyule Plan.

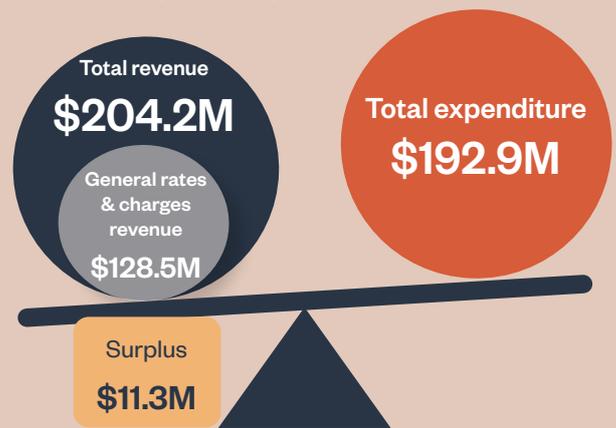
Financial Plan 2025 – 2035

Shows our long term approach to managing finances to maintain our assets and deliver the services the Banyule community needs.

Asset Plan 2025 – 2035

Outlines how we will take care of assets such as roads, footpaths, bridges, stormwater drainage, buildings and parks, which are valued at over \$1.28 billion.

2025-2026 Budget at a glance



\$53.9M Capital Works program

That gets invested to maintain the buildings, assets and facilities you depend on.



Get involved

Online survey

Take a short survey to comment on each of the documents and request to present your feedback to Council at a meeting in April.

Pre recorded information session

See a recording from key Council staff.

Pop-ups

We've put self-serve stands at Council buildings and you can chat with Council staff at pop-up information sessions.



Your Voice
Our Future

Feedback is open until 6 April 2025

Online & various locations

Scan the code or visit
shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/BanyuleFutures



Building a better Banyule



We're working on a range of road and construction projects to build an even better Banyule.

Our capital works program includes improvements to existing Council assets and many smaller projects that enhance our neighbourhoods and facilities. It all adds up to a safer, healthier and more connected community.

Banyule's \$65.07 million capital works program for 2024/25 includes hundreds of projects, along with municipality-wide initiatives such as \$3.83 million on drainage improvements.

Here are few projects we're working on:

Roads

Some of the road works in 2024/25 include:

- Hawdon Street, Heidelberg, pedestrian crossing upgrade
- Finlayson Street, Rosanna, school crossing improvement
- Dennis Street, Heidelberg Heights, modifying the intersection at Lawson Street
- Bonds Road - Old Eltham Road to Stawell Road

Road resurfacing

- The Mall, Heidelberg West, car park surfacing
- Malahang Road, Heidelberg West – Oriel Road to Waterdale Road
- Gladman Street, Greensborough – Paton Court to Elder Street
- Glenara Court, Bundoora – Grimshaw Street to cul-de-sac
- Hawdon Street, Heidelberg – Yarra Street to Burgundy Street

- Macorna Street, Watsonia North – Grant to Gillingham streets
- Outlook Crescent, Briar Hills – Sherbourne Road to Fernside Avenue
- St Helena Road, St Helena (section)
- Sherbourne Road, Montmorency – around Sherbourne Road Bridge
- Waterdale Road, Ivanhoe – Robbins Street to Hawker Street

Community facilities

Some community facilities underway or completed are:

- **Watsonia Town Square**
The area next to the library is the main construction focus now, with a playground, seating, accessible toilet block and reconfigured southern carpark on the way. Expected finish date is mid-year.
- **Rosanna Library**
The new, three-storey building is progressing well and is expected to be finished by the end of the year.
- **Olympic Park Pavilion**
Work has started on the new accessible community sports pavilion and public toilets between the North and South ovals, due for completion next year.
- **Macleod Park Pavilion** – see [page 21](#) for more about this project.
- **7 Wellington Street, Montmorency** – the community house renovation is expected to be completed around mid-year.
- **Eaglemont Tennis Club** court (new surface)
- **Macleod Tennis Club** – court repair and new surface almost completed.



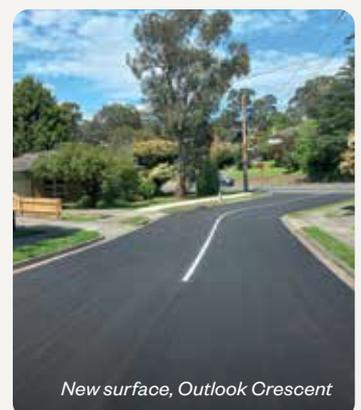
Hawdon Street crossing



Finlayson Street crossing



Resurfaced carpark at The Mall



New surface, Outlook Crescent

Inclusive employment for business success

Banyule's employment programs and local companies are working together to increase job opportunities for everyone.

When Marjan Marjani came to Australia as a refugee from Iran, she wanted a safer, better life for herself and her young child.

"Starting afresh in a new country was daunting. I had to learn a new language, adjust to a new culture and understand how to navigate the job market. I knew that securing a job was crucial to improving our lives," she remembered.

After completing Banyule's Inclusive Employment Program in 2021, she applied for a job at Cleaning Melbourne, a local company that values diversity and inclusivity in the workplace. She now works in their procurement team.

Inclusive employment in action

Cleaning Melbourne's employment practices are rooted in the experience of company founder David Gagovski, whose mother experienced mistreatment and underpayment working as a cleaner after migrating to Australia.

"This experience shaped a dedication to fair, respectful employment practices that prioritise inclusivity and equity," said human resources manager Sohan Boralessa.

To reach diverse and underrepresented groups, the company uses inclusive language in job ads and descriptions, avoids overly restrictive experience requirements and has flexible interview options.

"Our approach emphasises fair and unbiased evaluation, ensuring candidates are assessed on their skills, potential and alignment with our company values."

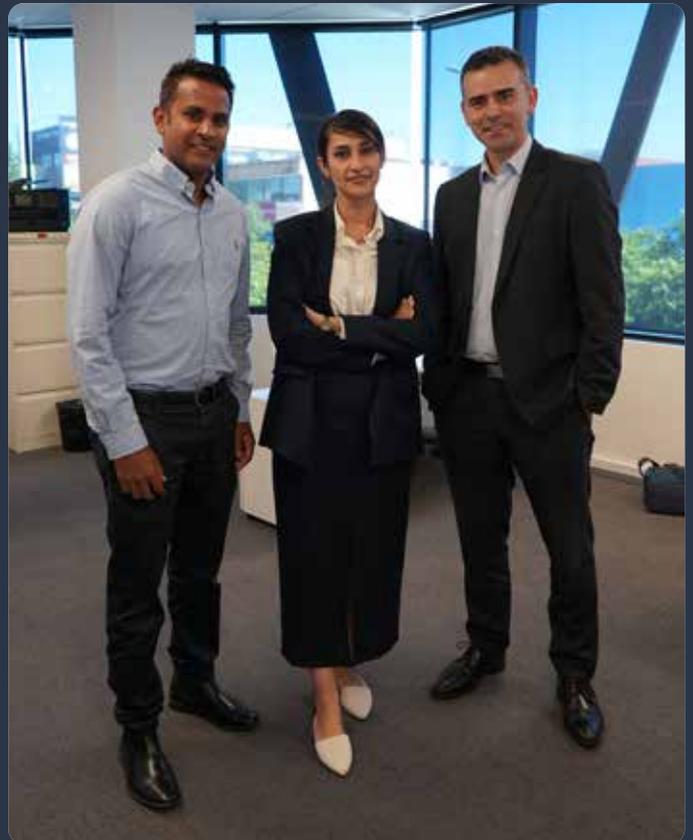
The approach has also paid off in better business performance, productivity and operational resilience.

"Additionally, customers appreciate our commitment to inclusivity, strengthening our brand reputation as a socially responsible and ethical company."

“

When I joined Banyule's Inclusive Employment Program, things started to change. It not only gave me the skills to secure a job, it instilled in me a sense of self-worth. I was excited to take on the challenge and apply what I had learned.

”



L-R: Sohan, Marjan and David in the Cleaning Melbourne office at Greensborough.

Discover how inclusive hiring practices can improve your business

Banyule is committed to working with companies that prioritise inclusive employment practices. It's one of the things we look for when purchasing goods and services, along with other essentials such as value for money, capability and past performance.

Council's Inclusive Jobs Service works with businesses to promote the benefits of inclusive hiring practices.

Your Council contact:

Paul Thia, Inclusive Local Jobs Officer

Phone: 8582 9507

Email: paul.thia@banyule.vic.gov.au

More information: scan the code or visit banyulebusiness.com.au/inclusive-banyule



Check out Watsonia Library

Watsonia Library is open during the usual hours while we build Watsonia Town Square.

The friendly library staff members are ready to help you!

All the regular activities are continuing, such as toddler story time on Thursday mornings, pictured bottom right.

The return chute is available 24/7 and there's parking in Morwell Avenue or Ibbotson Street while construction is underway on the Town Square play space.

Library facilities include a community space for hire, quiet study areas, free Wi-Fi and computer access, along with printing, photocopying, and scanning. The collection includes the latest bestsellers, downloadable books and audiobooks, large print titles, DVDs, magazines and access to a range of digital library resources.

Find out more about library services at ypri.vic.gov.au or phone Watsonia Library on **9435 2397**.



Barrbunin Beek Mums and Boorais Yarning Circle

A group for local Aboriginal mothers and their babies.

The program aims to enhance First Nation's mums connection to their Boorais (babies) by strengthening their links to culture, community, knowledge and support.

The group is an opportunity for Aboriginal mums to develop relationships with each other. One mum shared that "Coming to Yarning circle every week is an opportunity to feel supported culturally and gives me space to learn and listen to the Aunties and other Mums."

Aboriginal mums learn about baby development, sleep settling, get health advice and ensure their babies have the best start in life.

This year we are excited to partner with Relationships Australia to offer families a baby massage program based in cultural knowledge. The group is supported by an Aboriginal Elder, Barrbunin Beek staff, the Mercy Hospital Aboriginal Health Team, a midwife and Maternal and Child Health Nurse.

Mums and Boorais Yarning Circle

📅 Wednesday mornings

📍 Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place,
55 Catalina Street, Heidelberg West

For more information about the Barrbunin Beek Mums and Boorais Yarning Circle contact Kristen on **0423 063 737** or kristen.munro@banyule.vic.gov.au





Banyule Community Fund gives local

Kate, left, and Megan, right, from BANSIC, at the Foodhub with Banyule Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy.

The Banyule Community Fund has awarded its first round of grants, donating to groups that support the Banyule community, as promised.

Five local organisations received a total of \$15,000. Grant applications were reviewed by an independent panel of five community members, four Council officers and the Banyule Citizen of the Year.

BANSIC Foodhub

BANSIC provides emergency relief and support services to people experiencing significant disadvantage. Its Foodhub in Heidelberg West distributes meals, pantry supplies and fresh produce at no cost. Demand for this service has grown from 500 food parcels per month in 2022 to more than 1350 this year. A Banyule Community Fund grant of \$4000 will purchase fruit and vegetables to make food parcels for individuals and families in crisis.

Open House Backyard Sports

Backyard Sports at Malahang Reserve in Heidelberg West provides community connection through social soccer, football and basketball. There is a bike maintenance hut and coffee cart, both of which provide job training. With its grant of \$3200, Open House will host four school holiday sessions with sports, food and a DJ.

Footscape care kits

Footscape provides footwear, foot care kits, socks, orthotics and foot health education for disadvantaged people with foot problems. Its \$3000 grant will go towards 150 foot care kits.

Heidelberg SES

The Heidelberg Unit of the Victorian State Emergency Service is a volunteer emergency response group. Its members attend around 1000 call-outs each year, providing emergency help during natural disasters, storms and flooding. They assist other emergency agencies in complex emergency situations, conduct search and rescue operations and provide community education. Their \$2500 grant will purchase battery-operated tools that are safer, lighter, quieter, cheaper to run and more reliable than fuel equivalents.

Olympic Neighbourhood House

The Project Reboot: Laptops Revived program at Olympic Neighbourhood House has provided refurbished laptops and training for 250 disadvantaged residents. Recipients have access to an IT hub with free Wi-Fi, printing and volunteer assistance. The grant of \$2300 will provide 40 refurbished laptops to Banyule community members.

**BANYULE
COMMUNITY
FUND**
FUNDRAISE LOCAL.

DIRECTLY BENEFIT LOCALS – All funds are granted out to non-profit causes in Banyule.

DONATE YOUR WAY – Choose to fund one of the priority areas or donate to the overall fund.



To make a donation scan the QR code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/BCF



Changes to dog waste bins

Did you know? Dog waste can now go in any general rubbish bin (red lid) in Banyule's parks and reserves.

We're phasing out green dog waste bins in parks and adding new, larger 240-litre general waste bins in parks where they're needed.

This will mean a more efficient and cost-effective waste service.

Because of the switch to general waste bins, we can now transition to a mechanical waste pick-up service for all park bins. This reduces manual handling and makes the job safer for our staff.

We will still provide dog waste bags in high-use locations. The bags will be attached to general waste bins and refilled on a regular basis.

Thank you for your help to keep Banyule clean and beautiful.



Don't forget – register your pet!

All cats and dogs over the age of three months must be microchipped and registered with Council. Animal registration renewals are **due by 10 April**.

For more details, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/AnimalRego

Did you know that Banyule has more than 13,000 dogs and 5500 cats registered!





Easter waste tips

You shouldn't put all your eggs in one basket, and you shouldn't put all of your household rubbish in one bin. Here are some egg-cellent tips on how to recycle right this Easter.

Aluminum foil such as the main wrapper of Easter eggs can be recycled. Collect all the wrappers together to make a tennis-sized ball before placing it in your recycle bin. Aluminum cooking trays can also be recycled.

Cardboard boxes and hard plastic Easter egg boxes can go in your recycling bin.

Toys which can sometimes be found in Easter eggs need to go in the rubbish bin, along with ribbons, bows, bells or cellophane.



Towards zero waste: Bee-ing sustainable & spending less

📅 26 March, 5pm

📍 **Watsonia Neighbourhood House**

Feeling the financial pinch? Reducing your waste can also reduce your expenses.

Join us for a workshop about making small changes with big impacts.

As we navigate each household room, we will talk about ways you can make simple changes to reduce your waste.

We'll also look ways to bring down costs or get more for your money.

Book at trybooking.com/CXZFO



Reusable nappy workshop

📅 2 April, 7.30pm – 9pm

📍 **Online**

Wondering how to make nappy duty both eco-friendly and budget-savvy? Join this online workshop that will change the way you think about nappies!

- Uncover the secrets of modern reusable nappies
- Learn the ropes with expert tips and tricks
- Demonstrations of different cloth nappies to find the option that works best for your family!

Each attendee will receive TWO premium reusable nappies valued at \$70.

There is a \$20 fee per person to attend the workshop, and you will need a credit card to submit the form.

Book at banyule.vic.gov.au/Nappy

Earth Day Quiz

Tuesday 22 April is Earth Day. It's a good reminder to embrace small yet impactful actions that can make a big difference for our planet.

Test your knowledge of Banyule's environment with this quiz. Turn page upside down for answers.

1. What is Australia's largest nocturnal bird and one of Banyule's flagship species?
2. Who am I? I am an endangered local invertebrate found in Banyule. My initials are ECB.
3. Compostable coffee cups belong in which bin?
4. What is the name of a waste category that is dangerous and cannot go in any kerbside bin because of fire risks in bins, collection vehicles and at processing facilities?



No late-night mischief for Banyule cats!

Banyule's new nightly curfew for cats came into effect on 1 February. Cats must be contained on your property between 7pm and 7am.

There is a six-month enforcement amnesty on the new rules, giving cat owners a chance to temporarily avoid fines while they and their cats get used to the curfew.



No-go zones for cats

There are some areas where cats are not allowed at any time. These are environmentally sensitive areas such as native bushland and water bodies.

- Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve - fenced areas
- Brown's Nature Reserve (Alma Brown Reserve)
- Banyule Flats wetland and Banyule Billabong
- Rockbeare Park (part of Darebin Parklands)
- St Helena Bush Reserve - fenced areas
- Wilson Reserve - Horseshoe, Reedy and Bailey billabongs
- Warringal swamplands

Find out more about the new rules and view a map of the no-go zones by scanning the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/PetsInPublic



Celebrating Banyule's volunteers

National Volunteer Week 19 – 25 May

National Volunteer Week is when we say thank you to everyone who puts their hand up to make our community a better place to live, work and play.

We invite volunteers working in the Banyule community to participate in Banyule Volunteer Celebration.

Banyule Volunteer Celebration

 Wednesday 21 May

 The Centre Ivanhoe

Bookings are essential and open from 26 March to 2 May or until the ticket allocation is exhausted.

To book, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/VolunteerAwards or contact Karen Molinaro: phone **9457 9955** or email volawards@banyule.vic.gov.au

Get on your bike this autumn

Our autumn season of subsidised bike skills classes continues in April and is available to all who live, work or study in Banyule.

- Hands-on bike maintenance
Thursday 3 and Tuesday 29 April
- Individual bike skills (adults and children aged 7+)
Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 April
- Urban cycling confidence
Saturday 12 and Sunday 27 April

Get all the details and register: scan the code or head to banyule.vic.gov.au/WhatsOn





Banyule Youth Summit

📅 Thursday 22 May, 9am to 3pm

📍 Heidelberg Golf Club, Lower Plenty

Calling young people aged 12 – 25! You are invited to join us for the 2025 Banyule Youth Summit, which brings together young people from across the community to make change on issues that matter to you.

You'll discuss topics and work together to find solutions to improve life in Banyule. Your proposals will be presented to Council, which will commit to completing as many of the recommendations as possible.

Discussion topics will be chosen in the lead-up to the event. Past topics have included mental health, environment, cultural diversity, gender equality and disability inclusion.

Register by 1 May.

Find out more: scan the code or visit banyuleyouth.com/youth-summit



Jet in here

Check out the groups at Jets Studios, Banyule Youth Service's creative arts hub.

Monday

Jets Express – for young people with disabilities, focusing on art and music workshops.

Tuesday

Jets Events and Production Crew – if you're interested in event management, film, photography and more.

Thursday

Rainbow Space – a social group for LGBTIQ+ youth and their friends, fostering community.

Monthly Friday night drop-in

Drop in for games and fun activities. Studios available for independent rehearsal.

Monthly Dungeons and Dragons

Role-playing games and storytelling.

Find out more at banyuleyouth.com/jets

Is your art the next YouthFest poster?

Each year, we pick one outstanding artwork to be front and centre of our YouthFest poster. Could it be yours? Entries close 13 April.

Find out more at linktr.ee/jetsbundoora

What's exercising Banyule?

Physical activity is important for physical and mental health and helps us feel part of our community.

We're working on a plan to help Banyule residents be more active. The draft Active Banyule Plan will be available for feedback from 15 April.

We surveyed 671 residents about how they like to exercise and what stops them from being more active. Here's a snapshot of what they told us.

Most popular ways to be physically active

- Gym and exercise classes
- Recreational activities such as walking
- Competitive and social sports

Top recreational and sport activities

- Walking
- Gym
- Yoga and Pilates
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Golf

Barriers to regular physical activity

- 52% said lack of time or limited access
- 41% said cost was a barrier

Suggestions to encourage physical activity

- Low-cost fees to encourage trying new activities
- More programs, classes and activities
- Improved facilities
- More inclusive sports clubs and activities for people with diverse needs

View the draft plan and sign up for updates: scan the code or go to shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ActiveBanyule



Make it an Active April

We're celebrating Active April with free events to get you moving and meeting new people.

WaterMarc classes cost \$5, all other events are free. To book email catherine.corbett@banyule.vic.au or phone 9242 3471.

School holiday sports programs

Sports activities and sausage sizzle for children aged 5 – 14. Coffee cart for parents!

 Wednesday 9 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm

 Willinda Park, Greensborough

 Tuesday 15 April, 10.30am – 12.30pm

 Ford Park, Bellfield

Come and try pickle ball

For adults aged 55+

 Wednesdays 23 & 30 April, 10.30am – 11.30am

 NETS Stadium, Macleod

All abilities aqua dance class

 Every Wednesday, 10.30am – 11am

 WaterMarc, Greensborough

All abilities dance class

 Every Tuesday, 4pm – 4.45pm

 WaterMarc, Greensborough

Active April walking group

Walk through Ivanhoe streets and parklands then have a coffee on us in the café. Suitable for all ages, all abilities. Pram and wheelchair accessible.

 Every Wednesday, 2 April to 7 May, 9am

 Meet at Ivanhoe Leisure Centre,
170 Waterdale Road

Walking to better health

📅 Tuesday 29 April, 9.30am – 1pm

📍 Willinda Park athletic track, Greensborough

The older adults walk-a-thon is for everyone aged 55+ to enjoy, whether you're a serious walker or prefer a short stroll. Take positive steps towards better health, meet new people and enjoy a delicious lunch afterwards.

View the program at banyule.vic.gov.au/walkathon

Free event, bookings essential at trybooking.com/CYEWV or phone 9490 4222.

Find more information at banyule.vic.gov.au/Walkathon



Age friendly grants opening soon

Each year Council offers grants to help local community groups, individuals and organisations deliver projects that make Banyule a better place to live.

Age friendly grants support projects and activities that promote the health, wellbeing, social connection and independence of older adults in our community.

Grants of up to \$1500 from a total pool of \$15,000 are offered in three categories:

- New and emerging seniors clubs and groups
- Seniors Festival events
- Community connection projects

Submissions are open from 1 April to 13 May.

Applicants must read the guidelines and discuss their proposal with a council officer before submitting.

To learn more, contact Kim Phu, as below, or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/grants

Your age friendly grants contact:

Kim Phu, Age Friendly Community Development Officer

Phone: 9049 3388

Email: kim.phu@banyule.vic.gov.au





Banyule Loves... sustainability workshops

Join our workshops to explore the art of sustainable, climate-resilient living.

These events from March to November celebrate the things our community loves about Banyule – such as gardening, connecting to Country and saving on energy bills.

You'll learn new skills and connect with like-minded community members.

Attendees go in the draw for prizes to be awarded at an event in November. Many of the workshops are hands-on and you will leave with information packs or handicrafts.

Workshop	Where 	When 
Dealing with climate anxiety	Old Shire Offices, Heidelberg	Tuesday 8 April, 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Seed saving workshop	Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub	Wednesday 30 April, 6.30pm – 8pm
No/low cost energy tips	Bellfield Community Hub	Tuesday 13 May, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Saving the season: Food preserving workshop	Greenhills Neighbourhood House	Saturday 24 May, 10am – 1pm
Heat pumps and split systems	Online	Wednesday 28 May, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Navigating climate emotions	Online	Tuesday 3 June, 6.30pm – 8pm
Gardening for weather extremes	Bellfield Community Hub	Saturday 23 August, 10am – 12pm
Shade plants for a comfortable home	Bellfield Community Hub	Saturday 23 August, 1pm – 3pm
Solar panels and battery storage	Council offices, Greensborough	Wednesday 15 October, 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Water-smart gardening	Macleod Community Hall	Saturday 8 November, 11am – 1pm
Banyule Loves...wrap up celebration	To be announce	Saturday 22 November, 11am – 1pm

To register for these events and see all the Banyule Loves events, scan the code or search 'Banyule City Council – Environment Team' at [humanitix.com](https://www.humanitix.com)

Questions? Email us at environment@banyule.vic.gov.au



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

Final call!

2025 Banyule Art Salon



Entries close 31 March

Banyule artists (visual artists, makers, writers, performers), this is your final call to enter the Banyule Art Salon – a professionally curated exhibition at Art Gallery 275 to be held in May.

More information and entry form at banyule.vic.gov.au/BanyuleArtSalon

Treasures from the Banyule Art Collection

📅 2 – 27 April

📍 Art Gallery 275

Curated highlights of the Banyule Art Collection, representing some of Australia's greatest contemporary artists. Encompassing a range of mediums and subjects, this exhibition showcases the depth and excellence of Australian art.

Check gallery times at banyule.vic.gov.au/ArtGallery275

Image: Untitled Self Portrait, No 1 (1988) by Mike Parr, from the Banyule Art Collection.



Homeland Stories

by Yarra Plenty Regional Library

📅 17 March – 6 April

📍 Loft 275

This exhibition presented during Harmony Week celebrates stories of migration to Australia and the treasured objects people chose to bring from their homeland. The stories are drawn from the Homeland oral history project conducted by Yarra Plenty Regional Library last year.

Yarra Plenty Regional Library acknowledges the Local History Grants Program and Public Records Office Victoria. This exhibition is supported by the Victorian Government's Community Support Fund.

More at ypri.vic.gov.au/blogs/homeland-stories

Image: detail of Yuki with object, photo by Diamond Valley Photographic Society.



Colours of the soul

by Paris Pinky (Jirvand)

📅 10 April – 11 May

📍 Loft 275

A collection of abstract cubist paintings capturing the essence and energy of human experience.

Image: detail of Autumn Girls (2023) by Paris Pinky.



Chillin' in Banyule



Check out some great live music while having a bite at your favourite neighbourhood eatery this autumn.

Chillin' in Banyule is a series of events throughout May with local singers and musicians performing at cafes, restaurants and other local venues. We'll kick off with a special launch night on 1 May at Empire Music Studios.

Stay tuned for the full calendar of gigs, online from April.

Scan the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/Chillin



Conserving our creek

Platypuses could return to Darebin Creek in Ivanhoe if these hard-working volunteers have their way.

They're working with Banyule rangers and the Darebin Creek Management Committee to restore the creek front in Napier Waller Reserve in Ivanhoe. With the help of a Banyule environment grant, they've planted more than 1000 plants in the reserve.

The reserve named after the artist Napier Waller, who lived here from 1922 until his death in 1972, is part of a vital wildlife corridor connecting the creek and the Yarra River (Birrarung).

While the reserve is habitat for a variety of wildlife, weeding and revegetation of the eroded creek banks will increase biodiversity and help reduce damage from regular floods. Platypuses have been spotted further down the creek in Heidelberg West and the group hopes to tempt them into Ivanhoe as the creek becomes more healthy.



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



We are working towards a healthier Banyule by improving our green spaces. The urban forest comes in many forms across Banyule, including nature strips such as the one pictured.

We're developing new nature strip planting guidelines. See **page 4** for more on the guidelines and ways to share your thoughts on how we can enhance Banyule's urban forest.

Residents tell me they value Council's work on roads and paths, making it safer for cars, people and bikes to move around.

See **page 5** for capital works around Griffin, such as the recent crossing upgrade at Hawdon Street, Heidelberg (near Darebin Street).

Please let me know if you have suggestions.



Cr Alison Champion
Sherbourne Ward

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



Monty Community Hub is moving into the renovated Petrie Park Hall and is celebrating with a bush dance on Saturday 26 April. There will be live music and guided dances for everyone to enjoy.

The Hub is run by volunteer members like Sophie, Sally and Gilly, pictured. They offer singalongs, mahjong, games, social groups, dances and an orchestra, which will conclude a

Council-funded rehearsal program with a concert on Sunday 3 August.

The \$250,000 hall renovations include accessibility improvements, toilets and a new kitchen.

To get involved in Monty Community Hub programs and to book for the bush dance or concert, visit montyhub.org, check their Facebook page or call Sophie on **0422 989 035**.



Cr Matt Wood
Hawdon Ward

matt.wood@banyule.vic.gov.au
0403 705 289



I was thrilled to attend training at Banyule City Soccer Club and see the thriving community this club has built.

Staying active over winter is important for my family and I have the privilege of coaching my daughter's U12 team at Banyule Football Club.

Community sport has great benefits for mental and physical health. That's why Council invests in Banyule's sports facilities, many of which are also used

by non-sporting groups.

These local clubs offer winter fun and community connection for juniors and seniors: Banyule City Soccer Club (Banyule Flats Reserve and Yallambie Park), Banyule FC (Beverley Road Reserve), Heidelberg FC (enjoying the new playing surface at Warringal Oval). If a run or walk in the park is more your thing, Parkrun kicks off at Warringal Parklands at 8am every Saturday.

Ward Rounds



Cr Elizabeth Nealy
Beale Ward

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

Anthony Beale Reserve was buzzing when I popped in to check progress on the pavilion rebuild recently.

It's a popular spot for active and passive recreation for the whole community, including our four-legged friends. Regular dog walkers there have developed a strong sense of community and their dogs have built friendships too!

Work on the pavilion is progressing well and is due to be completed around the middle of the year. We've installed a temporary toilet in the carpark while the pavilion amenities are being renovated.

I'm also pleased to report that work will soon start on a new footpath along Karingal Drive from Sherbourne Road to Nerreman Gateway in Briar Hill.



Cr Mark Di Pasquale
Bakewell Ward

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

We're working closely with residents and traders on capital works around Bakewell, including Watsonia Town Square (to be completed this year).

We are also raising resident concerns about North East Link construction and advocating for action on dust, noise and parking.

We're encouraging NEL to create

more parking for workers to ease congestion in residential areas.

NEL was required to provide offset parking for commuters near Gabonia Avenue Reserve in Watsonia.

Please get in touch if you have concerns. It won't be long before we can enjoy the benefits of these major works for many years ahead.



Cr Alida McKern
Chelsworth Ward

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

Local author Kylie Ladd recently presented her seventh novel, *The Mix-up*, in an author talk at Ivanhoe Library. It's a best seller at Ivanhoe's Ladyhawke Books!

We all benefit from supporting local businesses like Ladyhawke Books – they provide a convenient service and bring vibrant character to our shopping centres.

Banyule's team of local business advocates helps established and growing businesses with economic information, grants, workshops and more.

They're happy to hear from new or existing businesses. To find out more, phone **9490 4222**, email business@banyule.vic.gov.au or visit banyulebusiness.com.au



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



Cr Cr Mary O'Kane
Olympia Ward

mary.okane@banyule.vic.gov.au
0403 748 092

Congratulations to the new and returning committee members of the Bell Street Mall Traders Association.

Built in 1956, The Mall was the first of its kind in Australia. Its original features could make its revitalisation exciting (see **page 4** to get involved).

The structure of the Mall is that all the shops are privately owned, while the surrounding pavement areas and

carparks are owned by Council.

The Traders Association's role includes planning promotional activities and community events and managing the budget. It also works with Council on waste management, maintenance and cleaning.

Importantly, all committee roles are voluntary and members run their own businesses at the same time.



Cr Rick Garotti
Grimshaw Ward

rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au
0490 014 965

The Urban Agricultural Education Centre at Bundoora Secondary College is looking fantastic.

A joint project of the school, Banyule Council, the Victorian Government and community food network Local Food Connect, it has food gardens, livestock, aquaculture pools, community gardens and facilities for meetings, community markets and education.

Local Food Connect has contributed \$250,000 to the project and will lead community programs such as food gardening, classes and produce markets. I visited with Emmeline and Chris to see the new pergola that will soon be surrounded by gardens. Check out Local Food Connect on Facebook to see the school's thriving urban farm or visit localfoodconnect.org.au to learn more and get involved.



Cr Cr Alicia Curry
Ibbott Ward

alicia.curry@banyule.vic.gov.au
0403 736 326

I admired the view from upstairs at the Macleod Park Pavilion site recently. I learnt about slab techniques to minimise concrete use along with under-slab insulation for comfort and sustainability.

The \$3.8 million project, jointly funded by Banyule Council and the Victorian Government, includes female-friendly changerooms, a kitchen and

undercover spectator areas. It's due to open early next year.

Are you impacted by North East Link construction? With councillors from other affected wards, I'm advocating for residents on issues like parking and noise. Also, further parking restrictions are being rolled out. You can also contact NEL directly at community@northeastlink.vic.gov.au





Eel dreaming by Aunty Judy Nicholson, part of her series depicting the Wurundjeri seasons.

luk season

The start of an epic journey to the sea

luk (eel) season has arrived and temperatures are dropping.

luk have started migrating down the Birrarung (Yarra River) on their journey towards spawning grounds in the Coral Sea, off northern Queensland.

In preparation for this epic journey, the young luk have grown, their eyes have enlarged and their digestive systems have shrunk.

As luk migrated downstream, Wurundjeri people trapped them in billabongs, eel traps and weirs, where they were harvested by hand or with lightweight spears made from Woolip (woolly tea tree) and Burgan (white tea tree).

Days and nights are of equal length around the equinox (20 March) and the star Lo-An Tuka (Canopus) can be seen in the south at sunset.

Binap (manna gum) is blossoming with a beautiful white flower with a yellow centre. Its wood is used to make shields. Small quantities of sweet crumbly gum (manna) are exuded from damaged leaves. This is collected for eating.

This season leads into Waring (Wombat) season from April to July, when Waring become more active in the daylight and Sagittarius rises in the southwest before sunset.



DID YOU KNOW?

Every year in March, people come together to mark Harmony Week and celebrate the diverse cultures in Australia.

In Banyule, there are many residents from diverse cultural backgrounds, some of whom speak several languages.

More than 100 different languages are spoken in homes in Banyule. The main non-English languages used at home are:

- Mandarin
- Italian
- Greek
- Cantonese
- Arabic

Find out more about Banyule's diverse community at profile.id.com.au/banyule



Bushland Diaries

Banyule's wetlands

Banyule Swamp, Banyule Flats Reserve

Wetlands are unique ecosystems in which water saturates or floods the ground permanently or seasonally.

Wetlands come in many forms such as marshes, swamps and billabongs or even whole floodplains. They are a crucial part of our environment and they help:

- Store water and prevent floods. Wetlands are nature's sponge, soaking up excess water and reducing flood risks.
- Filter pollutants and sediments from water, keeping our rivers and lakes clean.
- Make many homes for wildlife. Wetlands are crucial for biodiversity.
- Trap carbon, making them powerful allies in the fight against climate change.

Banyule is home to many wetlands. One of the most well-known is the Banyule Swamp at Banyule Flats Reserve. The swamp sits in a natural low-lying area. In the early 1800s it was drained for market gardens and it still had cattle grazing on it in the 1990s.

In the late 1960s, some water was returned and the southern edge of the swamp was changed so that it could eventually be refilled.

Warringal Conservation Society and Council have worked together for many years to revegetate the Banyule Flats Reserve, adding to its biodiversity value.

Banyule Swamp hosts more than 150 bird species, some rare or threatened in Victoria. Others are migrants, such as the Latham's Snipe. One of the most interesting looking species is the pink-eared duck, with its black and white stripes, pink markings on the side of the head and large square-tipped grey bill.

Enjoy our local biodiversity by heading out with some binoculars and trying to spot these birds and other fascinating species at Banyule Swamp or a wetland nearby.



Pink-eared ducks at Banyule Swamp

If you would like to learn more and get involved with conservation efforts in Banyule's bushland reserves, scan the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup



BANYULE COMMUNITY FUND

DONATE YOUR WAY.

Support the causes that have a direct impact on your local community.



SCAN THE CODE TO
DONATE TO THE
BANYULE COMMUNITY



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

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 بانويل 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.