



Consultation Report

Revision A
December 2019

Contents

Introduction	34
Participants	35
Online Survey: Demographic	36
Online Survey: Location	37
Online Survey: Questions	38-46
Online Survey: Parents, Carers and Guardians Feedback	47
Community Engagement: Dotmocracy	48
Stakeholders Workshops	49-51
Public Consultation: Community Feedback	52
School and University Consultation	53
Summary Discussion	54

Introduction

The following report outlines the results of extensive consultation undertaken for Banyule City Council, as facilitated by Playce.

Playce were engaged by Banyule City Council as consultants for a strategic youth plan. Over a period of 2 months, extensive consultation was undertaken by Playce with support from Banyule City Council. During this period Playce and Banyule City Council engaged with a diverse mix of community groups. Workshops were held with various stakeholders.

Through engaging in community participation and via an online survey, questions asked related to what the young people of Banyule currently do to recreate, what they would like to see/ do more of in the future Banyule and what issues they currently face. During the community engagement workshops, everyone had their chance to vote on their favourite images as categorised by Active, Social and Creative opportunities.

Participants

Over the course of the consultation phase, community engagement workshops were held with various stakeholders, as well as at education institutes and broader community events. A summary number of attendees of these workshops follows:

Stakeholder Workshops:

24 participants	<i>Skate Jam- 1st October 2019</i>
6 participants	<i>Young Mother's Group- 18th October 2019</i>
7 participants	<i>Jets Music and Creative Arts Group- 21st October 2019</i>
15 participants	<i>Malahang Bike Hut- 24th October 2019</i>

School/ University Consultation:

50 participants	<i>La Trobe University- 22nd October 2019</i>
35 participants	<i>Our Ladies of Mercy College- 29th October 2019</i>

Public Consultation:

97 participants	<i>Banyule Youth Festival- 15th September 2019</i>
15 participants	<i>Malahang Festival- 17th November 2019</i>

348 participants

*Total number of participants
(online survey, community engagement workshops/ events)*



Summary

Playce and Banyule City Council actively engaged with 348 community members, a great outcome for the community and the twenty suburbs that comprise Banyule. Stakeholder workshops, public community engagement and education institutions provided a diverse snapshot of the needs and wants for the many different communities within the Banyule municipality when it comes to their open public spaces.

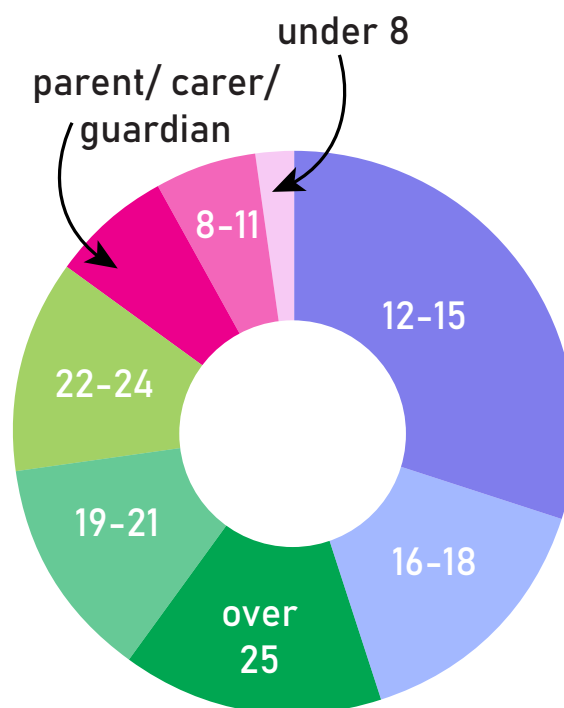
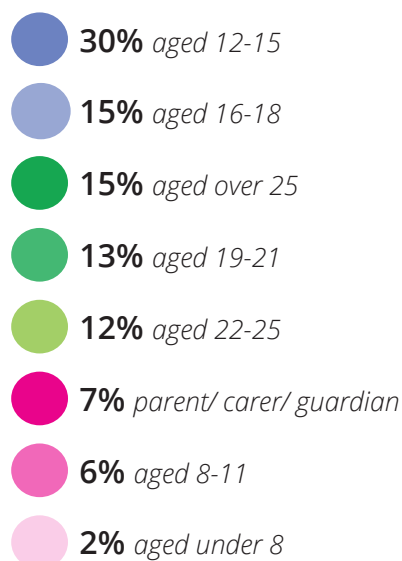
The largest focus group came from the Banyule Youth Festival, followed by the La Trobe University pop up. These sessions reached a broad audience, while the stakeholder workshops provided opportunity to hear the voices of specific focus groups that make up the diverse fabric of the Banyule community.



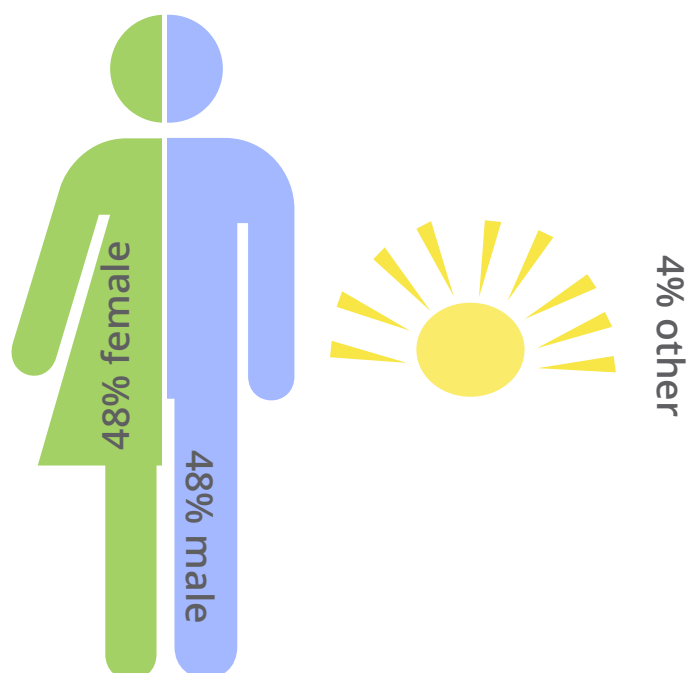
Online Survey

Demographic

Age:



Gender:



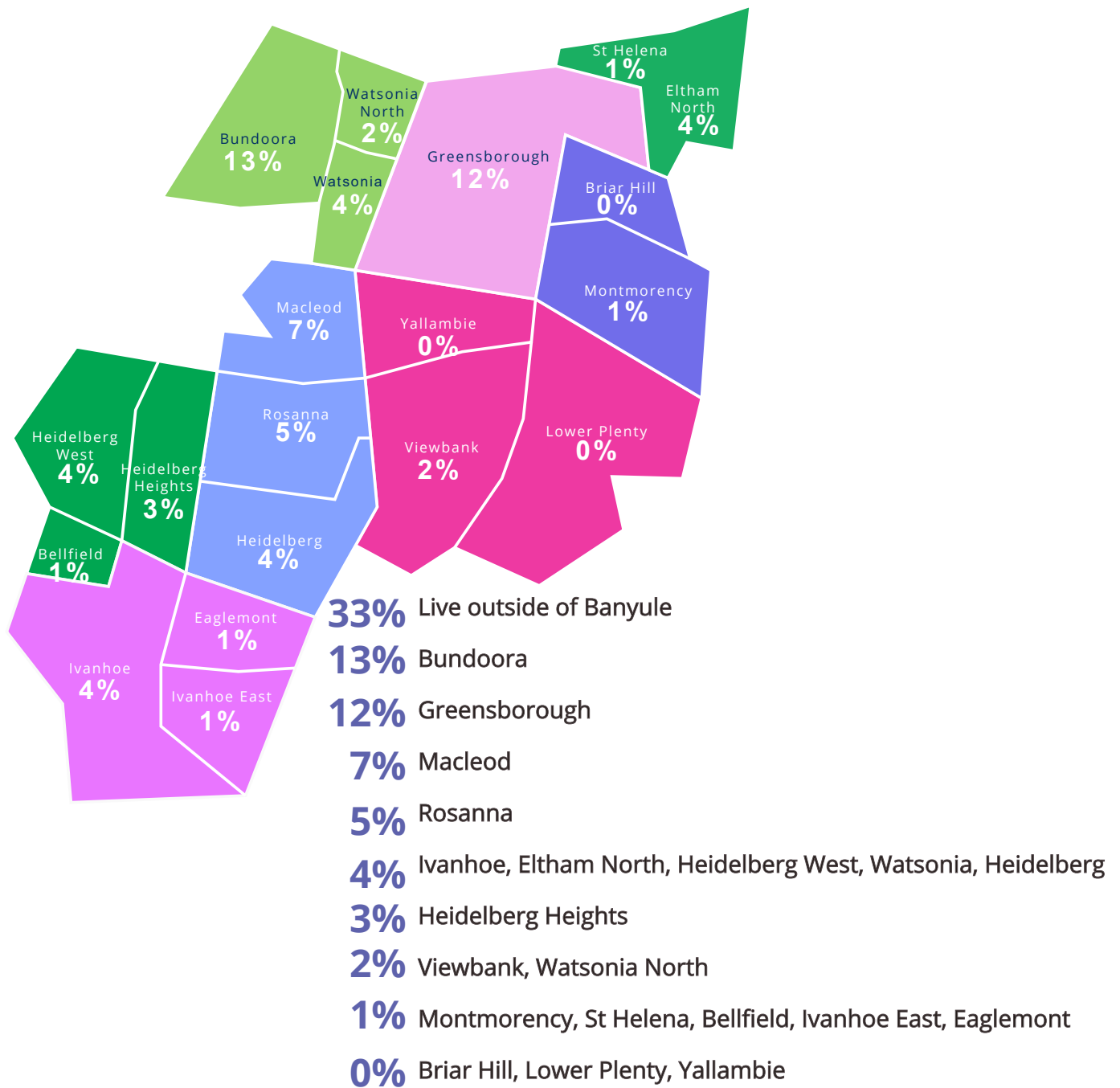
Summary

The largest age range of survey participants was 12-15 year olds, a great representation for what we often refer to as the 'forgotten' age group or the inbe(tweens) when it comes to designing recreational/ play spaces for youth.

The majority of participants (70%) fell within the age range of 12-25 year olds, which is significant for the Banyule Youth Spaces Plan as an age range defined as 'youth'. Male and female genders were shared at 48% each, with 4% of participants identifying as other. This is a fantastic result for a dynamic community engagement process.



Location



Summary

Through the online survey we found that 67% of respondents lived within the City of Banyule. Whilst 33% of respondents live outside the City of Banyule the data is still valid given that many of those choose to recreate and use facilities within the municipality.

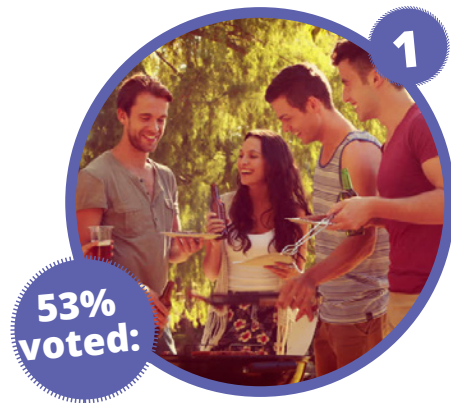
The largest suburb participation came from Bundoora at 13%, closely followed by Greensborough with 12%. The remaining 42% of participants were dispersed throughout the municipality, with the exception of Briar Hill, Lower Plenty and Yallambie, all of which had no represented survey respondents.



Questions

Q1. How do you enjoy spending your spare time?

Top 5!



Socialising with Friends Outdoors



Socialising with Friends
at shopping centres, community facilities etc



Browsing Internet
eg. Youtube videos



Socialising with Friends
at Home



Social Media
eg. Instagram, Facebook, SnapChat

Any other ways you enjoy spending your spare time?

Doing gymnastics on good grass and on trampolines

Participating in community events/ markets/ workshops

Walking around parklands. Rosanna has been a recent favourite because of its ambient nature and wide open pathways. Plus, they are always busy with families and older couples so I feel safer

Going to local markets in the area (particularly the La Trobe market) some market diversity would be great in the local area

Chilling out at public gardens

Summary

Over half of the survey participants voted socialising with friends outdoors as their preferred way to spend spare time. This is significant data, with the focus of the consultation being on open public spaces. Socialising was favoured throughout, with socialising with friends at shopping centres/ cinemas and at home voted in the top 5 ways to spend spare time.

The activities with the least amount of votes were BMX riding, Scootering and Playing on Playgrounds. Whilst they did not have as many survey responses, BMX riding and scootering deemed popular among a specific audience throughout the consultation process.

OUR SPACES
Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

Q2. What would you like to do more of if you could or if it was available in Banyule?

Top 5!



Adventure Play
ropes, climbing, parkour etc



Bike Riding



Socialising with Friends Outdoors



Listening to Live Music
in a park/ public open space



Going to the Cinema

Anything else you would like to do more of if it was available in Banyule?

More markets please with a greater variety, the Heidelberg mall is a great start but unfortunately there isn't much there/it hasn't really grown...

Sitting in a park with nice shade so I can read with plenty of space to run around

A pump track to practice and refine bike handling skills would be great!

Going shopping, doing more crafting, dance classes (not quite sure where they are close to me)

I would like a pump track so I can ride with my friends. Mum doesn't want us to ride on the bicycle trails until we're older

Dedicated mountain biking trails

Some kind of queer safe space that was based around a coffee shop setting would be great. I'd like to be able to make friends young and old that are also queer or LGBTQI+ but within a non-alcohol setting and more daytime focused

Summary

The second 'dotmocracy' question in the online survey was more evenly dispersed among the top 5, with between 36% and 20% of voters selecting a combination of the above 5 activities in their top 3.

The most desired activity was Adventure Play (ropes, climbing, parkour), which was in the bottom 5 activities for 'ways you spend your spare time' in the previous question. This reflects the community's desire to include more 'adventure' play elements in the future planning and design of parks and open spaces. There was also a strong desire for more bicycle focused activity, with mentions for better cycle trails for mountain biking and the addition of a pump track.

OUR SPACES
Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

Q3. Which places/ facilities do you enjoy going to in your spare time?



Parks/ Open Spaces
playgrounds etc



Shopping Centres/ Cinemas



Streets
shops, cafes etc



Outdoor Sporting Facilities



Skateparks/ BMX Tracks

Top 5!

Anywhere else you enjoy spending your spare time?

Cinema, bars, if there was a community garden then a community garden

Riding my bike with Dad on the creek bike track

An area with good climbing trees

Mountain biking (often at plenty gorge)

Watsonia pop-up park

On the university grounds because it feels quite safe and I know they have security in the evenings/ night time if I need assistance or an escort



Summary

Parks and open spaces proved to be the most popular among survey participants when asked which spaces/ facilities they enjoy going to in their spare time, with 64% voting it number one. This is again significant data within the scope of the youth open spaces upgrade plan. The least favoured places/ facilities to enjoy were community centres, school grounds and public transport hubs.



Q4. What are the three biggest issues that prevent you from accessing places/ facilities?



Anything else you can think of that prevents you from accessing these places/ facilities?



Summary

Accessibility proved to be a big issue for many when asked to consider what inhibits them from accessing places/ facilities. Many comments suggested public transport connections could be improved to create greater opportunities for those crossing suburbs which are on different train lines. Road safety, including lack of pedestrian crossings and cycle lanes were also seen as deterrents when accessing certain places/ facilities.

Several participants also mentioned difficulty finding someone to go with, suggesting more community focused events/ workshops for specific interests would be of benefit to those wishing to expand their interests but not feeling confident to take the first step on their own.

Q5. Which places/ facilities would you potentially use if they were available in Banyule?



Any other places/ facilities you would potentially use if they were in Banyule?



Summary

This question asked respondents to consider which places/ facilities they would potentially use if available to them Banyule. The choices which received the most amount of votes explored a diverse range of activities for different user groups. The most popular among the voters was outdoor performances/ cinema, receiving 42% of the top 5 votes.

The top five votes covered a broad range of play experiences, including physical, emotional, social and sensory play. Many people suggested the inclusion of more art elements to be enjoyed in public open spaces, as well as community gardens to encourage the local community to get outdoors and interact with one another.



Q6. How do you currently experience/ use open public space in Banyule?



Summary

Catching up with friends and a place to study/ chill and relax were almost equal, with 20% of voters favouring open public spaces to study/ chill and relax as their number 1. This supports the earlier questions which focused around how people spend their spare time, which had a strong social focus also.



Q7. What kind of activities or events would you attend if they were available in Banyule?



Any other ways you would like to experience/ use open public space?



Summary

Open air cinema proved popular among participants again, while community/ food markets closely followed. Sports activities and live music/ entertainment were also among the top five, emphasising the community's desire for integrated activities and events. Some respondents suggested more small scale local community events throughout the year, such as weekend markets and themed events with a focus on skate or other sport/ interests.



Q8. How do you currently move around Banyule?



Any other ways you access Banyule?



Summary

The majority of survey participants access Banyule via public transport. This high percentage of users is reflective of the various responses throughout the survey focused towards public transport issues and accessibility. With many people mentioning a desire for safer roads and cycle networks, the lower percentage of those who use a bike to get around Banyule is again reflected in the data collected earlier in the survey.



Q9. What do you think is the BEST idea for improving Banyule for young people?

*More open spaces with cafes/family friendly activities **that feel SAFE!***

*There is a lack of skate parks in Banyule with very few options for people who like to do this around locally. **Another local park would give people other options and hopefully reduce how busy the only local option I have gets.***

Let us have Watsonia pop up park once again :)



More public transport i.e. a train station and more readily available libraries in areas that need them most.



*More events like **outdoor cinemas or concerts with local music***



*Nice and modern walking paths and maybe **some fancy sculptures***

I would love an area for trampolining and doing gymnastics



Parents, Carers and Guardians Feedback

What do you see as important things to include in the future planning of spaces and facilities for young people in Banyule?

This question led people to think about outdoor spaces and what they would like to see improved or included in their future spaces. Improved cycling infrastructure with better path connections and safer bicycle paths on road, designated play spaces that encourage kids to take risks and learn from their experiences with others in nature, as well as recreation facilities with multi-sport courts were all believed to be of great benefit for young people in Banyule.

Something to get the kids outdoors. Bike track features like a pump track or similar to make a boring trail fun for them.

I think it's important to provide activities that are stimulating and in the outdoors to bring kids outside and away from connected devices.

Play spaces are still important in public parks. Social enterprise and collaborative work space is also great.

If you could change one thing to make Banyule better for young people aged 12- 25 years, what would you change and why?

More places for teens to hang out safely. Library upgrades focused on appealing to this age group. Music events like open mics, that are regular, such as what they do at Malahang Park.

Something to get the kids outdoors. Bike track features like a pump track or similar to make a boring trail fun for them.

Improved cycling infrastructure was seen as integral for those aged between 12-25, with safer roads and trails giving parents, carers and guardians the confidence they need to encourage their children to explore independently. Those who were involved in this section of the survey advocated for safer roads, with improved traffic planning and pedestrian crossings. The desire for more safe spaces which are easily accessible, observed and free for young people to hang out and socialise was common amongst feedback. Many suggestions included hosting more events like Banyule Youth fest throughout the year to encourage greater diversity in placemaking.

Are there any further comments or feedback you'd like to make in relation to the places, spaces and facilities for young people in Banyule?

Some final comments were centred around creating more intergenerational spaces in Banyule, that can be enjoyed at any time by anyone. More centrally accessible youth centres that can be enjoyed by all those aged between 12-25 as well as well lit areas with access to shops for food and toilet facilities were also seen as important facilities for young people to have in Banyule.

Further reinforcement came from the community for better infrastructure for cycling, on and off road. Utilising natural spaces by incorporating more path networks and hosting more community focused events were also common comments among respondents.

Kids need to feel empowered and able to challenge themselves without feeling constant oversight and criticism

Learning to ride a bicycle offers young people, whether they be local or immigrant, the confidence and motor skills to feel happy about themselves... Who doesn't enjoy riding a bicycle off the road!

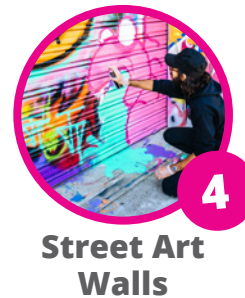
OUR SPACES
Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

Community Engagement

Top 5!

Dotmocracy

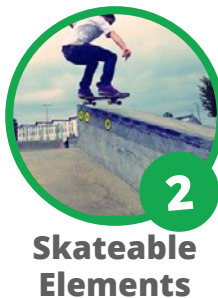
What types of **CREATIVE** opportunities would you like to see more of in Banyule?



What types of **SOCIAL** opportunities would you like to see more of in Banyule?



What types of **ACTIVE** opportunities would you like to see more of in Banyule?



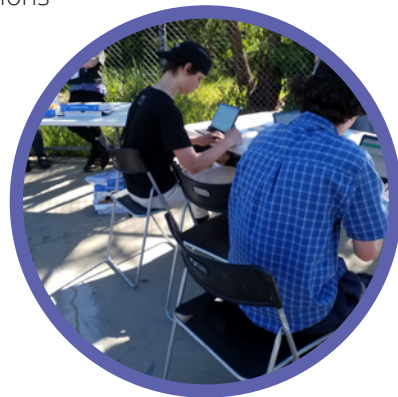
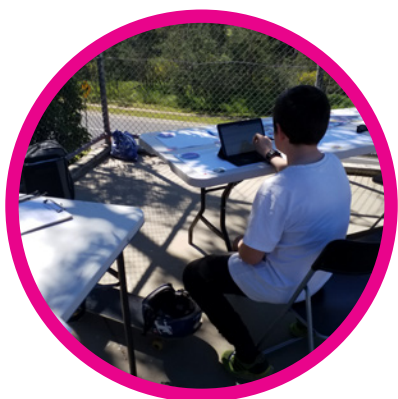
OUR SPACES
Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

Stakeholder Workshops

Skate Jam

Playce engaged with the local skate community at the Greensborough Skate Jam, held at the Greensy Skate Park on Tuesday October 1st.

This was a great opportunity to engage with local users of the skate facilities available in Banyule, and to hear their valued opinions. Many skaters desired a skate park for Montmorency, while others suggested an upgrade to current skate facilities would be of great benefit. Some parents/ carers suggested the upgrades should include provision for safer spaces with better observations points.



Young Mother's Group

On Friday October 18th, Playce conducted a workshop with the young mother's group in the Watermarc Building, Banyule City Council. This was a great opportunity to reach a specific audience and have a chat about what they wish to see in Banyule as their babies grow up. It was also a great chance to gain insight on their thoughts at present on open public spaces in Banyule.

The group agreed accessibility across Banyule could be better, with more regular buses across various suburbs. In parks and reserves, better/ safer path networks for prams to share with other users, such as older children on bikes and pedestrians.



Jets Music and Creative Arts Group

Playce visited the Jets Music and Creative Arts Group at The Concord on Monday October 21st. This was a great chance to see some of the 'behind the scenes' actions of the Banyule City Council community. Many informal chats were had between rehearsals and various creative pursuits people were engaged in. Whilst there were not so many survey participants, this was a great snapshot of the diverse and creative community that Banyule fosters.



Malahang Bike Hut

On a very hot afternoon on Thursday October 24th, Playce set up a stall at the Malahang Bike Hut in Heidelberg West to chat to the local community about what they would like to see more of in their parks and open spaces. Despite the very hot conditions, a great crew came down to enjoy an icy pole and have their say.

Speaking of their immediate park, many agreed more trees centred around the playground would be beneficial for years to come and would make spaces like this and others more of a destination for the whole family to stay a while. Many of the community had concerns for safety around Malahang, and suggested better lighting at night would make for a safer environment.



Public Consultation

Banyule Youth Festival

Playce along with the Banyule City Council hosted a community engagement pop-in session at the Banyule Youth Festival on Sunday September 15th in Macleod Village Green. The festival was the first community engagement consultation for the Youth Spaces Plan, and provided a great snapshot of the diverse mix of people and interests within the Banyule community, as well as many who lived in neighboring suburbs to the border of Banyule municipality.

This was a great day, with a broad range of people participating, as well as many who lived in neighboring suburbs bordering Banyule municipality. Many comments from this day suggested more days like this throughout the year to encourage community participation and kinship.



Malahang Festival

To wrap up the community engagement consultation process, Playce along with Banyule City Council held a final public pop- up/ drop in session at the Malahang Festival in Malahang Park, Heidelberg West on Sunday November 17th.

Whilst the vast majority of those who engaged in the consultation process were outside of the defined youth parameters (12-25 years old), it was a great opportunity to chat with parents of younger children who will potentially grow up in Banyule and benefit from the positive influence from the community throughout this consultation process.



Public Consultation

Community Feedback

What would be the best location for a new space for young people in Banyule?

In the middle of everything that is very accessible. They could have a skatepark in Heidelberg park

Hawker street in Ivanhoe park. It could have a better playground and be utilised more

Parks/ ovals (Banyule flats)



What is your best idea for improving spaces for young people in Banyule?

Good gym equipment like in Sydney and Queensland

More parks, speakers in parks, areas for friends to catchup

More open places where you can just sit and talk

Local bands and food trucks. Community focused opportunities for older people

Make it look a bit prettier, for example sculptures



What do you think is the biggest issue facing young people in Banyule?

Transport availability and open times

There is not much to do- would rather go to the city

Not feeling safe on your own

Safety on public transport

PTV- the buses are always late



School and University Consultations

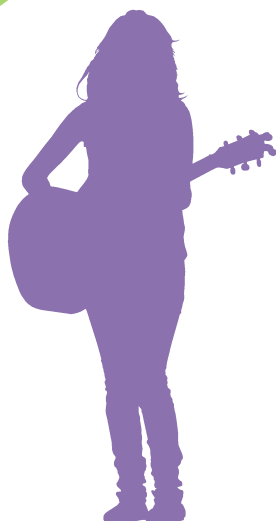
La Trobe University Pop- Up

Playce alongside Banyule City Council hosted a pop- up community engagement consultation session at La Trobe University, Bundoora on Tuesday October 22nd. This was a great success, with many people engaging with us before busily heading into the library to study for exams or finish that final assignment.

Though La Trobe university is outside Banyule municipality, after chatting to students and teachers alike we discovered that many people spend time in neighboring suburbs, or live in Banyule municipality.



I would really enjoy having more open air cinemas, I really like the idea and think it would be fun to go to with friends



Our Ladies of Mercy College

On Tuesday October 29th, Playce visited Our Ladies of Mercy College to run 2 workshops with the students. The first workshop was a year 7 Humanities class. They were at present learning about the legal system and what a democracy is, which tied in nicely to the dotmocracy exercise and gave the students some understanding of the consultation process as a bigger picture within the community and the importance of taking the opportunity to 'have your say'.

It was great to wander around and hear so many creative ideas and discussions in the classroom. Many students advocated for more trees in all parks and open spaces, as well as safer thoroughfares in public transport hubs and streetscapes at night.

The second workshop included 2 students from every year level. This was a great opportunity to hear a variety of voices and was a great chance for the older students to liaise with the younger students on things they would have liked to have available to them over the course of their high school education.

Many students agreed more community focused public spaces with open air cinema and markets would be an asset to the municipality, particularly with such a broad spread of demographic in neighboring suburbs.

OUR SPACES
Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

Banyule Youth Spaces Plan

Summary Discussion

Overall the community engagement process for the Banyule Youth Spaces Plan was a great way to gain insight into the strong and diverse community that makes up Banyule. With a total of 348 people participating in the online survey we got a great snapshot of the local community's ideas on existing open public spaces within Banyule.

It was a great result to find that of the 348 respondents, 82% were aged between 12 and 25, the focus age group for the Banyule youth Spaces Plan. The even dispersion of male and female participants was also a great result.

Throughout the consultation, we engaged with a diverse mix of the community with different interests and assets. Engaging with various stakeholder groups and the community was an important part of the community engagement process as it meant specific audiences were heard and had a chance to express their ideas directly to us. A call for a diversity of spaces to perform a variety of activities was favoured among majority of participants. Spaces to include provision for active and passive play, and opportunities to explore and create through adventure play and artistic elements were deemed popular among participants. Socialising was important for most and was a common past time when asked to consider how they currently experience open public spaces within the Banyule municipality. Throughout the 'dotmocracy' exercises, it was clear that Banyule is a creative and artistic community with a taste for an appetite for adventure and community focused events.

We feel this is a great outcome for the community engagement process. Banyule has identified itself as a strong and diverse community with lots of passionate members and willing participants.

I think there need to be community events or better advertising for them for youth to get people out of their houses and off their phones doing something to build relationships within the community.

