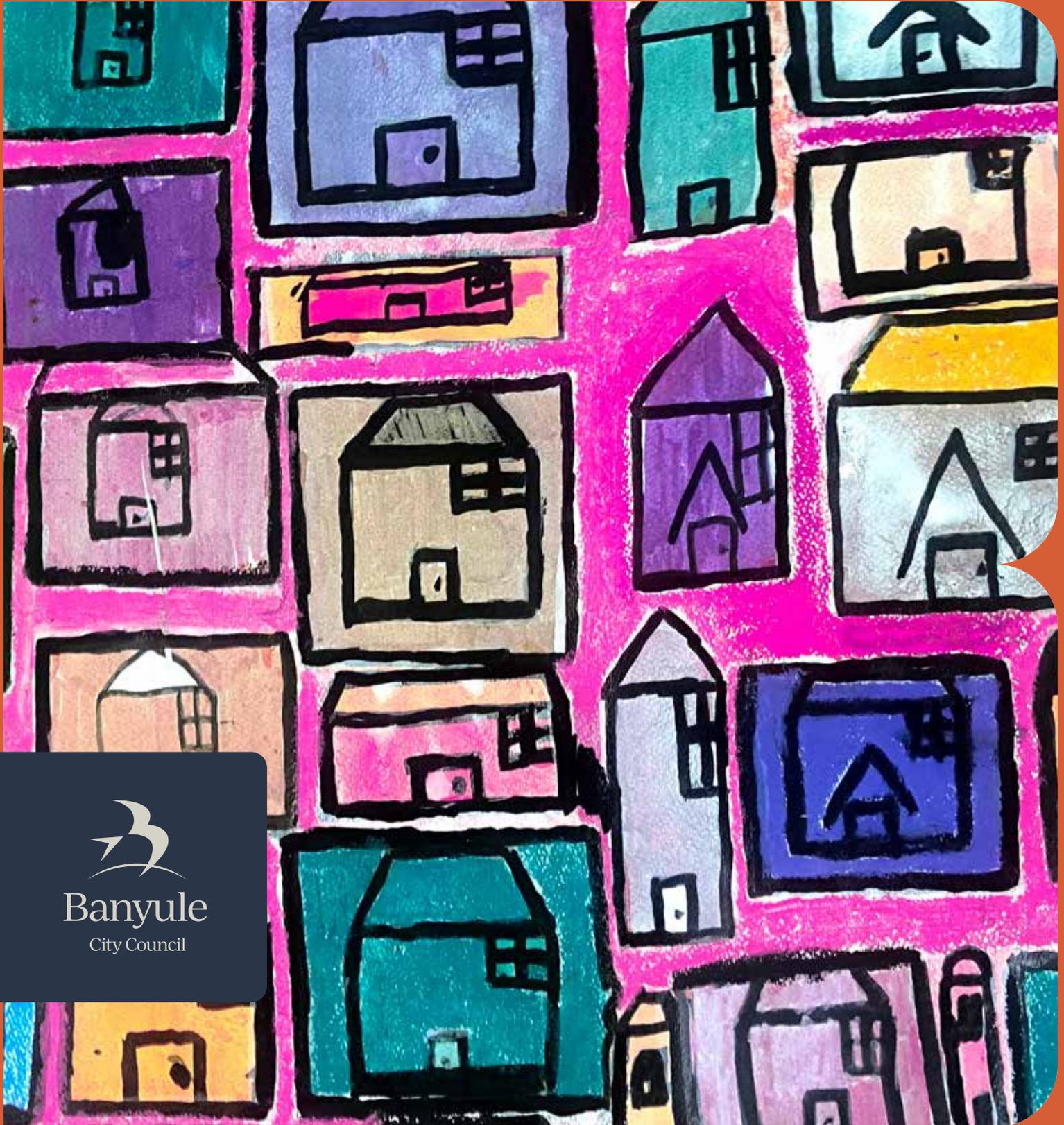


# Banyule Banner

- 5 Cat and dog changes
- 6 Meet your new Council
- 12 Summer waste guide

December 2024



# Mayor's Message

Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy



**I am delighted to have been elected Mayor of Banyule. It's a great honour and I am grateful for the trust placed in me by my fellow councillors and the Banyule community.**

In my years as a Banyule councillor, I have enjoyed working with the wider community and helping others succeed through advocacy, good decision making and planning.

I look forward to working together to make good decisions that add value to the community. Meet your new Council on **page 6**.

I acknowledge the tremendous work of Council's executive team and the dedicated Council staff who deliver hundreds of services to our community every day.

In this issue you'll see highlights of some of these services and programs:

- Banyule kindergartens will welcome families at our 26 kinders at the Open Day on 22 February – read more on **page 16**.
- We report on a remarkable year of community engagement on **page 4**.
- Turn to **page 8** for updates on current projects and capital works highlights from 2023/24.
- We continue to advocate for better outcomes for our community from the North East Link project. Read about the latest on the designs for the northern section of the North East Link (M80 Ring Road to Watsonia Road) on **page 15**.

Ensuring we remain socially, financially and environmentally sustainable is a priority. We must balance fiscal responsibility with delivering essential services and investing in assets for future generations.

With cost-of-living pressures it's important to continue programs like Rates Financial Hardship Assistance and to support businesses and job opportunities through the Inclusive Jobs and Social Enterprise Program.

Like many councils across Melbourne, we also need to balance demand for more housing with appropriate development that protects neighbourhood character and our natural environment. We have a lot of work ahead of us!

I wish you all a safe and happy festive season and summer.

## Stay in touch with us online

 **Email newsletters**  
[banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe)

    
[@BanyuleCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/BanyuleCouncil)

## Have your say on important projects and local initiatives

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

*COVER: detail from Pink Caravan by David Waterhouse, from the Urban Lightbox exhibition. See page 21 for details.*

## Council Meetings

 **Upcoming dates:**  
**10 February**  
**3 March**

 **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](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings)

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

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

# Connecting you with the services you need

## Navigating support services can be complicated.

That's why Banyule Council has launched our Service Navigation and Information Program to connect you with resources and help you find the services you need.

This service is free and open to all Banyule residents.

### How we can help

We offer reliable and up-to-date information to help you navigate services including aged care, mental health care, disability support, family violence, housing, homelessness services and more.

### Community connections

We can also help you connect with local groups, clubs and resources to keep you engaged in your community.

### How to contact us

Our Community Connectors are available by phone, email or in person (by appointment).

Phone: **9457 9800**

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

*Please note, we do not provide crisis or emergency services, intervention services, referral services or case management services.*



### Meet Banyule's new Community Connectors

"Banyule residents have many resources available to support their needs but navigating them can be confusing and overwhelming. Services like My Aged Care, NDIS and housing can be especially challenging. As a Community Connector, I'll provide easy to understand, local support to break down these barriers and support those in need."

- **Lee, Banyule Community Connector**

"The new service will bridge the gaps between residents and essential services, resources, and support networks. As a Community Connector, I bring a caring, solution-focused approach, along with experience in community engagement and an understanding of diverse cultures. I believe in the importance of community support and want to make a positive difference in the Banyule community."

- **Maha, Banyule Community Connector**



## DID YOU KNOW?

### On the move in Banyule

January is a popular month for moving house, with the new year bringing fresh starts and families getting settled before the start of the school year.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, many people moving house do not go far. ABS migration estimates from 2021-23 show that the highest numbers of people moving into Banyule are coming from our neighbouring municipality, Darebin.

Find out more about Banyule's community at [profile.id.com.au/banyule](https://profile.id.com.au/banyule)



# Shaping Banyule

Get involved in local projects



## Improving Banyule together

**More people than ever are having a say on local projects and initiatives.**

Shaping Banyule, Council's online engagement platform, had more than 62,000 visitors and 8431 contributions from community members in 2024.

There were 74 projects open for feedback and more than 750 people signed up as members on Shaping Banyule.

Another highlight was an increase in face-to-face engagement – 81% of new projects included in-person workshops, pop-up consultations, forums, information sessions or focus groups.

### Projects with the most visits this year

- Public Order Review - Dogs and Cats in Public Places
- Banyule Futures
- Watsonia Town Square
- Rosanna Library redevelopment
- Housing and Neighbourhood Character review



### Join us in making Banyule a better place for everyone

To have your say on local projects and activities, sign up to be a Shaping Banyule member – scan the code or visit [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/register](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/register)



### Have your say on Banyule's next budget



The Banyule Community ThinkTank has started its deep dive into Council's work and challenges, with a focus on our Community Vision themes and taking into account the results of extensive community consultation in August and September. See more at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ThinkTank](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ThinkTank)

Their work will inform early budget planning. Council will hold specific budget consultation in March. Watch for dates in the next Banner or register for updates at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au)

# New rules for Banyule's dogs and cats

## We're making some changes for the safety of pets, wildlife and our community.

### Cat owners

From **1 February 2025** there will be a night-time cat curfew in Banyule. Your cats need to be contained on your property between 7pm and 7am.

There will be a six-month amnesty on enforcement notices to help owners and their moggies adjust to the new laws. We'll assess the curfew after a two-year pilot period.



### Dog owners

From **1 February 2025** dogs must be on a lead in public places. They can be off-lead in a reserve, park or sporting ground, but even in these places, you must have them on a lead at these times:

- during an event such as a festival or sporting match
- within five metres of a BBQ or playground
- on a shared footway.

To protect habitat and wildlife, dogs are prohibited in environmentally sensitive areas. Check for signs when you are out about.



## Contained and contented

### Cost-effective ideas to keep your cat purring

Pets need mental stimulation, physical exercise and opportunities to engage in natural behaviours. Keeping cats entertained doesn't have to be expensive.

**Cardboard boxes and paper bags** – it can be that simple to make a maze or hiding spot.

**DIY puzzle feeder** – make your own by poking holes in a plastic container, turning mealtime into a fun activity.

**Homemade toys** – a crumpled paper ball, egg cartons, toilet rolls, feathers attached to a stick or a sock filled with catnip can provide hours of entertainment.

**Scratching posts** – save your furniture and provide a place for cats to exercise their instinct to scratch.

**Window perch** – cats love to watch the world go by. Create a window seat with a box or old shelf.

### Creating a cosy catio

A cat enclosure, or catio, is a safe outdoor space for your cat. It could be a screened porch or a vertical space with platforms for climbing.

Catios can be made using cheap and repurposed materials such as PVC pipe, playpens, tarpaulins and shade cloth. Provide shade, water and rest spots and ensure all materials are non-toxic. The catio should be secure enough to prevent escapes or injuries.

For details on the new laws and more ideas for keeping your cats happy, scan the code or head to [banyule.vic.gov.au/PetsInPublic](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/PetsInPublic)



# Meet your new Council

Nine councillors will represent Banyule for the next four years. We asked them about their favourite local places – it's not hard to see why they love the area. For their contact details, go to [banyule.vic.gov.au/councillors](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/councillors)



## Cr Rick Garotti, Grimshaw Ward



Banyule is home and family for me.

My favourite place in Banyule is Gresswell Forest Reserve. It is where I go to run, walk and to recharge my batteries.

Gresswell Forest is a special pocket of wilderness in the suburbs, part of an endangered box woodland environment, with yellow box and river red gums. It's also a significant animal habitat.

We are truly blessed to have such a beautiful forest right on our doorstep in the northwest part of Banyule.

## Cr Alicia Curry, Ibbott Ward



My favourite location in Banyule must be the Rosanna Parklands. It is a great example of a well-used passive recreation space.

The mix of wildlife corridor, conservation areas combined with accessible paths and playgrounds has broad appeal and I walk there regularly with my dogs.

We are also lucky to have a dedicated group in Friends of Salt Creek (FOSCAP) who would welcome residents interested in learning about or caring for this unique place.

## Cr Mary O'Kane, Olympia Ward



One of my favourite spots is Darebin Creek.

It's beautiful and peaceful and that grounds me.

I'm there daily trying to identify the different bird species we are privileged to have around us.

As a wildlife corridor, and with its deep First Nations history and presence, it is vital for our area and it's wonderful to see it come back to life and restored.

I also love the Mall, I love the people there!

## Cr Alida McKern, Chelsworth Ward



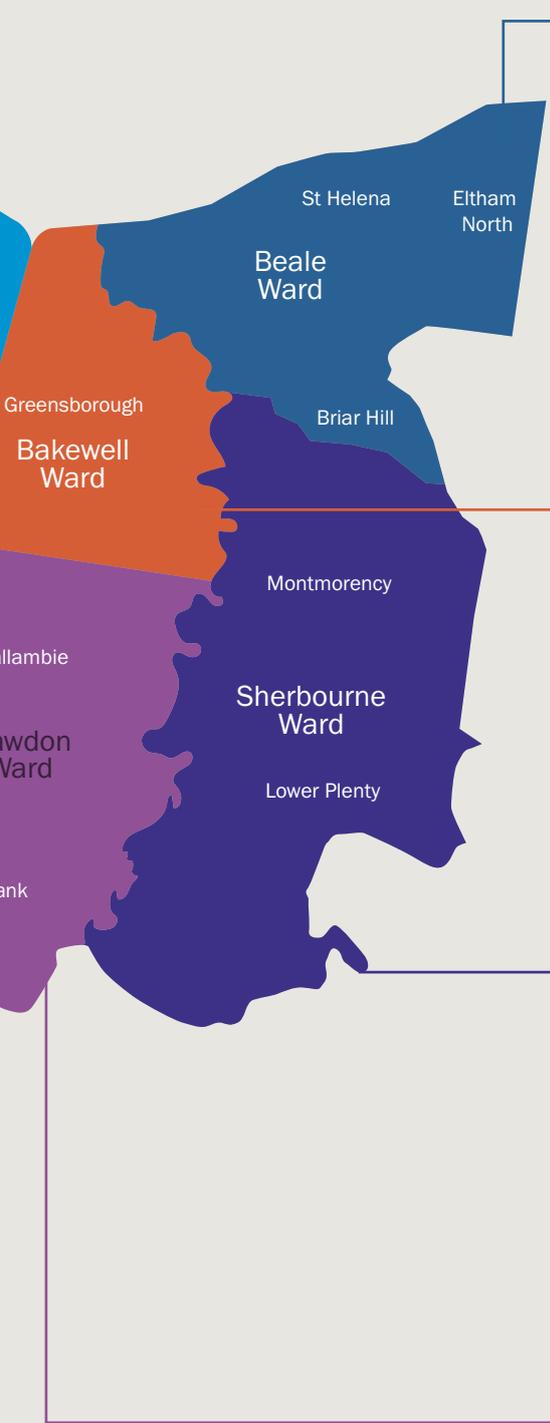
I love Banyule's friendly community, leafy parks and waterways, and streets with outstanding neighbourhood character.

One of my favourite local places is Ivanhoe activity centre.

I enjoy visiting the bustling shops and cafes around Upper Heidelberg Road, our beautiful heritage-listed Town Hall, and the fantastic Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub.

There are always lots of interesting things happening and locals to chat with!





**Cr Elizabeth Nealy, Beale Ward - Mayor**



A favourite place of mine is Anthony Beale Reserve.

I look forward to seeing the pavilion refurbished and upgraded to a high standard for the sports clubs, but also for wider community use.

I love to see residents walk their dogs and take care of the open space and sports fields.

I enjoy hearing from residents who let me know what is happening weekly in this area, because they care about it so much.

**Cr Mark Di Pasquale, Bakewell Ward**



The place in my ward that keeps drawing me back is Kalparrin Gardens in Greensborough. The essence of Banyule is where the city meets the country and there is no better example.

Within a stone's throw, there is wildlife you would expect to find only in the country, waterways that nourish

the land and the animals and a major shopping centre that supports the community.

It's one of my favourite places to explore.

**Cr Alison Champion, Sherbourne Ward**



I could be anywhere in Sherbourne and have a sense of belonging and connection. Two special places spring to mind.

Sylvan Park in Coventry Street, Montmorency, was always called 'Granny's Park' by my boys when they were small. They would visit Mum for afternoon tea once a week and spend some time on the swings and slide there.

And Glenauburn Park. Where else is there a baseball diamond at the end of a quiet court abutting a river and bushland?

**Cr Peter Castaldo, Griffin Ward - Deputy Mayor**



Banyule is a fabulous place to get out and enjoy our beautiful natural environment, whether you're walking the dog, riding a bike or joining in a weekend fun run.

My favourite place is Warringal

Parklands in Heidelberg during community events amongst the trees. In particular, I enjoy the popular Parkrun every Saturday morning at 8am.

We live in a beautiful part of the world, let's continue to make it even better for all.

**Cr Matt Wood, Hawthorn Ward**



As a keen runner, one of my favourite places in the ward is along the Yarra and Plenty River trails.

The section high above the silos and between the horse and pony clubs is my most peaceful refuge.

The natural beauty, especially during sunrise and sunset, is truly magnificent.

This serene environment allows me to connect with the great outdoors and inspires me to reflect on the things that matter most. All in our backyard!

# Major projects update

We're making steady progress on some big projects around Banyule. We're revitalising Watsonia village, creating a safer, more inviting streetscape for East Ivanhoe shopping village and working on exciting upgrades in Heidelberg West.



## East Ivanhoe shopping village upgrade

It's easier to get around East Ivanhoe shopping village with new pedestrian crossings at Warncliffe Road, Wilfred Road, Burton Crescent and Carmichael Street.

The new exposed aggregate footpath surfaces are almost finished. With the last footpath sections and some minor landscaping to go, the shopping village upgrade is on track to be completed this month.

## Coming soon to Watsonia Town Square

Hard landscaping in Morwell Avenue is underway, including seating, paths and garden edging. We'll add more plants next year when the weather gets cooler, to give them a better chance to grow.

In January, we'll begin work in the library carpark area on the other side of Watsonia Road. It will be transformed with a new, fully accessible toilet block and a playground (artists impression pictured). Car parking will still be available in the area closest to the old toilet block.

Work on the site will pause over Christmas and resume in the second week of January.



## Exciting upgrades in Heidelberg West

Heidelberg West is looking refreshed, thanks to recent upgrades along Southern Road.

With a vibrant mural, new seating, additional bins and revitalised shopfronts, the area is a welcoming space for locals and visitors. These improvements don't just enhance the neighbourhood's look, they create a more enjoyable and functional environment for everyone.

Council's Economic Development team worked with a local artist to bring these upgrades to life. We're investing in Heidelberg West's future, supporting local businesses and strengthening our community.



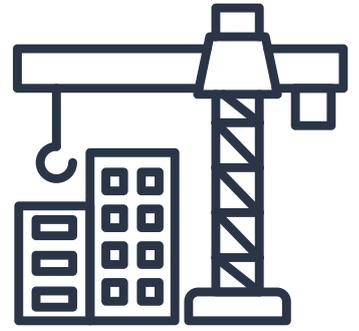
Before



After

# Capital works highlights

Capital works is one of Council's largest items of expenditure, with \$43.35 million of construction, upgrade and maintenance projects started or completed in 2023/24. Here are just a few highlights.



## Roads and streets



**\$2.03 million**  
Sealed roads

**\$3.2 million**  
Footpaths

More than 8km of concrete footpath replaced

Lower Plenty Main Road carpark upgraded

41 streets resealed using 50,000m<sup>2</sup> of asphalt

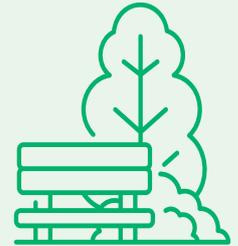
Chelsworth Park boardwalk replaced

570 lights changed to energy-efficient LEDs

## Parks and gardens

**\$8.08 million**  
Parks and gardens

**\$1.46 million**  
Playgrounds



Major oval upgrades at Warringal Park, Heidelberg Park, Ford Park and Olympic Park

James Street Reserve irrigation works

Pecks Dam improvements

Eight playgrounds renewed, including major works at EJ Andrews Reserve and Montmorency Park

Chelsworth Park tennis courts upgrades

## Buildings

**\$10.37 million**



Rebuild of Macleod pavilion (ongoing)

Major upgrade to Montmorency Bowling Club

Preschool renovations at St Hellier Street, Wairoonga, Apollo Parkways and Winston Hill

New toilet block at Macleod Village Green

New East Ivanhoe Preschool (ongoing)

## Drainage

**\$1.34 million**



Redmond Court wetlands upgraded

Gresswell Forest litter trap installed

Old Eltham Road drainage works

Para Road emergency drainage repairs

At the end of each financial year Council prepares an annual report, measuring our performance against the objectives in our Council Plan. It details Council's work delivering more than 100 services and is an important part of our reporting to the Banyule community.

Read The Banyule Story, Annual Report 2023/24 – scan the code or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/AnnualReport](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/AnnualReport)



# Banyule festive season guide

## Our tips for keeping it fun, sustainable and local this holiday season

### Shop in your 'hood

Shopping close to home is a great way to support the local economy and reduce your carbon footprint and stress!

Head to your nearby shopping precinct to find a unique gift for everyone on your list, from handcrafted treasures to boutique finds.

Looking for a unique Christmas tree? Purchase a potted plant from your local nursery. Species such as *Picea pungens* (blue spruce), *Picea glauca* (white spruce) and *Adenanthos* (woolly bush) make great Christmas trees.

### Have an eco-friendly festive season



#### Wrapping

Australians use more than 150,000km of wrapping paper during the festive season. Instead, try wrapping with fabric, tea towels or scarves. Plain wrapping paper can go in your recycling bin; paper with glitter or plastic finishes cannot.

#### Gifts

Each year, around 6.1 million Australian adults receive festive gifts they will never use. Ask friends and family what they would like to receive or give an experience, such as tickets to a local theatre show or gallery, a voucher for a class or meal.

The person who has all they need may appreciate you donating to a local charity on their behalf.

#### Food

During the festive season, food waste in Australian households increases by about 30%.

Try these tips for yummy feasts with less waste:

- Food in season tastes better and supports local farmers
- Buy local to reduce transport miles and support your local community
- Make a list and check it twice to avoid overcatering
- Turn leftovers into meals such as pies, patties, curries or smoothies
- Help Banyule Council make compost out of your unavoidable food waste. Your FOGO (food organics and garden organics) bin can handle things like bones, seafood and shells.

#### Setting the table

Much disposable tableware cannot be composted and ends up in landfill.

Instead, use washable crockery, cutlery and napkins or try paper or foil trays, which can be put in your recycling bin.

## Social enterprise gift ideas

Stuck for festive gifts? Check out experiences and products from these Banyule social enterprises that give back to the community.



### For coffee lovers

Take someone out for lunch or give a reusable cup from **For Change Co. Café** at Bellfield Hub, providing employment and training for young people at risk of homelessness.



### For creative crafters

Book an upcycling workshop or buy yarn made from upcycled t-shirts from **A Fitting Connection**, diverting textile waste from landfill and promoting sustainable textile crafts.



### For foodie friends

A handmade chopping board from **Open House CIC**, offering programs for disengaged young people, or a gourmet cookies subscription from **Worthy Cause**, providing employment for people who have endured severe hardship.

Scan the code for more gift ideas from Banyule social enterprises or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/SocialEnterprise](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/SocialEnterprise)



## Christmas Day lunch

If you are alone on Christmas Day, come and join us for a free festive lunch and cheerful company. Hosted by BANSIC, in partnership with Exodus Community and the support of Banyule Council. Free transport is available.

 **Wednesday 25 December, 12pm – 3pm**

 **Bellfield Community Hub, Daphne Crescent, Bellfield**

To book, phone Shop 48 on **8582 9501** or book in person at The Harmony Centre, 48 The Mall, Heidelberg West.

## Donate local and make a difference

### Banyule Community Fund

Council's charitable fund. All donations are granted to Banyule charities. As little as \$10 could help fund a food relief package for a local family.



### Banyule Children's Gift Appeal

Donate new toys, give a book or make a cash donation. Scan the code or phone **9435 8282**.





# Have a waste-wise Christmas!

## Free Christmas tree drop-off 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 (food organics and garden organics) waste. Don't try to put the whole tree in your FOGO bin because it may prevent your bin from being emptied. You can cut up smaller trees and put them in your FOGO bin.

**The free drop-off is for real living Christmas trees, not plastic trees.**

## Christmas kerbside collections

Kerbside bins will **not** be collected on Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December.

Bin collections after Christmas Day will be one business day later than usual. For example, the usual Wednesday collection will be on Thursday 26 December.

Collections will return to their regular day in the week from Monday 30 December.

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

## Waste Recovery Centre hours over Christmas

<b>Mon 23 December</b>	7.30am – 3.30pm
<b>Tue 24 December</b>	7.30am – early close, check Council website for details
<b>Wed 25 December</b>	Closed
<b>Thu 26 December</b>	7.30am – 12pm
<b>Fri 27 December</b>	7.30am – 3.30pm

307 Waterdale Road, Bellfield

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



These items belong in your recycling bin



These items belong in your rubbish bin

## What can be recycled?

Tis' the season of celebration, but let's make sure our recycling habits don't go on holiday!

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

## What goes in the rubbish bin?

Silver-lined (plastic) wrapping paper, ribbons, bubble wrap, plastic gift bags, cellophane, polystyrene, tinsel, crepe paper and balloons should go in your rubbish bin (red lid).



## Separate mattress collection coming soon

When you book a hard waste collection from next year, you'll see a new option for mattress collection. Households will have three choices for their two annual collections: hard waste, bundled branch collection or mattress collection.

Mattresses will be manually dismantled so elements can be recycled – foam can be used for carpet underlay, steel springs can be recycled in products such as roof sheeting and textiles can become acoustic panelling. Not bad for an old mattress!

A mattress collection booking can consist of a single mattress of any size, or a mattress and ensemble bed base. Bed frames need to be booked as a normal hard waste collection.

## Hard waste made easy

It's easy to book your next hard waste collection online, by phone or in person.

Online: [banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste)  
Choose the date and even check your waste allocation balance when booking online.

Phone: 9490 4222

In person at a Council service centre:

- Greensborough - 1 Flintoff Street
- Ivanhoe - 275 Upper Heidelberg Road (inside the library)

To book a mattress collection, scan the code or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste)



# United against modern slavery

## Council has endorsed its first statement against modern slavery, confirming our commitment to minimise the risk of modern slavery in our operations and supply chains.

The 2023 Global Slavery Index reported that nearly 50 million people globally are living and working under slave-like conditions. This is an increase of 10 million people since 2016.

It is estimated that 41,000 of these people are living in Australia.

Slavery is a serious violation of a person's dignity and human rights.

Exploitative practices including human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage and forced marriage are all considered modern slavery and are serious crimes under Australian law.

Banyule is among the first councils in Victoria to adopt a formal position on slavery.

The statement will help us identify and manage risks throughout Council's operations, as well as improve ethical compliance and accountability in supply chains and procurement.

Read Banyule's Modern Slavery Statement – scan the code or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/SlaveryStatement](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/SlaveryStatement)



# Reducing gambling harm in our community

## In 2022/23, the Banyule community lost \$57.2 million in gaming venues across Banyule. That's around \$568 per adult.

Council is committed to reducing the negative health and wellbeing impacts of gambling.

Banyule's updated Gambling Harm Prevention Policy 2024–2028 outlines our approach to raising awareness and advocating to support gambling reform in Victoria.

### Did you know

- Council blocks online gambling on Council Wi-Fi.
- Gambling advertising is banned in all Council community buildings and facilities.

### Getting help

If you or someone you know needs support for gambling-related problems, contact:

#### Banyule Community Health

Phone: 1300 133 445

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

[bchs.org.au/services/gambling-support](https://bchs.org.au/services/gambling-support)

#### Gambler's Help

Phone: 1800 858 858

[gamblershelp.com.au](https://gamblershelp.com.au)



Read Council's Gambling Harm Prevention Policy and find out what we are doing to reduce the negative impacts of gambling in our community – scan the code or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/GamblingPolicy](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/GamblingPolicy)



# North East Link designs released

The designs for the northern section of the North East Link (M80 Ring Road to Watsonia Road) have been released by the Victorian Government. While Council welcomes the changes, we are disappointed that more weren't included to further benefit our community.

## Improvements advocated for by Council and the local community that have been included:

- Improved crossings for walkers and cyclists at Elder Street and Watsonia Road
- Space for more trees and plants
- Better connections to the M80 trail, and
- Better screening and noise walls.

## Further improvements needed

Other changes included in Council's response to the draft plans in November 2023 have not been provided. Council's submission highlighted that the design for Watsonia is significantly less appealing than other sections of North East Link.

It is the only section of the 28-kilometre highway where 18 lanes will be squeezed between a shopping village and residential area, with limited green spaces or trees.

Failure to cover the road trench, as advocated for by Council and the Watsonia community, cuts a swathe through the community and restricts access to local shops and services, walking and bike routes, the train station and the library.

The Victorian Government has not released the plans for the area around Watsonia Station, making it impossible for Council to assess the full impacts to our community.

Council believes the redevelopment of the station and carpark is an exciting opportunity to deliver big improvements for Watsonia and the wider community.

We're proposing a multi-use development with housing, services, restaurants and an underground carpark. The station must be upgraded to be fully accessible.

The redevelopment of Watsonia Station should start now, while North East Link is being built, to capitalise on works in the area and limit further disruption to the community.

See the full list of improvements nominated by Council and stay up to date at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/NEL](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/NEL)



It's never too late to learn to swim. Check Council's website for learn to swim programs for children and adults.

## Summer safety = summer fun

**With long-range forecasts pointing to a hot summer, it's timely to remember a few tips for enjoying the hot days ahead.**

### Staying safe around water

When near water, children must be supervised by a responsible adult who can see them and reach them quickly at all times.

It's always a good time to learn to swim or brush up your skills. Check out our learn to swim programs at [banyule.vic.gov.au/LeisureCentres](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/LeisureCentres)

Home pool and spa safety barriers save lives. Make sure yours is compliant and well maintained. Never leave the gate open and have a responsible adult inside the pool enclosure with children.

Find out more at [banyule.vic.gov.au/PoolFence](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/PoolFence)

### Summer car safety

Never leave children or animals in a car on a summer day, even if the temperature outside feels moderate.

The temperature inside a car can rapidly become unbearable, even with windows open, and children and pets can become dangerously dehydrated quickly.

### Check on your neighbours

Summer heat can be especially exhausting for older adults. It only takes a minute to check on an elderly neighbour to make sure they are OK.



# Get ready for kinder!

## Banyule Kindergarten Open Day

Teachers and staff at Banyule's 26 kinders welcome families and young children to tour the facilities, meet staff and view the programs available.

**Saturday  
22 February  
9am to 12pm**

### Register for kindergarten

Kindergarten registrations for 2026 will open at 8.30am on Monday 3 March 2025.

Register your child for three or four-year-old kinder at one of Banyule's 26 sessional kinders. It is easy and free to register with the Banyule Kindergarten Central Registration service.

It's not too late to register for 2025 as places are still available.

### Kindergarten is important for young children

Kindergarten, also known as kinder or preschool, is an education program delivered by qualified early childhood teachers. Attending kinder improves children's confidence and independence, helps develop social and language skills, enhances physical and creative skill and supports their desire to learn and discover.

In Victoria, it is free for all children to attend a sessional kinder during the two years before they start school. Long day care centres also offer funded kinder programs and will apply reduced childcare fees for eligible children.

### When can my child start kindergarten?

Deciding when your child starts kinder is important as it can affect the age at which they start school. Some families who have children younger than three when they are eligible to start kindergarten may choose to wait a year and start when the child is older. This decision is an individual one.

Children are eligible for three-year-old kindergarten if they turn three by 30 April in the year they are attending. However, they may not be able to start attending until after they have turned three, even if the term has begun.

To be eligible for four-year-old kindergarten, children must turn four by 30 April in the year they attend. They can attend from the start of the term, even if they are still three years old.

Scan the code to use the Department of Education's starting age calculator.





### Can my child repeat kindergarten?

A small number of children are eligible for another year of kindergarten if:

- A teacher has identified delay in two areas of learning and developmental such as language, social, physical or thinking skills.
- The teacher believes the child will have better outcomes if they repeat a kindergarten year.



### Kinder access support for all families

We help families navigate the kinder enrolment process. Our aim is to make kinder accessible and beneficial for all young children and families.

- We support smooth transition and enrolment in kindergarten and school.
- Support is open to all families who need help with the kinder process.
- We accept referrals and provide outreach through Maternal and Child Health services, playgroups, libraries and other local hubs.
- Translation is available for people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

#### Your Council contact:

**Bilan Ismail**, outreach support officer

Phone: **9422 6109**

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

For information on kinder registrations, kinder locations and Banyule Kindergarten Open Day scan the code or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/kindergartens](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/kindergartens)





# Outdoor Movies

**Discover the charm of outdoor cinema at this free family-friendly double bill with live music and a coffee truck.**

Pack a picnic rug and pick up a snack or dinner from Ivanhoe East Village, where food vendors are offering special movie deals for one night only. Check our website for a list of participating restaurants.

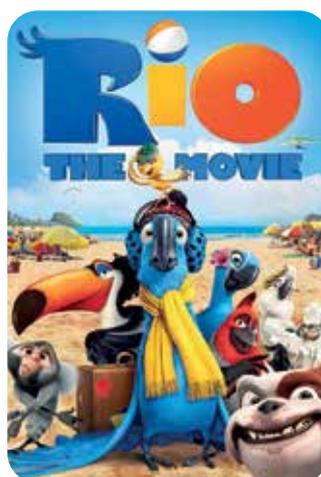
 **Saturday 1 February**

 **Ivanhoe Park, 132 Lower Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe East (near the playground)**

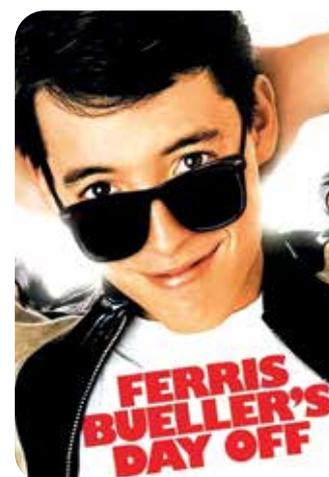
## Voucher giveaway

We have a stack of \$20 gift vouchers to give away at the event. Talk to our friendly event staff about how to claim yours. Vouchers can be used at participating Ivanhoe East Village shops and restaurants throughout February.

More information at [banyule.vic.gov.au/OutdoorMovies](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/OutdoorMovies)



**4pm – Rio (G)**



**6.30pm – Ferris Bueller's Day Off (PG)**



## Summer holiday activities for young people

In January, Banyule Youth Services will be bringing the summer fun with a series of free and low-cost events for people aged 12–25, including movie sessions, gaming, a waterslide night and more.

For information and bookings head to [banyuleyouth.com/schoolholidays](http://banyuleyouth.com/schoolholidays)

# Learn bike skills for life

Our summer season of low-cost bike skills classes is on in February. They're for anyone who lives, works or studies in Banyule and we'd love to see you there!

## Urban cycling confidence

📅 Saturday 15 February  
10am – 3pm

📍 Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub car park, 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

For adults who can ride and wish to start riding on the road. Learn to ride with confidence and use your bike for transport and fitness.

Includes on-road riding in light traffic.

Cost: \$25 full, \$15 concession.

Bookings:  
[trybooking.com/1264199](https://trybooking.com/1264199)



## Individual bike skills sessions

📅 Sunday 16 February  
Choose a 50min timeslot between 9am – 3pm

📍 Warringal Park Oval, Heidelberg

For adults and children aged 7+ who want to learn to ride, or novice riders with basic skills who want to improve their confidence.

Cost: \$25 full, \$15 concession.

Bookings:  
[trybooking.com/1264231](https://trybooking.com/1264231)



## Hands-on bike maintenance

📅 Sunday 23 February  
2pm – 4.30pm

📍 Macleod Community Hall, 7 Birdwood Avenue, Macleod

Bring your bike and learn practical skills to keep it in top condition. You'll leave ready to fix a puncture, take care of your chain and more.

For ages 13 upwards (teenagers to be accompanied by an adult).

Cost: \$25 full, \$15 concession.

Bookings:  
[trybooking.com/1264221](https://trybooking.com/1264221)



## Biketober success

During October, bike riders of every level got out on their bikes for Biketober, the Australia-wide workplace challenge.

Banyule riders logged 32,556km – that's like cycling two laps of Australia.

This included 2153 trips for transport, meaning fewer cars on the road and a saving of 2268kg of CO2 emissions.

Of participants, 25% were new riders embracing the benefits of life on two wheels.

Congratulations everyone!

# Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

## Events & activities

📍 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe  
🌐 [banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH)  
✉ [arts@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
☎ 9490 4222

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



### LEGO Christmas display

📅 29 November – 5 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.

MUGs is a group of the best and brightest LEGO fans, designers and friends from Melbourne and Victoria, including several LEGO Masters contestants. They display at community events around Australia and internationally.

Visit our Christmas windows this holiday season and wonder at these amazing LEGO creations.

*Image: LEGO Aussie Christmas creations from the 2023 display.*



### Action 24

#### Recent works by the artists of New Hope

📅 7 December – 5 January

📍 **Loft 275**

New Hope is a long-running and well-loved street and graffiti art program for young people in Banyule, provided by Banyule Youth Services.

Safe and collaborative space is made for passionate young artists to hone their spray painting craft.

Participants have access to highly experienced facilitators, as well as support from dedicated youth workers, so that they can improve their skills while being supported to navigate other challenges and complexities they may encounter.

The works in this exhibition, made across the year, can be seen as echoes and moments in the continuous artistic journeys of the New Hope crew.

*Image: Two New Hope participant working on a community mural in June 2024.*



### Manic pixie clownboy by Mira Oosterweghel

📅 18 January – 9 February

**Opening: Saturday 18 January, 2pm – 4pm**

**Artist talk: Saturday 8 February, 2pm – 3pm**

📍 **Loft 275**

Manic pixie clownboy is a video and mixed-media installation exploring themes of queerness, archetypes and pop culture.

The work takes inspiration from cowboys, folk horror, 90s kids show Round the Twist and Commedia dell'arte. (In collaboration with Ella Sowinska videographer.)

This project is proudly supported by a Banyule Arts & Culture Project Grant.

*Image: (Detail of) Charging Torrent by Mira Oosterweghel*

### Cards of Kindness with Heidi Everett

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

This December, we encourage 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 postbox at any branch of Yarra Plenty Regional Library until 15 December. It will be delivered to the hospital and local aged care facilities by volunteers.

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



Pink Caravan by David Waterhouse

## Urban light box

📅 Mid-December 2024 until June 2025.

📍 Midway Lane, Olympic Village and Cambridge Arcade, Bell Street Mall, Heidelberg West

The Urban Light Box Program brings art outdoors with a series of exhibitions in Heidelberg West laneways. It features work from artists from Araluen's Art Connects program to celebrate 50 years of the organisation.

Araluen provides disability services and support for adults with intellectual disabilities. The Art Connects program supports artists to create exceptional work and share it through public exhibitions like Urban Light Box.

## Apply now to be part of Chillin' in Banyule 2025

### Chillin' in Banyule returns next year with a packed program of local musicians performing in Banyule venues.

As well as providing great live music for all, this annual event series connects venues and performers, helping to create lasting networks.

Are you a local musician? Or do you run a café or restaurant in Banyule?

**We want to hear from you.**

Apply by Monday 6 January. Scan the code or head to [banyule.vic.gov.au/Chillin](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/Chillin)

Chillin' in Banyule runs from 1 – 25 May.





Bunjil's nest by Aunty Judy Nicholson, part of her series depicting the Wurundjeri seasons.

## Garrawang – kangaroo apple season

### **Garrawang has arrived and with it, fast changing thundery weather, long days and short nights.**

This season sees more active Djulin (goannas) and Kadak (snakes) so watch the paths you tread, especially if near water.

Garrong (black wattle) is flowering. Its bark is high in tannins and when collected and boiled it can be used to tan animal skins and turn them into leather. Wurrun (sugar gliders) feed on its sap and, like other nectar feeders, love the flowers.

The flowers of Garrawang (kangaroo-apple) bushes have been pollinated and are growing into small green tomato-like fruit.

They are toxic while green, so wait until they are a sunset yellow before enjoying the sweet melon-like flavour.

Juicy Karkalla (pigface) fruits are ready to eat – you might have seen their vibrant purple flowers earlier this year.

Bunjil (wedge-tailed eagles) are breeding. They mate for life and share responsibilities such as nest building, rearing of chicks and feeding their family.

Black field crickets will also be mating during this season and egg laying will occur with rainfall.

Garrawang is a lovely time of year with lots of growth and change.



# Bushland Diaries

Thank you to our 2024 volunteers

**Banyule park rangers extend their heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers and dedicated friends groups who support our efforts to enhance biodiversity in Banyule's reserves.**

Your commitment to cleaning-up, planting indigenous flora, removing weeds and more has made a significant ecological impact and strengthened our sense of community.

With more than 3000 hours of your volunteer help, we have been able to achieve much, including planting 6450 indigenous plants.

Thank you for your invaluable contributions. We look forward to continuing our collaboration next year.

Most 'friends of' events are family-friendly and they are a great way to get involved with protecting your local environment and improving habitat for wildlife.

Groups usually hold working bees over a couple of hours, one weekend a month. All tools are provided, so you only need to bring yourself and your enthusiasm.

## Interested in volunteering?

Help us conserve bushland resources by joining a friends group.

Find your nearest group at [banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup) or scan the code.



# Twilight SOUNDS

2025

LIVE MUSIC &  
FOOD TRUCKS

**SATURDAY  
15 FEBRUARY**

**3PM – 10PM**

Heidelberg Park Oval, Beverley Road

## 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 بانول على  
الرقم 9490 4222.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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