

Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee |

Minutes



Meeting details

Date of meeting	Wednesday, 1 October 2025
Time	5:30pm – 7:30pm
Venue	Shop 48
Chair/Facilitator	Maddi Miller
Minutes	Kristen Munro

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

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

Inclusive Banyule Statement

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

Attendee

Attendee name	Affiliation/Organisation
Maddison Miller	Committee Member and Co-chair
Uncle Charles Pakana	Committee Member
Uncle Owen Butler	Committee Member
Shelley Ware	Committee Member
Kyralee Murray	Committee Member
Cath Bradley	Committee Member
Kate Nobel	Committee Member
Sue Harris	Committee Member
Cr Peter Castaldo	Councillor Delegate and Co-Chair
Cr Mary O’Kane	Councillor Substitute

Council Staff

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Joseph Tabacco	Director Community Wellbeing
Georgie Meyer	Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities
Zali Mifsud	First Nations Lead and Committee Contact Officer
Kristen Munro	Barrbunin Beek Program and Project Coordinator

Guests

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Cr Alicia Curry	Banyule City Council Councillor
Cr Mark Di Pasquale	Banyule City Council Councillor
Cr Matt Wood	Banyule City Council Councillor
Esther Ziebell	Senior Open Space Officer
Joe Doak	Senior Open Space Planner

Apologies

Name	Affiliation/Organisation
Virginia Issac	Committee Member

Items

1. Introduction 5:30pm – 5:35pm

- Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians
- Inclusive Banyule Statement
- Welcome to members
- Apologies
- Housekeeping
- Conflict of Interest declaration

Discussion

No conflict of interest Declared

2. Confirmation of Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 5:35pm – 5:55pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to report back on actions
- Discussion
- Confirmation of minutes

Action	Update
Action item 1: Add 'Conflict of Interest' to the agenda	Complete
Action item 2: Maddison Miller is appointed as Co-chair	Complete
Action item 3: Make amendments as noted above, recommend amendments to Council	Complete
Action item 4: Update committee for Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee and for First Nations members of other Council Advisory Committees remuneration process at next meeting.	Update: All First Nations peoples on any Committee will be remunerated
Action item 5: Discuss reciprocity, Council's commitment to this committee at next meeting.	Update: To be included in a further meetings.
Action item 6: Committee to be called Banyule First Nations Advisory Committee	Complete
Action item 7: Zali to communicate with everyone about venues for this meeting during the BBAGP closure period.	Complete
Action item 8: Discuss Banyule's current naming policy at a future committee meeting.	Update: Scheduled for December meeting
Action item 9: Council officers to provide an update on concerns raised about Bolden St.	Update: Scheduled for December meeting
Action item 10: Discuss progressing Stolen Generations Marker at next meeting.	Update: August Agenda
Action item 11: Council officers to follow up about concerns about tree placement in Greensborough	Update: Request put to internal Council Unit, awaiting response
Action item 12: Council officers to follow up the reporting of discriminatory comments to the E-safety Commissioner.	Update: Request put into internal Council Unit, awaiting response
Action item 13: Add 'recommended reading/viewing' or similar to agenda.	Complete

Discussion

Confirmation of Minutes

Mover: Uncle Charles Pakana

Seconded: Cath Bradley

Unanimously supported

3. Banyule's Open Space Team 5:55pm – 6:15pm

- Council staff, Esther Zeibel and Joe Doak to present to Committee

Discussion:

Introductions of Esther (Senior Open Space Planner) and Joe Doak (Senior Urban Space Planner). BFNAC is being consulted as the First Nations users of the spaces, with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation already engaged as the Traditional Owner Group.

Group agreed on the importance of innovative and reciprocal approaches to design and acknowledged the team's focus on Caring for Country. Understanding what *Country* means was highlighted as central to planning and engagement.

Discussion held on creating more opportunities for children to explore and connect with Country safely, contributing to the healing of Country as outlined in the Marrageil Strategy. Education was recognised as equally important as design, particularly in sharing knowledge of native flora and fauna, and reinforcing that trees and species are kin.

Wilson Reserve noted as being overtaken by invasive species along the Birrarung, with concerns raised about tree removal linked to sewer works. Acknowledgement that efforts have been made to minimise loss, with only four river red gums removed from private property.

Open Space Team presented three current projects — Malahang Reserve, Rosanna Parklands, and Plenty River Drive Reserve. Consensus reached to focus on Malahang Reserve due to its cultural and community significance, including events such as the Sorry Day Healing Ceremony, higher First Nations population, and proximity to Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place. Recommendation made to bring the project to the Barrbunin Beek Committee of Management for further consultation with local community members.

Discussion supported incorporating Kulin seasonal themes, native flora and fauna education, and soundscapes into design, with these elements to be considered across all three projects.

Three engagement opportunities identified: through the Shaping Banyule online platform, consultation with First Nations community groups such as Barrbunin Beek, and ongoing collaboration with this committee. Agreement that engagement should be creative, culturally grounded, and inclusive to ensure meaningful participation by mob.

Action

Banyule Council Officer to coordinate a discussion with the BBAGP Committee of Management about the Malahang Reserve project.

Banyule Council Officer to share links of the engagement from Shaping Banyule with the Committee.

4. Marrageil Strategy Report Discussion 6:15pm – 6:40pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to share report and ask for feedback
- Discussion

Discussion:

Discussion held on the process and timing of the Action Plan being returned to Council every 12 months. It was clarified that this will occur as a Council briefing rather than a full Council meeting.

Agreement that a sub-committee should be established to support the ongoing implementation of the plan.

Discussion also held on the public release of the report via the Council website, with the intention of developing a public-facing scorecard. Reference made to Closing the Gap, which is already creating a similar framework.

What's Next:

- Wurundjeri Partnership Agreement: Will place Banyule Council in a strong position to negotiate Treaty with Wurundjeri in the future.
- Aboriginal Housing Victoria: Removal of rates from AHV residences in Banyule will support greater self-determination.
- Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians: To remain a standing priority.
- Stolen Generations Marker: To be discussed under the next agenda item.
- Artwork: Committee representation to be included on the artwork selection panel.
- Procurement: Ongoing commitment to embed culturally appropriate practices.

Concern raised that the term "complete" in the report appears too final, as several actions are ongoing.

Motion: That the report be endorsed for submission to Council.

Moved: Shelley Ware

Seconded: Uncle Charles Pakana

Outcome: Unanimously supported.

Council Officer to note the endorsement of the Marrageil First Year Achievement Reports report and Year 2 Action Plan.

5. Stolen Generations Marker Discussion (Marrageil Action FY) 6:40pm – 6:55pm

- Council Officer, Zali Mifsud to share on topic

Discussion:

Introduction of the Stolen Generations Marker by Uncle Charles Pakana, who emphasised the importance of such a marker for the Banyule community. The marker is not to be viewed as a symbol of guilt, but as an act of recognition and truth-telling, acknowledging what has occurred and contributing to collective healing. The committee expressed strong support for Council to move forward with this initiative.

It was noted that the engagement process will take time, as demonstrated by other LGAs that have undertaken similar projects. The process must be done properly, with meaningful input from local Stolen Generations survivors, families, and community members, ensuring the marker reflects Banyule's identity and story.

Uncle Owen highlighted that these spaces provide a place of healing, offering an opportunity for Stolen Generations and their families to sit, reflect, and connect. It was agreed that the location and design should provide sufficient space for gathering and reflection, and that engagement with Wurundjeri will be pivotal in determining an appropriate site.

The committee requested regular updates on the project's progress and agreed to form a sub-working group to guide the process more closely.

Volunteers for the Sub-Working Group:

- Uncle Charles Pakana
- Shelley Ware

- Uncle Owen
(with the option to include additional members as the project progresses)

Action:

Council Officer to establish a sub-working group to commence planning for the Stolen Generations Marker.
Council Officer to send community engagement reports from other local governments who have completed a Stolen Generations Marker.

6. General Business 6:55pm – 7:15pm

- Call for any general business items
- Call for any readings / viewing

Discussion:

Inclusive Employment Program: IEP commencing its recruitment- Council Officer will be sending through information via email to encourage any local community to engage

Closing the Gap Scorecard Webinar: Workshop invite from Lisa Briggs for Closing the Gaps webinar about the new scorecard initiative

Remuneration: Need to set up new Committee members on the system, remuneration fees can also be repurposed to other budgets needs to be sent in writing via email.

Additional Observers at Tonight's meeting: Peter highlighted that there is a lot of interest from other councillors about this committee and introduced guest Cr Di Pasquale, Cr Wood and Cr. Curry are attending as observers tonight. "When people are informed, they make better decisions"

Treaty: Raised concerns about misinformation with Treaty process and the importance that this council is educated about what this means. Recommendations to listen VAN podcast about Treaty is a great way to learn and keep updated on that.

Committee discussed possibility of this being something we can have in the Banyule Banner

Requested that BFNAC is kept updated on dates when this will be presented at Council

Also highlighted that local reconciliation groups such as Reconciliation Banyule have a lot of volunteers that want to support education about Treaty

Viewings / Readings

Watch: First Inventors

View: 6500 years of Art exhibition at Melbourne University

Action:

Council Officer to send through IEP information when it is available.

Council Officer to send through invitation for Closing the Gap Scorecard Webinar.

7. Close and date of next meeting 7:15pm – 7:20pm

- Confirm Actions arising
- Close meeting
- Next Meeting: December 3rd - Shop48