Stay in the loop and enjoy Banyule news and events direct to your inbox. Scan this QR code now.
Mayor’s Message

Mayor
Cr Rick Garotti

It is an enormous privilege to be elected Mayor of our new Council which was sworn in on 9 November 2020. Thank you Cr Alison Champion, our outgoing Mayor, for her incredible efforts during such a challenging year. Thank you also to former councillors, Craig Langdon and Wayne Phillips, for their commitment to public life and the enormous contribution they have made to our local community over many years at Council.

You may not know but October’s election saw Banyule Council increase its number of councillors from seven to nine which has strengthened local representation. I am delighted to lead this new group of councillors who bring energy and enthusiasm, and diverse expertise and life experiences that will enhance our decision making and performance. See pages 4-5 to learn more about your new councillors.

There is no doubt we are going through a challenging time with the impacts of COVID-19 being felt by so many within the community. Council was quick to act at the start of this pandemic and I can assure you that the new Council has not lost sight of what is needed. Our focus is to support the community to recover and rebuild from COVID-19 with a range of initiatives and safeguards, especially to help people in vulnerable positions.

Changes to services

Over the last year we have had to adapt many services in line with government restrictions. Our customer service centres, leisure centres and libraries closed. Many other services adapted operations to continue to provide essential services safely to the community. This has been a trying time for customers and staff, and we thank everyone for their patience and understanding. We have recently seen more of our services able to open their doors, but we remind you to visit banyule.vic.gov.au or call 9490 4222 for current details as things can change.

Continued over next page
Banyule’s Economic Support Package

A range of measures are in place as part of the 2020/2021 Budget’s $10.5 million Economic Support Package. Our package includes rate relief for residents and businesses, waiving of fees, charges and rent for community groups and a series of business and community grants that have proved a helping hand for many. Remember, our economic support is ongoing. If you haven’t already applied, please keep in mind that you may be eligible for a $500 or $250 waiver of your rates. For more details and how to apply, please see page 6.

Council understands that more assistance may be needed in the future and we will continue to respond and put the needs of the community first. For more details about the support available, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/COVIDsupport

Rediscover Local

Now, more than ever, local businesses need your support. We encourage you to Rediscover Local when you make your next purchase or need to find a business or service. These are the places who have supported us and have always been there over the years. It’s now time for us to be there for them. See page 7 for more.

2041 Community Vision and Council Plan

We are excited to be creating our new Community Vision and the next Council Plan and we want to hear from you. Banyule 2041: Shaping our Future invites you to share your views on what you imagine Banyule to be in 20 years’ time. At the same time, we are developing our new Council Plan (2021-2025), which sets the key directions and framework for the next four years in line with our long-term vision. See page 8 for more information on how to get involved.

Council meetings

With the new Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub complete, council meetings will return in 2021 to Ivanhoe’s Council Chambers. Meetings are livestreamed and we continue to operate according to COVID-19 restrictions. We encourage your ongoing participation so please visit our website for details and Request to Speak and Public Questions procedures.

We saw a wave of optimism in the community as restrictions were eased and people were able to move about more and connect. While this is great to see, we must remain vigilant and keep ourselves and others safe. There is still a long way to recovery and we thank all the community groups, service providers and individuals who have worked with us and with the community since the outbreak began.

Stay safe and look after one another.

Banyule City Council
Cr Mark Di Pasquale, Bakewell Ward

I’ve had the pleasure of raising my family in the area and look to retain this liveability for everyone lucky to call Banyule home. For the last election, Bakewell Ward boundaries were changed slightly. I say ‘hello’ to Watsonia residents around the Watsonia shops and all the way up to the Gresswell Forest, and I will miss the residents of Macleod and Yallambie who I thank for their support over the last eight years. I am looking forward to achieving a lot for you over the next four years. Feel free to contact me.

Cr Elizabeth Nealy, Beale Ward

I am a secondary school teacher, married with two children, and have lived in the Beale Ward for six years. This is my first term as councillor and it is a great privilege to have been elected and I look forward to working collaboratively with you. I want to ensure people from all ages, stages and places are connected and supported, especially during and post-COVID-19. It is important that Council effectively consults with the community, provides access to information, and we do what we can to support people in our area to thrive.

Cr Alida McKern, Chelsworth Ward

I’m honoured to be on Council, and I look forward to working together to protect and enhance the qualities that make Ivanhoe and Banyule such a great place to live. While we’ll continue helping our community and local businesses recover from COVID-19, key priorities for Chelsworth will also include: supporting development sympathetic to neighbourhood character, protection and enhancement of our trees, parks, waterways, and shared paths; giving local people a more effective voice, supporting our community and sporting clubs, and the need for climate change action to sustain our community, economy, and environment into the future.
Cr Alison Champion, Sherbourne Ward
It is a real privilege to be elected for my second term at Council and represent our new Sherbourne Ward. I have lived in Montmorency for 20 years, raising two boys and work in the area too. I look forward to getting to know you more and collaborating to make this area even better. We have hit the ground running in Sherbourne with some major projects underway: Were St streetscape upgrade and Grand Boulevard carpark upgrade. There are many more local projects coming and we encourage you to contribute to them. Onward and upward!

Cr Peter Castaldo, Griffin Ward
It’s an honour to have been re-elected and I thank all in the community for the opportunity to be the councillor for Griffin Ward again, which has changed boundaries to lose Ivanhoe but now includes almost all of Heidelberg. Banyule has been my home for more than 30 years and I’m now raising a young family here. As we come out of this difficult COVID-19 impacted period, I am looking forward to reconnecting with the community and working together on neighbourhood character, our urban forest, climate change action and many other important matters.

Cr Rick Garotti, Grimshaw Ward
I have lived in Bundoora and Macleod all my life. I am blessed to be living in Banyule and raising two young girls here with my wife. It is an enormous privilege to serve this community for the third consecutive term as Grimshaw Ward councillor and to build on what Council has been achieving over the last few years. Together, we are doing great work to improve our local area by investing in local services, infrastructure and amenities. I look forward to our continued work together to achieve great outcomes and opportunities for everyone in our community.

Cr Fiona Mitsinikos, Hawdon Ward
I’ve lived in Banyule for 13 years with my husband and three kids. We have a local renewable energy business and enjoy the lifestyle Banyule has to offer. Over recent years, I’ve been involved on local communities and love the community spirit we have here. In times like this, it’s even more vital we stay connected and positive. Supporting residents, local businesses and organisations, and sporting clubs with initiatives and financial relief to help them recover are some of my key priorities. We also need to protect our natural environment which makes this area so great.

Cr Tom Melican, Ibbott Ward
It is a great privilege to have been again elected councillor for Ibbott Ward. I’ve lived in Rosanna since 1981, raised a family here, and have developed a deep affection for our local community. Council has worked hard to improve this area and make a positive impact for residents, businesses and visitors. We remain committed to supporting the community through COVID-19. And we continue to roll out many local projects, including a new Rosanna streetscape, which unfortunately has been impacted with many unforeseen issues and delays due to COVID-19 restrictions, but finally it is almost complete.

Cr Peter Dimarelos, Olympia Ward
I am extremely excited to represent Olympia Ward and its diverse communities. I am a small business operator and have grown up in Banyule and now raise two children with my wife here. Council plays a key role in looking after families and creating a quality of life for everyone in the community. Our support during COVID-19 and beyond is a key priority, as is fostering collaboration, respect, and ensuring transparency and value in what Council delivers. I can’t wait to meet you and hear your thoughts to make this area even better.

Cr Alison Champion, Sherbourne Ward
It is a real privilege to be elected for my second term at Council and represent our new Sherbourne Ward. I have lived in Montmorency for 20 years, raising two boys and work in the area too. I look forward to getting to know you more and collaborating to make this area even better. We have hit the ground running in Sherbourne with some major projects underway: Were St streetscape upgrade and Grand Boulevard carpark upgrade. There are many more local projects coming and we encourage you to contribute to them. Onward and upward!
Are you having trouble paying rates?

If you are experiencing financial hardship due to coronavirus-related issues, you may be eligible for rate relief.

PARTIAL WAIVER AVAILABLE UP TO $500 OFF
You or your business can apply for a partial-waiver on your rates bill of up to $500 for the 2020/2021 rate year:

• If you are experiencing financial hardship and receiving the JobSeeker payment (owner/occupied properties only)
• If your business is experiencing hardship and receiving the JobKeeper payment.

UP TO $250 OFF
• If you are receiving JobKeeper payments from your employer and you are experiencing financial hardship.
• If you are experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

PAY YOUR RATES LATER
You can also apply to defer your payment up until 30 June 2021. No interest will be added to your deferred rates bill from 11 March 2020 to 30 June 2021.
For full conditions and to apply, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/RatesHelp or call 9490 4222.

2021 Community Calendar
We’ve posted the 2021 Community Calendar to Banyule residents who registered to receive one.
If you missed out, it’s not too late. You can have one posted to you by registering at banyule.vic.gov.au/2021calendar or call Customer Service on 9490 4222.
All aboard
The Little Social

There is good coffee, and there is good coffee with a purpose. What’s the difference? For Banyule, it’s the launch of a new kiosk at the Rosanna train station, The Little Social.

On the station concourse, The Little Social now serves good coffee and a range of snacks and light meals. The difference here is that the young person who serves you may well be working for the first time after prolonged unemployment.

Social enterprises are not charities. They are run as businesses and they sustain themselves financially. The difference with regular businesses is that social enterprises trade in order to support a social, environmental or other cause that benefits the wider community. The Little Social is a kiosk that gives young people from Banyule and nearby a chance to find work.

Many of these young people have been homeless or have been out of work for a long time.

Banyule Council has formed a partnership with Youth Projects to run The Little Social kiosk as a social enterprise venture. Council supports the venture with a café fit-out and rent subsidies for the first three years. In return, Youth Projects will run the kiosk while providing training and employment opportunities for up to 20 young people each year.

It’s part of Council’s long-term strategy of supporting social enterprises as a way of creating workforce participation for some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

“We are so pleased at how The Little Social is coming together,” Banyule Mayor Cr Rick Garotti said.

“This kiosk is another social enterprise that Council supports, like Possum Hollow in the Warringal Parklands,” he said. “We see ventures like this as part of Council’s role working with the business community to help social enterprises grow and develop.”

“We encourage people to support them and get on board,” Cr Garotti added. “Not only do you get good coffee and food at The Little Social, you’re helping to get young lives back on track and create much needed local jobs.”

Youth Projects supports young people who struggle with various forms of disadvantage, such as unemployment, homelessness, and drug or alcohol problems. It runs Good2Go, a social enterprise cafe in the CBD. Its CEO Ben Vasiliou saw the Rosanna Station an opportunity too good to pass by.

“A social enterprise venture such as this gives young people a significant boost in confidence and in self-esteem,” Mr Vasiliou said.

“We are so pleased with the support from Banyule Council,” he said. “Apart from vital financial support in the first years, the attitude to social enterprise, from councillors and from staff, is so encouraging and important in our partnership.”

The Little Social, on the Rosanna station concourse on Turnham Avenue, is open on week days and on Saturday mornings. Get there if you can; you’ll find that coffee with a purpose tastes pretty good.

For more information, visit Facebook@TheLittleSocial.

Celeste Norris, Social Enterprise Leader
We are on an exciting journey to shape the future of our municipality.

Imagine Banyule in 2041. What do you want Banyule to be like? What needs to be kept and preserved and what needs to change or improve?

These are the questions we want your views on to create a new Community Vision 2041 and Council Plan, and inform Council's long-term Financial Plan. This is your opportunity to contribute your ideas and put your aspirations to Council.

We've already had some great input:
- From community workshops throughout December;
- responses online at Shaping Banyule; and
- people getting involved via social media.

What you have shared is helping to create a future Banyule. Tap into what you are passionate about and share that with us!

Whether you live, work, study or visit Banyule, we want to hear from you. After all, there’s no better time to plan for the future than today!

Join the conversation and let’s plan for the Banyule we want. Visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Banyule2041 to share your views.

Consultation closes 8 January 2021.
What support do you need to raise a family?

It’s a fact. All families need support to help raise children and young people.

We want to better understand your unique experiences of raising children and young people in Banyule, and what best supports you to contribute to creating a good life for children and young people.

To share your thoughts with us, visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Families

This will help us to help you and other families as we develop our Child, Youth and Family Plan (2021-2031).

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Kids’ consultation kitchen re-opens!

A couple of months ago, we invited children to share their ideas about what’s needed for them to live a happy, healthy and safe life.

Up to the task, they flocked to Shaping Banyule and put together a ‘shopping list’ of ingredients and prepared a recipe for a good life in words and pictures.

This project was incredibly popular online with the project page being viewed more than 2000 times and contributions rolling in from primary school aged children from across Banyule.

Due to the high-quality input, and our commitment to including the voices and experiences of children, we are re-opening the Children’s Recipe for a Good Life project at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Kids

Contributions will be used to help inform the development of our Child, Youth and Family Plan (2021-2031), and in shaping our future through the Banyule 2041 project.

Here’s a sample tasting plate to offer you some food for thought and get your creativity flowing:

"My shopping list for a great life is having friends and family members who love you and give you support."
Lily, 10.

"1 cup sunshine, 4 family members, 2 pets, 3 cups health and safety, 1 cup food and a sprinkle of fun."
Patrick, 6.
Businesses have had to rethink, and some, reinvent, the way they operate due to COVID-19. Here are some of the ways we’ve supported Banyule businesses with a range of grants to access new markets, move online, receive business coaching and seek financial advice.

Core Principles
Core Principles in Ivanhoe director and owner, Gene Alessi decided to meet the impacts of COVID-19 head on. Engaging a specialised business coach, which the grant helped to fund, Gene ramped up his marketing and adapted his business model to fit the changing circumstances.

The Cartridge Place
With over 16 years owning a bricks and mortar retail store in Greensborough, owner Nick Aspridis received a grant to develop an e-commerce site to expand his market outside the local area and allow existing customers to order in a contactless environment.

Tony’s Secondhand Furniture
With customers unable to visit their Heidelberg West showroom, Julie and Tony decided that business survival meant moving online. A business grant helped them pivot their business into the rental furniture market with an e-commerce site and online marketing campaign.

Lu Lu Snap
Working in an industry that relies heavily upon events, Heidelberg based photographer Lucy Foster found herself without work when restrictions came into play. Lucy received a grant to rebrand her business to attract a new audience as well as develop a website to increase sales.

Little Sports Heroes
Forced to shut their business that provides sports programs for children, George Giannakopoulos and Robbie Fiorini used a grant to purchase additional sporting equipment. This enabled families to hire equipment and keep children active while stuck at home.

The next grant round will open in February 2021. Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/BusinessGrants to find out more and to apply.
Rediscover what’s great in Banyule
Small businesses have always been the heart and soul of our local community.

They provide employment for thousands of Banyule locals, work experience for school kids, prizes for local raffles and sponsorships of local sporting and youth clubs; not to mention, create welcoming places to meet up with friends and buy goods and services.

As we start looking to the future, to get back to what we loved about the lives we had, it’s time to do all that we can to give back to these cornerstones that underpin our community. Pick up the phone, go online or walk into your local small business and help them back on their feet to recovery.

Local offers galore
There’s a really simple way to learn about the small businesses in Banyule and that’s to visit rediscoverlocal.com.au and check out the local business directory or follow Rediscover Local on Instagram or Facebook where we’ll let you know about great offers from Banyule businesses.

There’s never been a better time to rediscover what’s great in your local community and support the businesses that support our community.
rediscoverlocal.com.au

Get social with us on
Facebook
Instagram

Heidelberg West Business Park
If you need to replace your tyres, find a honey supplier, service your car, source organic foods, buy face masks, sample handcrafted chocolates, print t-shirts, host a birthday lunch, record music, or design a new house, the Heidelberg West Business Park has more than you think.

Located near La Trobe University and home to more than 600 businesses, the business park continues to evolve and accommodate an ever-increasing diversity of businesses, from small start-ups to large industrial-sized manufacturers servicing Australia and overseas.

Check out what’s on offer at hwbp.com.au

Australian Made
Many businesses are designing, creating, building and manufacturing products right here in Heidelberg West.
Innovative | Inclusive | Inspiring

Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub

Our new landmark building is now ready and will be sure to amaze you!

Arts and Culture

The hub includes a range of arts spaces designed to encourage creativity and collaboration, and showcase artistic endeavours.

We invite you to see some of these great new spaces which are currently displaying our first two exhibitions until 25 January 2021.

For opening times and more information, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH

Stay updated by signing up for Arts and Culture news at banyule.vic.gov.au/newsletter and follow us on facebook.com/BanyuleArts

Art Gallery 275

The inaugural exhibition at our new flagship gallery features artworks from the impressive Banyule Art Collection acquired since 2010, including some pieces that have not previously been on public display in Melbourne.

Includes works by Ryan Presley, Yhonnie Scarce, Dianne Fogwell, David Frazer, and many others.

Loft 275

Banyule’s biggest community art exhibition returns, showcasing the artistic talents of our local community while in lockdown. This multi-disciplinary community art exhibition is sure to provide some food for thought.
Ivanhoe Library has certainly come of age and is ready for an exciting new chapter in its history. Members can enjoy:

- Access to 200,000 items
- Enhanced program of events and activities
- Better technology and more computers
- Flexible and creative spaces

Something for everyone, all under one roof

**Resources:** free access to library and art collections, both real and digital

**Programs:** learning programs, art exhibitions, performances and creative activities

**Spaces:** inclusive, versatile and accessible spaces, including community meeting rooms, lounges, a café, roof terrace and an outdoor square

**Services:** Maternal and Child Health, Council customer service and information

State-of-the-art library

We can’t wait for you to visit; however, please check banyule.vic.gov.au or ypnl.vic.gov.au first as COVID-19 restrictions may determine which services can operate and opening times.
Macleod Village Playground

We’ve set a new standard for play by recently installing Victoria’s first outdoor interactive play equipment in Macleod Village Green’s new playground.

Along with swings, spinners and nature play elements, a series of pillars each house a 360° LED touch screen. These screens can be programmed with multiple games for users to enjoy and test spelling and numerical skills, along with memory and agility.

But this is not your normal sedentary screen time. The interactive games get kids moving and learning together in the great outdoors, bringing benefits both mentally and physically.

Look out in the coming year as we continue to deliver more exciting play spaces for Banyule.
Ivanhoe Park

There’s also a great new playground at Ivanhoe Park offering a whole host of new equipment to explore. You can get airborne on a flying fox! Make music with some musical play elements and clamber all over rocks and climbing equipment. We’ve also put in some new seating and a shelter with BBQs and tables to enjoy.

Not just child’s play!

Come check out our Seniors Exercise Park at Ivanhoe Park that provides a range of equipment specifically designed to improve the strength, balance, flexibility and mobility of older adults.

To show you the ropes, there are instructional signs at the park, plus you also use your mobile phone to scan a QR code that will direct you to a website with instructions and videos.

We’re also planning some drop-in sessions where staff will be on hand to show you how to use the equipment.

To find out more, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/SeniorsPark

This project is in partnership with the National Ageing Research Institute and funded by State Trustees Foundation of Australia.

(Pictured) Val and Vladimir from Viewbank were keen to give the new equipment a try.
Boulevard Lights

To keep the community safe, The Boulevard Lights display will not be a public event this year.

Things have been a little different this year and this year’s Carols were too.

While we couldn’t stage an outdoor event, the good news is that you can enjoy Carols by Candlelight from the comfort of your own home in an online extravaganza!

Join in the Christmas spirit at banyule.vic.gov.au/Carols where you can watch the show at your leisure, download your carols songbook, and sing to your heart’s content.

This year’s line-up features:

Denis Walter
well known as a main stage performer at the Melbourne Carols on Christmas Eve and also the host of ‘Nights with Denis Walter on 3AW’ radio.

Nadia Komazec
stage credits include Phantom of the Opera, Mamma Mia, Legally Blonde, A Chorus Line, Matilda, The Rocky Horror Show, and The School of Rock.

Melbourne Contemporary Choir

Australian Children’s Choir

Diamond Valley Brass Band

The Kazoos with Santa

The entire show will also be Auslan interpreted. Available to watch until 31 January 2021.

Proudly sponsored by:

HAUGHTON STOTTS

Boulevard Lights
BANYULE outdoor movies

- Screening in January and February
- Family-friendly films in local parks
- BYO picnic, blanket and deck chair
- Bookings essential

Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/movies for details

COVID-19 restrictions may affect the staging of these events

BACK IN 2021!
GET READY TO CHILL
WITH LIVE MUSIC TAKING CENTRE STAGE AT BANYULE VENUES.

SUPPORT LOCAL MUSICIANS & LOCAL BUSINESSES.
BANYULE.VIC.GOV.AU/CHILLIN

A Banyule Council initiative
Solve a nature mystery

Attention enquiring young minds! Belinda the Bush Detective has a mystery to solve and she needs your help!

Come and enjoy this self-guided audio tour through the beautiful Rosanna Parklands. Using a coded map to guide you, discover hidden clues, examine bush evidence and take advice from the local creatures to help you solve the riddle that has sugar glider all wound up!

Suitable for the whole family, this nature mystery tour will particularly appeal to junior sleuths aged 6-10 years.

For more details about dates and to download the audio tour, please visit banyule.vic.gov.au/NatureMystery

Grab a map and go on a natural treasure hunt

Birdlife, secret paths, old orchards and more! Use colourful, easy to follow illustrated treasure maps of local trails in Banyule to discover the hidden treasures and natural wonders of Banyule Flats and Plenty Yarra Trail.

Everyone can use these maps and explore the trails over and over, as there is always something new to discover in nature.

• Banyule Flats – Heidelberg/Viewbank
• Plenty River Trail – Yallambie/Montmorency

Download a copy at banyule.vic.gov.au/treasure, save them to your device or print your own copy.

Don’t have access to a printer but still prefer a physical map? Send us your name and postal address and we’ll post the maps out to you.

Designed and drawn by local artists Lou Endicott and Jodi Wiley.
Art installations coming soon

Look out later this summer as we bring you some 3D art installations around the local neighbourhood.

**SAND SCULPTURES**

We’re bringing the beach to Banyule!
Look out for some mesmerizing large-scale 3D sand sculptures coming to a location near you.
FREE EVENT during February 2021

**URBAN CHALK ART**

Get drawn in to some immersive art. Enjoy a series of outdoor interactive 3D chalk art installations appearing across Banyule. This accessible artistic experience is suitable for all ages and abilities. Jump in and have your photo taken!
FREE EVENT during March 2021

For more details on these two events visit banyule.vic.gov.au closer to the date

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**Creating a new young Market Space**

Banyule Youth has been supporting young makers to get their creations out to a wider audience in its new Market Space.

During COVID-19 restrictions when many business were forced to shut up shop, the team brought makers together online showcasing their wares on its Banyule Youth website and helping out with some social media promotion.

**Madz Designz**

Meet Madeline Fox, the young creative behind Madz Designz.
The Heidelberg resident was looking for things to do while stuck at home during isolation so put her creative energy into designing t-shirts, earrings, bags and drink bottles. A lot of her products can be custom-designed and are sourced form Australian-owned businesses.

Living with Down Syndrome, Madeline saw the opportunity to help the cause and donates $5 for every t-shirt sold to Down Syndrome Victoria.
Visit banyuleyouth.com/MarketSpace to see Madeline and other local makers serving up great gift ideas. Or you may even want to join the Market Space yourself!

“**I love making gifts for people.**”
Disposing of batteries

You may not know, but batteries should never be put in your recycling or waste bin.

Rechargeable batteries and lithium ion batteries are hazardous and could produce sparks that may start a fire in the trucks or recycling facility. They’re also toxic for the environment. Recycle them for **FREE** at our Waste Recovery Centre.

**Sorting out e-waste**

E-waste is anything that you charge, plug in or need batteries to operate.

Items include:
- circuit boards
- power cords
- light bulbs
- electric reclining furniture
- clothing or footwear with lights

**How do I dispose of e-waste?**

It’s always best to see if you can find another home for your items, but if you need to dispose of them, Banyule residents can correctly dispose of them by:

1. **Placing them in your FREE Hard Waste Collection**
   

2. **Take e-waste to the:**
   
   **Banyule Waste Recovery Centre**

   Please note: Some items attract a disposal fee. E-waste items need to be separated before you arrive, preferably on top of your load. Only small quantities accepted - no larger than the rear of a station wagon in volume per customer and/or vehicle per day.

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**Banyule Waste Recovery Centre**

Corner Waterdale Rd and Banksia St, Bellfield

Weekdays: 7.30am to 3.30pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public holidays: 7.30am to 12pm


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*A Banyule waste truck had to empty its load to extinguish a fire.*
Community Climate Action
Shifting ideas into action

Get online and have a look at our Community Climate Action Plan which provides information for households, businesses and schools in Banyule to take climate action. Banyule.vic.gov.au/ClimateAction

You can also get involved in our many programs to help you achieve your climate action goals.

- Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/EnvironmentGrants to see if your community project is eligible for funding
- Visit solarsavers.org.au to get bulk buy discounts on your solar PV install
- Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/HomeHarvest to join a community of gardeners and local food champions
- Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/HouseholdEnergy to find out how you can lower your household emissions and save money
- Sign up to Greenwrap at banyule.vic.gov.au/Greenwrap to stay in the loop about climate action initiatives.

One small step
Taking action on climate change can feel overwhelming. Remember there are many solutions at hand and much can be done on an individual and community level. Take one step at a time and know that you are making a real difference.

Better together
Why not join a friends of group, community garden or transition town? There are plenty of group activities that tackle climate change, including veggie swaps, workshops, planting days and working bees. Find out more at banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup

Save on energy efficient upgrades
We’re reimbursing up to $1500 for your household energy efficiency upgrades. For more information, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/EnergyUpgrades or discuss your upgrade project with our Community Energy Officer on 9455 8813.
Works kick off for new sports facilities

The North East Link Project has started a series of major upgrades across Banyule to keep sports clubs playing while the North East Link gets built.

Works have been carefully planned and designed in collaboration with Banyule Council, local sporting clubs and the community.

**Ford Park, Bellfield**

Stage one has started with the removal of the 1950s grandstand to make way for a new sports pavilion and more parking. Construction has also begun on a new basketball/futsal court and cricket practice nets which are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Other works will include new public toilets, a refurbished southern oval with new sports field lighting, outdoor exercise stations and play equipment.

Yarra Junior Football League will join Ford Park’s other users, Bellfield Cricket Club and Ivanhoe Junior Football Club, when stage one upgrades are complete in mid-2021.

**Binnak Park, Watsonia North**

Upgrades include a new pavilion, natural turf AFL/cricket oval, sports field lighting and new synthetic turf cricket nets, plus improvements to the existing car park.

Plenty Valley Cricket Club and Watsonia Sporting Club will join resident club, Parade St Damien’s Junior Football Club, when works are complete in mid-2021.

**Greensborough Secondary College**

The school will enjoy a new pavilion, a natural turf AFL/cricket oval with a synthetic cricket pitch, a new synthetic soccer pitch, sports field lighting, synthetic turf cricket nets, and a new car park.

Upgrades will accommodate students and several local sports clubs and are expected to be completed by mid-2021.

A new look for Watsonia

We’re excited to start planning a town square for Watsonia and getting ready to welcome a host of improvements to make this local hub even better for residents, traders and visitors.

After successful negotiations with the Victorian Government, Council secured $5.5 million in funding as part of the North East Link Project to enhance this area for the benefit of the community and the viability of this important shopping strip.

We know the area will be significantly impacted by the North East Link Project during the construction phase over the next 6 to 7 years, but with all the changes happening and this significant investment, we have an exciting opportunity to create an even better place for people to shop and enjoy.

In the coming months, we’ll be starting community consultation so make sure you get involved and let us know how you think the town square should look and function. Keep up-to-date at shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au

Shared path upgrade

You’ll also be pleased to know a $3 million upgrade is coming soon to sections of the east-west shared path from Bundoora to the Plenty River Trail in Yallambie. The shared user path will connect with the new town square and the project is expected to start in 2023.

North East Link update

North East Link Early works have started and we’ve already seen some temporary road closures, service relocations and bus route changes in Banyule.

Early works will continue through 2021, with major construction anticipated to start later in 2021 and the project expected to be completed by 2027.

To stay up-to-date with the project, visit northeastlink.vic.gov.au
Connecting through song

Over the past few months, we helped the community come together online, socialising and harmonising through the power of song.

The virtual choir met for a weekly sing-along under the guidance of choir director Eva Popov. “It’s been great,” Heidelberg Heights resident Eva says. “They really wanted to sing and check in.”

Revelling in songs from Scottish folk and soulful gospel, to one of Eva’s compositions, the choir found friendship and its voice.

Good old times

Are you looking to get together with some local people and go on some fun excursions?

Banyule’s Older Adults Recreation Program typically have two outings per months. Some of the excursions have included a trip to the movies, a day at the seaside, visits to wineries and exploring botanic gardens.

Join our mailing list and be the first to know when the 2021 program swings back into action.

Email agefriendly@banyule.vic.gov.au or call 9490 4222.
Ticking all the boxes
We’re happy to announce our Aged and Disability Services has been awarded full accreditation yet again against the Rainbow Tick standards.

Organisations that are Rainbow Tick accredited are committed to constantly improving the quality of care and/or service delivery to their local LGBTI community. This ensures Banyule clients receive inclusive services from day one.

Our staff undertake annual training around inclusiveness and are proud to wear Rainbow Flag pins so clients know they are receiving an LGBTI-friendly service. Staff also know how to respectively ask a client if they have a preferred pronoun. We’ve also implemented an Aged Services LGBTI Framework 2020-2021 to improve our service delivery to LGBTI clients.

Special delivery for our Aged Services’ clients
With social isolation affecting many in the community and acerbated during lockdown, our Aged Services thought clients could use a lift with a surprise gift delivered to their home.

More than 1420 clients were delighted to receive a wellbeing pack which contained some handy personal care products as well as items to encourage mental stimulation. One of the clients told us it was very uplifting to receive a bag of goodies and thanked us for raising her spirits.

Happy 100th Liz!
On 11 October 2020, long-term Heidelberg resident Liz Sanders turned 100.

For the past 10 years, Liz has been a regular participant of Banyule’s Social Support program, attending the Bond Street Centre each Friday to socialise with others and enjoy a program of activities and outings.

In the old days, Liz enjoyed a hit of tennis, water skiing on the bay, and spending time with her family at Dromana.

Staff dropped off a special gift hamper to mark the special occasion back in October.

Congratulations Liz!
Banyule Social Support Program 9499 4795
Register online for kindergarten in 2022

Did you know from the start of 2022, 3-year-old kindergarten will be subsidised for 5 hours by the Victorian Government?

This is great news as kinder will become more affordable for families. There is also a change to how kindergarten places are managed. Council now looks after registrations for 3-year-old as well as 4-year-old kindergarten. Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/kindergartens to register.

- To attend 3-year-old kindergarten in 2022, your child must be born between 1 January 2018 – 30 April 2019. Your child must be 3 years of age by 30 April the year of attendance and can only attend when they are 3 years old.
- To attend 4-year-old kindergarten in 2022 your child must be born between 1 January 2017 – 30 April 2018. Your child must be 4 years of age by 30 April the year of attendance.

Registrations for 2022 places open from 8.30am on Monday 1 March 2021. Please note: registrations are date stamped only and not time stamped.

How to register

The first time you visit the website and commence the registration process you will be required to provide an email address and mobile number; then it’s child’s play to:

- Register your child
- Pay the registration fee
- Change your kindergarten preferences
- Update your details
- Respond to your kindergarten offer

If you have previously registered a child via the portal, please use your existing login and password to enter your new child.

For more information, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/kindergartens or contact our Kindergarten Support Officer on 9490 4222.

Kindergarten Open Day

Saturday 27 February 9am-noon

Come and visit Banyule’s community kindergartens which are opening their doors for a great morning of exploration and fun activities for the kids:

- Learn about the 3 & 4-year-old programs
- Tour the facilities and meet the educators
- Connect with other families in your area

Please note: This event may need to be cancelled depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Please visit banyule.vic.gov.au/KinderOpenDay closer to the date to confirm if the event is proceeding.

Reminder: registrations for 2022 kindergarten open 1 March 2021.
Banyule has seven neighbourhood houses and learning centres providing people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds with places to meet, share, exchange information and learn together. As COVID-19 restrictions may affect operations, please call or visit the website to see what’s currently on offer.

**Contact Community Centre**
Bundoora Hall, Noorong Avenue, Bundoora
9467 6305
contactbundooracomcen.com.au

**Diamond Valley Learning Centre**
Corner of St Helena and Diamond Creek Roads, Greensborough
9435 9060
dvlc.org.au
courses@dvlc.org.au

**Greenhills Neighbourhood House**
Community Drive, Greensborough
9435 9287
coordinator@ghnh.org.au
ghnh.org.au

**Livingstone Community Centre**
1 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe
9497 2014
community@livingstone.org.au
livingstone.org.au

**Olympic Adult Education**
21 Alamein Road and
233 Southern Road, Heidelberg West
9450 2665
olympic@oae.vic.edu.au
oae.vic.edu.au

**Rosanna Fire Station Community House**
232 Lower Plenty Road, Rosanna
9458 1935
office@rfsch.org.au
rfsch.org.au

**Watsonia Neighbourhood House**
47 Lambourn Road, Watsonia
9434 6717
admin@watsonianh.org.au
watsonianh.org.au

Pursue your passion
Prepare now for fire season

As we saw last summer at Plenty Gorge, fires are a major threat not just in rural areas.

Here are some tips to prepare your property:
• clean your gutters
• trim tree branches and shrubs close to your house
• cut grass to below 10cm
• clear up leaves and debris
• store flammable liquids away from the house

Avoid separation anxiety in your dog or cat

A lot of us are returning to work and won’t be at home as much as we used to be.

While this may be a welcome change for us, it could be a big shock to our beloved dogs and cats who’ve enjoyed spending much more time with us.

Here are some tips to ease the anxiety:
• Start changing your routine to better reflect your work schedule.
• Leave them some puzzle treats and self-play toys to keep them entertained while you’re away.
• Take your dog for long walks still.

If you have problems, speak to your vet or pet behaviourist for advice.

Have a plan

Knowing what you are going to do, and when you are going to do it equips you for the unexpected. There is no time to plan once the fire starts burning.

For information, visit cfa.vic.gov.au
We’ve seen a lot more people riding, walking and scooting on our shared paths recently. So now, more than ever, we need to be mindful of other shared path users.

A shared path is designed to be used by everyone of all ages and paces. It’s important that:

• All users keep left, except when overtaking;
• Cyclists give way to pedestrians, ring their bell when overtaking and ride at a safe speed;
• People move off the path when stationary; and
• Dogs are controlled on a leash.

Remember, kids, dogs and inexperienced riders can make unpredictable and sudden movements!

As a cyclist if you aren't comfortable with a slower pace, consider taking another route. The Banyule TravelSmart Map features on-road bike lanes as well as shared paths. You can order a printed pocket-sized copy from transport@banyule.vic.gov.au and we will post it to your home.
Welcome to your smart city

As technology gets smarter, so too are councils by utilising the Internet of Things (IoT) network to get real-time data to make cities more liveable and sustainable.

Over the past two years, Banyule Council, together with Whittlesea, Moreland, Nillumbik and Mitchell councils, La Trobe and RMIT universities and industry partner Minnovation, collaborated in Victoria’s largest open IoT network as part of an Australian Government-funded Northern Melbourne Smart Cities Network project.

With 294 sensors collecting data across the five local government areas, councils can monitor and share data and insights to improve service efficiency via an integrated IoT network.

Different types of sensors collect real-time data on a variety of aspects of how people interact with our cities. Not only has the system helped councils run more efficient services from day one, it is improving how councils plan and deliver services and infrastructure in the future.

Cat desexing program wins award

Banyule recently got its paws on a Jetpets’ Companion Animal Rescue Award for its innovative cat de-sexing program.

The free cat desexing program, including microchipping and first-year registration, has been running since 2013. The program addresses over-population and high euthanasia rates among cats in Banyule, with 780 cats de-sexed to date.

Banyule took out the Community Education and Outreach Program category for its holistic community-based approach which delivered amazing results on a small budget.

Did you know? Council runs its free cat desexing program twice a year. Call 9490 4222 to register on a waiting list.

Smart sensors in Banyule

Waste collection – monitor bin levels in public places to be more efficient and empty only when full, plus help identify future bin locations.

Occupancy counting – estimate the number of people visiting public areas, such as libraries and parks, to improve maintenance and plan future investment.

Air quality – monitor pollution levels to improve public health and better understand the impact of urban planning, heat islands and bushfires.

Water level – record trends in water levels to monitor flood levels and improve public safety. (pictured above right: sensor at Kalparrin Gardens).

This project has kick started Banyule’s smart cities journey and Council is looking to expand the IoT sensor network and integrate a range of new sensors to drive the future smart cities transformation.

This Northern Melbourne Smart Cities Network project won two Smart City awards in October 2020: a MAV Technology Award for Excellence; and an IoT Alliance Australia Award.

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Bushland diaries

Boosting Banyule’s biodiversity

With friends group planting events postponed due to the pandemic, staff from Banyule’s closed leisure centres were called in to help plant over 16,500 locally indigenous plants throughout Banyule’s bushland reserves.

Planting included:
• 129 different species
• Reintroduced species of peas, daisies and grasses at Banyule Northern Grassland Reserve
• Reintroduced river swamp wallaby grass at Banyule Flats Reserve
• Species enrichment planting of lilies, peas and daisies at St Helena Habitat Reserve
• River red gums and a range of shrubs at Darebin Creek wildlife corridor

Banyule Leisure staff also joined the Bushland Management Unit and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Narrap Rangers to conduct controlled burns and remove woody weeds across multiple sites throughout the year.

Want to know more about what we’re doing to boost Banyule’s biodiversity?

Visit banyule.vic.gov.au/BMU

Revegetating Banyule Flats Reserve.

Above left: Caesia calliantha - Blue Grass-lily

Bulbine bulbosa - Bulbine Lily

Pimelea humilis - Common Rice-flower

Eryngium ovinum - Blue Devils
Support the businesses that support your community. There’s never been a better time to rediscover what’s great in your local community. Visit RediscoverLocal.com.au and search our online directory for a business near you.

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

Council Service Centres
Our service centre at 1 Flintoff St, Greensborough reopened in November. Rosanna and Ivanhoe service centres remain 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
If you need an interpreter call TIS National on 131 450 and ask to be connected to Banyule Council on 9490 4222.
إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مترجم برجع الاتصال بالخط القومي للترجمة البينانية على الرقم 131 450 وطلب إضافالكم
بلدية بانيول 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

如果你需要口譯員，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 Vijećin 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 Banyule al numero 9490 4222.

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Haddii aad u baahan tahay mutarjum wac khadka qaranka oo ah TIS 131 450 weydiina in lagueedeg Banyule 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 Động Thành Phố Banyule theo số 9490 4222 giũm quý vị.