

News from our Neighbourhood

February 2026

- AJ Burkitt Oval sinkhole
- Banyule Flats opportunity
- Advocacy matters



Cr Matt Wood
Hawdon Ward

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

AJ Burkitt Oval: from disruption to recovery

Our community is still feeling the effects of the sinkhole incident at AJ Burkitt Oval.

For sporting clubs, players and volunteers, the sudden loss of the oval and surrounding area meant cancelled matches, relocated training, and pressure on committees. Beyond sport, it disrupted a place many locals rely on for connection and community life.

At the time this went to print, remediation works and investigations were underway to make the site safe and stable. Council is working closely with SPARK to have the ground ready for Round 1 of the football season in late April. For the latest visit banyule.vic.gov.au/AJBurkitt



Banyule Flats opportunity

The sinkhole incident has refocused attention on the Banyule Flats precinct and the long-term opportunity it presents.

Banyule Flats is a unique community asset, at the intersection of sport, open space, the Yarra River, and cultural landmarks.

There is a real opportunity to think bigger about:

Supporting clubs through recovery

A critical part of recovery is ensuring local clubs aren't left to carry the financial and operational burden alone. North East Link contractor SPARK has committed to assisting the clubs, including a cash injection to offset lost canteen and bar revenue. We're also working with them to advocate for funding for:

- Two new scoreboards
- New coaches' boxes
- New lighting to training and match conditions

This support goes beyond short-term relief. It will strengthen club infrastructure and acknowledges the enormous contribution made by volunteers who keep local sport thriving.

- Better activation of the area
- Improved access to and connection with the Yarra River
- A safe, accessible crossing linking Banyule Flats with Heide Museum of Modern Art and parklands.

With the right planning and advocacy, this precinct could become an even stronger destination for recreation, culture and community life.

Advocacy matters

As the North East Link project progresses, this election year presents a critical opportunity to push the State Government for outcomes that benefit Banyule residents. Council continues to advocate for a post-construction truck ban, protecting local roads and community assets from ongoing heavy vehicle impacts.

More at: banyule.vic.gov.au/Advocacy

Have your say

I welcome your thoughts on the future of Banyule Flats, and other advocacy priorities. My contact details are at the top of the page or connect on Facebook – scan the QR code below.

I also encourage you to contact Anthony Carbines MP - email anthony.carbines@parliament.vic.gov.au so our community's voice is heard.



Connect with me on Facebook

