

# Banyule Banner

8	Aquatic fun and safety
14	Kinder open days
16	Summer events



# Mayor's Message

## Mayor Cr Tom Melican

Welcome to 2024! I'm looking forward to a great year ahead, as we continue to deliver on our promises and build a better Banyule.



### Delivering on our promises

We're making good progress on our third year of actions from our Council Plan 2021–2025, with 90% of the 96 actions on track as of September 2023, our last reporting period.

We're still working on some outstanding actions from last year's plan too. Of them:

- 4 actions are now complete, including designs for Anthony Beale sporting pavilion and Seddon Reserve change rooms
- 17 actions are on track for completion
- 11 actions have been incorporated into the Year 3 Plan
- two are being monitored and are not in the Year 3 Plan.

You can see the full summary report at [banyule.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan)

### Building a better Banyule

You'll notice some of our big infrastructure projects taking shape this year.

We're proud to be delivering a new Town Square in the heart of the Watsonia Village, thanks to \$5.5 million in State Government funding as a part of the North East Link Project.

We are removing the Watsonia Road/Morwell Avenue roundabout to make way for a new T-intersection with lights and a pedestrian crossing. By mid-year, you'll see works starting on landscaping, paths, seating and play areas.

There's also a streetscape upgrade underway in East Ivanhoe and we'll soon start on the new Rosanna Library and Macleod Park pavilion.

### Towards our carbon neutral goals

One of our long-term goals is to be carbon neutral by 2028. This year, we're shaping two important plans for climate action in Banyule: the Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan and the Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

In this issue of the Banner, we highlight some of the different ways that we are working towards being carbon neutral by 2028. Check out our new environmentally friendly maintenance equipment on page 7 and our popular Active to School program on page 15.

Together with my fellow councillors and you, the Banyule community, I feel we are already well on the way to a productive 2024!

## 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)

Cover: music at Twilight Sounds

## Council Meetings

 Upcoming dates:  
5 February  
26 February

 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.



# Community Grants a helping hand

**One of the things we love about Banyule is the active and involved community. Council's Grants Program is a practical way to support the efforts of local community, arts and environment groups.**

The 2023/2024 Banyule Community, Arts and Culture and Environment grants program had more applications than usual, and the amount of funding requested far outweighed the available funding.

## Council received:

- 59 Community Grant applications (32 applications were supported, with a total of \$160,000 in grants)
- 14 Arts and Culture Grant applications (seven applications were supported, with a total of \$60,000 in grants)
- 23 Environment Grant applications (14 applications were supported, with a total of \$85,000 in grants)

Some of the successful grant applications are:

- Banyule Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network – Youth Jobs Portal
- Olympic Village Exodus Community – Drop In Meals
- Greensborough Primary School – the 'Mam-Badool Djerring' mural
- Montmorency Community Group/Montmorency Biodiversity Group – sugar glider workshops.

Look out for updates on the outcomes of some of these great projects. For more details about the program, visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/Grants](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/Grants)



## Booking a hard waste collection is easy

Did you know residential properties can have up to two hard waste collections per calendar year?

Here's how to get the most out of your waste collection:

- Make sure your waste is out for collection on the day booked. Don't put it out more than 5 days before the collection.
- Need to clear lots of hard waste? You can book a double collection if you have more than one cubic metre of waste.
- Two mattresses or one mattress plus bed base is a single booking. Other items will not be collected unless a double collection is booked.

Check our website for what we do and don't collect in hard waste. Some common hard waste offenders are building materials, grass clippings and glass – these won't be collected.

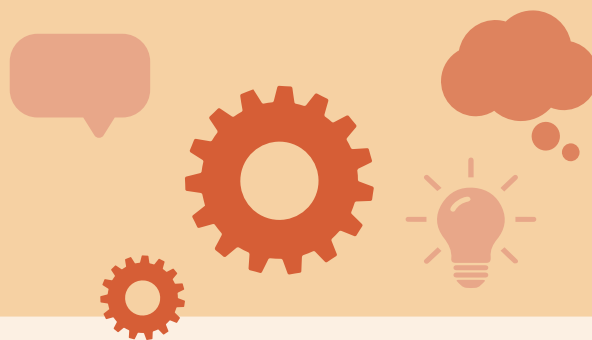
For more information phone Customer Service on **9490 4222**, email [enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au) or visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste)

**Hard waste collections should have a pink sticker visible. Report dumped rubbish at [banyule.vic.gov.au/ReportIt](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/ReportIt)**



# Shaping Banyule

## Get involved in local projects



## Delivering Banyule's Budget and Council Plan

### Ever wondered how Council keeps delivering services and maintaining community buildings?

The Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan are where it happens, funding essential services like road maintenance, community programs and caring for our parks and sports facilities.

These aren't just documents. They're the financial engine that brings our Council Plan to life.

Join us for an information session to hear more about Council's Budget and Council Plan, and how you can get involved.

### Community Information sessions

**Online:** Tuesday 6 February, 12pm – 12.45pm

**In person:** Wednesday 7 February, 5pm – 7pm  
at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub

### Your council contact

**Tania O'Reilly**, Manager Finance and Procurement  
Phone: **9490 4267**  
Email: [tania.oreilly@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:tania.oreilly@banyule.vic.gov.au)

**Birgit King**, Integrated Planning Coordinator  
Phone: **8673 4387**  
Email: [birgit.king@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:birgit.king@banyule.vic.gov.au)

### Find out more

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





## A plan for our public spaces

We've drafted a new Public Realm Strategy that will guide how we plan and design public spaces.

Find out more and have your say at the community information session, and let us know what you appreciate when you are out and about in Banyule.

### Community Information session

 **Monday 19 February, 6.30pm – 8pm.**  
**Bookings required.**

 **Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub**

Scan the code or visit  
[shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/PRB](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/PRB)

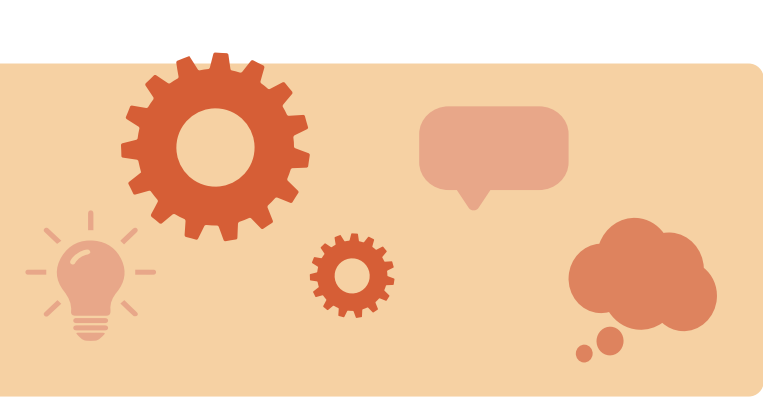


## Have your say and shape your community

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. Scan the code or visit  
[shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au)





## Unleash your voice for climate action

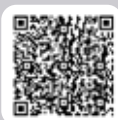
Join us on the path to community-wide carbon neutrality by 2040 as we shape two important plans for climate action in Banyule:

- Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan
- Climate Change Adaptation Framework

Share your thoughts, join a workshop in February and sign up for updates. Comments are open until 3 March.

Your voice, your ideas – let's make a difference together!

Scan the code to learn more or visit [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/CRB](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/CRB)



## 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)



## 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)







# Watsonia Town Square update

## Construction of Watsonia Town Square is progressing, with work beginning on the roundabout on Watsonia Road and the car park on Morwell Avenue.

We are aware this will be the most disruptive phase of the project and appreciate your patience as we build this important new asset for Watsonia. Look out for signage and electronic notice boards advising of road closures and detours. There will be traffic management in place.

All shops and services will remain open and the traditional ANZAC Day service will go ahead outside the RSL. We encourage you to continue to support the local

businesses you know and love.

While some parking spots will be temporarily unavailable as we work in different areas, we have installed a new temporary car park on Morwell Avenue at the top of the hill.

In the second half of this year we'll finalise landscaping works and will be installing play equipment and street furniture. We'll also build a new accessible public toilet off Watsonia Road towards the south of the library carpark.

Thanks for your patience – the end result will be worth it!

Get all the latest news and sign up for updates at [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/WatsoniaTownSquare](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/WatsoniaTownSquare)



**Petrie Park**  
**Mountain View Road, Montmorency**

Eco Fest is a fun, free event promoting sustainability and lifestyle ideas for the whole community.

Program includes:

- Hands-on workshops
- Market stalls
- Pet photo-booth (pets on a lead)
- Live reptiles exhibit
- Face painting
- Live music and food trucks
- Arts and crafts for all ages
- Council teams

Details: [banyule.vic.gov.au/EcoFestival](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/EcoFestival) or scan the code





# Safer crossings on Odenwald Road bridge

## We're making some safety improvements to Odenwald Road bridge in Ivanhoe.

These improvements will give pedestrians safer access thanks to the installation of speed humps to slow down approaching traffic. Works should commence in early 2024.

We acknowledge these upgrades need to go further – and Council is looking to the State Government to invest in a full replacement of the Bridge.

The lack of a separate pedestrian footpath on the narrow two-way bridge is a big concern for local residents. Traffic reports show that speeding vehicles are also a problem. A recent audit showed that the bridge, built for horse carriages in the 1800's, is not safe for heavy vehicles.

In 2022, Council asked Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) for approval to improve pedestrian access by reducing the two traffic lanes to one, adding speed measures and improving the footpath. MTM requested new pedestrian protection screens along the bridge, to prevent any potential danger between pedestrians and the high voltage overhead wires. However, the current load capacity of the Odenwald Road bridge cannot support the additional weight of the screens.

A full bridge replacement with a separate pedestrian and cyclist footpath is the best long-term solution.

For more information about Council's advocacy work, visit [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/odenwald-road-bridge](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/odenwald-road-bridge)

## Safer, lighter, quieter, greener

### New tools make a better job

It's always exciting getting new tools to play with. But when you're on the tools for hours every day as part of your job, a lighter and more efficient device makes it even better.

Council's Infrastructure Maintenance and Drainage Maintenance teams are leading the way with a new fleet of tools that are quieter, lighter, more efficient, cheaper to run, environmentally friendly and – most importantly – safer and easier to operate.

By moving to battery-powered tools, we're eliminating fumes and emissions that are harmful to workers and the environment and saving time by not having to refuel. There's no handling of dangerous flammable fuels, no engine maintenance, and no injuries from repeated pull-starts.

With no fumes and quieter electric motors, our teams can work more safely in closed environments such as trenches, drainage pits and indoors. It also means less disturbance to residents and wildlife.

Some of the tools are improved versions of jackhammers, grinders and power saws and lawn mower, while inventions such as a vibrating concrete screeding tool and a stick pump for emptying drains are changing the way we do things, for the better.

The new tools are another step in getting Council's operations to be carbon neutral by 2028.





# Supporting Banyule

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

## Banyule has four public swimming pools for leisure, exercise, health and competition sports.

Aquatic exercise can be beneficial for everyone. The buoyancy of water reduces impact on the body, making it ideal for anyone with joint issues. Water increases the resistance on the body in all directions, creating smooth movements that are less likely to cause injury and engaging more muscles through all phases of motion. Swimming can also enhance memory, concentration, and confidence.

### Council-owned aquatic facilities

#### WaterMarc

📍 Flintoff St, Greensborough

📅 Monday to Friday 6am – 10pm,  
weekends 7am – 8pm

☎ 9422 6111

#### Ivanhoe Aquatic

📍 170 Waterdale Rd, Ivanhoe

📅 Monday to Friday 6am – 9pm,  
weekends 7am – 8pm

☎ 9490 7111

#### Olympic Leisure

📍 15 Alamein Rd, Heidelberg West

📅 Monday to Thursday 7am – 12.30pm & 3.30pm – 8pm,  
Friday 7am – 12.30pm & 3.30pm – 6pm,  
Saturday 8am – 1pm, Sunday 9am – 1pm

☎ 9459 1193

#### Herb Norman Pool

📍 Liat Way, Greensborough

☎ Yarra Swim School, 9434 4516

☎ Yarra Plenty Waves Swim Club, 9434 4516

For information on all aquatic programs, scan the code or head to [banyule.vic.gov.au/LeisureCentres](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/LeisureCentres)



### Learn to swim – it's never too early or too late

WaterMarc, Ivanhoe Aquatic and Yarra Swim School at Herb Norman Pool have swimming lessons for all abilities and all ages. It's never too late to acquire this vital skill, and we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy the water confidently. Enrolments for this year are open. We offer sessions with Auslan-certified instructors for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

### Water aerobics – making fitness fun

Experience a full-body workout that's easy on your joints, improves cardiovascular fitness and can increase strength and flexibility. Classes are conducted by certified instructors at all four Council-owned pools. It's also a great way to socialise.

### Swimming squads – fitness and competition

Squads at WaterMarc, Ivanhoe Aquatic and Yarra Plenty Waves aim to inspire a life-long love of swimming. There are squads for all ages, abilities and levels of fitness.

### Waterslides and other aquatic activities

- Keep an eye on the WaterMarc Facebook page for waterslide opening hours
- School holiday programs
- Kayak paddle ball, water polo
- Women-only swim sessions: 6pm – 8pm every Friday at Olympic Leisure
- Dive-in movie nights







## Staying safe around water

Whether you're visiting the pool, the river or a beach, here are some water safety tips to make your experience safe and enjoyable.

### Buddy up

Always swim with a buddy or lifeguard nearby so that help is available in case of an emergency.

### Learn to Swim

Knowing how to swim is a life skill that can save lives. Take lessons, even if you're an adult.

### Know Your Limits

Be aware of your swimming abilities. Avoid venturing into deep waters if you're not confident.

### Listen to your body

If you're tired or experiencing cramps, take a break. Overexertion can lead to accidents.

### Supervise children

Designate a responsible adult to keep an eye on little ones. Encourage children to wear floatation devices based on their swimming ability. Even though lifeguards are on duty at public pools, parents must always be prepared to get into the water.

- Children aged under five should be within arm's reach at all times. This means being in the water with your child.
- Children under 10 require active supervision. Always keep them in sight and be prepared to hop in the water.
- Minimise distractions that may cause a lapse in supervision, such as using mobile phones and chatting to other parents.

## Meet Rohan: from timid toddler to the Nationals

Rohan was a nervous preschooler when he started swimming lessons at Yarra Swim School at Herb Norman Pool. Now aged 17, he is teaching others to swim.

A Yarra Plenty Waves swim club captain who has won multiple Victorian medals, he has competed at the Australian National Championships. Rohan's journey reflects the swim school's commitment to fostering talent and instilling a love of swimming.



## Home pool safety

Owners must register their home pool or spa with Council and provide certification showing the pool barrier complies with regulations.

If your pool and/or spa was constructed after 1 May 2010 you must lodge a compliance certificate by 1 June 2024.

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

You can also phone **9433 7777** or email [pool.register@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:pool.register@banyule.vic.gov.au)





# 58 new places to call home in Bellfield

## Residents have celebrated their first New Year in the new social housing apartments in Bellfield.

A joint project of Banyule Council, Homes Victoria and Launch Housing, the \$22 million apartment building has 58 units for individuals and families in need of priority housing.

“Together we have shown it is possible to find genuine housing solutions that make a real difference to vulnerable people in our community,” said Banyule Mayor, Cr Tom Melican.

Council initiated the project and provided the land on a 50-year peppercorn lease. After calling for expressions of interest from community housing providers, Council chose Launch Housing to manage the project. Homes Victoria contributed \$18.61 million through the Victorian Government’s Big Housing Build.

Construction of the Bellfield apartment block commenced in late 2021 and all homes are now occupied.

Launch Housing is working with Council and local community services to ensure a close connection between the new residents and the services they need. The apartments are next to Bellfield Community Hub, which has a range of services and facilities including maternal and child health, aged care programs and a kindergarten.



L-R: Resident Kylie with Minister for Housing Harriet Shing and Banyule Mayor Cr Tom Melican

### Kylie’s story

My name is Kylie, and this is my home.

**“ This is the first home that is truly my home. It’s been the only thing I’ve ever wished for. ”**

Three years ago, I left my abusive home with just a few pairs of clothing. I spent a year living in motels, and then two more years in emergency housing.

Those places were just a place to live, just a roof over my head. This is my home – my safe home.

It’s changed my life. Now I’m decorating my house, having my friends over to visit, planning for the future. My mental health is so much better now that I have a home.

I’m so grateful for this place to call home and I’m thankful for all the people who have made this happen. Thank you.





# Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy

**The Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy, launched in March 2022, is a practical guide for councils to embed the voices and priorities of Aboriginal communities at a local government level.**

The strategy provides a clear framework for Aboriginal Victorians and local government to work together based on mutual control, shared power and decision-making, fairness, respect, and trust.

The strategy recommends actions for councils, the Victorian Government and Aboriginal communities to advance Aboriginal self-determination and reconciliation.

## What does this mean for Banyule?

Following the completion of Banyule's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), Council and Banyule's RAP Advisory Committee considered how to advance reconciliation efforts with our First Nations community.

In April last year, Council endorsed the committee's recommendation for a new way forward in alignment with the Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Strategy.

Council is now developing a local Aboriginal self-determination strategy, which will guide our ongoing work with local Aboriginal communities towards Reconciliation. Tell us the things you think Council can do to support Aboriginal self-determination in Banyule until Monday 5 February.


## Find out more

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



## Aboriginal self-determination community forum

 Wednesday 6 March, 5.30pm – 6.30pm

 Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, 275  
Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

Learn about Aboriginal self-determination and have your say.

Aboriginal self-determination is an ongoing process of choice to ensure that Aboriginal communities can meet their social, cultural and economic needs.

Banyule's Self-determination Strategy will guide Council's ongoing work with local Aboriginal communities for Reconciliation.

Bookings essential at  
[trybooking.com/CNUQP](https://trybooking.com/CNUQP)  
or scan the code



# Our community gardens

**We've finalised our Urban Food Strategy, providing a blueprint for our local food systems to ensure they are healthy, sustainable, equitable and inclusive.**

The 'food system' is everything from farm to plate - the people and processes involved in growing, processing, distributing, selling, and disposing of our food. It affects human and environmental health in many ways.

Council and community members developed the Urban Food Strategy in partnership with Sustain: The Australian Food Network. It's one of the first in Victoria. Thanks to the 650+ community groups and organisations, local business owners and residents took part in consultations about the Urban Food Strategy.

Find out more about the Banyule Urban Food Strategy here: [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/UrbanFood](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/UrbanFood)



## Locally-grown food in Banyule

Agriculture in the suburbs is growing in popularity around the world – and in Banyule, it's thriving!

Banyule has five community gardens, including:

- Bellfield Community Garden, Belfield
- Buna Community Garden, Heidelberg West
- Watsonia Library Community Garden, Watsonia
- Sustainable Macleod Community Garden, Macleod
- St Johns Riverside Community Garden, Heidelberg

As many people recently learnt on our community garden bus tour, getting involved with your local community garden allows you to grow your own food alongside other locals, share knowledge and build connections.

Each garden operates differently. To learn more, scan the code or visit: [banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup)

**Scan the code to watch a video of the community gardens tour.**







# Get immersed in new aquatic therapy

**WaterMarc is the first aquatic facility in Victoria to offer a ground-breaking new Immersion Therapy.**

Immersion Therapy aims to improve mobility, muscle conditioning, confidence, self-esteem, and overall wellbeing. It's a trademarked treatment that takes place in a weightless underwater environment using SCUBA equipment.

An evidence-based allied health service used to treat people with injuries and serious medical conditions, it can also be of benefit to people with a disability. While the therapy is tailored to individual needs, a typical one-hour session includes 45 minutes in the water. Safety is a top priority of the experienced professionals who run the sessions and participants do not need to know how to swim.

You can book independently or with a referral from your GP, specialist or rehabilitation provider. Immersion Therapy is available on the National Disability Insurance Scheme and may be claimable through private health insurance or the Department of Veterans' Affairs.



**Immersion Therapy at WaterMarc is now open for bookings.**

Scan the code, go to [partnersinhealth.com.au](https://partnersinhealth.com.au) or phone 9422 6111.



# Support for carers

Are you a carer? A carer is anyone who cares for a family member or friend who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without support. Most carers are unpaid. If this is you, you are warmly invited to join the Banyule Carer Support Program and any of these activities:

## Rosanna Parklands walking group

 **Tuesdays, 10.30am, from 20 February**

 **Rosanna Parklands (register for details)**

A great way to meet other carers and get some fresh air and exercise. Come along solo or with the person you support.

## Coffee catchup for carers of a child with disability

 **Fourth Thursday of the month, 10am**

 **Mabel Jones Café, Greensborough**

Chat with others looking after a child with disability. Share empathy, a laugh and info over a complimentary cuppa.

## Banyule Carer Support Group

 **Second Thursday of each month, 10.30am**

 **Watsonia Neighbourhood House**

A relaxed and friendly monthly catchup for all carers. Chat with other carers, find out about services or just have a break from your caring role over a yummy morning tea.

## Qigong classes for those caring for an autistic, ADHD or otherwise neurodivergent family member

 **Fridays, 11.15am**

 **Greenhills Neighbourhood House**

A series of seven weekly sessions. Qigong brings together acupuncture, stretches, gentle flowing movement and stillness. Register to find out more.

## Coffee catchup for carers of people with dementia

 **Wednesdays, 10.15am**

 **Healthlink café, 1 Flintoff St Greensborough (WaterMarco)**

Chat with others looking after someone with dementia. Share empathy, a laugh and info over a complimentary cuppa. Come solo or with the person you support.

### Please register with our Carer Support Program to join these activities.

To register and find out more, scan the code or go to [banyule.vic.gov.au/CarerSupport](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/CarerSupport)  
You can also stay up to date with more activities for carers.

Questions? Email us at [carers@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:carers@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
or phone **9422 8396**



## Kindergarten Open Day

Find out more about Banyule's kindergarten services at the Open Day on Saturday 24 February from 9am to 12pm. Staff will be on hand at our 26 community kindergartens to talk about:

- Benefits of kindergarten for children aged three and four
- Facilities, programs and hours of operation at each service

### Register online for 2025 Kindergarten

Kindergarten registrations for 2025 open online at 8.30am on Friday 1 March. Registrations are marked with the date of submission only, not the time of day.

Registrations for the remainder of 2024 are open now. Complete an online form for 3 or 4-year-old kindergarten.

Council manages registrations for 26 stand-alone Kindergartens across Banyule. All children in Victoria can access free Kindergarten. Children are eligible for 3-year-old kindergarten if they turn three by 30 April in the year they are attending.

To learn more, find kindergarten locations or register a child visit [banyule.vic.gov.au/Kindergartens](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/Kindergartens)

### Planning for kindergarten in 2025?

#### Don't miss these dates:

- **Saturday 24 February**  
Kindergarten Open Day
- **Friday 1 March**  
Register for 2025 Kindergarten







# Walking the walk at Fuel-Free Friday

**Fuel-Free Friday is a regular day at Greenhills Primary School when teachers and pupils are encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school.**

Part of Council's Active to School program, Greenhills has been a strong advocate for safe routes to get more families using active transport.

At the final Fuel-Free Friday last year, Council staff visited the school to help pupils map their route to school. Veteran school crossing supervisor Cathy Leslie, pictured with pupils, above, was a familiar friendly face to greet the children. Members of the Sustainability & Environment Student Action Group, below, were on hand to support mapping and survey activities.

Find out how your school can be involved in Active to School in Banyule; contact our Sustainable Transport Education Officer at [activetravel@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:activetravel@banyule.vic.gov.au)



## Autumn Cycle Skills Classes

We have more subsidised bike skills classes starting in February, which are available to everyone who lives, works, or studies in Banyule. Bookings are essential.

### Hands-on bike maintenance

 Thursday 8 February, 12.30pm – 3pm



 Bellfield Community Hub,  
15 Daphne Crescent, Bellfield

 Wednesday 17 April, 6.15pm – 8.45pm

 Watermarc, 1 Flintoff Street, Greensborough

Bring your own bike and learn practical skills to keep it in top condition. For ages 13 upwards (teenagers to be accompanied by an adult).

**Cost:** \$25 full, \$15.50 concession.  
Book at [trybooking.com/1080759](https://trybooking.com/1080759)

### Kids one-on-one skills

 Saturday 10 February, choose a timeslot between 9am – 3pm



 Greensborough War Memorial Park

Fifty-minute sessions for children aged 7+ who would like to learn to ride a bike, or for novice riders with basic skills who would like to improve their confidence.

**Cost:** \$25 full, \$15.50 concession  
Book at [trybooking.com/1080854](https://trybooking.com/1080854)


### Adults one-on-one skills

 Saturday 24 February, choose a timeslot between 9am – 3pm



 Warringal Park, Heidelberg

 Saturday 9 March, choose a timeslot between 9am – 3pm

 The Centre Ivanhoe,  
275 Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe

Fifty-minute sessions for adults who would like to learn to ride a bike, or for novice riders with basic skills who would like to improve their confidence.

**Cost:** \$25 full, \$15.50 concession  
Book at [trybooking.com/1080769](https://trybooking.com/1080769)

### Urban cycling confidence

 Saturday 23 March, 10am – 3pm



 La Trobe University, Bundoora

For adults who can ride confidently on shared paths and wish to start riding on the road. Develop skills to ride with confidence and use your bike for transport. Includes on-road riding in light traffic.

**Cost:** \$25 full, \$15 concession  
Book at [trybooking.com/1096477](https://trybooking.com/1096477)

# Twilight Sounds

📅 Saturday 10 February, 5pm – 10pm

📍 Beverley Road, Heidelberg



## Get ready for a fantastic summer night out at the 2024 Twilight Sounds, a free concert in the beautiful parkland setting of Heidelberg Park Oval.

There will be fun for the whole family, with performers on the main stage, roving performers and free creative play for kids. Bring a picnic rug and food, or visit the food trucks on site.

### The eclectic line-up includes:

- Ash Grunwald – Australia's foremost blues musician
- Georgia Fields – one of Melbourne's brightest singer-songwriters
- Fulton Street – with a gospel sound from lead vocalist Shannen Wick
- Riflebirds – with vintage rock 'n' roll
- Bumpy – Noongar woman and Naarm-based artist with a voice from the stars
- Maya Vice – RnB, soul, electronic fusion

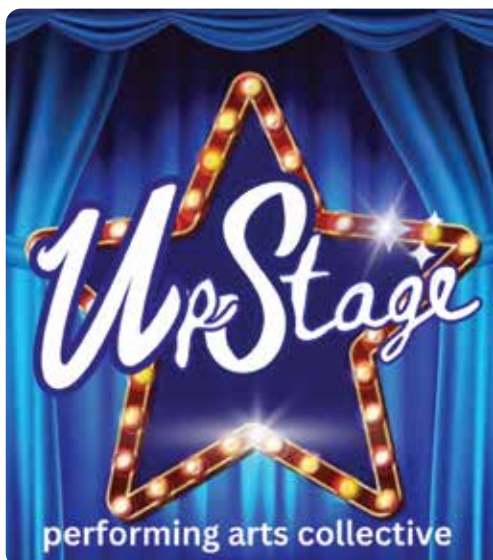
## Accessibility

A Phonic Ear system and hearing protection will be available. Visit our Customer Service tent at the event.

There are accessible toilets on site. Remember, this event is in parkland with limited sealed pathways. There is no allocated seating so arrive early to secure an ideal spot.

Please don't bring pets, glass or shade structures such as gazebos.

### Twilight Sounds is proudly supported by:



## Performing arts workshops

UpStage is a new arts project offering performing arts workshops and performance opportunities for people with lived experience of diverse and complex mental health. The fun and interactive workshops run by Heidi Everett will explore mental health and lived experience through theatre and stand-up comedy. It's a great opportunity to experiment with creative advocacy or to just have fun.

This free program is open to new, emerging and practicing creatives who live in Banyule and are aged 18 and over. All welcome, no experience required. The first workshop is in mid-February. It will be held in an accessible venue.

Interested? Email Heidi at [skybeanz@gmail.com](mailto:skybeanz@gmail.com) and write 'upstage' in the subject line of your email.



# QWere Street midsummer



📅 **Saturday 3 February, 5pm – 10pm**

📍 **Were Street, Montmorency**

Montmorency Traders Association invites you to QWere Street to celebrate the unique contributions our LGBTQIA+ communities make to live music culture in Banyule. Enjoy a dynamic line up of musicians and street performers from across generations:

- Dallas Frasca – blues, heavy soul and rock musician
- Bustamento – reggae and calypso roots with added spice from steel pan
- Aimee Francis – Australian rock

Be entertained in beautiful Montmorency Village and enjoy a variety of local food, wine and other refreshments.

**FREE  
EVENT**  
All welcome



## Outdoor movies are back in Banyule!

Enjoy three free family-friendly outdoor cinema events, each with a coffee van and food vendor on site, along with live music by local artists.

### Saturday 17 February

- 📍 **Price Park – Lady Betty Parade, Viewbank (near the playground)**
- 🕒 4pm - Sing (G)  
6.30pm - The Sapphires (PG)

### Saturday 2 March

- 📍 **Binnak Park – Anderson Parade, Watsonia North (near the playground)**
- 🕒 4pm - Monster Family (PG)  
6.30pm - School of Rock (PG)

### Saturday 9 March

- 📍 **Anthony Beale Reserve – Wahroonga Cres, St Helena (near the playground)**
- 🕒 4pm - Paws of Fury:  
The Legend of Hank (PG)  
6.30pm - Marley & Me (PG)

Scan the code  
for more details



# Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

## Events & activities

📍 275 Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe VIC 3079

All events at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub are free. Please check the website for opening hours of each exhibition 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



### Arc By Anthony & Jutta Pryor

📅 2 February – 17 March  
Opening Night: Friday 2 February, 6.30pm – 8pm

📍 Art Gallery 275

An exhibition by Jutta Pryor, exploring the interplay between her video projections and her late husband, Anthony Pryor's sculptures. Jutta Pryor's personal knowledge of Anthony Pryor's work reveals a new dimension to his vision.

*Image Credit: (detail of) Anthony Pryor, The Legend (1991), sculpture at Melbourne Cricket Ground*



### Melbourne By Another Eye By Daniel Grace

📅 22 February – 17 March 2024

📍 Loft 275

A captivating exploration of urban landscapes, brought to life on frameless art panels.

Daniel's art photo panels become a visual symphony, a celebration of the urban landscape that resonate with emotion and intellect.

*Image Credit: Williamstown to the City by Daniel Grace*

### Artist-in-Residence: 21 February – 17 March

Daniel will also be in residence making wooden jewellery boxes in the Mungga Artist Studios. You are welcome to drop in and have a chat with Daniel about his work.



### Winterbloom By Aldona Kmiec

📅 27 January – 18 February  
Opening Night: Friday 2 February, 6.30pm – 8pm

📍 Loft 275

Winterbloom is a series of long-exposure photographs taken during the Melbourne COVID-19 lockdowns. A rebellion of colour, movement and fluidity against the grey monochrome of lockdown.

*Image Credit: Winterbloom 11 by Aldona Kmiec*

### Artist-in-residence: 29 January – 18 February

Aldona will also be in residence in the Mungga Artist Studios at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub. Please drop in and see what she's working on.



### We all came through David Craven and Jon S Williams

Album Launch

📅 Friday 23 February, 6pm – 7pm

📍 Yarra-me Djila Theatrette

David Craven (Drum Set) and Jon S Williams (Electric Guitar) are a local instrumental duo from Naarm, Wurundjeri Country. Their new album of minimalist and textured music, 'We all came through' was recorded on Dja Dja Wurrung land near Castlemaine.



# Ward Rounds

Banyule is made up of 9 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

East Ivanhoe shopping village is set for a streetscape upgrade with new footpaths, greenery and traffic improvements.

Following extensive community consultation, we've created plans to enliven the village with improved intersections and raised crossings at Burton Crescent and Wilfred Road for better pedestrian safety.

New paving and seating will encourage more people to stay and enjoy the village in outdoor areas such as the one at Vinoshis, pictured.

Work will begin in February and will be finished by the end of the year. Thanks in advance for your patience; expect minor disruptions. A small number of parking spaces being taken up by a laydown area for work materials.



**Cr Alison Champion**  
Sherbourne Ward

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

I enjoyed catching up with Barb Armstrong, Branch Manager of Watsonia Library recently. Barb and her team do a fabulous job running the library, which is always bustling with children and adults of all ages.

Banyule libraries are operated by Yarra Plenty Regional Library (YPRL) service and, as the chair of the YPRL Board in 2023, I'm

always impressed with the variety of services and community programs on offer. From gaming groups to family movie nights and help with family history research, our libraries have something for everyone.

Our libraries are a free resource for everyone in our community. Find out more at [yprl.vic.gov.au](http://yprl.vic.gov.au) or pop in and say hello!



**Cr Fiona Mitsinikos**  
Hawdon Ward

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

We had a fantastic time when the Viewbank Scouts visited the Council Chambers in Ivanhoe.

They had a tour of the chambers and we held a mock council meeting looking at some local issues of interest to them.

The scouts elected a mayor and I helped out as pretend deputy mayor, while Banyule CEO Allison Beckwith acted as a speaker from the gallery.

We were impressed with the enthusiastic and thoughtful way in which the Scouts got into the spirit of the evening. There were plenty of curly questions and intelligent debating, and we even found some compromises and agreement.

I'd like to think we have some future councillors and parliamentarians in the group because I am sure we would be in very good hands!



# Ward Rounds



**Cr Elizabeth Nealy**  
Beale Ward

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

I was fortunate to catch up with local resident and foster mum, Kerry Longmuir, a 2024 Victoria Local Hero nominee in the Australian of the Year Awards. The nomination recognises the tremendous difference that Kerry's efforts have made to hundreds of young lives.

With her husband Stephen, Kerry has cared for more than 400 babies and children over the last 39 years.

Kerry, who has two biological adult children, was inspired to become a foster carer after picking up a flyer about fostering at a local community fair.

After a successful first experience she continued, sometimes looking after up to seven children at a time.

Congratulations on your nomination, Kerry - you're our local hero.



**Cr Mark Di Pasquale**  
Bakewell Ward

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

Work on Watsonia Town Square is ramping up, with construction now concentrated around the Watsonia Road roundabout and the car park in Morwell Avenue.

Inevitably, there is disruption when building community infrastructure such as this and we thank you for your patience. I am certain the Town Square will be a huge asset for Watsonia and well worth the temporary pain.

Remember, all shops and services remain open and parking is available. The ANZAC Day service will take place outside Watsonia RSL, as always.

Did you know Council has installed a temporary car park at the top of the hill on Morwell Avenue (pictured)?

With Australia Day around the corner, I'd like to acknowledge the wonderful multicultural community of which we are so lucky to be part.



**Cr Alida McKern**  
Chelsworth Ward

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

Whether you swim for fun, fitness or competition, there are plenty of aquatic options in Banyule (see page 8).

Our community is fortunate to have some well-established swimming clubs such as the Heidelberg Flyers, which is celebrating its 30th year.

Based in Ivanhoe, the Flyers is a welcoming Masters Swimming club

with around 30 active members from 18 - 80 years of age, including Hilda and Peter, pictured.

The Flyers train twice a week at the Ivanhoe Girls Grammar pool and new members are welcome. If you want to dip your toe in the water of club swimming, there are come and try sessions at 8pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. Find out more at [heidelbergflyers.org.au](http://heidelbergflyers.org.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

Council is calling for State and Federal Government investment across Banyule.

One of the projects we're advocating for is to complete the cycling corridor on Banksia Street from Heidelberg Station to the Darebin Creek Trail. We're also seeking funding to electrify community buildings such as Olympic Village Child and Family Centre as part of our efforts

to be carbon neutral by 2040.

Council's contract with the Victorian Energy Collaboration means the centre would have net zero emissions after the upgrade.

Victorian Councils have pooled their electricity needs into one contract which provides renewable energy.

Read about our advocacy priorities at [banyule.vic.gov.au/Advocacy](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/Advocacy)



**Cr Rick Garotti**  
Grimshaw Ward

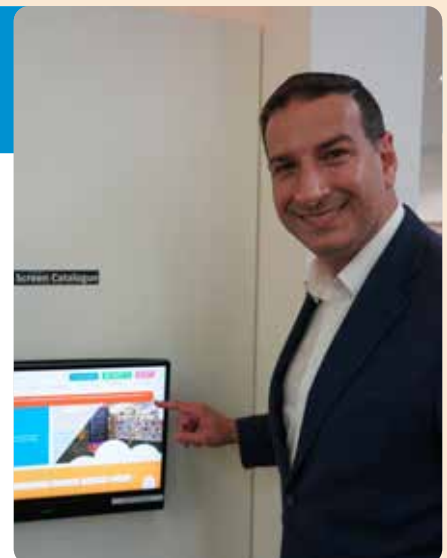
[rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
0402 846 845

Banyule's libraries are an amazing community resource for everything from movies to audiobooks to digital magazines and research advice.

Banyule has three library branches and a mobile library operated by Yarra Plenty Regional Library. Here I am pictured with the self-service portal at our local Watsonia Library.

Libraries are a great place to study and catch up with friends. There are computers and free internet access, as well as homework help programs for secondary school students.

We also have story times for children and parents and programs of activities ranging from family games nights to learning about beekeeping. Best of all, our libraries are FREE!



**Cr Tom Melican**  
Ibbott Ward

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

Have you seen the new art at Macleod Recreation and Fitness Centre? A joint project of Council's Youth Services team and the YMCA, which runs the centre, it aims to prevent graffiti while improving the Y's outdoor training space. The mural by Banyule artist D'Arcy from Caper Creative incorporates recommendations from local young people who attended the 2023 Banyule Youth Summit

and themes from the Y of health, happiness and connection. The centre has programs for all ages and abilities. Check it out at [macleod.ymca.org.au](https://macleod.ymca.org.au) If you know of a local wall that is being tagged significantly and think it would be a good place for a mural, email the Youth Services team at [banyuleyouth@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:banyuleyouth@banyule.vic.gov.au) See more of Caper's mural work at [instagram.com/caper.one](https://instagram.com/caper.one)





# Wurundjeri seasons

## Biderap (Dry) season, January - February

**During the season of Biderap you'll find that the weather is hot and dry, with high temperatures and low rain fall.**

From early January to late February the kangaroos start breeding, wombats are seen out and about at night and native cherries begin to ripen.

**Things to look out for during Biderap Season:**

- The Southern Cross is high in the south at sunrise
- Female Common Brown butterflies are flying
- The Bowat (tussock-grass) is long and dry, making good beds for snakes to laze in the sun
- Wombats can be seen at night



## Good news for butterflies

Volunteer power is helping us monitor the population of the endangered Eltham Copper Butterfly larvae. Counts from October and early November this year returned positive results, with 202 individual caterpillars observed over 5 weeks of surveying in Andrew Yandell Habitat Reserve, Greensborough. This was 43 higher than last year and the second highest result since formal surveying began in 2004.

Thanks to all the volunteers who assisted our Park Rangers in conducting these nocturnal surveys. The data collected helps us to keep track of the species' population and guide our management approach.

Adult Eltham Copper Butterflies can be seen flying in Andrew Yandell Reserve from December to March.

Scan the code to learn more about the Eltham Copper Butterfly and its fascinating life cycle:  
[banyule.vic.gov.au/YandellReserve](http://banyule.vic.gov.au/YandellReserve)







Did you know Banyule is home to endangered ecosystems such as Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands of the Victorian Volcanic Plains?

# Bushland diaries

## Be an environmental friend in 2024

**Despite the pressures of urbanisation, Banyule is still home to over 300 hectares of bushland which contains hundreds of locally indigenous plants and provides crucial habitat for wildlife.**

If we don't act, several of these species could become threatened and put at risk of extinction.

Our team of dedicated Park Rangers work hard to protect and enhance biodiversity in our bushland reserves to build resilient ecosystems, but they can't do it alone. Thankfully, Banyule has a strong network of passionate and skilled volunteers who greatly assist our Park Rangers with targeted weed control, revegetation and species-enrichment planting, and habitat creation through nest box building.

Joining an environmental friends group is a great way to learn more about your local environment and meet like-minded people. If you are studying environmental science or a related field, you'll also gain valuable experience.

If you want to help your local environment, consider joining one of Banyule's environmental friends groups in 2024.

Scan the code for more information or head to **[banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup](https://banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup)**

Alternatively, email the Bushland Management Unit at **[enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au)**



# Twilight Sounds

2024

LIVE MUSIC

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY  
5PM - 10PM

HEIDELBERG PARK OVAL, BEVERLEY ROAD

FEATURING  
ASH GRUNWALD  
GEORGIA FIELDS  
FULTON STREET  
BUMPY

Stay tuned for updates at  
[banyule.vic.gov.au](http://banyule.vic.gov.au)



## Contact us

### All enquiries

PO Box 94, Greensborough, VIC 3088  
Phone 9490 4222  
[enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au)  
[banyule.vic.gov.au](http://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 بانويل على الرقم 9490 4222.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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