

Banyule Banner

November 2025

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Mayor's Message

Mayor
Cr Elizabeth Nealy



This edition of the *Banyule Banner* sees my 2024/25 term as Banyule Mayor draw to a close.

Working with a new Council

The last 12 months presented exciting challenges as Mayor of a new council group. I am proud of how our councillors have worked together to advance the needs of our community. We may debate different points of view, but I can honestly say that every one of Banyule's nine councillors has the best interests of our community at heart.

We've recorded a short video highlighting some of our achievements in 2024/25 ([page 4](#)).

Capital works highlights

As your Beale Ward councillor, a highlight for me was the completion of a major rebuild of the pavilion at Anthony Beale Reserve ([page 7](#)). We've also made fantastic progress on major projects including Rosanna

Library, Olympic Park and Watsonia Town Square, all of which are nearing completion.

Early Impressions success

It was a privilege to open the Early Impressions exhibition, proving Council's Arts and Culture program is at the top of the industry. Do not miss these iconic Heidelberg School paintings that were painted in our backyard ([page 18](#)).

Tackling complex issues

We're also doing our bit on big issues that require a coordinated response from all levels of government.

As we mark Gambling Harm Awareness Week (27 October – 3 November), it is sobering to consider that in the year to May 2025, \$63.5 million was lost in electronic gaming machines across Banyule. Free, confidential help is available through Gamblers Help (Holstep Health in Heidelberg West) and BETSTOP.

Read Council's Gambling Harm Prevention Policy at banyule.vic.gov.au/GamblingPolicy

We're also working to reduce homelessness in Banyule. Learn about our new outreach service ([page 12](#)) and turn to [page 3](#) to see how Council's entrepreneurial skill has delivered a new affordable housing development in Heidelberg.

Advocating for our community

It's been a busy year in advocacy too. See our 2025/26 priorities on [page 12](#) and get involved in our latest campaign to improve transport in Melbourne's north.

Thank you!

It's been a privilege serving as your mayor and meeting so many of you at community events through the year. I look forward to supporting the new mayor, who will be elected at a Council meeting on 18 November.

Stay in touch with us online

 **Email newsletters**
banyule.vic.gov.au/subscribe

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

Have your say on important projects and local initiatives

 shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

 **Upcoming dates:**
10 November
18 November (Mayoral election)
1 December

 **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.

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.

COVER: *Urban Forest Celebration at Sills Bend, Warringal Parklands. Photo by Darcy K Scales.*

Affordable housing in the heart of Heidelberg



Artist's impression of Cartmell Street development, northern elevation.

Work has begun on an affordable housing development and public carpark that will revitalise Heidelberg and bring increased activity to the town centre.

The development on the former Council-owned carpark at 7 – 11 Cartmell Street is a joint project of Council and Hallmarc Developments, with funding support from the Australian Government's Housing Australia Future Fund.

In the deal struck between Council and Hallmarc, the developer will build 85 affordable housing units for private sale as well as a multi-level public carpark that will remain in Council ownership. Public parking on the site will increase from 91 to 148 parking spaces. There will be a separate carpark for residents of the building.

The development in the heart of Heidelberg is part of Council's ongoing effort to revitalise the town centre and provide more affordable housing in Banyule. A lack of housing for key workers in health, education and community services is a significant challenge in Banyule.

The new affordable housing in Cartmell Street is within easy walking distance of the Austin and Warringal Private hospitals. Living on the doorstep of Burgundy Street shops and services and a short walk to Heidelberg station and bus routes, residents will have easy access to walking and bike riding paths and sports and recreation facilities at Heidelberg Park, Warringal Parklands and Yarra Flats.

The new carpark in Cartmell Street will open in early 2027. Alternative parking is available in public carparks off Hawdon Street and Cape Street.

For more information, scan the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/CartmellSt



Changes coming to subdivision approvals

A new approval process to subdivide residential land has been announced by the Victorian Government.

While Council is working to understand the full impact of the changes and how they will work with our planning approvals system, we understand the new VicSmart permit process will be used for applications for:

- two new homes on a single lot
- second home on a single lot
- subdividing one lot into two.

Banyule Mayor Elizabeth Nealy said while Council supports efforts to grow housing supply, it must not come at the expense of local involvement.

"Australians are proud of their neighbourhoods and want to have a say in how they grow.

"While Council supports the need for more homes, we are concerned about the lack of community consultation in this latest change.

"Council will continue to advocate for our community to have a voice in planning decisions that shape their streets and suburbs."

Other state-wide changes introduced this year include the new Townhouse and Low-Rise Code that provides 'deemed-to-comply' standards for fast approvals.

For details of the new subdivisions approval process visit planning.vic.gov.au

Find out more about how the Victorian Government's planning reforms will impact our community at banyule.vic.gov.au/PlanningReforms

Shaping Banyule

Get involved in local projects



Help improve the play space at Malahang Reserve

Tell us how you use the playground and surrounding park, what you love about it and any ideas to make it better.

Improving the playground at Malahang Reserve in Heidelberg West is a key action from Council's Open Space Plan and part of our commitment to maintaining and improving open space to meet the needs of our community.

Take the online survey, share your thoughts with Council staff at Malahang Festival on Sunday 16 November, or attend the workshop:

 Saturday 8 November, 10am – 12pm

 Bellfield Community Hub

Your Council contact

Alli Coster, Open Space Planning & Design Coordinator

Phone: 9422 8364

Email: openspaceplanning@banyule.vic.gov.au



Online survey open until 23 November.
Scan the code or visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/MalahangPlayground



The Banyule Story

Annual Report 2024/25

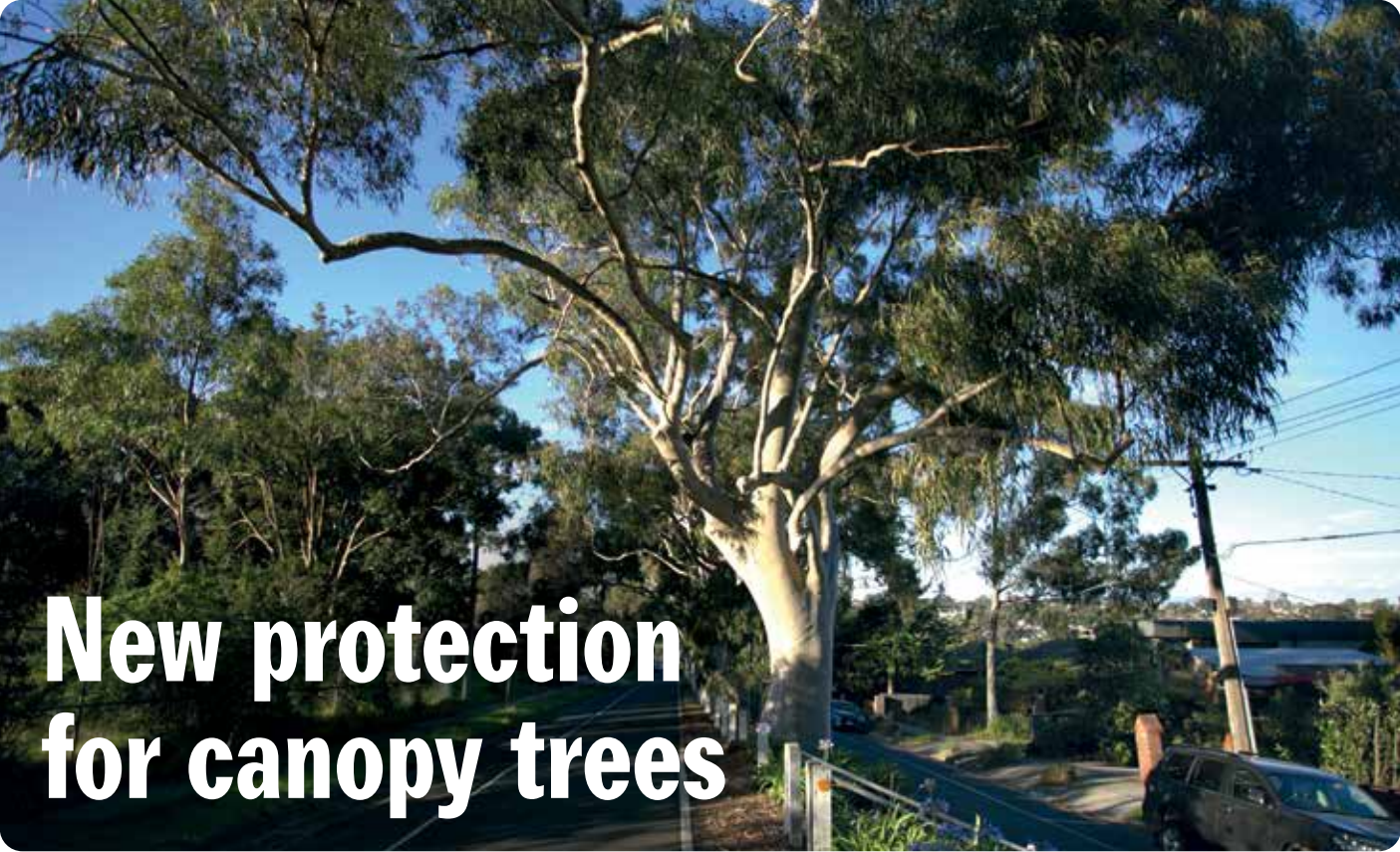
Council is committed to transparent reporting and accountability. The Annual Report is one way we report to you, our community, on Council's operations and performance. It explains how we have delivered Banyule's Council Plan 2021 – 2025 and includes an independently audited financial report.

The Annual Report is also a snapshot of who we are as an organisation and as a community. That's why we call it The Banyule Story.

Read the story at banyule.vic.gov.au/AnnualReport

Scan the code to watch a short video of 2024/25 highlights with Banyule Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy and Councillors.





New protection for canopy trees

Council welcomes new rules that protect valuable tree canopy in residential areas.

The rules introduced by the Victorian Government in September aim to balance tree-protection with the need for more housing. They apply to all Victorian planning schemes, including Banyule's. Council is working through how the changes will affect Banyule.

You may still need a permit to remove a tree under Banyule's Planning Scheme, regardless of whether the new Victorian rules would require one. As always, you should contact Council before cutting down any tree. In 2024/25, Council prosecuted several illegal tree removals.

Banyule Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy welcomed the new protections:

"Banyule Council shares the goal of protecting canopy trees in residential areas and is pleased with this change.

"It will support our target of 30% canopy cover across all suburbs by 2050, while being mindful of housing needs."

Deputy Mayor Cr Peter Castaldo added his support.

"Our urban forest is a vital part of what makes Banyule a great place to live. Council supports policy that helps protect and enhance canopy tree cover, reducing the impacts of urban heat and providing habitat for local birds and animals."

Information will be updated on Council's website when we have more clarity on the impact of the changes.

What is a canopy tree?

A canopy tree is:

- More than 6m high (about the height of an average single-storey house)
- More than 50cm trunk circumference
- At least 4m canopy diameter.

Do I need a permit?

Under Banyule's Planning Scheme you need a permit to remove, lop or prune a canopy tree:

- If the tree is within 6m of the front boundary or 4.5m of the rear boundary of a property with a dwelling.
- If the tree is within 6m of the front boundary or 4.5m of the rear boundary of a property where there is a planning application for a dwelling.
- On any vacant lot, including one on which a new single dwelling is proposed.

Call us before cutting

If you're thinking of removing a tree in one of these spaces, call Council's Development Planning Team on **9490 4222** for advice.

Check local vegetation controls on VicPlan: mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan

Scan the code to find out more or visit planning.vic.gov.au/guides-and-resources



Growing a greener Banyule together

Guidelines for planting on nature strips

Council's new Nature Strip Guidelines give residents more flexibility in greening streets and improving our local environment.

Since the guidelines were introduced in June we've received 25 permit applications – a strong start that shows the community's enthusiasm for creating healthier, greener neighbourhoods.

It takes about five minutes to apply and every approved permit comes with a \$50 voucher to help you choose the right plants and contribute to local biodiversity.

Small spaces, big potential

Nature strips may seem small spaces, but collectively they have huge potential. You can help transform these areas into thriving habitats for birds, insects and other native wildlife. You'll also be helping cool our streets, soften the look of urban spaces and bring more greenery to our doorsteps.

We're offering workshops in November and December, covering preparation, planning and plant selection.

Start planning your contribution for a greener Banyule. For full details, resources and workshop bookings, visit banyule.vic.gov.au/NatureStrip



Adopt a tree

We're planting thousands of trees to increase tree canopy cover and cool our neighbourhoods. To reach our goals, we need your help to plant more trees on private land.

By planting a canopy tree on your property, you will be:

- Bringing more shade to your street.
- Leaving a legacy for our community.
- Enhancing your own garden.
- Creating environments for local wildlife.

Our Adopt a Tree program has been a huge success, with 450 trees 'adopted' by Banyule residents to plant next autumn. If you missed out, register via our website and we'll let you know before the next Adopt a Tree giveaway.

Find out more and register at banyule.vic.gov.au/AdoptTree or phone 9490 4222



Or Peter Castaldo, left, and Eaglemont resident Rowan enjoy a shady spot in Eaglemont.

Building a better Banyule



Waste Recovery Centre changes

We're making some changes at the Banyule Waste Recovery Centre as part of a safety and infrastructure upgrade. From **Monday 3 November**:

- Green waste can only be dropped off on Saturdays and Sundays
- We are no longer accepting:
 - commercial quantities of green waste
 - rubble and building waste

There may be some delays on weekends while everyone gets used to the changes. Check the website or scan the code for updates and information on alternative places to take commercial green waste or rubble waste:

banyule.vic.gov.au/WasteRecoveryCentre



New pavilion opening at Anthony Beale Reserve

Exciting news for Greensborough Junior Football Club and the many other groups and residents who use Anthony Beale Reserve – the new pavilion will officially open later this month.

Council has completed a \$2.1 million refurbishment of the pavilion in Greensborough. Improvements include female-friendly changerooms, a bigger clubroom and community meeting space, renovated canteen, new scorer's box and storage areas and a deck that is perfect for viewing the on field action. The building also has ground floor toilets open to the public.

Banyule Mayor Cr Elizabeth Nealy, right, took a tour of the pavilion with Melinda Ramsay, Council's Sport, Recreation and Community Infrastructure Coordinator.

You may still see our workers busy at the pavilion over coming weeks as we complete finishing touches.





Cat desexing program

We've teamed up with The Cat Protection Society of Victoria to offer a free, monthly cat desexing program.

Why is desexing important?

Desexing your cat is not just about preventing unwanted kittens, it's a vital step toward a longer, healthier life for your cat. The benefits of desexing include:

- ✓ Reduced risk of infections.
- ✓ Longer life expectancy for your cat.
- ✓ Decreased roaming, less chance of road accidents.
- ✓ Decreased aggression, reduced spread of Feline Immunodeficiency Virus.
- ✓ Less spraying and marking.
- ✓ Ease the pressure on animal shelters.
- ✓ Less nuisance behaviours.
- ✓ Protect native wildlife from predation.

Same day care

The program runs one day each month and is available for two cats per household for Banyule residents. You'll need to drop off your cat at the Cat Protection Society in Greensborough in the morning and collect it by 4pm the same day. Cats must be transported in a made-for-purpose crate. Ask us for help with transport if you have mobility limitations. The next dates are:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 📅 Monday 10 November | 📅 Monday 12 January |
| 📅 Monday 8 December | 📅 Monday 9 February |

Make an appointment

Phone: **9490 4222**

Email: enquiries@banyule.vic.gov.au

Book online: trybooking.com/1472475



Sharing our public places

We all enjoy some fresh air and open space – our dogs too! We have rules in place to help dog owners, walkers, cyclists and other park users all safely enjoy Banyule's public spaces.

If you let your dog off-lead please be aware of these rules:

- Keep your dog on a lead in public places, unless in a reserve.
- In reserves, dogs can be off-lead except within five metres of a BBQ, playground or on a shared footway.
- Dogs are prohibited in environmentally sensitive areas.
- A dog must be under effective control which means that:
 - it is capable of being recalled to its handler.
 - it is within clear sight to its owner or handler.
 - it does not engage in anti-social or threatening behaviour.

Remember to carry a dog poo bag on dog walks – there are fines for not cleaning up after your dog.

Find out more at banyule.vic.gov.au/PetsInPublic





The cost of waste

How landfill disposal prices affect us all

Councils across Victoria are facing rising costs to manage household waste. A key factor is the Victorian Government's Landfill Levy, a charge applied to every tonne of waste sent to landfill, on top of disposal fees. Twenty years ago, this levy was \$4 a tonne. Last year, it was \$129.27 and this year it has increased to \$169.79.

The aim of the levy is to reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill and encourage recycling.

Bin contamination (the wrong items placed in recycling or FOGO bins) must be removed by hand at processing facilities then taken to a landfill, adding more costs on top of the landfill levy. The more waste that ends up in landfill, the more we all pay.

Help keep our waste costs as low as possible

- Sort waste correctly and check what goes in each bin.
- Keep recycling and FOGO waste loose and never use bags in these bins.
- Purchase thoughtfully and avoid items with excess packaging.
- Use one of your annual hard waste collections. Check what's included and phone **9490 4222** or book at banyule.vic.gov.au/HardWaste

Can you recycle that plastic?

Here's an easy way to decide if an item is hard or soft plastic - do the scrunch test:

- If you can scrunch it and it stays mostly in a ball and makes a rustling sound – it is soft plastic and goes in your rubbish (red lid) bin.
- If you scrunch a container and it pops back into shape and makes a clicky sound – it is hard plastic and goes in the recycling (yellow lid) bin.

National Recycling Week

National Recycling Week on 10–16 November is all about making smarter choices for a cleaner planet. Here's some tips and resources to help you make the most of recycling.

Top recycling tips

- Leave lids on recyclable items – they'll get sorted further along in their recycling journey.
- You don't need to rinse items as long as there aren't large quantities of food left in them.
- Don't worry about greasy cheese stains on pizza boxes, the boxes are still recyclable.
- E-waste and batteries don't belong in any bin – take them to the Banyule Waste Recovery Centre at 307 Waterdale Road, Bellfield.



Retailers helping recycle

Some local retailers participate in specialised recycling programs for waste items from medicine blister packs to sports shoes. Find out what's near you:

- Pharmacies – pharmacycle.com.au
- Optometrists – opticycle.com.au
- Department and beauty stores – teracycle.com.au
- Shoe stores – treadlightly.asga.com.au

Advocating for our community

Banyule Council alone cannot fund all the services and infrastructure our community needs. That's why Council advocates to all levels of government to secure the funding we need to make Banyule a better place.

Our advocacy efforts can bring great benefits to our community, supporting the delivery of better services, programs and new and improved infrastructure.

For example, we secured \$2.3 million from the Australian Government to upgrade WaterMarc and switch the aquatic centre and office buildings above to 100% renewable energy. This will save Council more than \$400,000 per year on energy bills and take us a lot closer to meeting our net zero emissions target.

Council takes every strategic opportunity to seek new funding and government support for a list of infrastructure projects and programs. Each year, we select a shortlist of highest priorities.

Our advocacy priorities for 2025/26

- Accessibility upgrades to Watsonia Station.
- Completing the missing link of shared-user path between Macleod and Rosanna.
- Extending truck curfews to protect local roads.
- Ongoing funding and advocacy to fight homelessness.
- More social housing and increasing local voices in town planning decisions.
- Funding for an integrated services hub in Heidelberg West.
- Completing upgrades at Ivanhoe Aquatic, including making it all electric.
- Improving safety and traffic flow at Civic Drive roundabout in Greensborough.

Learn more about Council's advocacy work at banyule.vic.gov.au/Advocacy

Join the campaign to improve transport in Melbourne's north

Public transport options in Melbourne's north are not good enough. That's why Banyule has joined forces with six other local councils to push for better transport for everyone. We want to see transport that connects us all, including more trains and buses, as well as safe bike and walking paths.

With your voice, we can advocate for real change. Tell us how transport issues impact your daily life. Scan the code or visit connectmelbournenorth.com



North East Link road closures

Parts of Grimshaw Street will be closed from October to December while work is underway on the North East Link Grimshaw Street interchange. For details about the North East Link road closures and detours visit bigbuild.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 105 105.



Bin collections during road closures

Council has committed extra equipment and resources to local waste collection services while Grimshaw Street is closed. If you live in the area, your bin may be collected later than usual or even the next day. We've sourced smaller trucks and manual collection options to work around bottlenecks, so things may look a bit different too.

How can you help? Put out your bin the night before collection, as usual, and leave it out until it has been emptied.

Check for updates at banyule.vic.gov.au/WRC





Flowering of community at Bunya garden

Bunya is one of five community gardens in Banyule. Locals can join in to grow their own food, learn about gardening and contribute to food share programs.

Bunya was established in 2010 by community members, Holstep Health (formerly Banyule Community Health) and Banyule Council.

A small team of volunteers looks after the garden and established orchard with the support of a health promotion officer. Bunya is a communal garden, so everyone works on the whole garden together rather than on individual plots. There are workshops, music, special interest groups and occasional working bees.

Bunya's produce is shared, for example with Barrbunin Beek Aboriginal Gathering Place. Food waste from Barrbunin Beek returns to the Bunya composting system which includes six compost bays and worm farms.

Want to get involved?

New volunteers are welcome. You don't have to have a green thumb, Bunya needs helpers with other skills as well as keen gardeners!

📍 Bunya Street, Heidelberg West

📅 Tuesday 12pm – 2pm, Thursday 3pm – 5pm

Learn more about Bunya at Facebook.com/BunyaGarden

Check out Banyule's other community gardens and environmental Friends groups at banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup

Lettuce help

Lettuce is a popular crop at Bunya because it is easy to germinate and fast growing.

Tips to prolong your home lettuce harvest: pick lettuce leaves individually to promote plant growth. Pluck or cut the outer leaves from the very base of the plant and enjoy!

Get active to school in 2026

Register your school now for Council's Active to School program.

Active to School encourages students to use any physically active mode of transport – walking, running, scooting, riding a bike – to get to school.

The program promotes fitness, reduces traffic congestion, makes school streets safer and promotes physical and mental wellbeing.

Council's transport team works with your school to design a program of fun activities focused on sustainable transport.

Check Council's website for more information or email the Transport Planning Team at activetravel@banyule.vic.gov.au



Combating homelessness in Banyule

Council is committed to protecting the human rights and dignity of people sleeping rough and who are experiencing homelessness.

Research reveals around 127,700 people will experience homelessness across Australia this year. For many people, just one small change can put them at risk of homelessness – perhaps their hours of paid work are cut back or the cost of their mortgage or rent increases.

What is Council doing?

Homelessness is often the result of complex systemic issues, many of which are beyond the remit of Council. However, we believe we can work with services and other levels of government to make a difference.

Homelessness remains one of Council's advocacy priorities for 2025/26. We are constantly working with other levels of government to advocate for more affordable housing and better services for our community.

Supporting people who are sleeping rough

Sleeping rough can refer to anyone who is living on the streets, in their car, sleeping in parks or squatting in derelict buildings for temporary shelter.

Council has funded a new assertive outreach program – Banyule Assertive Community Outreach. Specialist outreach workers will connect with people sleeping rough, helping them find essential services and stable housing.

We are delivering the program in partnership with Merri Outreach Support Service, an experienced, not-for-profit housing support service.

You can help by letting us know of someone sleeping rough (details at right).

Homelessness Network Group

We've formed a Homelessness Network Group with organisations and services across the municipality.

WARM Inc.

Council is supporting a new initiative led by local churches and community members. The Winter Accommodation Resource Movement Inc. will provide a safe, warm and welcoming shelter for people experiencing homelessness during the coldest months.

Our Community Connectors

It's not always easy to find the right services. Did you know Council provides a free service to connect Banyule residents with the services and support they need?

Contact our Service Navigation and Information team:

- 🌐 banyule.vic.gov.au/ServiceNavigation
- ✉ service.navigation@banyule.vic.gov.au
- 📞 9457 8000

How can you help?

Let us know if you are concerned about a person sleeping rough in Banyule. Our outreach worker may be able to provide the right support.

The best way to let us know is to answer a few short questions on our online form. Scan the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/homelessness

Alternatively, call Council's Customer Service team on **9490 4222**.



It is important to remember that:

- Finding and providing suitable support for a person sleeping rough can take time. Building trust and relationships takes time.
- There is a shortage of affordable housing and a long waitlist for public housing.
- If you encounter someone in need of physical or mental health help, or who appears to be a danger to themselves or others, please call 000.

Have you seen a lost trolley? Help get it home

If you find an abandoned shopping trolley in the wrong place, report it to us and we'll arrange for it to be collected.

Do it on the spot using the easy Report It form on Council's website or note the location and report it online when you get home.

Scan the code or head to banyule.vic.gov.au/ReportIt





Malahang Community Festival

📅 Sunday 16 November, 11am – 4pm

📍 Malahang Reserve, Heidelberg West

Celebrate Banyule's vibrant and diverse community at Malahang Community Festival. This is a free, family-friendly day of music, food and activities for all ages.

- Walakado Japanese taiko drums
- Performances by local schools and community groups
- Circus workshops
- Face painting, art and craft, gardening workshops
- Food trucks and community BBQ (halal options)
- NEW THIS YEAR: free kids rides and learn to skate workshops.

Everyone is welcome

We welcome people of different cultural backgrounds, all identities and all abilities. There is accessible parking and drop off, accessible toilets and a sensory-friendly space. Dogs on leads also welcome.

Drug, alcohol and smoke-free event.

Getting there

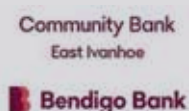
- Ride your bike or visit ptv.vic.gov.au for bus timetables
- No on-site public parking (accessible parking and drop-off via Oriel Road)

Find out more

Phone **9490 4222**, scan the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/MalahangFestival



Supported by



Carols by Candlelight

📅 Saturday 13 December, 5pm – 9.30pm

📍 Greensborough War Memorial Park

Get ready to enjoy the spirit of Christmas with MC Wilbur Wilde and performers Isaiah Firebrace, Ruva Ngwenya, Australian Children's Choir, Diamond Valley Brass Band, Team Dream and Chao Feng Chinese Orchestra. There'll be Auslan interpreters, free photos with Santa, craft workshops, face painting and food trucks.

Drug, alcohol and smoke-free event.

We ask that you leave your pets at home (assistance dogs welcome).

Full program at banyule.vic.gov.au/carols



Supported by





Reducing your risk of fire

Did you know Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world?

As we head into another Fire Danger Period, now is the time to get organised and protect yourself and your property from fire.

Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer conducts inspections each year to identify fire risks around Banyule. All property owners must reduce fire hazards and maintain their properties through the Fire Danger Period.

Check your property regularly, keeping in mind changing weather conditions, and put in place a maintenance schedule through to April. If you need help with clearance work, arrange a local contractor to do the required work to ensure compliance.

No burning off is allowed in Banyule during the declared Fire Danger Period. At other times, a permit is required.

When does the Fire Danger Period start?

The Country Fire Authority declares the Fire Danger Period for each municipality at different times in the lead up to the fire season. During the Fire Danger Period, the use of fire is restricted to help prevent fires from starting. Check the CFA website for more fire prevention information: cfa.vic.gov.au

Fire prevention checklist

Fuel reduction is one of the most important precautions that you can undertake. Make sure you:

- ☐ Slash or mow grass around the home and outbuildings.
- ☐ Remove tree limbs, branches, leaf litter and twigs from around your home.
- ☐ Maintain a 20m fuel reduction zone around your home (greater if on a slope).
- ☐ Clear around trees and remove dead branches, prune lower limbs and cut back branches overhanging any roof.
- ☐ Keep gutters and roofs clear of leaf litter, twigs and debris.
- ☐ It's a good idea to stack firewood away from the house and, as always, check your smoke alarms regularly.

Seasonal conditions may result in regrowth of vegetation after the initial slashing or mowing. It is important to maintain fire prevention steps throughout the Fire Danger Period.

Spring mowing

Did you know that in Banyule we mow the equivalent of 250 MCGs each month in summer?

The warmer weather means the grass is growing faster and our parks and operations staff are busy staying on top of the maintenance.

Thank you for your patience as we get around all of our parks, reserves and sports grounds in turn.





St Kilda Film Festival – special Banyule screening

Banyule City Council will again be part of the St Kilda Film Festival Victorian Tour!

We will screen a selection of Australia's Top Short Films from this year's program, at Greensborough Hoyts Cinema.

Please note: Some films contain themes that require parental guidance. Under 15s must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

 Friday 28 November, 7.30pm – 9pm

 Hoyts Cinemas, Greensborough Plaza

Tickets: \$10, includes popcorn and drink.
Scan the code to book.



For more information, please contact the Banyule Arts & Culture team: arts@banyule.vic.gov.au



On the path to treaty

For the first time in Australia's history, a treaty has been negotiated with our First Peoples.

The Victorian government has been on the path to treaty for nearly a decade. A strong foundation has been laid.

Final agreement to the treaty is subject to the Statewide Treaty Bill passing through parliament and signing of the treaty by the government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

The bill gives effect to what has been negotiated with the First Peoples' Assembly. It was introduced into the Victorian Parliament in September.

What is treaty?

Treaty is a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations peoples that acknowledges the historical and contemporary rights of First Peoples. It is about ensuring First Peoples have a say over the policies that impact them and their families.

Treaty is one of three key pillars of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. In December 2022 Banyule Council unanimously agreed to adopt the Uluru Statement, committing to real action and information sharing to support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Find out more at firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/treaty



What's on

For more free and low-cost local events, go to banyule.vic.gov.au/whatson



Water-smart gardening workshop

📅 Saturday 8 November, 11am – 1pm

📍 Macleod Community Hall

Explore capturing, storing and using water wisely in your garden. Each participant will leave with valuable tips, tricks and strategies to help make your garden more water smart.

Book: events.humanitix.com/water-wise-gardening-workshop



Home-based business forum

📅 Wednesday 26 November, 9.30am – 2.30pm

📍 Eltham Community and Reception Centre

Banyule and Nillumbik Councils bring you this inspiring forum for home-based entrepreneurs. Connect with others on the same path of building and growing a home business. Includes lunch, speakers, Council business support.

Book: events.humanitix.com/nillumbik-home-based-business-forum



Banyule Children's Gift Appeal

For 24 years, the Gift Appeal has brightened Christmas for local children and families experiencing financial hardship. Last Christmas, 459 local children received gifts.

Diamond Valley Community Support is again coordinating the donations, packing and delivery of gifts.

How you can help

- Give a book by supporting 3081 Angels, email 3081angels@holstephealth.org.au
- Donate new toys at a donation bin at any Banyule library (Ivanhoe, Rosanna or Watsonia), or at Diamond Valley Community Support in Greensborough Plaza.
- Scan the code to make a tax-deductible donation.



Ivanhoe Library & Cultural Hub

Events & activities

📍 275 Upper Heidelberg Rd, Ivanhoe
🌐 banyule.vic.gov.au/ILCH
✉ arts@banyule.vic.gov.au
📞 9490 4222

Art Gallery 275: Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 5pm
(Closed Mondays)
Loft 275: open during library hours

International Day of People with Disability – Community Fun Day

📅 Wednesday 3 December, 12pm – 3pm

Come celebrate International Day of People with Disability with us! All welcome, no bookings required. Just drop in and join in the fun with some art, activities and a silent disco.

Image: Community Fun Day at ILCH, 2024



Mungga Artist Studios

TACAS – Textile Art Community Art Space

📅 Residency dates: 28 October – 7 December

📅 Christmas Maker Market @ ILCH:
Sunday 7 December



Cards of Kindness

Yarra Plenty Regional Library service invites you to participate in the annual 'Cards of Kindness' project by writing a greeting card to a person in the psychiatric unit at the Austin Hospital. Show your support to those who need it most during the upcoming holiday season.

Join a card making workshop with local artists Heidi Everett and Louise Muller:

📅 Ivanhoe Library: 13 November, 6.30pm – 8pm

📅 Watsonia Library: 20 November, 6.30pm – 8pm

Bookings required: yprrl.vic.gov.au/events



Loft 275

Litoria's Wetland World

by Katie Howard

📅 Exhibition Dates: 13 November – 7 December
Opening night: Thursday 13 November 6 – 8pm

This exhibition invites you to view the world through the eyes of Litoria, a growling grass frog. Featuring artwork from the new book *Litoria and her Wetland Friends* and an interactive frog call display. Proudly supported by a Banyule Environment Grant.

Image: Litoria's Wetland World (2025), by Katie Howard



Early Impressions

Early Impressions – Painters of the Heidelberg School from the National Collection



Photo by Brett Scapin

Bringing the Heidelberg School back to Heidelberg.

If you're not familiar with the term Heidelberg School, come to Art Gallery 275 at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub and find out what it's all about!

The Heidelberg School is a movement of art cemented in Australian and international art history. It refers to a group of young artists who took the train to Heidelberg, which was the end of the line back in the late 1880s, and set up an outdoor painting camp here. They were excited to paint this new landscape, so different to the European landscapes they grew up with or had studied.

The name stuck and is often used to label early Australian Impressionist art from late 1880s to early 1900s.

This small selection of Heidelberg School paintings was hand-picked from the National Collection for their connection to our community. This is by no means a comprehensive survey of this art movement; it is a curated sample specific to Banyule, to whet your appetite for more. These paintings capture a fleeting moment in our region's history and tell a very specific story of our land from that time.

Pictured in Art Gallery 275 with Banyule Council art curator Stephanie Neoh, left, is Tracy Cooper-Lavery, Head of Art Across Australia, who said: "This program has brought the National Collection to life and closer to all Australians. This partnership provides the unique opportunity to view these works near the locations in which they were created."

Exhibition open now until 18 January 2026

Art Gallery 275 opening hours:
CLOSED Mondays
Tuesday to Sunday, 10am – 5pm

Exhibitions at Art Gallery 275 are free,
no tickets or bookings taken.

Please check the website for changes
to opening hours and updates prior to visiting:
www.banyule.vic.gov.au/HeidelbergSchool

These works of art are on long-term loan from the
National Gallery of Australia as part of Sharing the
National Collection. **#artacrossaustralia**

Learn more about the history of the area around the
time of the Heidelberg Artists at a new exhibition at
Heidelberg Historical Society.

The Heidelberg of the Heidelberg Artists 1880 – 1900

 Sundays 2pm – 5pm

 Heidelberg Historical Society, Old Heidelberg
Court House, Jika Street, Heidelberg

heidelberghistoricalsociety.com.au

PRESENTED BY



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An Australian Government Initiative

Ward Rounds

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



Cr Peter Castaldo
Griffin Ward

peter.castaldo@banyule.vic.gov.au
0466 502 698

Council has so many things happening to protect and expand our urban forest and there are heaps of ways you can get involved.

Ted and Alison are pictured with me in the charming garden they have created at St George's church in Ivanhoe East. A little oasis in the heart of the village, it's a popular spot for people to rest and enjoy lunch. They

were able to repurpose some planter boxes that had been temporarily used in the village streetscape upgrade.

Do you have an idea to improve public or private spaces in Banyule and get people out and about enjoying our beautiful environment? Let us help you bring your ideas to life. Turn to **page 6** to find out how to plant your nature strip or adopt a tree.



Cr Mary O'Kane
Olympia Ward

mary.okane@banyule.vic.gov.au
0403 748 092

The closure of the Olympic Leisure Centre's pool and spa on 31 October evokes mixed emotions. It brings both a sad end of an era and the beginning of something new.

Originally built in 1956 as the Olympic Village's food hall, the OLC's aquatics were added in the 1970s. Now the pool is at 'end of life', the centre is moving towards its next incarnation.

The high ball stadium will remain, the gym and classes area will move into larger spaces and a library service and community room will be introduced.

OLC aquatics members have access to other Banyule facilities, including 12 months free access to Ivanhoe Aquatic Centre.

Find out more at banyule.vic.gov.au/OlympicLeisure



Cr Matt Wood
Hawdon Ward

matt.wood@banyule.vic.gov.au
0403 705 289

Once the North East Link project is complete, it offers an opportunity to secure a full-time truck ban along Greensborough Rd and Rosanna Rd. Heavy vehicle traffic has long created safety, noise and air quality issues in our neighbourhoods. North East Links provides the chance to shift freight movement onto purpose-built freeways, freeing our local roads for safer, quieter and cleaner travel.

When I met with Anthony Carbines MP recently, I advocated for a permanent truck ban. These conversations are ongoing, but we need the backing of the entire community. I encourage residents, community groups and businesses to get on board at banyule.vic.gov.au/Advocacy. Together we can deliver a healthier, safer and more liveable Banyule for generations to come.



Ward Rounds



Cr Elizabeth Nealy
Beale Ward

elizabeth.nealy@banyule.vic.gov.au
0435 243 598

It's exciting to see the final stage of improvements at Partingtons Flat, with a new playing surface and lighting being built over spring and summer.

I took a peek with Mark O'Shea, president of Diamond Valley United Soccer Club, which is based at Partingtons Flat. He said the upgrades would be a "game changer" for the club, allowing teams to train through the short days of winter.

It follows renovation of the pavilion in 2022, including female changerooms, storage areas and improved accessibility. Council built a new playground at the reserve in 2023.

The surface and lighting upgrades will be completed in time for the 2026 soccer season. DVUSC has teams for miniroos and juniors to senior men and women. Check them out on social media or visit DVUSC.com



Cr Mark Di Pasquale
Bakewell Ward

mark.dipasquale@banyule.vic.gov.au
0481 002 299

Watsonia and Greensborough are open for business during the North East Link road and rail disruptions around Grimshaw Street. I encourage you to keep supporting your local traders in the lead-up to Christmas.

Watsonia Town Square is a great place to start. Watsonia Traders invite you to "Meet me in Watsy Square" with a wellness day on 29 November

and Christmas fun on 20 December (*I'm pictured with some local traders in the Town Square*). And save the date for the Twilight Christmas Market in Greensborough Walk on Friday 5 December.

If you live near the Grimshaw Street interchange, there may be changes to your waste collection because of the road closures – read more on [page 10](#).



Cr Alida McKern
Chelsworth Ward

alida.mckern@banyule.vic.gov.au
0435 316 318

Have you been to Early Impressions – Painters of the Heidelberg School from the National Collection at Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub?

My favourite, *A quiet day on the Darebin Creek* by Tom Roberts, was painted on site and I'm curious about where exactly. My best guess is in Ivanhoe looking north-east towards the escarpment on Wynstay Crescent

or Rockbeare Grove. I'd love to know what you think. The first three responses to my email (above) will receive a copy of *Darebin Parklands - Escaping the Claws of the Machine*.

We are fortunate to have a museum-standard gallery space to display national treasures like these in Ivanhoe. I encourage you to visit! See [page 18](#) for exhibition details.



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



Cr Alison Champion
Sherbourne Ward

alison.champion@banyule.vic.gov.au
0466 486 593

It's been good to see the footpath upgrades rolling out around Mayona Road, Montmorency. About \$100,000 of footpath replacements have recently been completed in the area, with more to come in Sherbourne over the next 6 months.

Montmorency Station and Were Street's vibrant retail area is just across the road. The impact of the North East Link road and rail closures

is being felt by businesses along the rail line, so I encourage you to keep shopping local and supporting small businesses.

There are also many local home-based businesses. If you're a local entrepreneur, Banyule and Nillumbik Councils are offering an inspiring Home-based Business Forum on 26 November – see details and how to register on **page 16**.



Cr Rick Garotti
Grimshaw Ward

rick.garotti@banyule.vic.gov.au
0490 014 965

It was great to see people enjoying the workshops, local produce and community spirit at the opening of Greenwood Farm.

The community farm at Bundoora Secondary College is part of the school's Urban Agriculture Centre and is open to the community outside school hours.

A joint project of Bundoora SC, Banyule Council and community

group Local Food Connect, Greenwood Farm has also attracted support from local businesses, including Kubota, who generously donated the use of this new tractor. The farm will host community events, food swaps, farm gate sales and workshops.

Stay up to date with what's happening via the Facebook page:
Local Food Connect - Melbourne.



Cr Alicia Curry
Ibbott Ward

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0403 736 326

Congratulations to all the 2025 Banyule Best Biz Award winners – you are true local stars, voted for by members of the public.

We received over 8,000 votes for hundreds of businesses across the 10 categories. Winners were those with the highest number of votes.

I'm pictured with nominees and winners from Heidelberg West Business Park.

Banyule holds the BestBiz awards every two years to celebrate business across Banyule.

As well as providing products and services, our local businesses create jobs, build community connections and keep our local economy thriving. That's really worth celebrating!

Find out more about the awards and view all the winners at
banyule.vic.gov.au/BestBiz





It's snake season

Spring and summer are peak time for snakes and other reptiles around Banyule's bushland reserves.

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

While snakes are most active from September to April, they can be active outside this period during suitable conditions.

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

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

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

Help protect and enhance Banyule's biodiversity by joining one of our environmental friends groups. Scan the code to find one near you.



Living with busy bees

When you think of a bee, you probably picture a European honey bee.

But, did you know that Australia has around 2000 species of native bees that are vital for pollinating indigenous plants?

Introduced European (honey) bees can impact biodiversity in perhaps surprising ways. An abundance of European bees can have a detrimental effect on local pollinating insects, such as the blue-banded bee, pictured, by outcompeting them for food and other resources. This can have a negative impact on pollination of indigenous plants.

You may notice European bees being more active in spring and early summer, sometimes swarming to create a new hive. A swarm occurs when one bee colony gets too large and splits into two or more colonies.

Bee hives and swarms can also exclude native birds and mammals from nesting sites in tree hollows and nesting boxes.

What to do if you see a bee swarm

Let us know if you spot a European bee swarm or hive in one of Banyule's conservation reserves. Record the sighting using the *iNaturalist* app, which our rangers use to track pest populations.

We'll assess if the hive poses an unacceptable risk to people or the environment and will safely remove it, if needed.

Removing a hive or swarm on private property is the responsibility of the property owner. Pest controller operators or a local beekeeper can relocate a troublesome swarm or hive.



Bushland Diaries

Conserving the Eltham copper butterfly

The Eltham copper butterfly is an endangered species that is found in only a few locations, including in Banyule.

The species lives exclusively in areas where *Notoncus* sp. ant colonies are present alongside the sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) plant. Adult butterflies lay eggs at the base of these plants. When the larvae hatch, the ants collect and protect them, later following the larvae from their nests to feed on sweet bursaria leaves at night. The caterpillar larvae produce a sweet secretion that the ants feed on.

Because of the specialised ecological relationship between butterfly, ant and plant, Banyule park rangers manage local bushland carefully to ensure these natural processes continue.

Connectivity for flight paths

We've learnt that when the shrub layer becomes too dense, the butterfly can't lay its eggs. Enclosed flight paths prevent females from reaching the base of the shrubs. By thinning selected vegetation, rangers create more open spaces for adult butterflies to move between plants and habitat patches, supporting the expansion of colonies and increasing genetic diversity.

Habitat mapping and population monitoring

Larvae counts are conducted twice a week during October, with each habitat area surveyed twice to determine the highest larvae count for each plant. This helps us assess the effectiveness of how we manage the butterfly habitat.

Population data fluctuates from year to year due to breeding success, weather conditions and survey variability. Surveys are a snapshot on a given night, so results are an estimate rather than an exact measure.

Data and knowledge sharing

Park rangers collaborate with land managers in the butterfly habitat and meet several times a year with the Eltham Copper Butterfly Recovery Group to exchange local data and knowledge, helping to refine best-practice management techniques.

To learn more and get involved with conservation efforts in Banyule's bushland reserves, scan the code or visit banyule.vic.gov.au/FriendsGroup





16 NOVEMBER
SUNDAY 11 AM TO 4 PM

MALAHANG RESERVE, HEIDELBERG WEST

Join a **free** celebration with the local community. Proudly featuring a culturally diverse program with heaps to see and do for everyone!

banyule.vic.gov.au/MalahangFestival

View the full program



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

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 إصالحكم ببلدية بانيول على
الرقم 9490 4222.

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

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 Banyule 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.