



Friends of Banyule Newsletter

March 2009

Issue 1, Number 1

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Donations

- Donations Email link : info@friendsofbanyule.org

Membership

- Email link : info@friendsofbanyule.org
- Website link : www.friendsofbanyule.org

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Online Press Clippings

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- Warrngal Conservation Society

Welcome

Welcome to the very first edition of the Friends of Banyule Newsletter.

In order to provide a sustainable future for our community, Friends of Banyule unanimously opposes any freeway/tunnel/viaduct from the Western Ring Road to the Eastern Freeway and will continue to oppose it until the proposal is abandoned.

Our aim is to keep you informed in relation to our campaign activities and other important developments as we continue to strive to protect our magnificent and unique local area. We welcome your participation in various activities we have planned, or your support by becoming a member of our group (if you haven't already joined us), or via a donation.

*We would also appreciate your feedback ... if you have any newsworthy items which you feel will be beneficial in our next issue please email Sharon Marks sharonmarks@optusnet.com.au or phone on 0413 166 826. details of how you can become a member or where you can make a donation are contained in the Donations and the Membership links at left regards *Marion Ware* President*

The Proposed Freeway 'The North East Link'

The GHD Report

A Report for the East-West Link Assessment Response Team was provided to the Premiers Department & Cabinet by GHD. This Report forms part of the Victorian Government's Transport Plan which was released in December 2008.

The GHD Report is available for download at

[http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/DOI/DOIElect.nsf/\\$UNIDS+for+Web+Display/2F81FF76ABB4A712CA25752200239E87/\\$FILE/GHD_EWLNA_and_Northern_Link.pdf](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/DOI/DOIElect.nsf/$UNIDS+for+Web+Display/2F81FF76ABB4A712CA25752200239E87/$FILE/GHD_EWLNA_and_Northern_Link.pdf)

The Report provides a clear indication of the proposed route for the North-East Link freeway, tunnel or viaduct. For details that are particular to the North East Link, please view pages 37-39 and pages 48-53. Maps of the proposed route for the North East Link are on pages 50 and 53.

The Victorian Transport Plan

The Victorian Transport Plan includes \$15 million funding from the Federal Government for assessment of the route from Greensborough to Bulleen traversing Banyule Flats as a freeway, tunnel or viaduct. The study for the \$6 Billion project will commence this year by the Southern and Eastern Transport Authority (SEITA). Building for the freeway, tunnel or viaduct is scheduled for 2017.

If you would like more information about the feasibility study to commence this year the contact is :

Jo Weeks

Director Communications

Southern & Eastern Integrated Transport Authority (SEITA)

phone : 03 8562 6840

email : joanne.weeks@doi.vic.gov.au

Whilst a tunnel is highly concerning there are also early signs that the freeway/viaduct/tollway will only be possible above ground due to the length required and the elevation between Rosanna and Bulleen.

Investigation into Crown Land Usage

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change has requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to carry out an investigation of Crown land and Public Authority land in 29 municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne (including Banyule)! The purposes of the investigation are to identify and assess uses, values and management of Crown land and Public Authority land in metropolitan Melbourne.

For more information please click this link <http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/metromelb.htm#municipalities>

Local Heritage Listing Proposed

At the first council meeting of 2009, Banyule City Council tabled a proposal to place The Banyule Flats wetland & parkland areas under the council's planning scheme, with options for inclusion under both National and International Heritage lists.

If the proposal is successful it will provide a welcome boost to our campaign. Although a National Heritage listing may not avert the planned freeway, Banyule Council's Heritage proposal ensures that our local area will now receive the level of recognition it deserves.

- YCAT
- Friends of the Earth
- Public Transport Users Association
- Banyule Festival

Other websites

EPA: Ecological Footprint
Calculate & identify your personal environmental impact

eco-fingerprint

While the ecological footprint measures impacts, the focus for this is on individual solutions

Travelsmart

Australia's national sustainable transport program. Providing resources for reducing car-dependence

savewater.com.au

Australia's most comprehensive water saving website, tips, technology, education, links to news, resources. The why and how of water conservation specific to your area

Australian Conservation Foundation

The ACF has education and campaigns on a variety of relevant issues

Sustainability Victoria

The government department responsible for promoting environmental sustainability

GetUp!

Australia's direct democracy, non-partisan, grass-roots advocacy organisation. Social justice and environmental issues such as climate change, "Bring Hicks Home", electoral rights, "Close the Gap" (Aboriginal Health).
Similar to the very successful **Move On** in the USA and **Avaazi** internationally

Global Rich List

How rich are you? Where do you sit on the global rich list? After you input your annual income, this site gives you an answer

Climate Movement

A network of all the Climate Action Groups in Australia. Includes a map to find your local group, a newsletter to hear about what's happening across the country to on the local level to address climate change



The Heidelberg Leader ran a front page article about the heritage proposal on Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

Get Ready for

The Banyule Festival

Would you like to play your part in the campaign to save Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands? Members of Friends of Banyule and Warringal Conservation Society will be present at the Banyule Festival to be held on March 28 & 29. Our focus will be on educating the wider community in relation to the planned freeway, tunnel or viaduct, the environmental and commercial ramifications of any such project and the looming threat to the continued use and enjoyment our pristine natural surroundings for generations to come.

We will also be conducting fundraising activities along with inviting new members to join our group and actively support the campaign. *To enlist your support please email Dennis O'Connell* dennisoc@bigpond.net.au or phone 0409 184 926

Visitors Books for Banyule Flats

We will be issuing a number of Visitors Books to volunteers who regularly walk through the Banyule Flats and Warringal Parklands and they will carry the books with them for the purpose of obtaining signatures of the many visitors to these parkland areas. The aim is to create a permanent record of the numbers of people who are visiting the beautiful Banyule Flats and Warringal Parkland areas, as well as informing these visitors of what may potentially be lost if any project to build a freeway, tunnel or viaduct is granted final approval to proceed.

To register your interest to be the custodian of one of our Visitors' Books over the next 4 months, email Marion Ware at info@friendsofbanyule.org or phone 0413 41 88 32



Banyule's Happiness Quotient

A survey on Melbourne's happiest suburbs was published in January 2009 by the Leader Community Newspaper's My Melbourne. Here are some excerpts :

"HAPPINESS depends on where you live in metropolitan Melbourne. The Leader Community Newspapers' My Melbourne survey reveals being happy, healthy and having the right work/life balance depends very much on which suburbs you call home.

Happy in the north

At the other end of the spectrum are those places where locals report good health and contentment in both work and with personal relationships. No, this is not some mythical place in a far off land. This is Nillumbik on Melbourne's northeast edge. Other places that pop up as scoring highly on several of life's critical "contentment measures" are Banyule and Manningham." For more on this survey see <http://leader-news.whereilive.com.au/news/story/a-tale-of-two-cities2/>

Send letters to our Councillors & State & Federal Politicians

It is important that our politicians and government representatives receive letters about your concerns - questions and concerns on a range of topics including, but not limited to the Greenhouse effect, sustainable transport, community amenities, heritage listing, ecological, social or cultural perspectives.

Your letters can be addressed to our local, state and federal politicians. Banyule's local Councillors are listed at : <http://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/Page.aspx?ID=28>. Manningham's local Councillors are listed at : http://www.manningham.vic.gov.au/council/councillors_and_wards.html?s=457635905

Below are additional addresses of a number of our Local Councillors and State & Federal Ministers :

Tom Mellican,
Mayor,
Banyule City Council
PO Box 51, Ivanhoe VIC 3079

Jenny Macklin MP
PO Box 316, Heidelberg VIC 3084

Tim Pallas
Minister for Roads and Ports
36 Station Place, Werribee VIC 3030

Craig Langdon
Local Member for Ivanhoe
PO Box 283, Rosanna VIC 3084

Gavin Jennings, State Member
Minister for the Environment, Climate Change & Innovation
PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 3002