

# Banyule Banner

December 2023

- 
- 3 Carols by Candlelight
- 
- 6 Waste-wise Christmas
- 
- 23 Bushland diaries



# Mayor's Message

## Mayor Cr Tom Melican



My passion for serving the people of Banyule has not dimmed in my 20 years as a councillor. It's a privilege to be elected mayor, with Cr Garotti as Deputy Mayor. There is much work to do.

### A strong advocate for Banyule

Council will continue to work with other levels of government to secure better outcomes for our community.

Some of our current priorities include better outcomes from North East Link, funding to electrify our leisure centres, improvements to our network of cycling and shared paths, housing affordability and planning decisions.

### An inclusive and connected community

Banyule is an amazing community. Our residents volunteer in numbers above the average and they are passionate about making Banyule an even better place to live and work.

Council remains committed to providing services and opportunities for everyone in our community.

This includes fundamental services for every age, from Maternal and Child Health to programs for older adults, to inclusive sports and opportunities for those facing barriers to employment.

Our cultural programs and community events celebrate the diversity of our community. The recent Malahang Festival was a fine example of this and I hope I'll see many of you at Carols by Candlelight.

### Protecting our environment

Banyule is a leader in caring for the natural environment. We are building biodiversity, increasing our urban forest and protecting green spaces. We've made great progress in diverting waste from landfill and we're steadily working towards our goals of being a carbon neutral

organisation by 2028 and a carbon neutral community by 2040.

Two priorities over the next year will be our Climate Change Adaptation Framework and the Banyule Neighbourhood Character Strategy.

### Stable and responsible leadership

Banyule remains in a stable and secure financial position despite challenging times. We have fantastic staff and executive leadership and a committed group of councillors.

Thanks to outgoing Mayor Cr Peter Castaldo and Deputy Mayor Cr Alida McKern for their contributions over the past year. Thanks also to my fellow councillors and to the Banyule community for placing their trust in me.

My commitment to you is to do my best at all times and to bring this Council together to work towards an even better Banyule.

## Stay in touch with us online

 Email newsletters

[banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe)



@BanyuleCouncil

## Have your say on important projects and local initiatives

 [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au)

## Council Meetings

 Upcoming dates:  
11 December  
5 February 2024

 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](https://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. We are committed to access, equity, participation and rights for everyone; principles which empower, foster harmony and increase the wellbeing of an inclusive community.

COVER: Family enjoying Carols by Candlelight 2022



## A community celebration

Everyone is warmly invited to come together to enjoy the spirit of Christmas at this free event.

Santa has agreed to arrive much earlier this year, after you told us this was a better time for families and children.

There are free photos with Santa, face painting and craft activities.

### The entertainers:

- Denis Walter, singer and host of 3AW's Nights
- vocal powerhouse Carla Troiano
- Australian Idol and Voice finalist Ricky Muscat
- Australian Children's Choir
- Diamond Valley Brass Band
- Celia & Friends with special guest Santa!

Bring a chair or rug and a picnic, or purchase food and drinks from the onsite food trucks. Grab an LED candle and songbook (with a gold coin donation to the Banyule Children's Appeal) and get ready to sing along.

This event is proudly supported by

**Jellis  
Craig**

**Dust off your carolling voice, grab your picnic rug and get ready to jingle those sleigh bells. Carols by Candlelight is coming to town.**

 **Saturday 16 December, 5pm - 9pm**

 **Greensborough War Memorial Park,  
Henry St, Greensborough**

## Getting there

Accessible parking is in McDowell St and drop off is via Ester St. Public parking is on Henry St and nearby streets. Parking is easy if you ride your bike or catch the train or bus! Plan your journey at [ptv.vic.gov.au/journey](http://ptv.vic.gov.au/journey)

## Accessibility

**This year we have two new options to make Carols an even more accessible event:**

- Bus pick up and drop off for older adults
- Priority seating for older adults, carers and people with a disability or injury

Contact us by 5pm on Monday 11 December to book for the bus or priority seating, phone **9490 4222** or email [enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au)

**As always we support a great night out for all by providing:**

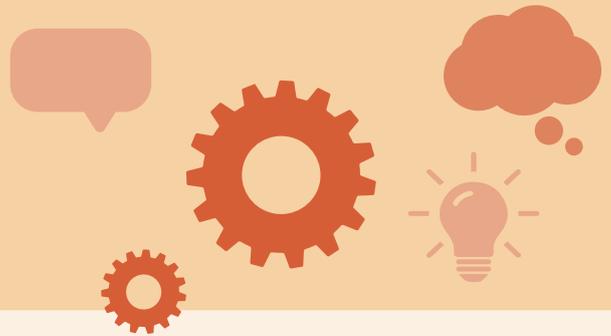
- accessible toilets
- wheelchair/scooter charging station at the info tent
- large screens for better viewing
- Phonic Ear system and noise-cancelling headphones for loan at the info tent
- Auslan interpreters

Please leave your pets at home (assistance dogs welcome).



# Shaping Banyule

## Get involved in local projects



## A plan for our public spaces

Banyule's Public Realm Strategy is a road map for making our public areas enjoyable, functional and sustainable.

Good public spaces help create active and vibrant communities.

As the first of its kind, the strategy will guide planning and design across the range of spaces that form the public realm. It is also a more efficient way to create spaces that benefit everyone.

### Community Information sessions

**In person:** Wednesday 13 December, 6.30pm - 8pm, at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub

**Online:** Tuesday 12 December, 2pm - 3pm

### Your council contact:

Paty Galan, Senior Urban Designer  
Phone: **8673 4391**  
Email: [paty.galan@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:paty.galan@banyule.vic.gov.au)

### Find out more

Scan the code or head to [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/PublicRealm](http://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/PublicRealm)



## Shaping Banyule's Environment

Council is working on two environmental strategies to reduce emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan will guide us in meeting our target of being a carbon-neutral organisation by 2028 and will define future priorities.

We're also developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan to address the potential impacts of climate change and to identify steps we can take together to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.

We'll be asking you to have your say early next year. Scan the code below and click 'follow' to stay up to date and receive an email when consultation starts.

### Your council contacts:

Abdul Ahad, Corporate Emissions Reduction lead  
Phone: **9490 4253**  
Email: [abdul.firoze@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:abdul.firoze@banyule.vic.gov.au)

Rowena Cairns, Community Climate Action Lead  
Phone: **9242 3457**  
Email: [rowena.cairns@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:rowena.cairns@banyule.vic.gov.au)

### Find out more

Scan the code or head to [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ClimateResponse](http://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ClimateResponse)



## Have your say and shape your community

We're committed to working with our community to build and strengthen relationships that inform and help make decisions.

To have your say on local projects and activities, sign up to Shaping Banyule at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au](http://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au) or scan the code.





## North East Link: Council fights for a better deal for Banyule

**Council has told the Victorian Government that North East Link plans must be changed to enhance amenity, improve connectivity and make better use of land as the freeway passes through Banyule.**

Responding after the release of the designs for the northern section of North East Link, Council said Watsonia was the only section of the 28-kilometre freeway where 18 lanes would be squeezed between a shopping village and a residential area, with limited green space or trees to soften the landscape.

The design for this section of road was significantly less appealing than any other section of North East Link and, in Council's opinion, did not meet the guidelines that the State Government promised would be delivered for the Watsonia community.

Failure to cover the trench at Watsonia, as advocated for by Council, the community and Watsonia traders, would result in less connectivity and reduced amenity and would further divide the community.

Council expressed disappointment that this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build infrastructure to provide an accessible, sustainable and thriving community for the future had not been embraced.

Furthermore, Council said the delayed release of plans for the Watsonia Station area made it hard to assess just how poor the accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists into the Watsonia shopping centre precinct would be.

View Council's submission on the North East Link plans at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/northeastlink](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/northeastlink)

## Fit to celebrate a century at Ivanhoe Aquatic

Will Semler could be considered a late bloomer when it comes to personal fitness, but he's quickly proven to be a stayer.

Mr Semler and his wife Gwen were both in their 90s when they attended their first gym session at Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre in 2015.

On walking through the gates Will was greeted at reception by Helen Avram, whom he had employed in her first ever job when she was a teenager.

Mr Semler was losing a battle with the treadmill when health club team leader Stewart Morrith suggested his new Seniors Strength and Stretch class would be a supportive and safe environment for Gwen and Will to build their strength.

They became regulars and Mr Semler became known for the postcard drawings he made while having coffee with his gym buddies before or after class.

His commitment to strength and health has endured the loss of his beloved Gwen, the COVID pandemic, when he was a regular at online classes, and being hit by a car late last year, after which he was left with injuries that forced him to stop walking to Ivanhoe Aquatic from his home in Ivanhoe.

Mr Semler (centre, below) celebrated his 100th birthday with gym staff and fitness friends at Ivanhoe Aquatic last month.

He's still a regular, but now he gets a lift.

Find a class to suit you: [banyule.vic.gov.au/leisurecentres](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/leisurecentres)



# A waste-wise Christmas guide



## Managing food waste this holiday season

Plan and purchase only what you need to reduce overconsumption and waste. Use your freezer for food that won't last the distance.

Pop unavoidable food waste in your FOGO bin or compost it to add extra nutrients to your own garden. Remember, your FOGO bin can take bones, seafood and shells.

To help manage your FOGO bin during the warmer months, try these tips:

- Let hot food cool down before placing it in your caddy or bin.
- Put grass clippings or garden prunings in the bin first before adding food waste, and in layers between food waste.
- Store bin in the shade if possible.
- Make sure the bin lid stays closed and don't overfill it.
- Store food waste such as meat and seafood in the fridge or freezer until bin night.

For more tips and tricks, visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/FOGO](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/FOGO)

## Christmas recycling offenders

Don't go on Santa's naughty recycler list! When decorating or gift-giving, we encourage you to choose items that can be recycled or composted.

### What can be recycled?

Wrapping paper, cards, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, steel tins, aluminium cans and foil and glass bottles can all go in your recycling bin (yellow lid).



### What to put in your rubbish bin

Silver lined (plastic) wrapping paper, ribbons, bubble wrap, plastic gift bags, cellophane, polystyrene, tinsel, crepe paper and balloons need to be placed in your rubbish bin (red lid).



## Waste Recovery Centre: Christmas operating hours

Fri 22 Dec	7.30am - 11am
Sat 23 Dec	7.30am - 12pm
Sun 24 Dec	7.30am - 12pm
Mon 25 Dec	Closed
Tues 26 Dec	7.30am - 12pm
Wed 27 Dec	7.30am - 3.30pm

307 Waterdale Rd, Bellfield

[banyule.vic.gov.au/WasteRecoveryCentre](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/WasteRecoveryCentre)

## Kerbside collections over Christmas

Kerbside bins will not be collected on Christmas day (**Monday 25 Dec**). Bin collections in the week of Christmas will be one business day later than usual. For example, the usual Friday collection will be on **Thursday 28 December**.

Collections will return to their regular day in the week commencing **Monday 31 December**.



## Free Christmas tree disposal in January

Dispose of your Christmas tree for free at Council's Waste Recovery Centre in Bellfield and we'll turn it into nutritious compost along with your FOGO waste. Please don't try to put the whole tree in your FOGO bin, as this may prevent your bin from being emptied. Smaller trees may be cut up and placed in your FOGO bin.

\*Free drop-off is for real living Christmas trees, not plastic fake trees!

# Banyule Citizen of the Year

## Michelle Giovas is the Banyule Citizen of the Year for 2023 in recognition of a decade of outstanding volunteer work.

The Award celebrates the contributions of a person whose service and commitment has benefited our community, as Michelle has done with passion and energy. She has brought her considerable professional experience in the environmental field to her voluntary work.

Michelle has been involved with a wide range of Banyule community groups and committees. She has been a committee member of Warringal Conservation Society, Montmorency Community Group and the Montmorency Biodiversity Group as well as being the current President of Friends of Banyule. Michele took part in several Banyule Council Stakeholder Groups and has been a community representative on the North East Link Project Community Liaison Group and the Level Crossing Removal Project Landscape Committee.



## Having a fundraiser? Donate local

### Are you looking for a local charity to support at your next fundraiser?

You can make a difference to your local community by donating to the Banyule Community Fund, a new non-profit fund that supports local non-profit organisations and people in need in Banyule.

You can choose to direct your donation to a specific area that aligns with your priorities, such as emergency relief, homelessness or mental health support.

### Teeing off for local causes

Latrobe Golf Club donated money raised at its annual Women's Charity Day to the Banyule Community Fund.

Women's President Janet Vincent said the Banyule Community Fund provided a unique opportunity to contribute to the community.

"We're really looking forward to making a difference to the lives of local people. Supporting the community is very important to our members," Janet said.

Banyule Community Fund is a registered charity. Tax-deductible and non-tax-deductible donations are accepted.



To donate to the Banyule Community Fund, scan the QR code or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/BCF](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/BCF)

Email: [banyulecommunityfund@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:banyulecommunityfund@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
Phone: 9490 4222





## A smile and a safe crossing with Lesia

**“Good morning! Enjoy your day.” That’s the cheery daily greeting to the Viewbank Primary School community from school crossing supervisor, Lesia Zelinka.**

She’s been helping students get to school safely for more than two years and greets most of the regulars by name. It’s a family affair, with husband Wally supervising another nearby crossing for eight years.

“Getting to know the kids and their parents is the best part of the job,” says Lesia. “You get to meet everyone – kids, adults, dogs.”

At the busy Winston Street crossing, nearby residents wave to Lesia as they come and go during the morning rush. She keeps an eagle eye out for the late-comers who rush up as the school bell rings.

While the weather can sometimes be a challenge for a school crossing supervisor, Lesia said the uniform provided by Council keeps her comfortable.

A bonus of the job is that it keeps Lesia active. “I do quite a lot of steps each day,” she says.

### School crossing supervisors needed

Do you enjoy working outdoors and meeting new people? Would you like some extra income and have free time before and after school? We’re on the lookout for responsible and reliable individuals to join our team of casual school crossing supervisors across Banyule. We’ll train you and provide a uniform.

If you’re interested, phone our Customer Service team on **9490 4222**.

## Active to School in Banyule

**Congratulations to the Banyule schools who have completed a month-long Active to School program to encourage more walking, cycling and scooting to school.**

Ivanhoe East Primary pupils are already seasoned active travellers. Last year saw a 30% increase in sustainable transport during their month-long program. The school aimed to top that success this year with competitions for most active class and most active individual student.

In Heidelberg West, St Pius X Primary School students took the whole school for morning walks around the neighbourhood, getting in their steps and connecting with community in the process. The well-organised and integrated program included a meet and greet with Heidelberg Community Police, health and wellbeing sessions with the Banyule Community Health Promotion team and the Aboriginal Health team, a road safety session with the RACV and a walkathon.

To find out how your school can get involved in Active to School in Banyule, contact the Sustainable Transport Education Officer at [activetravel@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:activetravel@banyule.vic.gov.au)





**The Banyule community has a proud 25-year tradition of generously donating to support local children and families experiencing financial hardship.**

Diamond Valley Community Support is coordinating Banyule Children's Gift Appeal this year.

DVOS is accepting new toys, books and gifts, as well as cash donations for gift cards.

**You can donate at any of these locations:**

- Diamond Valley Community Support, Shop 378a, Level 3, Greensborough Plaza
- West Heidelberg Community Hub, 155 Oriel Rd, Heidelberg West
- WaterMarc entrance, ground floor, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough
- Watsonia Library, 4/6 Ibbottson Street Watsonia
- Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe
- Rosanna Library Pop-up, 56 Beetham Parade, Rosanna.

DVOS is also seeking cash donations for gift cards for children so that families can choose the perfect gift for each child.

To make a cash donation, please scan the code.



## Gambler's Help

**Know someone who needs help because of gambling harm? Banyule Community Health at West Heidelberg and Greensborough offers confidential support for people experiencing harm from their gambling and for those affected by someone else's gambling.**

They provide support and community education services for people affected by harm from gambling. Services include confidential counselling, peer connection and support groups and high school education programs.

"There are nine gaming venues and 634 electronic gambling machines in Banyule," said Community Engagement Workers Alisa Huynh.

"In 2022/23, community members in Banyule lost \$57.2 million in these venues; equivalent to \$568 per adult."

Gambling can impact anyone, not just the person who gambles. Research shows that gambling affects lower-income and vulnerable groups more than others. For every person experiencing harm, six to ten other people are affected.

For more information about support services, visit [bchs.org.au/services/gambling-support](https://bchs.org.au/services/gambling-support)

Phone: 1300 133 445

Email: [ghnintake@bchs.org.au](mailto:ghnintake@bchs.org.au)

### Banyule's response to gambling and gambling-related harm

We have drafted a Gambling Policy to help Council take steps to prevent gambling harm in Banyule. We are also advocating to the State Government to introduce gambling reforms to reduce harm.

To find out more about the Gambling Policy visit [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Gambling](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Gambling)

### Sign up to our e-newsletter

Get more local stories and up-to-date information straight to your inbox.

- Hear about important Council decisions
- Find out about Council services
- Discover new places to visit and activities to do

### Subscribe now

Scan the code or go to [banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe)





# Environment grant makes a splash at Greenhills

**Greenhills Preschool in Greensborough has a fantastic new outdoor learning environment with the help of an Environment Grant from Banyule Council.**

Introducing water play into the kindergarten's playground has created a space where children can engage in natural play. Two new rainwater taps enable pre-schoolers to use water collected on site, rather than mains water, for water play. The addition complements the kindergarten's other outdoor features, including a mud kitchen, native plants and a sandpit.

Young learners at Greenhills now have an array of activities that encourage them to explore and learn about the world around them. They can immerse themselves in imaginative adventures, mixing mud, splashing water, and tending to plants, all while developing essential skills and fostering an appreciation for nature.

Environment Grants are available to local individuals and groups for projects that benefit our environment and community. If you have an idea for a local environmental project, the next round of funding will open in mid 2024.

Find out more about environment grants and some of the other great projects that local community groups have created at [banyule.vic.gov.au/Grants](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/Grants)



## Save on Solar

Want to install solar power at your home or business without the hassle? Banyule Council is a member of Solar Savers, a bulk-buy program that makes it easier for local residents and businesses to install a solar energy system and reduce the risk and complexity of choosing a provider. Solar Savers provides high quality solar PV systems at affordable prices and helps navigate the government rebates that are available. It is a local government initiative to make going solar easier in participating Council areas.

To learn more about Solar Savers, visit [solarsavers.org.au](http://solarsavers.org.au) or email [Energy.Info@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:Energy.Info@banyule.vic.gov.au)



# Lizard springs to life

Members of Barrabun Beek Men's Mob celebrate the sculpture in Nellie Ibbott Reserve.

## A new sculpture in Ivanhoe captures the spirit of Banyule's lizards as a tribute to lost habitat and a reminder to care for local wildlife.

Council engaged local indigenous artist Phillip Howe to create the sculpture in-situ, engaging with the local community as they watched the lizard come to life in Nellie Ibbott Reserve, Ivanhoe. It replaces a beloved lizard sculpture that had weathered beyond repair.

"I wanted to capture the spirit of different lizards, including the skink, because it is often the first lizard that kids encounter in the backyard, developing their connection with nature.

"If you have a connection with nature, you are more likely to look after it," said Mr Howe.

The manna gum used came from Banyule's timber repurposing program, which gives new life to lopped or

fallen trees. The tree has spiritual significance for many indigenous groups in Victoria, including the local Wurundjeri, who take their name from 'wurun', the Woi-wurrung name for the manna gum, and 'dieri', the grub found in the tree.

"To the Wurundjeri, these significant spiritual trees were their local supermarket, pharmacy and hardware store," said Mr Howe.

"Its timber made excellent tools and cultural implements, its bark made homes, its hollows and surrounds were amply stocked with animals, eggs, honey, and many bush medicines. I try to keep the integrity of the tree, incorporating its forms in the sculpture and repeating its patterns and markings."

The markings on the sculpture reference the three important local rivers – the Plenty, Darebin and Birrarung/Yarra – and traditional camp sites along their banks.

Council will complete the upgrade with nature play areas and new planting around the sculpture, which Mr Howe said he hoped would be used by residents for sitting and climbing, as was its predecessor.

## Community Satisfaction Survey

Each year, all councils in Victoria participate in a Victorian Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

This is a telephone survey of 400 randomly selected Banyule residents who provide feedback on our services and other areas of importance.

It allows Council to track how we are going from year to year and we use the feedback to improve service delivery to the community.

Now in its 25th year, the survey is conducted by National Field Services on behalf of JWS Research.

The 2024 survey will take place from late January to March. Calls usually come from a number with the prefix (03) 9977 and never a mobile number.

Participation is optional, anonymous, and appreciated.



For more information, scan the QR code, phone **9490 4222** or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/CommunitySatisfaction](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/CommunitySatisfaction)



# Supporting Banyule

**Council delivers more than 100 different community services.  
We're introducing you to the different ways we are supporting Banyule.**

## Council delivers hundreds of services, but did you know we help other community organisations deliver many more?

There are many agencies and outreach services doing great work in our community and Council has a Community Partnerships team that works with them to support and further their efforts.

"We are helping the services that make a real difference," said Community Partnerships Coordinator, Ellen Kessler. Banyule's Community Partnerships team is based at The Harmony Centre at Shop 48 in the Mall, West Heidelberg. A welcoming community space with meeting rooms and a community information service, it's a hive of activity any time of day, except for half-an-hour at 1pm, when it closes for lunch break. Many of the agencies and outreach services Council supports are based here, including:

- BANSIC (Banyule Support and Information Centre) – emergency relief, Foodhub, social support programs
- Interact – disability employment service provider
- CVGT Australia – training and job placement service
- Himilo Community Connect – programs for and by the Somali community
- Merri Outreach Support Service – support for people experiencing homelessness
- Somali Australian Council of Victoria – support for newly migrants and refugees
- Uniting – community services arm of the Uniting Church
- Somali Voice - support for the local Somali community

## Neighbourhood Houses

The Community Partnerships team works with Banyule's seven neighbourhood houses to help them meet funding and governance responsibilities, train staff and design programs.

A community focal point bringing residents together for leisure and special interest groups, Neighbourhood Houses also offer programs for mental health and wellbeing, support groups for people with disability and skills development such as English for new migrants. The houses played an important role during the pandemic, offering food relief and crisis support, services which continue to be in demand with increasing cost of living pressures.

## Making a community Hub

Making sure Bellfield Community Hub lives up to its name has occupied the Community Partnerships team since its opening nearly a year ago. They're making sure the Hub is buzzing with the services and activities the local community needs and wants. Did you know the Hub has a range of meeting rooms and event spaces for community gatherings and private functions?

## Increasing capabilities

The Community Partnerships team also works to improve the skills and effectiveness of Banyule's many community groups, offering a calendar of training on topics such as governance, volunteer training, customer service and conflict management.

"Our customer is the community and that's who we are trying to lift up," said Ms Kessler, pictured below at Shop 48 with team members Michael Finney, left, and Hafsa Abukar, right.

## Community Housing

Banyule is excited to welcome the first residents of the community housing development next to Bellfield Community Hub. A joint project of Council, the Victorian Government and Launch Housing, it has around 50 units, common areas and gardens. The community partnerships team coordinates conversations between new social housing developments and support agencies to get the best outcomes for our community.





**Council has joined with Exodus Community and BANSIC to host a community Christmas Day lunch at Bellfield Community Hub.**

It's a tradition for Cr Fiona Mitsinikos and her family to volunteer at the lunch. She is pictured with Exodus volunteers James and Karen, seated, in the garden at the Hub. The lunch will cater for up to 100 people who are alone or apart from loved ones and who may otherwise not be able to celebrate Christmas.

**Bookings:**

Call in at Shop 48 in The Mall, West Heidelberg

Phone: **8582 9501**

Email: [shop48enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:shop48enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au)



**Banyule Support and Information Centre, better known as BANSIC, has seen a steady increase in demand for its services due to the pandemic and rising cost of living.**

BANSIC is based at Shop 48 and is part-funded by Council. At its nearby Foodhub in Oriel Rd volunteers Merryn, Peter and Lyn make up packs of groceries for those in need. Demand for food relief has grown by 200 per cent over the past three years.





# Croquet on a high

**As it celebrates its 110th birthday, Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club has never been stronger. With 75 members and counting, membership is as high as it has ever been and the club is attracting new members through regular open days, social events and family days.**

Described as a mix of chess and snooker played on grass, croquet was developed in Ireland. When imported to Melbourne it was originally conceived as a game for ‘ladies of leisure’ whose menfolk were busy on neighbouring tennis courts, cricket ovals and football fields.

Ivanhoe Park is now very much a mixed club with men and women playing each other on an equal footing. As president Nick Downes says, the game is as much about cunning strategy as hitting the ball straight.

“They say you don’t make friends playing croquet, but we all get on very well.”

Established in November 1913, the club celebrated 110 years with an afternoon tea at its heritage-listed clubhouse on the hill in Ivanhoe Park.

Council is advocating for State Government assistance to fund upgrades for the club including a larger clubhouse – the present clubhouse cannot accommodate the burgeoning membership – lighting, accessibility improvements and a third court, as well as upgrades to make the existing courts regulation size.

## Uluru Statement Commitment

At the 5 December Council meeting, Council unanimously voted to commit to formally endorse and adopt the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full.

Council identified that it could play a pivotal role in facilitating the discussion surrounding Voice, Treaty and Truth as well as the referendum. Through information sharing and education, Council provided community members and staff with the greatest opportunity to be informed and therefore equipped to make their

own decisions surrounding the referendum.

Council’s endorsement of the Uluru Statement from the Heart was its next step in reconciliation with Australia’s First Nations peoples. This work will continue to be achieved through its advocacy and endorsement of the Statement and through the development of its inaugural localised self-determination strategy.

On 14 October, the referendum outcome identified a majority “no” to a Voice to Parliament.

Council moving forward will continue to play it’s identified role to educate and share information about all elements of the Uluru Statement from the Heart; Voice, Treaty and Truth.



Or Mark Di Pasquale spies something worth reporting in Watsonia.



## Annual Report 2022/23

The Annual Report shows Council's progress towards the goals in our Council Plan and Budget.

Council remains in a sound financial position in challenging times.

We've delivered hundreds of services and many projects designed to benefit and improve Banyule.

We've completed major projects like the Bellfield Community Hub (pictured above), continued to upgrade local sports grounds and infrastructure, made improvements to our playgrounds, laid 12,429 bays of footpaths and more than 5000 tonnes of asphalt to improve local roads.

We've created more opportunities for people facing barriers to employment both directly at Council and through our social enterprise projects. Our Arts and Culture Team brought the community together at popular events and nurtured Banyule's creative spirit with a packed program of arts and culture events.

Council has continued to electrify our buildings and vehicles and we're now using 100% renewable energy. We've expanded help for residents and community groups to install solar panels and energy efficiencies. Our new Food Organics and Garden Organics waste collection (FOGO) has been embraced and is diverting waste from landfill and turning it into valuable compost.

We've also continued to provide more ways for our community to be part of planning and decision-making. We've heard from you via in-person and online workshops, surveys, community meetings, walking tours, co-design panels, pop-up information booths and Council meetings.

## You Saw it. Reported it.

**Council has received more than 300 reports from residents since the launch of Banyule's online reporting system at the start of October.**

Dumped rubbish accounted for nearly a third of reports, while abandoned cars and overhanging branches also featured prominently. Other issues brought to Council's attention included roadkill, roaming dogs, damaged footpaths, graffiti and overflowing street bins.

**Council's new See it. Report it. system makes it easier to report issues via mobile phone when you are out and about in Banyule. It only takes a few minutes and is easy as:**

1. visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/ReportIt](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/ReportIt)
2. tell us the address or drop a pin on the map
3. select from the list of commonly reported issues
4. take a photo
5. provide a short description of the problem.

Don't have a smart phone? You can always call us or visit our website.

The Annual Report is available on Council's website.

Scan the code to view a short video summary of the highlights of 2022/23.





# Eco Festival Stallholders

**If you have a home-based business, your own market stall, or are a local service provider or organisation, here's a great stallholder opportunity.**

Eco Festival is a pet and sustainability event with garden-themed activities, market stalls, entertainment, sustainability tips and information. We are looking for stallholders with a pet or environment focus.

The 2024 Eco Festival will be held on **Sunday 17 March, 10am - 4pm** at **Petrie Park, Montmorency.**

To find out more about being a stallholder, contact [arts@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@banyule.vic.gov.au)



## Apply to be part of Chillin' in Banyule 2024

**Chillin' in Banyule is returning in April with a packed program of local musicians performing in Banyule venues.**

As well as providing great entertainment for Banyule residents, Chillin' in Banyule connects local venues and performers, creating lasting networks.

Are you a local musician? Are you interested in programming live music in your café or restaurant? Apply now to be part of Chillin' in Banyule 2024.

**Chillin' in Banyule will take place from Thursday 4 to Sunday 28 April.**



Applications close Sunday 17 December.

To apply, scan the code or head to [banyule.vic.gov.au/Chillin](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/Chillin)





**Banyule Nominee:  
Little Heroes Australia**



**Banyule Nominee:  
PartMaker**



**Young Achiever:  
Crooks Barber Heidelberg**

## Banyule businesses in the running for awards

Save the date for the 2023 Northern Business Achievement Awards 2023 Grand Finale on Thursday 7 December.

Join us in cheering for Banyule's nominees and enjoy inspiring speakers and networking opportunities.

- Little Sports Heroes – sports and development programs for young children
- PartMaker – Heidelberg West manufacturer of custom dental components and small parts
- CROOKS Heidelberg – barber in The Mall, Heidelberg West

See our calendar of business events and stay up to date with the news on business and economic development in Banyule at [banyulebusiness.com.au](http://banyulebusiness.com.au)



## The art of giving: eco-conscious Christmas wrapping

**Did you know that Australians use more than 150,000km of wrapping paper at Christmas?**

This year, make it a season of giving without taking away from the Earth's resources with these tips:

1. Wrap gifts with recyclable paper like newspaper or brown paper.
2. Repurpose materials such as fabrics, textiles or preloved giftbag.
3. Get creative by repurposing – try painting or drawing.
4. Avoid plastic tape. Use wrapping and folding techniques that don't require tape such as the Furoshiki method, a Japanese technique that involves using new or old fabrics to wrap gifts.
5. Reuse jars for small gifts.
6. Instead of plastic ribbons, adorn your gift with natural items like dehydrated fruit and plants.
7. Avoid plastic sticker labels.
8. Make a tea towel wrapping or a reusable tote bag part of the gift.



### Reusable Christmas wrapping workshop

**Wednesday 13 December, 4.30pm - 6.30pm**

**Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub**

Discover the joy of wrapping gifts in personalised reusable fabric and learn the art of eco-conscious gift presentation.

Simone from A Fitting Connection will share how to turn everyday items into stamps for block printing to create a unique gift wrap. Materials are supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own well-loved garments or pillowcases. Suitable for children and adults.

Bookings: [trybooking.com/CNBJH](http://trybooking.com/CNBJH)

# Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

## Events & activities

📍 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe

All events at Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub are free, but please check the website for updates prior to visiting or contact us if you have any questions.

🌐 [banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH)

✉️ [arts@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@banyule.vic.gov.au)

☎️ 9490 4222



### Lego Christmas Display

📅 8 December - 7 January

📍 Art Gallery 275 window display, foyer of ILCH

**Our Lego Christmas windows are back! Each year, we invite Melbourne Lego User Group (MUGs) to create a Christmas display in the window of Art Gallery 275.**

A group of the best and brightest Lego fans, designers and friends in Melbourne, MUGs includes several Lego Masters contestants.

They display their work at community events around Australia and internationally.

Come and visit our Christmas window display this holiday season to see some amazing Lego creations.

Find out more at [banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH)



### Cards of Kindness with Heidi Everett

📅 27 November - 16 December

📍 Yarra Plenty Regional Library branches

Christmas can be a challenging time for many people. Here's a way you can share a friendly message of support.

This December, we invite you to anonymously write a greeting card for a person in the psychiatric unit at the Austin Hospital. Please drop your card in the special post-box at any branch of Yarra Plenty Regional Library from 27 November to 16 December. It will be delivered to the hospital by volunteers.

Yarra Plenty Regional Library service, in partnership with Banyule Council, is running the Cards of Kindness project with local artist and mental health advocate, Heidi Everett.

For more information, please contact Lynne Siejka, phone **9435 2397** or email [watypri@ypri.vic.gov.au](mailto:watypri@ypri.vic.gov.au)

Join our December card making workshop, run as part of Cards of Kindness.

Find out more at [banyule.vic.gov.au/cards\\_of\\_kindness](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/cards_of_kindness)

# 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](mailto:peter.castaldo@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0466 502 698

Traders in East Ivanhoe village, including Beck and Gianni from Chapter One boutique (pictured), are holding a Christmas market with music, entertainment and plenty of Christmas gift ideas.

Make time for a stop at one of the businesses featured in The Age Good Food Guide 2024.

Vinoshis Beverage Shop got a mention

in the best bars, while All Are Welcome was listed among Melbourne's best cafes of 2023 - no mean feat in a city renowned for its bars and cafe culture.

I hope I'll see you there!

## Christmas Fun Day

 **Saturday 16 December**

 **10.30am - 1.30pm**

 **East Ivanhoe village**



**Cr Alison Champion**  
Sherbourne Ward

[alison.champion@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:alison.champion@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0466 486 593

Happy holidays and thank you for another wonderful year in Sherbourne. We've achieved some big things!

Council has completed the upgrade of Were Street, making it safer, greener and more accessible. Were Street Reserve was officially opened in September.

We've built a new baseball diamond and irrigation system at Glenauburn

Park and we've installed new cricket nets at Lower Plenty Oval, pictured.

There are new raised pedestrian crossings outside Montmorency and St Francis Xavier primary schools.

Also in Montmorency, we've added traffic calming measures on Mountain View Road and purchased a building for a new community space in heart of Monty village.



**Cr Fiona Mitsinikos**  
Hawdon Ward

[fiona.mitsinikos@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:fiona.mitsinikos@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0434 891 077

Christmas is such a special time. For most of us it means coming together with loved ones to share a meal and give gifts.

But for some people it can be a difficult time that highlights inequalities or sadness over missing connections.

With the current cost of living pressures, many families will struggle to celebrate the festive season as they would wish.

For some years now, my family and I have volunteered at the Exodus Community Christmas lunch. It's become a highlight of our Christmas Day. Turn to page 13 to read about this important community service, including how to book a seat.

If you can, please consider giving to the The Banyule Children's Gift Appeal (details on page 9).



# Ward Rounds



**Cr Elizabeth Nealy**  
Beale Ward

[elizabeth.nealy@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:elizabeth.nealy@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0435 243 598

I'm looking forward to a fresh new playground area at the popular Larool Avenue Reserve in St Helena. It's being built as part of Council's ongoing playground replacement program.

Council started by asking the community what they felt was important to include in a playground in this area. We received more than 30 responses from local residents.

As well as new playground equipment, there will be a path connecting to Maxine Dve and more shade trees. Community members said they would also like to have fitness equipment in the reserve.

Council's Open Space Planning and Design team are now developing a concept design that will be shared with the community when complete. The new playground will be built in 2024.



**Cr Mark Di Pasquale**  
Bakewell Ward

[mark.dipasquale@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:mark.dipasquale@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0481 002 299

Seen something not quite right while you are out and about in Banyule?

Tell us all about it using our new Report It system. If it's something Council is responsible for, we can start putting it right. Common issues include dumped rubbish, graffiti and overhanging branches.

Report It makes it easy to report something as soon as you see it. It's as

easy taking a photo and ticking a few boxes on our website. Turn to page 15 to find out more.

I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas. I do hope the festive season is a happy and health one for you and your family.

I hope I'll see many of you at Carols by Candlelight on Saturday 16 December (details on page 3).



**Cr Alida McKern**  
Chelsworth Ward

[alida.mckern@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:alida.mckern@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0435 316 318

This year's Halloween Spooktacular had Upper Heidelberg Road buzzing into the night, with more than 3,000 people enjoying the vibrant atmosphere, free treats and entertainment.

Congratulations to the Ivanhoe Traders Association and more than 30 participating traders for such a successful event.

It was Ivanhoe's biggest ever Halloween, with 1300 trick or treat buckets given out by 5pm.

Many families stayed for dinner or grabbed a tasty icecream. It was great to see the new Waterdale Road pocket park being used for the first time as part of an event. Check out what's on in Ivanhoe shopping district at [shopinivanhoe.com.au](http://shopinivanhoe.com.au)



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



**Cr Peter Dimarelos**  
Olympia Ward

[peter.dimarelos@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.dimarelos@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0434 891 065

There's a lot going on in the Bellfield area.

The Bellfield Master Plan is coming to life with the thriving Bellfield Community Hub and community garden and residents moving in to the affordable housing development by Launch Housing (pictured).

Some smaller but important upgrades are happening in the area too.

Daphne Crescent has a new footpath to complete a missing connection between the Hub and Banksia Street.

Another small section of footpath connecting between Ford Park and Davidson Street/Perkins Avenue will be built by the end of the year.

The new paths are part of the 1000km of footpaths that Council provides and maintains throughout Banyule.



**Cr Rick Garotti**  
Grimshaw Ward

[rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0402 846 845

We've had a fantastic response to our new Report It system for logging issues that need attention from Council.

It's simple to use on your smart phone when you are out about in Banyule. The sooner you report something, the quicker we can fix it.

Choose from a list of regular issues such as dumped rubbish, abandoned cars and overhanging branches or

tell us about a different issue you've spotted. Turn to page 15 to find out more.

Of course, you can always report an issue by phoning customer service on 9490 4222.

I will take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and festive season. I look forward to working with you in 2024!



**Cr Tom Melican**  
Ibbott Ward

[tom.melican@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:tom.melican@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0413 043 015

We are fortunate to have some great shopping villages in Banyule. They are local, friendly and convenient and you'll get a great welcome from people like Nuri Sadiku, president of the Macleod Traders Association and proprietor of General Chicken Co.

Council works with traders associations throughout Banyule, providing funding and business

support through our economic development team, Banyule Business. You'll save on petrol, time and stress, support local family businesses and enjoy a more personal exchange when you shop local.

I'll be shopping local this Christmas; I hope I'll see you out and about! Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season.





# Seven Seasons

## Buath Gurru - grass flowering season (November)

The weather is warm, and it is often raining. Kangaroo grass is flowering. *Buliyong* (microbats) are catching insects in flight; you may see them just after dusk. 'Balayang', the indigenous creator being, brother to Bunjil the wedgetail, is also referred to as the bat and features in First Nations people's stories at this time of year.

Male common brown butterflies (pictured below) are flying in the tree canopies and down amongst the kangaroo grass. They are the most common native butterfly you'll see in Banyule gardens this month.

*Coranderrk* (Victorian Christmas bush) is coming into flower.

Cherry ballarts are fruiting, with their dark seed perched on the end of the fruit flesh rather than inside it. They fruit in multicolours – orange, pink, red and purple - on the same bush.

Kookaburras are breeding and calling at dawn and dusk, marking out their family plot. In favourable conditions Kookaburras can live for more than 20 years and have the same partner for life.



## Garrawang – kangaroo apple season (December)

*Garrawang* is one of the seven seasons of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people. The days are getting longer and the nights shorter, alongside warmer weather. *Garrawang* (kangaroo apple, pictured below) is ripening. The fruits of this native solanum, the same genus that includes potatoes, tomatoes and eggplant, are edible only when bright-red-ripe.

There are flowering black wattles, fruiting bushes and dry grasses for weaving. Alliums will be sending up flower stems and if you are quick, you can cut and steam them to eat.

In the garden, fruitlets are developing in the orchard. Greens and brassicas will want to bolt to seed now; if you let them, they may cross-pollinate if you have more than one variety.

*Djulin* (tree goanna) and *Kadak* (snakes) are active now. Snakes will gravitate from long grass to permanent water. If you have pets, reminder to check water bowls. If you have long grasses about, it is time to watch where you step, make plenty of noise as you walk and be aware of the most up to date snakebite action plan for humans and pets.





# Bushland diaries

## Snake safety

### Summer is the peak time for snakes and other reptiles around Banyule's bushland reserves.

Our local reptiles have excellent camouflage and blend in with their environment very effectively. This makes them difficult to spot in bushland areas. To minimise interactions with snakes, we recommend sticking to paths and keeping dogs on lead when walking through bushland reserves over summer. Snakes remain active until around April.

If you see a snake while you're out and about in a bushland reserve, stay calm and still. Make sure the snake has an escape route and appreciate them from a distance.

Reptiles are a vital part of our local ecosystems and snakes in particular help to keep in check populations of potential pest species such as mice. Reptiles are also an important food source for a range of native birds such as kookaburras, which prey on baby snakes and lizards.

The most common species of snake found in Banyule is the Tiger Snake (pictured) which is found in most of our bushland reserves, especially those which include wetlands, rivers, or creeks.

You can help protect and enhance Banyule's biodiversity by joining one of our many environmental friends groups. **Scan the QR code to find one near you.**



**Find out more about what our park rangers do for biodiversity here:**



# BANYULE COMMUNITY FUND

## DONATE YOUR WAY.

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



### SUPPORTED BY



SCAN THE CODE  
TO DONATE NOW  
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  
**Rosanna** 72 Turnham Ave (currently closed)  
COVID-19 restrictions may impact  
operations so please check our  
website for up-to-date information.  
Our customer service staff can  
also assist you over the phone.

### Hearing or speech impaired

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

## Interpreter service

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

Ako vi treba prevedувач  
ве молиме јавете се на  
TIS NATIONAL на 131 450 и  
замолете 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.