

Friends of Banyule was founded in July 2008 and incorporated as an Association in September 2008.

- ❑ First public meeting on 18 December 2008, one week after the release of the Victorian Transport Plan. The Victorian Transport Plan announced that the North East Link Freeway was to be built between the end of the Western Ring Road and the Eastern Freeway
- ❑ Our Steering Committee was formed to put into action a strategy to oppose the North East Link and protect Banyule's unique conservation assets. At this meeting we also declared our Mission Statement that "we would fight and oppose the planned NE Link freeway until the project was abandoned"
- ❑ Since February 2009 the Steering Committee has met monthly at these premises
- ❑ Over the past 10 months Friends of Banyule attended a number of Council Meetings to :
 - Provide a submission to ask the Banyule City Council to pass a motion declaring that the council opposes the planned freeway
 - Provide a submission of support in relation to Banyule Flats Heritage Listing
 - Ask Banyule Council to renew a motion passed in August 2008 that Council is opposed to the freeway in light of the Major Transport Facilitations Act
- ❑ Since February 2009 we have published our Quarterly Newsletters via email
- ❑ On February 18 2009, members of the Steering Committee attended a Public Meeting about the North-East Link
- ❑ In line with our objective to protect and preserve our unique public assets in Banyule, we participated in the Banyule Heritage Review in March 2009
- ❑ On 29 March 2009 Friends of Banyule attended the Banyule Festival together with Warringal Conservation Society to inform the wider community about the proposed route of the freeway and cheaper and more sustainable transport solutions
- ❑ We also produced an aerial map showing the proposed route of the freeway for discussion with residents and provision of information
- ❑ In April 2009 a submission was made to the Banyule Community Plan on behalf of Friends of Banyule and Warringal Conservation Society
- ❑ On a number of occasions Friends of Banyule featured on local Community Radio Stations 3CR and 3AW with information about our campaign and calls for our community to protest against the planned freeway
- ❑ On 3 April 2009 Friends of Banyule, Warringal Conservation Society and Protectors of Public Lands met with Greg Barber MLC to discuss the proposed Freeway and our campaign strategy
- ❑ Meetings with Department of Defence personnel early in the year resulted in the provision of detailed records of environmental practices at Simpson Barracks on 23rd April 2009

- ❑ On 1 May 2009 Friends of Banyule joined with Protectors of Public Lands and Warringal Conservation Society in an alliance to meet with S.E.I.T.A., the South Eastern Integrated Transport Authority, to find out more about the planned route for the freeway
- ❑ On 6 May 2009, Friends of Banyule attended a Consultation Meeting in relation to the Sills Bend Master Plan. The meeting was convened by Jeff Parks, City of Banyule. Discussion centred around an analysis prepared by Hansen Partners to assist Council in preparing a Master Plan for the Sills Bend area.
Groups represented : Friends of Banyule, Warringal Conservation Society, Heidelberg Historical Society, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and Heidelberg Football Club. |
All groups agreed the area needs to remain as is a quiet reflective place and key issues discussed included: 1994 Warringal Parklands Landscape Plan recommendations, area access, environmental impacts, festival organization, tree management, heritage and recreation issues
- ❑ On 16 June 2009 Friends of Banyule organised a Protest Meeting at the Bellfield Community Centre against the planned Freeway
- ❑ In July Friends of Banyule sent an Open Letter in relation to the campaign against the North-East Link to over 120 Community Groups, Schools, Organisations and Clubs asking for their support
- ❑ In August 2009 we met with Cr Anthony Carbines who had been pre-selected to stand in the seat of Ivanhoe (Labour) for a general discussion
- ❑ In October 2009, a submission was prepared on behalf of Friends of Banyule in relation to the Inquiry into the impact of the State Government's decision to change the Urban Growth Boundary
- ❑ This submission was presented in person to the Parliamentary Committee on October 20.
- ❑ We have been working on the upgrade of our website which is now 'interactive'.
Please visit us at www.friendsofbanyule.org to check it out
- ❑ Last week we were also advised by Banyule City Council that we had been successful in the application for the 2009 Community Development Grant to facilitate a virtual tour of Banyule Flats on our website. The grant is to the value of \$2000 and will enable us to showcase the unique historical, cultural and environmental community assets of this natural landscape in the City of Banyule

In brief, the strategy for opposing the freeway through Banyule for the end of 2009 and into 2010 will focus on :

- ❑ Increasing pressure on all political fronts to have this project abandoned
- ❑ Proposal of better and lower-cost transport solutions
- ❑ Ongoing public awareness campaign