FEBRUARY 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



Make a splash

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Customer Service
397–405 Springvale Road, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
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Phone: 8571 1000
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www.greaterdandenong.com
@greaterdandy
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cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the February edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

The holiday season is drawing to a close and many of our residents are returning to school and work and many Council programs are starting up again for 2020.

Just recently we held our Australia Day Festival and announced the winners of our Australia Day Awards. So many wonderful community members were recognised for their service to Greater Dandenong. Read about the winners on the opposite page.

As the summer weather continues and you look for ways to keep cool, explore what our local public pools have to offer on page 7.

Drum Theatre is the place to be in 2020, with some wonderful performers getting ready to hit the stage this year. Find out more about how you can see more shows for less or even perform on the Drum stage yourself on page 8.

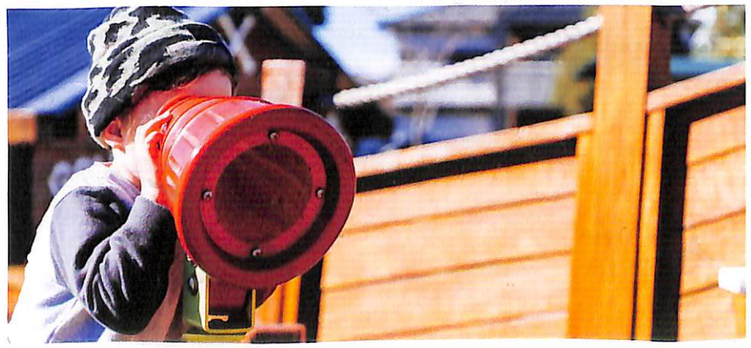
Learn how to reduce household waste and keep Greater Dandenong streets clean on page 9, or find out how to explore your creative side on page 13.

I hope you all have a great month and enjoy reading this edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



My City

Greater Dandenong has many beautiful parks and reserves just waiting to be discovered. This hidden gem is a pirate-themed park off Somerfield Drive in Keysborough. Young adventurers can sail the high seas and make mum and dad walk the plank before enjoying a picnic or barbecue at this park.



Front Cover: Children enjoy the outdoor pool at Noble Park Aquatic Centre. *Picture courtesy of the Sunday Herald Sun.*

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Australia Day Awards

Every year Council recognises the people who make a difference in our community. Here are some of the people recognised at the 2020 City of Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

Citizen of the Year

Christine Keys is president of the Dandenong and District Historical Society and has been recognised for her ongoing commitment to the preservation, promotion and sharing of local history of Greater Dandenong to our diverse community.

Volunteer of the Year

Agnes Kean is a founding member and the current president of the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong. She has also worked in a voluntary capacity for other community groups since the 1980s.



Agnes Kean

Community Group of the Year

The Greater Dandenong Environmental Group has been conducting environmental and sustainability related activities for Greater Dandenong residents since 1990. Activities include native tree planting, Water Watch, Frog Watch, Clean Up Australia Day and bat nightwalks.



The Greater Dandenong Environmental Group

Sustainability Award

Bryan Hunter is an environmental education specialist at Athol Road Primary School, and has established a full scale urban farm providing fresh fruit and vegetables for school cooking programs and to sell to the school community.

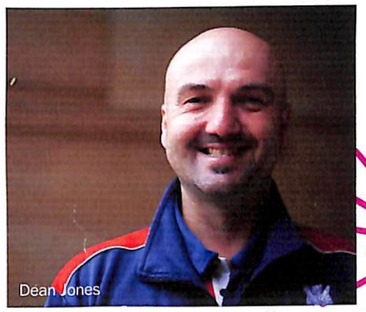
Young Leaders of the Year (joint winners)

Jemma Leeson has been a member of the Noble Park Girl Guides for eight years and has shown amazing growth as a leader among her peers. She has also been a junior volunteer with the CFA for one year, and has acted in a coaching role for school sporting teams.

Tanishka Sharma was a passionate member of Council's Young Leaders program in 2018 and helped plan and deliver key projects for local youth. She is a positive role model and mentor for her peers and now volunteers with the FReeZA committee and has been a positive representation of Greater Dandenong's young people at many local events.

Sportsperson of the Year

Dean Jones has expanded the junior ranks at the Silverton Cricket Club from just 15 in 2016–17 to almost 100 in 2019–20. He created a multicultural program and has raised money to help underprivileged children take part in sport.



Dean Jones

Corporate Citizen of the Year

Julie Busch is the Chairman and Non-Executive Director at the Dandenong Market and Deputy Chair and Non-Executive director at Interact Australia. She uses her platform to benefit the wider community and consistently reaches out to find ways to positively impact others.



Julie Busch

Living Treasure Awards

This award is given to people who have made a lasting impact on life for all of the City of Greater Dandenong community. Five new treasures were announced on Australia Day, including **Robert 'Bob' Malcolm**, **Ian McDonald**, **Margo Hartley** and **Josephine De Lange**.

Councillor Contacts



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Silverleaf Ward
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Council Meetings

FEBRUARY

MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY

MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The February meetings will be held:

Monday 10 February

Monday 24 February

The general public is always welcome to attend meetings, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online simply go to greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings

Cr Tim Dark

► Paperbark Ward



Council will work hard in 2020 on a number of projects to improve Paperbark Ward. This is just a small overview of some of the projects being carried out.

There are several free public WiFi zones across the city, including in Noble Park. Unfortunately when the new raised train lines were constructed in Noble Park they blocked the WiFi signal from reaching the skate park. Council is working to reinstate full WiFi access to the area via fibre optic cables laid throughout the Noble Park precinct. In the long term it is hoped the project will improve the speed and reliability of free WiFi service at the skatepark and NPAC, while the use of cables will offer Council more options when it comes to WiFi, CCTV cameras and future technology.

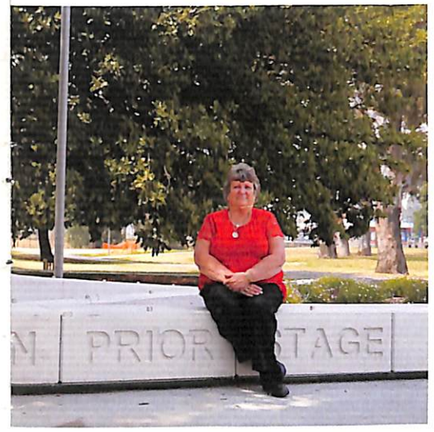
Council has also committed to streetscape upgrades on Douglas Street in Noble Park, and has already completed the first two stages of this project. The final two stages were delayed as the Level Crossing Removal Authority (LXRA) completed works in the area. The remaining works will introduce traffic signals at the new link road and update the streetscape along Douglas Street to match previous stages. We are currently finalising the designs and will start construction later this year.

Further works will be carried out this year at parks and reserves across Paperbark Ward as Council continues to implement Master Plans put in place in 2018 and 2019. Works include wetland construction at Frederick Wachter Reserve, tree planting, landscaping and furniture installation at Parkfield Reserve, and construction of the All Abilities Playground at Ross Reserve.

If you would like to discuss any local issues, please email me at tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 403 914.

Cr Angela Long

► Red Gum Ward



The redevelopment of Dandenong Park is coming along, but there are still a few things left to complete the job and put the finishing touches on this major revamp.

This includes several items that will help connect the history of this site to the future. There will be new garden beds, landscaping, renewal of the 'Rotary Wheel' water wheel (retained in the current location) and shadow drawings of the original fence design etched into the footpath combined with a new 'Dandenong Park' feature entry sign installed at the corner of Foster and Lonsdale streets.

Several interpretive signs sharing the overall history of the site will be installed and will include commemorating the various past activities that occurred at the park including the Dandenong Bowls Club, Croquet Club and Truby King Kindergarten. The original gates from the bowling club were salvaged and will be refurbished and reinstalled as part of the commemorative element of the project.

The old Stan Prior stage was demolished and a new one has been built in its place. The stage was named after Stan Prior in 1988 following his many years of service to the community, including a long stint as a member of the City of Dandenong Band.

New toilet facilities have already been built and add to the park's amenity, but there will also be more seating, tables and barbecue facilities so that families can spend quality time together at the park. Sporting fun will also be made possible with the addition of a full-sized basketball court and new walking paths around the park.

The park will also be made greener with extensive planting of trees and shrubs set to happen over the coming months.

This park truly is a green oasis in the centre of Dandenong and I encourage you all to explore what it has to offer.

If you want to contact me about any Council related issues please phone me on 9795 6574 or 0466 004 616.

Cr Sean O'Reilly

► Silverleaf Ward

The Springvale Community precinct is starting to come to life and will be open to the public soon.

This precinct will become the new 'heart' of Springvale and will be an important meeting place for the whole community. While the library is an obvious reason for people to visit, I expect the welcoming community spaces and beautiful outdoor environment will attract all.

Late last year Council ran a consultation to help with naming the precinct. Council asked residents to consider whether to name the whole precinct, just the library building, or both. Many residents were involved in this consultation and gave great feedback. We are working on the feedback and will announce the outcome shortly.

Recently Council also finished a consultation for the Springvale Community Precinct Strategic Plan. This plan will guide the direction and expectations of the entire space for the next five years. We asked residents to consider what their expectations are for the site, the priorities for them and their families and what they would like to see happen at the site in the next 12 months.

This space will celebrate our vibrant and diverse community and provides opportunities for education and connection.

I look forward to hearing about the outcome of the Strategic Plan consultation and seeing the community embrace this space into the future.

If you would like to discuss any issues please contact me via email at sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au, phone 0422 523 258 or search "councillorseanoreilly" on Facebook.



Housing options in Greater Dandenong

Having a roof over your head is regarded as essential to a person's health and wellbeing. However not all Australians have the same access to safe and affordable housing.

Nearly 2,500 Greater Dandenong residents are at risk of homelessness, but homelessness doesn't just mean sleeping rough – the term refers to the lack of a stable place to live.

One of the main reasons for high levels of homelessness is the lack of adequate social and affordable housing in our city. While Greater Dandenong ranks 23rd in Victoria on supply of social and affordable housing, we have the second highest level of homelessness in Victoria.

Social and affordable housing are critical components of Council's Housing Strategy 2014–24. In June 2019 Council organised a Mayoral Forum to discuss ways to increase social and affordable housing stock in the city. Council is working with the State Government and community housing agencies to enable further development of appropriate housing and supporting services.

Earlier in 2019 Council sent a letter out with the rates notice asking for local homeowners to consider renting their homes out through a community housing program. So far four properties have been made available to support a family violence refuge program.

Council will continue to advocate to other levels of government and work with providers to increase social housing opportunities for Greater Dandenong residents.

Visit greaterdandenong.com

What do these terms mean?

Social Housing is an umbrella term that includes both public and community housing.

Public Housing is owned by the State Government and is provided to eligible disadvantaged Victorians, including unemployed, those on low incomes, with a disability, with a mental illness or who are at risk of homelessness. Today more than 6000 people in the area are on the public housing waiting list.

Community Housing is housing owned or managed by community housing agencies for low income people, including those eligible for public housing. These houses are regulated by the State Government.

Affordable Housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households. They are priced (whether mortgage repayments or rent) so that these households are able to meet their essential basic living costs.

Question time

Council meetings are held twice a month in the Council Chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre and members of the public are welcome to come along and ask questions.

Public Question Time provides an opportunity for residents to address questions to the Mayor or Councillors, or officers of the Greater Dandenong City Council.

Questions are limited to a maximum of three and recent changes to the Meeting Procedure Local Law mean that residents can ask the question themselves.

All questions must be submitted before the meeting, must be done so in writing and must be read as written and submitted.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings to get an electronic copy of the question time form which can be submitted online (before 12pm on meeting day) or submitted in person at the meeting (before the 7pm meeting start time).



Parking tips

Did you know it is illegal to stop at the side of a road marked with a continuous yellow line?

Doing this can create an unsafe situation for other road users and may cost you up to $99.

The City of Greater Dandenong reminds motorists that whenever you see a continuous yellow line along the side of the road to treat it like a 'No Stopping' sign and remember not to stop or park next to the line.

Yellow lines are a visual reminder to motorists that it is unsafe to stop and are there to help make our roads safer for all users.

Resilience snapshot

Resilience is the ability to flexibly cope with the demands of life and bounce back after times of adversity.

Resilience is an important characteristic for young people, and can come from within themselves or via external sources, including friends, family or teachers.

Since 2015, Council's Youth and Family Services have been working with Resilient Youth Australia to administer a Resilience Survey to local primary and secondary school students.

The survey reports on more than 80 indicators of resilience, across a number of domains including health, education, belonging and hope.

More than 4600 students took part in the 2019 survey and some of the key findings included:

- 89% of primary school students and 88% of secondary school students thought it was important to help others
- 86% of primary school students and 88% of secondary school students embrace diversity
- 44% of primary school students reported that they struggled to build friendships
- 41% of secondary school students said they were not eating well while 47% said they were not keeping physically fit.

Council's Youth and Family Services will use the results of this survey, and previous surveys undertaken in 2015 and 2017, to consider future programs and services for local young people.



Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com for more information from the Resilience Survey.

Young Leaders

Applications are now open for the 2020 Young Leaders program.

This is an exciting opportunity for young people aged 16–25 years to develop their leadership skills through creating and implementing community projects. Participants learn about the role of local government and develop a greater understanding of community issues.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com or phone Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 to apply.

Youth Showcase

Do you know an outstanding young person?

Consider nominating them for the 2020 Youth Showcase. This event celebrates the personal and community achievements of young people aged 12–25 years.

Council is looking to recognise young people who have made a difference in their community or who have demonstrated persistence in overcoming barriers to pursue their goals.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com or phone Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for more information or to nominate someone.

FAST FACTS

Swimming students at NPAC and Oasis also receive unlimited access to pools outside of their swimming lesson times, including the giant waterslide at NPAC and the splash zone at Oasis.

The SwimDesk portal helps parents track and monitor their child's progress online.



Lessons for life

Safety by the water is about more than just learning to swim.

YMCA swimming lessons focus on more than swimming freestyle and backstroke, with students exposed to essential water safety, personal survival and open water techniques.

Keeping cool in summer often means socialising around waterways, whether it's the backyard pool, rivers, lakes or beaches, and being confident and safe can help make a day out even more enjoyable.

The YMCA, through Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and Dandenong Oasis, offer swimming lessons for people of all ages.

Getting started with YMCA swimming lessons is easy. Visit nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au or dandenongoasis.com.au for more information.



Get ready for a fun, inspiring and affordable year with Drum Theatre.

Season 2020 is full of heart and brings world class theatre productions to your backyard.

From Opera Australia's Carmen and Archie Roach's Tell Me Why, to The Sapphires, Melbourne Theatre Company's SLAP.BANG.KISS, to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow, there will be something for everyone.

Save money and tailor a subscription within the 2020 Theatre Season to receive great savings. There are two options:

OnStage Season Package Buy any three shows in the OnStage Season and pay just $28 per show, including premium-priced shows. You can add as many shows as you like for $28 each.

Encore Program Package Buy any three shows in the Encore Season and pay just $18 per show. You can add as many shows as you like for $18. All Encore ticket prices include complimentary morning tea and a parking voucher.

Visit drumtheatre.com.au for the full program of shows and start planning your 2020 now.

Ross Noble – Humournoid

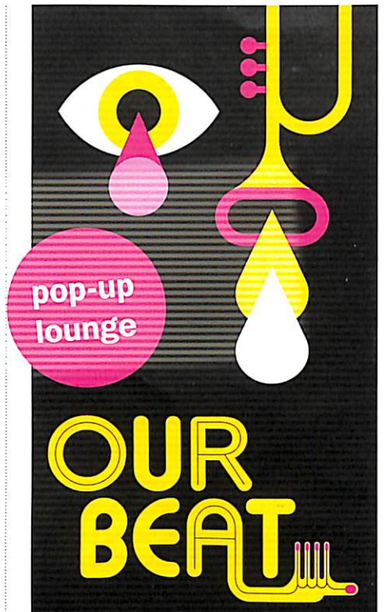
What happens when pure comedy takes human form? What happens when a creature is bred to do stand up?

Nobody knows because that isn't a thing. What is a thing is that Ross Noble is doing a show at Drum Theatre and you're all invited.

Described as a "pure delight" and "the great improviser" Ross Noble takes each show on a different path.



Don't miss the international comedian doing his thing, on Saturday 29 February, at 8pm, at Drum Theatre. Visit drumtheatre.com.au or phone 8571 1666 to get tickets.



Explore the stories behind the art and sound around town when Mr Congo hosts this monthly open mic night at Drum Theatre.

Our Beat is more than just a gig. It's a pop-up lounge to vibe out and connect in, and everyone is welcome to share in the fun.

Whether you are a musician, DJ, painter, comedian, actor, or whatever you are, come and check out what this space has to offer.

If you want to sing – sing. If you want to dance – dance. This is your night, our night – Our Beat.

Meet the talents in your town and enjoy a creative summer with like-minded people every third Thursday, from 20 February to 16 April, 6.30pm–9.30pm.

The free event is open to all ages and is on at Drum Theatre, corner Lonsdale and Walker streets, Dandenong.

Sign up to get on stage at drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1666.



Reducing your household waste

Council is committed to working with residents to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

While every household is entitled to one free hard waste collection each year, Council is offering more opportunities for residents to dispose of unwanted household items.

Council works hard to keep the streets of Greater Dandenong clean from litter and dumped rubbish, and is encouraging residents to take advantage of the free hard waste collection.

Dumped rubbish can pollute our land and waterways, threaten wildlife and leave our streets looking unattractive.

To book your free hard rubbish collection phone 9721 1915, or consider other Council services to help dispose of unwanted household items.

Homecycle

Reduce landfill and recycle goods that are too good to throw out with this free one-off kerbside collection.

Give smaller items, such as clothes, toys, games, sports equipment and small electrical items a second chance by placing them in your recycle bin. The items will be collected and passed on to charity.

The collection will happen the day after your normal recycling kerbside collection during the period of 18–29 February.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/homecycle for more information.

Re-use and Recycle Drop-off Day

Following the popularity and success of previous collections, Council will be running three drop-off events for larger items this year.

Some items will be donated to charity while others will be recycled to create new products.

The Re-use and Recycle Drop-off Day will be held at Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong, from 8am–1pm on the following dates:

Saturday 15 February

Saturday 27 June

Saturday 28 November



Items that can be accepted include:

- Televisions and computers
- Electrical appliances
- Whitegoods (fridges, washing machines, dryers and microwaves)
- Household furniture (chairs, tables, couches and desks)
- Mattresses (maximum of two)
- Bicycles
- Homewares (toys, cookware, sporting items and baby equipment)
- Clothes and linen.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/recycleday for more information.

Clean up – no butts

Cigarette butts are the number one littered item in Australia with 7 billion butts carelessly littered each year.



Cigarette butts are not biodegradable, in fact they release chemicals as they decompose, contributing to the degradation of our natural environment and causing serious harm to our pets and wildlife.

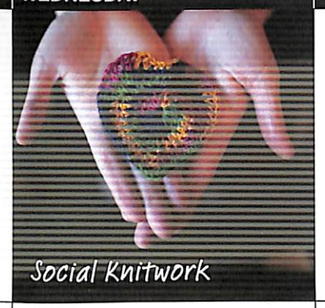
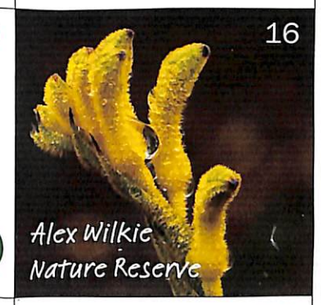
Tossing away a cigarette butt is littering and fines can be greater than $330. Save the environment and some money by disposing of butts more responsibly. Visit one of Council's customer service centres to grab a free portable ashtray or make use of the integrated cigarette butt bins on Council's public rubbish bins.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/littering for more information.

FAST FACTS

Food left in recyclable containers changes the weight of the material preventing it from being recovered at the sorting facility. Always empty drink and food containers before placing them in your yellow-lidded recycle bin to make sure your recycling efforts don't go to waste.

What's On February 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February		 Social Knitwork			1 ▸ **Family Fun at the Library** Springvale Library 10.30am Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Summer Reading Club Finale and Prize Giving** Dandenong Library 2pm–4pm Ph: 1300 630 920	2 ▸ **Greater Dandenong Environment Group** Dandenong Wetlands, Stud Rd, Dandenong North 9.30am Ph: 8571 1702
3 ▸ **Peer 2 Peer Study** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 4pm–6pm Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Mindfulness Mondays** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 6.30pm–8pm Ph: 1300 630 920	4 ▸ **Family Fun Playgroup** Dandenong Library 12.30pm–2.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920	5 ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am Ph: 1300 630 920	6 ▸ **Conversation Circle – Low to Intermediate** Dandenong Library 6pm–7.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Movies after Dark – My Life as a Zucchini [PG]** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm Ph: 1300 630 920	7 ▸ **Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Open Day** Harold Road, Springvale South 9am–3pm (every Friday) Ph: 8571 1702 ▸ **Cinema in the Square: The Karate Kid [PG]** Harmony Square, Dandenong 7pm	8	9 ▸ **Springvale Rotary Sunday Market** Springvale Railway Station Carpark 6am–12.30pm Ph: 0425 806 006 ▸ **Waitangi Day** Dandenong Market 10am–4pm
10 ▸ **Combined Probus Club of Sandown** Club Noble, Moodemere Street, Noble Park 10am Ph: 9791 6807 ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street 7pm	11 ▸ **Family Fun Playgroup** Dandenong Library 12.30pm–2.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920	12 ▸ **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am (every Wednesday) Ph: 1300 630 920	13 ▸ **Pavarotti – The King of the High Cs** Drum Theatre 10.30am–11.45am Ph: 8571 1666 ▸ **Valentines Chocolate Making Workshop** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm Ph: 1300 630 920	14 ▸ **Libraries Up Late – Games Night** Springvale and Dandenong Libraries 6.30pm–8pm Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Cinema in the Square: August Rush [PG]** Harmony Square, Dandenong 7pm	15 ▸ **Re-use and Recycle Drop Off Day** Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong 8am–1pm Ph: 8571 1000	16  Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve
17	18 ▸ **Conversation Circle – Advanced** Dandenong Library 6pm–7.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920	19 ▸ **Greater Dandenong Neighbourhood Watch Committee Meeting** Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, Noble Park 6.30pm	20 ▸ **Our Beat** Drum Theatre 6.30pm Ph: 8571 1666 ▸ **Watercolour Workshop with Gabby Willmott** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm Ph: 1300 630 920	21 ▸ **Sisters of Mercy English Tutoring** Dandenong Library 9am–11am (every Friday) Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Cinema in the Square: Brave [PG]** Harmony Square, Dandenong 7pm	22 ▸ **Little India Cultural Tour** Dandenong 12pm–2pm Ph: 8571 1666	23 ▸ **Springvale Rotary Sunday Market** Springvale Railway Station Carpark 6am–12.30pm Ph: 0425 806 006
24 ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street 7pm	25	26	27 ▸ **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Libraries After Dark – Trivia Thursdays 90s Pop Culture** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm Ph: 1300 630 920	28 ▸ **Learn English Through Storytime Playgroup** Dandenong Library 11am–12.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920 ▸ **Cinema in the Square: Hairspray [PG]** Harmony Square, Dandenong 7pm	29 ▸ **Ross Noble – Humournoid** Drum Theatre 8pm Ph: 8571 1666	

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Ph: 8571 1666

Send your event listings to **news@cgd.vic.gov.au**

List your community event online at **greaterdandenong.com/listyourevent**



Make Your Move

Less than half of Greater Dandenong residents are meeting the minimum weekly physical activity requirement.

Based on the Council's 2019 Sport and Active Recreation Participation Survey, just 49 per cent of residents meet the minimum requirements, compared to a state average of 73 per cent.

Council would like to help all residents become more physically active through the Make Your Move campaign.

Physical activity can take many different forms and doesn't have to be organised sport or exercise. You can be active at home, at school, at work and in the community as part of leisure time, travel, active play, or organised and non-organised sports.

Simple actions such as taking a walk, playing with your children, climbing a tree and working in your garden are all physical activities.

...improve health

Physical activity is important because it can improve health by reducing the incidence of chronic disease, including obesity-related illnesses, diabetes and cardio-vascular disease.

The combined impact of poor diet, physical inactivity and being overweight or obese is one of our country's greatest health challenges. It not only affects individuals but can have severe social and economic impacts on whole communities.

How much activity do you need to do?

- At least 30 minutes per day, five days a week should help keep you healthy.

Council is seeking community feedback on the Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020–30 until February 28. Visit greaterdandenong.com/makeyourmove for more information.

School crossing safety

School's back for 2020 and now is a timely reminder to drive safely and observe speed limits during school times.

Drivers are reminded to pay extra attention when approaching school crossings, slow down to the speed limit and follow the directions of the school crossing supervisor.

When the flags are displayed the school crossing is in operation and drivers need to follow the relevant road rules.

Drivers are also reminded that parking restrictions are often in place during peak times, so pay attention to signage.

Council officers will be patrolling around schools to ensure road users comply with road rules that are in place to protect the safety of our children.



Exhibition call out

HOME 2020, a national program for artists with an asylum seeker or refugee background, is now seeking expressions of interest.

Culminating in an exhibition at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre in July 2020, HOME will also include a series of workshops and events in the lead up to the exhibition.

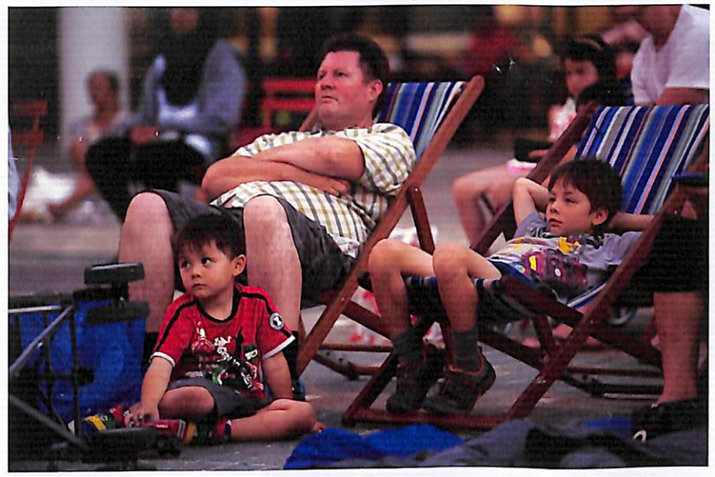
HOME aims to recognise and nurture the talents of artists who have established a new life in Australia and provide opportunities in the creative arts sector.

The program focuses on the artists identity, and encourages work around the themes of home and identity. New artwork is strongly encouraged and Council will offer support to help artists.

Those chosen to participate in HOME will be able to:

- Take part in the nationally acclaimed HOME 2020 Exhibition from 6 July to 15 August, and be paid an artist fee
- Attend a professional development day in March, with guest speakers including curators, gallery directors, marketing and fundraising specialists (this does not include airfares or accommodation costs)
- Work with an emerging arts writer on a published piece of writing about your work
- The opportunity to present at artist workshops, artist floor talks and other special events.

Expressions of interest close on February 10. Visit greaterdandenong.com/homeexhibition for more information.



Cinema in the Square

Book in some family fun time every Friday night and join us in Harmony Square for free movies.

Cinema in the Square returns this month with a variety of family friendly films, including musicals, arthouse, animation, family classics and even a Valentine's Day double screening for you and your loved ones.

The movies will screen every Friday night from 7 February to 20 March, from 7pm.

Early birds can grab a deckchair, or bring your own picnic blanket or seating as well as dinner and snacks and make yourself at home for a comfy experience.

See the full program of movies on the back page of this magazine or visit greaterdandenong.com/cinemainthesquare for more information.

Get Creative

Explore your creative side with a series of workshops designed for people of all ages. From traditional art classes, to exploring digital forms of artistic expression, there is something for everyone in this term one program.

Highlights include:

Field Recording with Sound School
Thursday 27 February, 4.30pm–6.30pm
Dandenong Library
Ages 10+, Free

Venture into the field with a bag of microphones and tune into the 360 degrees of sound around you. Learn how to use zoom recorders, microphones, hydrophones, electromagnetic detectors and other tech tools to collect sounds. Then learn how to process them to create original music pieces.

Live Visuals and VJing with Sound School
Thursday 12 March, 4.30pm–6.30pm
Dandenong Library
Ages 10+, Free

VJing is the art of producing live visuals through the manipulation and generation of videos and animation. A VJ works with moving images much like a musician works with sound. Learn how to use software to produce your own visuals with Misha Grace, one half of renowned Melbourne AV act *friendships*.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/getcreative for more classes.

Immunisation Timetable – February 2020

Date	Time	Location
Monday 3 February	4pm–6pm	Springvale City Hall (Supper Room) 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 11 February	10am–11.45am	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Wednesday 12 February	3.30pm–6.30pm	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong (enter via Harmony Square)
Monday 17 February	4pm–6pm	Springers Leisure Centre, 400 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough
Tuesday 18 February	10am–11.30am	Jan Wilson Community Centre, Halton Road, Noble Park North (BJ Powell Reserve)
Saturday 22 February	10am–11.30am	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong (enter via Harmony Square)
Wednesday 26 February	10am–12pm	Springvale City Hall (Supper Room) 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

Business support

Greater Dandenong Council offers a range of support for local businesses of all sizes.

Council's Economic Development Unit assists local businesses to grow, attracts new businesses to the area and supports business development opportunities.

Throughout 2020 workshops and business networking events will help local businesses discover their potential.

Three separate workshops over March and April will help local businesses set up to apply for Council tenders. Visit greaterdandenong.com/vendorpanel for dates and information.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/businessworkshops to find out about other upcoming workshops.

Business breakfast

Hear about the social enterprise business Who Gives a Crap and network with other local business owners at this event on Wednesday 18 March.

Simon Griffiths, CEO of Who Gives a Crap, will share his insights, from launching a crowdfunding campaign to creating a business that sells toilet paper across Australia while supporting sanitation needs in the developing world.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/whogivesacrap for more information and to secure your tickets.

FAST FACTS

Council recognises the ever-growing importance of the social enterprise sector and aims to provide support in the form of networking, training, mentoring and other resources. Email business@cgd.vic.gov.au if you want to become connected with Council's social enterprise activities.

Take a Swing for Charity



...raising funds

Enjoy a game of golf while raising funds for local charities at the 11th annual Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day.

A special event hosted by Council and local industry, the day will be held at Victoria Golf Club, Park Road, Cheltenham, on Wednesday 26 February.

Since its inception the charity golf event has raised more than $430,000 for local charities, including Wallara and Avocare.

Each year the sponsors, together with organiser South East Business Networks (SEBN), choose a local cause to share in the funds raised. This year's recipient is Taskforce, who plan to establish a social enterprise coffee van supporting local job seekers.

Major sponsors for the 2020 event include KPJ Group, Grenda, Erntec, Norden, Future Recycling, Wadeson IP and Telstra Business Centre Dandenong. New sponsors are welcome.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/sebn to find out more about how you can participate in the event either as a sponsor or a player.

Wallara

The 2019 Golf Day event raised money for Wallara, a support service for adults with disabilities.

Wallara works to raise awareness and educate the wider community about inclusiveness, while empowering people with different abilities.

Director David Willesdorf spoke at a SEBN breakfast recently and thanked the Take a Swing for Charity Golf Event for donating to the organisation.

He said the money was used to help connect Wallara clients with technology, including teaching them how to be safe online and to use technology to be job ready.

He said Wallara also purchased a drone for a fun introduction to tech toys.

Visit wallara.com.au for more information.



The Share Plate

Every year for her anniversary I cook this pork vindaloo in memory of her.

Food brings people together and Greater Dandenong has a reputation as being a foodies' paradise.

So it was only a matter of time before the Greater Dandenong community got together to create a cookbook. Titled *The Share Plate*, the book was created by Greater Dandenong Libraries and Council, and was funded by a State Government Healthy Together Victoria grant. The Share Plate features a collection of recipes contributed by community members.

Put together in partnership with the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre, Wellsprings for Women, Monash Health, Dandenong Neighbourhood House and Chisholm, the book features 24 traditional recipes with a healthy spin.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Jim Memeti said the book showcased Greater Dandenong's vibrancy and diversity.

"It's a collection of recipes from our community to your table and is a true celebration of food and culture."

Springvale father of two Gavin Mandrelle shared a treasured family recipe for the cookbook.

"I was born and raised in Calcutta, in the east of India and moved to Melbourne in 2005. My mum's grandparents were Portugese migrants to India," Mr Mandrelle said.

"I grew up eating my mum's amazing cooking. Her pork vindaloo was my favourite dish. Not just because she made it, but also because it was so different to other dishes that India is known for.

"Mum passed away in 2014 in India. A week before she passed away, I asked her for the recipe to the pork vindaloo, which she had memorised and didn't have written down. Every year for her anniversary I cook this pork vindaloo in memory of her."

Other dishes include Samoan Sapasui, One Pot Chicken Rice with Mushrooms from China, Kisra with Okra from South Sudan, Egg and Lemon Rice Soup (Avgolemoni) from Greece, Dutch Gouda Tarts, Qabeli Palaw from Afghanistan, Pumpkin Jam from Russia and Irish Wonder Cake.

Recipes were submitted and then community cooks worked with chefs and dietitians to make cherished home recipes even healthier. The result proves that dishes from all over the world can be delicious and healthy. The book can be borrowed from the Dandenong and Springvale public libraries.

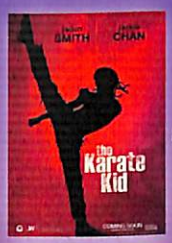
HEALTHY COOKING TIPS:

- If you are using oil or products that are high in saturated fats you can reduce the amount of fat you end up eating by cooking your dish a day before you plan to serve it, letting the dish cool completely and scraping off the excess fat that settles at the top of the dish.
- Store bought salad dressings can be high in fats and salt, so make your own at home by using vinegar or low-fat yoghurt rather than oil or cream.
- Replace half the meat in your recipe with legumes like brown lentils or beans.
- For a balanced meal aim to have half of your plate covered with vegetables.

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

CINEMA IN THE SQUARE

THE KARATE KID (PG)
7 February
Drama/Sport



MIRAI (PG)
14 February
Anime/Sci-fi & Fantasy
(First screening)



AUGUST RUSH (PG)
14 February
Drama/Music
(Second screening)



BRAVE (PG)
21 February
Animation/Adventure/Comedy



HAIRSPRAY (PG)
28 February
Comedy/Drama/Musical



VAI (PG)
6 March
Drama



SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)
13 March
Animation/Adventure/Action



EMU RUNNER (PG)
20 March
Family



Free outdoor cinema

Fridays, 7pm onwards
BYO chairs, blankets and picnics

greaterdandenong.com/cinemainthesquare

Harmony Square
225 Lonsdale Street
Dandenong

8571 1000

MARCH 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



Greater Dandenong's bushfire response

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Make Your Move
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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Paddy O'Donoghue Centre
18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
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Phone: 8571 1000
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www.greaterdandenong.com
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

Summer in Australia is always harsh, but this year our country has already seen some extreme weather events that have caused a lot of damage.

Bushfires across Victoria have left a trail of devastation, and while Greater Dandenong was not in the line of fire many local individuals, families and businesses dedicated themselves to support the firefighting and rebuilding efforts.

This month we take a look at some of the local volunteer organisations who sent members to the frontlines. These same members have pledged to protect the Greater Dandenong community and we are grateful for their efforts. See the opposite page to read more.

On a lighter note, later this month we host the Big Picnic at Wachter Reserve in Keysborough. Read about this fun, family event on page 8.

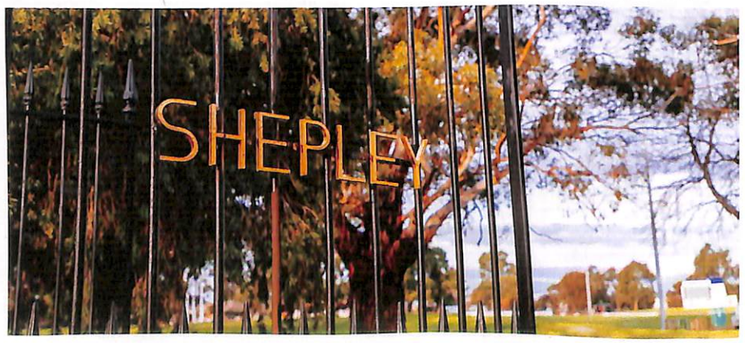
Celebrate Australian female artists when SHE returns to the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre. Read more on page 7.

If you plan to spend some time looking after your garden this month, turn to page 13 to find out how you can maximise the garden waste you create.

Whatever you get up to, I hope you all have a healthy, happy and safe month.

My City

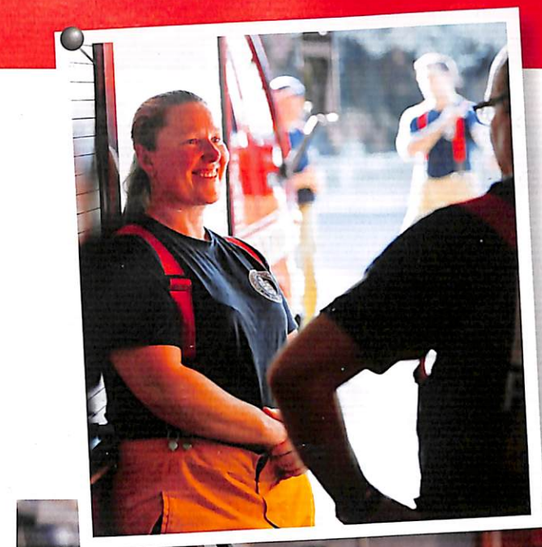
Named after former Dandenong and District Cricket Association president Harry Shepley, Shepley Oval has been one of our city's premier sporting grounds since the 1950s. Football and cricket are played at this oval year round and it is home to the Dandenong Stingrays and the Dandenong Cricket Club.

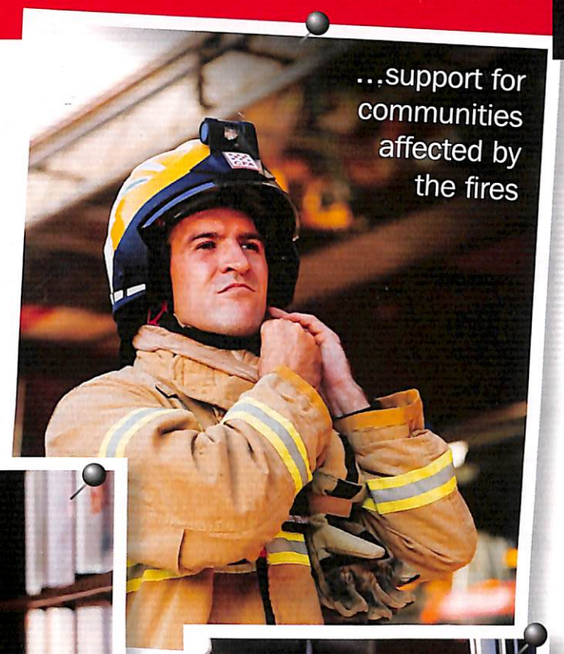


Front Cover: Lt Matthew Muller, Lt Emmanuel Vella, Shandelle Ross, Lt Sam Mason and (front) Captain Terence Sanford.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.









Greater Dandenong reacts to bushfire crisis

While the fires have not burnt in Greater Dandenong, Victoria's ongoing summer bushfire crisis has seen our community pull together to support those most in need.

Volunteer and career firefighters from our Greater Dandenong CFA brigades have been helping in the fire zones since the East Gippsland fires started on 21 November. Greater Dandenong SES volunteers have also been deployed to those regions.

The relief and recovery effort will be a long and complex road, and Council has been working closely with the Municipal Association of Victoria (the state's peak local government body) to offer support to those Councils directly impacted by the fires. Our staff and resources are being shared with those affected communities as they address immediate relief needs and recovery efforts.

Additionally, a number of Dandenong Council staff who already volunteer with CFA have been deployed to fire zones to help tackle the blazes.

Council's Parks team have also been taking eucalyptus prunings to a wildlife shelter in Langwarrin which is caring for wildlife injured in the fires.

Mayor Jim Memeti has voiced his support for communities affected by the fires and recently held a stakeholder forum to bring together key community and business leaders to discuss what more the Greater Dandenong community can do together.

Cr Memeti said many locai community groups had already pulled together to raise money and material aid for those affected.

"The impacts of these fires will be felt long after summer goes, and the individuals and communities who have been affected will be needing support for a long time to come," Cr Memeti said.

"While many people within our community have already done so much to help, we know there is still much more work ahead."

You can donate to the State Government's Bushfire Disaster Appeal online at vic.gov.au/bushfireappeal or at any Bendigo Bank Branch.

Councillor Contacts



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Silverleaf Ward
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TUESDAY	MONDAY
10 MARCH	23 MARCH

MARCH

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The March meetings will be held:

Tuesday 10 March (due to a public holiday on the Monday)

Monday 23 March

The general public is always welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings

Cr Youhorn Chea

► Lightwood Ward



Springvale is really undergoing changes and 2020 will be a significant year for our suburb.

The new Springvale Community Hub is due to open soon, and will become the new heart of Springvale. I truly believe that the people of Springvale will embrace this precinct and it will become an important part of our community.

The new and improved facilities will create a space that inspires life-long learning and creativity for our residents today and into the future.

The changes we see at this location will flow along Springvale Road to the station, with the Springvale Boulevard project also due to start construction this year.

Community feedback during the planning stages of this project told us that people wanted to see more plants and trees that provide shade. We were also told that people wanted to have places to "sit and watch", while others called for the works to highlight the history of migration to the suburb.

While Springvale Road is the longest arterial road in Melbourne (40km from Edithvale to Doncaster East) and is an important route for drivers, it is also an important place for people.

The introduction of a 24-hour 40km/h speed zone will improve pedestrian and vehicle safety throughout the precinct.

When the Springvale Boulevard project is complete drivers and pedestrians will notice some big changes, including the removal of the centre median strip and the widening of the footpaths down either side of the road. The footpaths will be 3m wide and more trees will be planted along each side to create areas of shade.

Sensational Springvale is equally as popular with locals and visitors, and we hope that these changes will make it an even more popular destination.

If you would like to contact me about any Council-related issues you can email me at youhorn.chea@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0417 320 645.

Cr Peter Brown

► Paperbark Ward



RESERVE MASTERPLAN IMPROVEMENTS

I thank residents for the opportunity you have given me to rejoin our Council late last year and to work to achieve your needs and meet your expectations. The first person I officially met was the President of Parkfield Cricket Club, David Swiezbiolek, to discuss work completed and work planned at the Reserve. Much landscaping has been completed, with more to be done in the coming months. The oval has been carefully upgraded to Cricket Australia standards and improved over the summer months, despite the drought. In the near future further improvements will include:

- two full size senior soccer pitches to enable junior and senior competition
- new playground closer to the kindergarten and new picnic and barbecue areas
- shared use cycle and pedestrian circuit path with fitness stations
- new synthetic practice cricket wickets
- PARKFIELD: THE BIG TICKET ITEMS: 2020–2022: 600 square metre new, architect designed pavilion to house cricket, tennis and soccer clubs with community space, and a major redevelopment of the tennis facilities with sports lighting for night games.

NOBLE PARK SPECIAL SCHOOL SITE, CALLANDER ROAD

Developer permit plans were amended by the Planning Department at the end of 2019 to allow changes to the proposed staged development of the site. In 2016 (when I was previously on Council) I argued successfully that the permit conditions provide for public open space on that site. Hopefully as this year progresses we will see the development site taking shape, especially the space for a future children's playground which is my vision for the open space.

If you have any recommendations, remonstrations or requests contact me via email at peter.brown@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0468 584 837.

► Red Gum Ward

Cr Jim Memeti



The Greater Dandenong Gallery of Art is one of the biggest projects happening in Red Gum Ward over the next few years. It will showcase both local and touring exhibitions and artists, and become a creative community hub.

The gallery will be built on the site of the former Masonic Temple in Mason Street, Dandenong, and will reference the site's significant historical value. Constructed in the early 1900s the building was used by the Freemason until 1991 and is one of the most recognisable historic buildings in our city. It will be refurbished and extended in a project that is expected to start in the middle of this year.

Works also continue at Dandenong Park with the next stage of the project due to get underway shortly. We recently held our Australia Day Festival in the park, and while it is a wonderful space for community celebrations, it is also a beautiful place for small gatherings and family fun. There is still more work to be done, but if you haven't visited for a while, you really should.

Significant roadworks have been completed in Keysborough South in preparation of the opening of the new Keysborough Gardens Primary School. The majority of works including the switching on of traffic signals were completed in time for the first day of school in January.

Council also recently completed a project to construct a corporate box at George Andrews Reserve in Trewin Street, Dandenong (home of the Dandenong Thunder Football Club). This premier level club will now be able to offer sponsors and dignitaries a purpose-built indoor/outdoor space in which to enjoy game day.

If you would like to discuss any issues with me you can contact me via email at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Register your pet



Council Rangers love to reunite lost pets with their owners, but they can only do so if pets are registered and the owner's details are up to date.

Legislation regarding lost pets prohibits Council Rangers from returning unregistered animals directly home to their owners. Currently only around one-third of stray dogs are returned directly home, but this figure would be much higher if contact details and pet registrations were up to date.

Pet registration fees are used to help deliver Council's Animal Management Services, which includes the investigation of complaints and regular patrols of parks and reserves. A State Government levy added to each registration fee is also used to fund responsible pet ownership education programs across the state.

The law requires all owners to register cats and dogs over three months old with the Council, and pet registrations must be renewed by 9 April each year. Heavy penalties can apply if you fail to renew your pet's registration by this date.

Council Oficers will be conducting random doorknocks in 2020 to identify unregistered pets. By registering more pets, we can ensure that more lost pets will find their way home.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/animals for more information.

Council Meeting Agendas

Council Meeting agendas outline what will be discussed at a Council Meeting. They are available to view online or at Council's customer service centres and libraries from 12pm on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

Council Meeting Minutes detail decisions made and other events occurring at a Council Meeting. Minutes are available to view online or at Council's customer service centres and libraries approximately one week after the meeting.

You can also view responses to any Councillor questions and Public Questions taken on notice as they become available.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings to view agendas and minutes, and answers to any Councillor and Public questions.



Swimming pool and spa registration

By 1 June 2020 all private pools and spas within the City of Greater Dandenong must be registered with Council.

This includes:

- In-ground pools
- Above-ground pools
- Spas
- Relocatable, temporary or inflatable pools and spas.

New laws introduced by the State Government mean that all pools and spas must be regularly inspected and certified in accordance with Building Regulations.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/swimmingpools for more information or to discuss how the new regulations apply to your property phone a Building Officer on 8571 1515.

Keep Our Wildlife Wild

Greater Dandenong is home to many popular parks, reserves and public spaces that are visited by many humans and their pets. But these areas are often shared by a variety of wild fauna and flora.

When visiting parks and public spaces some people feed birds and other animals out of care for them, but it is important to remember that feeding wildlife can be harmful to their health.

Council urges everyone to 'feed the bins, not the birds' and help keep our wildlife safe and healthy by enjoying them from a distance.

Feeding wildlife, including birds, is considered littering and can pollute the waterways and environment. The maximum penalty for littering can be more than $6000.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/birds for more information.

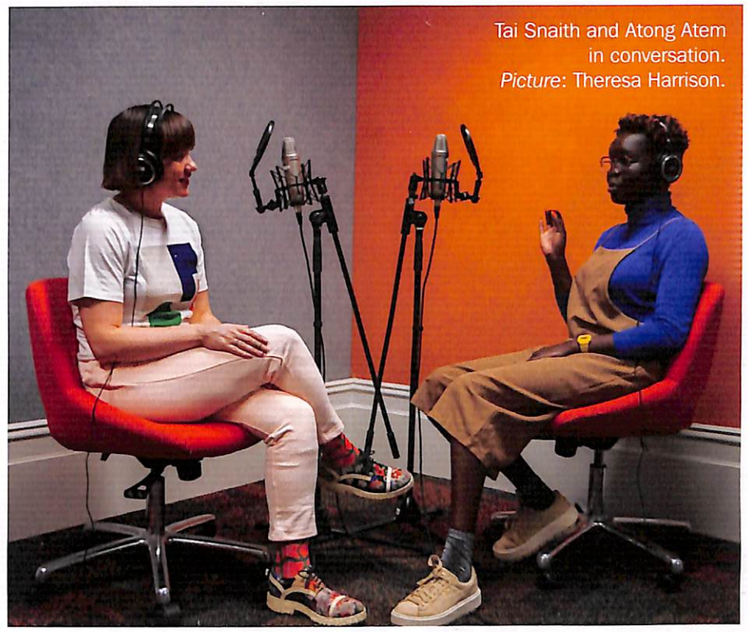
FAST FACTS

Did you know that residents can report issues to Council via a phone app called Snap. Send. Solve.

In 2019 almost 6000 requests were sent to Council via the app. The most common complaints were for:

- *Dumped rubbish 1744*
- *Illegally parked vehicles 646*
- *Abandoned vehicles 467*
- *Damaged signs 284*
- *Graffiti 162*

The app offers a simple way to report the location of issues and include images of the problem. You can find it at your preferred app store.



Tai Snaith and Atong Atem in conversation. *Picture*: Theresa Harrison.

SHE

The annual *SHE* exhibition features and celebrates the works of female Australian artists at Dandenong's Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

This year's exhibition, set to coincide with International Women's Day (8 March), features eight artists from across Australia who explore the responsibilities, challenges and joys that come with being a female artist in this country.

The exhibiting artists include Deanne Gilson, Alana Hunt, Vonda Keji, Lily Mae Martin, Kumantjayi Nangala, Tiffany Parbs, Nyaruot Ruth Ruach and Tai Snaith.

The exhibition opens on Thursday 27 February and a free launch event will be held on Saturday 29 February from 2pm–4pm.

To support the exhibition the gallery will run a series of events and workshops for people to meet and engage with the artists and their work.

Throughout March the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre will hold *SHE Reads*, inviting four much-loved female children's book authors to read a selection of children's books based on the themes of the exhibition.

The SHE Reads sessions are open to people of all ages and will be held on:

- Tuesday 3 March at 11am with Tai Snaith
- Tuesday 10 March at 11am with Jane Godwin
- Tuesday 17 March at 11am with Sasha Beekman
- Tuesday 24 March at 11am with Andy Mia Kranz

All sessions are free and will include morning tea. To book phone 9706 8441 or in person at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong.

The SHE Exhibition will be on display until Saturday 4 April.



The Big Picnic

Kick off the school holidays while enjoying the great outdoors with family and friends at Council's annual The Big Picnic event.

The fun, community festival returns for 2020 with food trucks, live entertainment and plenty of free activities for all ages.

Bring your own picnic blanket and try some delicious food from around the world while watching live circus acts and dance performances. Meet some cute animals at the animal farm, get your face painted, or challenge yourself in the Make Your Move Zone where local sporting clubs will put on some fun sports activities.

Little ones can join the hunt and experience an egg-citing adventure at the Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Parkmore Shopping Centre.

Local community groups will also run free activities for the whole family, and don't forget to bring your furry friends to this pet-friendly event.

The Big Picnic returns to Wachter Reserve, Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough, on Sunday 29 March from 11am–4pm. Visit greaterdandenong.com for more information.

Clean Up Australia Day

Help clean up Greater Dandenong and take part in the nation's biggest environmental event.

Clean Up Australia Day has been running for 30 years. More than 17.7 million people have volunteered 35 million hours to remove 360,000 ute loads of rubbish over the past three decades.

The event is happening again on Sunday 1 March. Visit cleanup.org.au to find out how to join a clean up, or get tips on how to live more sustainably every day of the year.





Libraries After Dark

With the introduction of the Libraries After Dark program, Dandenong Library has extended it's opening hours until 10pm on Thursdays.

Level 2 of Dandenong Library will stay open later so you can continue to enjoy the space and discover something new.

The Libraries After Dark program will include workshops, film screenings, games nights, or you can just pop in for a free cuppa or a snack and meet some new people. There's also free basement parking (subject to availability).

Springvale Library will also be extending it's opening hours to deliver the Libraries After Dark program once the new library is open.

To discover something new at Dandenong Library, join us for one of our upcoming March programs

- Movies After Dark – Strictly Ballroom [PG] Thursday 5 March, 7.30pm–9pm
- Watercolour Workshop with Gabby Willmott Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm–9.30pm
- Trivia Thursdays – Around the World in 80 minutes Thursday 26 March 7.30pm–9pm

Visit greaterdandenong libraries.com for more information about Libraries After Dark.

Be a young leader

Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Service's Young Leaders program is looking for more leaders.

The program helps people aged 16–25 learn about the role of local government and explore leadership skills while working on projects that can help make a difference in our community.

Previous participants have created some wonderful projects that have continued to support young people in Greater Dandenong. Including:

- **Youth Exceeding Expectations (2019)** The Young Leaders conducted a pop-up event at Dandenong Train Station to challenge negative perceptions of young people as the perpertrators of crime or anti-social behaviour. Through a series of interactive activities the Young Leaders engaged over 750 commuters in two hours, sharing positive stories of young people and 'busting myths' related to youth crime.
- **Sole Sistas (2018)** Young Leaders established a walking group for young women to provide a safe and welcoming environment to engage in physical activity. As part of this project the Young Leaders designed four walking routes, which they tested with the Heart Foundation's 'Walkability' tool to maximise safety.
- **Youth Volunteering Forum (2016)** Young Leaders recognised volunteering supports young people to gain skills and experience, as well as providing a connection to the local community. The event was such a success that Youth and Family Services have continued to deliver it on an annual basis.
- **A Celebration of Diversity (2016)** Young Leaders staged an exhibition of stories celebrating the contributions of Greater Dandenong's culturally diverse residents. The project received a high commendation in the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence.

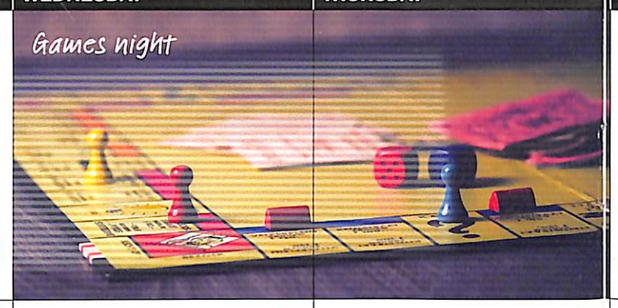
Applications for the Young Leaders program are open until 29 March. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com/young leaders for more information.



FAST FACTS

The Greater Dandenong Library Service has more than 27,000 items available in languages other than English. The most popular languages are Chinese followed by Vietnamese. You can also borrow resources in Serbian, Sinhalese, Arabic, Punjabi, Tamil, Spanish, Khmer, Greek, Croatian, Persian, French, Italian, Bosnian, Polish, Hindi and Urdu.

What's On March 2020

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 ► **Library Tech Assist** Dandenong Library 10am (every Monday) Ph: 1300 630 920	31 ► **Library Tech Assist** Springvale Library 10am (every Tuesday) Ph: 1300 630 920					1 ► **Greater Dandenong Environment Group** Dandenong Wetlands, Stud Road, Dandenong North 9.30am Ph: 8571 1702
2 ► **This Girl Can Drop In Touch Football** Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park 4pm–5pm (every Monday) Ph: 8571 1000	3 ► **SHE Reads** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 11am Ph: 9706 8441 ► **Dandenong Evening VIEW Club** Dandenong RSL, 44–50 Clow Street 7pm Ph: 0417 511 588	4 ► **This Girl Can Freestyle Golf** Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park 2pm (every Wednesday) Ph: 8571 1000	5 ► **This Girl Can Drop In Volleyball** JC Mills Reserve, Cleeland Street, Dandenong 4pm (every Thursday) Ph: 8571 1000 ► **Movies After Dark: Strictly Ballroom (PG)** Dandenong Library 7.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920	6 ► **Baby Bounce Outreach** Tatterson Pavilion, Cheltenham Road, Keysborough 10.30am Ph: 1300 630 920 ► **Afghan Bazaar Cultural Tour** Dandenong 6pm–8pm Ph: 8571 1666	7 ► **Johannes Moller** Drum Theatre 7pm Ph: 8571 1666	8 ► **Dandenong Market** Cleeland Street 9am–4pm (every Sunday)
9 ► **Combined Probus Club of Sandown** Club Noble, Moodemere Street, Noble Park 10am Ph: 9791 6807	10 ► **Conversation Circle – Advanced** Dandenong Library 6.30pm (every Tuesday) Ph: 1300 630 920	11 ► **Learning Help for Adults** Springvale Library 2pm–5pm (every Wednesday) Ph: 1300 630 920	12 ► **Sound School VJing** Dandenong Library 4.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920	13 ► **Games Night** Dandenong and Springvale Library 6.30pm (every Friday) Ph: 1300 630 920	14 ► **American Song** Drum Theatre 8pm Ph: 8571 1666	15 ► **Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Open Day** Harold Road, Springvale South 10am–5pm Ph: 8571 1702
16 ► **Springvale Fresh Tour** Springvale 11am–1pm Ph: 8571 1666	17 ► **Possum Family Fun Playgroup** Dandenong Library 12.30pm (every Tuesday) Ph: 1300 630 920	18 ► **Toni Childs Retrospective** Drum Theatre 7.30pm Ph: 8571 1666 ► **Greater Dandenong Neighbourhood Watch Public Forum** Paddy O'Donoghue Centre 7.30pm Ph: 0407 325 030	19 ► **Sun Rising: The Songs that made Memphis** Drum Theatre 10.30am Ph: 8571 1666 ► **Our Beat** Drum Theatre 6pm–9pm Ph: 8571 1666	20 ► **Sisters of Mercy English Tutoring** Dandenong Library 9am (every Friday) Ph: 1300 630 920 	21 ► **Family Fun at Springvale Library** 10.30am (every Saturday) Ph: 1300 630 920	22 ► **Friends of Fotheringham Reserve** Pyke Street, Dandenong 10am Ph: 8571 1702 ► **Dandenong World Fare** Dandenong Market Cleeland Street 10am–4pm
23 ► **Peer 2 Peer Study** Dandenong and Springvale Library 4pm–6pm (every Monday) Ph: 1300 630 920	24 ► **This Girl Can Soccer** JC Mills Reserve, Cleeland Street, Dandenong 4pm (every Tuesday) Ph: 8571 1000	25 ► **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am (every Wednesday) Ph: 1300 630 920	26 ► **Shades of Buble** Drum Theatre 7.30pm Ph: 8571 1666 ► **Trivia Thursdays: Around the World in 80 minutes** Dandenong Library 7.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920	27	28	29 ► **SHE Exhibition Launch** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 2pm–4pm Ph: 9706 8441

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Ph: 8571 1666

Send your event listings to **news@cgd.vic.gov.au**

List your community event online at **greaterdandenong.com/listyourevent**

www.greaterdandenong.com

This Girl Can

A campaign supporting women to embrace physical activity is celebrating local women with a series of free drop in sports sessions across Greater Dandenong.

This Girl Can celebrates and supports women's involvement in sport, whether it's a little or a lot, what matters is getting more movement in your day.

Council is partnering with Reclink to run weekly sports sessions this month for women aged 16 and above. Join us for these free sessions:

Touch Football
Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park, every Monday from 4pm–5pm, excluding 9 March.

Social Soccer
JC Mills Reserve, Cleeland Street Dandenong, every Tuesday from 4pm–5pm

Freestyle Golf
Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park, every Wednesday from 2pm–3pm

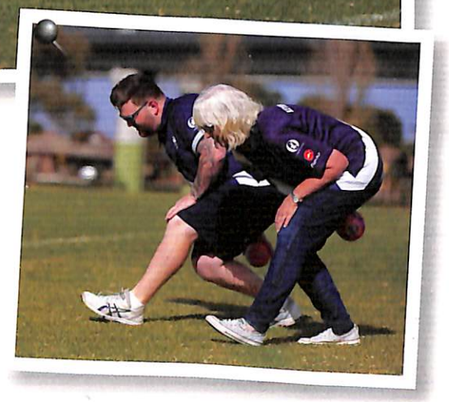
Volleyball
JC Mills Reserve, Cleeland Street, Dandenong, every Thursday from 4pm–5pm

Visit greaterdandenong.com or phone 8571 1000 for more information.



Why Make Your Move?





Council believes the health and wellbeing of all residents is important and encourages everyone to be more active when they can.

Research has shown that regular participation in physical activity has many positive health and social benefits, including helping to reduce feelings of stress, anxiety and depression.

Participating in physical activity can be fun for everyone and help build social connections. From a walk in the local park to joining an organised sports competition, meeting new people can happen anywhere.

Encouraging our children to be more active can have life-long benefits, including the support of early cognitive development.

Some studies show that communities that are more physically active can experience lower rates of anti-social behaviour and crime.

Recently Council asked for community feedback on its Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy. We received some great feedback and are now working to finalise a strategy that will help Council provide more opportunities for residents to be more active.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/makeyourmove for more information.

From your garden to ours

Ever wondered what happens to your garden waste after it is picked up?

Each year around 13,000 tonnes of garden waste is collected from kerbside waste bins in Greater Dandenong, and all of that waste is sent to a processing facility in Dandenong South where it is turned into compost.

By disposing of your garden waste correctly you can contribute to a process that creates useful compost that nourishes gardens and farms, while at the same time reducing the amount of garden waste dumped in landfill.

Whether you have a few plants on a balcony or a full backyard, all plants will need a bit of maintenance now and then. When pruning, planting or landscaping ensure you dispose of your garden waste correctly.

Leaves, grass, weeds, flowers and branches can go into your green lid garden waste bin. If you put anything else in the bin you can contaminate the whole load, this includes plastic bags.

Common items that have to be removed at the processing facility include plastic bags and packaging, plant pots, glass, bricks and building materials.

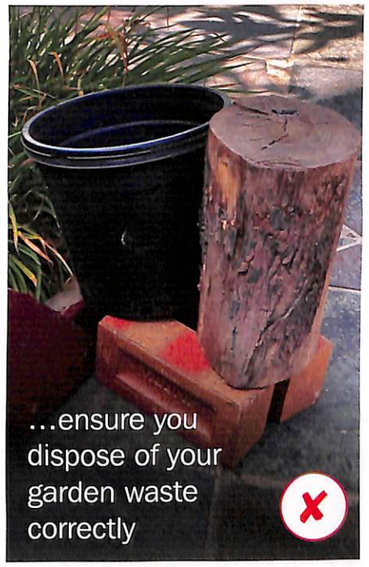
Visit greaterdandenong.com/waste for more information.

Yes
- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Flowers
- Small branches (maximum 10cm by 30cm)
- Garden prunings

No
- Plastic bags
- Plant pots
- Glass
- Bricks
- Building materials



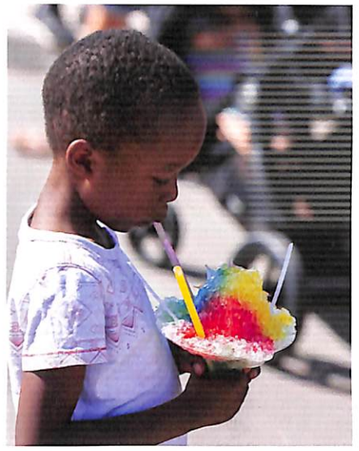




Immunisation Timetable – March 2020

Date	Time	Location
Monday 2 March	4pm–6pm	Springvale City Hall (Supper Room) 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 10 March	10am–11.45am	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Wednesday 11 March	3.30pm–6.30pm	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong (enter via Harmony Square)
Monday 16 March	4pm–6pm	Springers Leisure Centre, 400 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough
Tuesday 17 March	10am–11.30am	Jan Wilson Community Centre, Halton Road, Noble Park North (BJ Powell Reserve)
Wednesday 25 March	10am–12pm	Springvale City Hall (Supper Room) 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 28 March	10am–11.30am	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong (enter via Harmony Square)

World Fare 2020



Visit the Dandenong Market and treat your tastebuds to the ultimate world tour at Dandenong World Fare.

A kaleidoscope of nationalities will showcase the diversity of the region with exotic tastes from our favourite multicultural restaurants, food vans and market traders.

Join the fun on Sunday 22 March, from 9am to 4pm for the largest free event on the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival calendar.

The international food offering will be supported by music and entertainment, and free children's activities running throughout the day.

Visit dandenongmarket.com.au for more information.

FAST FACTS

The City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse community in Australia. At the 2016 Census residents recorded 157 different birthplaces. The statistics also show that our residents speak more than 200 different languages and follow more than 100 different faiths.

Starting a business in Greater Dandenong

Council support



Council supports businesses of all shapes and sizes. If you have a great idea and wish to turn it into a business your local Council can help you get started.

Starting a business is exciting. Laws are not.

It is important to understand the laws which apply when starting a business in Australia. If you fail to follow government regulations you may face big penalties.

To start a business in Greater Dandenong speak to one of Council's Economic Development Officers. They are there to support you and can help you understand your business needs.

Here are two questions to ask yourself before starting a business:

Can you afford to quit your current job to start a business? Consider a slow transition to ensure you are fainancially stable.

If you are just starting a business it is a great idea to avoid quitting your day job straight away. Launching a successful start-up is a long process, it takes time to grow your customer base and requires patience.

If you really want to quit and start working on your new business full time then ask yourself how long your savings would last? Unexpected costs like an illness in the family or expensive car repair bills can add further financial and emotional stress to you and your family. Consider these possibilities now so you are prepared.

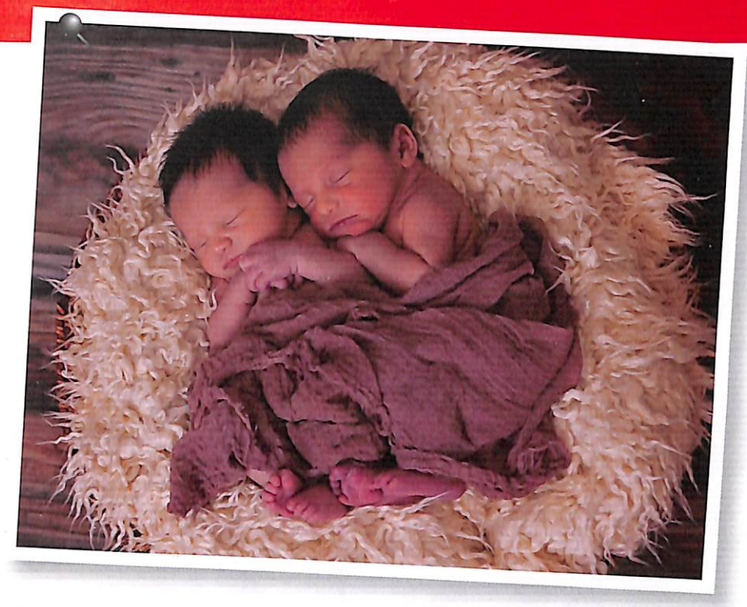
Be a solution-based business. Have you tested your business idea or product?

It is a lot easier to build a solid customer base when your business is fixing a problem. Your business should focus on filling a gap in the marketplace. This makes your offer unique and not another copy-cat of something that already exists.

Test your idea out and be open to feedback. Listen to what others have to say – friends, family, experts, even yourself. Encourage listeners to be honest with you. The collective opinion you get from peers could be a reflection of how potential customers will react.

If you would like to test your idea with an independent business mentor the Economic Development Team have business mentoring vouchers which give you access to two free 45 minute mentoring sessions.

Email business@cgd.vic.gov.au, phone 8571 1550 or visit greaterdandenong.com/business for more information.



Support for families

The Casey and District Multiple Birth Association is a parent support organisation for parents of twins, triplets and more.

The group will host a free event to introduce themselves and the supports they offer to families who are expecting or who in the past year have had multiples.

The Association recognises that women who have been through a multiple births are especially vulnerable to post natal depression (PND), with studies showing one in three multiple mothers are diagnosed with PND.

The group aims to help connect women who may otherwise suffer from social isolation and give them resources and a peer support network to help them through the early years.

The session will include a complimentary morning tea and activities for children, including a jumping castle, play pen, and arts and crafts.

Join the Casey and District Multiple Birth Association at Tirhatuan Park, Kriegel Way, Dandenong North, on Saturday 7 March, from 10.30am–1.30pm.

For more information email support@caseydistrict.amba.org.au or phone Rebecca Kerestes on 0402 742 528.

With One Voice Choir

If you have ever been told you can't sing, then this is the choir for you.

Greater Dandenong's With One Voice Choir co-ordinator Sue Doherty said the choir was a safe space for everybody to experience the benefits of singing.

"Everybody can sing, but some people have been told that they can't and that's just not true. When we sing as a choir all the audience hears is one voice," Sue said.

The choir meets weekly and Sue said the group was inclusive and accepting of everyone. There is a small fee to join the choir, but the amount is based on individual circumstances and is treated as a donation (so is tax deductible).

"It's become a family for so many," Sue said.

"Council has been great and invited us to sing at a number of functions, but we also do other performances. People can come and sing at rehearsals only, there is no expectation of having to perform at events, but performing in public builds confidence."

Sue said the choir meets at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park, every Wednesday from 5.15pm–7pm. Everyone is welcome to come to rehearsal, you don't even have to sing until you are comfortable.

Visit creativityaustralia.org.au/choirs for more information.

Neighbourhood Watch

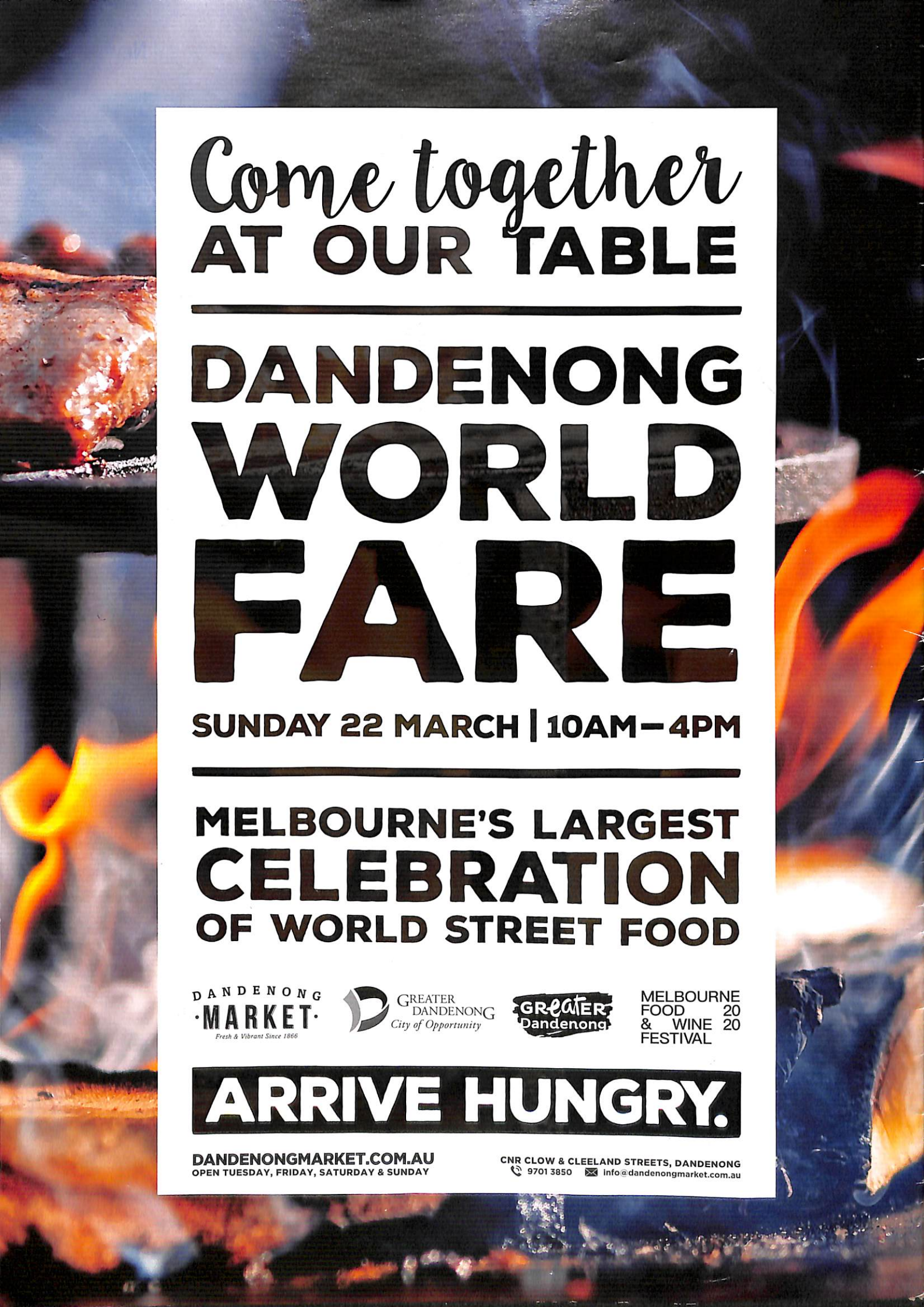
Join the discussion about community safety at Greater Dandenong Neighbourhood Watch's March public forum.

Hear from two special guest speakers who will give an insight into their work. The first speaker is Acting Sergeant Tim Sullivan from the Greater Dandenong Crime Scene Services, while the second guest, Sergeant Andrew Nisbet from the ballistic unit, is returning to finish his presentation from a previous meeting.

Join the discussion and ask questions at this public forum, at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park, on Wednesday 18 March at 7.30pm.

For more information email President Dawn Vernon at president@nhwgreaterdandenong.org or phone 0407 325 030.

public forum



Come together AT OUR TABLE

DANDENONG WORLD FARE

SUNDAY 22 MARCH | 10AM–4PM

MELBOURNE'S LARGEST CELEBRATION OF WORLD STREET FOOD

DANDENONG MARKET
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City of Opportunity

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JULY 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



HOME 2020

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Be more sustainable

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Council Budget 2020–21

▶ PAGE 8 & 9

Maternal and Child Health Service

▶ PAGE 10

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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www.greaterdandenong.com
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the July edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

While restrictions continue Council is working hard to support all members of the community.

Greater Dandenong will go to the polls in October and there have been some changes since the last Council Elections held four years ago. Turn to page 6 to read more.

Despite the uncertain times presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has worked to put together a financially responsible budget for 2020-21. Read about this strong investment in our city's future on pages 7 and 8.

Our Maternal and Child Health staff have not stopped supporting parents, and continue to offer mums and dads assistance with family life. Read more about this on page 10.

The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia. Our residents come from 157 different nations, speak more than 200 different languages and follow 100 different faiths. Council has a great relationship with faith leaders across our city and works closely with all of them through the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong. Some of these leaders have shared their own messages of support on page 15.

I wish all our residents the best this month and hope you are staying safe and well.

My City



Dandenong North's Tirhatuan Park forms part of the Dandenong Creek vegetation corridor, providing important habitat for native flora and fauna, including these gorgeous ducks. The park is home to the endangered Plains Grassy Wetland which provides a home for frogs, insects and birds.

Front Cover: Artist Saidin Salkic will exhibit his work as part of HOME 2020.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



Cleaning the streets of Greater Dandenong

A new workforce has hit the streets of Greater Dandenong to help keep the city clean and the community safe.

Under the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative, people who lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been recruited to clean high traffic areas and communal touch points across metropolitan Melbourne.

Up to 50 people have been trained under Citywide's Cleansing and Sanitisation Services to help clean in Greater Dandenong. They are focused on public seating, pedestrian signal buttons, handrails, street furniture, bus shelters and playgrounds.

As restrictions further ease and public spaces become busier this cleaning regime will help stop the spread of the virus through contact transmission.



George Andrews Reserve

The main soccer field at George Andrews Reserve, in Trewin Street, Dandenong has recently seen the completion of new infrastructure.

The ground is home to the Dandenong Thunder Soccer Club, which plays in National Premier Leagues (NPL) Victoria.

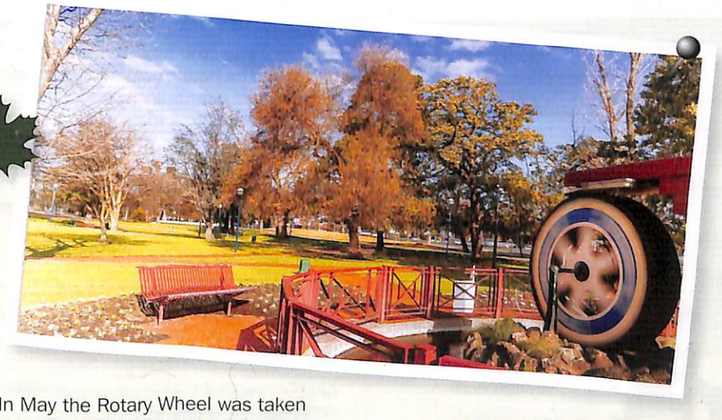
The new facilities include a corporate box, which features an internal function space, small kitchenette, accessible toilet and a viewing platform. In addition, two 10-seat coaches boxes (pictured) have been installed for home and away teams to use on game days.

Park celebrates history

Dandenong Park has undergone a major transformation and has been given a new lease on life, but aspects of the popular park will pay tribute to its heritage.

Council continues to implement the Dandenong Park Master Plan with $1 million committed to works in the 2020–21 Annual Budget.

Recent upgrades include a new amenities block, new Stan Prior stage, a multi-sport court and picnic areas, as well as new lighting and furniture throughout the northern part of the park.



In May the Rotary Wheel was taken down for refurbishment. The wheel was installed in 1986 to recognise Rotary's 50th anniversary in Dandenong and its design draws upon the area's industrial heritage.

Interpretive signs will also be installed throughout the park to recognise how it has been used by the community over the years. These signs will recognise the Truby King Health Centre which opened in 1932, the Stan Prior Soundshell and the Dandenong Bowls Club.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/dandenongparkprecinct to read more about the Dandenong Park Master Plan.

Councillor Contacts



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youhorn.chea@cgd.vic.gov.au



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Lightwood Ward
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Paperbark Ward
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Paperbark Ward
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Paperbark Ward
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Red Gum Ward
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angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Red Gum Ward – Mayor
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Silverleaf Ward
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zaynoun.melhem@cgd.vic.gov.au



Silverleaf Ward
Cr Maria Sampey
Ph/Fax: 9790 1291
0438 800 027
maria.sampey@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 13 JULY

MONDAY 27 JULY

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

Council meetings currently remain open to the public, however this could change at short notice. To limit the risks of COVID-19 we encourage all community members to view the meetings via Council's live web telecast.

JULY

The July meetings will be held:

Monday 13 July

Monday 27 July

The general public can still submit questions for Public Question Time.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings

Cr Sean O'Reilly

► Lightwood Ward

While restrictions are easing Council is taking a careful approach to reopening facilities.

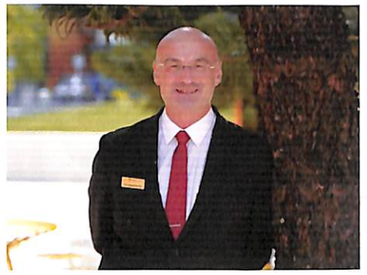
Please continue to limit your exposure to people outside of your own household.

I can appreciate that you are keen to get back to normal activities, but we can't undo the work that we have all done. The health and wellbeing of all residents continues to be a priority for Council, and we need to take things slowly.

Council has continued to work on major projects, including the Springvale Community Hub, during this period of restrictions. At the time of publication Council was finalising plans to open this wonderful new facility to the public. Visit greaterdandenong.com for the most up to date information.

Another project that is moving ahead is Springvale Boulevard, which has been heavily influenced by community consultation. Streetscape improvements will help reinforce this activity centre as one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations.

Feedback from community members has helped to guide the design process, including comments calling for more greenery. Plant selections for the project will include native Australian plants,



mixed with exotic display gardens, and a bigger shade canopy.

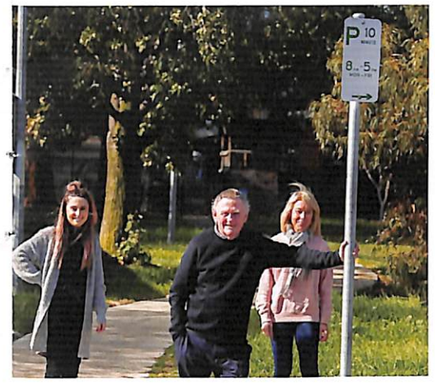
Visitors to Springvale also commented that they wanted more places to "sit and watch". As a result, seats will be placed along Springvale Road, with clusters of individual stools also placed in the shopping strip allowing people to sit individually or in groups.

Virus restrictions have slowed down the redevelopment of Springvale, but soon we'll see all the new Council investment – new modern library, renovated City Hall, renovated Post Office Lane, more car parks at Burden Park, and beautification of Springvale Road, utilised in all its glory.

If you would like to talk to me about any issues please email me at sean.oreilly@cgd.com.au or phone me on 0422 523 258.

Cr Peter Brown

► Paperbark Ward



HARRISFIELD PRE-SCHOOL DROP OFF ZONE NOW AVAILABLE

Council has provided a safe drop off zone for parents and children in response to a petition that parents submitted seeking a safer alternative to the Bowmore Road entrance. The drop off zone is at the Ardgower Road entrance to the preschool.

Thank you to Harrisfield Preschool Manager Maryanne Moutsakis, Wendy Forsyth and all the staff for making the Harrisfield Preschool such a friendly, family oriented gem. Give Maryanne a call on 9546 8485 to inspect the preschool or to enrol your son or daughter.

NOBLE PARK UPDATES

*WACHTER RESERVE: wetland water feature and landscaping, a $575,000 tender approved with work commencing soon. Lunch by the Lake in 2021.

*NOBLE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE FORECOURT: removal of flooding problem, improved access and landscaping commencing in the second half of 2020. Thanks to Robyn Coslovich for her great efforts at the Community Centre. Contact Robyn on 9547 5801 for your community group needs.

*ROSS RESERVE "ALL ABILITIES" PLAYGROUND: work has commenced with the $2.1 million budget approved.

*ROSS RESERVE NEW PAVILION: tenders will be advertised in July 2020.

*FORMER YARRAMAN PRE-SCHOOL, JOFFRE STREET: Council will retain this property for community use. Expressions of interest will be sought. Perhaps a good site for a childcare centre?

*DOUGLAS STREET PLAZA: free WiFi is being provided.

Thanks to Council staff, Councillors and Ward Colleagues, Tim Dark and Sophie Tan for helping make all this, and more, happen.

If you would like to get in touch with me you can email me at peter.brown@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0468 584 837.

► Red Gum Ward

Cr Jim Memeti



Greater Dandenong is home to more than 100 parks, sports reserves and playgrounds. We also have four bushland areas and open space corridors that are used by residents and visitors to enjoy the great outdoors.

As a largely suburban area we are always trying to balance the needs of residents and make sure green space is available for everyone to enjoy. For this reason Council recently asked residents to comment on plans to turn open space at 6-8 Fifth Avenue in Dandenong into a small local park.

Council will consider the responses and will draw up plans to make this into an outdoor asset that can be enjoyed by all. We will add seating and plant more trees and ensure it is maintained as a space that everyone can enjoy.

Many residents and office workers in central Dandenong have already taken advantage of a "quick game" at the urban park at the corner of Cadle and George streets. The park incudes a multisport court with goals for futsal, basketball and netball.

The park was built by Development Victoria to replace a temporary pop-up park near Dandenong station, and was partly funded by Council.

On the other side of Dandenong is Dandenong Park, which has undergone a huge transformation over the past few years. Council workers have been busy putting finishing touches on the park, including a 'Tan Track' which will create a circuit path for walkers and joggers.

Over the years this park has been an important asset for our community. It has played host to some wonderful celebrations and when the COVID-19 health crisis passes I look forward to seeing more special community events and cultural celebrations at this park.

If you would like to contact me please email me at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Changes to wards in Greater Dandenong

At the start of May, the Minister for Local Government announced Greater Dandenong would have its electoral structure changed to single member wards for the 2020 local government elections.

The new ward boundaries were informed by recent work undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission and ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters.

Council has suggested to the Minister for Local Government that the 11 wards be named after the areas they predominantly represent. At the time of publication this had not yet been confirmed by the Minister.

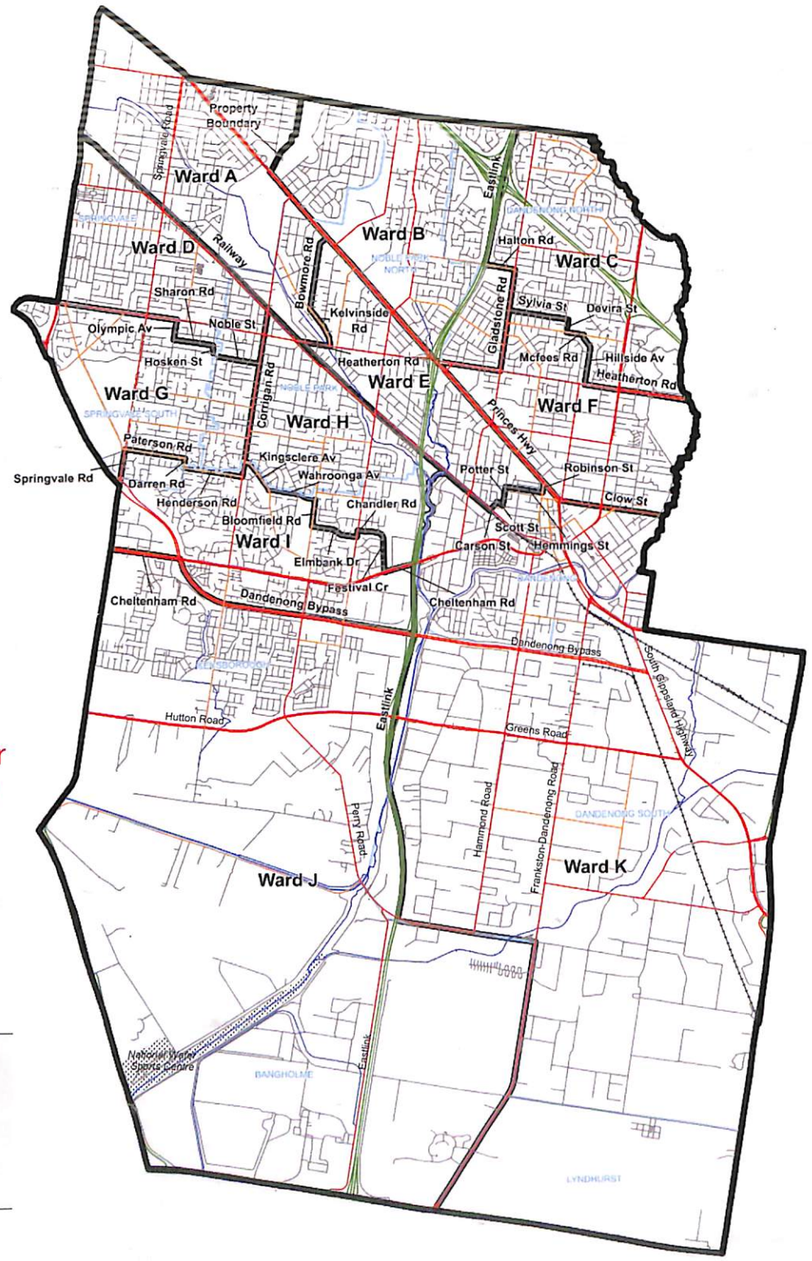
This map shows how the city has been divided into the different wards.

Council elections will be held on 24 October, 2020. If you are enrolled to vote for the State Election and are a Greater Dandenong resident then you are automatically enrolled to vote at Council Elections and it is compulsory to vote.

The elections are conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/councillors for more information. For all general voting enquiries please visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone the VEC on 131 832.

Ward A	Springvale North	**Ward G**	Springvale South
Ward B	Noble Park North	**Ward H**	Noble Park
Ward C	Dandenong North	**Ward I**	Keysborough
Ward D	Springvale Central	**Ward J**	Keysborough South
Ward E	Yarraman	**Ward K**	Dandenong
Ward F	Cleeland		





Single use plastics

Council has pledged to end the use of single-use or disposable plastics at events and activities held on Council land.

The *Plastic Use Policy* adopted by Council in December 2019 aims to reduce the impact of plastic pollution on the environment.

Council wants to lead by example and has eliminated single use plastics at Council run events and across its operations. As the policy applies to events and activities held at Council-owned venues and land, we are encouraging organisations or individuals to follow the policy.

Single use plastics, or disposable plastics, are typically used once before they are thrown away and include:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic straws
- Coffee stirrers
- Soft drink and water bottles
- Plastic cups
- Balloons
- Unnecessary food packaging.

Council encourages all community members to reconsider the use of disposable plastics. Each year more than one million seabirds and 100,000 marine animals die from ingesting plastic. Items including balloons and straws get washed into the ocean via suburban stormwater drains.

Plastic does not biodegrade. It breaks into smaller pieces that can be ingested by wildlife that can make its way into the human food chain. This makes plastic a human health hazard as well.

If you are hosting an event or party you could consider decorating with paper products, or items found in nature including flowers or leaves. Reusable fabric bunting or flags can add colour, while light projectors can make for a fun atmosphere.

Use plates, cups and cutlery that can be reused and consider serving drinks in glassware.

Council will support individuals and organisations required to follow the policy through waste education programs. To find out more phone 8571 1000.

For more ideas on how to swap out single use plastics see the back page of this magazine.

How to save energy at home

Over the past few months we have been spending more time at home, which can lead to higher energy bills.

While school students have returned to the classroom, many people are still working from home and households will have noticed an increase in recent energy bills.

Lower energy bills can help save you money, but more importantly it can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, helping to protect the environment from climate change.

So what can you do to help reduce your energy use and keep those bills in check?

- Get out the winter woollies – when things start to get chilly put on some warmer clothes and delay switching on your heater. Snuggling under an extra blanket overnight could also mean the heater doesn't have to kick in until morning.
- Set the heater temperature a degree or two below where you would usually. Between 18-20 degrees is ideal, as every degree higher can increase heating costs by up to 10 per cent.
- Connect portable heaters to a timer.
- Keep the cold out by installing door and window seals, exhaust fan and vent covers, door snakes and weather strips. These are cheap, easy to do and some can be done by renters.
- Check the efficiency of your fridge – set the temperature of your fridge between 3–5 degrees, and your freezer between 15–18 degrees. Check that the seal is working properly and not letting out any of that cool air. If you need a new more energy-efficient fridge but can't afford it, the State Government has subsidies available for low income households visit victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au for information.
- Laundry tips – wash laundry in cold water and if your machine has an 'eco' mode use it. Only use a clothes dryer when you absolutely have to, hanging clothes outside gives you access to free energy from the sun.
- Get ready for summer and install solar – going solar cuts your energy bills and in some instances could help earn your initial outlay back in just a few years. There are a number of solar options available for residents and businesses to consider. Visit greaterdandenong.com/climateandenergy for more information.

Visit victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au for more tips on how to reduce your energy usage.

2020–21 Budget







The City of Greater Dandenong's 2020-21 Budget has been developed during a period of great uncertainty, but it aims to provide our community with some confidence moving forward.

Council is continuing to monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we acknowledge that the full impacts on Council and our community may not be known for some time.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Jim Memeti said Council faced a unique challenge, but so did other businesses, organisations and individuals in our community.

"A full understanding of the impacts of this pandemic won't be known for many months, so we recognise that our proposed direction for 2020–21 may require changes," Mayor Memeti said.

"Local economic support for our most vulnerable community members was unveiled in April and totalled more than $4 million. This community relief package will be reviewed after 30 June and we may need to offer further supports to those doing it tough," Mayor Memeti said.

Key components of the relief package included an immediate $100 rate rebate passed to all pensioners for the fourth rate instalment and a $200 rate waiver on application for any Council ratepayer receiving the Job Seeker allowance.

Council provided a further $250,000 in immediate material aid to the community.

Council further waived or reduced a large variety of rents including providing significant financial support of $1.5 million to traders at Dandenong Market to ensure the Market could continue to trade.

The past several years have seen strong capital investments in major projects, including the Dandenong Civic Centre and Library, redevelopment of the Dandenong Market, construction of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre, construction of Tatterson Park Community Sports Complex and the final stages of the Springvale Community Precinct project.

The 2020–21 Budget continues to build on that strong investment with a capital works program worth more than $43 million.

"Through sound and prudent leadership, Council remains in a healthy financial position for 2020–21, although this will continue to be tested by the compounding effect of rate capping and the COVID-19 pandemic," Mayor Memeti said.

Council's total revenue from rates will increase by the 2 per cent rate cap amount set by the Victorian Government. However, residential rates will rise on average by only 0.4 per cent in 2020–21.

The exact increase residents see on their individual notices will vary due to the annual revaluation process Council is required to undertake.

There are also increases in the waste charge due to Council having much higher costs for recycling and disposing of waste at landfills.

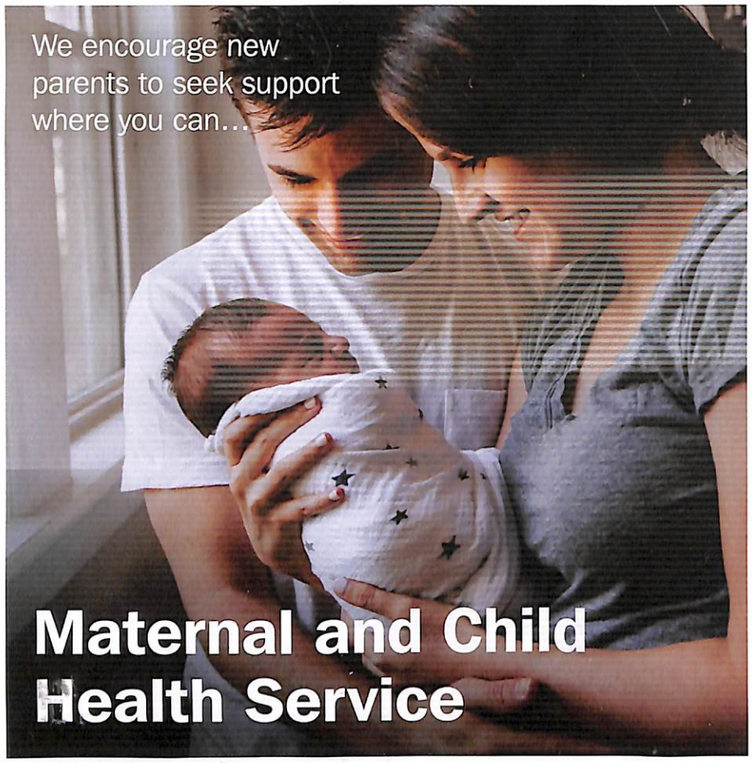
"The short and long-term impacts of this health crisis are yet to be fully understood but this Budget strikes a good balance between ensuring Council continues to provide operational services and support to the community and a capital spending program to provide much needed local infrastructure," Mayor Memeti said.

Key features of the Budget

- $5.76 million for road resurfacing
- $4.81 million for Abbotts Road widening
- $2.58 million for the Keysborough South Community Hub development
- $2.42 million for building renewal
- $2.3 million for new Ross Reserve Pavilion and All Abilities Playground
- $2 million for Villiers Road access road to Keysborough South Community Hub
- $1.6 million for footpath renewal and Active Transport Infrastructure Priority Program
- $1.5 million for Greater Dandenong Gallery of Art
- $1.18 million Vanity Lane streetscape
- $1.05 million for Parkfield Reserve oval
- $1 million Dandenong Park Master Plan implementation
- $810,000 for Dandenong Market improvement works
- $600,000 to complete building and landscape works at the Springvale Community Hub.







Maternal and Child Health Service

Greater Dandenong's Maternal and Child Health staff continue to support families in our community.

While the service has had to adjust following restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, an average of more than 320 consultations have taken place each week.

The youngest members of our community, infants under eight weeks of age, are being prioritised for face to face consultations. With some easing of restrictions the service is working towards increasing face to face appointments, however if you have concerns you can contact the service.

Families with children up to the age of two years are encouraged to access expert support via phone calls or video calls when their regular checks are due. Families who have specific concerns about their babies' feeding or development can contact the MCH service booking line on 8571 1880.

While first time parent groups have not been offered, they are now being slowly reintroduced. New parents are being contact directly by early parenting practitioners to discuss coping with a newborn during this period of social restriction. Sleep and settling is a popular topic of conversation during these phone calls.

Council understands that this is a difficult time for all parents, but especially for those with new babies. Many parents often push themselves to get back to a "normal" routine in the early weeks of having a baby, but this time of isolation and social distancing can have benefits for new parents.

We encourage new parents to seek support where you can, including from family members, friends and health experts including our Maternal and Child Health service or your local GP. Speak openly about your concerns and find time for yourself. The Maternal Child and Health Line is a 24-hour support service and can be reached on 13 22 24.

To make an appointment with the Maternal and Child Health Service please phone 8571 1880.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/mch for more information.



Ally to LGBTIQ community

Greater Dandenong Council is a proud ally of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) community.

Council commemorated IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia) on Sunday 17 May by raising the rainbow flag in Dandenong's Harmony Square. The flag flew for one week, while Drum Theatre was also lit up in rainbow colours for the same time period.

Council also launched its LGBTIQ Inclusion Statement on this day. The statement says:

"As a diverse municipality, we are enriched by the social, cultural and economic contributions made by LGBTIQ people who live in, work in and visit the City of Greater Dandenong.

"Council is dedicated to ensuring our city is safe, respectful and welcoming for our LGBTIQ residents and visitors.

"Council recognises the real struggles of the LGBTIQ community who experience multiple forms of discrimination and harassment, based on homophobia/transphobia/biphobia/intersexphobia. This often affects their ability to fully participate in everyday life within our community.

"Council is a strong advocate for inclusion and equality and is committed to building a more equitable future for our LGBTIQ community."

Visit greaterdandenong.com/lgbtiq to read the full statement.

Council's Future Planning

Every four years, following the election of our Councillors, the City of Greater Dandenong creates a strategic plan which guides Council's activities and outlines the resources required to deliver important services to our community.

The plan highlights the key priorities for Council, outlines what we hope to achieve over the next four year period and how we will measure our success. This plan is reviewed every year to ensure we capture the changing needs of our municipality. Each year an Annual Plan is also developed to provide information on the specific actions Council will undertake to ensure the Council Plan priorities are achieved.

We are currently in the final year of the existing Council Plan 2017–21 and with the upcoming Councillor elections in October we will be commencing the development of a new plan for 2021–25. The new Council Plan will also include our health and wellbeing priorities and as part of the project we will review our Community Plan – Imagine 2030.

To create the new Council Plan we will be undertaking a number of consultation activities over the next six months to provide our community with the opportunity to help shape the direction of our city over the next four years.

We value the input of our residents, business community and visitors and would like to see as many people participate as possible. All consultation activities will be advertised on Council's website and through social media channels when available but if you are interested in being a part of our activities and contributing to future planning you can register early by emailing your contact details to plan2021@cgd.vic.gov.au.

*Greater Dandenong City Council is strongly committed to the responsible handling of personal information and is compliant with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. A copy of Council's Privacy and Personal Information Policy is available on Council's website at greaterdandenong.com

Award winning event

Council's annual Springvale Snow Fest has won two gold medals on the world stage.

While this year's event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council will continue to work on putting together another exciting winter wonderland for 2021.

The 2019 Springvale Snow Fest won Best Municipal Event and Best Australian/Oceanian Region Event at the 2020 Global Eventex Awards.

More than 440 entries from 39 countries vied for dozens of awards at the 10th annual award ceremony.

Each year Council partners with Mt Buller to deliver up to 80 tonnes of real snow fresh from the mountain, and last year more than 40,000 people enjoyed the experience.




Cr Matthew Kirwan and former Greater Dandenong Councillor and Mayor Roz Blades at the 2018 launch of the Back Your Neighbour campaign

Back Your Neighbour

Council continues to work on advocating for the rights of people seeking asylum.

More than 1000 people seeking asylum and their families are living in Greater Dandenong while they await a decision on their claim for asylum without any financial support or little to no opportunity to work.

The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the stress felt by many who saw benefits cut from the Federal Government's Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) program.

With casual work being affected by the health crisis many individuals and families who were already doing it tough have been left with nothing.

Greater Dandenong Council leads a group of 32 local councils from across Australia in advocating for people seeking asylum. Together we seek the reinstatement of benefits under the SRSS program and we call on the Victorian State Government to continue the one-off $3 million financial support package offered in the last financial year.

We call on residents to join the Back Your Neighbour campaign and add your name to our petition.

Visit backyourneighbour.com.au to learn more about the campaign or to sign the petition.

My Community Art prize



Young creatives can use their artistic abilities to celebrate the Greater Dandenong community through a new art competition.

If you enjoy painting, drawing or creating digital illustrations then share your talents through the Greater Dandenong. *My Place. My Community Art Competition*.

Use these themes to express yourself:

- What you love about your community
- What is special about your community
- What connects you to community

Entries are open to people aged 12–25 years who live, work or have a significant connection to the City of Greater Dandenong. Entries must be original and are limited to one submission per person.

Submissions close on Friday 7 August and entries will be judged across three categories, including 12–15 years, 16–19 years and 20–25 years.

A first and second prize will be awarded for each category and a People's Choice Award will also be conducted for an overall winner.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com for information on how to enter.

NAIDOC Week postponed

The City of Greater Dandenong has a proud connection with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

During July Council observes NAIDOC Week to help honour this relationship, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic national celebrations have been postponed until later in the year.

The National NAIDOC Committee has taken expert health advice and has decided to postpone NAIDOC Week (5–12 July) in 2020.

Greater Dandenong Council will follow advice from the Committee about rescheduling celebrations and will inform the community when a decision is made.

In the meantime visit greaterdandenong.com/diversity to see how Council is supporting the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



Support for youth

While the COVID-19 pandemic has seen many Council events and activities cancelled or postponed, Youth and Family support services are continuing.

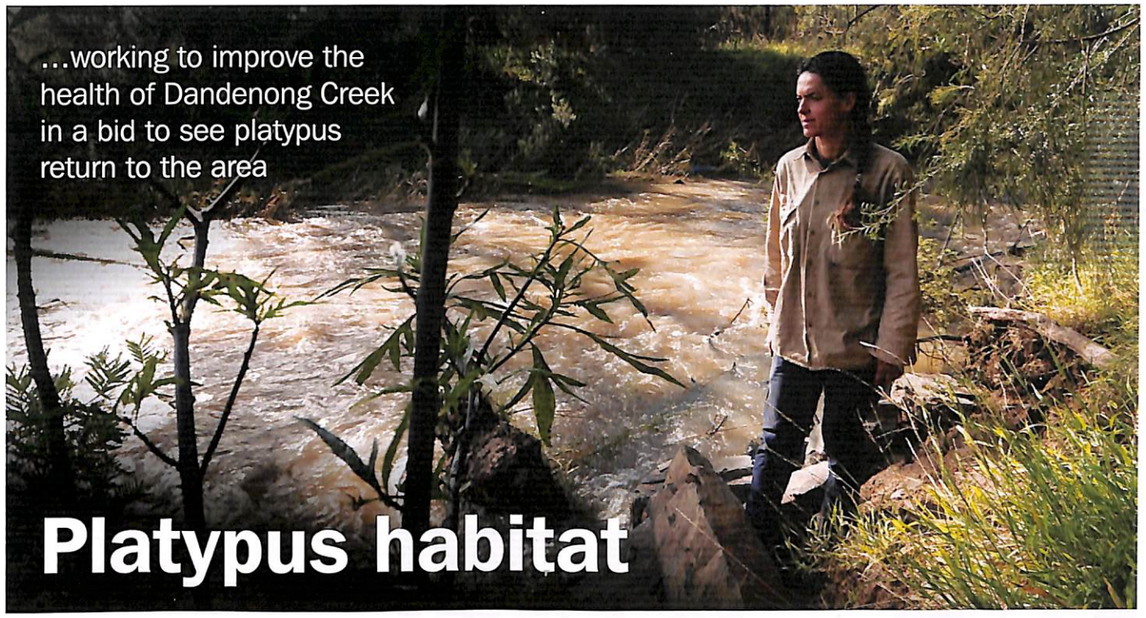
The team has created a range of online alternatives to traditional support services and encourages young people and families to stay in touch.

Youth workers can help provide general advice about how to manage social distancing, positive wellbeing strategies and how to access other support services. Support can be delivered by phone or Skype.

Youth Services provides free and confidential counselling and support services to young people aged 12–25 years who live, work or study in Greater Dandenong. During safe and confidential sessions you can talk about anything that may be bothering or stressing you out, including relationships, family conflict, school issues, mental health issues like anxiety or depression, and much more. A counsellor can see you either on your own or with your family.

Contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 or email youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au for support.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com for access to online resources or to find out more.



Platypus habitat

Greater Dandenong Council is working to improve the health of Dandenong Creek in a bid to see platypus return to the area.

Platypus have been recorded in the upper catchment of the Dandenong Creek but would have lived along the whole creek at one stage. They are sensitive animals and require stable banks for their burrows, clean flowing water for their food source and protection from fishing line and other litter that could cause them to drown.

The City of Greater Dandenong, with funding from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program, is tackling habitat destruction, waterway pollution and land clearing – all big contributors to the loss of the platypus from Dandenong Creek.

In collaboration with Council staff and our local community, 3200 indigenous plants will be planted along the Dandenong Creek. It is hoped these plants will replace weed species, help clean the water, stabilise banks and increase vegetation overhanging the creek for improved conditions for not only platypus but a whole range of animals that call Dandenong Creek home.

If you want to get involved visit greaterdandenong.com/natureandwildlife to find out more about how Council is creating a better home for native plants and animals in Greater Dandenong.

HOME 2020

For the first time in its six year history the HOME Exhibition can be viewed from the comfort of any loungeroom across Australia.

The exhibition features work by six artists who come from a refugee or asylum seeker background and will be showcased virtually.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said the exhibition celebrated the diversity of our nation which was reflected by the diversity of our city.

"The City of Greater Dandenong is recognised as Australia's most culturally diverse community," he said.

Residents come from 157 different nations, speak more than 200 different languages and follow more than 100 different faiths.

"Our diversity is our greatest strength, it defines who we are as a community and is a source of powerful storytelling."

This year's artists work across various media and come from all over Australia. Two have very personal links to Greater Dandenong, including one who currently lives in Dandenong. Humaira Fayazi, who now lives in Dandenong, arrived in Australia in 2018 as a refugee from Afghanistan.

Dr Dacchi Dang lived at the Enterprise Migrant Hostel in Springvale when he first came to Australia from Vietnam almost 40 years ago.


Dr Dacchi Dang.

HOME 2020 opens on 9 July. Visit greaterdandenong.com/home to view the exhibition.

Big hearts in business support vulnerable communities





The Material Aid Program in Greater Dandenong is helping deliver food and supplies to residents that are most in need and without other support.

This combined relief effort has supported about 2,200 individuals each week.

This would not be possible without the help of some big-hearted organisations in our municipality, including:

- Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- Red Cross
- Cornerstone
- Springvale Benevolent Society
- Communities Creating Opportunities (CoCO's)
- Wellsprings for Women
- Friends of Refugees
- Enjoy Church
- We Care
- Salvation Army.

Food and material relief donations have been delivered to 492 families. This includes many who are people seeking asylum, international students, homeless and the unemployed.

At the time of writing this article, agencies anecdotally reported a 20 to 30 per cent increase over the last two weeks in the number of people seeking material aid, which shows we are far from through this crisis.

The material aid would not be possible without the support of our generous business community who have donated goods and services including:

- Australian Natural Soap
- Amazon
- Dandenong Market
- Chobani
- Granny Foods
- Honbach.

Council welcomes further contributions from local businesses if you can spare the goods or services. Email materialaidenquiries@cgd.vic.gov.au if you would like to contribute to the material aid program.

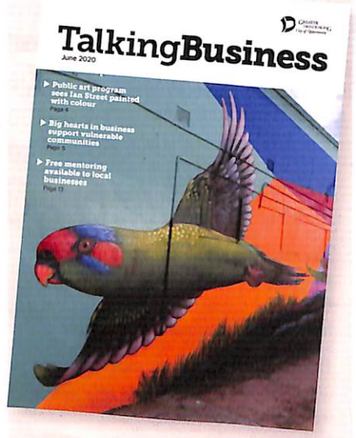
Talking Business Magazine

Did you know Council produce a dedicated business magazine called *Talking Business*?

The publication comes in two formats, a quarterly 16-page magazine covering some of the latest developments in the area, market trends, industry news and grant funding and training opportunities available to businesses.

The second format is a monthly electronic newsletter where time-sensitive information and opportunities are shared.

The magazine also profiles local businesses who are doing well in their own field.



Subscribe today to see all the latest happenings in the Greater Dandenong business world via greaterdandenong.com/talkingbusiness or call 8571 1550.

Messages of hope

words of wisdom

In times of uncertainty many people turn to faith for comfort and guidance, but even if you don't follow a particular faith, the following messages from Greater Dandenong's faith leaders may contain words of wisdom to help you through.

These faith leaders are all members of the CIty of Greater Dandenong's Interfaith Network, the oldest interfaith network in Australia.

Baha'i

"Never feel alone, as together we are all working through this challenging time. As we look to our inner being, to our connection with God, we will find through Him, hope, strength, comfort and love, for all." – *Agnes Kean*.

Brahma Kumaris

"I keep an aim to stay present and connected to my essence of peace. I know that this peace will reach my beloved ones and ultimately the whole world, providing comfort, strength, hope and clarity." – *Sister Jacqueline Russell*.

Buddhist

"The best way to take care of society is to take care of the present moment." – *Venerable Thich Thien Tam, Hoa Nghiem Buddhist Temple.*

Christian

"We have been looked after by so many generous people during these challenging times. With gratitude, let's not forget to say 'thank you' to all those who work to keep us healthy in body, mind and spirit." – *Anita Davine, St John Vianney Catholic Parish*.

Hindu

"I know the Coronavirus pandemic has gripped the entire world with no boundaries. I pray that God might free us from the pandemic and life might serenely resume its normal course. OHM THAT SATH." – *Sivarasi Rajaratna Sarma Premakantha Kurukkal, High Priest.*

Jewish

"When Jewish people meet, they will wish you Shalom, a friendly and peaceful greeting. In times of crisis we need to be responsive to each other. As a multicultural city we believe in our unity and faith to find the silver lining." – *Roz Blades AM*.

Muslim

"The beautiful nature of compassion is a virtue we all possess. In times of hardship, patience and support is a key factor in maintaining physical and spiritual wellbeing. Let's remember that goodness made with a sincere intention is seen as an act of kindness." – *Imam Mehmet Salih Dogan, Emir Sultan Mosque.*



Sikh

"During a time that we cannot go out, let us use this opportunity to go within to connect to the divine. God mercifully takes care of each of his creations and this world. Have faith, our creator will help us through this adversity, as he always does." – *Jasbir Singh Suropada*.

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation

"Humans need to engage themselves in some action or other, either physically, mentally, or both. Together we pray for hope, that as a community we will unite for the upliftment of all people and commit ourselves to good deeds." – *Ursula Aruma*.

Visit greaterdandenong.com to read messages from these and other faith leaders in full and to find out more about the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong.

Op shops open

Most op shops offer support services beyond bargain prices and have made every effort to continue providing support to our most vulnerable residents.

Many of Greater Dandenong's op shops have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic, but for those who had to close a number have now reopened with additional precautionary measures.

Changes include social distancing requirements, hand sanitisation stations around the stores and screens to protect staff and customers. Many stores have also closed changing rooms and are quarantining donations for a short period.

If you have items to donate you should contact your local op shop to check their requirements.

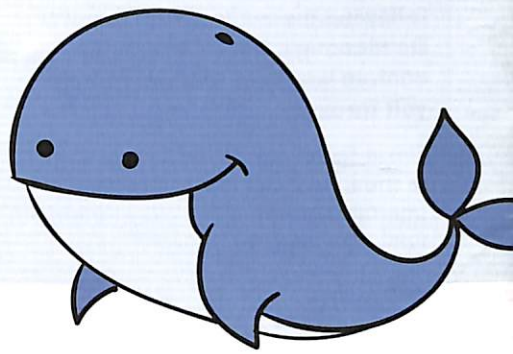


It is handy to note that op shops only take donations during opening hours, which means if you leave donations outside of these hours you are illegally dumping and could face a fine.

For more information contact:
The Salvos on 137 258
St Vinnies 131 812

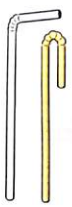
GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Did you know that plastic can take hundreds or even thousands of years to break down, causing pollutants that are toxic to humans, animals and plants.

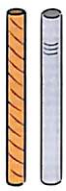


Greater Dandenong Council has committed to reducing the usage of single use or disposable plastic through the adoption of the Plastic Use Policy and is encouraging residents to do the same.

Simple swaps to reduce plastic waste



Plastic straws
> use paper or metal straws, or no straw at all





Plastic drink bottle
> reusable glass or aluminium drink bottle





Takeaway coffee cup
> buy a reusable glass or 'keep' cup





Disposable nappies
> reusable cloth nappies





Greater Dandenong Council has a vision to be one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030. By working together we can achieve this vision and make life better for the people of Greater Dandenong.
Visit **greaterdandenong.com** to find out more.

AUGUST 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



Springvale Community Hub

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STEAM Festival
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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.com

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message



Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

Welcome to the August edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

While our community still deals with restrictions due to the COVID–19 pandemic, Council continues to support our community's most vulnerable and works to protect the health and safety of all our residents.

Very recently we celebrated the completion of one of the biggest projects to happen in our city in recent times. The Springvale Community Hub has been completed, however we have had to hold off on opening until restrictions are once again lifted.

Many of you would have seen this building take shape over the past year, and we can't wait to welcome the community inside, but this will have to wait. See the opposite page for a sneak peak inside.

In October the people will go to the polls for the Council Elections. Find out all you need to know about how to enrol and how to vote on pages 8 and 9.

Celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics during the Greater Dandenong Library Services STEAM Festival. The program will be delivered online and there is something for all ages happening. Read more on page 10.

With strict lockdown restrictions now back in place I want to remind Greater Dandenong residents to be vigilant and maintain the social distancing practices and good hygiene that have helped protect so many in our community. You are doing a fantastic job, keep it up.

My City

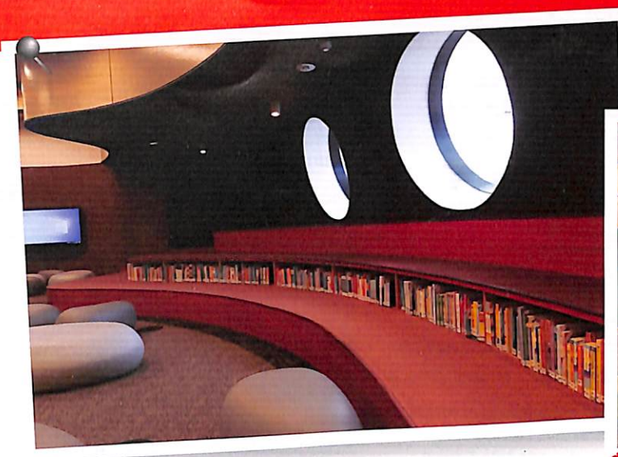


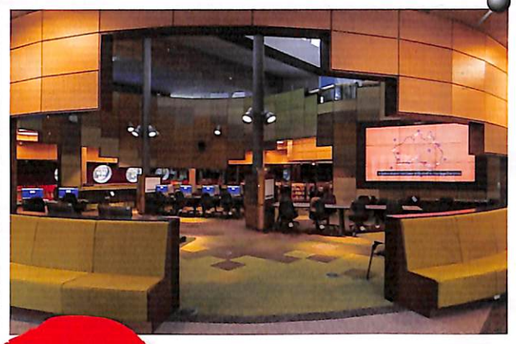
Springvale Library first opened in 1973 as part of the Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service. It was closed in March 2020.

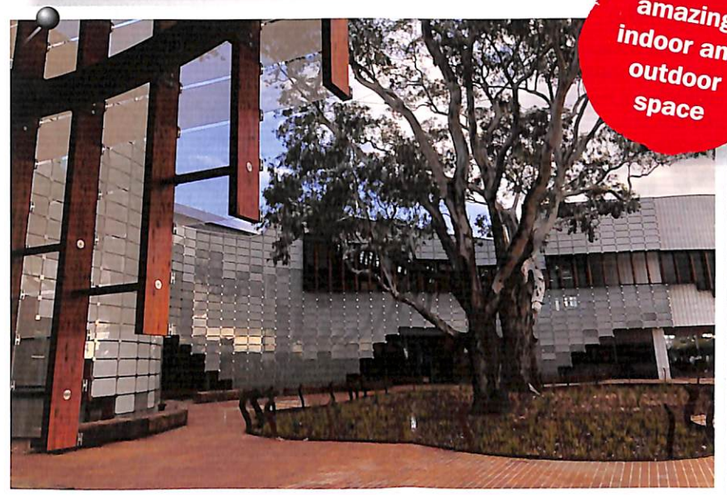
Front Cover: Mayor Jim Memeti inside the children's area at the new Springvale Library.
Picture: *Hilton Stone.*

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.









amazing indoor and outdoor space

Springvale Community Hub

The opening of the much-anticipated Springvale Community Hub has been placed on hold as COVID–19 restrictions are ramped up.

This amazing indoor and outdoor space has been several years in the making and is set to encourage connection and become the new community heart of Springvale. While Council is keen to welcome the community to the new space, the health and safety of our residents is a priority.

It includes flexible community spaces, a modern, state-of-the-art library, customer service area and plentiful parking. The outdoor space is being completed, but already includes an extensive children's play area, lawn area and large urban screen just like the one in Harmony Square, Dandenong.

Library users and visitors to the customer service desk will soon be welcomed in limited numbers and encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines.

Mayor Jim Memeti said he was thrilled to see the site transform into an amazing place for the whole community.

"The Springvale municipal offices were demolished in July 2015, and I have watched alongside the wider community as this site has taken shape over the past five years," Mayor Memeti said.

"The Springvale City Hall underwent its first major refurbishment since opening in the late 1960s and reopened in 2017 as stage one of this project.

Now this whole precinct is one we can all be incredibly proud of."

Visit greaterdandenong.com to join the Mayor on a behind the scenes tour of the new building.

By the Numbers

- The Springvale Library collection includes more than 65,000 items including books, magazines and dvds
- There are more than 40 public computers and devices accessible at the library
- The Hub is home to seven community rooms and three meeting rooms available for programs and venue hire
- The library has five community rooms available for public use
- The new Springvale Community Hub is expected to have more than 770,000 visitors each year.

Councillor Contacts



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Paperbark Ward
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Red Gum Ward
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Red Gum Ward – Mayor
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Silverleaf Ward
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Silverleaf Ward
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0438 800 027
maria.sampey@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 10 AUGUST

MONDAY 24 AUGUST

AUGUST

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

Council meetings are closed to the public for the time being. You can view the meetings via Council's live webcast.

The August meetings will be held:

Monday 10 August

Monday 24 August

The general public can still submit questions for Public Question Time.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings

Cr Maria Sampey

► Silverleaf Ward



While the situation around the COVID–19 pandemic keeps changing, Council is working hard to balance all the health and safety needs of our community.

Some services have reopened, but we are particularly concerned about protecting our elderly and most vulnerable residents. Our Community Transport Program, which provides flexible transport options to individuals and groups, has not yet restarted, but as soon as we get the all clear, the bus trips will begin again.

Although our Community Transport Program has been suspended during the COVID–19 pandemic we have been reviewing our shopping trip timetable and once restrictions are lifted we will increase from eight per fortnight to 11 trips per week. This will give older and frail residents more opportunities to access safe and secure transport to do their shopping. These trips take residents to Dandenong Market, Parkmore, Waverley Gardens and Dandenong Plaza. If you need support for essential shopping right now please phone 8571 5503.

In the meantime, we continue to support community groups to plan for their return to regular seniors' activities. We know that groups and clubs provide a valuable source of social connection for our older residents and we are looking forward to welcoming your meetings and activities back to Council buildings when it is safe to do so. Council staff have put together some information to help groups plan for their safe return.

Council continues to work with community members on the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee to explore how to support our ageing community. There are currently some vacancies on the committee. If you have an interest in how Council can best support older residents to maintain their wellbeing for as long as possible please phone 8571 5503 to talk about joining.

You can contact me at maria.sampey@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0438 800 027.

Cr Sophie Tan

► Paperbark Ward



This year has undoubtedly been tough and challenging for all as we face unprecedented global health and economic crises at the same time. While we have recently re-introduced tough restrictions, Council continues to work hard to deliver services and projects for our residents and community.

Here are some of the Paperbark Ward projects that Council approved in the 2020–21 Budget:

- $2.3 million for new Ross Reserve Pavilion and All Abilities Playground
- $1.19 million for streetscape upgrades in Douglas Street, Noble Park
- $700,000 for sports field lighting at Parkfield Reserve
- $575,000 for construction of the Frederick Wachter Reserve Wetlands
- $80,000 for design and implementation of a new pocket park at 89 Douglas Street, Noble Park
- $20,000 for Wi-Fi at NPAC
- $20,000 community garden at Chandler Road Reserve.

Council has also submitted funding applications for several projects under the Federal and State governments' Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program. The results of these applications were not known at the time of publication, however if the funding is granted construction works need to start within six months.

The three projects in Paperbark Ward include:

- Landscaping and amenities around new basketball court at Ross Reserve
- A health and wellbeing gymnasium at NPAC
- A synthetic soccer pitch at Ross Reserve.

The Draft Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan community consultation was completed recently. Main proposals include:

- Building height and setback guidance for new development
- Removal of Heatherton Road roundabout and signalise the intersection
- Widen Buckleys Lane to 9m from Copas Park towards the centre
- Encourage the planting of trees.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the online survey for this draft plan. All submissions and feedback will be considered before the Structure Plan is finalised and submitted to Councillors for their consideration.

If you have any local issues that you want to discuss please contact me anytime on 0466 793 727 or email at sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Red Gum Ward

Cr Matthew Kirwan

COMMUNITY HUBS

Planning for the new **Keysborough South Community Hub** is being finalised. Thank you to everyone who gave feedback on the draft design – it was a huge response. Once the detailed design is completed the project will go out to tender with construction scheduled in 2021. As you can see in the photo (accompanying this column) onsite on Chapel Road, my daughters Sylvia and Eloise are excited.

With regards to the **Dandenong Community Hub**, the feasibility stage was completed last financial year. In this year's budget the Business Case and Concept Design stage was funded by Council to proceed. A community hub to bring Dandenong residents together is sorely needed.

CLIMATE CHANGE

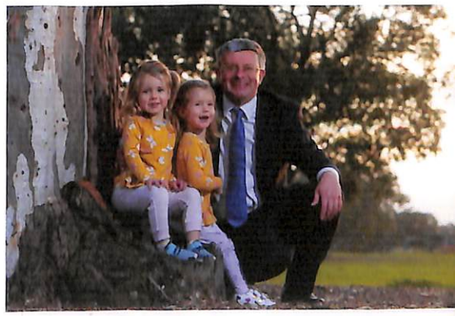
In the coming weeks, the long-awaited **Greater Dandenong Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** will be coming to Council for endorsement. This is our plan for a net zero emissions organisation by 2025 and a net zero emissions community by 2040, targets coming from the science. We are backing this plan with extra resources, with $400,000 extra in this year's budget to put it into effect.

GOODBYE

I won't be standing for re-election in October this year. It's been a privilege and a very rewarding experience to serve you for almost eight years.

In my time on Council I have been passionate about social justice and the environment, better community infrastructure and increased opportunities for civic participation.

Of the many capital projects I've advocated for, it's timely to see a few particular projects that residents asked me for are starting construction this year; Greater Dandenong's first all abilities playground in Noble Park, a regional art gallery in Dandenong, the upgrade to Hemmings Shopping Strip and the Keysborough South Community Hub.



I hope I have played my part in making Greater Dandenong a more fair, liveable and sustainable city.

Until October please contact me via matthew.kirwan@cgd.vic.gov.au and 0403 072 295.

Community Satisfaction Survey

Greater Dandenong Council has once again achieved a record performance rating as part of an annual customer satisfaction survey of residents.

Now in its 21st year, the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey assesses Council's performance across a range of measures and in comparison to other local government bodies.

Council achieved an overall performance score of 69, a record result for Council, up from 67 in 2019. The figure was three points higher than the 2018 score, and 11 points higher than the 2020 state-wide average.

This year Council scored highest in the area of customer service (73) and compares to the state-wide average of 70.

The survey results also found that:

- Greater Dandenong residents identified diversity as the best thing about our community, closely followed by customer service, community activities and public events, and library services and facilities
- On a safety question, 46 per cent of residents said they felt safe in their local area, compared to 40 per cent in 2019 and 36 per cent in 2018
- Residents scored community consultation a 62, compared to a state-wide average of 55, and a metropolitan average of 58
- Advocacy scored 62, compared to a state-wide average of 53
- Overall Council direction scored 63, compared to the state-wide average of 51 points.

Visit greaterdandenong.com for the full report.

Performance Measure	Council	Metro average	State-wide average
Overall performance	69	66	58
Community consultation (community consultation and engagement)	62	58	55
Advocacy	62	57	53
Making community decisions (decisions made in the interests of the community)	63	59	53
Sealed local roads (conditions of sealed roads)	68	67	54
Customer service	73	74	70
Overall Council direction	63	54	51

Abandoned vehicles

Council can issue fines and tow any vehicle deemed to be abandoned in the streets of Greater Dandenong.

If a car is registered but parked in the same place for seven consecutive days it can be reported to Council as an abandoned vehicle. We will do our best to identify the owner and speak to them directly, but we can issue a fine if the vehicle is not moved.

Unregistered vehicles can't be parked on public land, but if they are Council will place a yellow sticker on the vehicle and try to contact the last registered owner. If that is unsuccessful the vehicle will be towed.

You can report an abandoned vehicle via the Snap Send Solve app, or phone customer service on 8571 1000.



Pedestrian safety

We are all pedestrians at some stage of our journey. So whether we are driving, cycling or walking each of us has a responsibility to ensure we use the road space safely with others.

Here are some key rules to remember:

- In a shared zone used by both vehicles and pedestrians, drivers and cyclists must give way to pedestrians.
- At intersections, with or without pedestrian lights, drivers are required to give way to any pedestrians crossing the road they are turning into.
- Drivers must always give way to a pedestrian on a pedestrian crossing and must not overtake a vehicle stopped at a pedestrian crossing.
- When entering or leaving a driveway or private property drivers must give way to pedestrians and cyclists on any footpath, path or nature strip.

With more people getting out and enjoying their local streets on foot, Council would like to remind everyone that safety is important and we encourage all drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to be aware of their surroundings.

Helping residents get tech savvy



A joint initiative between Council's Community Care and Library teams will help address issues of social isolation and assist Community Care clients to get more tech savvy.

The Tech Savvy Project will help isolated residents keep in touch with family, friends and support networks, while also giving them the confidence to shop for essential items online. With help from the Australian Government, council has provided some eligible residents with iPads and/or internet connections, as well as training to use the equipment.

Self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many Community Care clients, but this project will help rebuild important social connections and improve feelings of self-sufficiency.

Library staff have trained Council's Community Care workers who can educate clients in their own homes about programs such as Zoom and Facetime, as well as safely shopping online.

To find out more about the project phone 8571 5503.

Works at Spring Valley Reserve

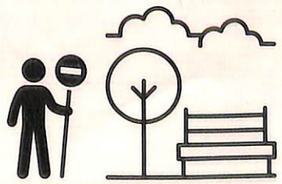
Council is working to improve the protective cap on a former landfill site in Springvale South, with parts of the reserve fenced off for the duration of the works.

Spring Valley Reserve was once used as a landfill by the South Eastern Regional Waste Management Group between 1993 and 1998. After that time a clay cap was added over the landfill site and it has been used as a park by residents.

The current works involve removing cover soil from sections of the reserve and adding additional clay to the clay cap that covers the buried rubbish.

The northern end of the park remains open while works are happening, but southern access to the reserve will be closed to the public for the duration of the works due to the large number of trucks that will be entering and exiting the sites.

Construction works are expected to be completed by December 2020. For more information phone 8571 1000.



Greater Dandenong benefits from wind power

The City of Greater Dandenong will now have guaranteed access to renewable energy for the next decade thanks to a new agreement.

Under the agreement between Alinta Energy and Procurement Australia all public lighting in Greater Dandenong will be powered by 100 per cent clean electricity from the Bald Hills Wind Farm in Gippsland.

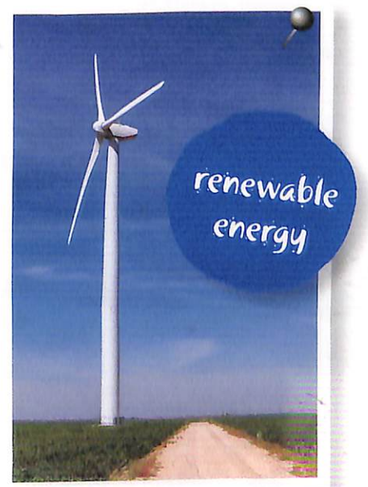
The 10-year group purchasing agreement includes 13 Victorian councils and one Victorian Government authority and started last month.

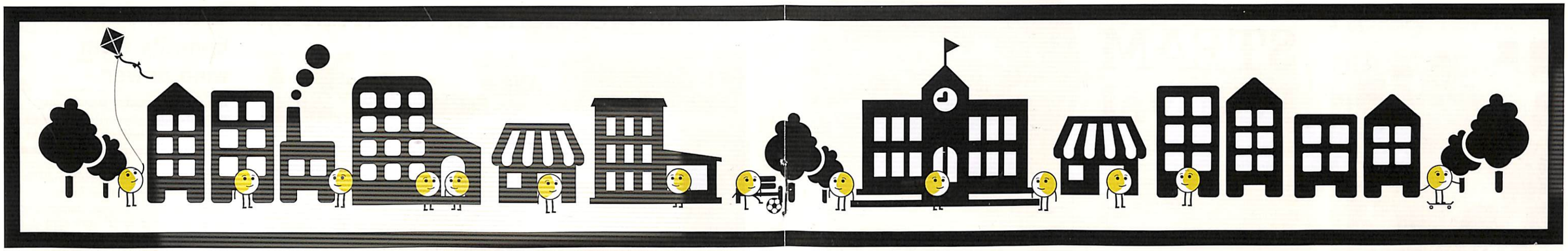
Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said the agreement reinforced Council's commitment to responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency it declared in January this year.

"By getting energy from renewable energy sources, instead of coal-fired power, we are not only tackling climate change head on, but we are also ensuring value for money."

Greater Dandenong Council is committed to working towards being a nett zero carbon city by 2040 and is currently preparing its draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/climatechange for more information.





Voting in Council Elections – Important Information You Must Know

Elections for the Greater Dandenong City Council will be by postal voting on 24 October 2020. The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducts the elections on behalf of Council. You can phone them on 131 832 with any enquiries about the Council elections.

If you are enrolled to vote for the Federal and State elections and are a resident of the City of Greater Dandenong, then you are automatically enrolled to vote at the Council elections and it is compulsory for you to vote.

Recently moved to Greater Dandenong?

If you have recently moved into Greater Dandenong, or moved within Greater Dandenong, you will need to change your Victorian enrolment details. You can check your enrolment or enrol online at enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au or by phoning the VEC on 131 832. To be included on the Voters' Roll with the correct information about your address for this year's Council elections, any new enrolment details must be received by the VEC before 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

Special category voters

You will be automatically included on the Greater Dandenong Chief Executive Officer's Voters' List (CEO List) if you own a property within Greater Dandenong but do not live in Greater Dandenong. This situation occurs with many businesses and rental properties. There are many legal rules that apply to the CEO List. In easy terms, if you are not automatically enrolled on this list, you can apply to be included on it if you:

- are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in Greater Dandenong, or
- pay rates on a property that you occupy and have no other voting entitlement in Greater Dandenong, e.g. you are a business occupier of a property that pays rates as a condition of the lease and have the prior agreement of the owners to apply to vote at this election, or
- are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in Greater Dandenong and have no other voting entitlement within Greater Dandenong.

To apply to be on the CEO list, please email governance@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5216. Applicants will be sent a statutory form which must be completed and received by Council by 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

Those on the CEO List who own more than one property within Greater Dandenong but do not reside here will be included on the Voters' Roll (from the CEO List) against the property with the highest capital improved value. If you want to be listed against a different property, then a statutory form must be completed and returned to Council by 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

Those properties on the CEO List who have multiple owners who do not reside within Greater Dandenong will automatically list the first two owners from Council's database on the CEO List. If the owners of the property wish to change this, then a statutory form must be completed and returned to Council by 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

New regulations gazetted on 9 July 2020 means there can now be four CEO List voting entitlements per property, which can be comprised of up to two joint owners and two joint occupiers. For more information contact the VEC directly.

It is not **compulsory for anyone on the CEO List** to vote, regardless of whether an application is made to be included on it or not. A person is only entitled to be on the Voters' Roll for one address within the municipality.

Remember that Friday 28 August 2020 is Entitlement Day. No one can apply to vote or change their enrolment details after this day.

Postal voting – how does it work?

The VEC will automatically post a ballot pack to each voter on the Voter's Roll between 6–8 October 2020. Completed ballot papers must reach the VEC's Election Manager (previously called the Returning Officer), in the envelope provided with the ballot papers, by 6pm on 23 October 2020 either by handing them in at the VEC's temporary Electoral Office at 279 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, or by post. Please do not send them to Council or lodge them at Council's customer service centres.



Will there be early voting?

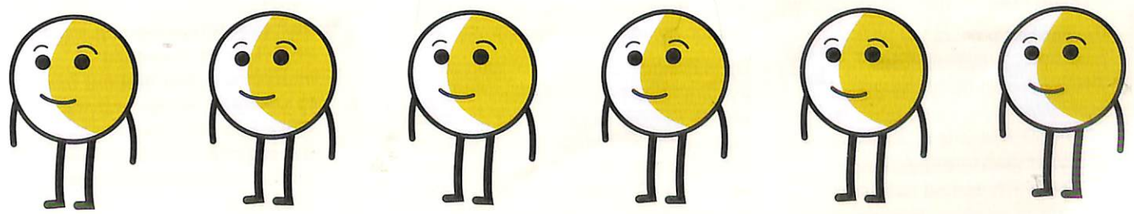
There will be an opportunity to vote after 22 September 2020 and prior to receiving a ballot pack if you attend the VEC's temporary Electoral Office in Greater Dandenong, at 279 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. This office will not open until mid-September. All activities at the VEC's Electoral Office will be conducted under a COVID–19 Safe Plan.

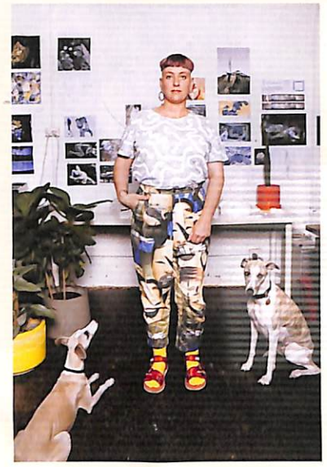
Do you want to run for Council?

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will hold candidate information sessions across Victoria in September as part of the preparations for the October elections. These sessions will include information about:

- eligibility requirements for running as a candidate in a Council election
- how to nominate as a candidate
- what is involved in running a campaign
- voting.

For information about the VEC's and other candidate information sessions being held in Greater Dandenong, please visit greaterdandenong.com and search for Council Elections or phone Council's Governance Unit on 8571 5216.





Reflect Project

Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre will light up next month with work created by local students to reflect their experiences during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Renowned projection artist Yandell Walton (pictured) has been mentoring students online, and has created a light projection featuring footage created by the young artists.

Walton connected regularly with the students to develop their understanding of digital art practices and how traditional art forms can be manipulated into powerful projections.

The students were asked to respond to the impact the Coronavirus has had on them.

Work was chosen to represent a range of art mediums as well as the diversity of young people living in Greater Dandenong.

The finished product will be projected onto the outside of the Drum Theatre throughout September.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/arts to find out more.

STEAM Festival



Celebrate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics at the Greater Dandenong Libraries' third annual STEAM Festival.

The month long festival will include online events and programs for children and adults, including the celebration of the Melbourne Writers' Festival (7–16 August) and National Science Week (15–23 August).

There's plenty to get the children interested, including:

- Sea Monster Languages – design your very own sea monster and create a coded language for the monster to use
- Saturday Think Tank sessions – Mad About Science, Fizzics Education, Marine Mammal Foundation and WildlifeXposure present entertaining live sessions combining education and fun
- Code Club programs – guided, self-paced workshops to do at home, including Scratch coding, website building, artificial intelligence and Rube Goldberg machines
- Themed Storytime, Baby Bounce and Reading Buddies sessions.

Adults can also book into some fun programs:

- Podcasting from Home online workshops with Madison Griffiths
- Deakin University Life and Environmental and Sciences lecturer, Dr Trevor Thornton about making good environmental decisions
- Art Series with Quince Francis building a giant nest to encourage wildlife into your own garden
- Student-run science communication team Let's Torque discuss what STEAM means to them.

Visit greaterdandenonglibraries.com.au or phone 1300 630 920 to find out more and book into your own fun session.

Arts online

Parents looking for a creative outlet for budding artists can find some great workshops and activities on Council's website.

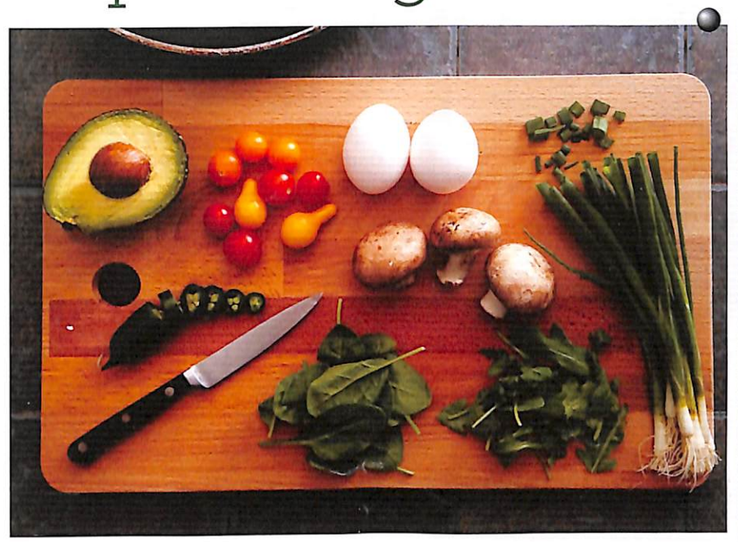
The City of Greater Dandenong has been given exclusive access to create the characters for a new online activity created by arts group Playable Streets.

Local children are invited to help create content for the interactive online activity Sounds Exquisite. We are asking children to get creative and draw crazy creatures and tell weird and wonderful stories for the game. Later in the year the characters will come to life via Playable Streets' website.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/artforkids to download instructions and find out how to take part in this activity. While you are there check out the origami workshop video or find a downloadable arts activity to engage children of all ages.

Stop wasting food



Each week the average Victorian household throws away uneaten food to the value of $42. This adds up to a staggering $5.4 billion annually across the state.

This action not only hits the hip pocket, but also takes up valuable space in our rubbish bins.

There are many ways to reduce the amount of food going to waste, but first we need to understand why we waste food. The most common reasons include:

- We buy too much food
- We cook too much food
- We don't know how to use leftovers
- Food is thrown out before the use by date
- We don't check the fridge or cupboards before buying more food
- We buy takeaway instead of cooking the food we have at home.

By planning meals in advance, shopping with a shopping list and checking what food you already have at home, you can cut your costs at the supermarket and reduce food going to waste.

Thinking about where our food comes from and how much energy has been used to produce and transport that food can also help cut the impact we have on the environment.

Involving your children in meal planning, shopping and meal preparation can also teach them valuable skills for the future.

Find out more about how to reduce food waste at a free online workshop.

The Food Waste Avoidance Workshop will be held live on Wednesday 26 August from 6.30pm–7.30pm.

Hear great tips on:

- Food waste issues
- Why we waste food
- How to reduce food waste
- Meal planning ideas
- Food storage
- Loving your leftovers.

Visit greaterdandenong.com to find out how to sign up to the workshop.

Heavy rain affects parks



Heavy rainfall has affected parks across Greater Dandenong, but Council's Parks Team is working hard to reduce areas of flooding.

Melbourne has experienced the wettest start to the year in more than a century. In fact, Greater Dandenong recorded 500mm of rain from January to April and continuing heavy falls in winter have had an effect on many parks.

The Parks Team continue to assess affected areas and is carrying out maintenance works to help reduce water damage. This includes topping up paths and creating swales to help shift water from areas of heavy use.

Many of our parks are along waterways, such as Dandenong Creek, and are designed to flood to ensure surrounding properties don't. Water levels in parks subside as the rain decreases and water levels go down, which means wet weather can make this problem come and go.

Creating accessible open space is important to us and we will continue to make our parks and reserves fun and safe spaces for all.

You can help the Parks Team by reporting problem areas at local parks and reserves. You can do this by using the free Snap Send Solve app available for smart phones, or by phoning Council on 8571 1000.



Let there be light

A project to replace flood lighting at Dandenong's Shepley Oval was recently completed.

The lights were upgraded to a more energy efficient set up that will help illuminate the sports ground during night training and matches.

The new lights mean tenant clubs Dandenong Southern Stingrays Football Club and Dandenong Cricket Club can host night games, and also allows Council to host exhibition games or special events at the ground.

Lighting upgrades have recently been completed at other sports grounds in Greater Dandenong, including Coomoora Reserve in Keysborough, Alex Nelson Reserve in Springvale South, and Robert Booth Reserve in Dandenong.

Abbotts Road upgrade

Council will soon begin work on widening Abbotts Road between Taylors Road and National Drive.

Dandenong South is an important destination for workers in Melbourne's south eastern growth corridor and Abbotts Road is one of only a few east-west connections from the Casey growth areas into the Lyndhurst and Keysborough industrial areas. It is also a very important freight link.

Works include:

- widening Abbotts Road to two lanes in each direction
- new pedestrian path
- upgrade of stormwater drainage and underground services
- relocation of overhead powerlines
- upgrade to street lighting.

This project will help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion for vehicles who use the road, it will also make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve access for buses, emergency and service vehicles.

Pocket Parks

Council understands the importance of open space in our community and is always looking for ways to increase the quantity and quality of available open space.

Open space includes sporting fields, nature reserves, gardens, playgrounds, trails and civic spaces. It also includes pocket parks, which include, seating and a green environment for local residents.

Council recently sought community feedback on newly created pocket parks and will soon begin creating community spaces in the following locations:

- 90 Gove Street, Springvale
- 6–8 Fifth Street, Dandenong

Consultation is now open for a pocket park at 89 Douglas Street, Noble Park. Details can be found on Council's website.

Play equipment has been upgraded at three local parks and was designed to encourage active, challenging, imaginative and social play for both younger and older children.

Plans were put out for community feedback earlier this year and the new playgrounds are now complete. They are at:

- Geoffrey Carson Reserve, Woomera Avenue, Keysborough
- Regent Park, Regent Avenue, Springvale
- Olinda Reserve, Olinda Avenue, Springvale.

Visit greaterdandenong.com to discover more open space in Greater Dandenong.

Keshava Park

Council will this month unveil a plaque at a Dandenong South reserve that recognises the contribution migrants have made to our city.

The particular migrants all come from one village in North Macedonia – Keshava. They first came to Australia during the 1960s and many found their way to Dandenong South.

While the distant village is still only home to a few hundred people, Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said he believed more than 3000 local people could trace their roots back to the village.

The park itself was named by land developers after the road it is located on – Keshava Grove. During development of the area local families nominated the name in recognition of their roots and it was selected.

The park is a popular place for local families to visit and includes a playground, barbecue facilities, a public toilet and access to the Dandenong Creek bike trail. It is also home to Greater Dandenong's only community orchard.

Dance Cancelled

Due to ongoing restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, Council is disappointed to announce the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Multicultural Seniors Dance.

The dance was due to be held at Springvale City Hall on Friday 4 September.

The health and safety of our residents is always Council's top priority, and we look forward to welcoming residents back to more social events once it is safe to do so.

Visit greaterdandenong.com for up to date information about restrictions to Council services and activities.

Australia Day Awards

The annual Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise the exceptional contribution by people within our community who work selflessly to enrich the lives of others.

Applications are now open for the 2021 awards, and Council invites our community to nominate people who they believe are making a difference in Greater Dandenong.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Leader of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Corporate Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Living Treasure Award.

Winners will be selected by a community panel and will be presented with their awards on 26 January.

Earlier this year awards were presented to the 2020 winners, which included:

Citizen of the Year
Christine Keys, President of the Dandenong and District Historical Society

Volunteer of the Year
Agnes Kean, founding member and current President of the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong

Community Group of the Year
the Greater Dandenong Environmental Group

Sportsperson of the Year
Dean Jones from the Silverton Cricket Club

Young Leaders of the Year
(joint winners) Jemma Leeson and Tanishka Sharma.

Corporate Citizen of the Year
Julie Busch

Sustainability Award
Bryan Hunter

Council also inducted four more people as Living Treasures, including Robert 'Bob' Malcolm, Ian McDonald, Margo Hartley and Josephine De Lange. The Living Treasure Award is given to people who have made a lasting impact on life for all of the City of Greater Dandenong community.

Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards close on Monday 31 August. Go to greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards for more information and to submit and online nomination.

Great Bites Open for Business









The Great Bites booklet has been a staple in the Greater Dandenong community for many years, listing places to eat across our municipality.

The foodie guide celebrates Greater Dandenong's vibrant, multicultural and unique food scene, listing restaurants, bakeries, cafes and other food-related businesses.

Many businesses shut down in the early days of the COVID–19 pandemic and as they reopened, found creative ways to work with the new and constantly changing restrictions, including social distancing and increased cleaning regimes.

Some businesses have shut their doors completely during lockdown, while others continue to provide takeaway food offerings, but all of them are using time to figure out a new way of running their business during the biggest health pandemic of modern times.

Council's Greater Dandenong Business Team has been working with local businesses to support them to continue serving the community, and came up with the Great Bites Open for Business initiative, encouraging businesses to promote themselves.

At the time of publication the web-based tool listed more than 30 local businesses including catering, wholesale, takeaway and sit in establishments.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/greatbitesopenforbusiness to find your next Great Bite or if you are a business wishing to be included on the list.



Ian Kitchen talks about how the Dandenong Environment Group was established.

"Thirty years ago some of us thought that Dandenong needed a group to increase awareness about environmental issues, so we met and started the group.

The first practical activity was a tree planting in Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North. A council gardener dug the holes for us and one of the neighbours served us beer over his back fence for being public spirited. Those were the days!

Over the years we have worked closely with the Council on many projects. We operated an indigenous plant nursery in the Council depot for over twenty years, growing thousands of plants each year. These plants were used in revegetation works throughout the city and the surplus was donated to schools and residents.

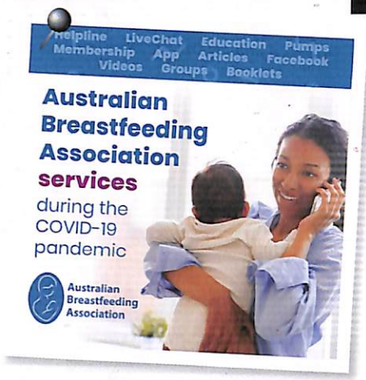
The group has been steadfast in working with the Council to formulate local environmental policy to protect our green open spaces that conserve our biodiversity.

We have had a busy program for many years.

- At two sites we carry out Melbourne Water's Water Watch program. The quality of the water is rated by testing it chemically and by identifying the water bugs in it.
- We conduct a bird count at one site and record the results in the Birds Australia database.
- We are part of the Frog Watch program, doing frog surveys at night.
- Each year, we organise a Clean Up Australia Day event – so far we have done eleven.
- With grant support, we have organised nature activities, including night walks and talks for the general public with a professional presenter.

We look forward to new things in the future and hope that you will join us in trying to save just a small part of our fabulous world and making Dandenong a better place in which to live, work and play."

To find out more about the group and how to take part in their activities phone 8571 1702.



Breastfeeding support continues

Many health services have been forced to adapt to a new way of operating during the COVID–19 pandemic.

The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) is one such organisation and now offers online assistance for mums and their support people.

Founded by six Melbourne mums in 1964, ABA is Australia's largest breastfeeding information and support organisation with a national network of volunteers and a variety of resources and services available for breastfeeding families.

For 24/7 support phone the National Breastfeeding Helpline on 1800 686 268. Antenatal Breastfeeding Education Live sessions run online every weekend, and the ABA Dandenong support group holds weekly informative sessions and catch up on Zoom. There are videos and other resources available on the ABA website.

Breast pump hire is still available (with strict hygiene procedures) from the Breastfeeding Centre in Robinson Street, Dandenong, from Tuesday–Thursday 10am–12pm, phone 9791 4644 to book.

The ABA is a Registered Training Organisation and offers training for volunteers and health professionals.

ABA's website has information about supporting breastfeeding during a health pandemic. Visit breastfeeding.asn.au for more information.

Making a difference in Greater Dandenong

Nominations now open



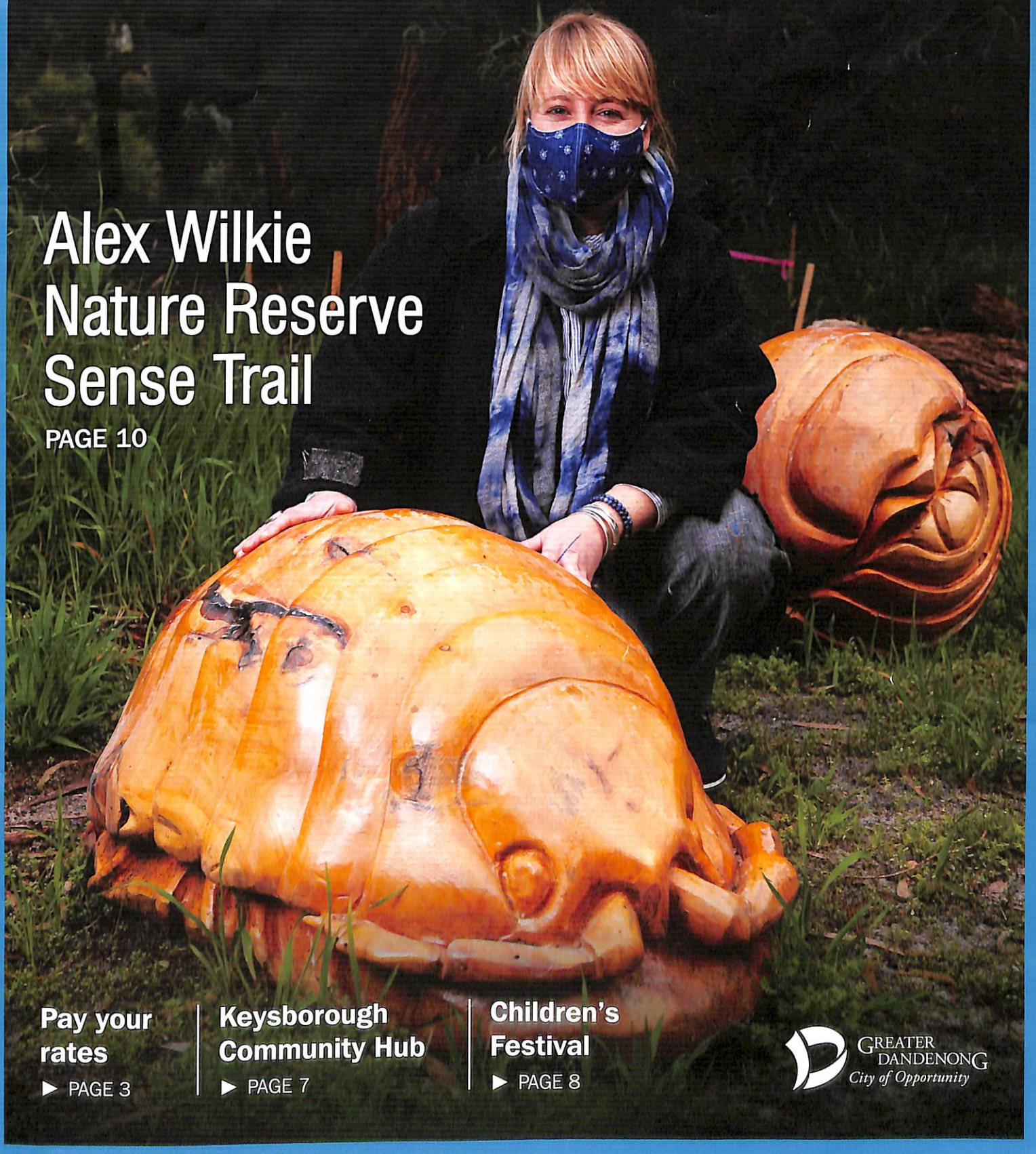
The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise individuals or groups whose outstanding work has made a positive contribution to the Greater Dandenong community.

Nominate now on:
greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au
or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Closing date: Monday 31 August 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Sense Trail

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Keysborough Community Hub
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Children's Festival
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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000
Fax: 8571 5196
www.greaterdandenong.com
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the latest edition of Greater Dandenong Council News. This magazine covers events happening in our city across September and October.



Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

Due to Council Elections on Saturday 24 October, Council will soon enter something called a Caretaker Period. This period, which runs from 23 September to 24 October affects Council communications and prevents us from putting a magazine out in October.

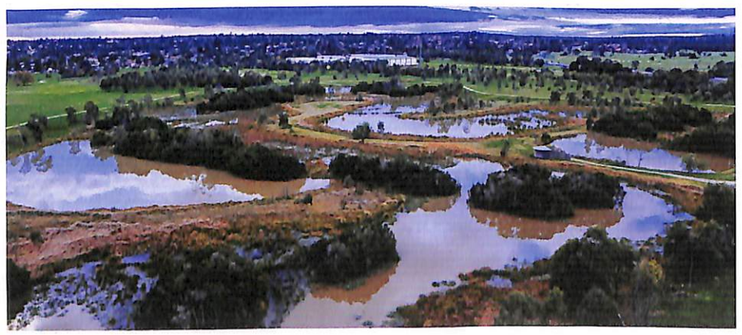
This magazine will preview some things happening across the next two months, including one of our most popular annual, family-friendly events – the Children's Festival. Now in its ninth year the festival will be delivered entirely online. Find out more on page 8.

Spring is a beautiful time in Greater Dandenong and while we can't travel far from home at the moment we can still enjoy the outdoors. If you are walking around your neighbourhood find out how you can record plant and animal species in a Biodiversity Blitz on page 10.

By the time you read the next edition of this magazine my time as Mayor will have come to an end. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support during my time as Mayor. I would also like to thank all of you. This is a diverse, vibrant and resilient community that I am proud to call home and I have enjoyed representing you all.



My City

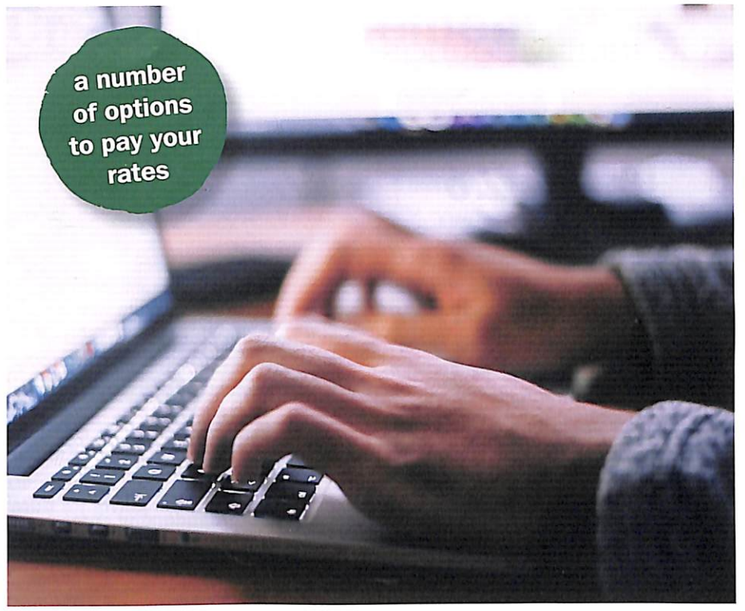


The Dandenong Wetlands, off Heatherton Road, Dandenong North is a series of wetlands which provide habitat for native wildlife and improve the water quality of the Dandenong Creek. The parkland is a bird spotters delight, with the presence of ducks, herons and birds of prey. During the evening you can also hear frogs calling around the wetlands. This aerial shot was taken in 2019. *Photo: Thomas Barnes.*

Front Cover: Council's Environmental Education Officer Kirstine Oh explores the Sense Trail at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve. *Photo: Hilton Stone.*

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



Different ways to pay your rates

Council offers a number of options to pay your rates, including over the phone, online or via direct debit instalments.

At the time of publishing this article Council's customer service centres were closed to the public. Those used to paying their rates in person at a customer service centre have a variety of options available.

- Pay online at mygreaterdandenong.com, postbillpay.com or via BPay using your internet banking portal
- Pay by cheque which can be mailed to Council
- Pay over the phone using a credit card or via BPay using telephone banking
- Pay in person at an Australia Post outlet.

There are two options for those wishing to pay in instalments.

Pay by four instalments
(this is the default option)

- First instalment due 30 September 2020
- Second instalment due 30 November 2020
- Third instalment due 28 February 2021
- Fourth instalment due 31 May 2021
- Instalment reminders are sent out for the final three payments.

Pay by nine instalments

- Payable via direct debit only
- First instalment due by 30 September
- All other instalments due at the end of each month until 31 May 2021
- No reminders are sent about instalments as they are automatically direct debited from your nominated account.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/rates for more information.
For assistance phone 8571 1000.

Council rates during COVID-19

Since March this year Council has seen a significant increase in the number of residents contacting us for support.

Job losses and other financial pressures have seen some residents struggle to keep on top of household expenses, but Council continues to offer support to our most vulnerable residents.

We have extended the Jobseeker allowance waiver until 30 November 2020. For those residents receiving Jobseeker, Council will provide relief in the way of a $200 waiver off your 2020–21 rates bill. You must apply for this waiver, it will not be automatically applied.

Residents who applied for the waiver on their 2019–20 rates notice can apply for the waiver again. You can apply via an online form found on Council's website.

We encourage residents to continue paying their rates on time where possible. The next instalment is due on 30 September.

Things you can do to reduce the balance of your rates:

- Make smaller weekly/fortnightly payments immediately so the amount due on 30 September is smaller
- Enter into a payment arrangement with Council to pay off your rates over an extended period
- Enter into a temporary payment arrangement where you will only be requested to make payments you can afford.

If you have lost employment and are having difficulty paying rates for your principal place of residence you may qualify for further assistance under Council's Hardship Policy.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/rates or phone 8571 1000 for more information.

Councillor Contacts



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Paperbark Ward
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Paperbark Ward
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Red Gum Ward
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Red Gum Ward – Mayor
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Silverleaf Ward
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maria.sampey@cgd.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings



Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm.

The September meetings will be held:

Monday 14 September

Monday 28 September

During October there will only be one meeting due to the Council Elections.

That meeting will be held:

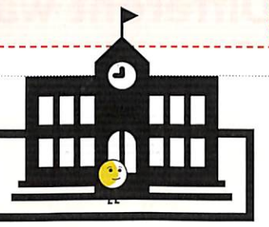
Monday 12 October

The 28 September and 12 October meetings will be held during Caretaker Period in the lead up to Elections, so no significant decisions will be made. We encourage the public to view meetings live via our webcast service.

The general public can still submit questions for Public Question Time.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings

Council Elections

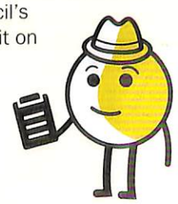


Stand for Council

Victorian council elections are held every four years and give people an opportunity to influence the change they would like to see in their community by standing for council.

The COVID-19 restrictions mean campaigning will look different this year, but the Minister for Local Government is keen to see a range of candidates that represent the diverse community in which we live.

For information about the mandatory training candidates must undertake, please visit greaterdandenong.com/ and search for Council Elections or phone Council's Governance Unit on 8571 1000.



Voting

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducts the elections on behalf of Council.

The VEC will automatically post a ballot pack to every enrolled voter between 6–8 October. Completed papers must reach the VEC's Election Manager in the envelope provided with the ballot papers by 6pm on Friday 23 October 2020. Please do not send them to Council.

In some circumstances, voters may be able to vote early and in person at the VEC's temporary office at 279 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. The VEC's office will enforce strict COVID-19 safe practices to ensure the safety of VEC staff and voters.

For information visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone 131 832.

Cr Zaynoun Melhem

► Silverleaf Ward



I want to start this column by thanking the residents of Greater Dandenong and particularly Silverleaf Ward for giving me a chance to represent them on Council.

It has been a great first term and there have been many highlights over the past four years. I want to highlight a few of the bigger projects that are making a difference for local residents.

I love walking my dog, and a 2019 survey of residents revealed that many would appreciate separate off-leash areas for smaller dogs. Tirhatuan Park is home to a fenced dog off-leash park and soon a second fenced area will be added, allowing for the separation of large and small dogs, giving walkers a greater sense of safety.

Sports enthusiasts are also being catered for at Tirhatuan Park, with the recent resurfacing of tennis courts and the addition of a new basketball court that should be completed and ready for action in time for summer.

While parks and reserves are open for walkers and joggers during the COVID-19 pandemic, the equipment has been closed to keep residents safe and healthy and slow the spread of the virus. Last year Council carried out a series of upgrades at Lois Twohig Reserve in Dandenong North and while sports clubs are on hiatus and the shelters and exercise equipment can't yet be used, I hope to see people out there enjoying the facilities when restrictions ease.

Community safety is an important issue for me, and I am pleased to see that a project to install 10 CCTV cameras at the Brady Road shops is making locals feel safer. The cameras combine to cover the carpark, shop fronts (including those in Shalimar Avenue) and the rear laneway.

This is just a small snapshot of the work that goes into making our city a great place to live, work and play.

If you would like to contact me about anything please email me at zaynoun.melhem@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 518 082.

Cr Loi Truong

► Lightwood Ward



While COVID restrictions mean residents have been unable to visit the new Springvale Library, there is a lot of anticipation about what this new building will do for the community. Once restrictions are eased we will be able to welcome small groups into the library and further down the track community groups will be welcomed into the meeting rooms and communal spaces.

As a Councillor for the City of Greater Dandenong I am very proud to have seen this project come to completion. Next month residents get their chance to have a say in who will represent them on Council.

The Electoral Roll closed on 28 August, so if you are not already enrolled to vote, it is too late. If you are considering running for Council you must register between 17–22 September.

Election Day is 24 October 2020, but voting will happen via post. The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will deliver ballot packs to voters' homes from 6–8 October. You will have to return them to the VEC by Friday 23 October. The process will be explained in the packs. I encourage you all to have your say in these elections as Councillors are elected to represent you.

I would like to send a special thank you to members of the Victorian Vietnamese community who have worked together to help protect our community from the spread of Coronavirus. This group has handmade thousands of cloth facemasks which they are distributing to the community for free.

I have many to give away to residents who need them. You can visit my milk bar at 26 Darren Road, Springvale South and pick up a free mask.

In the meantime, I would like to encourage you all to follow the latest advice from the State Government and Chief Medical Officer and do your bit to slow the spread of the virus.

If you would like to get in touch with me you can email me at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 004 618.

Keeping time at Rowley Allan Reserve



Council recently built a new timekeeper's box at Keysborough's Rowley Allan Reserve.

The ground level box makes access easier for those helping keep score and sound the sirens for football and cricket matches. The previous timekeeper's box was on the roof of the pavilion and was accessible only via a ladder.

The box is required to accommodate two people and have views of all parts of the oval. It is also needed to stop spectators from interfering with timekeeper's duties.

While the box has been unable to be used due to the COVID-19 pandemic, once community sport resumes it is expected to be a welcome addition to the suburban sports ground.

A draft concept plan for Rowley Allan Reserve is currently being developed following a period of consultation with residents in July/August.

The reserve is home to football, cricket, netball and lawn bowl facilities, as well as a, senior citizen's club and a playground. It is located on Cheltenham Road, Keysborough.

Seniors' Festival

Usually in October Greater Dandenong celebrates positive ageing via the Victorian Seniors' Festival.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic local activities and workshops for this year's festival have been cancelled.

We continue to celebrate our seniors, but this year things will look a bit different.

The State Government will deliver the 2020 Seniors' Festival direct to your home, via a reimagined program including online performances, recorded interviews and storytelling.

Visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au to see more.

Open air fires

Backyard burn offs are not allowed in Greater Dandenong without a permit. Open air fires are considered a risk to the environment and the safety of all residents.

Lighting fires in incinerators and open air fires, including in firepits, is also not allowed without a permit.

Permits may be granted if there are no other means of disposing of waste, however residents are encouraged to contact a Fire Prevention Officer on 8571 1000 to discuss their issues before applying for a permit.



If you smell offensive smoke or toxic smells related to a fire contact Council on 8571 1000, or if you feel like you are in danger phone 000.

Keysborough South Community Hub



The draft design for the Keysborough South Community was recently released for public comment and generated a high level of interest and excitement within the community.

The design builds on previous planning and consultation undertaken over recent years and incorporates the unique attributes of the chosen site.

The community hub will be located on the corner of Chapel and Villiers roads in Tatterson Park, and will incorporate a variety of community services and multi-purpose facilities and spaces.

Key features include:

- Community activity and meeting rooms suitable for a range of programs and activities
- Community lounge to incorporate an outreach library service and spaces for work/study and socialising
- A 'makers space' for arts and crafts
- Community kitchen
- Kindergarten and Child Care rooms
- Consulting suites for Maternal and Child Health and other specialist services
- Reception, administration, storage and amenities
- External seating areas, playgrounds, basketball half court and amphitheatre
- Car parking
- Space for a mobile coffee cart (pending expression of interest process).

Construction of the community hub is expected to begin by smid-2021.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/keysboroughsthcommunityhub for more information and to view plans.

Road works

Road projects across Greater Dandenong have continued to roll out in 2020, helping to improve the journey for motorists.

Works to upgrade the intersection of Chandler and Cheltenham roads in Keysborough began in August and are expected to be completed soon.

A dedicated left hand lane is being added to the intersection, with asphalt being laid over a gravel section on Chandler Road.

During construction Chandler Road was closed to northbound traffic between Ellsa Close and Cheltenham Road. Detours were put in place.

The Federal Government's Blackspot Program funded an upgrade at the intersection of Windsor Avenue and St Johns Avenue in Springvale.

The intersection was closed for about three weeks during August, while works were carried out.

Residents with enquiries about these road projects can contact Stuart Pyke on 8571 1000.





Children's Festival

Be part of a new story this spring school holidays for the ninth annual Greater Dandenong Children's Festival.

The 2020 festival will look different to previous years with COVID-19 affecting how activities will be delivered.

Virtual circus classes, a short story competition and an online version of the Little Day Out all feature in this year's program.

The Children's Festival starts on Saturday 19 September and runs right through the school holidays, featuring the Little Day Out's 'Big Day In' on Sunday 27 September.

The theme is A New Story, which focuses on two aspects of new beginnings – the season of Spring and classic children's books.

This year's festival introduces 'A New Story' short story competition for children. The winning entry will be brought to life as an animation in time for next year's festival.

Other exciting activities include the circus skills workshops with Dreaming Space, cooking classes with Dandenong Market and a scavenger hunt offering some great prizes.

There will also be online writing classes, zine-making classes and workshops of all kinds of dance delivered live to your loungeroom.

This festival is proudly sponsored by Bank of Melbourne.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/childrensfestival for a full range of activities.

Big Day In

The annual Little Day Out will be replaced by the Big Day In during this year's festival.

Join us on Sunday 27 September for lots of fun from the comfort of your own home.

Join in this all-day pyjama party with the Mexican Music Man's Singalong, the Dreaming Spcae Funky Monkey Family Beach Dance Party and the Kazoos' Bed Time Stories show. If you had a sleep in and are still in your PJs, then we've got you covered with Guru Duru's all ages pyjama disco.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/bigdayin to register then join us from 11am–4pm for all the fun.

Enrol for kindergarten now



Kindergarten (also known as preschool) is early education for children in the year before they start school.

It gives children important opportunities to learn, make friends and develop skills through a play-based curriculum, and helps prepare them for the transition to primary school.

Kindergarten is offered in a range of settings including community kindergartens, childcare centres, children's centres and schools. Eligible children can attend a sessional program which offers 15 hours of kindergarten per week, or an integrated program which combines kindergarten with childcare.

Enrol your child now for kindergarten in 2021. Children must turn four on or before 30 April 2021 to be eligible to attend a funded kindergarten program.

Children from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, or who have had contact with Child Protection or been referred to Child FIRST, are eligible to access the Early Start Kindergarten program at low cost or free in the two years prior to attending school.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/kindergarten or phone 8571 1000 for more information.



Book Week

This year Children's Book Week (October 17–23) will celebrate the wonderful world of nature and those adventurous enough to dive in with the theme "Curious Creatures, Wild Minds".

Every year the Children's Book Council of Australia brings children and books together with a unique theme to celebrate literacy and storytelling.

Greater Dandenong Libraries will host a series of "curious and wild" performances and author talks for the "curious and wild minds" of our local schools as well as a performance for the public.

Visit greaterdandenonglibraries.com for more information.





Biodiversity Blitz

Our local wildlife needs you.

The City of Greater Dandenong has joined with the City of Casey to record indigenous plants and animals that live across our neighbouring municipalities.

Download the *iNaturalist* app on your smartphone or tablet then take a walk around your neighbourhood to help capture local species. The app helps you identify different species and then records them to the Atlas of Living Australia.

The Biodiversity Blitz includes some healthy competition between Casey and Greater Dandenong for who can record the most species. Council will be offering prizes for individual and school entrants into the competition.

It's as simple as:

prizes on offer

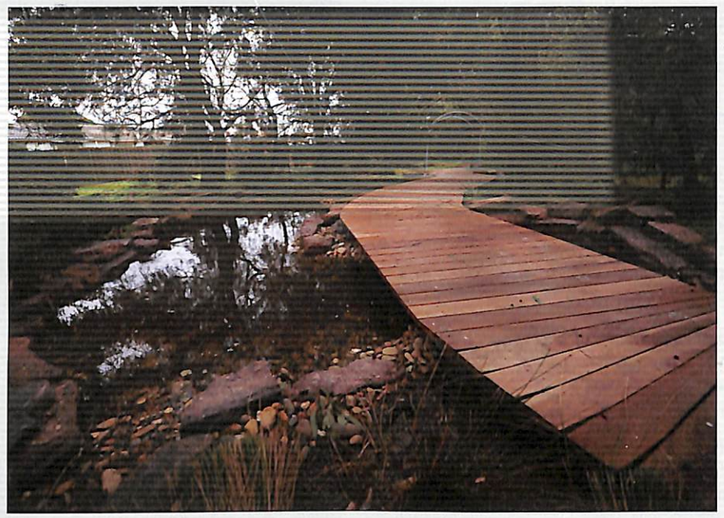
Step 1 Download the *iNaturalist* app from your favourite app store

Step 2 Register online to participate

Step 3 Start recording.

You don't need to be an expert on wildlife or plant species to take part.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/biodiversityblitz for more information.



Sense Trail celebrates 30th anniversary

For the past three decades visitors to a Springvale South reserve have been learning about the environment by immersing themselves in the elements.

Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve is a magnificent 1.8-hectare remnant bushland reserve situated in a built-up urban environment.

The Sense Trail is an important part of the reserve and provides an ideal setting for education programs for schools and the general community, as well as a place for our youngest visitors to practice nature play.

With its scented native and indigenous plants, bushfood trail and focus on natural play it is the perfect location to encourage visitors to use senses to increase perception and awareness of the natural environment.

Thirty years ago the rangers at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve continued Alex Wilkie's vision of using the reserve for environmental education for young and old by designating an additional area of land next door for bushland education.

The Sense Trail now operates as a key site for nature play and this year through a Victorian State Government *Communities Our Local Environment* grant Council was able to expand the frog pond and add in a boardwalk and educational sign about local frogs.

Alex Wilkie reserve is open to the public from Friday September 4, however the visitors centre will remain closed until restrictions ease.

We encourage resident to enjoy a self-guided tour and see if you can hear (or even catch a glimpse of) our resident pobblebonk frogs.

The Sense Trail is open to the public every Friday from 9am–3pm and the third Sunday of every month from 10am–5pm.

The reserve is located in Mackay Street, Springvale South. Visit greaterdandenong.com for the latest information on park opening hours.



Sharing our parks with pets

In these unprecedented times, we all need some exercise and fresh air, including our four-legged friends.

Off-leash areas are a great place to enjoy both, if everyone is considerate and respectful of all park patrons.

Many park users will have noticed an increase in people out walking their dogs. During Stage 3 and 4 lockdowns Council has kept fenced dog off-leash parks open, but we r emind visitors to practice good hand hygiene when opening and closing gates at these parks.

Please remember there are rules around the use of offleash areas to protect all users and their pets. These rules can be seen on signage at the entrance to the areas.

- Dogs must only be off-leash in areas designated by Council
- Dogs can be exercised off-leash only within these designated areas and must be put back on leash when they leave the sign posted area
- Dogs must be no more than 50m from the person walking them and under effective control by voice command or hand signal at all times
- Dogs must not be allowed within 20m of a designated cycling path or track, unless they are separated from the track by a fence of at least 1.2m height
- Dogs must not be allowed to chase people or other animals
- Any droppings left by a dog must be cleaned up and disposed of properly.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/dogoffleash for more information.

Garden waste can feed the earth

Did you know that by using your garden waste bin correctly you can enjoy the best quality food?

The green lid garden waste bin is taken to a processing plant where it is turned into nutrient-rich compost that is used to help farmers grow food crops and pastures.

By making sure only the right items are placed into your bin you will be helping to create a high-quality compost which is sent to gardens and farms across Victoria. Just like us soil needs food and the better fed the soil is, the healthier the crops they grow.

It is important to only place grass, small branches, flowers, leaves and weeds in your green lid bin. Other items, such as plastic, glass, bricks and building rubble can contaminate a truckload of green waste, making the whole load unusable.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/waste to find out what happens to your garden waste and exactly what can go into your garden waste bin.



striking artwork

Wominjeka

...recognition of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples



A large scale artwork overlooks Harmony Square and recognises Greater Dandenong's links to our nation's first people.

Installed in July, the striking art work was created by Dandenong-based Aboriginal artist Ian Harrison. It celebrates the Aboriginal concept of 'wominjeka' (welcome) and reflects Council's recognition of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation's custodianship of the land where the City of Greater Dandenong sits.

The design of *Wominjeka* reflects local narratives relevant to Dandenong and includes a local shield depicting the emu and goanna.

More of Ian's work can be seen locally, including at Drum Theatre. He also recently completed a project at Tirhatuan Park where reclaimed red gum branches were painted with traditional Aboriginal iconography. *Spreading the Message* was completed with the help of local school students.

Garden upgrade for Corio Reserve

A Springvale South reserve will receive a garden upgrade in a bid to help cool the neighbourhood.

Corio Reserve, on Corio Drive, will be improved thanks to a grant from the Federal Government's Community Environment Program Grants. The grant aims to keep temperatures down by planting gardens and street trees that increase shade.

Increased shade produces a cooling effect in summer and has proven to significantly reduce heat mortality rates for old and frail people during extreme heat days. Other benefits include connecting environments, reducing air pollution and making a neighbourhood more comfortable and pleasant.

Shady environments can also reduce reliance on air conditioning, which may result is lower electricity costs for some households.

Under Council's Urban Tree Strategy – *Greening Our City* we have implemented a 10-year planting program to increase tree canopy cover across the city. Corio Reserve will also have a beautiful native garden planted to attract birds and insects and Council believes the works would benefit users of the park and neighbouring households.



If you would like to know more about the works or want to comment please contact Council on 8571 1702.

This Girl Can – Make her Move

Keeping active while observing restrictions during the COVID–19 pandemic has proved a challenge, but there are many ways to keep moving.

Prior to the pandemic Council worked in collaboration with the VicHealth *This Girl Can* program, Reclink, Centre of Multicultural Youth and Volleyball Victoria, to engage female residents in physical activity.

Several activity groups, including freestyle golf, volleyball lite, and social soccer were organised over three weeks in March.

The program targeted older women at Parkglen Retirement Village, carers and young families attending Ellendale Play Group, and young people visiting JC Mills Reserve. The campaign was successful, with more than 150 residents engaging in weekly physical activity for the three-week period.

Extensive research suggests that women avoid physical activity for many different reasons and the program aimed to encourage young girls and women of all ages to reframe their idea of activity.

Following the success of the program, Council will run more *This Girl Can* activities for female residents when lockdown restrictions ease.

In the meantime visit thisgirlcan.com.au to find out more and access online resources.

The health and wellbeing of all residents is a priority for Council and we encourage residents to find ways to keep active within the current restrictions.

Taking a walk close to home, playing outside with your children or pottering in your garden are simple ways to get moving.

Online resources including exercise videos for all fitness levels are also available.

At the time of publication, our local swimming pools and recreation centres were closed, however the YMCA offers online resources to encourage activities for families.



Visit nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au or dandenongoasis.com.au for more information.

Residents are encouraged to follow the latest COVID-19 restrictions as advised by health authorities when exercising outside of the home.

National award for youth project

A campaign against family violence conceived by Greater Dandenong youth has been recognised at the 2020 National Awards for Local Government.

The Youth United Against Family Violence project received the top award in the category Addressing Violence Against Women and Children. The project is now in the running for the 2020 National Award for Excellence in Local Government.

In 2019 ten youth ambassadors were selected to lead a project to change attitudes and behaviour towards family violence.

They chose three key messages and developed short video advertisements aimed at reaching their peers. The youth ambassadors guided the entire creative process with help from Momentum Studios Australia.



Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said he was proud of the young people involved in the project.

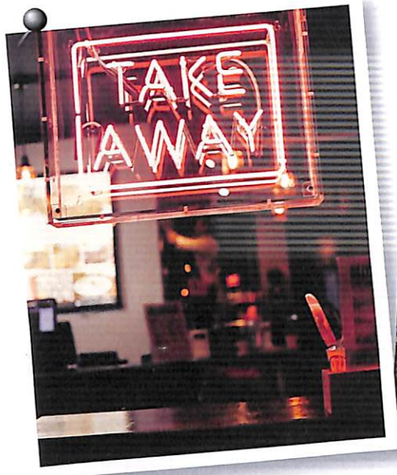
"This is an important issue in our community and young people often feel like they are not part of the conversation," Mayor Memeti said.

"Through this project these young people have been able to use their voices and reach out to their peers. I am sure these videos will make a difference for so many and not just within our own community."

The advertisements were launched at last year's Greater Dandenong Walk Against Family Violence.

Council's Youth and Family Services will use the advertisements as part of education campaigns for local youth, but these plans were delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic forcing Victoria into lockdown and the closure of local schools for the first time in March. The advertisements were instead used in a social media campaign that reached more than 200,000 people.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com to see the videos.









GO LOCAL FIRST

A national campaign encouraging Australians to support local businesses is hoping to stimulate the economy and keep jobs.

Early May 2020 data showed our city supported 98,000 jobs and had an economic output of more than $39 billion. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted local employment with the Greater Dandenong unemployment rate estimated to have increased by at least four per cent in recent months. The hardest hit businesses were in the retail trade, and accommodation and food services.

While many businesses have adapted their offerings to suit the current circumstances, some are relying on the ongoing support of loyal customers to get them through.

The Go Local First campaign is funded by the Australian Government and supported by the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA). Go Local First promotes the idea that if we buy and spend locally, we keep local jobs, and supporting our local economy we can help the nation's economy recover in the long term.

Research commissioned by COSBOA shows that Australians are spending more at local businesses since the introduction of COVID-19 lockdowns in March, but ongoing restrictions are preventing many from doing more.

Greater Dandenong is home to thousands of small businesses. These businesses collectively make a significant economic and an enormous social contribution to our community.

These are businesses where our children get their first jobs. They support local charities, sporting clubs, kindergartens and schools. They remember our names and our regular orders. They are the heart and soul of our community and they rely on our business.

There are businesses we rely on everyday, from the local café to bakers, butchers and greengrocers. There are also businesses that we turn to less frequently, including tradesmen and accountants. By keeping these businesses afloat you are supporting local families.

In last month's *Greater Dandenong Council News* we featured the Great Bites Open for Business initiative, listing local food businesses who continue to serve coffee, snacks and meals throughout the lockdown period.

This month we ask residents to show their support for all local business by sharing and tagging their stories on social media with the tags #greatbitesopenforbusiness and #golocalfirst.

Visit golocalfirst.com.au to find out more about the campaign and how to get involved.

If you have a food business and wish to be involved in Council's marketing campaign, complete an online form to be featured on the website. Visit greaterdandenong.com/greatbites openforbusiness to find out who is open for business or to list your own.

Support for residents

The COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting residents for the past six months and will continue to affect us all for some time to come.

There are a range of support services set up to help everyone, including those suffering financial hardship, medical concerns, housing issues and personal distress.

Council is working with local charities and support agencies to help our most vulnerable residents with material aid.

Demand on local support services has become more difficult during the pandemic, but we are doing our best to support those most in need.

Greater Dandenong residents needing immediate support can phone the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 and select option 3. You will be put straight through to a Red Cross volunteer who will be able to connect you with the right support. This phone service operates 24 hours a day.



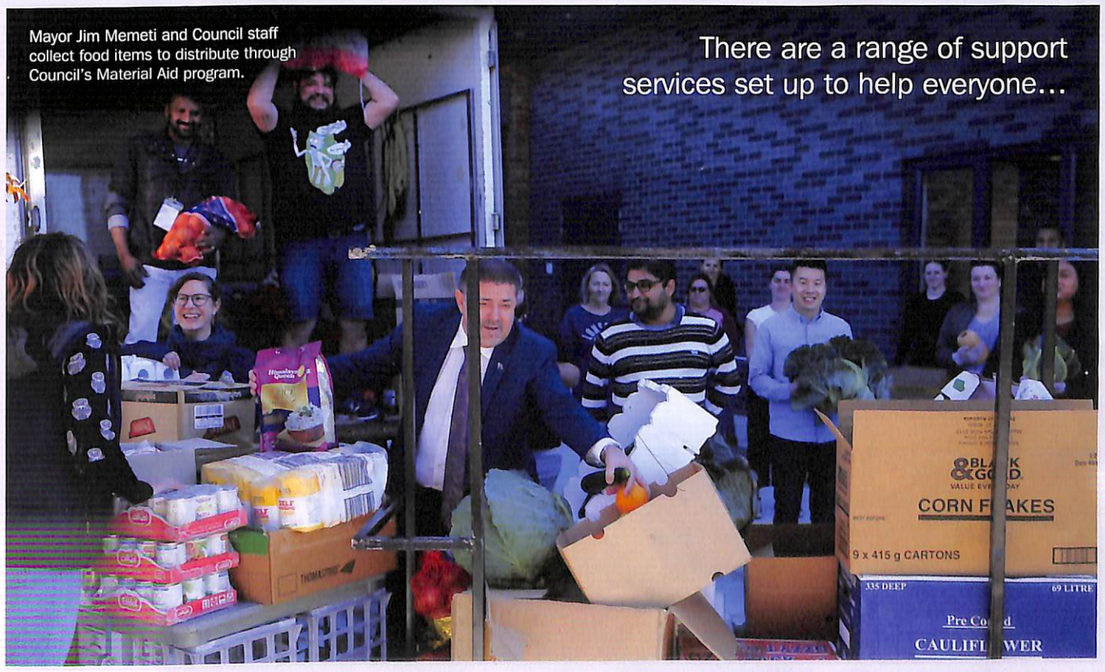
Any agencies interested in contributing to Council's material aid efforts or residents needing further help with getting support can email materialaidenquiries@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Here are some other resources to help connect you with support.

- To find out more about the Coronavirus infection and the latest advice from the State Government and the Chief Medical Officer visit **vic.gov.au/coronavirus**
- People with disabilities and their carers can phone the **Carers Advisory Line on 1800 514 845** or the **National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) on 1800 800 110**
- Parents seeking crisis support can phone the **Parents Helpline on 132 289** (8am–12pm seven days)
- International students can visit **studyinaustralia.gov.au** or **phone 1300 981 621**
- Information for immigrants and visa holders can be found at **covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au**
- Those suffering from family violence can contact **Safe Steps Family Violence Crisis Response Centre on 1800 015 188** (24 hours) or **RESPECT on 1800 737 732** (24 hours)
- Housing tenants who need advice can visit **tenantsvic.org.au**
- For legal advice on issues relating to COVID-19 visit **legalaid.vic.gov.au**
- Workers seeking advice on leave, standing down employees and general rights relating to COVID-19 can visit **coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au**.

Council has also extended a rate waiver to residents receiving the Jobseeker payment until 30 November 2020. For more information refer to page 3 in this magazine.

Visit greaterdandenong.com for more information.



Mayor Jim Memeti and Council staff collect food items to distribute through Council's Material Aid program.


Greater Dandenong
Children's Festival
Online
Create a New Story
19 September - 4 October 2020
Bank of Melbourne
GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity
8571 1000
greaterdandenong.com/childrensfestival

NOVEMBER 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



Summer gardens

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Arts in Greater Dandenong
▶ PAGE 11

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
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Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.com

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

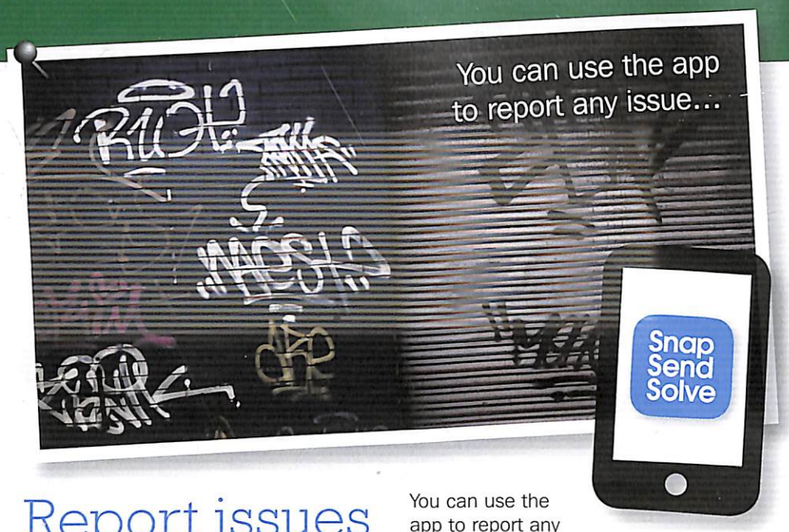
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024



Report issues to Council

Reporting an issue to Council can be done in just three simple steps. Snap. Send. Solve.

The Snap Send Solve phone app uses your smart phone camera to capture a photo of the issue, and GPS to precisely pinpoint your location. All you have to do is add some notes detailing the issue and hit send. A report is then sent back to Council so we can take action.

You can use the app to report any issue including dumped rubbish, broken playground equipment or graffiti.

Snap Send Solve is available to download for free via the App Store and Google Play.

Council continues to take reports via online forms, email or phone. Visit greaterdandenong.com/report or phone 8571 1000 for more information.

My City



The 50m outdoor pool at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre reopened last month to eager swimmers. At the time of publication, COVID-19 restrictions had eased to allow outdoor pools to open to the public. The centre had introduced some changes to how it operates to ensure the safety of staff and visitors. Pool sessions need to be booked 48 hours in advance, and there are limits on visitors to the centre. Visit nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au for the latest information.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



Upgrades undertaken during closures

Council has taken advantage of the closure of leisure facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic to carry out upgrades.

Works undertaken at Dandenong Oasis, Springers Leisure Centre, and the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) include cosmetic improvements.

At the time of publication only the outdoor pool at NPAC had reopened to the public. Council will follow expert health advice for all sporting facilities, but when these centres reopen visitors will notice some changes.

At NPAC, the rubber ground surface of the outdoor splash park has been replaced, and indoor users will see improvements to the surface around the indoor pool.

At Springers Leisure Centre the closure has given us the chance to replace net dividers between the courts.

The Dandenong Oasis has seen a number of improvements, including an upgrade of change rooms and the replacement of some tiles in the 50m pool. Bench seating around the pool has been repainted and a new pool hoist has been installed improving accessibility.

In February 2021 Council will begin the first stage of a redevelopment at NPAC, after receiving $3.3 million from the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

A two-storey extension to the existing building will include a large gymnasium, three program/group fitness rooms and change rooms. The building will also include provisions for 24/7 access.

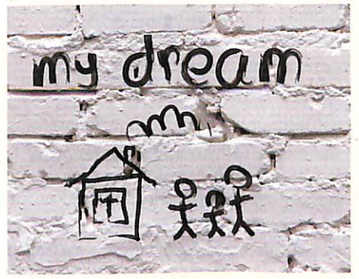
Visit greaterdandenong.com/npacredevelopment to find out more.

A unified voice to tackle homelessness

Greater Dandenong Council has joined with 12 other councils in Melbourne's east and south east to call for urgent action to end homelessness.

The campaign, initiated in November 2019 by Monash Council, is calling for more social housing as a first step to address the often complex social and health needs of some of our most vulnerable community members.

The alliance of councils has adopted a charter to guide the campaign. The Regional Local Government



Homelessness and Social Housing Charter 2020 prioritises commitments which Greater Dandenong and other councils will act on. These include working in partnership with federal and state government, public and private sector stakeholders to increase the provision of social housing. Each local government area will also identify land that has the potential to be re-purposed to meet adaptable housing needs, and advocate for inclusive housing growth.

Councils are often the first responders to people experiencing homelessness in local communities and see first-hand the issues it can cause. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic many of our most vulnerable people have been pushed to crisis point.

call for urgent action

Key to this campaign is the belief that a safe home is a fundamental human right.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/homelessness to read more about the campaign.

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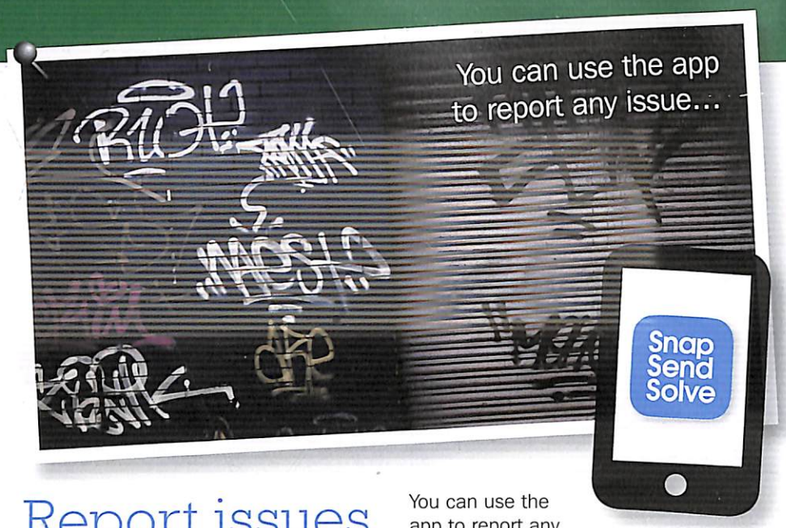

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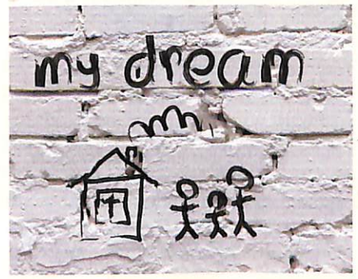

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Key to this campaign is the belief that a safe home is a fundamental human right.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/homelessness to read more about the campaign.



Council Meetings

Council meetings are running virtually for the time being. You can view the meetings via Council's live webcast.

The scheduled November meetings have changed from what was previously advertised and will be held:

Thursday 19 November, 6pm

(Annual Statutory Meeting of Council for swearing in new councillors and Election of the Mayor, commencing at 6pm)

Monday 30 November, 7pm

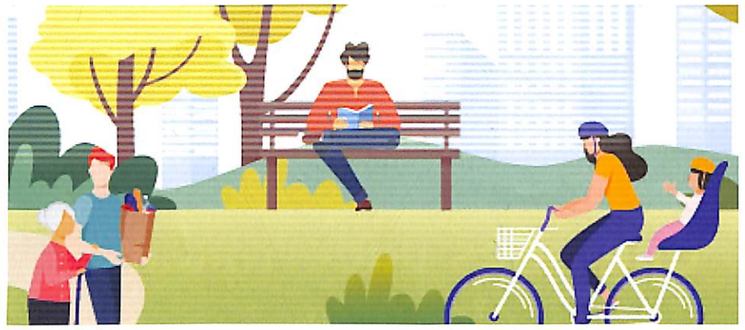
The general public can still submit questions for Public Question Time.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings to view meetings online, find out more about Public Question Time or to see updates about how current restrictions affect Council meetings.

Council Elections were held on October 24 and at the time of publication we were awaiting the results from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

We look forward to introducing our newly elected Councillors and Mayor to you in the next edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Change today, shape tomorrow



Council is putting together a new four year plan for our city and we want to hear from you.

Every four years, when a new Council is elected, the City of Greater Dandenong is required to set a strategic direction and develop a new Council Plan.

This plan outlines key priorities, what we hope to achieve, how we expect to achieve it and what our success will look like.

We want to ensure our new Council Plan 2021–25 reflects what matters most to our community and we need your help to make this happen.

We have great strengths in our community to build on, including the diversity of our cultural groups, our growing business sector, and a thriving scene of cultural events, festivals, theatre and performance.

We understand we also have important challenges to face including recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the pre-existing vulnerabilities in our community that have been made worse by the crisis.

We want to hear your vision for our future, the key areas you think we should be focusing on over the next four years, and how we can make Greater Dandenong an even greater place to be.

There will be a range of activities conducted over the next six months which will provide opportunities for individuals, businesses, community groups, schools and many of our key stakeholders to provide input.

Our current priorities are:

- Safety
- Community participation
- Improved health and wellbeing
- Respecting and embracing diversity
- Healthy, clean and sustainable environments
- Future planning and quality open space
- Business and community partnerships
- Employment and tourism
- Transparency and accountability in decision making.

For the first time our Council Plan will incorporate the Community Wellbeing Plan, which reflects both the priorities of our local community and those of the State Government. Council is focused on improving the health and wellbeing of our city in the following areas:

- Community infrastructure, transport and environment
- Learning and employment
- Mental and physical health
- Engagement, social cohesion and safety.

We want to hear from as many people as possible. Visit greaterdandenong.com/plan2025 to get involved and share your vision for our community.



Springvale Community Hub

In one of their last official acts as Greater Dandenong councillors, our outgoing Council celebrated the official opening of the Springvale Community Hub.

Councillors filmed a welcome video under strict COVID-19 restrictions, and the Mayor of the day unveiled a plaque celebrating an opening date of 20 September 2020.

At the time of publication, Council was still waiting for an easing of restrictions to open the doors of this brand new facility to the public, however the outdoor areas including the great lawn and the children's playground were in use.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has stopped our community from making the most of the state-of-the-art library, community rooms, customer service area and cafe, Council looks forward to welcoming people to enjoy the full range of indoor services as soon as we are able.

Last month Council sought nominations for the Springvale Community Hub Committee. This committee will provide strategic advice to the Greater Dandenong Council on matters related to the hub.

The vision for this hub is to "encourage active participation in cultural exchange, creative celebrations and life-long learning, through a welcoming community hub that inspires learning and creative living". Council hopes the committee's nine members will help achieve this vision.

The committee will soon be appointed and will sit for a period of two years.

Visit greaterdandenong.com to keep up to date on restrictions and when the hub is open to the public.

Australia Day Awards

Council has extended the deadline for nominations in three categories of the 2021 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

Due to the Council Elections held recently, Council opened up the nominations process earlier than usual, but would like to give more opportunity for our community to consider worthy recipients in the categories of Citizen of the Year, Sustainability Award and the Living Treasure Award.

The Citizen of the Year Award recognises a person who has demonstrated long-term commitment to voluntary or philanthropic work in the community and made positive contributions to enrich the lives of others.

The Sustainability Award recognises an individual or group whose initiatives contribute to make Greater Dandenong a more sustainable place to live, work and play.

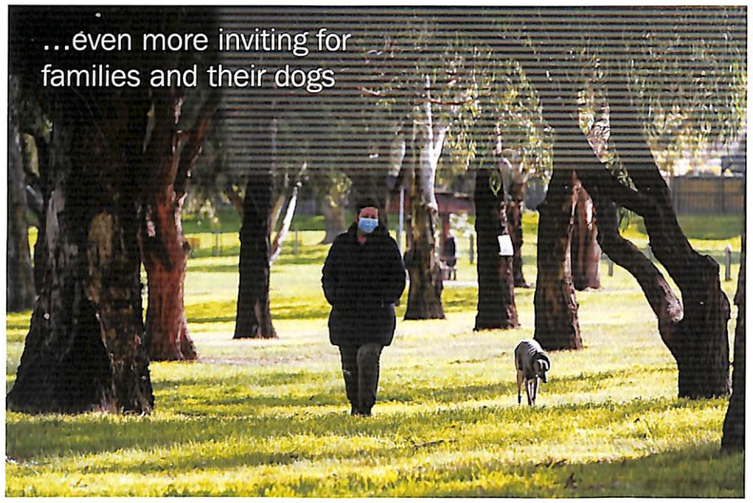
The Living Treasure Award recognises a person who has had a lasting impact on the quality of life for the community.

Nominations for these awards will now close on Monday 30 November.

Winners will be selected by a joint community and Council panel and will be presented with their awards on 26 January.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards for more information and to submit an online nomination form.

Off-leash park to be upgraded



Dandenong North dog lovers and their furry friends will be happy to hear about further improvements at Tirhatuan Park following funding from a State Government stimulus program.

A $153,500 grant will fund improvements at the off-leash dog park, including extra shelter, seating, rubbish bins, picnic table, gravel paving and a drinking fountain. Dog play equipment will also be added to the (all dog) fenced off-leash area.

The park has recently undergone some changes, with a new fenced off area dedicated to small dogs only, and the upcoming improvements will make it even more inviting for families and their dogs.

Dog off-leash parks in Greater Dandenong are very popular, and we remind residents to continue to practice COVID-19 safe precautions when they visit these parks. This includes wearing a mask and observing social distancing at all times.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/animals to read more about off-leash areas.

Springvale Boulevard

Work will soon begin to transform Springvale Road into a signature boulevard befitting of one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations.

With more than 20,000 local residents and 100,000 visitors from outside Greater Dandenong arriving in the Springvale Activity Centre each year, Council is working to make the area more welcoming for all.

Works will be carried out on Springvale Road, between Lightwood Road and Windsor Avenue, making the streetscape more inviting and safer for pedestrians.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken with local residents, business owners and schools, guiding the design process. Key comments from participants have led to the inclusion of wider footpaths for street trading, new seating, improved street lighting, more shade trees and safety enhancements including CCTV.

Council will now work with local businesses to ensure disruptions to trading and access will be minimised throughout the construction process.

Visit greaterdanenong.com/springvaleboulevard for more information including project timelines.

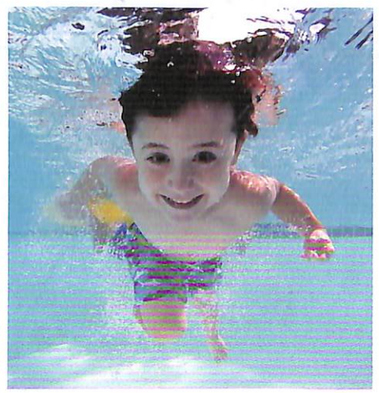
Swimming pool and spa registrations

New laws introduced by the State Government require all pools and spas to be registered and regularly inspected.

The cut off date for registration with Council is 1 November 2020. If you have not yet registered your pool or spa you need to contact Council.

In December 2019 the regulations were introduced to improve safety around pools and spas. The new laws require your safety barrier to be inspected and certified every four years.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/swimmingpools for more information. To discuss how the regulations apply to your property phone the Building Department on 8571 1000.



Parking for the future

On-street parking sensors are being installed in the Dandenong Activity Centre preparing Greater Dandenong for city-wide 'smart' technology.

The sensors will allow Council to capture occupancy data, which will provide important information to ensure parking spaces suit the needs of customers and traders now and into the future.

Eventually, the data captured by the sensors will enable Council to provide real time occupancy information via apps and digital signage, which will make it easier for drivers to find available parking spaces in the area. It will also enable the development of apps for customers to manage their parking fees and time limits from their own phone.

The installation of more than 1100 sensors is set to be complete by early December 2020, with the works being scheduled to minimise disruption wherever possible.



Once activated, customers can continue to use the parking spaces in the same way they have previously, by adhering to the relevant parking restrictions and time limits.

Enforcement for parking restrictions will not change, however customers should be aware the time a vehicle enters the car space is the time the sensor will begin.

Sensors will be installed in all on-street bays throughout central Dandenong including along Lonsdale Street service roads, and Thomas, Clow, Foster, Walker and Robinson streets.

Visit greaterdandenong.com for more information and project updates.

Hemmings Street Precinct Action Plan

Council is consulting with the community on a Hemmings Street Precinct Action Plan, for the area bound by Robinson Street, Princes Highway, Jones Road and Railway Parade. The Action Plan and a survey is being mailed out to all residents in the precinct. The key aim of the Action Plan is for the community, Council, State Government, local services and Victoria Police to partner together and improve safety in the precinct.

Key priorities of the draft plan include:

- Build participation and promoting crime prevention through Neighbourhood Watch
- Create a sense of precinct ownership by holding arts and cultural events
- Improve security by obtaining funding to install mobile CCTV
- Advocating to and partnering with State Government to improve safety, amenity and wellbeing in the precinct

For more information, to request a copy of the Action Plan or the Survey, please email community.advocacy@cgd.vic.gov.au

Greater Dandenong job blitz

A State Government campaign to boost Victoria's economy includes funding to support 102 new job vacancies at Council.

Under the Working for Victoria fund Council will provide jobs for unemployed people – whether they have lost their jobs due to the impact of COVID-19 or have been without work for a longer period of time.

Recruitment to fill the positions started last month and will continue until all 102 positions are filled. It is hoped all roles will be filled and staff working on the ground by January 2021.

Council will offer roles on six-month terms within certain parts of the organisation, including:

- Conservation and land management crews, to help enhance the environment and beautify natural settings within Greater Dandenong
- Cleansing, including teams cleaning high touch surfaces to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community
- Data capture, supporting business strategy and planning activities to support local businesses.

Greater Dandenong CEO John Bennie said more than 10,000 jobs had been created through the $500 million initiative since it launched in April.

"Greater Dandenong City Council is really pleased to be taking part in Working for Victoria and we are looking forward to welcoming our new employees on board," Mr Bennie said.

"If you're looking for a job, we want to hear from you."

Visit vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria for more information or to register your interest in applying for one of the jobs at Council.

Know your recycling



This month we celebrate National Recycling Week (9–15 November) by reminding residents what can and can't go into their yellow lid recycling bin.

Spending more time at home can create more waste. From cooking more to receiving more mail and online shopping parcels, many of us are generating more waste than usual.

While we can't control everything right now, we can make sure the contents of our recycle bins are being put to good use and don't end up in landfill.

Here are some tips to help save you time and sort the most common items into the appropriate bins.

- Always remember to keep your recycling out of plastic bags. All items can be placed in the yellow lid bin loose.
- Soft plastics like bread and pasta bags go into the red lid bin. To recycle these items, take them to your local supermarket where there is a recycling bin dedicated to soft plastics recycling.
- Polystyrene packaging is not recyclable and should be placed in your red lid bin.
- Clothing and shoes do not go into your recycling bin.
- Food waste goes into the red lid garbage bin. You could set up a composting bin for this waste and use it to feed your own garden.

Follow these simple rules to help make the most of Council's recycling services

Join us for the Recycle Right in Greater Dandenong online webinar on Tuesday 10 November, from 6.30pm–7.30pm.

Come along to this free online waste and recycling workshop to hear about how your household can reduce waste to landfill and recycle right.

This session covers issues with waste, what items can go into your garbage, recycling and garden bins, the recycling process, how to reduce your waste at home and how to dispose of other items.

Visit greaterdandenong.com for more information and to register.



Visit recycling.vic.gov.au to search for specific items and find out which bin they belong in.

Get it right on bin night

Contamination in your garden waste and recycling bins can prevent Council from processing your waste effectively.

If a bin is heavily contaminated it simply cannot be emptied, but a team of bin monitors will help residents to 'get it right on bin night'.

Inspections of garden waste and recycling bins will help Council determine how much waste is being recycled correctly. If your bin is contaminated bin monitors will offer feedback via a sticker on your bin or a note in your letterbox.

Diverting waste from landfill is important to Council and recyclables from households can be used to manufacture new products. When a bin is contaminated it can sometimes prevent whole truck loads of material from being recycled.

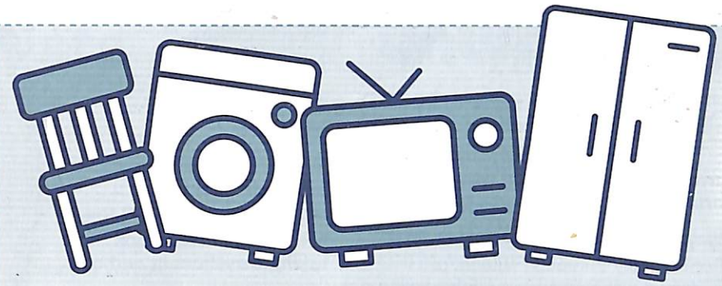
Do your bit for the environment and make sure only recyclable materials go into your yellow lid bin, and appropriate garden waste goes into your green lid bin.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/waste for details on what can and can't go into your bins.

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day postponed

Due to ongoing restrictions the Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day scheduled for Saturday 28 November has been postponed.

Council will reschedule this event when circumstances change. In the meantime you can consider booking a free, kerbside hard waste collection to dispose of unwanted items.



Hard waste

Ever wondered what happens to hard waste after your booked collection has been taken away?

Many items are collected and placed into the compactor truck, but this does not mean they are destined for landfill. These items are taken away and sorted for recycling.

Items such as scrap metals, timber, white goods and mattresses are suitable for re-use and recycling. Items that are not able to be recycled are sent to landfill.

Electronic waste (E-waste) is banned from being disposed at landfill. Anything with a plug or cord and batteries is collected separately and is recycled, re-used or recovered.

Once hard waste is collected it is taken to Knox Transfer Station (KTS), where it will be recovered, reused or recycled. Items that can be reused are sold through the KTS second hand shop. All other items are unloaded from the compactor trucks for processing and sorting.

Payment of the Residential Garbage Levy entitles you to book in one free hard waste collection each year. Extra collections can be booked on a user pays basis. Book online at hardrubbish melbourne.com.au/dandenong or phone WM Waste Management Services on 9721 1915.



What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered where certain street names come from?

Many local streets have been named after the early European settlers of the district – the people who arrived in Dandenong from the mid-1800s when it was surrounded by trees and had just one dirt track as a main road.

These settlers had interesting journeys and played a role in public life once they settled here.

Join the City of Greater Dandenong's Heritage Team for the online exhibition *What's in a Street Name? Dandenong's Early History* and find out more.

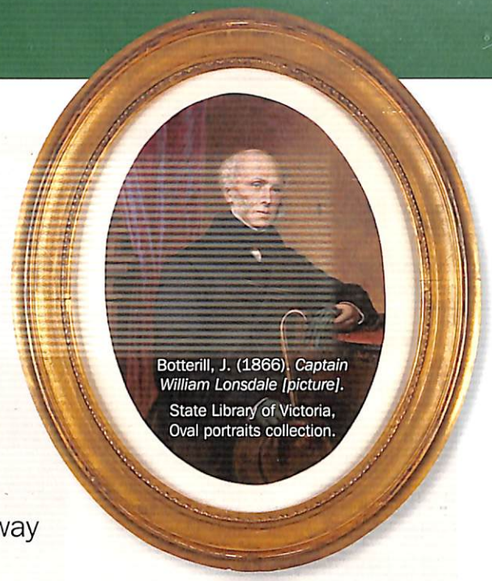
This exhibition delves into the history of some street and laneway names, and reveals some surprising facts about our early settlers.

This online video is now available to watch via Council's YouTube page. Visit greaterdandenong.com/events and search 'history' for more information.

Lonsdale Street

In the mid-1800s arrivals to Dandenong found themselves in a small town with just one dirt track taking travellers in and out.

This dirt track is now known as Lonsdale Street and bears no resemblance to the way it once looked.



Botterill, J. (1866). *Captain William Lonsdale [picture].* State Library of Victoria, Oval portraits collection.

Lonsdale Street is named after Captain William Lonsdale, who was in the British Army and arrived in Australia in 1831. He took on a lease in the Greater Dandenong area about 1838 and placed his nephew, Alfred Langhorne (another familiar local street name) in charge as overseer.

In 1854 the census records the population of the township of Dandenong as 48. By 1857 this number had grown to 59 and Lonsdale Street was at the geographical heart of this growth.

Most of the shops and hotels were located along Lonsdale Street, and from 1866 the Dandenong Market was located there as well.

Lonsdale Street was home to one of the most important early buildings in Dandenong – George Dunbar's Hotel (established around the late 1840s) and its successor Dunbar's Royal Hotel. The hotel became the central meeting point for the town – the Dandenong District Roads Board held their meetings there, alongside early court hearings and church services.



Lonsdale Street in the early 1850s – looking up towards Dunbar's Hotel and A.W Bowman's Royal Hotel.

Picture courtesy of the Dandenong and District Historical Society.

seeking entries

Supporting artists



Greater Dandenong has always been home to a vibrant arts scene, but the events of 2020 have seen challenging times for creatives and arts venues.

While the Drum Theatre, and galleries at Walker Street and Heritage Hill are closed, Council's Arts Team have been looking for ways to support artists in the virtual realm.

The Arts Online platform was created to share free workshop videos, arts talks, exhibitions and behind the scenes content to encourage our community to remain creative, while the workshops have given artists the chance to continue to make an income from their craft.

Several new remote residency programs were introduced during Melbourne-wide restrictions, including:

- A remote artist in residency callout in April. Three artists were engaged to share their practices with audiences virtually.
- A sound-based artist in residency callout in July, named Atmospherics. One artist received financial and technical support to explore the intrinsic link between nature and sound.
- A writer in residency callout in August. A writer has received financial and mentoring support to develop their writing skills. Their final work will be shared soon.

Council is now seeking entries for the Flora Exhibition, which was scheduled to run this year but has been postponed until March 2021.

Flora will explore and capture the importance, fragility and beauty of plants and nature, particularly native flora. A community exhibition will be held at Heritage Hill and all artists are encouraged to submit their work. Entries close on Monday 22 February.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/arts to find out more.

Artist call out

Share your creativity and be a part of Greater Dandenong's iconic 9 by 5 Exhibition.

The annual Walker Street Gallery and Art Centre exhibition has become a nationally recognised event that celebrates diversity within the arts community. It also proves that good things come in small packages.

Artists from around Australia present their creativity on panels measuring nine inches by five inches in a wide variety of styles. The exhibition commemorates the original 9 by 5 Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1889 featuring the work of Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, Arthur Streeton and Frederick McCubbin who painted on cigar box lids.



Now in its 15th year this exhibition is calling for entries for the 2020 display.

Work needs to arrive at Walker Street Gallery no later than Friday 20 November. Visit greaterdandenong.com/9by5 to find out how to get your art board and submit your work.

UNWRAPPED

Greater Dandenong will celebrate the LGBTIQA+ community through a new arts program launching this month.

Unwrapped will feature a program of diverse events and activities that supports local LGBTIQA+ artists and LGBTIQA+ communities, including online exhibitions, performances, events and workshops.

Unwrapped will also host satellite events as part of its programming from community and education bodies such as Connections Gallery, Chisholm Tafe and Headspace.

Greater Dandenong City Council supports diversity in all its forms, and programs like Unwrapped provide inclusive, safe spaces for self-expression and celebration.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Online Exhibition by James Hale, Ryan Pola and Taga Barrio

Working on and with paper, these artists are shredding, scrunching and unwrapping their worlds. Their works cover a range of themes from the mundane to the epic.

Spoken with Pride
Wednesdays 18 and 25 November

Two part workshop facilitated by Headspace Dandenong and queer identified spoken work artist Annie Solah. Join other LGBTIQA+ youth in the south east and learn how to develop your own piece, from writing to editing and performing.

Artistically Queer
Tuesday 24 November

Facilitated by non-binary writer, activist and public speaker Nevo Zisin, this panel discussion will feature a range of creative voices examining representation, identity and authenticity within the arts.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/unwrapped for a full program of events and to find out more about participating artists and organisations.







Edible gardens help the vulnerable

Plantings in public places across Greater Dandenong are used to help inspire local green thumbs and support organisations feeding the hungry.

Summer is the perfect time to harvest the bounty from Council's tropical edible garden in Clow Street, Dandenong. This garden was introduced as a trial at a different location several years ago in partnership with the University of Melbourne.

It proved that even in Melbourne's unpredictable climate, tropical plants, including sweet potato and taro, could flourish. Many residents (particularly those with an Islander background) commented to parks staff that the garden reminded them of home, and encouraged them to grow their own tropical gardens.

Garden beds across the city are often filled with edible plants, including herbs and vegetables, inspiring people to plant food in their own backyards. This seasonal planting is undertaken as part of regular garden maintenance.

A more recent project at Dandenong South's Keshava Park, has seen the establishment of a community orchard and vegetable gardens.



All produce harvested from these public gardens is shared with local charities helping to feed our most vulnerable community members.

The gardens at Heritage Hill not only provide an earthy oasis in the centre of Dandenong, but they also help inspire a new generation of gardeners. Regular school tours (held in non-COVID times) show students how a home vegetable garden looks and also feature a compost patch which helps nourish the on site gardens.

What to plant

If you want to brighten your garden, now is the time to plant sunflowers for blooming during summer.

However, if you like cooking with fresh ingredients consider growing these edible plants in your own backyard for summer harvest.

- Capsicum
- Chilli
- Beetroot
- Carrot
- Cucumber
- Eggplant
- Lettuce
- Potato
- Pumpkin
- Leek
- Silverbeet
- Squash
- Sweetcorn
- Zucchini.

Or try some healthy herbs, including dill, chamomile, parsley, oregano, rosemary, thyme and sage.

Top up mulch on garden beds to help keep in moisture as the temperature heats up, and consider constructing some mobile shade tents (made from shade cloth) to put over garden beds with sun sensitive plants.

When you are ready to harvest your bounty visit dandenongmarket.com.au to find some great seasonal recipes.

A warm gesture of kindness

Despite a temporary suspension of face-to-face volunteering activities, Council established a new project to provide volunteers with an opportunity to keep engaged and give back to the community from the safety of their own homes.

The Karma Knitters consists of 17 volunteers who have collectively knitted and crocheted for more than 1600 hours to produce more than 160 woollen items, including beanies, knee rugs, scarves and accessories.

"We're living in different times right now. It's a really great gift in life to help people, so I feel very honoured that I can help," volunteer Shenali said.

Early in winter the items were delivered to vulnerable and older residents, people seeking asylum and refugees in Greater Dandenong. They were distributed by local agencies including Cornerstone Contact Centre and CoCO's Community Creating Opportunities, as well as Council's Meals on Wheels service.

A Meals on Wheels client grateful for a rug and beanie offered this feedback.

"Your kindness warms my heart as much as these two things warm my body. Such acts bring a bright light in this troubled old world."

Council would like to thank Amazon for donating the wool, and the Karma Knitters themselves: Annette, Heather, Ingeborg, Josephine D, Josephine P, Julie, Marianne, Ellie, June, Lauris, Nona, Rebecca, Sabine and Mercy Place knitters, Sandra, Shenali, Sue and Tess.



Volunteers in Greater Dandenong

Despite restrictions, volunteers keen to pursue work during the COVID-19 pandemic are still raising their hands.

The Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service (GDVRS) has suspended face to face services, but they continue to offer phone or online interviews and training to people wishing to donate their time.

GDVRS also continues to support organisations who engage volunteers to keep their services running.

Established in 2015, the service is a joint initiative of Greater Dandenong Council and South East Volunteers. Each year the service places more than 1800 volunteers in more than 450 community service organisations.

Operating five days per week the service can assist to:

- Connect locals with volunteering opportunities
- Help community organisations recruit volunteers
- Provide regular training sessions for volunteers
- Provide information, training, support and resources to volunteer co-ordinators and groups involving volunteers
- Increase the profile of volunteering across the community
- Acknowledge the efforts of volunteers through recognition events.

The opportunities to volunteer are endless and are available to people of all ages and backgrounds. Volunteer interviews are being held by phone or online and are by appointment only. To make an appointment phone 9562 0414.



Lucky Chobani recipients Abigail, Noah and Isaiah.

Yogurt manufacturer paying it forward

In these hard times, we all have a role to play in making people smile. When Council encourages the community to Find the Kind, we also see many businesses sharing the joy.

Including Dandenong South-based yogurt manufacturer, Chobani, who responded to the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic by starting a campaign to give away 100,000 free pots of yogurt to Aussies who needed it most.

The campaign was based on a public nomination system and was so successful that the company did it all over again, receiving more than 20,000 nominations in just over three weeks during the second stage.

Chobani Australia Managing Director Lyn Radford said one of the company's key values was 'giving back'.

"Given the enormous challenges facing our communities, our country and our world as a result of COVID-19, now, more than ever it's important that we give back in any way we can," she said.

One of the recipients, Winsome Yu, was so thrilled to receive a delivery they posted this expression of gratitude on Facebook.

"...Today was the day! With a knock at the door and two fine young gentlemen armed with four boxes of Chobani Flips, we are so touched to learn that Super S1 (one of Noah's carers) nominated our family and that our family's story was worthy of being selected to be one of the many to be receiving some love and kindness in the form of delicious yoghurt that we LOVE..."

Chobani have also taken steps to support the health and wellbeing of their 273 staff during recent times, organising virtual comedy shows, inter-team trivia challenges, and delivering care packages to all employees.

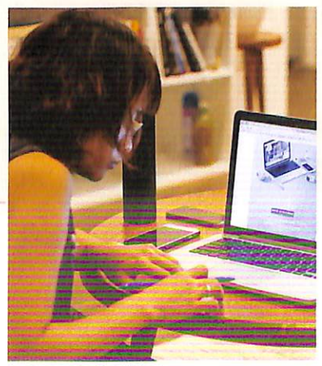
Support for businesses in Greater Dandenong

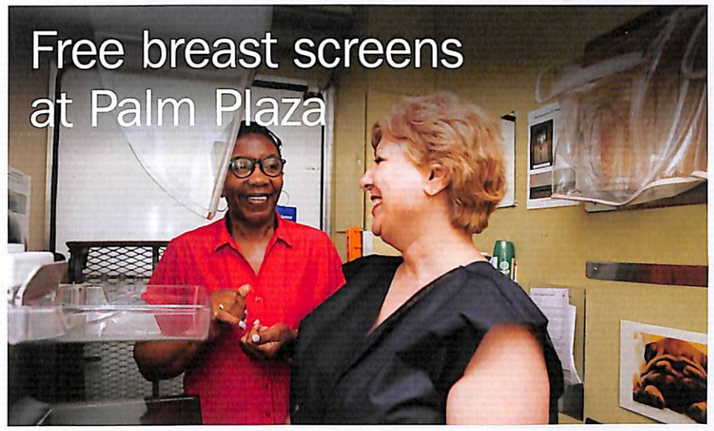
Council recently launched several new initiatives to help local businesses doing it tough while following pandemic restrictions.

The free parking offer in Lonsdale Street, Dandenong has been extended for a further 12 months, while applications for outdoor dining permits across Greater Dandenong will be free. Businesses wishing to introduce or increase tables and chairs for on street dining will be able to apply for the annual permits free of charge for the next two years.

The Victorian Government has launched a grants program to help hospitality businesses prepare for COVID Normal. Under the Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package, eligible businesses can apply for a grant of $5,000 to pay for training and marketing for outdoor dining, as well as practical things like umbrellas, outdoor furniture, screens and other equipment. Visit business.vic.gov.au for more information.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/business to find out more about how Council is continuing to support local businesses.





Free breast screens at Palm Plaza

Women's health will be on the agenda when the BreastScreen Victoria van visits Palm Plaza this month.

For women over 50, breast screens every two years can be life-saving. Breast screens are the best way to detect cancer early, before there are symptoms and when treatment is likely to be most successful.

The BreastScreen mobile van will be right in the heart of Palm Plaza, from Monday 2 to Friday 13 November, providing free breast screens to those who are eligible.

There are more than 9,900 women in the City of Greater Dandenong that are due to have a breast screen and have not yet booked an appointment.

The van provides an opportunity to have a breast screen in a convenient location with friendly staff.

You don't need a GP referral or a Medicare card to have a screen. It's with a female radiographer and it only takes 10 minutes. The BreastScreen mobile van has introduced new safety measures to protect against the risk of COVID-19.

Put your health first and book a free screen today. Tell the women in your life over 50 to get screened too.

For bookings visit breastscreen.org.au or phone 132 050.

The Placement Circle

A pilot program offering educational opportunities and peer support to help women gain meaningful employment is being implemented in Dandenong.

Research shows that women are increasingly at risk of homelessness and financial hardship as they get older. Education and employment offset this risk.

Women from diverse backgrounds are often excluded from the workforce due to caring responsibilities, time out of the workforce and being unable to find suitable work for their existing skills. This pilot program aims to assist women from diverse backgrounds to access education and employment with a community of supportive peers.

The program, designed and run by WomenCAN through its Placement Circle and delivered by Chisholm Institute, offers the opportunity to undertake a Certificate III in Aged Care. Victoria University is monitoring the program to evaluate the influence of this peer support on successful outcomes.

Once a participant graduates from the program it is hoped they will be able to support new participants and continue the circle of support.

Visit theplacementcircle.org to see eligibility criteria and to register interest in the program, or phone 9114 7826 for more information.



New building for animal shelter

The Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) continues to help the community throughout the tough COVID-19 restrictions and will continue to do so during the construction of their new Keysborough home.

Established in 1972 the animal welfare organisation aimed to address the need for an animal shelter in Melbourne's south east. For almost five decades the shelter has continued to care for animals with the aim of returning them to their owners or finding them new 'fur-ever' homes.

The service is currently working out of a temporary site on Bangholme Road, Dandenong South, while building works take place for a permanent home in Aegean Court, Keysborough.

The AAPS operates with the mission to never turn an animal away and it is hoped this new facility will allow the shelter to continue its open door policy for the community and the animals who need help.

Stage one of the new shelter is expected to be completed around April 2021 and will be able to house more animals. It will include a facility for dog/cat/pocket pet adoptions, a veterinary clinic (for shelter animals and the public), reception and office space, a dog grooming facility plus an opportunity shop.

Visit aaps.org.au for more information about the shelter, including how to support the charity, how they can support you or your animals, and to see updates on the building project.



18–30 November

UNWRAPPED

Celebration of LGBTIQA+ Arts and Culture

A diverse, engaging offering of
exhibitions, workshops, and events
hosted by the City of Greater Dandenong

greaterdandenong.com/unwrapped

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

DECEMBER 2020 / JANUARY 2021

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the latest issue of Greater Dandenong Council News covering December and January.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

During 2020 we have faced some challenging times. The global COVID-19 pandemic has placed pressure on all of us, financially and emotionally.

The people of Greater Dandenong are resilient, and I have been proud to see how our residents and businesses have pulled together to support one another in these uncertain times. Unfortunately some people have used this pandemic to blame certain sections of our community and specific cultural groups for positive cases in our city.

The City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse city in Australia. Our residents come from 157 different birthplaces and speak more than 200 different languages. This diversity is our strength and is what makes Greater Dandenong such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

Council has always supported all of our residents and we continue to do so. The fight against the Coronavirus is one we have tackled as a whole community and we applaud the efforts of every person who stayed home during the tough restrictions, and who continues to wear a mask, practice good hygiene and observe social distancing guidelines. Together we have been able to slow the spread of the virus.

Council has worked to keep every member of the community informed. This has proved challenging at times, but we continue to work with community leaders and those who can help spread our message in every language. Now more than ever, it is vital to ensure all members of our community feel supported and engaged as we continue to affirm that everyone is welcome and everyone belongs.

Only recently our new Council was sworn in. Read about my plans for my term as Mayor on the opposite page, then turn to pages 4 and 5 and read about the councillors who will serve you for the next four years.

Read about Greater Dandenong's Christmas spirit on page 8, then turn to page 9 to hear about plans to celebrate Australia Day in 2021.

As we farewell 2020, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe journey into the new year.



Front Cover: Christmas decorations in Noble Park, taken in 2019. Picture: *Hilton Stone*.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Introducing our new Mayor

Cleeland Ward Councillor Angela Long has been elected Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong for the third time. Cr Long brings a wealth of experience to the role having served as a councillor between 1997–2005, and from 2008 to now. Cr Long was previously elected Mayor in 2000 and 2012.

Having lived in Greater Dandenong almost all her life, Cr Long has worked with the Dandenong and District Aborigines Corporative for a number of years, is a life member of the North Dandenong Cricket Club, patron and public officer of the Bunjil Aboriginal Dance Group, president and life member of the Dandenong Day Nursery, Honorary member of the Noble Park RSL, member of the North Dandenong Senior Citizen's Club and Life Governor of the Freemasons Homes and Hospital.

Cr Long is passionate about supporting the community, particularly youth.

"The opportunity to represent the residents of one of Australia's most vibrant municipalities is one I take very seriously, and I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for having the confidence in me to lead this great city over the next twelve months," Cr Long said.

Cr Long said she is committed to developing this city's future and representing the needs of all residents as we recover from the events of 2020.

"The events of this year have hit Greater Dandenong residents particularly hard. The pandemic has affected our most vulnerable residents significantly. I am proud of the significant investment Council has made towards the recovery of this great city, and I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors to ensure our residents and businesses can bounce back."

"Whilst I am very much looking forward to the year ahead, I also want to take time to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Cr Jim Memeti who has served the city incredibly well as Mayor during the previous 12 months," Cr Long said.

"Jim played an exceptional role in leading Council and the community through a very turbulent year, which included a number of critical support services and financial aid for our residents."

Despite the challenges of 2020, Cr Long said this year's achievements have set up the City of Greater Dandenong for success in the year ahead.

"This year's opening of the Springvale Community Hub, upgrades to sports grounds across the municipality, strengthening of business support as they reopen after lockdown – there's a lot to celebrate and a lot to look forward to."

"This year has been a year of new beginnings in many ways. Not only can we see five fresh new faces on Council, we have elected our first Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan."

Cr Angela Long will be supported by Cr Sophie Tan, who has been elected as Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Deputy Mayor must specifically perform the role and exercise any of the powers of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council Meeting, is incapable of performing the duties of office of Mayor for any reason or if the office of Mayor becomes vacant throughout the mayoral term.



Councillor Contacts



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Dandenong Ward
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Keysborough Ward
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Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
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Springvale North Ward
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Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
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Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
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MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

MONDAY 25 JANUARY

DECEMBER JANUARY

Council Meetings

Just one Council meeting will be held in each month for December and January.

All Council meetings are held at the Dandenong Civic Centre from 7pm. Check our website updates as to when these will reopen to the public.

The last meeting of 2020 will be held:
Monday 14 December

The first meeting of 2021 will be held:
Monday 25 January

The general public is always welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

The view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Meet your Council

Results of the Greater Dandenong City Council election have been declared with the following Councillors elected to represent the community across 11 single-councillor wards.

This year's election was conducted in exceptional circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, the election achieved its highest ever average turnout for local council elections in Victoria at 81.4 per cent.

Councillors represent all members of the community. A great place to live, work and invest, the City of Greater Dandenong is a place where people from all cultures and nations are welcomed, involved and well cared for and achievements are recognised and celebrated.

Cleeland Ward – Mayor

Cr Angela Long



I have lived in Greater Dandenong almost all of my life. I am committed to developing this city's future and representing the needs of all residents. I want to increase positive perceptions of safety within the community, and I am particularly interested in continuing my work with the Dandenong and District Aborigines Cooperative and ensuring we continue to support all sectors of our community, particularly our youth. I have served as a Councillor from 1997–2005 and 2008–present. I am very passionate about working with the Greater Dandenong community including, but not limited to, the industrial and commercial sector.

Dandenong North Ward

Cr Bob Milkovic



I have been a local resident for the past 22 years, ever since I have migrated to Australia. Working in our local area has given me a good understanding of the issues we are facing and the determination to solve them. Being a part of this community for so long has put me in a unique position to experience firsthand what our wonderful city needs to be reignited and revived. My priority would be to assist in creating a place we can all once again be proud to call home and with your support, we can do it.

Meet your Council

Dandenong Ward

Cr Jim Memeti



I'm a proud Dandenong resident of more than 40 years. I was first elected to Council in 2005 driven by my desire to change perceptions of Dandenong. During my time on Council I have been privileged to be involved in a number of key milestones for this city. I am most proud of the Dandenong Civic Centre (completed in 2014) and the Springvale Community Hub (completed in 2020). I remain committed to achieving the best possible results for everyone who lives and works in this city. I have served as a councillor from 2005–present.

Keysborough South Ward

Cr Rhonda Garad



My vision for Keysborough South Ward is for a community well supported to face the challenges of COVID and thrive in the post pandemic recovery. I will work for a safer, stronger, fairer community, providing high quality facilities and services. I am a health professional, former small business owner and I have a strong track record as a voice for community groups, or listening and then developing plans that respond to community needs.

Keysborough Ward

Cr Tim Dark



I grew up in Keysborough and having spent most of my life here the needs of our residents and ratepayers are my top priority. I actively support local sporting clubs and work hard to secure improvements to sporting facilities and reserves. The rebuilding and recovery of our community following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions is a priority. I am committed to improving our physical environment and community safety. I have served as a councillor from 2016–present.

Noble Park North Ward

Cr Lana Formoso



I love our area, but I believe that we can do better. I think we need a fresh approach. My priority is to listen more to the community and improve services and facilities. I have lived in Greater Dandenong all my life and am now raising my family here. I am committed, available, energetic, and ready to listen and work hard for our area. I am a teacher and a volunteer for the State Emergency Service (SES) and many local sports and social clubs.

Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor

Cr Sophie Tan



It's been a great honour representing our local community, where I have lived for over 25 years. I was proud to be elected as the first female Cambodian Councillor in Victoria since 2019-present. I have been a strong and committed advocate for the local community, securing funding for Ross Reserve upgrade, re-development of Noble Park Aquatic Centre Gymnasium, plans for revitalising the Noble Park Activity Centre and reserves. I love our local community and am proud to represent you. I will keep working hard to make our neighbourhood an even better place.

Springvale Central Ward

Cr Richard Lim



My vision for Greater Dandenong is to attract new residents and visitors, support local jobs, and businesses and make this city a desirable place where everyone can enjoy our rich culture, strengthening our sense of community and local economy. I hope to achieve this by improving infrastructure and local education, preventing littering, increasing public safety, supporting community groups, raising awareness of all cultures and promoting senior health. I have a renowned passion for the community through decades of philanthropy work and running Lim's Pharmacy in Springvale since 1991.

Springvale North Ward

Cr Sean O'Reilly



As now one of the more experienced councillors, I look forward to working with my colleagues and setting goals for how our council can be the most well-run, efficient and responsive council in Victoria. Challenges will continue, but I believe council has an important role in connecting and uniting the community so that we move in the one direction. As always, you can contact me anytime.

Springvale South Ward

Cr Loi Truong



I resettled in Australia in 1983 after living in Hong Kong as a refugee of the Vietnam Conflict. One of my key goals is to assist the migrant community to integrate with the Australian way of life. I place high priority in developing a harmonious community and addressing the resettlement issues new Australians face. I work to raise the profile of issues facing less privileged members of the community. I strive to improve the quality and safety of public places and parks. A Councillor since 2008, I take great pride in giving something back to Australia to say thank you for the opportunity to live and raise my family here.

Yarraman Ward

Cr Eden Foster



Our neighbourhood is a great place to live but it's time for a fresh approach. I want to help get the basics right, including rubbish removal, cleaning graffiti, repairing roads, parks and footpaths, and taking a new approach to services for the youth and seniors. I grew up locally and still live and volunteer in Noble Park. As a secondary school psychologist, I understand how important it is to keep our youth engaged. I was raised on values of fairness, equality and compassion. Residents will always be able to rely on me to listen and act on their concerns.

Council services have been reopened in line with advice from the Chief Health Officer. To keep up to date with the latest please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

Customer Service Christmas Hours

Friday 25 December:
Christmas Day CLOSED

Saturday 26 December:
Boxing Day CLOSED

Monday 28 December:
Boxing Day public holiday CLOSED

Tuesday 29 December:
Normal hours resume

Friday 1 January:
New Year's Day CLOSED

Monday 4 January:
Normal hours resume

Library Christmas Hours

Friday 25 December:
Christmas Day CLOSED

Saturday 26 December:
Boxing Day CLOSED

Sunday 27 December:
CLOSED

Monday 28 December:
CLOSED

Tuesday 29 December:
Reduced hours

Wednesday 30 December:
Reduced hours

Thursday 31 December:
Reduced hours

Friday 1 January:
New Year's Day CLOSED

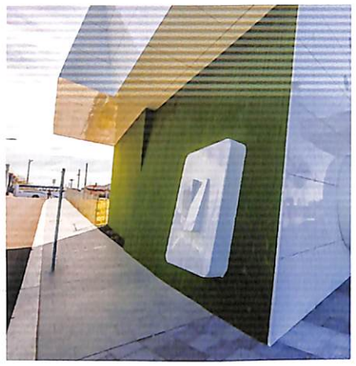
Saturday 2 January:
Reduced hours

Sunday 3 January:
Reduced hours

Monday 4 January:
Reduced hours

For specific opening hours visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 630 920.

Creative Industry Space



Greater Dandenong Council wants to hear from local residents interested in the introduction of a new art space in the heart of Dandenong.

Council is considering redeveloping a disused industrial building into a creative industry space for the development of artistic capability and would like to hear from people who would potentially use the space.

The building in question is the former Precinct Energy Plant at the corner of Halpin Way and Moysey Lane, Dandenong. It is next to the old Masonic Hall, which is being developed into the new Greater Dandenong Gallery of Art.

The building could include space for creative artforms such as digital and new media art, film, game design, live art, community theatre, music production and performance, as well as catering for more traditional art forms.

The current building has no natural light source so uses would be limited, however Council wants to explore how creators could use the space and how it could be used to add to our already vibrant arts community.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/creative-industry-space for more information and to have your say. The survey closes on Sunday 20 December.

Council's new website



If you have visited the Greater Dandenong website lately, you will have noticed we have had a major update.

Launched in November, the new website is a significant step in Greater Dandenong's digital transformation journey.

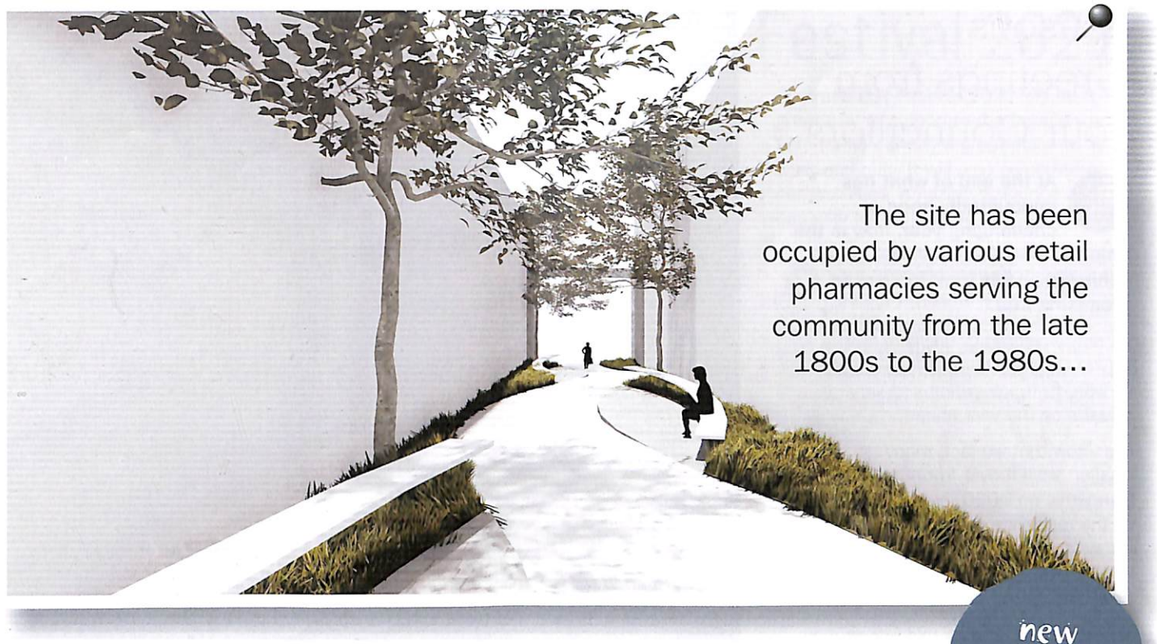
This project has seen us completely redesign and rebuild our corporate website, including brand new websites for the Drum Theatre and Youth Services.

Some highlights of the new corporate website include:

- a modern and easy to navigate design
- an improved search function
- a help bot
- dedicated pages for Council works and projects, parks and venues, and consultations
- Google translate across all website pages.

The website is accessible on all devices so residents can access Council information whenever and wherever they need to.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and explore. Council welcomes your feedback so please fill out our online feedback form.



Vanity Lane

Council is working to create a new pedestrian laneway between Lonsdale and Thomas streets in central Dandenong.

The Vanity Lane project will see the demolition of the fire-damaged building at 275 Lonsdale Street, and the new laneway will capture the historical significance of the site.

The site has been occupied by various retail pharmacies serving the community from the late 1800s to the 1980s and was associated with several notable families and individuals.

The Couve family ran the pharmacy from 1911–1919. During that time their two sons were enlisted and sent to Gallipoli where they were among the first Dandenong boys to be killed in action.

The longest serving pharmacist, Charles McKeon, owned the shop from 1952–1976. His son Simon did not follow into the family's business, but established his own path and in 2011 he was recognised as 'Australian of the Year' for his charitable and community endeavours.

These stories are among those to be celebrated by the Vanity Lane project. Another key aspect of the laneway design will include medicinal plants and greenery creating a garden effect.

During recent consultation on the project, respondents asked for a safe, clean and bright laneway that would help tell local stories and give the community pride in the local area.

Construction of the new lane will commence in 2021.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/vanity-lane-project-consultation to find out more.

Free parking in Dandenong

Until 31 December 2020, Council will waive all on-street parking fees in central Dandenong.

We hope this gesture encourages shoppers to support businesses in the retail precinct.

While the parking is free, time limits still apply and will be enforced. This offer does not include off-street car parks in central Dandenong or the Dandenong Market car parks.

Council encourages residents to support local businesses while shopping over the festive season, and hopes that by shopping local we can help Greater Dandenong businesses recover from the challenging events of 2020.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/parking for more information.



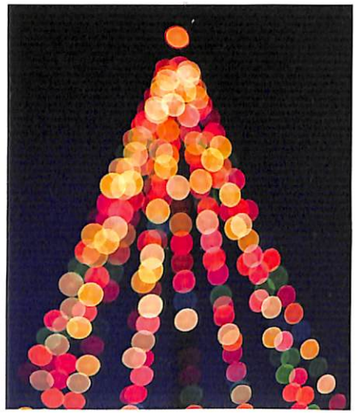
Seasons Greetings from your Councillors

At the end of what has undoubtedly been a challenging year, now is the time to reflect on what has been achieved and to look forward to a promising 2021.

As newly-elected Councillors for the City of Greater Dandenong we look forward to representing and serving you during the year ahead.

We know that we face many challenges left over from the COVID-19 pandemic on 2020, but we are proud of the resilience this community has shown and we look forward to working with you all to build a vibrant and connected community.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, peaceful and joyous festive season with your loved ones, and all the very best for the new year.





Council is bringing the festive spirit to Greater Dandenong with bright and oversized Christmas decorations dotting the city.

A colourful festive mural has been placed on the steps leading to Harmony Square, where a new 9m Christmas tree stands.

Dandenong Library's display window builds the festive atmosphere with the return of a life-sized Nativity scene.

Christmas trees have also been placed on Douglas Street, at Aubrey Moss Reserve, and in Springvale's Multicultural Place.

The Springvale Community Hub is a new location for decoration, with a giant Santa and reindeer taking pride of place in front of the new facility.

These large decorations are complemented with a range of smaller ones in all activity centres, including Christmas themed tree and pole surrounds and decorated public seating, metal Christmas trees in Springvale and "pole and dove" installations in Noble Park.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/christmas for more information about the festive season in Greater Dandenong.

Christmas Carols

For the first time since it began 73 years ago and despite the odds faced in 2020, the Greater Dandenong Carols went ahead as a virtual event this year.

The sing-along concert on Friday 11 December was hosted by Denis Walter and featured stars such as Rhonda Burchmore and The Winding Road Project.

Local talents were also showcased including the Greater Dandenong Band, With One Voice Choir, Dandenong Primary School and former X-Factor Australia finalist Mary Ann Van der Horst.

Although performances were socially distanced and viewers were physically apart, audiences were able to celebrate together with the community and even received a special live greeting from Santa in the comfort of their own homes. If you missed it, the concert is available to watch for a limited time.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/carols for some Christmas cheer.



Myths, fairy tales and legends at the library

Greater Dandenong Libraries is calling on all primary school aged children to join the Summer Reading Club and discover lots of reading fun and a chance to win some great prizes.

Dare to encounter the world of Myths, Fairy Tales and Legends these school holidays and enter the realm of your imagination where stories come to life.

Register online or phone the library on 1300 630 920 and complete reading logs to go into prize draws. There will be fun competitions across the summer and parents can even review their favourite books for a chance to win.

As an added bonus, the school with the most Summer Reading Club Registrations will win a visit from a guest author.

Greater Dandenong Libraries hope to host a grand finale and prize presentations on Saturday 23 January, however this depends on restrictions in place. Participants will be advised of any celebrations.

Registration is now open and you can keep reading until Tuesday 19 January. Visit greaterdandenonglibraries.com/src for more information and to register.

Australia Day Festival 2021

The City of Greater Dandenong is looking forward to celebrating the Australia Day Festival 2021. As the most culturally diverse community in Australia it is an important celebration of all our stories.

In 2021 celebrations will look a little different to other years but Council's Festival and Events team is planning new exciting ways to deliver this popular event to our residents which will also keep our community safe and healthy. The event will bring back last year's popular beach theme and will feature a variety of performances and creative and sporting activities. A key part of the program will be young people showcasing their talents via the FReeZA performance space.

Australia Day Festival 2021 will be a great way to celebrate the people who help make our city a great place to live, work and play. It will also celebrate our communities' amazing resilience and capacity for embracing change.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day to register your interest and to keep up to date with the latest information on the Australia Day Festival 2021.

Calling all Ninja Warriors

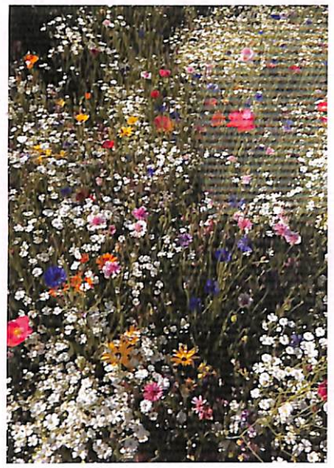
Burden Park in Springvale South has opened a new active play area, based on the Ninja Warrior concept.

The first of its kind in Victoria, the course is designed for children aged 12 years and above. With a QR code for community championships, it's sure to generate healthy competition and provide a fun way to stay fit.

This is one of the many exciting parks and playground projects across the City of Greater Dandenong.

For more information on our parks, playgrounds and improvement projects visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au





Wildflower meadow in Dandenong

A new wildflower meadow has been created in central Dandenong and the colourful addition is bringing nature into the cityscape.

The concept was first trialled last year by Council's Parks and Gardens Team in a lawn area in Settlers Square near the Dandenong Train Station.

The beautiful display became an unexpected experience for passers-by and was well-shared and liked on social media.

The latest meadow can be found in Pultney Street, Dandenong. It was planted in mid-October and began to bloom in mid-November, attracting birds and insects to the area.

The wildflower meadow needs less maintenance than traditional lawns and creates a welcoming place to visit while shopping in central Dandenong.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity can be defined as the variety of all living things, including the different plants, animals and micro organisms, and the habitats and ecosystems they form.

Having a biodiverse environment is important to help create a healthy community. The healthier and more diverse each ecosystem or environment is, the more it can withstand the impacts of change.

Pressures like climate change, land clearing and pollution cause threats, but healthy and diverse environments stand a better chance of adapting under pressure.

Recently Council redeployed staff from departments affected by COVID-19 restrictions into the Parks Team. These staff have supported the planting of 54,000 native seedlings across our city growing our biodiversity.

In an encouraging sign that works over recent years are having a positive impact, we have recorded the return of a near threatened species at wetlands in Tatterson Park. The Blue-billed Duck in the above photo was recently spotted by residents. This species has not been seen locally for some time.



The City of Greater Dandenong and surrounding areas have some of Melbourne's most amazing environments. Our landscape is defined by a beautiful network of creeks, sandhills and flood plains, supporting some incredible plants, animals and insects like Blue-banded Bees, the Grey Headed Flying Fox, Powerful Owls, Sun Orchids, Growling Grass Frogs and our iconic Red Gums.

After declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency at the start of 2020, Council is now looking to gain a better understanding of our biodiversity and how we can improve it for a better future for all.

We are working on a Biodiversity Action Plan and will soon ask for feedback on the draft Plan. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-action-plan-consultation to learn more.

More trees for Greater Dandenong

A series of above ground tree planter boxes have been installed in busy pedestrian locations throughout Dandenong and Noble Park.

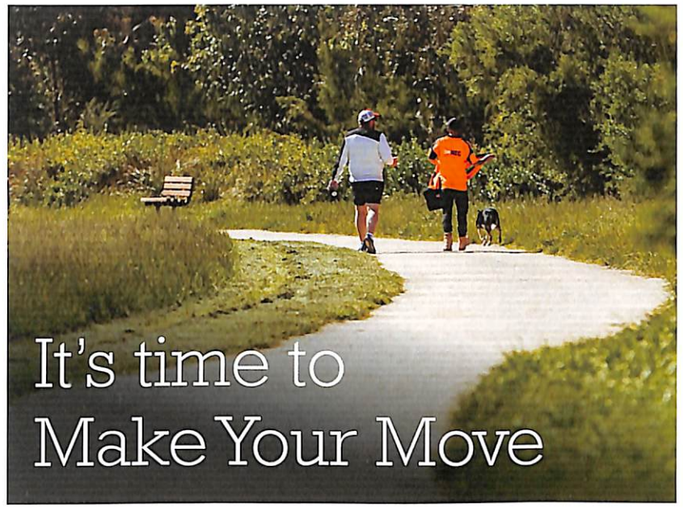
The trees aim to improve the amenity of busy locations and provide comfort for visitors in the form of shade.

The trees first appeared in Springvale's Multicultural Place and have added much-needed foliage and greenery to the outdoor square.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing across Victoria, the placement of these planter boxes is perfectly timed to welcome people back to the activity centres.



Council recognises that many people have placed a high value on connecting with nature during the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. This project helps balance the hard paved surfaces of urban environments with natural features and helps reduce the impact of climate change increasing temperatures in built up urban areas.



It's time to Make Your Move



Council's new Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030 is our plan to help transform the lives of people living in Greater Dandenong.

We are calling on residents to increase activity to help make a positive impact on all aspects of life, including physical and mental health.

Figures released by the state's peak health body VicHealth show that Greater Dandenong is falling behind the rest of Victoria in key health indicators.

Across Victoria 68 per cent of adults and 25 per cent of children are considered overweight or obese.

In Greater Dandenong the rate of people with type 2 diabetes is 36 per cent, compared to 9 per cent across all of Victoria.

Only 49 per cent of adults in our city achieve daily physical activity targets, compared to 73 per cent across the state.

The mental health indicators for Greater Dandenong residents also show significantly lower resilience levels than the Victorian average.

These facts represent more than numbers – they represent people's lives. Physical activity is shown to affect every part of a person's life, from health and happiness to future opportunities.

We want to show you there are many easy and affordable ways to get moving. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move to find out more.

Multi-sport courts

Parks and reserves across Greater Dandenong offer opportunities for all members of the community to get active.

Council is committed to providing environments to encourage physical activity and over the past few years has installed multi-sports courts at five reserves. The courts give visitors the chance to play a range of sports on marked courts.

Four full-sized courts can be found at Ross Reserve in Noble Park (pictured), Burden Park in Springvale South, Dandenong Park and the Urban Park in George Street, Dandenong.

Another half-sized court has been built at Tatterson Park in Keysborough.

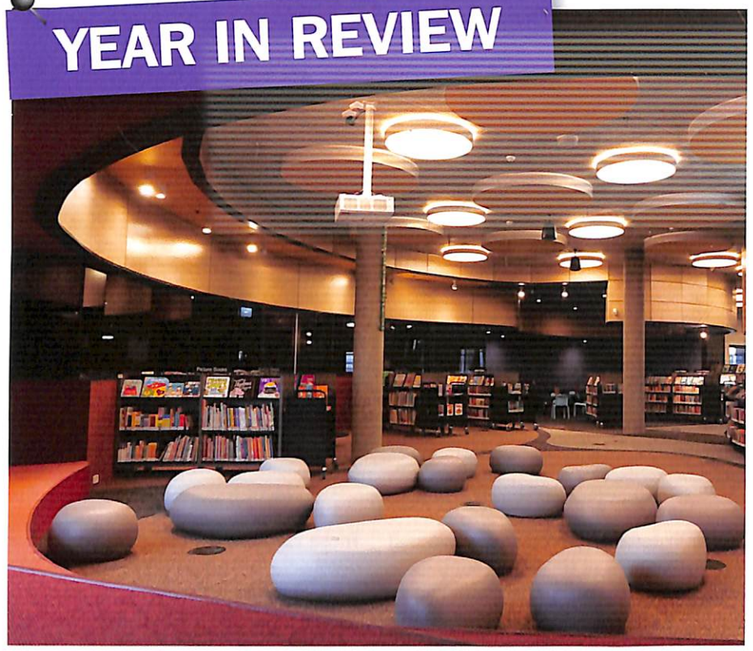
At all reserves the courts add another opportunity for visitors to be active and sit alongside walking tracks, sporting ovals or children's play equipment.

At Ross Reserve the hybrid soccer/basketball court is next to the world class Noble Park Skate Park, and is within a short walk of outdoor exercise equipment, the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and the Noble Park Athletics Track.



Providing the opportunity and environment for our community to be more active is a focus of the Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



On Tuesday 31 December, 2019, more than 12,000 people welcomed the New Year in at a community celebration in central Dandenong. As fireworks lit up the night sky families, friends and neighbours pledged to make 2020 a great year.

It's fair to say 2020 did not go to plan, but the Greater Dandenong community's resilience has shone through the tough times.

By March the COVID-19 pandemic hit, affecting residents and businesses across our city, nation and the world. Thrown into a new world of social distancing restrictions and lockdown – our community needed varying levels of support as we navigated an unprecedented health and economic crisis. Council invested in a relief package, which included rate relief for pensioners and people receiving the State Government's JobSeeker allowance.

A Material Aid program also launched, supporting thousands of locals with emergency food and material supports.

While tight restrictions were introduced across Victoria, Council worked to continue to provide services to the community, redeploying staff across Council operations and switching many programs to online delivery.

Art workshops, library storytimes and youth support services were delivered virtually, helping to keep our residents connected.

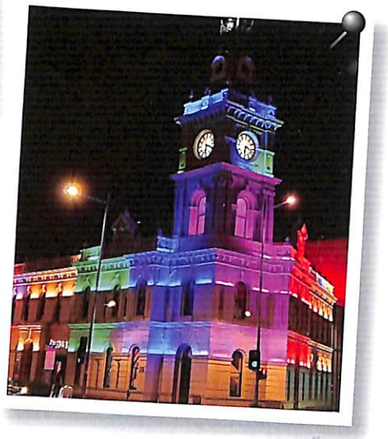
In May the Drum Theatre was lit up in rainbow colours as Council launched the LGBTIQA+ Inclusion statement to coincide with IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia).

In June we adopted the 2020–21 Budget, recognising that adaptability would be the key as we move out of the initial COVID-19 pandemic and into a new 'COVID Normal'.

In August plans for the Keysborough South Community Hub got the green light from Council. We also celebrated the completion of the Springvale Community Hub, but the building only recently opened to the public for limited services due to ongoing restrictions.

In September we joined with 12 other Council's in Melbourne's east and south east to call for urgent action for more social housing to end homelessness.





In October Greater Dandenong residents went to the polls to elect the new Council for the next four years. Councillors Youhorn Chea, Peter Brown and Matthew Kirwan retired from Council and following the counting of votes collected via postal ballot five new councillors were sworn in at a special meeting on 19 November. Councillors Zaynoun Melhem and Maria Sampey were not re-elected. The contributions of all five non-returning Councillors are appreciated by the Greater Dandenong community.

In a year that was marked with uncertainty, Greater Dandenong community members can be proud of the efforts they have made to support one another.

As we move into the New Year, we look forward to seeing our residents and businesses thrive in a changed world.

Food waste recycling



Kitchen scraps and food waste can soon be added to your green lid garden waste bin.

Starting from 5 April 2021, all Greater Dandenong residents with a garden waste bin will be able to reduce their waste to landfill by recycling food scraps alongside garden clippings, grass and leaves.

The green lid bin will become a food and garden waste bin, but there will be no additional cost for residents who already have the bin.

If you do not currently have a garden waste bin and would like one please contact Council's customer service team on 8571 1000. There will be a cost associated with adding this bin to your waste services.

Food and garden waste will be collected and taken to a local composting facility where it will be turned into high quality compost that is sold to Victorian farmers.

With the help of the Greater Dandenong community we can support the reduction of waste going to landfill and contribute to the creation of great quality compost to support our farmers.

Council would like to encourage residents who already compost organic food scraps to keep up this practice, however the new service can take all food scraps, which reduces the amount of waste put into your red lid bin.

The new service does not start until 5 April 2021 and information detailing the changes will be sent to every household before they take effect. In the meantime visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to find out more.

2021 Community Calendar

Greater Dandenong is a beautiful city and we have captured some of its most photogenic sights for the 2021 Community Calendar.

The calendar, which came free with this magazine, features the kerbside waste collection schedule alongside handy waste and recycling tips.



If you did not receive a copy of the calendar or if you would like extra copies you can pick one up from Council's customer service centres or phone 8571 1000.

Tell us your Budget priorities for 2021–22

What do you think are the most important priorities for Greater Dandenong? What would you like to see Council spend next year's budget on?

Council would like to hear what is important to you and what you would like to see included in the 2021–22 Budget. A consultation process was undertaken in October however we would like to give more residents and stakeholders the opportunity to participate now the new Council has been elected.

Greater Dandenong Council spends approximately $160m each year and is responsible for delivering a range of services to its local community. These services include:

- Children and families – childcare, maternal and child health, immunisation
- Health and wellbeing – disability services, home and community care, food safety
- Your home – rubbish and recycling, planning and building permits, pet registrations
- Sport and leisure – sportsgrounds, leisure centres, parks and gardens, festivals and events
- Roads and safety – roads and footpaths, car parks, street lighting
- Community - libraries, theatre and the arts, community centres

The consultation will run until 15 January 2021.

To submit your ideas please:

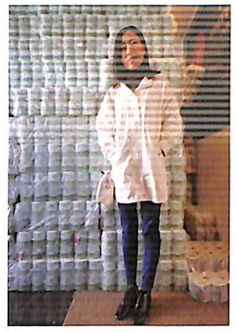
Click: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/budget-consultation-2021-22

Phone: 8571 1000

Visit: Dandenong or Springvale customer service centres or libraries

Local businesses giving back







heartfelt thanks

Council would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the many businesses who have donated food and essential goods to vulnerable residents via Council's Material Aid Program. The program will extend into 2021 to help residents still feeling the strain from financial stress caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Here we share stories from three local businesses. **If you own a business and would like to contribute email materialaidenquiries@cgd.vic.gov.au**

Granny's Food

Granny's Food is based in Dandenong South and specialises in producing Eastern European dumplings. The business has supported the community by donating more than 130kg of frozen dumplings for distribution in food parcels.

The COVID-19 lockdowns reduced product demand at local grocers and delis, and slowed their plans for growth. CEO Tatiana Kuzovova said the family-run business was not eligible for State Government income support and could not get a bank loan for three months.

Despite their challenges Tatiana jumped at the chance to support the Material Aid Program. She said she could personally relate to the hardships experienced by many in our community. When she first came to Australia from Russia, Tatiana said she had no family or social support, with her husband initially denied a visa.

"I was alone with a new baby and not eligible for government support," she said.

Donating to the program has provided Tatiana the chance to give back to her local community.

Visit grannysfood.com.au for more information about the business.

Yingda

Yingda is a Springvale-based electronics retailer who has co-ordinated donations from 26 businesses from across Melbourne. They have so far collected more than 13,000 face masks, 4,000 rolls of toilet paper and over 500 bottles of hand sanitiser.

Yingda's Director, Lulu Yin, first appealed for donations via an online WeChat network of migrant business owners across Melbourne in May 2020.

Shane Shen is one of the staff who coordinated the donations and said they reached out to 100 businesses, with 26 offering to help Greater Dandenong.

"We have been collecting donations like toilet paper…we fundraised for the second and third batch (of goods) and we're still arranging the fourth batch, so there'll be more to donate," Mr Shen said.

Yingda has delivered invaluable material relief to our community's most vulnerable, but it has also helped to connect business owners and build strong networks for businesses who have had to meet new challenges during the pandemic.

Visit yingda.com.au to find out more about the company.

Alexander Produce

Dandenong Market traders Alexander Produce answered a call from market management to support Council's Material Aid Program. Deciding they had the equipment and the transport the family-run business knew they could make a difference. Since March 2020 they have supplied more than $150,000 worth of produce, including donating more than 400kg of high-quality fresh food from their own market stall.

Like many businesses Alexander Produce has been hit hard financially by the pandemic, particularly by the introduction of travel restrictions. CEO Alex Alexopoulos said with most customers living outside the 5km radius the business estimates it was running at 35 per cent of its usual activity during the harsher stages of lockdown.

"We finally received JobKeeper… but it's still not enough to cover the cost of business. We have customers, restaurants and suppliers, you know, and they're in trouble too," Alex said.

"(Our contribution is) for the community that has supported us throughout all these years, so now it's our turn to try and help them as well, for everyone to get through these trying times."

Visit alexandersfruit.com.au for information about the business.

FOOD FROM HOME



For many of us food carries a strong association with our culture and family. Growing, making and sharing food is an easy way for us to connect with others.

Greater Dandenong City Council is encouraging residents to get involved in a new campaign designed to foster connection. Led by health-based charity Enliven Victoria, Food from Home aims to encourage more people to grow their own food at home.

Launched last month, Food from Home hopes to remove some of the barriers to growing food at home and will provide simple resources and create opportunities for gardeners to connect.

To receive a free seed pack, simply borrow any book, magazine or DVD/Blu-Ray on gardening, sustainability or climate change from Greater Dandenong Libraries. Speak to library staff for more information.

Visit foodfromhome.org to learn more and register for free seeds.

Follow this project on social media at:

@foodfromh0me

@foodfromh0me

Don't lose sight of your vision

While 2020 has been a challenging year dominated by a global health emergency, it's still important for residents of Greater Dandenong to remember to look after their everyday health – especially their vision.

The Vision Initiative is reminding all Victorians to not lose sight of their vision and get regular eye tests, because 90 per cent of vision loss is avoidable or treatable if it is identified early. Don't wait for symptoms, book an eye test today.

Springvale optometrist Dr Loan Quach advises residents against ignoring changes in vision.

"Optometry practices are open and taking COVID safe precautions. You do not need a referral, if you are due for an eye check or have noticed a change to your vision, call your optometrist today to make an appointment," Dr Quach said.

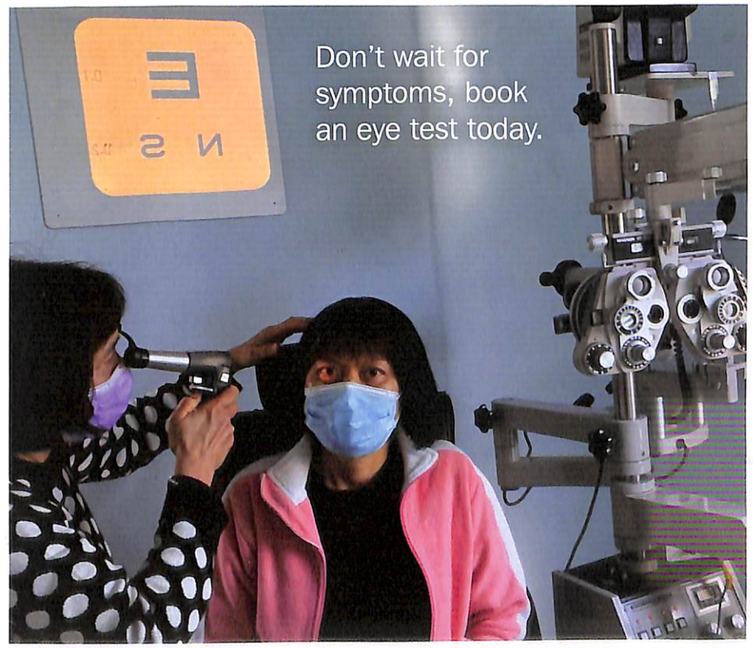
Eye tests can be arranged directly through an optometrist and are often covered by Medicare. Alternatively speak to your GP to arrange a referral to an opthamologist.

Key tips for looking after eye health:

- Make sure you have regular eye checks, especially if you are over 40
- Protect your eyes from the sun by wearing a hat and sunglasses when outside
- Wear safety goggles eye protection when playing sports like squash, or performing activities like hammering, welding, mowing the lawn or gardening
- Do not smoke
- Maintain a healthy diet with regular exercise
- Manage your health including diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol.

Managed by Vision 2020 Australia, the Vision Initiative is a Victorian Government funded integrated eye health promotion program which aims to prevent avoidable blindness and address the impact of vision loss in the Victorian community.

Visit www.visioninitiative.org.au for more information.





Council has launched it's Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2030

Our aim is to support you to be more physically active because we know your health improves when you move, including your heart and joint health. Getting active also lowers your risk of diseases like type 2 diabetes.

To find out more and learn how you can Make Your Move visit:
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the latest issue of Greater Dandenong Council News covering December and January.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

During 2020 we have faced some challenging times. The global COVID-19 pandemic has placed pressure on all of us, financially and emotionally.

The people of Greater Dandenong are resilient, and I have been proud to see how our residents and businesses have pulled together to support one another in these uncertain times. Unfortunately some people have used this pandemic to blame certain sections of our community and specific cultural groups for positive cases in our city.

The City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse city in Australia. Our residents come from 157 different birthplaces and speak more than 200 different languages. This diversity is our strength and is what makes Greater Dandenong such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

Council has always supported all of our residents and we continue to do so. The fight against the Coronavirus is one we have tackled as a whole community and we applaud the efforts of every person who stayed home during the tough restrictions, and who continues to wear a mask, practice good hygiene and observe social distancing guidelines. Together we have been able to slow the spread of the virus.

Council has worked to keep every member of the community informed. This has proved challenging at times, but we continue to work with community leaders and those who can help spread our message in every language. Now more than ever, it is vital to ensure all members of our community feel supported and engaged as we continue to affirm that everyone is welcome and everyone belongs.

Only recently our new Council was sworn in. Read about my plans for my term as Mayor on the opposite page, then turn to pages 4 and 5 and read about the councillors who will serve you for the next four years.

Read about Greater Dandenong's Christmas spirit on page 8, then turn to page 9 to hear about plans to celebrate Australia Day in 2021.

As we farewell 2020, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe journey into the new year.



Front Cover: Christmas decorations in Noble Park, taken in 2019. Picture: *Hilton Stone*.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Introducing our new Mayor

Cleeland Ward Councillor Angela Long has been elected Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong for the third time. Cr Long brings a wealth of experience to the role having served as a councillor between 1997–2005, and from 2008 to now. Cr Long was previously elected Mayor in 2000 and 2012.

Having lived in Greater Dandenong almost all her life, Cr Long has worked with the Dandenong and District Aborigines Corporative for a number of years, is a life member of the North Dandenong Cricket Club, patron and public officer of the Bunjil Aboriginal Dance Group, president and life member of the Dandenong Day Nursery, Honorary member of the Noble Park RSL, member of the North Dandenong Senior Citizen's Club and Life Governor of the Freemasons Homes and Hospital.

Cr Long is passionate about supporting the community, particularly youth.

"The opportunity to represent the residents of one of Australia's most vibrant municipalities is one I take very seriously, and I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for having the confidence in me to lead this great city over the next twelve months," Cr Long said.

Cr Long said she is committed to developing this city's future and representing the needs of all residents as we recover from the events of 2020.

"The events of this year have hit Greater Dandenong residents particularly hard. The pandemic has affected our most vulnerable residents significantly. I am proud of the significant investment Council has made towards the recovery of this great city, and I look forward to working with my fellow Councillors to ensure our residents and businesses can bounce back."

"Whilst I am very much looking forward to the year ahead, I also want to take time to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, Cr Jim Memeti who has served the city incredibly well as Mayor during the previous 12 months," Cr Long said.

"Jim played an exceptional role in leading Council and the community through a very turbulent year, which included a number of critical support services and financial aid for our residents."

Despite the challenges of 2020, Cr Long said this year's achievements have set up the City of Greater Dandenong for success in the year ahead.

"This year's opening of the Springvale Community Hub, upgrades to sports grounds across the municipality, strengthening of business support as they reopen after lockdown – there's a lot to celebrate and a lot to look forward to."

"This year has been a year of new beginnings in many ways. Not only can we see five fresh new faces on Council, we have elected our first Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan."

Cr Angela Long will be supported by Cr Sophie Tan, who has been elected as Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, a Deputy Mayor must specifically perform the role and exercise any of the powers of the Mayor if the Mayor is unable for any reason to attend a Council Meeting, is incapable of performing the duties of office of Mayor for any reason or if the office of Mayor becomes vacant throughout the mayoral term.



Councillor Contacts



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0466 004 616



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bob.milkovik@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong Ward
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Keysborough South Ward
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Keysborough Ward
Cr Tim Dark
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tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park North Ward
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lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
Cr Sophie Tan
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sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
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richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
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sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
0435 202 645
eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER

MONDAY 25 JANUARY

DECEMBER JANUARY

Council Meetings

Just one Council meeting will be held in each month for December and January.

All Council meetings are held at the Dandenong Civic Centre from 7pm. Check our website updates as to when these will reopen to the public.

The last meeting of 2020 will be held:
Monday 14 December

The first meeting of 2021 will be held:
Monday 25 January

The general public is always welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

The view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Meet your Council

Results of the Greater Dandenong City Council election have been declared with the following Councillors elected to represent the community across 11 single-councillor wards.

This year's election was conducted in exceptional circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, the election achieved its highest ever average turnout for local council elections in Victoria at 81.4 per cent.

Councillors represent all members of the community. A great place to live, work and invest, the City of Greater Dandenong is a place where people from all cultures and nations are welcomed, involved and well cared for and achievements are recognised and celebrated.

Cleeland Ward – Mayor

Cr Angela Long



I have lived in Greater Dandenong almost all of my life. I am committed to developing this city's future and representing the needs of all residents. I want to increase positive perceptions of safety within the community, and I am particularly interested in continuing my work with the Dandenong and District Aborigines Cooperative and ensuring we continue to support all sectors of our community, particularly our youth. I have served as a Councillor from 1997–2005 and 2008–present. I am very passionate about working with the Greater Dandenong community including, but not limited to, the industrial and commercial sector.

Dandenong North Ward

Cr Bob Milkovic



I have been a local resident for the past 22 years, ever since I have migrated to Australia. Working in our local area has given me a good understanding of the issues we are facing and the determination to solve them. Being a part of this community for so long has put me in a unique position to experience firsthand what our wonderful city needs to be reignited and revived. My priority would be to assist in creating a place we can all once again be proud to call home and with your support, we can do it.

Meet your Council

Dandenong Ward

Cr Jim Memeti



I'm a proud Dandenong resident of more than 40 years. I was first elected to Council in 2005 driven by my desire to change perceptions of Dandenong. During my time on Council I have been privileged to be involved in a number of key milestones for this city. I am most proud of the Dandenong Civic Centre (completed in 2014) and the Springvale Community Hub (completed in 2020). I remain committed to achieving the best possible results for everyone who lives and works in this city. I have served as a councillor from 2005–present.

Keysborough South Ward

Cr Rhonda Garad



My vision for Keysborough South Ward is for a community well supported to face the challenges of COVID and thrive in the post pandemic recovery. I will work for a safer, stronger, fairer community, providing high quality facilities and services. I am a health professional, former small business owner and I have a strong track record as a voice for community groups, or listening and then developing plans that respond to community needs.

Keysborough Ward

Cr Tim Dark



I grew up in Keysborough and having spent most of my life here the needs of our residents and ratepayers are my top priority. I actively support local sporting clubs and work hard to secure improvements to sporting facilities and reserves. The rebuilding and recovery of our community following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions is a priority. I am committed to improving our physical environment and community safety. I have served as a councillor from 2016–present.

Noble Park North Ward

Cr Lana Formoso



I love our area, but I believe that we can do better. I think we need a fresh approach. My priority is to listen more to the community and improve services and facilities. I have lived in Greater Dandenong all my life and am now raising my family here. I am committed, available, energetic, and ready to listen and work hard for our area. I am a teacher and a volunteer for the State Emergency Service (SES) and many local sports and social clubs.

Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor

Cr Sophie Tan



It's been a great honour representing our local community, where I have lived for over 25 years. I was proud to be elected as the first female Cambodian Councillor in Victoria since 2019-present. I have been a strong and committed advocate for the local community, securing funding for Ross Reserve upgrade, re-development of Noble Park Aquatic Centre Gymnasium, plans for revitalising the Noble Park Activity Centre and reserves. I love our local community and am proud to represent you. I will keep working hard to make our neighbourhood an even better place.

Springvale Central Ward

Cr Richard Lim



My vision for Greater Dandenong is to attract new residents and visitors, support local jobs, and businesses and make this city a desirable place where everyone can enjoy our rich culture, strengthening our sense of community and local economy. I hope to achieve this by improving infrastructure and local education, preventing littering, increasing public safety, supporting community groups, raising awareness of all cultures and promoting senior health. I have a renowned passion for the community through decades of philanthropy work and running Lim's Pharmacy in Springvale since 1991.

Springvale North Ward

Cr Sean O'Reilly



As now one of the more experienced councillors, I look forward to working with my colleagues and setting goals for how our council can be the most well-run, efficient and responsive council in Victoria. Challenges will continue, but I believe council has an important role in connecting and uniting the community so that we move in the one direction. As always, you can contact me anytime.

Springvale South Ward

Cr Loi Truong



I resettled in Australia in 1983 after living in Hong Kong as a refugee of the Vietnam Conflict. One of my key goals is to assist the migrant community to integrate with the Australian way of life. I place high priority in developing a harmonious community and addressing the resettlement issues new Australians face. I work to raise the profile of issues facing less privileged members of the community. I strive to improve the quality and safety of public places and parks. A Councillor since 2008, I take great pride in giving something back to Australia to say thank you for the opportunity to live and raise my family here.

Yarraman Ward

Cr Eden Foster



Our neighbourhood is a great place to live but it's time for a fresh approach. I want to help get the basics right, including rubbish removal, cleaning graffiti, repairing roads, parks and footpaths, and taking a new approach to services for the youth and seniors. I grew up locally and still live and volunteer in Noble Park. As a secondary school psychologist, I understand how important it is to keep our youth engaged. I was raised on values of fairness, equality and compassion. Residents will always be able to rely on me to listen and act on their concerns.

Council services have been reopened in line with advice from the Chief Health Officer. To keep up to date with the latest please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

Customer Service Christmas Hours

Friday 25 December:
Christmas Day CLOSED

Saturday 26 December:
Boxing Day CLOSED

Monday 28 December:
Boxing Day public holiday CLOSED

Tuesday 29 December:
Normal hours resume

Friday 1 January:
New Year's Day CLOSED

Monday 4 January:
Normal hours resume

Library Christmas Hours

Friday 25 December:
Christmas Day CLOSED

Saturday 26 December:
Boxing Day CLOSED

Sunday 27 December:
CLOSED

Monday 28 December:
CLOSED

Tuesday 29 December:
Reduced hours

Wednesday 30 December:
Reduced hours

Thursday 31 December:
Reduced hours

Friday 1 January:
New Year's Day CLOSED

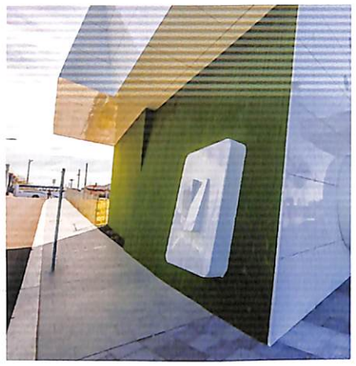
Saturday 2 January:
Reduced hours

Sunday 3 January:
Reduced hours

Monday 4 January:
Reduced hours

For specific opening hours visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 630 920.

Creative Industry Space



Greater Dandenong Council wants to hear from local residents interested in the introduction of a new art space in the heart of Dandenong.

Council is considering redeveloping a disused industrial building into a creative industry space for the development of artistic capability and would like to hear from people who would potentially use the space.

The building in question is the former Precinct Energy Plant at the corner of Halpin Way and Moysey Lane, Dandenong. It is next to the old Masonic Hall, which is being developed into the new Greater Dandenong Gallery of Art.

The building could include space for creative artforms such as digital and new media art, film, game design, live art, community theatre, music production and performance, as well as catering for more traditional art forms.

The current building has no natural light source so uses would be limited, however Council wants to explore how creators could use the space and how it could be used to add to our already vibrant arts community.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/creative-industry-space for more information and to have your say. The survey closes on Sunday 20 December.

Council's new website



If you have visited the Greater Dandenong website lately, you will have noticed we have had a major update.

Launched in November, the new website is a significant step in Greater Dandenong's digital transformation journey.

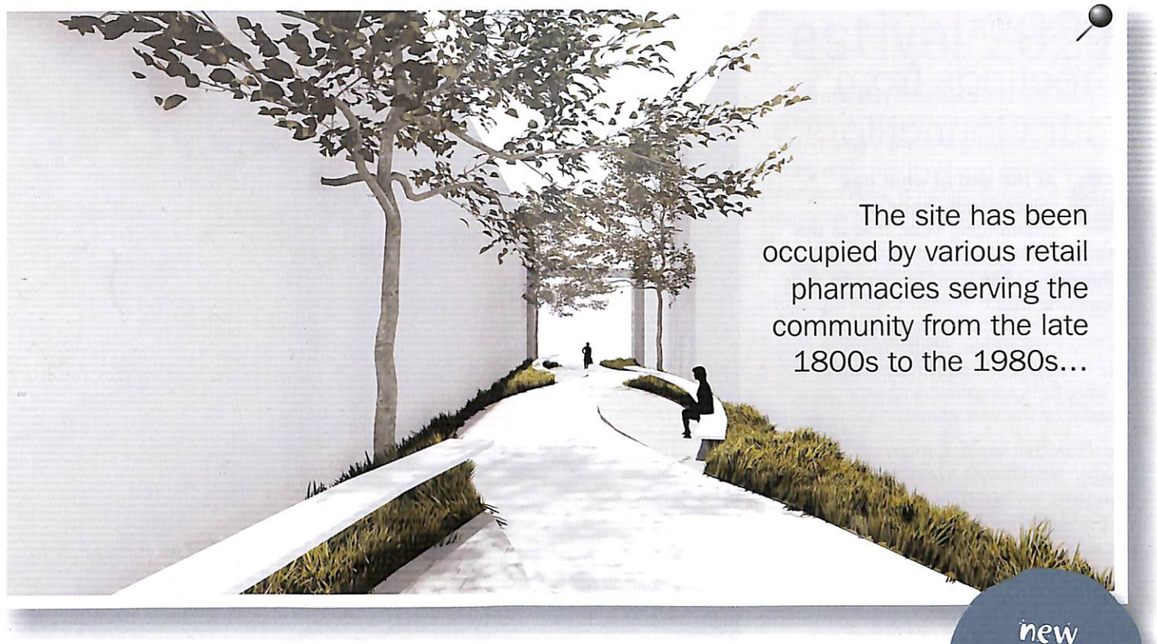
This project has seen us completely redesign and rebuild our corporate website, including brand new websites for the Drum Theatre and Youth Services.

Some highlights of the new corporate website include:

- a modern and easy to navigate design
- an improved search function
- a help bot
- dedicated pages for Council works and projects, parks and venues, and consultations
- Google translate across all website pages.

The website is accessible on all devices so residents can access Council information whenever and wherever they need to.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and explore. Council welcomes your feedback so please fill out our online feedback form.



Vanity Lane

Council is working to create a new pedestrian laneway between Lonsdale and Thomas streets in central Dandenong.

The Vanity Lane project will see the demolition of the fire-damaged building at 275 Lonsdale Street, and the new laneway will capture the historical significance of the site.

The site has been occupied by various retail pharmacies serving the community from the late 1800s to the 1980s and was associated with several notable families and individuals.

The Couve family ran the pharmacy from 1911–1919. During that time their two sons were enlisted and sent to Gallipoli where they were among the first Dandenong boys to be killed in action.

The longest serving pharmacist, Charles McKeon, owned the shop from 1952–1976. His son Simon did not follow into the family's business, but established his own path and in 2011 he was recognised as 'Australian of the Year' for his charitable and community endeavours.

These stories are among those to be celebrated by the Vanity Lane project. Another key aspect of the laneway design will include medicinal plants and greenery creating a garden effect.

During recent consultation on the project, respondents asked for a safe, clean and bright laneway that would help tell local stories and give the community pride in the local area.

Construction of the new lane will commence in 2021.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/vanity-lane-project-consultation to find out more.

Free parking in Dandenong

Until 31 December 2020, Council will waive all on-street parking fees in central Dandenong.

We hope this gesture encourages shoppers to support businesses in the retail precinct.

While the parking is free, time limits still apply and will be enforced. This offer does not include off-street car parks in central Dandenong or the Dandenong Market car parks.

Council encourages residents to support local businesses while shopping over the festive season, and hopes that by shopping local we can help Greater Dandenong businesses recover from the challenging events of 2020.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/parking for more information.



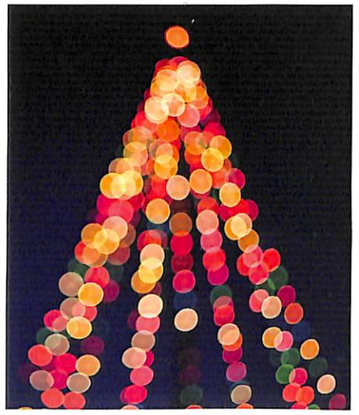
Seasons Greetings from your Councillors

At the end of what has undoubtedly been a challenging year, now is the time to reflect on what has been achieved and to look forward to a promising 2021.

As newly-elected Councillors for the City of Greater Dandenong we look forward to representing and serving you during the year ahead.

We know that we face many challenges left over from the COVID-19 pandemic on 2020, but we are proud of the resilience this community has shown and we look forward to working with you all to build a vibrant and connected community.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, peaceful and joyous festive season with your loved ones, and all the very best for the new year.





Council is bringing the festive spirit to Greater Dandenong with bright and oversized Christmas decorations dotting the city.

A colourful festive mural has been placed on the steps leading to Harmony Square, where a new 9m Christmas tree stands.

Dandenong Library's display window builds the festive atmosphere with the return of a life-sized Nativity scene.

Christmas trees have also been placed on Douglas Street, at Aubrey Moss Reserve, and in Springvale's Multicultural Place.

The Springvale Community Hub is a new location for decoration, with a giant Santa and reindeer taking pride of place in front of the new facility.

These large decorations are complemented with a range of smaller ones in all activity centres, including Christmas themed tree and pole surrounds and decorated public seating, metal Christmas trees in Springvale and "pole and dove" installations in Noble Park.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/christmas for more information about the festive season in Greater Dandenong.

Christmas Carols

For the first time since it began 73 years ago and despite the odds faced in 2020, the Greater Dandenong Carols went ahead as a virtual event this year.

The sing-along concert on Friday 11 December was hosted by Denis Walter and featured stars such as Rhonda Burchmore and The Winding Road Project.

Local talents were also showcased including the Greater Dandenong Band, With One Voice Choir, Dandenong Primary School and former X-Factor Australia finalist Mary Ann Van der Horst.

Although performances were socially distanced and viewers were physically apart, audiences were able to celebrate together with the community and even received a special live greeting from Santa in the comfort of their own homes. If you missed it, the concert is available to watch for a limited time.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/carols for some Christmas cheer.



Myths, fairy tales and legends at the library

Greater Dandenong Libraries is calling on all primary school aged children to join the Summer Reading Club and discover lots of reading fun and a chance to win some great prizes.

Dare to encounter the world of Myths, Fairy Tales and Legends these school holidays and enter the realm of your imagination where stories come to life.

Register online or phone the library on 1300 630 920 and complete reading logs to go into prize draws. There will be fun competitions across the summer and parents can even review their favourite books for a chance to win.

As an added bonus, the school with the most Summer Reading Club Registrations will win a visit from a guest author.

Greater Dandenong Libraries hope to host a grand finale and prize presentations on Saturday 23 January, however this depends on restrictions in place. Participants will be advised of any celebrations.

Registration is now open and you can keep reading until Tuesday 19 January. Visit greaterdandenonglibraries.com/src for more information and to register.

Australia Day Festival 2021

The City of Greater Dandenong is looking forward to celebrating the Australia Day Festival 2021. As the most culturally diverse community in Australia it is an important celebration of all our stories.

In 2021 celebrations will look a little different to other years but Council's Festival and Events team is planning new exciting ways to deliver this popular event to our residents which will also keep our community safe and healthy. The event will bring back last year's popular beach theme and will feature a variety of performances and creative and sporting activities. A key part of the program will be young people showcasing their talents via the FReeZA performance space.

Australia Day Festival 2021 will be a great way to celebrate the people who help make our city a great place to live, work and play. It will also celebrate our communities' amazing resilience and capacity for embracing change.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day to register your interest and to keep up to date with the latest information on the Australia Day Festival 2021.

Calling all Ninja Warriors

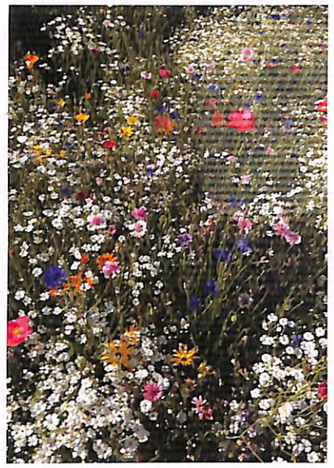
Burden Park in Springvale South has opened a new active play area, based on the Ninja Warrior concept.

The first of its kind in Victoria, the course is designed for children aged 12 years and above. With a QR code for community championships, it's sure to generate healthy competition and provide a fun way to stay fit.

This is one of the many exciting parks and playground projects across the City of Greater Dandenong.

For more information on our parks, playgrounds and improvement projects visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au





Wildflower meadow in Dandenong

A new wildflower meadow has been created in central Dandenong and the colourful addition is bringing nature into the cityscape.

The concept was first trialled last year by Council's Parks and Gardens Team in a lawn area in Settlers Square near the Dandenong Train Station.

The beautiful display became an unexpected experience for passers-by and was well-shared and liked on social media.

The latest meadow can be found in Pultney Street, Dandenong. It was planted in mid-October and began to bloom in mid-November, attracting birds and insects to the area.

The wildflower meadow needs less maintenance than traditional lawns and creates a welcoming place to visit while shopping in central Dandenong.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity can be defined as the variety of all living things, including the different plants, animals and micro organisms, and the habitats and ecosystems they form.

Having a biodiverse environment is important to help create a healthy community. The healthier and more diverse each ecosystem or environment is, the more it can withstand the impacts of change.

Pressures like climate change, land clearing and pollution cause threats, but healthy and diverse environments stand a better chance of adapting under pressure.

Recently Council redeployed staff from departments affected by COVID-19 restrictions into the Parks Team. These staff have supported the planting of 54,000 native seedlings across our city growing our biodiversity.

In an encouraging sign that works over recent years are having a positive impact, we have recorded the return of a near threatened species at wetlands in Tatterson Park. The Blue-billed Duck in the above photo was recently spotted by residents. This species has not been seen locally for some time.



The City of Greater Dandenong and surrounding areas have some of Melbourne's most amazing environments. Our landscape is defined by a beautiful network of creeks, sandhills and flood plains, supporting some incredible plants, animals and insects like Blue-banded Bees, the Grey Headed Flying Fox, Powerful Owls, Sun Orchids, Growling Grass Frogs and our iconic Red Gums.

After declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency at the start of 2020, Council is now looking to gain a better understanding of our biodiversity and how we can improve it for a better future for all.

We are working on a Biodiversity Action Plan and will soon ask for feedback on the draft Plan. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-action-plan-consultation to learn more.

More trees for Greater Dandenong

A series of above ground tree planter boxes have been installed in busy pedestrian locations throughout Dandenong and Noble Park.

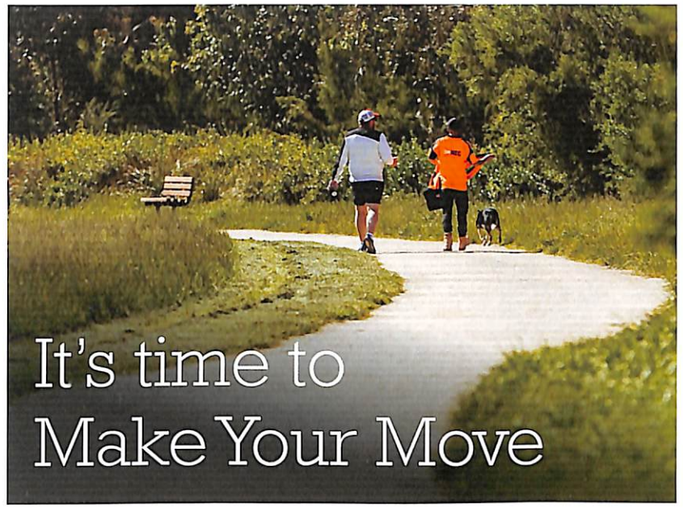
The trees aim to improve the amenity of busy locations and provide comfort for visitors in the form of shade.

The trees first appeared in Springvale's Multicultural Place and have added much-needed foliage and greenery to the outdoor square.

With COVID-19 restrictions easing across Victoria, the placement of these planter boxes is perfectly timed to welcome people back to the activity centres.



Council recognises that many people have placed a high value on connecting with nature during the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. This project helps balance the hard paved surfaces of urban environments with natural features and helps reduce the impact of climate change increasing temperatures in built up urban areas.



It's time to Make Your Move



Council's new Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030 is our plan to help transform the lives of people living in Greater Dandenong.

We are calling on residents to increase activity to help make a positive impact on all aspects of life, including physical and mental health.

Figures released by the state's peak health body VicHealth show that Greater Dandenong is falling behind the rest of Victoria in key health indicators.

Across Victoria 68 per cent of adults and 25 per cent of children are considered overweight or obese.

In Greater Dandenong the rate of people with type 2 diabetes is 36 per cent, compared to 9 per cent across all of Victoria.

Only 49 per cent of adults in our city achieve daily physical activity targets, compared to 73 per cent across the state.

The mental health indicators for Greater Dandenong residents also show significantly lower resilience levels than the Victorian average.

These facts represent more than numbers – they represent people's lives. Physical activity is shown to affect every part of a person's life, from health and happiness to future opportunities.

We want to show you there are many easy and affordable ways to get moving. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move to find out more.

Multi-sport courts

Parks and reserves across Greater Dandenong offer opportunities for all members of the community to get active.

Council is committed to providing environments to encourage physical activity and over the past few years has installed multi-sports courts at five reserves. The courts give visitors the chance to play a range of sports on marked courts.

Four full-sized courts can be found at Ross Reserve in Noble Park (pictured), Burden Park in Springvale South, Dandenong Park and the Urban Park in George Street, Dandenong.

Another half-sized court has been built at Tatterson Park in Keysborough.

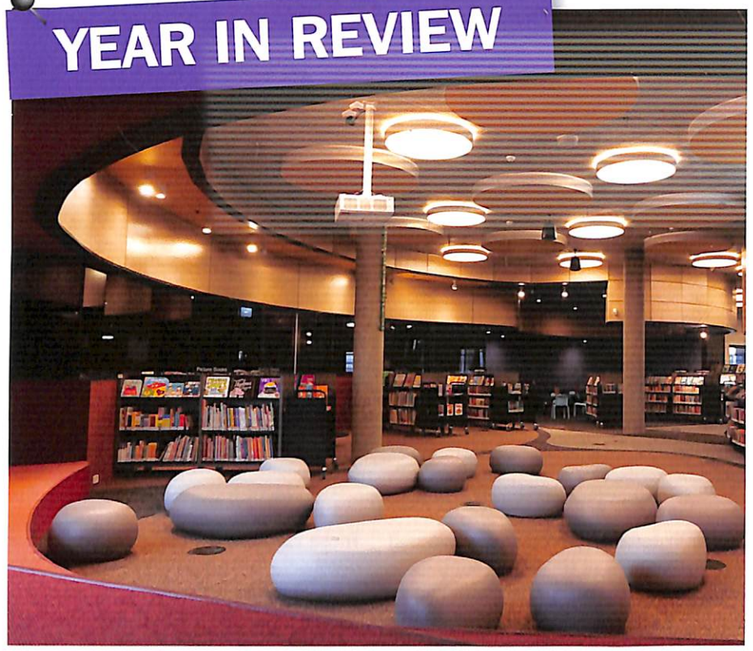
At all reserves the courts add another opportunity for visitors to be active and sit alongside walking tracks, sporting ovals or children's play equipment.

At Ross Reserve the hybrid soccer/basketball court is next to the world class Noble Park Skate Park, and is within a short walk of outdoor exercise equipment, the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and the Noble Park Athletics Track.



Providing the opportunity and environment for our community to be more active is a focus of the Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy 2020–2030.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2020



On Tuesday 31 December, 2019, more than 12,000 people welcomed the New Year in at a community celebration in central Dandenong. As fireworks lit up the night sky families, friends and neighbours pledged to make 2020 a great year.

It's fair to say 2020 did not go to plan, but the Greater Dandenong community's resilience has shone through the tough times.

By March the COVID-19 pandemic hit, affecting residents and businesses across our city, nation and the world. Thrown into a new world of social distancing restrictions and lockdown – our community needed varying levels of support as we navigated an unprecedented health and economic crisis. Council invested in a relief package, which included rate relief for pensioners and people receiving the State Government's JobSeeker allowance.

A Material Aid program also launched, supporting thousands of locals with emergency food and material supports.

While tight restrictions were introduced across Victoria, Council worked to continue to provide services to the community, redeploying staff across Council operations and switching many programs to online delivery.

Art workshops, library storytimes and youth support services were delivered virtually, helping to keep our residents connected.

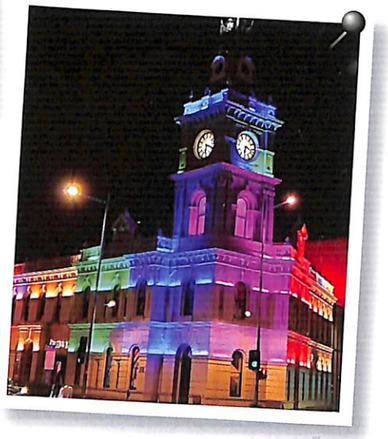
In May the Drum Theatre was lit up in rainbow colours as Council launched the LGBTIQA+ Inclusion statement to coincide with IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia).

In June we adopted the 2020–21 Budget, recognising that adaptability would be the key as we move out of the initial COVID-19 pandemic and into a new 'COVID Normal'.

In August plans for the Keysborough South Community Hub got the green light from Council. We also celebrated the completion of the Springvale Community Hub, but the building only recently opened to the public for limited services due to ongoing restrictions.

In September we joined with 12 other Council's in Melbourne's east and south east to call for urgent action for more social housing to end homelessness.





In October Greater Dandenong residents went to the polls to elect the new Council for the next four years. Councillors Youhorn Chea, Peter Brown and Matthew Kirwan retired from Council and following the counting of votes collected via postal ballot five new councillors were sworn in at a special meeting on 19 November. Councillors Zaynoun Melhem and Maria Sampey were not re-elected. The contributions of all five non-returning Councillors are appreciated by the Greater Dandenong community.

In a year that was marked with uncertainty, Greater Dandenong community members can be proud of the efforts they have made to support one another.

As we move into the New Year, we look forward to seeing our residents and businesses thrive in a changed world.

Food waste recycling



Kitchen scraps and food waste can soon be added to your green lid garden waste bin.

Starting from 5 April 2021, all Greater Dandenong residents with a garden waste bin will be able to reduce their waste to landfill by recycling food scraps alongside garden clippings, grass and leaves.

The green lid bin will become a food and garden waste bin, but there will be no additional cost for residents who already have the bin.

If you do not currently have a garden waste bin and would like one please contact Council's customer service team on 8571 1000. There will be a cost associated with adding this bin to your waste services.

Food and garden waste will be collected and taken to a local composting facility where it will be turned into high quality compost that is sold to Victorian farmers.

With the help of the Greater Dandenong community we can support the reduction of waste going to landfill and contribute to the creation of great quality compost to support our farmers.

Council would like to encourage residents who already compost organic food scraps to keep up this practice, however the new service can take all food scraps, which reduces the amount of waste put into your red lid bin.

The new service does not start until 5 April 2021 and information detailing the changes will be sent to every household before they take effect. In the meantime visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to find out more.

2021 Community Calendar

Greater Dandenong is a beautiful city and we have captured some of its most photogenic sights for the 2021 Community Calendar.

The calendar, which came free with this magazine, features the kerbside waste collection schedule alongside handy waste and recycling tips.



If you did not receive a copy of the calendar or if you would like extra copies you can pick one up from Council's customer service centres or phone 8571 1000.

Tell us your Budget priorities for 2021–22

What do you think are the most important priorities for Greater Dandenong? What would you like to see Council spend next year's budget on?

Council would like to hear what is important to you and what you would like to see included in the 2021–22 Budget. A consultation process was undertaken in October however we would like to give more residents and stakeholders the opportunity to participate now the new Council has been elected.

Greater Dandenong Council spends approximately $160m each year and is responsible for delivering a range of services to its local community. These services include:

- Children and families – childcare, maternal and child health, immunisation
- Health and wellbeing – disability services, home and community care, food safety
- Your home – rubbish and recycling, planning and building permits, pet registrations
- Sport and leisure – sportsgrounds, leisure centres, parks and gardens, festivals and events
- Roads and safety – roads and footpaths, car parks, street lighting
- Community - libraries, theatre and the arts, community centres

The consultation will run until 15 January 2021.

To submit your ideas please:

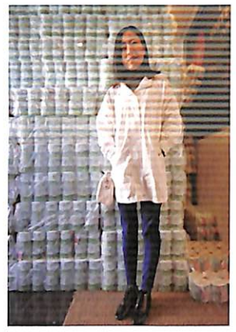
Click: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/budget-consultation-2021-22

Phone: 8571 1000

Visit: Dandenong or Springvale customer service centres or libraries

Local businesses giving back







heartfelt thanks

Council would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the many businesses who have donated food and essential goods to vulnerable residents via Council's Material Aid Program. The program will extend into 2021 to help residents still feeling the strain from financial stress caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Here we share stories from three local businesses. **If you own a business and would like to contribute email materialaidenquiries@cgd.vic.gov.au**

Granny's Food

Granny's Food is based in Dandenong South and specialises in producing Eastern European dumplings. The business has supported the community by donating more than 130kg of frozen dumplings for distribution in food parcels.

The COVID-19 lockdowns reduced product demand at local grocers and delis, and slowed their plans for growth. CEO Tatiana Kuzovova said the family-run business was not eligible for State Government income support and could not get a bank loan for three months.

Despite their challenges Tatiana jumped at the chance to support the Material Aid Program. She said she could personally relate to the hardships experienced by many in our community. When she first came to Australia from Russia, Tatiana said she had no family or social support, with her husband initially denied a visa.

"I was alone with a new baby and not eligible for government support," she said.

Donating to the program has provided Tatiana the chance to give back to her local community.

Visit grannysfood.com.au for more information about the business.

Yingda

Yingda is a Springvale-based electronics retailer who has co-ordinated donations from 26 businesses from across Melbourne. They have so far collected more than 13,000 face masks, 4,000 rolls of toilet paper and over 500 bottles of hand sanitiser.

Yingda's Director, Lulu Yin, first appealed for donations via an online WeChat network of migrant business owners across Melbourne in May 2020.

Shane Shen is one of the staff who coordinated the donations and said they reached out to 100 businesses, with 26 offering to help Greater Dandenong.

"We have been collecting donations like toilet paper…we fundraised for the second and third batch (of goods) and we're still arranging the fourth batch, so there'll be more to donate," Mr Shen said.

Yingda has delivered invaluable material relief to our community's most vulnerable, but it has also helped to connect business owners and build strong networks for businesses who have had to meet new challenges during the pandemic.

Visit yingda.com.au to find out more about the company.

Alexander Produce

Dandenong Market traders Alexander Produce answered a call from market management to support Council's Material Aid Program. Deciding they had the equipment and the transport the family-run business knew they could make a difference. Since March 2020 they have supplied more than $150,000 worth of produce, including donating more than 400kg of high-quality fresh food from their own market stall.

Like many businesses Alexander Produce has been hit hard financially by the pandemic, particularly by the introduction of travel restrictions. CEO Alex Alexopoulos said with most customers living outside the 5km radius the business estimates it was running at 35 per cent of its usual activity during the harsher stages of lockdown.

"We finally received JobKeeper… but it's still not enough to cover the cost of business. We have customers, restaurants and suppliers, you know, and they're in trouble too," Alex said.

"(Our contribution is) for the community that has supported us throughout all these years, so now it's our turn to try and help them as well, for everyone to get through these trying times."

Visit alexandersfruit.com.au for information about the business.

FOOD FROM HOME



For many of us food carries a strong association with our culture and family. Growing, making and sharing food is an easy way for us to connect with others.

Greater Dandenong City Council is encouraging residents to get involved in a new campaign designed to foster connection. Led by health-based charity Enliven Victoria, Food from Home aims to encourage more people to grow their own food at home.

Launched last month, Food from Home hopes to remove some of the barriers to growing food at home and will provide simple resources and create opportunities for gardeners to connect.

To receive a free seed pack, simply borrow any book, magazine or DVD/Blu-Ray on gardening, sustainability or climate change from Greater Dandenong Libraries. Speak to library staff for more information.

Visit foodfromhome.org to learn more and register for free seeds.

Follow this project on social media at:

@foodfromh0me

@foodfromh0me

Don't lose sight of your vision

While 2020 has been a challenging year dominated by a global health emergency, it's still important for residents of Greater Dandenong to remember to look after their everyday health – especially their vision.

The Vision Initiative is reminding all Victorians to not lose sight of their vision and get regular eye tests, because 90 per cent of vision loss is avoidable or treatable if it is identified early. Don't wait for symptoms, book an eye test today.

Springvale optometrist Dr Loan Quach advises residents against ignoring changes in vision.

"Optometry practices are open and taking COVID safe precautions. You do not need a referral, if you are due for an eye check or have noticed a change to your vision, call your optometrist today to make an appointment," Dr Quach said.

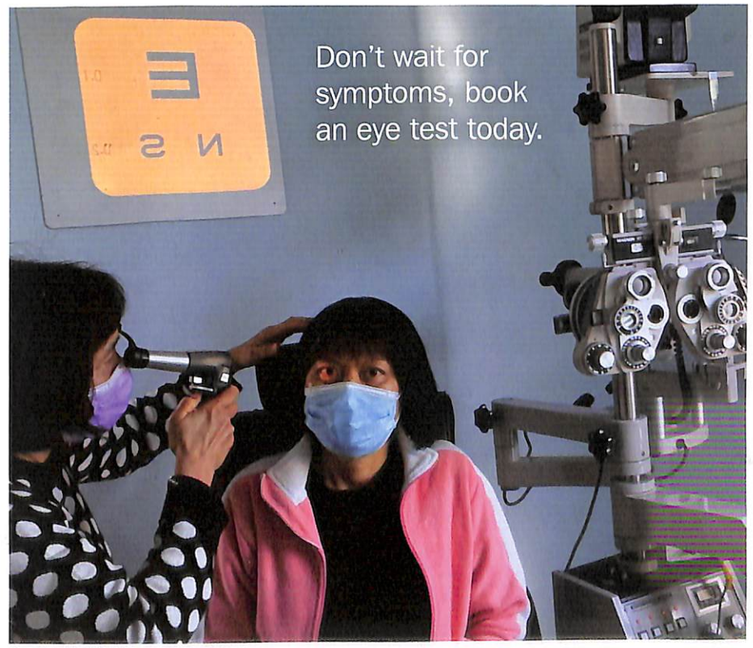
Eye tests can be arranged directly through an optometrist and are often covered by Medicare. Alternatively speak to your GP to arrange a referral to an opthamologist.

Key tips for looking after eye health:

- Make sure you have regular eye checks, especially if you are over 40
- Protect your eyes from the sun by wearing a hat and sunglasses when outside
- Wear safety goggles eye protection when playing sports like squash, or performing activities like hammering, welding, mowing the lawn or gardening
- Do not smoke
- Maintain a healthy diet with regular exercise
- Manage your health including diabetes, blood pressure and cholesterol.

Managed by Vision 2020 Australia, the Vision Initiative is a Victorian Government funded integrated eye health promotion program which aims to prevent avoidable blindness and address the impact of vision loss in the Victorian community.

Visit www.visioninitiative.org.au for more information.





Council has launched it's Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy 2020-2030

Our aim is to support you to be more physically active because we know your health improves when you move, including your heart and joint health. Getting active also lowers your risk of diseases like type 2 diabetes.

To find out more and learn how you can Make Your Move visit:
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

FEBRUARY 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Summer fun

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000
Fax: 8571 5196
www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the February edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

As the holiday period draws to a close, our children are returning to school and many of us are returning to work. After the events of 2020, I hope that this year brings you all a sense of routine and something that resembles 'normal' life.

Many of our programs and services are resuming for the year, and we are busy making plans for the future. We have a few consultations on at the moment and would love to hear from our community on these. Turn to page 6 to find out how to have your say on the Disability, Access and Equity Policy.
On page 7 we invite feedback on our Urban Forest Strategy, while page 8 talks about your chance to contribute to our Council Plan 2021-25. We would love for everyone to get involved.

Just before Christmas Council opened its latest open space to the community in the heart of Dandenong. Read more about it on page 7.

We also welcomed the announcement of one of Melbourne's top soccer clubs moving to the south east. Read about the Melbourne City Football Club's big shift on page 14.

I wish you all the best for the coming year and hope you enjoy the latest copy of this magazine.



My City



The view over Burden Park in Springvale South. The fort-style playground and extensive park including a walking and cycling track has something for everyone. The City of Greater Dandenong is home to more than 100 parks, sports reserves and playgrounds. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-environment/open-spaces to find out more about local parks and reserves and start exploring today.

Front Cover: Michael lifts his daughter Zara in the 50m pool at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre. Picture: *Hilton Stone*.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Australia Day Awards

Greater Dandenong

Citizen of the Year

Selba Luka established Afri-Aus Care Inc in 2015 to care for youth at risk and their families who are primarily of African background, and especially those who suffer from unresolved trauma or the challenges of adapting to Australian society. She has also worked tirelessly to improve life outcomes for the community.

Young Leader of the Year (joint winners)

Amy Chu is a volunteer with Red Cross and has been volunteering with the City of Greater Dandenong for almost four years. She has been a participant and mentor in a number of programs with Youth and Family Services, and never misses an opportunity to contribute to the development of the community.

From a young age **Asmaa Mannasaheb** established herself as a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer who is always willing to work towards the improvement of her community and supporting those around her. She has volunteered with Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services as well as other organisations, including initiatives to support the Muslim community, and was recently selected to deliver an inspirational speech to VCE students.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

Nirad Shah is a catalyst and driver of the annual charity event Take a Swing for Charity Golf day run in partnership with Council and local industry. His family-owned business, KPJ Australia has supported the event as a sponsor since its inception 11 years ago, and Nirad has also raised an additional several hundred thousand dollars in that time.

Community Group of the Year

Founded in 1952, the **2nd Springvale Scout Group** has a long and proud history of serving the community. Over the past few years participation has increased substantially and today the group has more than 100 youth members aged 5-25. During COVID-19 restrictions the various groups continued to meet virtually on a weekly basis.

Volunteer of the Year

Scout Leader **Sue Glenn** has been an active volunteer in the movement for 36 years. She has been a leader across many levels and often held multiple positions at the same time. She has also assisted with many camps, hosting children locally and at a regional, state and national level.

A special commendation was also given to young student **Raena Umeza** who donated more than 130 handmade masks to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Dandenong for distribution to students of refugee families.

Sportsperson of the Year

Cheryl Chambers was appointed coach of the Southside Flyers basketball team in July 2019 and in their first year in the WNBL she led them to the top of the table and into the grand final series. Cheryl is also assistant coach of the Opals, the Australian women's basketball team, who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

Sustainability Award

Karina James' leadership at the Dandenong Day Service helped ensure the continuation of programs supporting vulnerable residents with intellectual and physical disabilities. Along with her team, she has been able to reduce isolation and continue to build skills and confidence for her clients.

Living Treasures

Roz Blades has been a long serving Councillor and several time Mayor for the City of Greater Dandenong (and the former City of Springvale). Since arriving in Australia in the 1970s she has been a strong community advocate and has worked as a volunteer for many organisations, fighting for human rights for all.

Teresa Rechichi has an exceptional ability to bring people together. She is a tireless advocate for the underprivileged and displays a strong determination in her goal to assist people less fortunate.

Philip Faulks is an internationally-renowned artist and the former chair of the City of Greater Dandenong's Public Art Advisory Committee. He has worked as a TAFE teacher for almost three decades and has forged meaningful cultural benefits throughout the south east metropolitan region.

Youhorn Chea created history as the first Cambodian-born Councillor to be elected in Australia and in 2001 he was sworn in as Greater Dandenong's first Asian mayor. Youhorn has acted as a champion for diversity, helping to deliver better outcomes for all, and played a key role in the development of Council's People Seeking Asylum and Refugee Action Plan.

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Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The February meetings will be held:

Monday 8 February

Monday 22 February



Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

The view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Summer fun at our pools

Greater Dandenong's two public pool facilities are open for business, but will continue to closely monitor the latest health advice to keep visitors and staff members safe.

At the time of publication the Dandenong Oasis and Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) had reverted back to their full pre-COVID-19 operation hours, but limits still remain on the number of visitors.

Pool users will no longer need to pre-book sessions online, but if the centres reach capacity patrons may have to wait for people to leave before they are admitted.

In line with COVID-safe practices masks are required to be worn indoors, except when exercising or swimming, and physical distancing requirements will need to be practiced wherever possible. All patrons will also be required to sign in upon entry.

Group fitness and aquatic exercise classes are also running with reduced capacity at both centres.

For more information visit their individual websites or phone the centres for assistance.



NPAC

Open Monday–Friday 5.30am–8pm
Saturday–Sunday 8am–6pm

nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au or 9546 7955.

Dandenong Oasis

Monday–Thursday 5.30am–9.30pm
Friday 5.30am–8.30pm
Saturday–Sunday 8am–7pm

dandenongoasis.com.au or 9767 3100.

Cr Angela Long

► Cleeland Ward

It was a privilege and a great honour to be part of the selection panel for the Aboriginal artwork that is on the lawn outside the new Springvale Community Hub.

The artists Fiona Clarke and Kenneth McKean have done a wonderful job with the Fire Pit and Rock Art. The log seating that surrounds the fire pit was made from gum trees that had to be removed from Noble Park for the construction on the overhead rail lines.

Council works with many First Nation's artists on a number of projects across Greater Dandenong, and this work is a real highlight amongst the many pieces featured in the region. A quote from Fiona and Kenneth's submission is: "As First Nations people of Australia are one of the oldest living cultures on earth, rock is one of the best representatives of the earth and Aboriginal people are so strongly connected to the earth and use stone for many of their tools. It is fitting that we connect the Kulin Nation's Wurundjeri and Bunurong people as the Traditional Owners of this land in this sculpture."



If you have not yet visited the Springvale Community Hub I encourage you to do so. Other attractions at Springvale Community Hub are a brand new library and meeting rooms, Springvale Historical Society, customer service, a new playground and surrounding gardens.

We all have been through a very challenging year in 2020, and we look forward to being able to reconnect with family and friends this year.

If you need to contact me on any Council related issues please do so on 8571 5230 or 0466 004 616.

Cr Lana Formoso

► Noble Park North Ward

When I was first elected to Council, I promised we'd do things differently. Like so many others across our municipality, I love our community – but I know we can do better; we must do better.

In addition to advocating for community support whilst we work to recover from the negative repercussions brought on by Covid-19, I am making sure to always prioritise the feedback I am getting from locals about what's most important to them.

Parks. Open space. Community safety. Traffic management. Supporting local sporting clubs and community groups. Working with our youth in a positive way.

These are the issues which drove me to put my hand up to represent our community. As a local mum with two boys, an SES volunteer, and a teacher at our local school, I know that Noble Park North residents want authentic representation from someone who is responsive, passionate and driven.

In the short time since being sworn in to Council I've met with residents, listened to the concerns of local sporting groups and businesses and endeavoured to act on their behalf. Being a Councillor has to always be about putting our community first - and that's what I intend on doing consistently.

There is much more to do but there are promising signs already. We're getting traffic management up to speed across the municipality, working to get upgrades to local parks and reserves that our residents and sporting clubs so direly need, putting community safety first and advocating for a Dandenong Stadium in the wake of Melbourne City FC relocating to the south-east. This is only a snippet of the king list of goals we hope to achieve in our suburbs in the coming years.

As always, thank you to the community of Noble Park North for placing your trust in our positive vision. Together, let's keep working to change our community for the better.



If you want to get in touch with me you can email me at lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 530 536.

Call to reduce pokie hours



Greater Dandenong City Council is calling on the Victorian Government to lower maximum opening hours at gambling venues from 20 hours per day to 14 hours.

Council is a strong supporter of the campaign launched by the Alliance for Gambling Reform after gambling venues reopened following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria late last year.

Statistics show $119 million was lost to gaming machines or 'pokies' in the City of Greater Dandenong in 2018-19. The annual figure dropped by $32 million since lockdowns began in March 2020.

The Alliance is seeking new rules forcing pokie venues to shut between midnight and 10am, and a two-hour limit on the time patrons can use gambling machines.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said problem gambling losses harm so many in the Greater Dandenong community.

"This is an opportunity to protect residents from incurring the level of gambling losses they experienced before restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic."

Visit pokiesplayyou.org.au for more information about the Alliance for Gambling Reform.

A diverse Greater Dandenong – have your say



Council is calling for community feedback on a policy that supports a diverse Greater Dandenong.

Diversity makes us all unique, and can include differences in gender, ability, health, birthplace, language, culture, faith, sexual orientation, income and education levels. Respect for diversity includes acknowledging differences among people and providing services to meet individual needs.

The *Diversity, Access and Equity Policy* recognises the diversity of our community and outlines principles to help Council ensure our programs, services and facilities meet the needs of everyone.

Council has recently revised its policy and has put together two more documents that support this policy. We are now seeking public feedback on all three documents.

The extra documents open for review include:

- The revised Community Development Framework, which guides Council's engagement with the community to enable the fair and equitable distribution of resources
- The Community Hubs Framework, which has been created to establish a shared understanding of Community Hubs in the City of Greater Dandenong.

All three documents will be available for public comment from 1–28 February. You can view the documents via the Have Your Say section on Council's website, or in person at one of Council's customer service centres or libraries.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information, or phone Community Advocacy Officer Hayden Brown on 8571 1000.

ATTENTION DRIVERS – PARKING RESTRICTIONS BACK TO NORMAL FOLLOWING COVID-19 CHANGES

As businesses reopen, people return to work and roads fill up, it is important for Council to ensure parking is available for those who need it. Council would like to remind drivers to be aware of parking restrictions, including the time limits posted on parking signs, and, of course, all other road rules. Council officers will be monitoring parking areas around shopping precincts, hospitals and medical clinics and we encourage residents and visitors to adhere to the limits.



Urban Forest Strategy

Council recognises that we all have a role to play in preparing for climate change and greening our city.

Greater Dandenong's very low canopy cover makes the municipality the seventh hottest in metropolitan Melbourne. Canopy cover is a measure of how much tree coverage can be seen from above.

Vulnerable people such as the elderly, children, people with pre-existing conditions and disabilities, and those from low socio-economic backgrounds are at an even greater risk of negative impacts from extreme heat events and a changing climate.

To respond to this issue, Council has prepared two new strategies which build on the existing Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28.

- The Urban Forest Strategy provides a framework for how Council and the community can manage Greater Dandenong's urban forest.
- The Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy considers the community's role in planting trees where they are most needed – close to where people live and work.

Council is seeking feedback on the draft strategies until Friday 26 February.

An online survey is available on Council's website and hard copy surveys will be available from Council's Dandenong Customer Service Centre and the Dandenong and Springvale libraries.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/urban-tree-strategy-consultation or phone 8571 1000 for more information.

The term urban forest includes all the vegetation growing on private and public land, including trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. As well as providing a greener, cooler city, urban forests also help to provide habitat for our local biodiversity.

Family fun in the open air

Outdoor movies will return to Greater Dandenong this month with a new name and an additional location.

Previously known as Cinema in the Square, Greater Dandenong Open Air Movies will now be shown at two great locations, Harmony Square in Dandenong and the new Springvale Community Hub.

Bring your own movie snacks and chairs or blankets and enjoy some family favourites on the big screens in the great outdoors from 7pm every Friday night from 12 February to 9 April.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies for a full list of movies for both locations.

New open space for community to enjoy

NOW OPEN



A previously private oasis has opened to the public after Council purchased a private garden in central Dandenong.

The significant block of land at 86-88 Clow St Dandenong was purchased by Council last year and is now a space for the whole community to enjoy.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the opportunity to snap up the site was too good to miss.

"The value and health benefits of public open space is vital for our community, so when this particular site came onto the market it was a great opportunity to purchase an additional, high-quality open space in an established neighbourhood – something that does not come along very often these days," Mayor Long said.

The semi-secluded parkland is reminiscent of a typical mid-1940s landscape setting, with large established European trees providing a tranquil garden space within walking distance of the Dandenong CBD.

Council officers are developing a concept plan for the site to retain the mature trees and add a walking path and seating for better accessibility.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

What to do with unwanted household goods



While Christmas feels like a distant memory, the new furniture, toys and household items received as gifts can clutter up your home.

If you are thinking about clearing out some space consider recycling, reusing or donating those unwanted items and in the process you can look after the environment and save money.

Council is committed to working with residents to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

While every household is entitled to one free hard waste collection each year, Council offers other opportunities to make sure unwanted items are recycled or reused where possible.

Homecycle

Residents have the opportunity to offer household goods to charity that are too good to throw out and end up in landfill.

Simply place items such as clothes, games, sporting goods and small electrical items in your recycling bin immediately after it is emptied of recyclables and those valued items from your home will be collected the following day after your regular recycling collection. The service will be delivered between 9–20 February.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle for more information.

Re-use and Recycle Drop-off Day

Following the popularity and success of previous collections, Council will be running three drop-off events for larger items this year.

Some items will be donated to charity while others will be recycled to create new products.

The Re-use and Recycle Drop-off Days will be held at Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong, from 8am–1pm on the following dates:

- Saturday 6 February
- Saturday 26 June
- Saturday 27 November

Items that can be accepted include:

- Televisions and computers
- Electrical appliances
- Whitegoods (fridges, washing machines, dryers and microwaves)
- Household furniture (chairs, tables, couches and desks)
- Mattresses (maximum of two)
- Bicycles
- Homewares (toys, cookware, sporting items and baby equipment)
- Clothes and linen.

Council will continue to monitor the latest health advice in regards to COVID-19 and public events. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day for the latest information.

Change Today, Shape Tomorrow



Over the past three months Council has been reaching out to our community to get involved and have their say on the new Council Plan.

We have already had fantastic feedback through a range of consultation activities, including a community survey, online ideas wall, children's worksheets and targeted conversations.

Tree planting, parks and open spaces continue to feature as key priorities and the development of community spaces and hubs are seen as important projects to bring people together.

The feedback received so far will be used to influence the development of key priorities and commitments and will also be used to provide input into the community panel process which begins in April.

This panel meets the deliberative engagement requirements of the new Local Government Act 2020 and consists of a randomly selected group of residents and business stakeholders who are representative of our community and its diverse qualities.

The panel will meet to discuss the community's vision as created in 2009 and the priorities which have emerged from our broad consultation. They will provide recommendations to Council on how these ideas can be achieved and the Council Plan will then be drafted using the outcomes of the panel and broader consultation to be adopted by October 2021.

To read more about the consultation outcomes and what has been happening go to Council's website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plan2025 or keep an eye out for future articles in this magazine.

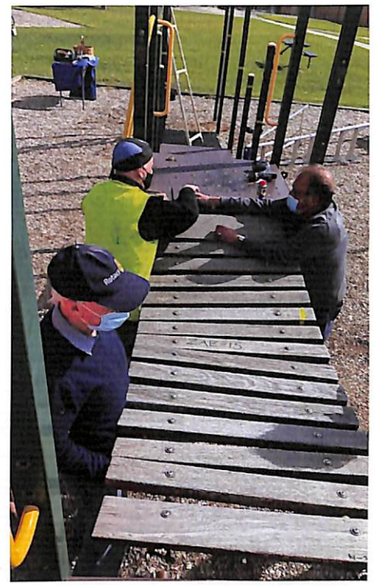
Old playgrounds recycled

Greater Dandenong City Council has partnered with Rotary to harvest playgrounds for disadvantaged overseas communities.

Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds (RORP) is a state-wide project collecting unwanted playgrounds from council parks and schoolgrounds by gently dismantling and rejuvenating equipment for children to enjoy.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the project was a prime example of community spirit and sustainability in action.

"We have 120 playgrounds in the City of Greater Dandenong, and we are thrilled to see that the equipment we replace can find a happy home for children in other countries," Mayor Long said.



Late last year Rotary Club members dismantled the playground at Ross Reserve in Noble Park and prepared it to be shipped to Sri Lanka, where the local Rotary Club will re-assemble the equipment.

In January 2020 Council declared a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency', committing us to emergency action on climate change. Mayor Long said this was one of many initiatives that helped Council work towards a sustainable future.

"We recognise that everyone has a role to play in reducing our impact on the environment and preparing for climate change. It's great to see our vision put into action with projects like this."

The playground at Ross Reserve will be replaced with an All Abilities Playground, which is now under construction.

A joint project between Council and the Victorian Government, the playground is due to be completed by June 2021.

The All Abilities Playground will offer an inclusive and diverse range of play for all ages and all abilities and has been designed around the Red Gum environment.

"This project has so many benefits, with children overseas set to enjoy the harvested equipment, and children here able to look forward to a new, accessible playground," said Mayor Long.

Take the pledge and Make Your Move

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long is inviting residents to make a pledge to be more physically active in 2021.

Cr Long is supporting Make Your Move – a campaign to promote ways the community can get more active and enjoy recreational facilities across Greater Dandenong.

"Being active can lead to a healthier community, physically, mentally, socially and economically, so we are encouraging everyone to get on board and make their move," Cr Long said.

VicHealth figures show less than half of Greater Dandenong residents meet the recommended guidelines for 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day.

"We also have higher rates of diabetes and obesity compared to other areas of Victoria, and our mental health wellbeing levels are lower compared to the rest of the state. We can change this by making small changes to our daily routines and enjoying all this great city has to offer, including a great range of public parks, open spaces and recreational facilities."

Here are some small changes you can make today:

- Take your dog for a walk
- If you are meeting friends for a meal, organise to take a walk around the block first
- Take the stairs instead of the lift
- Walk your kids to school, or if you live too far away drive part of the way and walk the rest
- Do some gardening.



Think about what changes you can make and take the pledge to be more active today.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move for more great tips.

Art sparks joy for residents in lockdown



Residents from five aged care facilities channelled their inner artists during lockdown in 2020 with art packs gifted from the City of Greater Dandenong's 9 *by 5 Exhibition*.

The packs included videos of art workshops and boards for residents to create their own artwork.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said Council was thrilled to bring the exhibition, now in its 15th year, to the residents.

"Feedback received from the services indicated the gesture put a bit of a spark in the lives of residents who hadn't been able to go out or have visitors," Cr Long said.

The Exhibition, held annually at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, has become a nationally recognised event and celebrates diversity within the arts community. This year more than 270 artworks went on display. The exhibition was the first one held in the gallery since COVID-19 restrictions closed the space in early 2020.

"What is so special about this exhibition is that many people who just like to make art but wouldn't necessarily call themselves artists can participate," Cr Long said.

This exhibition commemorates the first 9 by 5 Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1889 featuring work from renowned artists such as Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, Arthur Streeton and Frederick McCubbin.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more about art exhibitions in the City of Greater Dandenong.

Lifetime of work recognised



LASTING TRIBUTE

A weeping elm tree donated by Greater Dandenong Living Treasure, Merle Mitchell AM and her late husband Eric was unveiled with a commemorative plaque at Springvale Community Hub in December.

Mayor Angela Long said the tree will be a lasting tribute to the lifetime of work of the Mitchells.

"Since moving to the area in 1961, both Merle and Eric worked towards a better community for all. Anyone who visits this site will find many reasons to celebrate their contribution," Cr Long said.

The tree was originally planted in the front garden of Merle and Eric's home, and relocated to Springvale City Hall in 2017.

Eric was principal of Westall Primary School in the 1980s and was president of the Noble Park English Language School for more than 20 years. He also served as a Councillor and Mayor of the City of Springvale, just before amalgamation in 1994.

Merle was an active lobbyist for families in the area, helping plan kindergarten facilities and pushing for the establishment of Sandown Park Primary School.

Merle was also a member of the steering committee which set up the Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau, and played a major role in setting up other local support services and facilities, including Springvale Neighbourhood House.

Her work with the Victorian Council of Social Service and the Australian Council of Social Service has also seen the advancement of state and federal social welfare policies.

In 2008 Merle became involved in the Spirit of Enterprise Project, helping to celebrate the history of the Enterprise Migrant Hostel in Springvale. The hostel provided accommodation and settlement services to more than 30,000 migrants and refugees from all over the world between 1970 and 1992.

The tree is a lasting symbol of their lifelong connection to the City of Greater Dandenong and the people who live here.

Save the date

The official community opening of Springvale Community Hub will be held on Saturday 27 February. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more details.

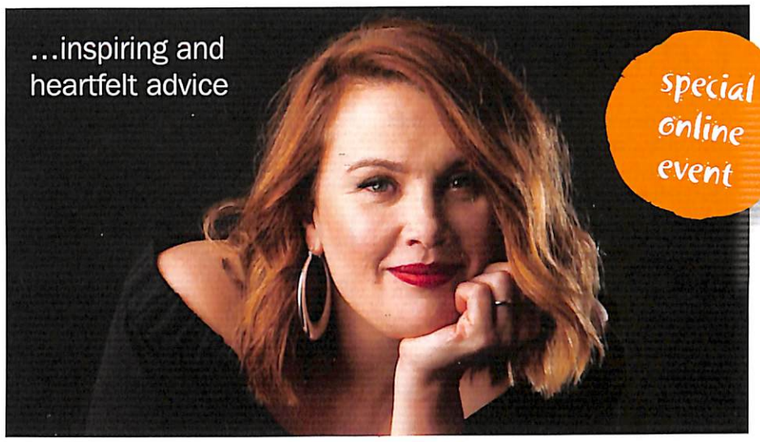
Lunar festival at the library

Springvale Library and Community Hub will host a Lunar New Year celebration on Sunday 7 February, from 2pm.

Welcome in the Year of the Ox with an afternoon of fun, including a traditional Lion Dance, performances from members of the Chinese Cambodian Friendship Association of Victoria and craft activities for the whole family.

The Lunar New Year for 2021 officially begins on Friday 12 February and while celebrations across the world may be somewhat subdued this year, families throughout Greater Dandenong will welcome the new year with enthusiasm.





Tame your inner critic

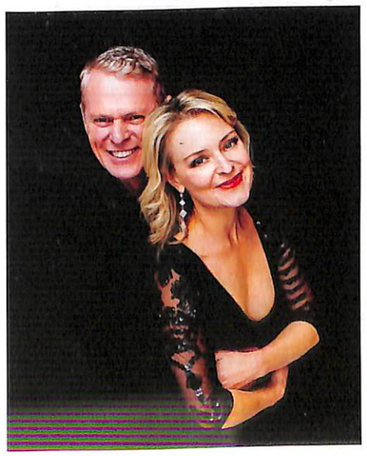
Join us online for a chat with Australian musician, actor, author and mother Clare Bowditch.

Greater Dandenong Libraries is partnering with Casey Cardinia Libraries and West Gippsland Libraries to present this special online event.

Hear from Clare as she shares inspiring and heartfelt advice taken from her new audiobook *How to Tame Your Inner Critic* and her best-selling memoir *Your Own Kind of Girl*. This free, one-hour session is a candid and insightful lesson for anyone who has fought their inner critic and would like to develop their self-leadership skills.

The online event will be held on Wednesday 24 February from 7.30pm-8.30pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/clare-bowditch to register.

What's on at Drum Theatre



Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre is back in 2021. Tickets to two special shows this month are now on sale and you can enjoy both live in the theatre. Both of these shows were cancelled in 2020, but are the first of many live shows returning to our theatre.

You and I

Two of Australia's best loved musical theatre stars join forces for this magical night. Rachael Beck and Michael Cormick get together for an evening of stories, fun, laughter and perhaps even a few tears as the audience is transported to the magic of the world's most popular musicals.

Join Rachael and Michael on Tuesday 16 February at 7.30pm.

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons vs The Beach Boys

The audience can decide who is the best vocal group of all time as these musical rivals go head to head, trading classics like *Surfin' USA* and *Walk Like a Man*. While the bands really fostered an East Coast vs West Coast musical rivalry, the music fans were the real winners. This show brings together the fabulous harmonies and melodies both bands were famous for, including a string of number one hits. When the curtain goes down, who do you think will emerge as your favourite?

Join the fun on Thursday 25 February, at 10.30am.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666.

Celebrating our wetlands

Council this month celebrates World Wetlands Day (2 February) with a reminder to look after the wildlife that call our wetlands home.

Wetlands are very important habitat for birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, but they also play an important role in helping to filter pollutants out of water and are a natural way to control flooding and drainage.

New signage has been installed at the following wetlands:

- Hidden Grove Reserve, Hidden Grove Boulevard, Keysborough
- Lakeview Boulevard Reserve, Lakeview Boulevard, Keysborough
- Somerfield Reserve, Somerfield Drive, Keysborough

The signage contains interesting information about local species who call our wetlands home. Take a self-guided tour to find out more and keep an eye out for more signage being erected at the following wetlands this year:

- Dandenong Wetlands, Stud Road, Dandenong North
- Tirhatuan Park, Kriegal Way, Dandenong North
- Tatterson Park, Cheltenham Road, Keysborough

Don't Feed the ducks

An important warning on the new signage is to discourage people from feeding ducks and other birdlife.

Wild ducks naturally feed on plants and insects they find in their own habitat, adding bread and other human food to the mix is bad for their health.

Taking handouts from humans can affect the birdlife in many ways, including:

- Duckling malnutrition, which can slow growth and development in young birds.
- Diseases can spread via the excessive duck poo produced by a carbohydrate-rich diet. Mouldy bread left by waterways can also cause dangerous lung disease in birds.
- Pollution from rotting bread can cause algae blooms that block waterways affecting all plant, fish, insect and animal life. Leftover crumbs can also attract pests such as rats, mice and invasive bird species such as Indian mynas and seagulls.



When birds become accustomed to handouts they lose their natural behaviour. When they lose their fear of humans they can become more aggressive in order to get more food. They can also do more dangerous things, such as cross busy roads, to get to another food source.

With all this in mind, please reconsider a trip to the park to feed the birds, and perhaps just watch the animals enjoying their native habitats instead.



Working for Victoria

More than 100 new workers employed under a State Government scheme to get the Victorian economy moving are making a difference in Greater Dandenong.

The 102 workers, who may have been impacted by either job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic, or unemployed longer-term, have now been employed under the Working for Victoria program.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the scheme was a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn the misfortunes of 2020 around and make a positive impact.

"This program has so many lasting benefits. It's getting people back into work after they've lost their jobs or suffered long-term unemployment, and the work they are doing will have lasting benefits for our city and those who live here," Cr Long said.

Parks maintenance crews and supervisors have been busy mowing, mulching, planting, pruning and collecting litter, enhancing Greater Dandenong's environment.

Cleansing and conservation crews are also playing a large role in keeping the city clean and improving the environment, while data capture and analysis staff will assist council in the management of its assets and support the planning for Council's support of business recovery.

Making a positive impact



Whether it be cleaning staff keeping us safe from COVID-19, conservation staff contributing to sustainability, biodiversity and climate change, or administration support to help businesses in need – these diverse roles are really making a difference in a range of important areas.

Looking after pets in summer

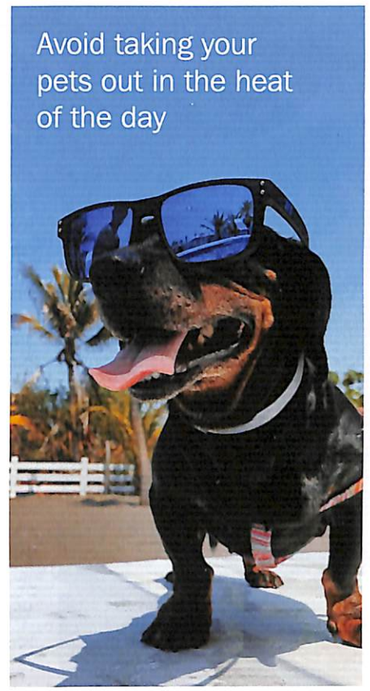
While many humans love the summer heat, our pets often need extra care to stay safe and comfortable on days of extreme heat.

Avoid taking your pets out in the heat of the day. This includes car trips, with legislation making it illegal to leave animals inside cars on hot days.

Exercise pets in the cooler early morning or evening hours, and on extreme heat days avoid walking your dog on concrete or asphalt surfaces. Hard surfaces can give off extra heat and dog and cat paws can easily burn.

While pets are at home make sure they have plenty of shade and access to cool, clean water.

Small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs can become distressed by heat when temperatures rise above 21 degrees, so even on cooler summer days you should take extra care.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets for more information about being a responsible pet owner.

Online pet registration renewal

It's coming up to that time of year again, when pet owners need to renew their pet registrations.

This year the process is moving online for those who have access to technology. If you have an email address attached to your registration records, an invitation to register for eNotices will be sent to you electronically.

eNotices will allow you to register for electronic delivery of your animal registration notices, and will allow you to update your own details online.

If you want to continue to receive a reminder in the mail you don't need to do anything, but if you want to add your email address to your records phone Council on 8571 1000 or email council@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Go to greaterdandenong.enotices.com.au to register and have your registration email with your eNotices reference number handy.

The law requires all owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with their local council. Cats and dogs must be microchipped. Costs apply to all registrations, but desexed pets qualify for heavily discounted fees. The registration period lasts from 10 April to 9 April each year.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals for more information.

Immunisation booking system

Council's immunisation services continued to run throughout the restrictions of 2020, helping to keep our community vaccination rates high.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council's immunisation service was run on a walk-in basis, but the introduction of physical distancing saw the system change to an appointment only service.

Greater Dandenong families were quick to adapt to the new service and Council figures showed an overall increase in the number of children attending for routine childhood vaccinations.

While 2021 sees restrictions ease further, Council will continue to take bookings for all sessions to maintain the health and safety of residents and immunisation staff.

Each month Council runs a number of public immunisation sessions offering free childhood vaccinations to City of Greater Dandenong residents under the National Immunisation Program.

Council also offers an immunisation catch-up service for newly-arrived families where children have had some immunisations overseas. Phone 8571 1000 for catch-up advice before booking an appointment.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/parenting-support/immunisation for details on session times and how to book. For more information phone 8571 1000.





Take a Swing for Charity

Greater Dandenong businesses will return to the golf course this year for the 12th annual Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day.

Since its inception, the event has raised nearly $500,000 for local charities, supporting some of Greater Dandenong's most vulnerable community members.

This year will be no different, with every dollar raised directed to organisations who support locals doing it tough.

This year's event will return to the Victoria Golf Club, Park Road, Cheltenham, on Wednesday 24 February. Email sebn@cgd.vic.gov.au to register your interest as a sponsor or player.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sebn to find out more about the golf day and event organisers South East Business Networks (SEBN).

Melbourne City Football Club moves to south east

After a four-year campaign to bring an A-League and W-League franchise to South East Melbourne, the City of Greater Dandenong has something to celebrate.

Late last year Melbourne City Football Club signed a Heads of Agreement with Greater Dandenong and the City of Casey and announced its relocation to the south east.

The club's new training and administration base will be constructed at Casey Fields in Cranbourne East, while Greater Dandenong will continue to advocate for the development of a boutique rectangular sports and events centre next to Dandenong Train Station.

"Our previous South East Melbourne A-League bid set out to foster grassroots football development with professional pathways, to connect with and grow our burgeoning business community, to market the region to national and international audiences and to provide a platform for community outreach programs," Cr Long said.



Melbourne City CEO Brad Rowse said football (soccer) was the number one participation sport in South East Melbourne, with 115 grassroots clubs and 23,000 registered players across the wider region.

"This move creates a fresh street-to-stadium pathway for all the boys and girls who have been desperate for a professional team on their doorstep," Mr Rowse said.

Visit melbournecityfc.com.au to find out more.

Justice of the Peace

The Springvale Justice of the Peace signing centre has reopened at a new location.

The signing centre is now located at the Springvale Neighbourhood House, 46–50 Queens Avenue, Springvale.

Opening times are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3pm–6pm.

Justices of the Peace are volunteers who are trained to act as independent and objective witnesses to official or legally binding documents.

You may wish to check if your document can be witnessed by a JP or if you have a large number of documents you may need to make an appointment. For more information contact Joe De Souza JP on 0425 727 349.



Promoting the Italian culture

Springvale Italian Senior Citizens Club

The Springvale Italian Senior Citizens Club wants to help more residents reconnect in 2021.

Established almost 40 years ago, the club aims to offer social support and a sense of belonging while promoting the Italian culture. Despite the name, the club is open to people of all nationalities.

The club meets every Wednesday for lunch, and to play card games or bocce, or just to spend time with each other for companionship. The club also hosts a lunch and dance once a month on a Friday.

The club meets at the Springvale Learning and Activities Centre, 1 Osborne Avenue, Springvale. For more information or to join phone club secretary Teresa Rechichi on 9547 2703.

Chisholm's gold standard

Chisholm Institute has taken gold on a world stage thanks to a vocational program it runs in conjunction with the Government of Vietnam.

Chisholm won the Access to Learning and Employment category at the 2020 World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics Awards of Excellence.

Chisholm CEO Stephen Varty was proud the tertiary learning institute was recognised on a global stage.

"The Australian TAFE sector can provide enormous training support to other countries worldwide," Mr Varty said.

Chisholm supported the development of 25 vocational colleges across Vietnam, all with the capacity to deliver internationally recognised qualifications including those that meet the Australian regulatory standards up to an Advanced Diploma level.

Chisholm has eight campuses in Victoria, including one in Dandenong, and offers more than 300 nationally recognised vocational education programs. Visit chisholm.edu.au to find out more.

GREATER DANDENONG

OPEN AIR MOVIES

12 FEBRUARY – 9 APRIL 2021



SPRINGVALE COMMUNITY HUB
5 HILLCREST GROVE, SPRINGVALE

AND

HARMONY SQUARE
225 LONSDALE STREET, DANDENONG

For full list of movies and screening times, scan the QR Code or visit our website.

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies | 8571 1000

(03) 8571 1000
council@cgd.vic.gov.au
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
Online: relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 13 14 50

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

MARCH 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Get active in Greater Dandenong

PAGE 12

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

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youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News, and welcome to the season of Autumn.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

It's a beautiful time to be out and about, and in this issue we look at some of the local parks that have undergone refurbishments over the past year. Turn to page 12 to read more.

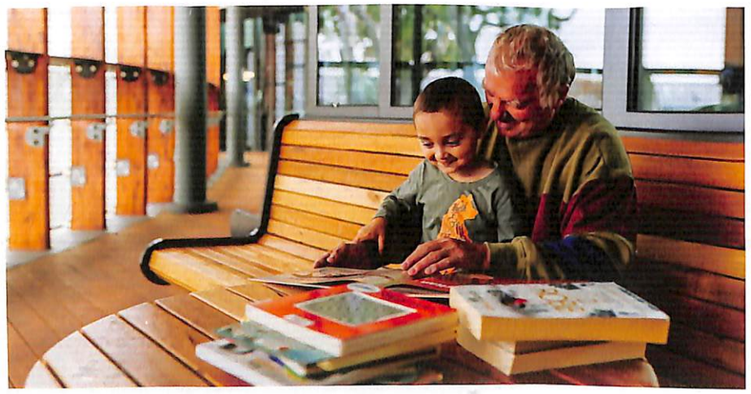
The days are still long, and we encourage you to make the most of the twilight hours and meet family and friends at an Open Air Movie. This year the movies will be screened across two sites. Find out more on the opposite page.

Autumn is known for its brilliant colours as the leaves change hue and drop from their branches. Explore what nature has to offer through our Flora Exhibition, which will be held across several key locations. See pages 8 and 9 for more details.

Next month Council will introduce a new addition to our kerbside waste collection service. Residents will be able to recycle food waste with their garden waste, and it is going to be a game changer. Read more about this service on page 7.

I hope you all find something wonderful to do in our city this month, and I look forward to seeing you all out and about in our vibrant city.

My City



The Springvale Library has many spaces for enjoying a good book. This outside terrace on the second floor is just one of the nooks and crannies you can find. Library hours have returned to normal and many programs are being delivered in person again. We are open Monday to Friday from 9am-9pm, Saturday from 10am–5pm and on Sunday from 12pm–5pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries for more information.

Front Cover: Having fun at Geoffrey Carson Reserve in Keysborough. Picture: *Thomas Barnes*.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Open Air Movies



Join us for some balmy Friday night fun and enjoy some free, family-friendly entertainment in the City of Greater Dandenong.

The Greater Dandenong Open Air Movies deliver movie nights across two great locations, Harmony Square and the Springvale Community Hub.

The free sessions alternate between the two sites and will be delivered with a COVID Safe approach, including pre-booked tickets and a QR code check in.

All movies start at 7pm, BYO chairs and movie snacks.

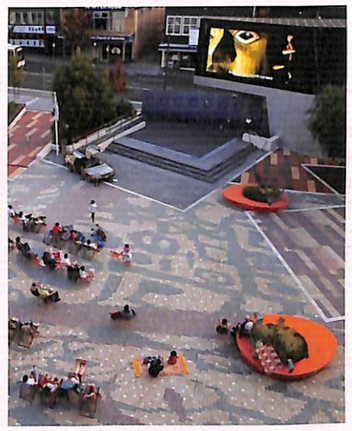
Springvale Hub will host movies on:

5 March Double feature:
7pm Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs [G]

8.35pm The Boxing Girls of Kabul [G]

19 March: Shrek Forever After [PG]

1 April (Thursday night due to Good Friday public holiday): Kung Fu Panda [PG]



Harmony Square will host movies on:

12 March: School of Rock [PG]

26 March: Annie (1982) [G]

9 April: Song of the Sea [PG]

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies for more information and to book your tickets.

Have your say

Council wants to hear about how visitors use informal recreation resources across our parks and reserves.

The City of Greater Dandenong has a variety of informal recreation infrastructure, including courts, sporting goals, activity walls, fitness equipment, trails and tracks (including BMX and skate parks).

Council wants to know whether people use these facilities and what you like or dislike about them. The short survey will also ask what you would like to see more of and where.

The results of this survey will help Council understand the needs of residents and how this type of infrastructure can be improved.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more and take part in the survey.

Preps prepared for school

Greater Dandenong Libraries supported children at two local primary schools get their prep year off to a great start through the supply of special literacy packs.

With the COVID-19 pandemic preventing kindergarten students from fully participating in the classroom during 2020, Mission Australia have facilitated the Communities for Children COVID-19 Innovative Fund to assist with early years intervention.

Greater Dandenong Libraries secured a grant from the fund and created take home resource packs for children who started at Dandenong West and Wooranna Park primary schools this year.

The libraries will continue to work with the prep students, their teachers and families, to provide literacy support including one on one reading sessions to help create a love of literacy.

The program was supported with generous donations and discounts from a list of national retailers and local businesses.

Councillor Contacts



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Yarraman Ward
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TUESDAY 9 MARCH
MONDAY 22 MARCH

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The March meetings will be held:

Tuesday 9 March (due to public holiday on the Monday)

Monday 22 March

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Dandenong Creek Art Trail

An art trail with a focus on celebrating the resilience and vast cultural heritage of the Peoples of the Kulin Nations is set to feature alongside the winding Dandenong Creek.

The art trail will feature seven cultural sites in neighbouring municipalities, including Greater Dandenong, Casey, Monash, Whitehorse, Knox and Maroondah.



Greater Dandenong CEO John Bennie, VicHealth CEO Sandro Demaio and Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long

VicHealth CEO Sandro Demaio recently visited with Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long and CEO John Bennie to hear about the project.

The group visited Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North to inspect existing artwork created by Dandenong-based Aboriginal artist Ian Harrison last year.

Titled *Spreading the Message* the artwork was part of a project to enhance land alongside the creek, with Council's Parks' Team revegetating the land with indigenous plants. The artwork marks the start of the Dandenong Creek Art Trail.

The Trail will be created in collaboration with the Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land Councils. Once completed, the trail will help restore access to its traditional custodians. It will also encourage people to visit and explore the creek, supporting physical health and mental wellbeing. The City of Greater Dandenong and Living Links received funding through VicHealth's Everyday Creativity program to create the artworks.

Artists and specific locations for artworks are being decided. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

Cr Jim Memeti

▶ Dandenong Ward

I hope 2021 has been kind to you all so far. After the restrictions of 2020, I have to say it has been nice to see more families out and about in Greater Dandenong.

It is wonderful to see local businesses being supported to get back on track after the tough year that was, and it is also great to see residents, young and old, exploring the suburbs.

Last year Council continued to deliver services, including upgrades to local parks, reserves and sporting grounds.

Dandenong Park has always been a popular and iconic location in the suburb, but it is now looking better than ever thanks to the realisation of the Dandenong Park Master Plan.

Created in 2007 the plan held a long term vision for this space, which included bringing it into the 21st Century while recognising its history. I am proud to say the finishing touches have now been completed, and this park is truly a gem in the heart of Dandenong.

From the large playground in the riverside precinct, to the multi-sport court, table tennis tables and barbecue/picnic facilities in the north area precinct, there is something for the whole family. Take a walk around the park on the Tan Track, or get your sweat on at the fitness equipment.

There's plenty of open space for the kids to run around in and landscaping and seating for those quiet, more reflective moments. Enjoy a quiet family picnic, or meet your family and friends for a day in the sun.



After a year filled with lockdowns, restrictions and uncertainty, now is the time to explore the great outdoors and what our city has to offer.

If you would like to contact me you can email me at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

▶ Keysborough South Ward

Cr Rhonda Garad



It has been a great pleasure to finally meet many residents of Keysborough South (KS) in person, as COVID restrictions have been lifted. After a unique local election in which physical contact was not possible, it is wonderful now to meet and talk to residents about issues of interest. Also, to thank those who were so supportive during the election.

One of the things I find most inspiring about KS residents is how much they care about their community. They are so willing to actively participate in discussions and activities happening in the ward, which is why I am forming a Keysborough South residents committee. This committee will not only keep me up to date on issues but allow me to funnel back important information affecting the community. I want to make sure this committee is as representative of all residents as possible.

If you would like to be part of this committee, please let me know.

There is so much to discuss such as; the KS levy, new public transport routes, new walking paths, pedestrian overbridge on Chapel road, traffic congestion and calming devices, industrial zoning, improvements to Westwood blvd park, saving the KS historical Chapel, advocating for a secondary school, protecting and enhancing the environment and so much more.

I want to acknowledge the great work of the two KS Facebook groups (Keysborough Community Noticeboard and Sommerfield Community Social Club) in strengthening connections within the ward. Particularly want to thank Dhani Chandra and Rolando Navas for their great efforts here.

It is an enormous privilege to represent the dynamic and engaged community of Keysborough South and I am very excited at the great work we can do together over the next four years.

I am contactable via phone 0435 017 584 or facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard or email rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au

Register your pets



Out of date information is one of the biggest barriers preventing lost pets from being returned to their homes quickly.

Council Rangers love to return lost pets to their owners, but out of date information can delay happy reunions.

By registering your animal, and then keeping your contact details up to date, you can ensure that pets picked up by Council have the best chance of making it home.

Pet registration fees are used to help deliver Council's Animal Management Services, which includes the investigation of complaints and regular patrols of parks and reserves. A State Government levy added to each registration fee is also used to fund responsible pet ownership education programs across the state.

The law requires owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with Council, and pet registrations must be renewed by 9 April each year. Heavy penalties can apply if you fail to renew your pet's registration by this date.

Heavily discounted fees are offered for desexed pets and those over 10 years of age. If you pay this month your pet is registered until April 2022.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals/pet-registration for more information.

Clean Up

This year marks the 31st anniversary of the first Clean Up Australia Day and since that day in 1990 more than 18.3 million Australians have volunteered more than 36 million hours to clean up.

The Clean Up Australia initiative is about more than one clean up day and aims to educate Australians all year round to take practical action to protect our environment.

While there were definite environmental benefits from the restrictions of 2020, the year also highlighted the amount of waste produced by households.

New COVID safe measures have been introduced for this year's Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 7 March, but if you aren't comfortable joining an organised clean up why not take a pledge to make a change?

You could pledge to say no to straws, bring your own water bottle or compost your kitchen waste. Perhaps you could buy recycled materials or refuse to buy plastic wrapped fruit and vegetables. There are many ways to step up and the Clean Up Australia crew are calling on you to share your own pledge via social media. Tag @CleanUpAustralia and use the hashtag #StepUpToCleanUp to share your pledge.

Visit cleanup.org.au to find a local clean up or create your own event for Clean Up Australia Day.

Translation services



The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia.

Our residents come from 157 different birth places and speak more than 200 languages. Communicating with everyone can be challenging, but Council is working to make information as accessible as possible.

Our website includes a Google translation function, which with the press of a button can change the language across all pages of the website. The function currently translates more than 85 languages, including Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (traditional and simplified), German, Hebrew, Khmer, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Council will trial the placement of a select number of articles from this magazine onto the website to allow for information to be shared in multiple languages.

Look for the icon attached to stories in this magazine then visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gdcouncilnews and click on the translation icon on the top right corner of the screen to select another language.

Food waste recycling – are you ready?

From next month, food scraps can be added to the green lid garden waste bins across Greater Dandenong.

The move will help residents reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill and will have great benefits for the environment.

The green lid bin will become a food and garden waste bin and collections will start from Monday 5 April.

Residents will be able to add food waste alongside their garden clippings, grass and leaves. The kerbside collection will be taken to a composting facility where the scraps are turned into high grade compost.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long encouraged residents to take advantage of the new service.

"Figures show that up to half of the waste that goes into the red lid waste bins across Greater Dandenong contain food and garden waste," Cr Long said.

"With the help of the Greater Dandenong community we can support the reduction of waste going to landfill and contribute to creating high-quality compost for use by Victorian farmers.

Food waste means any food that is left over from meal preparation and plate scrapings, even including meat, fish, cheese, rice, pasta and cake.

Food must not be in a bag or other container and must be added to the bin loose.

No food packaging will be accepted, this includes any packaging labelled compostable, degradable or biodegradable.

Common Questions

What can go in my food and garden waste bin?

All food can be placed in your bin, including fruit and vegetable scraps and peelings, noodles, rice, pasta, cereals, grains, nuts, seeds, eggs, eggshells, cheese, meat, seafood, bones, bread, cakes, biscuits and leftovers, including takeaway or spoiled and mouldy food.

Do not include food packaging of any kind, or fruit labels, stickers, rubber bands, tea bags or coffee pods.

What if I don't have a green lid bin?

If you do not currently have a garden waste bin you will need to organise one. There will be a cost associated with adding this bin to your waste services. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to explore your needs.

If you are renting and would like to add this service please speak to your landlord.

What if I am already composting at home?

Excellent. Thank you for doing this – please keep up the great work. However, a food and garden waste bin can actually complement backyard composting. Food scraps that are not suited to home composting can be placed into the food and garden waste bin and turned into high-quality compost.

How do I use the food and garden waste bin?

1. Collect food scraps in a kitchen caddy or a similar container
2. Empty your caddy into the green lid bin
3. Place your food and garden waste bin out on your kerb for collection.

Hints and tips for managing food waste

- Store your food and garden waste bin in a shaded area
- Layer your food waste in between garden waste material such as grass clippings and leaves
- You can wrap your food waste in 1-2 sheets of kitchen paper towel or a single sheet of newspaper before placing into your bin
- Store food waste in a sealed container (eg an old ice cream container) in your freezer until the night before collection and then empty directly into the bin
- Rinse out your kitchen caddy and food and garden waste bin regularly.

Get a free kitchen caddy

FREE

To assist residents with sorting their food waste, residents with a garden waste service can request a free kitchen caddy.

Council has a limited number of kitchen caddies available to residents who already have a green lid waste bin.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste to register for your caddy. Successful applicants will be notified before they receive their caddy.



Unwrapped mural



In late 2020 Greater Dandenong celebrated the LGBTIQA+ community through the Unwrapped arts program.

The successful program delivered online exhibitions, performances, events and workshops and created a long-lasting legacy with the completion of a mural in Walker Street, Dandenong.

The mural, titled *The home of earthly delights*, was done by artists David Lee Pereira and Goodie.

David Lee Pereira said the mural was an opportunity to tell "our stories through our work", and he hoped it encouraged others to tell their own unique stories.

"As a queer kid who grew up in the west of Melbourne in the early 90s, I often did not feel safe in my own neighbourhood and even my home. We talk as a community about pride, but how that starts is with visibility, acceptance and support.

"What I am seeing after 30 years is that the new generation are coming up in a world with much more representation in the media, and the ability to connect with people like themselves and that's really beautiful."

Goodie said while there was a lot of work to do, change was happening.

"I'm lucky I'm a bit younger (than David), and am fortunate that the representation and community support I see now is growing. I've come out multiple times over the past years, and it has helped me a lot to read, hear and see people living proudly, being their true and complex selves."

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/unwrapped to find out more.

FLORA

***Flora* is an immersive art program that explores the importance, beauty and fragility of nature and the plant world.**

Through a series of exhibitions, installations and events across the City of Greater Dandenong, *Flora* will offer new perspectives and renew our wonder for the plant world. This city-wide exhibition will run from 25 March to 1 May.

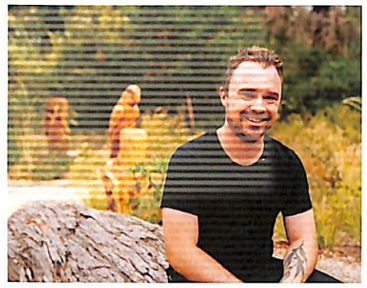
Venues include Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Heritage Hill, Garnar Lane Display Boxes, Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Connection Art Space.

As the main venue for *Flora*, an exhibition at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre will feature works of various styles from multiple artists. Media includes ceramics, photography, painting and living plants, while artists include Ali Choudhry, Baden Croft, Merran Esson, Tashara Roberts, Georgia Szmerling, Katie West and Artists of Ampilatwatja.

Next door to the gallery, at Connection Art Space, the *Community Bouquet* exhibition will encourage everyone to become an artist.

Beginning in 2019 with artist Natalie Artis the exhibition invites community members, through a guided journey, to create a bouquet from their everyday walks. Bouquets can consist of flowers, plants and debris found along the path of each participant. Each bouquet is a "breathing portrait of local suburbs".

Heritage Hill will have two exhibitions, including an open-entry exhibition featuring works from across the country. A selection of art work from the "Painting on the Hill" art competition held in the 1990s and early 2000s will also be on display as part of the "Inspirations on the Hill" exhibition.



Artist in Residence Dave Thomson

Sound artist Dave Thomson (Lost Few) has been undertaking a residency within Springvale South's Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve.

Through a series of sound recordings, Dave has created an immersive, sensory experience that uniquely reflects, and captures, the reserve. The recordings are available to listen to at both Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Walker Street Gallery. A smart phone is required to access the recordings at the reserve, and for an optimal experience we recommend bringing a set of headphones.

The Garnar Lane Display Boxes will showcase contemporary floral displays ready to surprise any passers-by, created by four students from Holmesglen College floristry course.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/flora for a full program of events and to find out how you can take part in public programs.

Images:

1 (*Top*): Baden Croft, The Elevation of The Cross, 190x190cm, oil on linen.

(*Bottom*): Georgia Szmerling, National Park Wildflower, Manitoba Canada Bay Coast, 2017, acrylic on paper, 50x70cm, GS17-0006, represented by Arts Project Australia, Melbourne.

1a: Work by Kim Nguyen

2: Lilli Waters, *Tulpenmanie*, Archival pigment print on fibre rag, 2020. Courtesy the artist and Curatorial & Co. Gallery.

3: Arrangement by Haley Cassar.

4: Dave Thomson (Lost Few). Courtesy the artist.



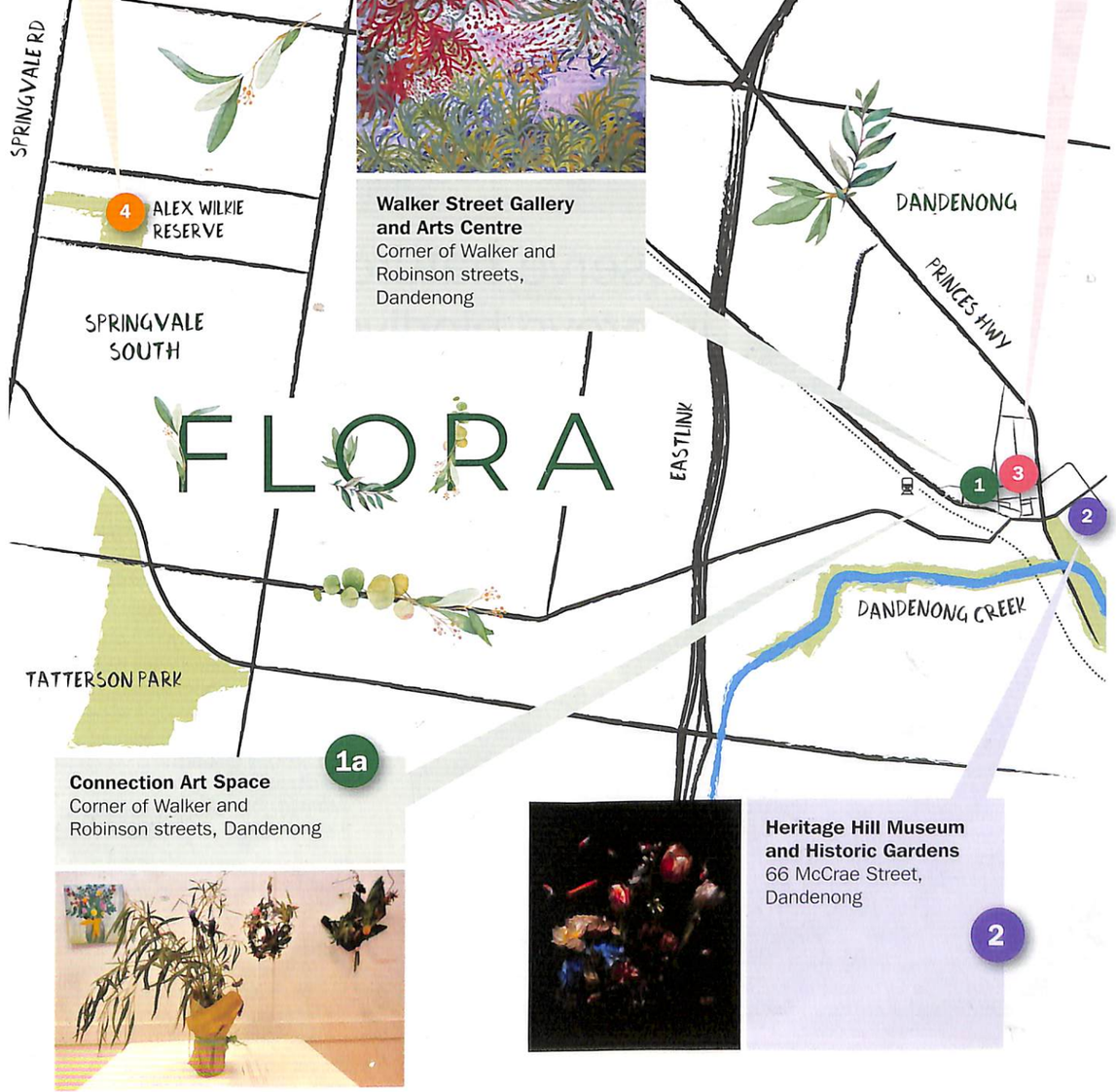
Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve
Springvale South



Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Corner of Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong



Garnar Lane Display Boxes
Garnar Lane, Dandenong



Connection Art Space
Corner of Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
66 McCrae Street, Dandenong

Fishing in local waterways



Fishing in freshwater creeks and wetlands in Greater Dandenong is not illegal.

However, we ask people who choose to fish in local waterways to be aware of other wildlife and to be safe and sensible around water, including with equipment such as fishing hooks.

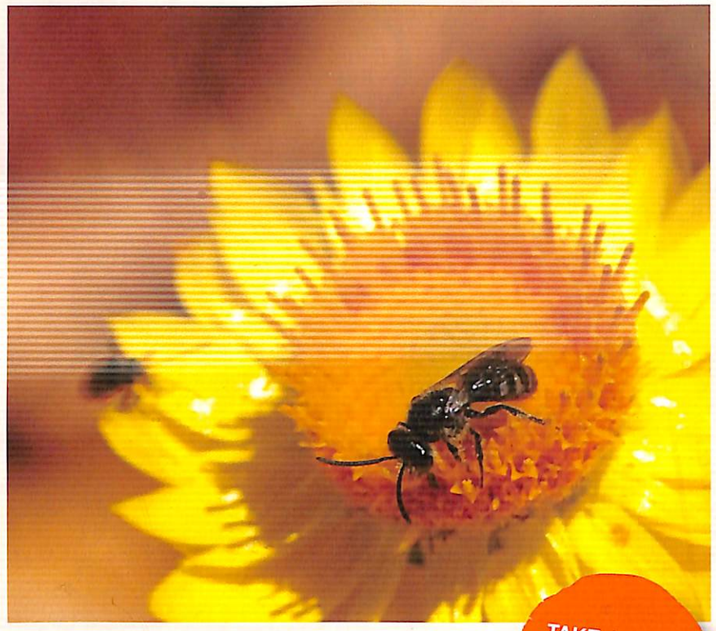
Our wetlands are home to a range of water birds who use these areas for feeding, breeding and raising their young. We even have migratory birds who visit our wetlands annually from as far afield as Japan and Russia.

Discarded hooks and fishing line pose serious danger to the health and wellbeing of birds and other wildlife. We ask visitors to discard of their hooks and fishing lines safely and never leave them behind in reserves or water areas.

Our wetlands are also full of Eastern long-necked turtles and it is illegal to catch these.

While it is legal to catch fish, Council would like to remind residents that the health of these fish can be affected by the health of local waterways. Our constructed wetlands work as an important habitat for wildlife, but they are also used to filter pollution and control flooding. As such we cannot guarantee the quality of the water.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information about wetlands in our city.



TAKE A SEAT AND OBSERVE NATURE

Observe nature and improve biodiversity

Visitors at two local reserves are encouraged to take a seat and observe nature to help increase biodiversity in Greater Dandenong.

Council has received funding from the Federal Government's Community and Environment program to build pollinator observatories that allow community members to help improve our environment.



Visitors are asked to record population numbers of pollinating insects who visit plants in the designated areas, with figures being recorded for the program which is running in partnership with the University of Melbourne.

Four observatories have been developed at Amersham Reserve in Springvale South with plants that are known food sources for both the Blue-Banded Bee and the Dingy Swallowtail Butterfly and Caterpillar. We will record the population numbers of these two species to see if we can increase biodiversity across Greater Dandenong parks and reserves through our planting choices.

A further six observatories have been developed at the Brady Road Bushland Reserve in Dandenong North. They have been planted with species that research suggests are attractive to pollinators, and we need observers to help record the population.

Records are captured via the popular mobile phone app iNaturalist.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/growing-our-future/birds-and-bees-pollinators-citizen-science-program to get involved.

Big Picnic

Keysborough's Big Picnic will return this year to Frederick Wachter Reserve.

Unfortunately, last year the event and many other events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the much-loved family-friendly event will be one of the first festivals in Greater Dandenong to run under new COVID Safe operations.

Be ready to enjoy a fun day out at the park with the community but not as we have seen before.

Mark your calendars to save the afternoon for this exciting event on Sunday 11 April 2021.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to learn more.

Youth Showcase

Do you know a young person who has overcome adversity to achieve their goals? Nominate them now for the Youth Showcase 2021.

This year we are celebrating the resilience and personal growth of young people throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are looking for stories of young people aged 12–25 years who have persevered and inspired others whether it be at home, at school, in the workplace or in the community.

Nominees will be invited to a special recognition event in June 2021.

Nominations close on Thursday 1 April. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for more information.

Young Leaders Program

The Young Leaders program is delivered by Council's Youth and Family Services Team, to give young people the chance to build their skills and make a positive impact in the community.

In 2020, for the first time, the program was run completely online engaging 14 young people over the 20 week program.

Despite facing significant challenges during COVID-19, the Young Leaders persevered to complete the program, successfully planning two community projects to help address local youth issues.

The first project, *Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives*, was a wellbeing workshop designed to equip newly arrived young people with strategies to help them cope with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About 90 students from Noble Park English Language School took part in the workshop, which was facilitated remotely by the Young Leaders. The event featured keynote speakers, interactive workshops and a Q&A discussion panel to share messages about good mental health and self-care.

The Young Leaders' remaining project, a localised Youth Leadership Forum, will be held on Tuesday 16 March. Recognising a need to amplify the voices of young people, this event will bring together youth leaders from across Greater Dandenong to discuss important youth issues and generate a set of recommendations to present to government decision-makers. This event will be delivered face to face.

Applications for the 2021 Young Leaders program are now open. Young people aged 16-25 are eligible to apply. Applications close on Sunday 28 March.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to view the online application form or contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for more information.



Active spaces encourage healthy habits



A range of upgrades in parks and reserves across the City of Greater Dandenong are inspiring visitors of all ages to make the most of the great outdoors and stay active.

Already a favourite with local families, Burden Park in Springvale South has opened a new active play area based on the Ninja Warrior concept.

The first of its kind in Victoria, the course is designed for 12 years and above and is a fun and challenging way to work on general fitness.

Warner Reserve in Springvale recently installed a fitness station with two pods of activities including aerobic cycle, cross-trainer, sit-up bench, body twist and stretching station.

A number of local playgrounds have also been recently upgraded with new play equipment, including:

- Geoffrey Carson Reserve in Keysborough
- Olinda Reserve in Springvale
- Regent Reserve in Springvale.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the new spaces were an important addition to our city.

"It is pleasing to see many local children and families enjoying these new spaces, which are designed for active, challenging, imaginative and social play for both younger and older children."

Cr Long encouraged residents to use the many public outdoor facilities available in the region.

"Studies have shown that spending just 15 minutes in nature can make you feel happier, and more relaxed, creative and focused. Enjoying some of our green spaces and active areas will give your mood a boost and help your physical health."

Council is committed to supporting Greater Dandenong residents on the journey to better health and is currently running the Make Your Move campaign, a call to action for the community to be more physically active.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information on Make Your Move, or our parks, playgrounds and improvement projects.

Did you know... there are more than 600 hectares of parks and reserves to explore and enjoy in Greater Dandenong. From bushland reserves to dog off-leash parks, playgrounds and community gardens, there are many wonderful ways to enjoy the great outdoors.

Playgrounds provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to engage in physical, cognitive, unstructured and social play. Council groups our playgrounds into three categories:

- District playgrounds, which are large in size holding a large and diverse range of equipment for children aged 2-14 years
- Neighbourhood playgrounds, which are medium-sized and cater for children aged 2-12 years
- Local playgrounds, which are smaller in size and have a limited range of play equipment generally suited to children under 8 years.

Good neighbours

When people love where they live, they often have one thing in common – a good relationship with the neighbours.



Animals, noise, fences and long grass can be common issues that cause bad relationships between neighbours, but there are steps you can take to deal with these issues.

In most cases, the best way to handle a situation is to discuss it with your neighbour and come to an informal agreement. If the situation escalates, there are laws that can help resolve a dispute. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet for more information.

Below is a list of some issues and the rights and responsibilities of residents who want to be 'good' neighbours:

Barking dogs

Dogs bark for a variety of reasons and it is important to find out why and then try to resolve the issue in a friendly manner wherever possible. Residents must ensure that noise from animals owned by them does not 'adversely affect' the comfort, convenience, privacy or health of another person.

At times the owner may not be aware of the barking and so it is important to talk to them about it before reporting the issue to Council.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-an-animals/animal-complaints to find out more.

Unsightly premises/ overgrown nature strips

Well-maintained properties add greatly to the beauty and amenity of our municipality. When property is poorly maintained it can lead to perceptions that an area is unsafe, untidy and poorly cared for.

The owner and/or occupier of land must not allow their property to become unsightly, overgrown or dangerous, and nature strips should be regularly maintained by the property residents.

Properties that are found to be unsightly (with overgrown grass/vegetation or a large amount of rubbish) will be issued with a compliance notice from Council. The notice will allow up to 21 days for improvements to be made. If no improvements are made, Council has the option to organise work to be carried out at the cost of the owner.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet for more information.

Fencing

The cost of a fence is divided equally between the adjoining neighbours according to the Victorian Fencing Act 1968. Council will contribute half of the cost of the construction and replacement of a standard fence abutting Council owned properties (including recreation reserves, parks and other buildings).

Property owners and fencing contractors can request the details of property owners for fencing purposes. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/local-laws/neighbours-law-and-you to fill out an application form.

Council will not negotiate fence disputes between neighbours, however the Department of Justice Dispute Settlement Centre can offer advice. Phone 1300 372 888 for information.



Noise complaints

Noise can be defined as any unwanted sound. What may be pleasurable sound to one person can be noise to another. Over time, noise can cause significant impacts on health and wellbeing, especially when it disturbs sleep.

Residents should always try solving noise disputes directly with their neighbours, but if you are unable to resolve the matter yourself you can contact Council on 8571 1000 or the EPA on 1300 372 842 for further advice.

There are strict guidelines covering when residential noise is allowed. This includes motor vehicle sounds, lawnmowers, power tools and heating and cooling systems.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet for more information.

Burning off

Burning off is generally not permitted in Greater Dandenong due to negative environmental impacts. Waste needs to be disposed of by means other than burning, but if there is no other means available a burn off permit may be considered.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet or phone 8571 1000 to apply for a permit.

DANDENONG WORLD FARE

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's largest free, family-friendly event returns this month to the Dandenong Market.

Celebrate world street food and culture in the heart of Australia's most culturally diverse community at the Dandenong World Fare 2021.

The fare will feature more than 20 street food traders who will be offering many of your favourite hawker-style foods, as well as some of the world's most unique dishes created solely for the festival.

Visit *Kabul Kitchen* to try their take on mantu dumplings, a secret family recipe that has been perfected over many decades.

Vegetarians should stop by Why Not? Wooden Bakery for a meat-free take on the traditional za'atar manoush, made with a base of thyme, sesame seeds and olive oil, and topped with ingredients such as feta, capsicum and olives.





Celebrate world street food and culture...

Xian Lim Chen from *San San's Dumpling House* welcomes you into her childhood home as she shares the dish her father created to satisfy his picky eater – treasure pockets are packed with rice, chicken and vegetable.

This year's event will follow a strict COVID Safe plan with increased cleaning, hand sanitation stations and adherence to physical distancing requirements. Roving entertainers will also share a cultural experience from a safe distance.

Seat limits will apply on the day, so get in early to sample the world on a plate.

Dandenong World Fare will be held on the Terrace, at Dandenong Market, corner Clow and Cleeland streets, on Sunday 28 March from 10am–4pm.

Visit dandenongmarket.com.au for more information.

Supporting local business

The Greater Dandenong Business Grants Program offered immediate financial assistance for small to medium sized businesses affected by COVID-19 in 2020.

Over two rounds, a total of 360 grants were awarded, totalling $600,000 in economic support for Greater Dandenong businesses.

The grants were provided to businesses who could demonstrate how the financial support would assist their business to retain current employees or support business sustainability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grant submissions included requests to upgrade business software, training to expand digital presence, and furniture and equipment upgrades.

The grants complemented other, non-financial business recovery measures provided by Council including one-on-one business mentoring and support for COVIDSafe practices, including the provision of contactless thermometers.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business for more information.



Feed happiness

Food can impact mental health, with research showing that the right food can help put you in a good mood.

Council is supporting the Feed Happiness social media campaign, which brings together 19 organisations from across Melbourne. The campaign is here to support young people and families to choose healthier foods for good mental health.

We all want to eat delicious food that helps us to manage stress and boost mood, but with so many options it's hard to know what works best.

Feed Happiness will provide support and resources to:

- Increase your understanding of the link between food and mood
- Identify which specific foods can support better mood (to make options easy)
- Build your knowledge and motivation to prepare and eat healthy foods
- Create a space for connecting within the community and on social media, to encourage sharing and discussions about the connections between mood and food.

Let's Feed Happiness with food that is good for our brain.



Find out more about the Feed Happiness campaign on social media.

@feedhappiness

@feedhappiness_



30 years of pool safety

Dandenong Oasis marked a very special milestone this year, celebrating the role the pool has played in water safety.

On 26 January 1991 the public pool facility was opened under the management of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia Victoria Branch, now known as Life Saving Victoria (LSV).

At the same time the Australian Water Safety Education Centre (AWSEC) was established, offering accredited training programs for pool lifeguards and creating industry best practice in Australia for safety at public pool facilities.

Dandenong Oasis recently hosted a small, early morning celebration for many of those involved in the program since its establishment.

LSV President Paul James said the celebrations were a great opportunity to celebrate the progress that has been made in aquatic safety over the past 30 years.

"Today LSV is recognised as a key pillar in the aquatic industry and this has been built on the foundations established by the AWSEC," Mr James said.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said Council was proud to have been a partner in the venture to improve aquatic safety.

"Many swimmers who visit our pools did not grow up in and around water, but they can feel safe knowing there are expert eyes watching over them," Cr Long said.

"The City of Greater Dandenong is proud to have been the home of AWSEC and to have worked in partnership with LSV (and their predecessor RLSSA-V) to help make great changes in the field of pool safety."



Come together AT OUR TABLE

DANDENONG WORLD FARE

SUNDAY 28 MARCH | 10AM–4PM

MELBOURNE'S LARGEST CELEBRATION OF WORLD STREET FOOD

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City of Opportunity

GREATER DANDENONG

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APRIL 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

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cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the April edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

This month Council introduces its new food waste recycling service. We hope all residents take advantage of this new way to dispose of food waste and reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill via our kerbside collection. Find out more about the service on the opposite page.

If you are looking to entertain your children over the school holidays we have plenty on offer. Turn to pages 10 and 11 to see what is happening across our city including events at our libraries and some live shows at Drum Theatre.

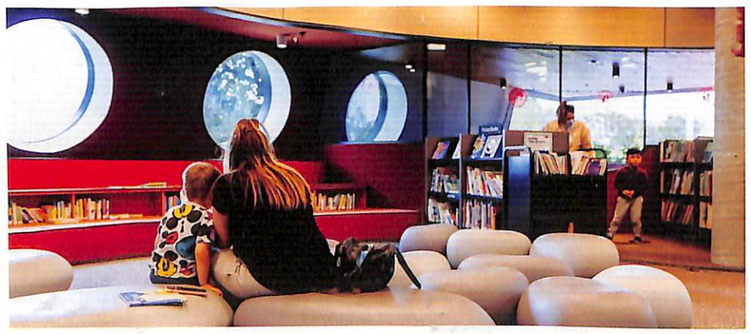
We look forward to the return of the Big Picnic at Wachter Reserve in Keysborough. Cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been working hard to make this year's event safe for everyone. Read more on page 7.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to everyone celebrating special events this month. While many are celebrating Easter, others mark their new year in April. Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse city in Australia, and I love seeing the vibrant ways our community celebrates their various traditions.

I hope this is a great month for everyone.



My City



Have you visited the new Springvale Library yet? There is so much to see in this beautiful state-of-the-art facility, including this engaging children's reading area. Share a book with your little one or take part in one of the many programs aimed at encouraging a love of literacy in our youngest residents, including weekly Baby Bounce and Storytime sessions. The library is at 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries for more information.

Front Cover: Zoe and her daughter Lennan are ready to recycle their food waste. Picture: *Hilton Stone.*

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Food waste recycling is here

From Monday 5 April food scraps can be added to your green lid garden waste bin for recycling.

Studies have shown that up to half of all waste placed in the red lid waste bins is made up of food and garden waste. By adding the scraps to your green bin you can reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.



The green lid bin will continue to be collected on a fortnightly basis and will be taken to a local composting facility where it will be turned into nutrient-rich compost for Victorian farmers. Your red lid bin and yellow lid bin will continue to be collected on the same cycle.



The best way to deal with food waste is to not produce it in the first place. According to Sustainability Victoria the average Victorian household wastes more than $2000 worth of food every year.

By planning meals ahead of time, shopping with a list and eating leftovers you can reduce food wastage, but for those unavoidable food scraps you now have the option to recycle them with your garden waste, including lawn clippings and leaves.

This service will only be available to residents who already pay for a green lid garden waste bin.



Households that have registered for a free kitchen caddy will have their caddies delivered along with a fridge magnet and information booklet. Residents can still apply for a kitchen caddy via the online registration form.

If you would like a fridge magnet and booklet you can collect one from any Greater Dandenong customer service centre. The booklet is also available to download from Council's website.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste for more information.

Residents who don't currently have a garden waste service can add one to their kerbside collection. Visit Council's website or phone customer service on 8571 1000 for more information.

Making Springvale even more sensational



Works will begin soon to transform Springvale Road into a signature boulevard befitting of one of Melbourne's most popular cultural destinations.

The Springvale Boulevard Project will improve the visitor experience to Springvale, improving pedestrian access, adding trees, street lighting, public artwork and space for footpath trading.

Planning for construction is well underway and Stage 1 and 2 works along Springvale Road, between Windsor Avenue and Lightwood Road, are scheduled to commence in mid-2021.

The final designs are based on feedback from more than 1100 people, with the improvements expected to create a vibrant place to shop and connect while giving visitors a happy place to celebrate our community.

Council will directly contact affected businesses to help keep disruptions to a minimum for traders and their customers.

Thanks to the generosity of locals who shared their vision for this project we are working to create this community space together.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-boulevard-project to keep up with the latest on this project.

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Yarraman Ward
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MONDAY 12 APRIL

MONDAY 26 APRIL

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The April meetings will be held:

Monday 12 April

Monday 26 April

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Sustainability Awards 2021

The Greater Dandenong Sustainability Awards are now open.

The awards recognise the community's efforts to make our city and environment a more sustainable place to live, work and play. These awards identify champions in our community whose achievements can be seen and adopted by others.

This year's awards will look a bit different, with submissions taking the form of a short video, artwork or invention.

Submissions close on Friday 30 April and can be made across one of the following four categories:

- Resident or tertiary student
- Primary student
- Secondary student
- Employee or business in Greater Dandenong.

Entries can be made by individuals or team groups and must be themed around climate change and/or sustainability and what our future will look like as a carbon-neutral city.



Submissions will be judged by our external Sustainability Advisory Committee, and a people's choice award will be open to a public vote during the Forever Fest (22–30 May).

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-awards-2021 for more information and details on how to enter.

Cr Bob Milkovic

▶ Dandenong North Ward



This month sees some big changes to the way residents can dispose of waste – with the introduction of food waste recycling. This will help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from our kerbside collections, by allowing all food waste to be disposed of in the green waste (green lid) bin.

The food and garden waste will be turned into high quality compost and used on farms across the state, making this a win-win program for all.

Speaking of winning, Council recently had success at the state's peak planning tribunal VCAT when they supported calls by Council and community members to knock back a proposal for 20 dwellings at Cardinia Close, Dandenong North.

More than 100 objections were received from the public when the application was first made in November 2018 and Council initially refused the plans. Late last year VCAT upheld our decision and I am pleased they agreed with our viewpoint that this development did not fit in this neighbourhood.

Council does its best to listen to the concerns of our community, and another issue we recently consulted about was two strategies that look at trees in our city.

Throughout the month of February we called for comments on the Urban Forest Strategy and the Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy. This consultation also asked for feedback on plans to introduce a local law covering trees on private residential property. Officers are going through the many responses we received and will soon report to Council on the outcome. I will make sure to keep residents up to date on any changes to our local laws.

Finally, I want to update you on some works at Tirhatuan Park, where new drinking fountains were recently installed and the off-leash dog park upgrade has been completed. This area now has a designated space for small dogs and some fun agility equipment.

If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters you can reach me at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.

Cr Loi Truong

▶ Springvale South Ward



An opportunity has opened for Council to secure State Government funding to improve tennis facilities at Burden Park in Springvale South.

Plans include replacing the playing surface, fences and lights to create a more modern facility for the community to enjoy for years to come. While the plans are detailed in the Burden Park Master Plan, Council has an opportunity to fast track these works with State Government funding.

We recently consulted with residents living in the vicinity of the park and we hope to have some news on that project very soon.

Speaking of Burden Park, it has been lovely to see how popular it has become. While many residents have known for a long time what a great asset this park is, it has become a magnet for families from across Melbourne because of the new Ninja Warrior park.

Council has received funding from the Federal Government Blackspot Program and will be installing traffic signals at the intersection of Harold Road and Corrigan Road in Noble Park. Construction of the lights is due to commence in mid-2021 and will help improve safety for all road users.

This month is a time of great celebration in our culturally diverse community. While many celebrate Easter, there are also many new year celebrations happening for various Asian communities, including the Cambodian and Sri Lankan New Year Festivals.

While these holidays look a bit different in 2021, we know how important it is for our residents to continue to mark traditional celebrations and days of significance. Our community is the most culturally diverse in all of Australia, and barely a week goes by without an important date being marked on the calendar. I encourage all our residents to continue to celebrate their traditions and hopefully soon we will all be able to gather again to share in each other's special moments. In the meantime I encourage you all to follow the latest health advice to protect yourself and your loved ones.

If you want to contact me you can reach me at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 004 618.



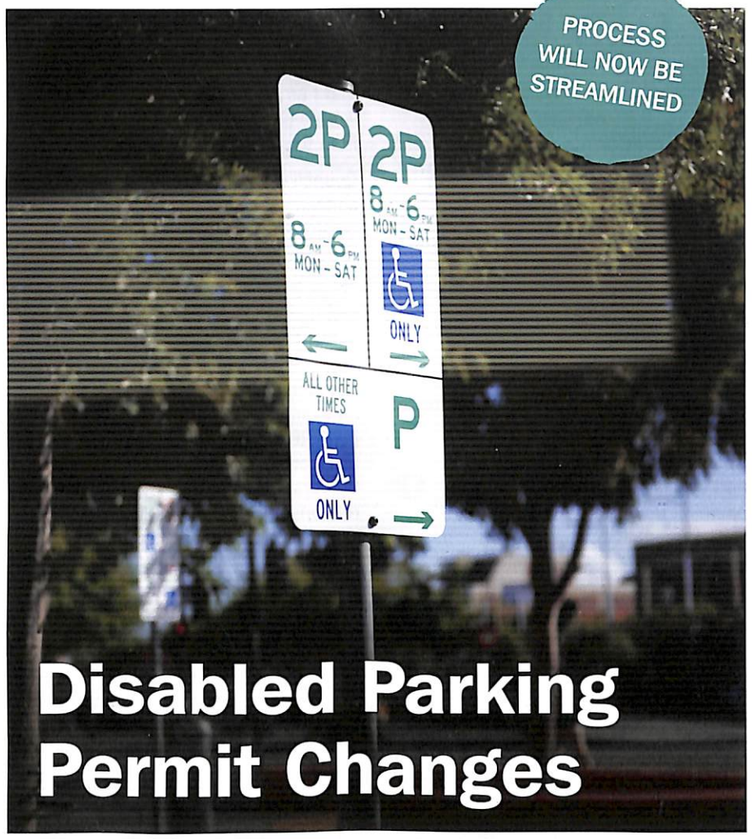
FOREVER FEST

Greater Dandenong City Council is excited to announce a new look to our annual Sustainability Festival.

Renamed *Forever Fest 'Sustainable living for now and the future'* the festival will run over nine days (22–30 May) with each day focusing on the eight themes of our Climate Emergency Strategy, which was prepared in response to Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in January 2020.

With elements to suit all age groups and interests, Forever Fest has something for everyone. Every activity across the nine days is free and accessible through various online platforms. Stay tuned as we unveil the exciting program and share how you can get involved.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest to find out more.



PROCESS WILL NOW BE STREAMLINED

Disabled Parking Permit Changes

The process for issuing disabled parking permits will now be streamlined, with the State Government taking responsibility for issuing permits via VicRoads. The permits have also been renamed Accessibility Parking Permits.

For some time now VicRoads has been working with Victorian councils to develop a new online service to manage the application process, permit printing and assist with enforcement.

As part of the changes, eligibility criteria will be simplified and streamlined to ensure permit applications are assessed consistently across the state. The move to a centralised system will also help reduce the misuse of permits, freeing up parking bays for people who really need them.

Other anticipated improvements to the Scheme include:

- introduction of temporary permits for 6, 12 or 24 months
- increased permit length from three years to five years for individuals
- introduction of a permanent disability classification, so reassessments are not required for future permit renewals
- the inclusion of occupational therapists as assessors, in addition to GPs.

All applicants will need to apply for a permit online via the portal, and while decisions can no longer be appealed a second application can be made with extra information or a second opinion added.

Visit vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/disability-parking for more information.

THE BIG PICNIC





Greater Dandenong City Council invites you to the biggest, fun and free community picnic in town.



Keysborough's Big Picnic is back this year with activities for all ages, including live dance performances and circus acts, build and fly your own kite workshop, and a chance to hunt for Easter Eggs with Parkmore Shopping Centre's annual egg hunt.

There will also be a dog-friendly egg hunt and other fun activities for your furry friends.

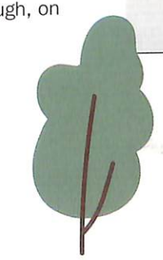
The Make Your Move Zone will also return to challenge you to get up and move with the help and encouragement of local sporting clubs.

Bring your picnic blankets and chairs for a great and safe day out with the community at Wachter Reserve, Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough, on Sunday 11 April.

The day will be split into two sessions, and attendees can pre-register for either of the sessions beginning at 11am or 1.30pm. Registrations will close one hour before each session is due to open.

Attendees will be asked to stay COVID safe on the day, maintaining physical distancing and carrying a mask. They will also be asked to register their attendance via a QR code on arrival.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysie-big-picnic for more information and to pre-register.





Dog park complete

Upgrades at the Tirhatuan Park dog off-leash area have been completed, giving dogs and their human companions a great new space to play.



In mid-2020 a separate small dog play area was opened next to the existing fenced off-leash park, giving smaller dogs respite from their larger playmates.

Funding for further upgrades was announced in 2020 by the Victorian Government under their Local Parks Program.

The works included new entrance gates, improved path networks and signage. Two feature areas were designed within the park, including agility play equipment for people to train their dogs and a rock mound/dry creek bed area for textural and sensory exploration.

Shelters have also been added to give more shade and drinking fountains with dog drinking bowls to give thirsty pets and people a chance to rehydrate.

The park has always been popular with visitors and Council looks forward to more people taking advantage of the new look space.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-spaces/dog-leash-parks for more information about dog off-leash parks across Greater Dandenong.

River red gums to stay



Following months of discussions, Council has negotiated to save public space including 26 river red gums at Yarraman Village, Noble Park.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said Council had agreed to purchase the land.

"This is a win for the developer, the community and for Council. It is importantly also a win for the environment. It is a positive result that can be attributed to the hard work and commitment of all parties involved," Cr Long said.

"As a result of the recent VCAT decision to allow eight townhouses to be built on the land originally identified for open space, Council has been in discussions with the current owner to purchase this land and retain it as open space to protect the 26 river red gums approved for removal," Cr Long said.

"These discussions have been held in good faith by all parties and have been productive, with a contract now entered into for Council to purchase this land."

With strong community interest and support over a period of time for the trees to be protected, Council has spent time exploring all options.

"With more open space for people to enjoy and the significant River Redgums protected, this is an excellent result for the health and wellbeing of our community," Cr Long said.



Ceremonial Firepit

A key feature of the new Springvale Community Hub pays tribute to the First Peoples of our nation.

The Ceremonial Firepit was designed by Aboriginal artist and Kirrae Whurrong woman Fiona Clarke and her collaborator Ken McKean, and is a focal point of the outdoor space at the hub.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the firepit was designed in collaboration with the Bunurong and Wurundjeri land councils.

"Named 'Waa and Buln Buln Corroboree" this firepit is an important focal point for the hub, and will be used for permitted events and ceremonies," Cr Long said.

The artwork includes a symbolic sculpture comprising of two large bluestones. The lyre bird (Buln Buln) and crow (Waa) have been hand carved into the stone symbolising the two local aboriginal clans, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong of the Kulin nation.

As night falls, the carvings glow and reflect the night sky above.

"This sculpture depicts the coming together of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples as well as the broader enduring and continuous legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connection to country.

"The elements of fire, stone, water and flora come together in harmony as a place of gathering, yarning and connection. I look forward to seeing this space used for generations to come."

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-hub for more information.

FLORA



The immersive Flora Exhibition continues throughout April, with a series of workshops and activities to complement the exhibitions.

Flora offers new perspectives and will renew your wonder for the plant world.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/flora for a full program of events, in the meantime here are some highlights:

Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Dawn Walk Join multisensory artist Dave Thomson (Lost Few) for a one hour walk to explore the beautiful, unique and tranquil surrounds of this nature reserve, and hear about Dave's work as an Artist in Residence at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve in 2020.

Sunday 11 April, 6.15am, at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Mackay Street, Springvale South

The Flora Loved by Madcap Birds Writer Craig Dent and artist Lauren Habarow will host this creative workshop for students aged 6–11 who will create their own book inspired by Flora.

Tuesday 13 April, 2pm–4pm, at Walker Street Gallery, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong.

Flora tour with curator Take this walking tour of the two main exhibition sites at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre and Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens. Join curator Esther Gyorki for insights into the development of the exhibition and its themes and gain a greater understanding of the artists' works.

Tuesday 27 April, 2pm, starting at Walker Street Gallery, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong.

Other activities include Art Series Workshops at Springvale and Dandenong libraries and a garden tour at Heritage Hill.

The Flora Exhibition can be viewed across various locations including Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Heritage Hill, Garnar Lane Display Boxes, Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Connection Art Space.

All workshops and activities will be subject to COVIDSafe plans, including a limit on participant numbers, and require bookings. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to book.

Hemmings Street art

Artwork designed with the help of local school children will brighten the landscape in Hemmings Street, Dandenong.

Following a period of public consultation in early 2020, Council engaged illustrator Beci Orpin to work with students from Dandenong West Primary School on a public art project to complement streetscape works.

The crafty kids made creatures out of rocks giving each creation its own quirky personality. The artworks were then adapted into a mural design which will appear in Woodward Lane, and installation pieces that will pop up along the shopping strip. Dynamic totems will also be installed giving visitors a chance to interact with the artwork.

The artwork is part of the second stage of upgrade works in the Hemmings Street precinct. The first stage was finished in July 2020 and included new footpaths and an improved pedestrian crossing at Wilma Avenue.

Stage two works include more footpaths, new street furniture, plantings and artwork.

Future planned works include relocation of the toilet block and the installation of a new pocket park.



Design by Beci Orpin and Whistle Design.

Autumn Adventure 2021



Bust school holiday boredom this April with Greater Dandenong's Youth and Family Services.

Join the Autumn Adventures Youth Holiday Activities program and explore two weeks of action-packed fun for young people in the community.

Activities include painting with water colour, busting some Tik Tok moves, tree planting, digital content creation and making your own short videos, and so much more.

These activities are for young people aged 12–25 who live, study, work or have a significant connection to the City of Greater Dandenong.

Contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 or visit our website at youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information or to book into an activity.

Greater Dandenong Libraries holiday program

HOP! Into our libraries during Easter break for the April School Holiday Program (April 6–16).

There will be programs for primary school age children and young adults at both Springvale and Dandenong libraries. All sessions will be delivered safely, with limits on attendees and bookings required.

Keep the kids entertained with a live comedy show, dance workshop, LEGO robotics class or getting up close and personal with reptiles.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Bubblemania with TwistED Science

Make your own simple bubble mix and explore the simple, messy and fun science of bubbles.

For ages 5–12
At Springvale Library
Wednesday 7 April at 2.30pm

Manga Drawing with Kenny Chan

Learn how to draw characters in the Manga style and master important facial features and expressions to create engaging, original characters.

For ages 12–25
At Springvale Library
Friday 9 April at 2.30pm

Cosplay Makeup with Frankie Starrson

Build your creativity and learn how to make yourself up as the Cheshire Cat with face paint and brushes.

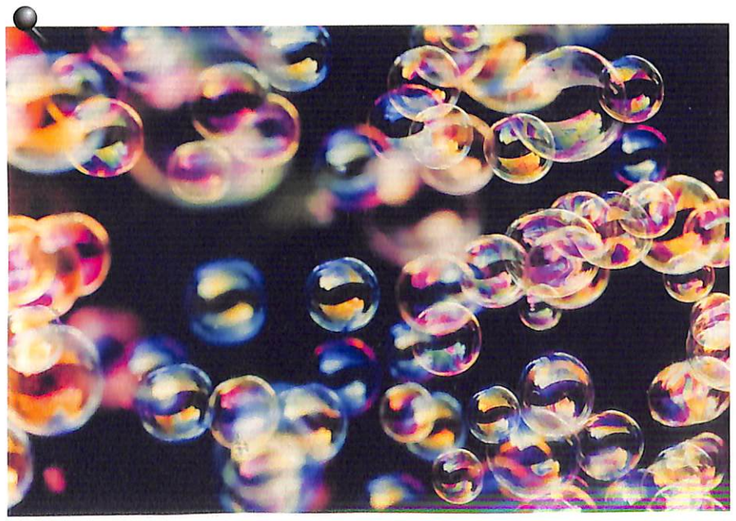
For ages 12–25
At Dandenong Library
Tuesday 13 April, at 2.30pm

Hip-hop and Breakin' with BBoy Scroll

Learn the basics of this high energy dance style and put together your own freestyle performance.

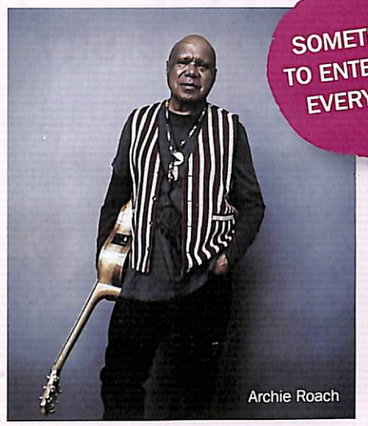
For ages 5–12
At Springvale Library
Thursday 15 April at 2.30pm

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson for a full program of events and to make a booking, or phone 1300 630 920.

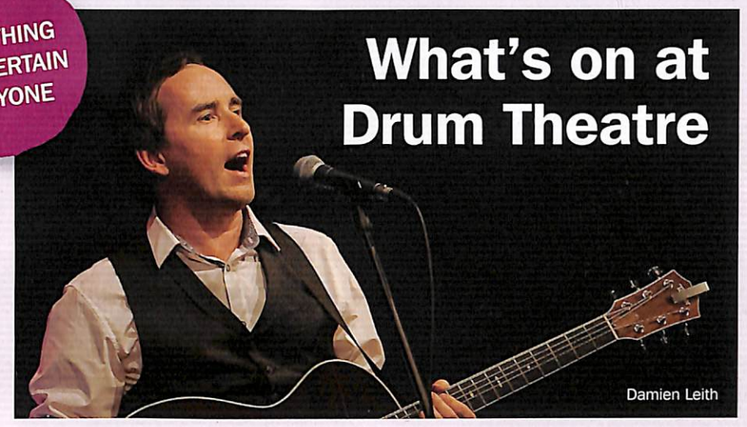


SOMETHING TO ENTERTAIN EVERYONE

What's on at Drum Theatre



Archie Roach



Damien Leith

No matter what your interests, Dandenong's Drum Theatre offers something to entertain everyone.

If you love music then visit the Drum to hear one of Australia's finest voices pay tribute to one of the world's most celebrated singers.

Rescheduled from 2020, singer Damien Leith celebrates the golden anniversary of the legendary Roy Orbison and Joe Melson's classic hit *Only the Lonely* with his stage show *Roy – a Tribute to Roy Orbison* with Strings.

Performed in an intimate setting with a string quartet, Leith will cover Orbison classics such as *Pretty Woman, Only the Lonely, You Got It* and *Crying*.

See Leith at his finest on Saturday 10 April at 7.30pm.

If you're looking for laughs then see some of the world's brightest comedians as the 2021 Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow rolls into town.

This show will be an all killer, no filler line-up of Australian stars and talented newcomers fresh from their festival shows.

Tickets start at just $18. Grab your friends for this hilarious show on Friday 23 April at 8pm.

Join iconic Australian storyteller and singer Archie Roach as he shares highlights from his memoir and companion album both titled *Tell Me Why*.

His memoir, released in 2020, is an intimate, moving and often confronting account of his resilience and strength of spirit. It's an extraordinary odyssey of love and heartbreak, family and community, survival and renewal – and the healing power of music.

See Archie on Friday 7 May at 8pm.

Drum Theatre treats the health and safety of visitors and performers as a top priority, with all theatre goers asked to follow COVID safe requirements including checking in on arrival and carrying a mask.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666 for bookings or more information.

School holidays at Drum Theatre

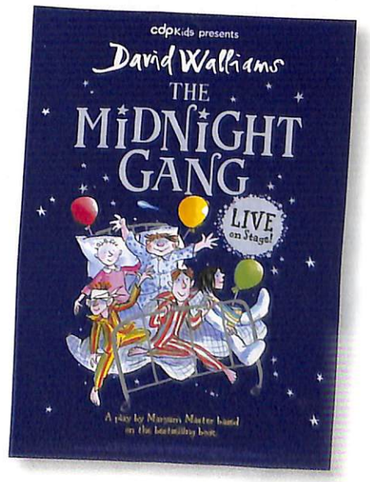
Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre is ready to welcome audiences for two book-inspired, family friendly shows these school holidays.

The Midnight Gang brings to life British comedian David Walliams' bestselling book. A story of friendship, love and the power of the imagination this show is perfect for children aged 6+ and their families. Join us for three shows on Wednesday 7 April at 6pm, or Thursday 8 April, at 10am and 12pm.

Australian favourite The 91-Storey Treehouse joins Andy and Terry as their treehouse reaches amazing new heights. It's now more fantastically dangerous than ever, with a deserted desert island, a whirlpool and a giant spider. A wild adventure for children aged 6–12 and their adults. Join the fun on Thursday 15 April at 6pm, or on Friday 16 April at 11am.

Both shows are presented by CDP Kids Production and offer a special price for family and school bookings.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666 to secure your tickets.





Signage wins top honours

Interpretive signs at Keysborough Wetlands have been awarded a gold medal at the annual International Design Awards.

The wetlands provide a home for birds, fish and turtles, but feeding the wildlife has a detrimental effect on the health of the ecosystem. For this reason Council engaged designers Heine Jones to create signage that helps visitors appreciate the unique wetlands environment.

The innovative signage challenges the traditional "do not feed the birds" message by giving visitors a 'guide book' to the wetlands, including an understanding of the wildlife present and the impact human behaviour can have on the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

The signage can be seen around the Keysborough Wetlands, including in locations at Hidden Grove Reserve, Lakeview Boulevard Reserve and Somerfield Reserve. New installations are planned for Dandenong Wetlands, Tatterson Park and Tirhatuan Park in 2021.

Heine Jones also won a bronze medal for their work on signage at Dandenong's Fotheringham Reserve.

Reclaimed ironbark timber posts were used as a base for signage throughout the park, blending in seamlessly with the natural surrounds. Council now uses posts that are milled from our Urban Forest Tree Repurposing program. Tree repurposing enables opportunities to use logs for habitat, or milling them into lengths of timber for furniture making, or mulching them to return nutrients to the soil and create habitat.

Fotheringham Reserve contains one of the largest intact remnant River Red Gum woodlands in Greater Dandenong and is a beautiful natural resource open to the whole community. The popular reserve is located on Alexander Reserve, Dandenong and includes a playground, picnic area, barbecue, sporting facilities and walking/cycling tracks. It is also popular with bird watchers.

Biodiversity Action Plan



Greater Dandenong Council mascot Harry Habitat with Mayor Angela Long.

With more than 700 hectares of open space, the City of Greater Dandenong is home to some unique environments and a high number of rare or threatened plants and animals.

As part of our commitment to increase the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the city, Council is drafting a Biodiversity Action Plan which will soon be available for community review.

The draft plan will outline key objectives that work towards a greener city that places a value on its natural assets, protects existing levels of biodiversity and works hard to enhance biodiversity levels for the future.

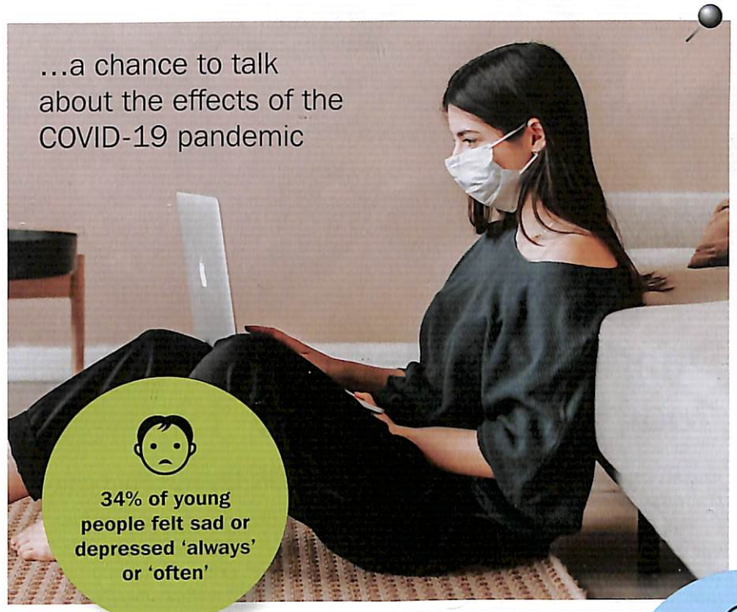
More than 300 community members engaged in the initial consultation for the plan through a range of workshops and surveys.

Having a biodiverse environment is important to help create a healthy community. The healthier and more diverse each ecosystem or environment is, the more it can withstand the pressures of climate change and pollution.

Biodiversity can be achieved not only through action on public parklands and native bushland reserves, but also on suburban nature strips and in private back yards.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more about biodiversity.

How did COVID affect our community?



Young people's top concerns during COVID-19 pandemic

1. Health of family and friends
2. Own health
3. Education

Parents/carers top concerns during COVID-19 pandemic

1. Educational outcomes for children
2. Health of family and friends
3. Money – ability to afford basic needs

The City of Greater Dandenong's Youth and Family Services team consulted with young people and their families during the height of the COVID restrictions in 2020.

Online discussion groups, surveys and phone interviews gave everyone a chance to talk about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how they see the future as we return to regular life.

Four young people were employed as peer research assistants to help support the program which continued to consult with community members during Melbourne's strictest lockdown period.

Employment was the number one priority identified by young people in Greater Dandenong.

One quarter of young people consulted said they lost their job or were temporarily stood down as a result of the pandemic. More than half said they felt less likely to achieve their future plans and goals.

Some respondents reported feeling like they were letting down their families due to lost income, while others reported having to pick up extra work to make up for other family members losing their jobs.

Of the parents who took part in the consultation, 43 per cent reported a decrease in household income, and 20 per cent reported being unable to pay essential costs, such as mortgage, rent or utility bills.

When asked to nominate areas needing the most support, the young people of Greater Dandenong identified employment support as their top priority.

Council's Youth and Family Services team will use the findings from this consultation to create support services and programs to help young people recover from the effects of the pandemic.

If you have experienced hardship due to COVID-19 and need support please visit the COVID Corner – Community Information Centre page on council's website.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.

53% of young people felt less likely to achieve their future plans and goals

52% of young people said COVID had negatively impacted their studies

36% of parents lost their job or were tentatively stood down

21% of parents were unable to afford essential household needs

44% of parents felt sad or depressed 'always' or 'often'

Young people's top priorities for recovery

1. Youth employment
2. Building social connections
3. Mental health support

Foster Street redevelopment



In late 2020 Development Victoria announced the Foster Street Redevelopment as the next phase of the Revitalising Central Dandenong project.

The redevelopment area covers both sides of Foster Street from Settler's Square to Thomas Street/ Cheltenham Road and includes the Little India precinct.

The proposed redevelopment is expected to:

- Deliver a new Little India precinct
- Inject $600 million into the Dandenong economy during its development and construction phase
- Create 2,600 construction jobs
- Create around 5,000 ongoing jobs when it is operational
- Deliver 470 new dwellings and 2,500 square metres of community space
- Deliver new commercial and retail spaces, including a new supermarket and food market hall
- Further contribute to transforming central Dandenong into a vibrant and thriving destination
- Deliver social enterprise initiatives
- Improve public safety and amenity.

Construction of the first stage is expected to begin in 2023 following community and stakeholder consultation on the proposed master plan in 2021.

This redevelopment will complement Council's nearby redevelopment of the former Masonic Hall and former Precinct Energy Plant.

Visit development.vic.gov.au for more information.



market traders

Dandenong Market – trading through COVID-19

Known as the world market, Dandenong Market is one of the oldest markets in Melbourne. For 154 years the market has continued to deliver fresh produce and bargains to visitors.

In 2020 market traders were heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but they have continued to trade through the difficult times. Here are stories from two traders.

Café Marketto

Husband and wife duo Naresh De Silva and Chandi Kulasinghe took over Café Marketto in March last year, days before Victoria's first lockdown.

With food establishments only permitted to serve takeaway the pair tried to work with the new limitations, but found it difficult.

"I watched the dream I worked so hard for disappear in front of my eyes. We tried offering takeaway options, but it didn't work," Chandi said.

The café is now up and running and 2021 promises to be a new chapter for the business. The café serves breakfast and lunch dishes sourced from local ingredients, with some coming from the market itself. The updated menu also features vegetarian and gluten free options.

Customers can dine in or takeaway every market day (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays), from 8am until 4pm.

Peninsula Organic Farmgate

Natasha Shields opened Peninsula Organic Farmgate at Dandenong Market amid Victoria's second COVID-19 lockdown in July 2020.

The stall is the market's only fully Certified Organic stalls stocking Australia sourced fruit and vegetables, meat, bread, grocery items and everything in between. The team grow their own fresh produce at their farm in Baxter on the Mornington Peninsula.

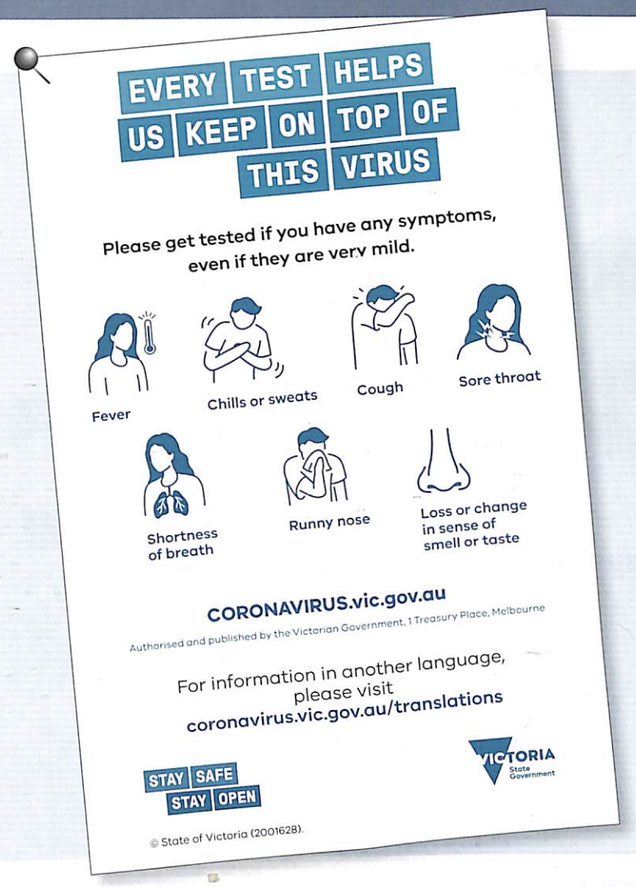
Natasha said the stall's first few months at the market were not as busy as they had hoped, with up to half of all market traders shutting down due to the travel limits placed on shoppers. But the team adapted to the new circumstances and began home delivery.

This year presents the business a great opportunity to finally grow within Dandenong.

"I'm looking forward to meeting more people who are interested in shopping organically," she said.

Peninsula Organic Farmgate can be found in the Meat, Fish and Deli Hall and is open from 7am–4pm every market day.

Visit dandenongmarket.com.au to find out more.



STAY COVID SAFE – GET TESTED

Council encourages all residents to get tested if they have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, no matter how mild.

People with no symptoms can also get tested for several specific reasons, including if they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, if they have visited a high-risk interstate location or if they are a returned overseas traveller.

Diagnosing coronavirus early helps to slow the spread of the disease and helps us track the virus in our community. It is one clear way we can all take action to help keep our families and communities safe.

Visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au to find out more about testing, including where you can get tested and what happens before, during and after a test.

Justice of the Peace

SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE

The Justice of the Peace (JP) Service is now available at Dandenong Library and Springvale Community Hub (previously held at Springvale Neighbourhood House).

Subject to COVID regulations, JPs will be available at the following times:

Dandenong Library

Monday: 10am–3pm

Tuesday: 10am–3pm

Wednesday: 10am–3pm and 6pm–8pm

Thursday: 10am–3pm

Springvale Community Hub

Monday to Friday: 10am–1pm and 4pm–7pm

Justices of the Peace are volunteers who are trained to act as independent and objective witnesses to official or legally binding documents.



The service usually does not need an appointment, however before arrival you may wish to check if your document can be witnessed by a JP. If you have a large number of documents you may need to make an appointment.

For more information contact Joe De Souza JP on 0425 727 349.

Work at wetlands

Melbourne Water is undertaking work at the Somerfield Estate Wetlands in Keysborough.

The works will remove sediment that has built up at the site over time, helping to keep the water levels low and reduce the risk of flooding at the site.

Works are scheduled to begin this month and will take up to four weeks. They may cause a low level of disturbance to park visitors and surrounding households, with an increase in truck movements which may increase noise disturbance.

Once removed from the waterway, the sediment will be left on site for a period of up to three months to dry out before it is removed and disposed of.

Visit melbournewater.com or phone 131 722 for more information.



Keysborough's BIG PICNIC

– 2021 –

#keysiebigpicnic

Live music and performances • Easter egg hunts • Fun for pets
BYO picnic mat and chairs • Kite flying • Make Your Move Zone

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

SESSION 1: 11AM – 1PM
SESSION 2: 1.30PM – 3.30PM

SUNDAY 11 APRIL

FREE EVENT

WACHTER RESERVE
Kingsclere Ave, Keysborough
(opposite Parkmore Shopping Centre)

8571 1000 | Register at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysie-big-picnic

MAY 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Space adventures in our libraries

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Reconciliation Week
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Composting to save the environment
▶ PAGE 7

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000
Fax: 8571 5196
www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the May edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

This month we have some big celebrations, including Volunteer Week, Reconciliation Week, Composting Awareness Week, Forever Fest and Library and Information Week.

If you would like to be a volunteer turn to page 3, if looking after our planet is more your thing, then turn to page 8 and find out about composting workshops happening in Greater Dandenong.

Looking for some exciting Reconciliation Week activities, turn to page 4 to find out more.

I wish you all a wonderful month and hope you enjoy the latest copy of this magazine.

My City



Springvale Community Hub is the new community heart of Springvale. It is a shared space, inspiring social connections and encouraging people of all ages, backgrounds and interests to come together. The importance of heritage and culture is central to who we are in Greater Dandenong. There are many facets of this beautiful space that pay tribute to the history of Springvale, dating back to Australia's first peoples.

Ceremonial Firepit and artwork titled 'Waa and Buln Buln Corroboree" by Fiona Clarke and Ken McKean is an important focal point for this hub.

Front Cover: Space adventures in our libraries at Dandenong Library. Picture: *Thomas Barnes.*

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Celebrating volunteers

AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE COMMUNITY



Volunteers are the backbone of our community...

National Volunteer Week (17–23 May) is an opportunity to celebrate the 6 million Australians who generously give their time.

Council has 200 volunteers working across 15 different programs. Without their valuable contribution many of our programs and services would not be able to run.

Mayor Cr Angela Long said volunteers are an integral part of the Greater Dandenong community, and contribute to the culture, vibrancy, health and wellbeing of our city.

"This year's Volunteer Week theme is Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine, quite appropriate when you think about a year when many of us have experienced increased loneliness and isolation." Cr Long said.

"We are the most culturally diverse community in Australia, and this is reflected in the variety of people who volunteer with our services on a regular basis."

Council's Meals on Wheels service has many volunteers who help deliver meals every weekday. If you would like to volunteer and help support Council's Meals on Wheels service, please contact Council. The volunteers come from all walks of life and are an important social contact for isolated residents who get more than just food out of the interaction.

Though 2020 saw most of our volunteering activities suspended due to COVID-19, it is commendable how our volunteers were ready and willing to resume roles, without hesitation, as soon as it was safe to do so. Such loyalty and commitment reflects the compassion and resilience of our volunteer teams and we welcome each and every one of you back with great appreciation. Volunteers are the backbone of our community and that's why National Volunteer Week is so important – it's a chance to simply say thank you. If you aren't already involved in a voluntary organisation maybe now is the time to consider it, because when you give a little you gain a lot.

Contact our local Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service on 9562 0414 to find out more.

Councillor Contacts



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Ph/Fax: 9795 6574
0466 004 616
angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



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bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong Ward
Cr Jim Memeti
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jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough South Ward
Cr Rhonda Garad
0435 107 584
rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward
Cr Tim Dark
0466 403 914
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Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
0435 530 536
lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
Cr Sophie Tan
0466 793 727
sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
Cr Richard Lim
0435 627 164
richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
0435 202 645
eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 10 MAY

MONDAY 24 MAY

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The May meetings will be held:

Monday 10 May

Monday 24 May

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Reconciliation Week

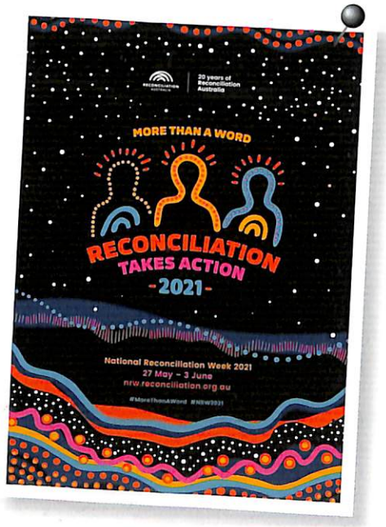
National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to encourage positive relationships between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community.

The week starts on the anniversary of the 1967 referendum (27 May) and runs until the anniversary of the High Court Mabo decision (3 June), and is a time for us all to explore how we can achieve reconciliation in Australia.

The theme for this year's celebration is *More than a word*. Reconciliation takes action and urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action.

Council supports the celebration of Reconciliation Week across the municipality.

Free workshops will be available for families with plenty on offer for children.



Event Date: Thursday 27 May 2021
Location: Springvale Community Hub
Time: 11am–3pm

Booking are essential for workshops. Please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week-2021 for more information.

Cr Sophie Tan

► Noble Park Ward

This year will be a recovery year for all of us as COVID-19 restrictions are gradually easing back to normal and the vaccines continue to rollout.

So, what's news for Noble Park this year?

Thanks to the Victorian Government's suburban revitalisation program, the Noble Park Revitalisation Board has been established and the board is working to provide advice to the State Government on future projects and ways to realise Noble Park's potential.

The Noble Park Revitalisation Board will kick off with upgrades to the All Abilities Playground at Ross Reserve, planned for completion by June 2021 and in this financial year, the State Government also invested another $310,000 dollars on Douglas Street project in Noble Park, which is fantastic news for the Noble Park Ward.

Council, State Government and other local stakeholders will work together and explore further opportunities for co-investment in the local area to implement future improvements at the Noble Park Activity Centre.

The draft Noble Park Major Activity Structure Plan will be amended slightly after hearing community/Councillors' feedback. The final draft will be reported back to Council and adopted later this year.

Every year Greater Dandenong City Council spends approximately $60 million on its capital works program.

Here are some of the major capital improvement programs for Noble Park Ward this financial year 2021–2022:

- $1.17 million Activity Centres Strategic Plan – Noble Park Douglas Street Streetscape (Stage 4), which includes threshold treatments and functional road changes at Douglas Street and Leonard Avenue to Stuart Street that will improve the appearance of the street and address identified traffic and parking issues
- $610,000 Noble Park – Revitalisation



- $500,000 Frank Street – Open Space Improvement.

Lastly, I wanted to say Happy New Year to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia for celebrating their New Year in April.

If you have any local issues that you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to contact me on 0466 793 727 or email sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Cr Richard Lim

► Springvale Central Ward



My past four months as Councillor of Springvale Central has enabled me to view our suburb from an entirely different perspective. My role has helped me see where change is needed and my ability to do more for our community.

With my business being in the heart of Springvale Central, residents and business owners have found it easy to come and find me on a daily basis to discuss issues they face. Although I was surprised at first at the amount of visits, emails and messages received from the public, I found my open door policy to be an enriching and positive way to come in contact with passionate people in our community, and it allows me to remain actively involved in working for a better Springvale.

So far, I have been fighting hard for renovations at the 8 Balmoral Avenue car park, making sure Springvale is kept clean by organising Clean Up Australia Day in March, overseeing the establishment of a community garden, inspecting hygiene levels in stores, streets and public toilets daily, and assisting residents with matters such as noise complaints.

I am also pushing for some exciting changes for Springvale soon such as a multicultural square with additional seating and shelter, pedestrian crossings at dangerous intersections, and a Springvale Museum to honour our suburb's colourful heritage.

These ideas are yet to be considered by Council and if adopted will go hand-in-hand with an upcoming Springvale Boulevard, transforming Springvale Road to a signature cultural destination with street art, more greenery, seating and lights, as well as our brand new, state-of-the-art Springvale Community Hub, which is now open and offers a world-class library and recreational spaces.

Council has agreed to include funding in the draft 2021–22 Annual Budget to fix the ramps at both the north and sound end of the Number 8 Multi-level car park. The Budget was considered by Council at the end of April and will be placed out for community consultation in the coming month.

Thank you for all your support Springvale Central.

If you want to contact me you can reach me at richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 627 164.



Safer roads in Greater Dandenong

Hoon driving is a dangerous and illegal behaviour that endangers the lives of all road users.

Council is working with Victoria Police and Vic Roads to reduce this dangerous behaviour in our city.

Hoon driving includes:

- Dangerous driving often involving excessive speed
- Causing the vehicle to make excessive noise or smoke
- Drag racing.

Residents can report hooning to the police who are responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to illegal driver behaviour.

If you feel like you are in immediate danger phone 000. You can report hoon driving at any time to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Providing details of the time and place of the offending driving, as well as the number plate, make and model of the vehicle will help police track hoon drivers and locate hotspots.

While Council is not responsible for enforcing laws around hoon behaviour, our role is to help educate drivers about safety issues and the effects of road trauma.

Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong

in partnership with Victoria Police

Emergency Assistance:
Call Triple Zero (000) or Mobile (112)

Dandenong Police 9767 7444

Springvale Police 8558 8600

Public forum

Everyone is welcome (Springvale, Noble Park, Keysborough, Bangholme and Dandenong)

Q&A and Information Session with Local Police in attendance

Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm
Paddy O'Donoghue Centre
18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
(Ample parking available rear of centre off Frank Street)

Community Safety Police and Council Guest Speakers

Senior Sergeant Debra Lay on local police issues

Greater Dandenong City Council Community Development Coordinator Peter Johnstone

Composting to save the environment



FREE workshops



International Composting Awareness Week (ICAW) is all about raising awareness of the importance of compost and promoting compost use and knowledge.

Up to half of the waste found in red lid garbage bins in Greater Dandenong contains food scraps and garden waste. Composting garden waste and food waste, such as fruit and vegetable scraps, helps to decrease household waste, as well as reducing Australia's carbon footprint. Diverting organic waste from landfill reduces the amount of waste sent to Australian landfills each year, saving landfill space and reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

All Greater Dandenong residents with a green lid garden waste bin can also choose to reduce their food waste going to landfill by recycling all their food scraps in their garden waste bin alongside garden clippings, grass and leaves. By providing residents with the option to put loose food waste into the garden waste bin rather than the red lid garbage bin, residents are playing their part in diverting waste from landfill. This is a brand new service and Council is very excited to be able to offer this to residents with a green lid bin.

Food and garden waste that is put into the green lid bin will be turned into high quality compost that is used by farmers, growing food for Victorians.

There are also a number of ways you can recycle your food and garden waste at home. Some common systems are compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets – all of these systems turn your old food scraps into rich natural fertiliser and compost that you can use on your garden or pot plants. Composting is a great way to get active in the garden and can be fun for the whole family too!

To celebrate International Composting Awareness Week, Council are hosting several free workshops so you can find out more and get started on your own composting or worm farming adventure.

Worm Farming at Home

Join us in this online webinar to learn all about worm farming at home. You will find out how to set up a worm farm, what worms like to eat, how to harvest the worm castings and use the fertiliser on your garden. Common troubleshooting tips will also be provided, giving you the chance to ask all your worm farm questions.

Monday 3 May
7pm–8pm
Webinar link will be sent upon registration.

Composting at Home

Join us in this online webinar to learn all about composting at home. You will learn more about the different types of backyard composting systems, as well as how composting works, what materials can be placed into a compost bin and common troubleshooting tips.

Thursday 6 May
7pm–8pm
Webinar link will be sent upon registration.

Compost, Worm Farm and Bokashi

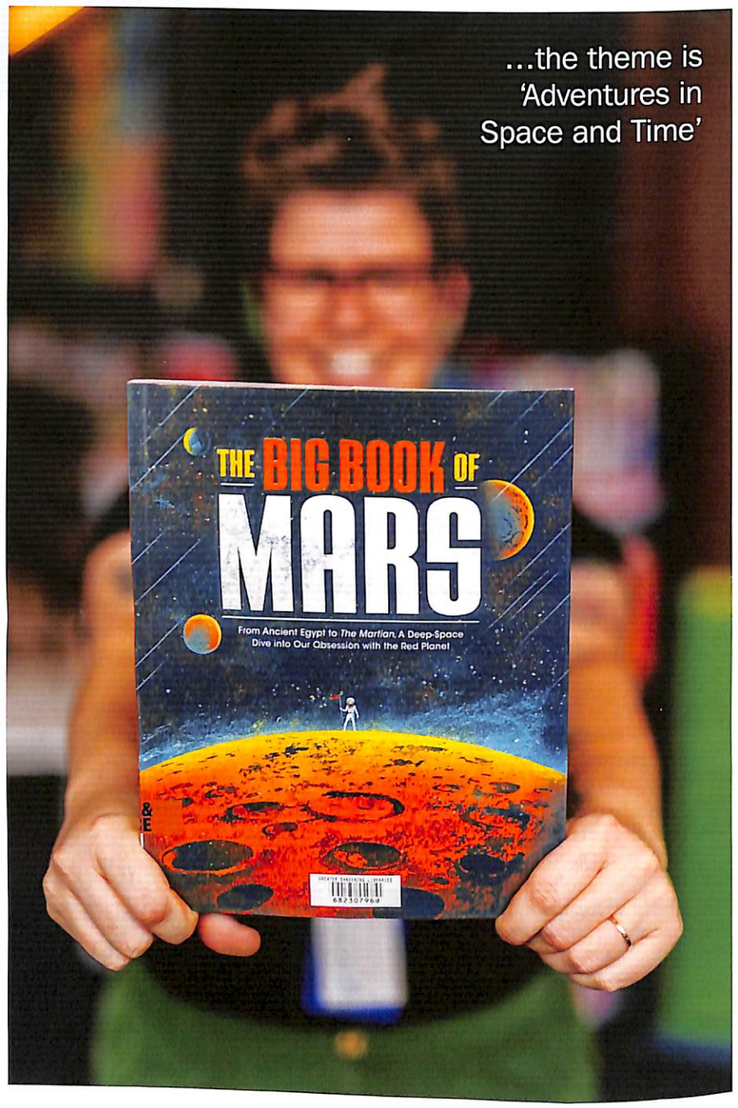
Come along to this workshop to find out more about compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets. You will have the opportunity to have a look at the composting systems in place at Benga gardens that are used for the Council office's kitchen waste. This workshop will provide you with information about the best system to use for your household and how to set it up and maintain it.

Saturday 8 May
Heritage Hill Museum and Historical Gardens, 66 McCrae Street
Dandenong
10am–12pm

Places are limited and bookings are essential. To book, please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events

Space adventures in our libraries





This year Library and Information Week runs from 17–23 May and the theme is 'Adventures in Space and Time'.

Children's program highlights include:

- **National Simultaneous Story Time** – Greater Dandenong Libraries will welcome local school groups to the library to participate in the 21st National Simultaneous Storytime. This year's title is 'Give Me Some Space' by Phillip Bunting and will be read by library staff and then read by astronauts and streamed from space LIVE!
- **Code Club** is back at Greater Dandenong Libraries in May and June and will feature a sample of innovative and engaging robots, coding and engineering with Spheros, LEGO Boost and Scratch.

  Wednesday 19 May, Springvale Library and Wednesday 9 June, Dandenong Library. Registrations required.
- **The Think Tank** is a STEM based program for children aged 7–11 years old. This month join the Robogals for an awesome robotics workshop.

  Saturday 22 May, Dandenong Library. Registrations required.

For adults the libraries are offering:

- **Libraries After Dark – Tea with Annie** – Learn about tea reading with Annie and take a trip back in time to hear her cup reading stories.
- **Libraries After Dark – Sustainable Zines with Ashley Ronning** – Dive into the world of zines and learn how to make a simple 8-page zine out of one piece of paper.

To find out more about our libraries visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries and for more about Library and Information Week visit alla.org.au/llw

Exciting new community service in Springvale South



The Bridge Disability Support Service celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2020 and is now expanding its services in Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia in 2021.

Following the success of their new service in Cardinia Clinic, another brand new location is now open at 69–71 Athol Road Springvale South. A larger and more accessible building than the previous Noble Park facility, Athol Road will enable more participants and families to take advantage of The Bridge's variety and expertise. This attractive building has accessible facilities, large activity rooms, on-site parking, and fun outdoor areas.

"The Bridge is very keen to respond to community needs, and our eight local locations each do that very well in different ways. We're thrilled to be opening Athol Road," Acting CEO Mary-Jane Stolp said.

The Bridge connects adults with a range of disabilities, working in partnerships as they set their own goals and achieve them the way they choose to. Many activities are community-based such as swimming, cooking, gardening, sailing, art, music, dance, carpentry, yoga, theatre, sailing, computers, independent travel and many more. There is also a large employment training arm of The Bridge for those who can pursue paid work. The emphasis is on *ABILITY* at The Bridge. Employers and sponsors are always welcome. Friendships, confidence-building, personal growth – they all happen every day at The Bridge. It is a fun place and also welcomes volunteers as Activity Assistants for 4–6 hours a week if you would like to get involved in helping someone in a new way this year.

To find out more about becoming a member of The Bridge, a partner, or to volunteer, go to thebridgeinc.org.au or phone 1800 274 343

Herbert Street pocket park

Council recently purchased land at 77 Herbert Street, Dandenong to create more open space for local residents.

Funding from the Victorian Government's Suburban Park's Program will help turn the land into a pocket park, featuring shade, seating and plantings to help visitors relax outdoors and be close to nature.

The park will be part of a new tree-lined 'green spine' creating a green link from Dandenong High School to Robert Booth Reserve. This will include around 60 new trees and landscaping to improve the comfort for residents walking to and from community facilities and help reduce the effects of climate change.

The draft concept plan for the pocket park is currently available for the community to view. To view these concepts online and to have your say via the online survey, visit Council's website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Join us at the exhibition opening event on Saturday 8 May, 2pm at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

Book now at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/exhibition-opening-event.

Fantastic, Yes

Gallery one, Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Artists: Exhibition by the Get Out! studio artists. Supported by Arts Access Victoria.

Thursday 6 May – Friday 28 May 2021

18 artists from the Get Out! studio exhibit their chosen highlights from the past two years of studio practice. Experience exciting offerings from a broad range of art forms, including sculpture, painting, performance, sound, and, of course, a little Elvis Presley.

Jîyan bé te nina

Gallery two, Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Artists: Leila Lois and Patrick Rose

Thursday 6 May – Friday 28 May 2021

Jîyan bê te nina is an interdisciplinary and immersive installation expressed through poetry, movement, sound and image. The exhibition invites audiences to fill in gaps of the stories with their own experience. This multi-sensory exhibition brings attention to current global crises such as war trauma, environmental violence and disconnection to nature. Experience the story, music, dance and lore which remind us of our true origins and callings.

What's on at Drum Theatre



Carmen – Opera Australia

Friday 14 May, 7.30pm and Saturday 15 May, 7.30pm

This lavish new production of Bizet's *Carmen* highlights the colour and vibrancy of postcard Spain, with vintage-inspired costumes that evoke an era of bikers and shady police in a post-war setting of teen angst and rebellion.

Caught between her desire for love and a longing for freedom, Carmen faces an impossible choice: Don José or the dashing bullfighter Escamillo. She's enigmatic and elusive: a femme fatale you can't forget.

Some of Australia's finest opera singers assemble with a chamber orchestra and local children's chorus to perform the world's most popular opera. Hear the famous Habanera and the Toreador Song when you join us for the premiere performance of Opera Australia's 25th Anniversary tour of Bizet's Carmen.

Note: Sung in French with English surtitles.

Our Beat

Thursday 20 May, 6.30pm

Our Beat is back. A monthly open stage for you, me and everyone.

Our Beat brings together musicians, artists, actors, comedians, dancers and the community. This is more than a gig – it's a change to connect with like-minded people, meet local talent and even take the stage yourself. It's a free event for all people and all art forms.

The Drum is a home for local artists and supports them to create new work and networks and to realise their aspirations. Previous *Our Beat* sessions gave us spoken word, dancehall, DJs, freestyle hip-hop, some stripped back neo-soul and featured works from local graphic artists.

Hosted by Mr. Congo, each monthly installment is a unique experience created by everyone there, whether you're on the stage or vibing out in the audience. *Our Beat* is coming back swinging in 2021 with some huge moves so come down and make something happen.

If you want to be a part of this please email drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au, phone us on 8571 1666 or just come down on the night.

Parallax

Friday 21 May, 8pm

Electrify your senses, strap on your 3D glasses and be transported to different worlds in an exhilarating dance-digital mash up.

Parallax is a totally unique dance/3D digital experience by Megan Beckwith, one of Australia's most innovative performance artists. Inspired by science-fiction and gaming culture, this one-woman show combines 3D imagery that projects out from the screen with live dance performance. The audience feels like they can reach out and touch the animations floating in space. The immersive show takes the audience on a journey to new digital worlds.

This is a show for those who love dance as much as it is for gamers and geeks who love interactive media digital possibilities.

With the advance of technology in all aspects of our lives, how does it change who we are?

This show is highly rated by The Age and will be something new and inspiring like nothing you have seen.

There will be digital foyer activations pre and post the show.

Reviews: "The projections are manifestations of desires and nightmares that leap into the audience," Jordan Beth Vincent, The Age

"The effects are dazzling," Chloe Smethurst, The Age

Change Today, Shape Tomorrow





The development of our new Council Plan has been progressing well with the broad community consultation phase now complete.

We have received some fantastic feedback and had more community input this year than we had in the development of the previous Council Plan. The following activities were conducted from November 2020 until February this year:

- Community survey – 107 community members completed our online and hard copy survey
- Online ideas wall – 43 ideas were posted on the social pinpoint project page
- Pop-Up events – 1,006 unique ideas were received across seven events in Dandenong, Springvale, Noble Park and Keysborough South
- Children's worksheets – 78 children shared their ideas and priorities for our city through worksheets and drawings
- Community and stakeholder workshops – Workshops were held with local stakeholder groups on a range of topics including key health priorities, issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees, and the challenges faced by our CALD Disability community.

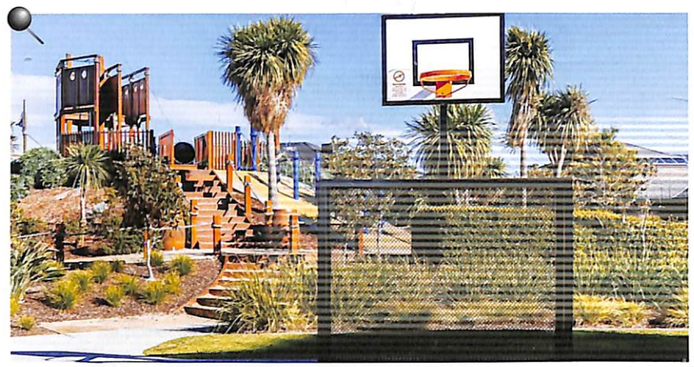
The next step in the consultation phase is the community panel process which commenced on 15 April.

Greater Dandenong People's Panel

This panel is a group of residents and business owners from Greater Dandenong who are representative of our community in regards to age, gender, country of birth, and household type. They are meeting over three Saturdays to discuss the community vision and how Council can meet the community's diverse needs into the future. The panel will provide informed recommendations which will influence Council's priorities over the next four years, including public health and wellbeing priorities and services, projects and facilities for the community.

To read more about the responses to our community consultation activities and the panel process please visit our project page at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2021-25

Make Your Move in Greater Dandenong





Greater Dandenong City Council is continuing to encourage the community to make their move.

There's many simple ways to include movement in your day, which can boost your mood, fitness and overall health.

One foot in front of the other

Walking is an easy way to improve your physical activity levels and increase your step count. It doesn't have to be long walks or include a treadmill, just get up and make your move.

- Take your dog for a walk
- Organise to meet your friends for a walk around the block before you have lunch together.

Make small changes

Small changes can have a big impact. Think about your everyday choices and how they can be changed to increase your physical activity.

- Take the stairs instead of the lift or escalator
- Park a bit further away in the carpark at the shopping centre or supermarket.

Make it a family affair

Being active together is a great way for families to bond. It helps social connections and can be an escape from the pressures of everyday life.

- Walk the kids to school, or park a bit further away and walk part of the way
- If you can't make it out of the house, put on your favourite songs and have a dance party in the living room.

Enjoy the great outdoors

Greater Dandenong is full of public parks and reserves that are available for all to visit. Head outside and enjoy the sunshine.

- Visit one of your local parks or reserves
- Do some gardening.

Get active with technology

There are so many ways we can use technology to improve our physical activity and health. With mobile phones and the internet, we can take our activity with us anywhere.

- Try an online fitness class from YouTube, or download a fitness app on your phone
- If you are having a phone catch up with friends or family – walk around the house while chatting.

Work it

We can spend a large amount of time at work each week and for many that includes a lot of sitting. These small changes to your work environment can have a big impact on your physical activity.

- Take your runners to work – you never know when you might have 10 minutes to do a lap around the block
- Change to walking meetings – instead of sitting in the workplace staffroom, walk around the local area and talk.

Make the time

It can be hard to find the time to be active. But with planning and commitment, physical activity can become part of your everyday.

- Book exercise into your calendar
- Take small movement breaks throughout the day.

The Big Issue Community Street Soccer Program

There's also many activities run by the community that residents can participate in. If soccer is your interest, the Big Issue Community Street Soccer Program is a great option for women looking for an active and supportive community.

The program is free and inclusive, running every Tuesday from 4pm–6pm at JC Mills Reserve in Dandenong. It's a great way to have fun, get fit and make friends.

Open to all backgrounds and skill levels, the program offers a safe and respectful space.

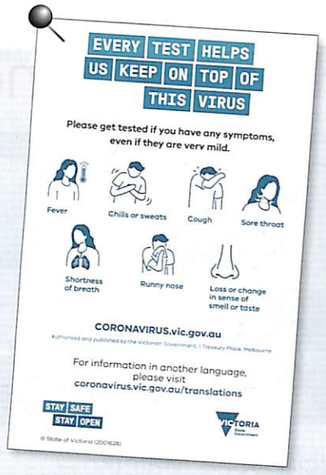
For more information or to register, contact Bess or Danilo by emailing soccerwomensdandenong@bigissue.org.au or phone 0455 910 480.

For more information on the Make Your Move Strategy, and tips and resources for how you can Make Your Move visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move.

How to stay safe and well

It's important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, particularly as we approach the winter months. Ways you can stay healthy and well include:

- Practice good hygiene and regularly and thoroughly wash your hands
- Maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others
- Carry a face mask when you leave home unless you have a lawful reason not to. It is strongly recommended you wear one whenever you cannot keep 1.5 metres distance from others.
- If you feel unwell do not go to work, get tested at a nearby testing location and return home immediately
- If you are worried you will lose pay while you wait for test result or you have tested positive and need to self-isolate, you may be eligible for a worker support payment
- If your condition worsens contact your GP or a health professional. If you become very unwell and are having trouble breathing contact triple zero, you may need to be admitted to hospital.



For more information and updates on coronavirus, please visit dhhs.vic.gov.au

Greater Dandenong Library's Social Knitwork



Social groups at Dandenong Library are happy to be back and meeting in person after many months of isolation.

Greater Dandenong Library's Social Knitwork gets together every Wednesday from 10am to 12:30pm to enjoy some quality knitting time, chats and morning tea.

The wonderful ladies have donated their amazing work to Uniting Vic.Tas. Fleur Smolenaers said "The items are gorgeous, thank you very much ladies. This is very generous of you and we really appreciate it."

To find out more about social networks at Greater Dandenong Library, please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries

Photography Competition

Every year Greater Dandenong City Council produces a Community Calendar for residents which features photos taken in our municipality.

We are inviting residents to submit photos to include in our 2022 calendar. It can be a photo of architecture, outdoor space or something different that takes your eye.

Council will select 12 photos to include in the calendar which will be distributed in December.

Submissions are open until 30 September. For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition

Happy Business Stories – Council Grants



Lucia Sofia Malejko – Dandenong South

Local Dandenong South beautician, cosmetic tattoo artist and beauty trainer, Lucia Sofia Malejko, found last year to be one of her most challenging, commenting how she was forced to close her business for six months until restrictions began to ease. Lucia submitted her grant application and was successful in securing funding. Lucia recently wrote to Council to express her gratitude and showcase her product (photo above) she had purchased as part of the grant requirements.

Lucia said, "I would like to say a huge thank you to the Greater Dandenong City Council as I was able to purchase this beautiful Cosmetic Electric bed. I have always had a big issue with my massage table which wasn't designed for cosmetic tattooing."

Operating as an individual sole trader, Lucia wasn't able to access many of the State and Federal Government grants.

"When I realised my local Council were offering a grant program targeted at small business including people like myself, I couldn't believe it. I cannot say thank you enough for helping my little business," said Lucia.



The Bubble Express – 3 Buckley St, Noble Park

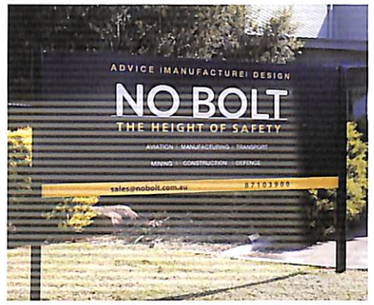
Director of The Bubble Express, Wayne Hawkins tells us how during the lockdown he was faced with the challenge of needing to desperately update his note to coin machine which had been vandalised numerous times.

Hawkins said, "Not having a change machine put my coin laundry at a significant disadvantage to other similar businesses in the area. I was suffering a 50 per cent income reduction at the height of the COVID lockdown."

Hawkins credited Council's business grant program which had enabled him to replace the change machine.

Hawkins added, "I gratefully received a $2000 grant from Council, and I want to thank them enormously for the grants program to assist in purchasing a note to coin change machine and custom made security cabinet."

Looking forward, Hawkins is seeking to consolidate his business by providing his customers with the cleanest, most efficient and best value coin laundry.



No Bolt – 29 Union Rd, Dandenong South

To get any job done safely and efficiently, you need the right equipment. Dandenong South manufacturing and engineering business, No Bolt, understands the importance of taking an engineering-led approach to design and manufacture work and access platforms.

Like many, Will Collie Managing Director of No Bolt was faced with new challenges when the pandemic reached Australian shores in 2020.

"Around 40–50 per cent of our revenue came from our work in aviation. We previously designed, manufactured and supplied a range of height safety equipment to airlines Qantas and Jetstar," Will said.

COVID-19 put a freeze on both domestic travel and international travel and as a result there was (and continues to be) an effective freeze on spending. As such, the business has seen sales drop by 40 per cent and specifically in the aviation sector, almost back to zero.

No Bolt applied for Council's Business Grant program and was successful providing the business with an opportunity to work on marketing their other product lines.

Will added, "we are using these funds to build a new website to support our new product line, outdoor tables, which is quite different to our core focus of safety and aviation."

"We view this grant as an opportunity to develop a new business unit outside our typical markets."



If we want a better world, then the first step is to imagine one...

Greater Dandenong City Council is excited to announce a new look to our annual Sustainability Festival: Forever Fest – 'Sustainable living for now and the future'.

Forever Fest will run over nine days (22 May– 30 May), with each day focusing on the eight themes of our Climate Emergency Strategy, which was prepared in response to Council's declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency in January 2020.

With elements to suit all age groups and interests, Forever Fest has something to suit anyone. Every activity across the nine days is free and accessible through various online platforms.

For those who have access to Facebook, make sure you click 'Going' on our Facebook Event Page at facebook.com/events/771093677175229

Further information can also be found at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest

Forever Fest Key Speakers



Dianne McGrath (Forever Fest Ambassador)

We are thrilled to announce Dianne McGrath as our Forever Fest Ambassador for 2021. Dianne is one of only 100 remaining candidates world-wide from the initial 202,586 to be heading to Mars, forever. Dianne will be joining us each day of the festival.



Barney Swan (Forever Fest Master of Ceremonies)

Climate Force Founder Barney Swan will be our MC for the nine days of the Forever Fest. Barney is recognised globally as a thought leader in the areas of leadership, innovation and sustainability. Barney is the first person to walk to the South Pole powered only by clean energy. Using cutting edge technology for NASA, Goal Zero and Shell, Barney skied 600 nautical miles and conducted a polar expedition, making history as he did.



Charlotte Connell

Charlotte Connell, founder of 'The Sustainability Collective' will be speaking over several days of the Forever Fest, including topics on:

- How to talk to kids about climate change
- Implementing sustainable changes in the workplace
- Al Gore's 'Climate Reality Project'



Event sponsors

SMART RESOURCES GROUP · SMART RECYCLING · SMART PALLETS · SMART LABOUR HIRE · frank green · PANTERA PRESS · one small step · Bokashi · SOL · ethique · ONYA · Peppermint · BioBag · PEACHES · biome eco stores · who gives a crap · WAW Handplanes · SodaKING · MADE FROM CARE · IKEA Springvale · BUTT NAKED

Saturday 22 May –
Sunday 30 May 2021

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

FOREVER FEST

Sustainable living for now and the future

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest



JUNE 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000
Fax: 8571 5196
www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the June edition of Council News.



While winter settles in, here at Council we are always encouraging residents to be more active. While there's something about a sunny day that motivates us to get outside, remember that moving is the fastest way to get warm on a cold winter's day. Read page 6 for tips on how you can Make Your Move this winter.

Council hosted a celebratory BBQ for our Working for Victoria employees to celebrate their achievements under this State Government funded program. Read more on page 6 about what this program means for Greater Dandenong.

This month we celebrate Refugee Week. The City of Greater Dandenong is a proud refugee Welcome Zone, and we have a long history of supporting people from all backgrounds. Read more about our support of refugee advocacy on page 7.

If you're looking to declutter your home and have items that cannot be placed in household bins or a hard waste collection, Council has a range of services available. Residents can now recycle their household batteries, mobile phones, CDs, DVDs and light globes. Recycling stations can be found at each of our Customer Service Centres. Find out how to recycle unwanted goods and read more about detoxing your home of dangerous chemicals on page 8.

If you enjoy arts, turn to page 12 to read about the latest offering at Drum Theatre or page 15 for the return of the Emerging Writer's Festival.

Whatever you get up to this month, I hope you enjoy life in our wonderful community.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long

My City



Winter is a great time to explore the parks and gardens around Greater Dandenong. Braving the cooler weather can give you the opportunity to see some beautiful plants and seasonal wildflowers, as well as appreciate the native habitats of wildlife and birdlife. Greater Dandenong is home to wetlands, bushlands and recreational reserves that give every resident the chance to get out in nature.

Front Cover: Numan Seyit, L-R Nurali Seyit, KC, Isaiah Firebrace. Picture: *Hilton Stone.*

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C010983

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Community Safety a Priority

Greater Dandenong City Council is committed to creating a safe and inclusive Greater Dandenong.

Council's Greater Dandenong Community Safety Plan 2015–22 was developed through community engagement and consultation.

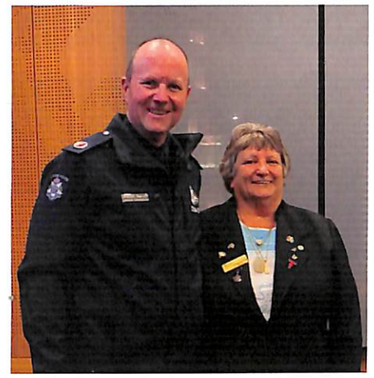
Mayor Angela Long recently presented the achievements to Victoria Police and highlighted the importance of a collaborative approach to improving community safety.

"Everyone deserves to feel and be safe in the City of Greater Dandenong. It doesn't matter your age, gender, cultural background, profession – every person has the right to live in a safe place."

"Council has a long-term and strong partnership with Victoria Police and takes a strategic approach to addressing community safety issues with members of the Community Safety Advisory Committee, other local and regional stakeholders, and the wider community," Cr Long said.

"Completion of key upgrades to Dandenong Park were partly funded through a State Government public safety infrastructure grant and resulted in improved lighting, pathways and landscaping along Lonsdale Street. A survey has since revealed an increase in positive perceptions about safety in the park," Cr Long said.

A new State Government grant has been applied for that would see Council undertake extensive planning to improve safety in the Hemmings Street Precinct in Dandenong West through implementing a Precinct Action Plan. Major security upgrades to the Walker Street Carpark and a project to install CCTV in Boyd Lane in central



Russell Barrett, Assistant Commissioner, Victoria Police – Southern Metro Region with Mayor Angela Long

Dandenong has already been approved funding for implementation.

Cr Long said the community's input, feedback and commitment to working together to improve safety was vital to making these projects a reality.

"We are grateful for the support of everyone involved, as it is a collective responsibility to ensure we increase community safety."

Declutter Your Home

Council has a range of services and events to assist and support residents to reuse, recycle and dispose of common household items.

Households in Greater Dandenong are provided with a number of options to dispose of their waste, including red lid garbage, yellow lid recycling and green lid food and garden waste bins. We also provide a free annual hard waste collection service.

Recycling stations are also available at each of our Customer Service Centres, allowing residents to safely dispose of smaller problem waste items, such as batteries, mobile phones, CDs, DVDs and light globes.

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day
Saturday 26 June 2021
8am to 1pm
Greaves Reserve Dandenong

This is a great opportunity to clear some space around the house, reduce landfill and give items a new life. Good quality reusable items will be donated to charities, whilst other items will be recycled to create new products. **This FREE event is in addition to your one free annual hard waste collection.** By recycling and recovering our waste, we can reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfill.

WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS

Council is also running webinars and face to face workshops covering a range of reuse and recycling topics for residents. Please visit Council's website to register.

Monday 7 June
Recycle Right
Springvale Library
10am–11am

Wednesday 9 June
Declutter your home
Webinar
6.30pm–7.30pm

Thursday 17 June
Council Waste Services
Webinar
7pm–8pm

Saturday 26 June
Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day
Greaves Reserve
8am–1pm

For further information on what to do with items not accepted in household bins and hard waste collections, and a list of local transfer stations and recycling centres, visit Council's website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and search 'waste'.

Councillor Contacts



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Keysborough Ward
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Cr Eden Foster
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TUESDAY 15 JUNE

MONDAY 28 JUNE

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The June meetings will be held:

Tuesday 15 June (due to a public holiday on the Monday)

Monday 28 June

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings



L–R: Cr Jim Memeti, Mayor Angela Long and Cr Bob Milkovic

Dandenong Oasis development

The development of the new Dandenong Oasis, or 'Dandenong Wellbeing Centre' (current working title) is one step closer following the appointment of a design team led by CO-OP Studio.

Council resolved in September 2019 to develop a new aquatic and wellbeing centre at Mills Reserve to replace the existing Dandenong Oasis.

This major infrastructure project is a key recommendation from Council's Aquatic Strategy, which is based on the vision to get "more people, more active, more often".

The new aquatic centre will be a multi-purpose facility with a focus on allied health, passive activity, education, fitness and wellness.

Proposed features of the facility include a 50m, 8 lane pool (with moveable boom or swim wall), two warm water pools, learn to swim pool, leisure pool / water play, spa, sauna and steam room, gymnasium, program / group fitness rooms, meeting rooms, allied health suites, café, creche and amenities.

Cr Sean O'Reilly

▶ Springvale North Ward

90 Gove Street pocket park

I believe that due to shrinking backyards, we need local open spaces for recreation and to connect with nature. Council is creating new pocket parks in areas that need them most. The new pocket park at Gove Street is a great example. The pocket park is designed to be a sensory moment of respite. The works included a new gravel path with a picnic table and park seating, explorative log stepper garden with sensory planting and new fencing.

Springvale Community Hub

The Springvale Community Hub is rapidly evolving as the community and civic heart of Springvale.

Even with COVID restrictions, the Hub has had 60,000 visitors. A special committee of community members has been formed to make sure that the Hub is fully engaged with the local community.

During May, the Hub also hosted Reconciliation Week celebrations, all contributing to a great first few months of operations and activations for the Hub.

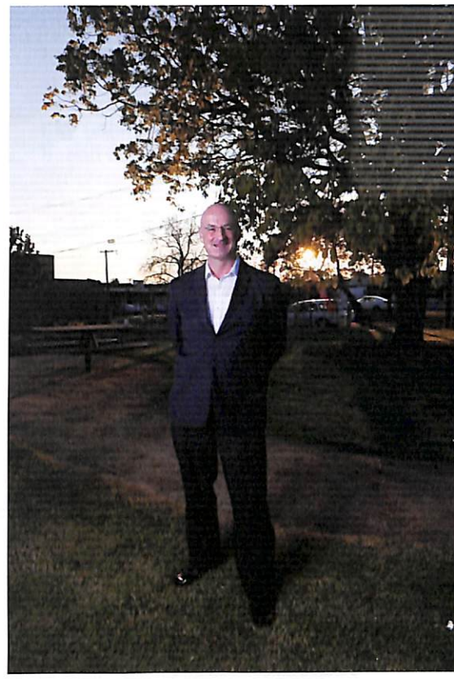
Sandown Racecourse redevelopment

The owners of Sandown Racecourse, the Melbourne Racing Club, have long term development plans to replace Sandown Racecourse. Council is in discussions with Melbourne Racing Club as to what form this redevelopment will be.

As the local ward councillor, I will ensure that you are informed and can comment on the development plans.

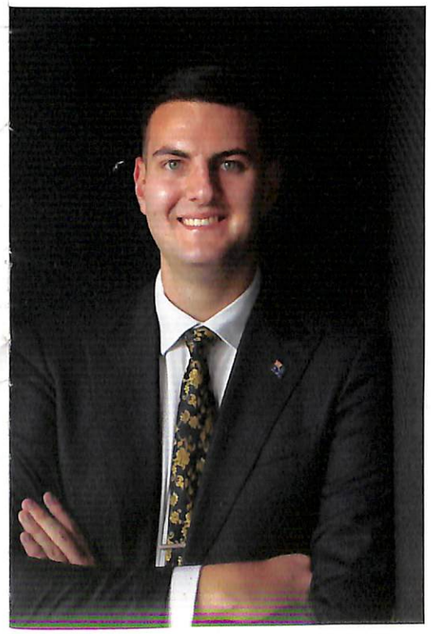
A report with an initial draft plan will be taken for public consultation, and I welcome your feedback on this.

If you want to contact me you can reach me at sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0422 523 258



▶ Keysborough Ward

Cr Tim Dark



Council's proposed budget was released for community feedback last month. It is pleasing that the budget has been developed with an aim to continue Council's commitment to invest in local services and infrastructure in a financially responsible way, by balancing the needs of our community while achieving long-term financial sustainability and most importantly to recover and revive in a post COVID-19 environment.

There is some significant funding for projects that will benefit the Keysborough Ward in the 2021–22 proposed budget.

This includes, but not limited to Frederick Wachter Reserve, continuation of the new wetlands project which will include construction of a boardwalk and later planting worth $1.3 million. There is also a proposal in the draft budget for next year that will include the development of a district level playground to complement the wetlands totalling $450,000.

Also proposed in next year's budget are works at Alan Corrigan Reserve upgrades including fencing, BBQ, drink fountain, walking path and tree planting and Roth Hetherington Reserve including installation of shade sails and benches at the Dog off Leash Park.

There is also a significant investment into local kinders with Chandler Kindergarten, Darren Reserve, and the new Kindergarten to be co-located at the Keysborough Primary School receiving funding for upgrades.

If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters you can reach me at tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone on 0466 403 914

Making Your Move in Winter



As the weather is getting colder and the days are getting shorter, sometimes we might lack motivation to get active outside.

Moving is the fastest way to warm up and boost your mood on a cold winter's day.

Here are some tips on how you can Make Your Move this winter.

- If it's too cold and dark to walk before or after work, head out for a lunchtime walk instead.
- Move your outdoor workouts indoors. Head to the gym or consider a home-based exercise program.
- Don't let the wet weather be an excuse not to move. Try working out in front of the big screen instead. There are plenty of online exercise videos to choose from.
- Take advantage of the cooler days and make the most of your weekends by heading out for a long bushwalk, hike or bike ride – activities which are less appealing in the hot summer sun.
- If you enjoy the water, check out your local Leisure Centre to do a few laps or join a class.

One of the many benefits of regular exercise is boosting your immune system. People who exercise regularly are less likely to get a cold and if they do, they recover faster. These are all good reasons to Make Your Move.

Working for Victoria Program



Celebratory BBQ event held in April

A celebratory BBQ was recently held by Council to acknowledge the work of our Working for Victoria program employees. The event recognised our achievements under the State Government funded program, which provided an avenue of employment for those who had suffered job loss through COVID-19 or long-term unemployment.

Council's first Working for Victoria employee commenced 1 October 2020 and 102 people have been employed since. Our partnership with Citywide also included the employment of 21 people undertaking a variety of roles as a part of our COVID Safe Plan.

These activities included:

- OD/HR management
- Cleansing high touch points through the main central business areas
- Planting and weeding works throughout bushland and parks areas
- Data gathering of council assets and businesses
- Bin auditing throughout the city.

The program has provided the following benefits for Greater Dandenong:

- Enabled the acceleration of some work programs (e.g. tree planting and weeding)
- Provided confidence in the community as we maintained a level of public hygiene in main public spaces
- Enabled Council to conduct data gathering and auditing activities
- Provided leadership opportunities for full-time operational staff members

Parks and conservation crews finished their six-month contracts in May.

Projects included beautification of pocket parks with new garden beds, tree planting and improvements at Janelaine Reserve Springvale, Cleal Reserve Noble Park and Parkland Reserve Keysborough. Fuel reduction and revistalisation works have also been progressed at a range of parks and open spaces across Greater Dandenong.

The Conservation teams also finished up last month and projects currently underway include fuel reduction at Coomoora Woodlands, Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Falkiner Reserve, National Drive and Billabong revitalisation works at Fotheringham Reserve.

The Working for Victoria six-month temporary contracts are coming to an end. Greater Dandenong City Council is proud to have played a part in boosting employment opportunities by helping many Victorians get back to work and thank staff for their contribution and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.



Advocacy remains an important part of Refugee Week

'Unity' is the theme for this year's Refugee Week (20–26 June), and nowhere else was this sentiment more evident than at the Palm Sunday – Justice for Refugees Rally, which took place earlier this year.

Thousands of individuals, families, and organisations united to show their support and solidarity to those refugees and people seeking asylum who have and continue to be mistreated by our nation's immigration policies.

Commencing at the steps of the State Library of Victoria, the rally concluded outside the Carlton Park Hotel. The hotel-turned-makeshift-detention-centre was still detaining up to 13 refugees on the day of the rally, many of which could be seen through the darkly tinted fourth-level windows.

Amongst the many passionate participants rallying outside the detention centre, was Greater Dandenong City Council, proudly representing the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.

BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Mayor Cr Angela Long and councillors Eden Foster, Lana Formoso and Rhonda Garad stood united under the Back Your Neighbour banner, calling for a humane and empathetic approach to be adopted by the Federal Government in its treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum.

Back Your Neighbour continues its efforts to promote unity, by advocating for greater rights for refugees and people seeking asylum.

To show your support, sign the Back Your Neighbour petition by visiting backyourneighbour.com.au

Immunisation in Greater Dandenong

Immunisation/vaccination is a free service provided by the Greater Dandenong City Council to protect the health and wellbeing of your children. Immunisation not only protects your child from serious diseases, but also other children in the community.

Council runs a number of public immunisation sessions every month at a range of local community centres.

If your child has had vaccines overseas, please contact Council or the immunisation advice and 'catch up' service before attending a session.

All documentation related to your child's previous vaccinations must be provided in English with your Medicare card and child health record (if available) either electronically or via Council Customer Service.

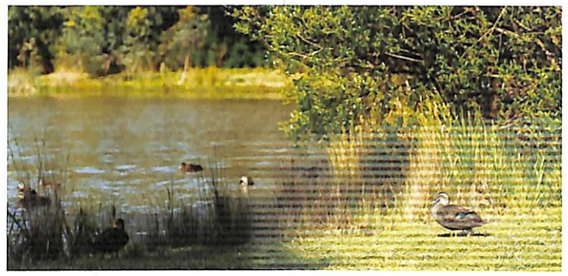
This service also caters for parents who have concerns about any vaccination issues.

There are several vaccinations recommended for secondary school students according to the National Immunisation Program, and these are given at school, by Council's qualified nurse immunisers.

Your child's school will send home consent cards at the beginning of each year, which need to be filled in and returned back to the school as soon as possible.

If your child misses a dose at school, please contact the immunisation team for more information.

Protecting our environment





The City of Greater Dandenong includes 600 hectares of open space and more than 100 parks, playgrounds and sports reserves.

These areas are available for everyone to enjoy, and are home to many different plants, animals and microorganisms.

Our environment is precious. Our vision is for the City of Greater Dandenong to be one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

We're working together with our local community to achieve this and create a cleaner, greener Greater Dandenong – today and for generations to come.

The big picture

Council has declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and is actively working towards emergency action on climate change.

Climate change is here, and its impacts are already affecting our environment, our society and our economy. Global efforts to tackle climate change are increasing, but there are many ways we can all make a difference. With climate change already impacting our day to day lives, we need stronger action, urgently.

Council has developed a Climate Change Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2020–30 to help the City of Greater Dandenong become a resilient, net zero carbon emission city with an active community prepared for the challenges of a changing climate.

Keeping our city clean

Council's parks, sustainability and waste teams all have a major role to play in keeping our environment clean, litter free, healthy and enjoyable for everyone to use.

We have a range of measures in place to ensure our environment is clean and free from litter, but we can't do it on our own.

Residents are urged to use bins provided in public places, and to report any issues with discarded waste.

Any items left on a footpath, nature strip or in front of charity stores are classed as illegal dumping unless approved by Council and can result in fines in excess of $6000 for those caught dumping rubbish illegally.

Council has developed a range of initiatives to prevent and manage illegal dumping, including our Hotspots program, which focuses on sites with reoccurring illegal dumping. Illegally dumped items are investigated, and offenders can be prosecuted under the Environment Protection Act 1970.

Anyone can report illegal dumping via our website, the Snap Send Solve app or by calling or visiting one of our Customer Service Centres. If you see dumped rubbish or someone dumping unwanted items within Greater Dandenong, it is important to provide as much information as possible, including describing items that have been dumped, the location, date and time, and, if possible, vehicle registration and description.

Five R's

Council manages household waste collection services and has a range of options available.

We also encourage residents to consider the five R's when disposing of unwanted items:

- **Refuse** – Consider not buying an item that you know might become waste – do you really need it?
- **Reduce** – Can you reduce how much waste you generate? For example, can you bulk buy to avoid creating extra packaging waste?
- **Reuse** – is the item really waste, or can you use it again? Can someone else make use of the item?
- **Repurpose** – Can the item be used for something else and so extend its useful life?
- **Recycle** – Make sure you check what can and cannot go in your yellow bin. Explore other places to have things recycled. For example, take your plastic bags to your local supermarket recycling collect (they don't belong in your yellow bin).

Residents can also book a free hard waste collection, attend one of our free Reuse and Recycle drop off days, participate in the Homecycle event or visit one of our neighbouring Council's waste transfer stations.

Working towards a sustainable future

Council has a wide range of initiatives to enhance and protect our environment, now and into the future.

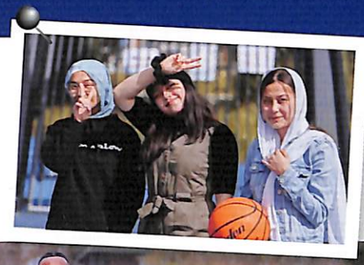
Our parks, waste and sustainability teams provide a range of educational opportunities for members of the community and have extensive resources available on our website.

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our environment clean and sustainable.

Visit our website for more information at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Victorian Youth Week

Saturday 26 June – Friday 2 July 2021



Victorian Youth Week is an annual event to recognise the contribution young people make to our community. Greater Dandenong is home to more than 31,000 young people aged 12–25 years.

Youth and Family Services are encouraging young people to get involved in their local community by joining in activities during Victorian Youth Week.

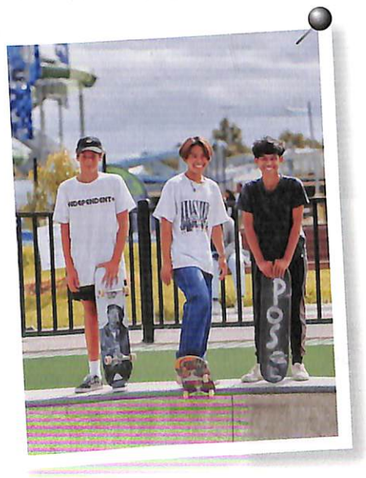
Basketball and Volleyball Tournament Friday 2 July, 10am–4pm

Venue: Dandenong Stadium, 270 Stud Road Dandenong

Calling basketball and volleyball players aged 12–25 years. Join in the 3v3 basketball or 4v4 volleyball tournament. Four divisions available in each tournament: under 16 male, under 16 female, under 25 male and under 25 female. Choose your sport, choose your division, choose your team mates and register to compete.

IMPACT Youth Volunteering Program

Youth and Family Services, in partnership with Dandenong CoCo's Shop, are providing young people (aged 18–25 years) with the opportunity to gain 'hands on' volunteering experience. Young people will gain an insight into volunteering within community services, including retail experience in the CoCo's Op Shop, and trying their hand at upcycling and recycling used goods. This program will be delivered during the June school holidays.





School Holiday Activities

Open to young people aged 12–25 years, our holiday activities are jam-packed with low cost or free fun activities to bust school holiday boredom. Bookings are essential. View the full calendar of activities on our website.

For more information about Youth Week activities and events, visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155.

Coming soon

Youth and Family Services offer a range of programs and activities throughout the year. Don't miss these other opportunities to build new skills or get involved in issues that matter to you.

Change Makers

Change Makers provides young people with an opportunity to address racism and discrimination in the community through developing and delivering a community campaign.

Starting in June 2021, this program is open to young people aged 16–25 years.

Holiday Activities Committee

The Holiday Activities Committee is an introductory leadership program that provides an opportunity for young people to help plan the holiday activities and participate as Peer Leaders.

The program runs during each school term and is open to young people aged 12–16 years. Sign up now for Term 3.

FReeZA Committee

Young people in the FReeZA Committee help to plan and deliver youth and community events showcasing local young people's talents. We are always on the lookout for new committee members or performers.

The FReeZA Committee meets during the school term and is open to young people aged 12–25 years.

Young Women's Leadership Program

This new program provides an opportunity for young women to build their leadership and advocacy skills through working on a project to help bust gender stereotypes in the workforce.

Starting in Term 3, this group is open to young women aged 18–25 years.

Community Vision and Council Plan Consultation Process

Council commenced its planning for the development of a new Community Vision and Council Plan in June 2020. This project includes a number of key stages which provide an opportunity for our community to share with us their aspirations and priorities for our future.

Stage 1 was delivered from September 2020 until February 2021 and provided the broader community with various activities to engage with. The participation across all the activities was great to see and Council was happy to be able to provide face to face opportunities with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Online Survey
- 107 surveys completed

1 Targeted Conversation
- 9 participants
- 60 comments received

Children's Activity
- 78 worksheets received

7 Community pop-ups
- 250+ participants
- 1006 unique comments received

Ideas Wall
- 43 ideas contributed

Social Pinpoint Page
- 1889 total visits
- 521 unique users
- 44 comments received

1 Community Conversations Workbook
- 1 community group
- 4 comments received

What were the key priorities for the top 5 themes?

A number of key priorities were identified for each theme and the below highlights those from the top five:

1 Health and Active Living

This theme includes feedback related to social connection, feelings of support and security: respectful relationships, prevention of family violence, positive ageing, health and food security, as well as council services, facilities and activities.

2 Diversity and Inclusion

This theme includes feedback about accessing Council services and facilities, cultural heritage, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders recognition and activities that celebrate our diversity.

3 Attractive and Vibrant

This theme includes feedback about living in a community and neighbourhood. It includes housing, access to services, facilities and entertainment; moving in and around the community; and positive reputation.

4 Sustainable Initiatives and Development

This theme includes feedback related to sustainability initiatives, climate change and renewable energy, and personal impacts on the environment such as recycling.

5 Natural Environment

This theme includes feedback relating to creating, sustaining and managing the natural environment, natural parks and gardens and Council's protection of native flora and fauna.

Comments from the community

"Kids activities for under 5s and the kids' school holiday program are fantastic. We would like the library to run more kinds of programs."

"Less time on devices, some more playgrounds so I can play."

"My biggest worry is the future and current climate adversities we will face. We need to spend great focus and money on localising our food source via open space, community gardens that are accessible to all. Not only will we secure a food source but great community connections will be made."

"More support for people near or at risk of homelessness."

"We need to face reality and increase knowledge about it."

"If we leave our cultures disconnected and don't celebrate we won't understand each other; the next generation won't maintain a peaceful co-existence."

"Encourage voluntary work by mixing volunteering with fun for kids and young adults."

"A more strategic look at what it was about the pre-COVID-19 community that is not where we wish to return."

"Working with the environment in mind to ensure that tomorrow is possible for us to live in."

To keep up to date with the project and read more about what the community has said visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2021-25

Ice Skating Adventure in Springvale

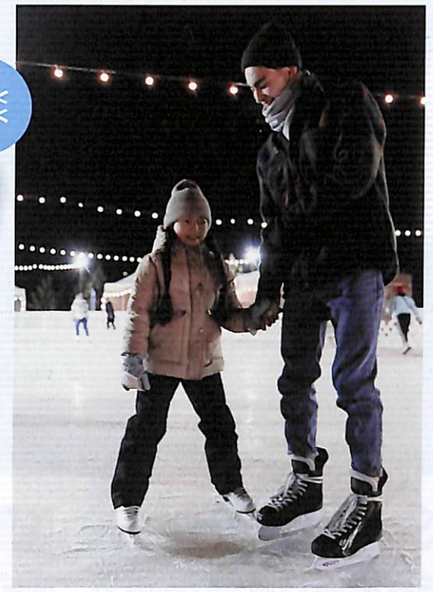
ENJOY SPRINGVALE IN WINTER

Have you heard? Springvale Snow Fest is just around the corner!

The super cool, award-winning winter event is finally back but not like we have seen before.

This year the event will take place from 1 to 10 July and offer some new, fun ways to enjoy Springvale in winter. Be ready in your warmest clothes to go ice skating in the middle of Springvale. And of course, what trip to Springvale is complete without eating some delicious food around the Springvale Shopping Precinct?

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/snowfest to see what this year's exciting program has to offer and for more information.



Dog park upgrade a hit with furry friends

Council hosted an official re-opening of the updated and expanded Tirhatuan Park's Dog off leash area in April 21 with Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio – Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Solar Homes and Hon. Gabrielle Williams – Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in attendance.



Located in Kriegal Way, Dandenong North, the expanded dog park now has a separate fenced area for small dogs as well as a larger off leash area that caters for all dogs and has a range of interesting and challenging activities.

Mayor Angela Long said getting the proper amount of exercise is vital for the wellness of pets, and applauded the efforts of all involved in the important upgrade.

"For people with more active breeds, taking them on a quick walk up and down the street may not be enough to release their pent-up energy. This fantastic updated park will give your fur friends the opportunity to run faster and play with other pets."

The dog off leash upgrades will provide ongoing benefits to the community as well as advocate for the importance of exercising and socialising dogs.

Some of the improvements include:

- A dog agility equipment zone
- A custom-built rock mound and rock bed with nature play including timber logs for dogs to explore and enjoy a textural, sensory experience
- An active area for dogs, new shelters and seating
- A circuit gravel path, drinking fountains that also cater for dogs as well as landscaping with trees.

Victorian Government funding supported this project through the Off-leash Dog Parks – Economic Stimulus Program.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/animals to read more about off-leash areas.



Something for everyone at Drum

I Have a Face – Jude Perl

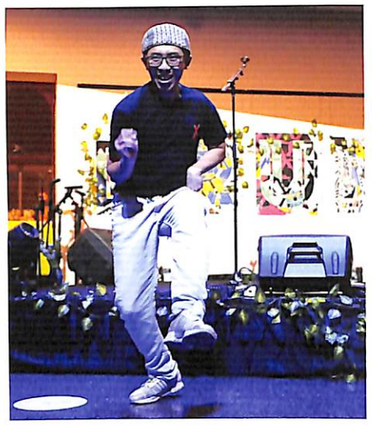
Friday 11 June, 8pm–10pm

A laugh-out-loud hilarious and honest cabaret deep-dive look at ourselves, our labels and how we cope; or not!

Life didn't come with a label, but you will be told your whole life how you should behave or who you should be. You will be told that if you have a problem, there's a quick fix you can buy... but somehow the problem doesn't ever seem to really go away.

We have the wonderful and local Margot Tanjutco providing a fabulous set of musical comedy before Jude's show.

Note: Recommended for 15+. This performance contains occasional coarse language, mild sexual references, very mild drug references, and themes relating to mental health (anxiety/depression).



Our Beat

Thursday 17 June, 6.30pm

Our Beat is a monthly open stage night that brings together musicians, artists, actors, comedians, dancers and the community. This is more than a gig – it's a chance to connect with like-minded people, meet local talent and even take the stage yourself. It's a free event for all people and all art forms.

The Drum is a home for local artists and supports them to create new work and networks and to realise their aspirations. Previous *Our Beat* sessions gave us spoken word, dancehall, DJs, freestyle hip-hop, some stripped back neo-soul and featured works from local graphic artists.

Hosted by Mr. Congo, each monthly installment is a unique experience created by everyone there, whether you're on the stage or in the audience.

A Taste of Ireland

Special Encore Event:
Thursday 24 June,
10.30am–11.45am

Official Performance:
Thursday 24 June, 7.30pm–9.25pm

Hot off its premiere New York City run in 2020 and with over 120 shows in 2019 across Australia and New Zealand, A Taste of Ireland – The Irish Music and Dance Sensation finally returns down under.

With revamped classics like Danny Boy and Tell Me Ma, the show's live, energetic blend of well-known tunes, jaw- dropping acapella tap battles, world-class dancing, melodic folk music mash-ups and craic galore transports you through the story of Ireland's tumultuous history, complimented by stunning production and lighting.

Starring dancers from the West End's Lord of the Dance, Riverdance and Gaelforce Dance alongside a treasure trove of Irish Dancing World Champions, A Taste of Ireland delivers the very best talent in the nation.

Taylor Henderson, The A-Team Tour

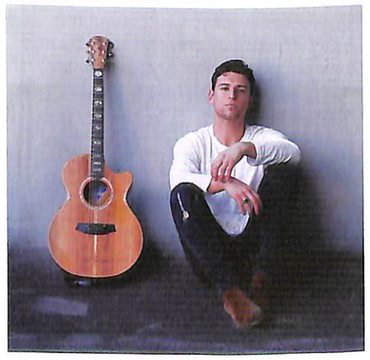
Saturday 26 June, 8pm–10pm

Taylor Henderson takes "The A-Team" on tour.

A special two-hour concert in two sets – Mine, His and Inspirations.

A powerful and emotive performance of his multi-platinum selling hits 'When You Were Mine', 'Borrow My Heart' and 'Already Gone'.

Taylor Henderson will also perform his handpicked favourites from one of his biggest influences, Ed Sheeran.



Drum Theatre Season Two (June–December) Launch

Experiencing the arts is important to individual and community wellbeing and provides a way for us to look at subjects that can be difficult to discuss. This season you will see young people expressing how their lives during the pandemic has impacted them, with humour and insight. We will also take a look into the experience of homelessness, hear some amazingly uplifting music and be enthralled by spectacular circus.

Love in the Time of Corona that will be performed 2 and 3 July is an innovative, exciting youth performance about the world of young people during the pandemic. It highlights the clash of cultures and identities while reflecting on the fragility of human emotion and our inter-connectedness, through social media and technology. *Love in the Time of Corona* has been locally written and the cast are all from the local area.

We are excited to bring you some exceptional events, experiences and entertainment later in the year.

From Isaiah's Spirit and Beyond Tour, Victorian State ballet and Magic Beach to a series of Encore Programs for the seniors, we have something for everyone to enjoy. Visit the website or join our eNewsletter to be the first to know all the upcoming programs.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666 for bookings.

Arts in Greater Dandenong



Zakiria Tahirian, Untitled, ink on paper

Invisibility
Thursday 3 June –
Friday 26 June 2021
Walker Street Gallery
Zakiria Tahirian

Every community has invisible problems. This series of work is about refugees who have left everything behind and come to Australia, seeking a safe and peaceful place.

All they want is safety, but there are many hidden feelings that aren't being shared more widely with society. Many are struggling with memories and finding the right place to share their stories.

This exhibition will use both coloured and invisible ink to uncover the feelings that many refugees grapple with, but are unable to find a place to express.



Callum Jackson, Untitled (Journal Entry), Watercolour Paint and Biro on Paper 2020

Gone to Carolina in my mind
Thursday 3 June –
Friday 26 June 2021
Walker Street Gallery
Callum Jackson

Callum Jackson's exhibition, *Gone to Carolina in my mind*, is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This exhibition conveys optimism and hope during such an uncertain time through printmaking, drawing, painting and photography. The exhibition focuses on an individual's productive and constructive use of time, even when faced with pandemic.

Hemmings Street public art

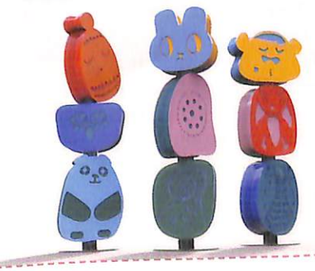




Students from Dandenong West Primary School have been working with renowned artist Beci Orpin to develop world-quality public art for the Hemmings Street Precinct, a small shopping strip in Dandenong. Beci tasked the students with creating pet rocks and pebble creatures. The finished works were then photographed and sent to Beci, who transformed the creatures into the fabulous mural, totems and sculptural pieces.

The bright, bold colours have changed the once retro shopping strip into a funky cultural hub, rivalling an inner-city laneway. The totems will welcome visitors and the combined effect of the artworks give a strong sense of community pride and one of supportive, village living.

For more information on arts and culture in Greater Dandenong visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts



Council facilities for hire

Council has a range of facilities available for businesses and members of the public to hire for meetings and events.



The Castle

The Castle is a versatile and fabulous venue full of character and is perfect for dinner dances, concerts, parties, special events, community programs and conferences.

The venue's open plan space includes a large balcony overlooking the Main Hall and Stage. There is also a separate break out room with a small stage adjoining the kitchen. The Castle is equipped with stage lighting, sound equipment, projector and screen.



Fotheringham Reserve Hall

Hire of the Fotheringham Reserve Hall includes exclusive use of the entire venue, including the main room, separate small meeting/counselling room and facilities such as tennis courts.

For further information or to book an appointment to view our facilities, please visit our website, email bookings@cgd.vic.gov.au or call 8571 5340



Making Springvale even more sensational

Construction commenced last month to transform Springvale Boulevard into a vibrant and iconic gateway to Springvale where people can shop, relax and connect.

MACA Infrastructure has been awarded the construction contract for the project, which involves a full streetscape upgrade of the road and footpaths located on Springvale Road between Balmoral Avenue and Windsor Avenue.

Mayor Angela Long said the project will be an asset for Greater Dandenong and provide many benefits to the community and local businesses.

"This project will deliver on the community's aspirations for the area, including improved pedestrian movement and safety, enhanced shopping and dining experiences, new opportunities for people to connect and relax, and opportunities for community celebrations," Cr Long said.

The boulevard will feature widened footpaths, new garden beds and trees for year-round shade, more seating, improved street lighting, and high-quality, thought-provoking design elements that reflect the diverse cultures of Springvale.

"Together with the recently completed Springvale Community Hub, Springvale Boulevard will enhance the future prosperity of Springvale Activity Centre as a leading cultural destination of Melbourne," Cr Long said.

As a complex and major construction project spanning approximately 12 months, local impacts will include traffic management for pedestrian and motorist safety, noise, dust and other activities.

Construction is expected to be completed by mid 2022.

Emerging Writers' Festival

Dandenong Library and Springvale Library 17 & 24 June

Now in its 18th year, the Emerging Writers' Festival is coming to Greater Dandenong. Celebrate the richness of your local community by exploring EWF's library event offerings. Each year, the festival brings writers, editors, publishers and literary performers together with the community for an essential part of Australia's literary calendar. The festival develops, nurtures and promotes Australia's new writing talent, creating platforms for connecting writing communities and their audiences.

Featuring two workshops and a spoken word performance, these fantastic free activities are not to be missed.



Sam van Zweden



Alice Bishop



Penny Smits

All events are free and booking is essential at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/emerging-writers-festival

COVID-19 vaccinations in the south-east

Vaccination is an important step to protecting the community from COVID-19 and getting back to the way of life we know and love.

Cranbourne Turf Club and Sandown Racecourse opened vaccination centres in May.

To avoid delays or disappointment, bookings are recommended.

Walk-ins are accepted between 9am and 3pm daily and wait times vary.

To book an appointment at a clinic, please call 1800 675 398 and select option 1, then option 1 and then option 1.

Current guidelines are used to administer the most appropriate vaccine.

To check your eligibility for the vaccine, visit the Australian Government eligibility calculator at covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility

Information changes rapidly as the roll-out continues, therefore the community is encouraged to check online for updates.

For local information related to the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit Monash Health's South East Public Health Unit website at sephu.org/covid-vaccination/

Jasna Dolic with Adam Liew



Jasna Dolic (Yassna) is a long time Greater Dandenong resident and was recently invited as a special guest on SBS TV show The Cook Up with Adam Liew.

"I am proud to say that I was the only Victorian guest flying to Sydney to join other Sydney based participants. This was an amazing experience."

Jasna hopes her story will inspire many Greater Dandenong residents and refugees in particular to follow their passion and put themselves out there. Jasna's dream is to continue encouraging and working with refugee and multicultural communities in Australia and internationally.



WE ARE BUILDING YOU A BETTER SPRINGVALE

The Springvale Boulevard Project is underway and will be completed by mid 2022.

Springvale Boulevard will make Springvale even more sensational by:

Creating a vibrant place to shop and connect

Creating a beautiful place to relax and linger

Creating a happy place to celebrate our community

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-boulevard

SPRINGVALE BOULEVARD

JULY 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Make Your Move outside this winter

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Renewable energy future
▶ PAGE 3

Know Your Recycling
▶ PAGE 9

COVID-19 vaccinations
▶ PAGE 15

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000
Fax: 8571 5196
www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message



Welcome to the July edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

While our community still deals with the impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic, Council continues to support our community's most vulnerable and works to protect the health and safety of all our residents. Recently, we had a number of events, shows and activities cancelled or postponed due to changing restrictions.

It's important to note that the dates for events listed in this edition of Council News are correct at the time of publishing. As COVID-19 restrictions can change at any time, we ask that you please visit our website for the most up to date information. Phone numbers are also provided if you have any further questions. You can find out more about our COVID Safe measures on page 11.

Moving your body is the fastest way to warm up and boost your mood on a cold winter's day. If it's too cold and dark to walk before or after work, head out at lunchtime instead. Our city has beautiful outdoor spaces and tracks. Don't let the wet weather be an excuse not to move.

Climate change is here, and its impacts are already affecting our environment. Head to page 3 to see how Council is doing its part to reduce the impacts of global warming. Go to page 9 if you want to know more about recycling and how to reduce waste with simple, everyday lifestyle choices.

With the recent lockdown restrictions, I want to remind Greater Dandenong residents to be vigilant and maintain the social distancing practices and good hygiene that have helped protect so many in our community. You are doing a fantastic job, keep it up and stay safe.

Mayor
Cr Angela Long

My City



Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan

Make Your Move by walking. Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan, is pledging to walk as much as possible, utilising the many parks, reserves, and walking tracks within Greater Dandenong.

Walking for 30 minutes a day or more is a great way to improve and maintain your overall health.

Take advantage of the cooler days and make the most of your weekends by heading out for a long bushwalk, hike, or bike ride. One of the many benefits of regular exercise is boosting your immune system.

Front Cover: Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North. Picture: *Thomas Barnes*.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Renewable energy future

Climate change is here, and its impacts are already affecting our environment, society and economy.

We all need to do much more to reduce the impacts of global warming. This means we need to focus on achieving zero net carbon emissions as well as preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

Recognising this, in January 2020 Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia and declared a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' committing us to emergency action on climate change. By addressing climate change and taking advantage of the opportunities associated with becoming a zero-carbon city, the City of Greater Dandenong will benefit economically, socially and environmentally.

Council's 2020-30 Climate Emergency Strategy sought to demonstrate leadership through the establishment of key targets that included becoming a net zero carbon emission Council by 2025, using 100% renewable energy. In recent months, Council has taken significant steps towards achieving these targets by entering into two Renewable Power Purchase Agreements in collaboration with other Victorian Local Governments.

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are an increasingly popular and effective alternative to short term standard electricity retail contracts. When constructed correctly, they provide long-term energy price certainty, transparency, and reduced energy price volatility risk.

Greater Dandenong City Council is delighted to take these initiatives to secure a better future for both our current and future community.

Council Signs on to VECO

Greater Dandenong City Council is one of forty-six Victorian Councils to sign on to VECO, the Victorian Energy Collaboration, the largest ever carbon emission reduction project by local government in Australia.



Council's electricity to come from renewable sources

VECO, led by Darebin City Council in Melbourne's north, will provide 45 per cent of all Victorian Councils' electricity requirements with 100 per cent renewables, reducing greenhouse emissions by 260,000 tonnes of CO_2 every year. Provided by Red Energy, the 240GWh of clean power is equivalent to powering 48,000 homes with renewable energy or removing the emissions from 90,000 cars every year.

Mayor and staff blown away by the power of a renewable future

Council is another step closer to achieving our net-zero emissions targets after securing a long-term agreement to supply wind-powered electricity to our public lighting assets.

Council has entered into this PPA to supply the majority of its owned and operated public lighting assets with 100 per cent renewable energy. This PPA will provide renewable electricity for Council's buildings, including libraries and Town Hall. This PPA runs for 10 years and was a collaboration with over 10 other Victorian Councils.

In April, Mayor Angela Long, attended the Bald Hills Wind Farm with staff from Council in South Gippsland to see Council's electricity supply in full swing.

The Bald Hills Wind Farm has 52 wind turbines that are 80m tall with an energy generation capacity of 2 megawatts. The electricity provided is equivalent to removing 77,000 cars from our roads each year.

Glossary

Zero net carbon emissions: Causing no net release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Zero-carbon city: Runs entirely on renewable energy so that it produces no greenhouse gas emissions from its use of energy.

Carbon Emissions: Man-made and are a result of the burning of fossil fuels and the manufacture of cement.

Clean power: Another term for renewable energy, is used to describe energy that comes from clean renewable sources rather than 'dirty' fossil fuels such as coal.

CO_2: Carbon dioxide – is an odourless and colourless gas naturally present in the earth's atmosphere at low concentrations (about 0.03 per cent). There are multiple sources for the carbon in the atmosphere, including the respiration processes of living organisms and the burning of organic matter containing carbon. Man-made sources of carbon dioxide come mainly from the burning of various fossil fuels for power generation and transport use.

Renewable energy: Energy from sources that can be naturally replenished, such as sunlight, wind, rain, waves, and geothermal heat.

Wind turbines: Wind turbines use wind to turn their propeller like blades to generate electricity.

Councillor Contacts



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Dandenong Ward
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Keysborough Ward
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Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
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Springvale North Ward
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Springvale South Ward
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Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
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eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au



Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The July meetings will be held:

Monday 12 July

Monday 26 July

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Safely sharing the road with cyclists

The Victorian Government recently made it mandatory for motorists to provide a minimum safe distance when passing cyclists on all Victorian roads.

Greater Dandenong City Council supports these changes and advises motorists to keep in mind the following distances when passing cyclists on the road:

- At least 1 metre on roads with speed limits of 60km/h and under
- At least 1.5 metres on roads with speed limits over 60km/h

Being courteous to our fellow road users, whether they be in a motor vehicle, on a bike or walking across the road results in a safer outcome for everyone.



Image above from Bicycle NSW



For more information, visit tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety

Cr Eden Foster

► Yarraman Ward

Hemmings Street car park improvements are coming along nicely. Works include new tree planting to provide more shade and new garden bed areas with low shrubs and ground covers to improve the visual amenity. This project is the next stage of the streetscape improvement works to the Hemmings Street Shopping Centre.

During Refugee Week last month, thousands of individuals, families, and organisations united to show their support and solidarity for refugees and people seeking asylum who have and continue to be mistreated by our nation's immigration policies. Amongst the many passionate participants involved was Greater Dandenong City Council, proudly representing the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.

Council's Youth Services COVID-19 research project showed that recovery will be a complex and long-term proposition. Through hearing from young people and parents or carers, it is evident that community issues within Greater Dandenong prior to COVID-19 have been further compounded by the pandemic. These include education and employment, mental health, social isolation and the settlement experiences of newly arrived migrants. We know that some cohorts of young people were more adversely impacted, including students transitioning from grade 6 to year 7, international students and newly arrived young people.

Council is already responding to these concerns. Later this year, we'll be hosting an employment 'boot camp' – a special one day event to help build youth job seeking skills. Youth and Family Services are working with a diverse and creative group of young people to create a youth-led awareness campaign. The group will be promoting tips for staying social and celebrating special events in a COVID safe way.

We also want to recognise and celebrate how resilient young people were in 2020. Council received 60 nominations for this year's Youth Showcase and we look forward to celebrating with these young people later in the year.

In May, Council celebrated National Volunteer Week to honour the amazing and selfless efforts of the wonderful



volunteers who make such a positive difference in Greater Dandenong. Though 2020 saw most of our volunteering activities suspended due to COVID-19, it is commendable how our volunteers were ready and willing to resume roles. If you aren't already involved in a voluntary organisation maybe now is the time to consider it, because when you give a little you gain a lot.

If you wish to discuss any Council matter, you can contact me on 0435 202 645 or email eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

Cr Angela Long

► Cleeland Ward



Earlier this year I had the great honour of witnessing the carving of the message tree in Dandenong Park.

The welcome to land was performed by Bunurong Elder Mik Edwards. The tree is a 100-year-old River Red Gum and the message was carved by the CEO of the Bunurong Land Council, Dan Turnbull.

To begin the process, a section of bark was removed from the tree which allowed the wood to be carved. The bark removed was used to make a shield in the traditional ways passed down through the generations of the Bunurong Elders.

The carving took quite a few hours and the result is magnificent. I encourage everyone to have a look at this Aboriginal artwork on the tree which is on the Lonsdale Street side of Dandenong Creek near the walking path that leads to the bridge.

I am excited about the building of the new Dandenong Wellness Centre, (new Oasis) that will be constructed in Mills Reserve, Dandenong, with completion expected in 2023–24. The Oasis will still operate until the new centre is opened so residents of Greater Dandenong will not be without the facilities that the Oasis brings to our community.

Dandenong Hub is another project that is close to my heart, residents have been very patiently awaiting this project to begin for a long time. This is also expected to be completed by 2023–24.

I would encourage everyone that is eligible to have a COVID-19 vaccination to get it as soon as possible. I have had my first vaccination and I will have the second one later this month. I recently visited the new mass vaccination centre at Sandown Racecourse, it's pleasing to see such a great facility available locally.

If you need to contact me on any council related issues please do so on 0466 004 616.

2021–22 Budget

Greater Dandenong City Council's 2021–22 Budget has been developed during a time of anticipated recovery from the effects of COVID-19 across our community. There is still some uncertainty about the extent of COVID-19 after-effects and the pace at which activity levels will return to a new normal, particularly as a COVID-19 vaccine is rolled out in Australia. This Budget is well positioned for recovery.

COVID-19 has presented a fast-evolving, significant challenge to businesses, households, and the economy worldwide. Council has acted in the interest of keeping our community, residents and workforce safe. Council will continue to be responsive to the city's changing needs with guidance from State and Federal Governments in relation to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Across the 2019–20 and 2020–21 financial years, the forecast estimate for the impact of the pandemic is now north of $17 million. Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Angela Long said "the impacts are a mix of decisions made by Council to provide community relief and outcomes that are not under Council's control."

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and rate capping, the 2021–22 Budget will deliver a capital works program of more than $63 million. This includes more than $20 million on asset renewal in the city. This builds on the strong investment over the past several years including the Springvale Community Hub, Dandenong Civic Centre and Library, redevelopment of the Dandenong Market, construction of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre and construction of Tatterson Park Community Sports Complex.

The challenge to fund the appropriate replacement of existing assets, such as roads, drains and buildings, is one that the City of Greater Dandenong shares with many other municipalities. "In our case, the challenge is beginning to become urgent as much of our key infrastructure was built in the 1960s and 1970s and will soon reach the end of their useful lives," Cr Long said.

This budget is well positioned for recovery, knowing there will continue to be challenges for the 2021–22 financial year. The budget strikes a good balance between ensuring Council continues to provide services and support to the community, and a capital spending program to provide much needed local infrastructure and stimulate local employment, businesses, and suppliers.

Key features of the 2021–22 budget:

- $10.23 million: Keysborough South Community Hub development
- $7.90 million: Ross Reserve, construction of new football pavilion
- $4.20 million: Noble Park Aquatic Centre – Health and Wellbeing Gymnasium redevelopment
- $3.67 million: Road Resurfacing Program
- $3.30 million: Detailed design of the Dandenong Oasis Replacement
- $3.00 million: Refurbishment of the Thomas P Carroll Reserve Crowe Pavilion
- $1.39 million: Springvale Boulevard project construction
- $1.18 million: Douglas Street streetscape upgrade



Different ways to pay your rates

Greater Dandenong City Council offers a number of options to pay your rates, including online or via instalments. You can even opt to receive your rates notice via email.

Simply register with BPay View or EzyBill to have your notice delivered directly to your inbox.

BPay View

Register with BPay View via your bank or financial institution to have a copy sent to your internet banking account. This method offers convenient email, SMS or bank message reminders and secure online or mobile access.



EzyBill

Visit greaterdandenong.ezybill.com.au to register your details. Once you have activated your account you can register your properties to receive any future rate notices via email.

If you register to receive your rates via one of these two options you will no longer receive a paper notice in the mail. However, if you want to continue to receive your rates notice via post you do not need to do anything, your rates notice will continue to be mailed to you.

Other ways to pay your rates include:

- Pay in person at any of Council's customer service centres or any Australia Post outlet
- Pay online via PostBillPay or BPay
- Pay by cheque which can be mailed to Council
- Pay over the phone using a credit card or via BPay using telephone banking
- Pay instalments via direct debit.

Visit mygreaterdandenong.com and use the online payment method to pay your rates or any other Council bills, such as animal registrations, infringement notices or permits.

For assistance phone 8571 1000.



A safe, inclusive space for the community

Springvale Community Hub is living up to its promise of becoming the new community heart of Springvale, providing the community with a safe and inclusive space for a range of activities.

Since opening to the public gradually once restrictions eased in 2020, the hub has had 120,000 visitors through its doors. Council has welcomed the positive feedback from members of the public and is proud the site is attracting the attention of industry leaders in design.

As the popularity of the hub continues to grow, patrons have reflected on the benefits of having such an accessible space that is truly welcoming and safe for all.

During consultation for the hub, the community told Council they wanted an area that was safe for them to enjoy. It's pleasing to see the initiatives put in place are achieving this goal. The precinct was designed with lots of exit points, CCTV, and an emphasis on good lighting. Council also minimised places where people can hide, including ensuring plants won't impede views of patrons by selecting tress with high trunk lines.

The hub is accessible for all members of the community and offers programs during the day, night and weekends, making the safety features even more important.

July school holiday program bookings

Title: Chocolate Making
Branch: Dandenong Library
Date and time: Thursday 1 July 2.30–4pm

Make some delicious chocolates you can take home in a fun-filled and informative session with professional chocolatier, Sylvia from Sissy's Bix. Suitable for ages 12 to 25 years and bookings are essential.

Title: Smartphone Photography
Branch: Springvale Library
Date and time: Monday 5 July 2.30–4pm

Learn how to take shots on your smartphone or device with professional photographer, Don. Suitable for ages 12 to 25 years and bookings are essential.

Title: Zumba
Branch: Dandenong Library
Date and time: Tuesday 6 July 2.30–4pm

Feeling cooped-up and need to burn off some energy? Come along to Zumba and shake those sillies out with this fun fusion of exercise and dance. Suitable for ages 5 to 12 years and bookings are essential.

Title: Holly's Backyard Bees
Branch: Springvale Library
Date and time: Wednesday 7 July 2.30–3.30pm

Observe a real beehive in action with a unique opportunity for children to experience bees in a safe environment and foster a new sense of appreciation and awe for bees. Suitable for ages 5 to 12 years and bookings are essential.

Title: The Absolute Super Silly Magic Show
Branch: Dandenong Library
Date and time: Thursday 8 July 2.30–3.15pm

Join Steve the Magician when he opens his box of magic in the Super Silly Magic Show. This engaging 45-minute show involves the kids from the start to the very end. Suitable for ages 5 to 12 years and bookings are essential.

Phone 1300 630 920 during opening hours or register online via Council website.

Events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Visit our website for updates.

Youth Services

events & activities



Above and right: Volunteers from the FReeZA crew at the recent YouthFest event

Holiday Activities Committee – Term 3

Holiday Activities Committee (HAC) is an introductory leadership program for young people aged 12–16 years to help plan and deliver school holiday activities and participate as peer leaders. Young people will learn leadership, communication, teamwork skills and have the opportunity to build friendships.

Youth and Family Services will deliver the HAC program in Term 3.

HAC will be delivered every Monday, starting on 26 July from 4.30pm–6.30pm at Springvale Library.

FReeZA Committee – Term 3

Join our FReeZA Committee to help plan and deliver local youth community events and festivals. The committee is open for young people aged 12–25 years and meets during school terms. FReeZA will start every Thursday on 22 July from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at 39 Clow Street, Dandenong.



Performers call out

Are you aged 12–25? Do you have talents that you would like to showcase in the community?

Whether you're performing individually or in a group, we are always on the lookout for dancers, singers and DJs to showcase at our youth events.

Contact 9793 2155 or check our website at youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for further information or to register for any of these opportunities.

Pop. Lock. Stop sneak theft

Did you know that 7 in 10 cars are stolen with their own keys?

Greater Dandenong City Council has joined forces with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to raise community awareness on car theft prevention in the Stop Sneak Theft initiative.

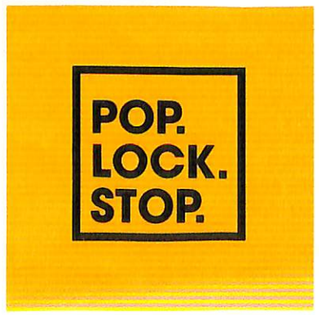
In most car theft incidents, offenders sneak into homes through unlocked doors and windows and access keys without the owner knowing. This is called sneak theft. In 95% of incidents, there is no confrontation with the homeowner.

Council is working with Victoria Police and Neighbourhood Watch to promote the importance of car security and reduce sneak theft in Greater Dandenong.

Simple steps you can take to reduce your risk and stop vehicle theft include:

- POP keys out of sight
- LOCK all doors and windows and make sure everyone at home is doing the same
- STOP sneak theft
- Report any suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers (1800 333 000) or your local police station.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-safety-and-wellbeing/preventing-car-theft or carsafe.com.au



Know your recycling

Our everyday lifestyle choices and habits such as online shopping, ordering take away food and grocery shopping create a lot of waste that we need to sort out at home. Habitually, people throw waste items away in the garbage bin when it can be recovered for recycling. Recycling at home is a great way to reduce your environmental footprint, and no matter how much space you have, there is an option for every household.

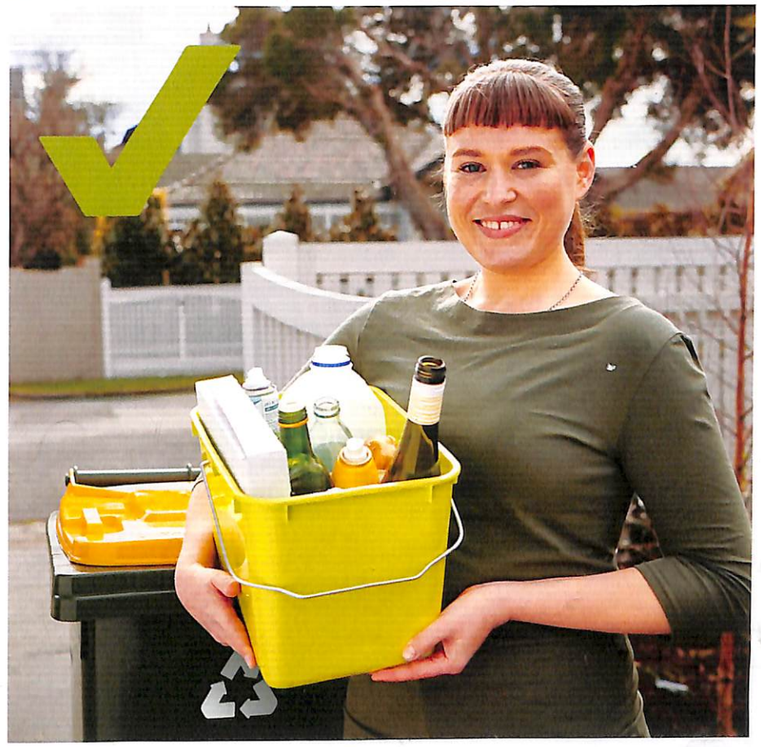
You might find yourself and members of your household wondering which is the right bin to put your waste in.

Here are some simple tips to help you save time and sort the most common items many people often get confused about.

1. Always remember to keep your recycling out of plastic bags and place your recyclables in your yellow lid bin loose
2. Only hard, rigid plastic containers and bottles are allowed in the yellow lid recycling bin
3. Soft plastics such as bread and pasta bags, frozen vegetable bags, chip packets and snap lock bags go into your red lid garbage bin. Alternatively, you can collect all of your soft plastics and take them to your local supermarket into the 'soft plastics' recycling bin on your next shopping trip.
4. Do the scrunch test – if you can scrunch the plastics in your hand, they don't go in the yellow lid recycling bin
5. Polystyrene packaging goes into the red lid garbage bin
6. Clothing and shoes don't go in the yellow lid recycling bin. Clothing in good condition can be donated at a local charity store or accepted as part of Council's annual Homecycle collection.







7. Food waste can go in your green lid food and garden waste bin. Make sure you have a good mix of garden waste with your food waste.

As well as following these simple rules, you can also search for specific items to find out which bin they belong in by visiting **recycling.vic.gov.au**.

We encourage you to get to know your recycling because what you do makes a huge difference.

To find out more about your recycling visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste

What's On July 2021

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the following events and opportunities are scheduled for July. Please check our website and social media for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.

Thursday 1 July

- **Chocolate Making**
  Dandenong Library
  2.30pm

Friday 2 July

- **Love in the Time of Corona**
  Drum Theatre
  7pm

Saturday 3 July

- **Smartphones Stories Workshop**
  Drum Theatre
  9am–5pm
- **Love in the Time of Corona**
  Drum Theatre
  7pm

Monday 5 July

- **Smartphone Photography**
  Springvale Library
  2.30pm

Tuesday 6 July

- **Zumba**
  Dandenong Library
  2.30pm
- **Isaiah – Spirit and Beyond Tour**
  Drum Theatre
  8pm

Wednesday 7 July

- **Baby Bounce**
  Dandenong Library
  10.30am
- **Holly's Backyard Bees**
  Springvale Library
  2.30pm

Thursday 8 July

- **The Absolute Super Silly Magic Show**
  Dandenong Library
  2.30pm

Saturday 10 July

- **Smartphones Stories Workshop**
  Drum Theatre
  9am–5pm
- **Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella**
  Drum Theatre
  11am and 6pm

Sunday 11 July

- **Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella**
  Drum Theatre
  2pm

Monday 12 July

- **Council Meeting**
  Dandenong Civic Centre,
  225 Lonsdale Street
  7pm

Tuesday 13 July

- **Possum Family Fun Playgroup**
  Dandenong Library
  1–2pm (every Tuesday)

Wednesday 14 July

- **Baby Bounce**
  Dandenong Library
  10.30am
- **Understanding the Australian Tax System**
  Dandenong Library
  6.30–8pm

Thursday 15 July

- **Encore: The Nutcracker (Medley)**
  Drum Theatre
  10.30am
- **Our Beat**
  Drum Theatre
  6.30pm
- **Paper Jewellery Workshop**
  Dandenong Library
  7.30pm



Saturday 17 July

- **Think Tank Session–WildlifeXposure–Native Animals**
  Dandenong Library
  3–4pm
- **Victorian State Ballet's, The Nutcracker**
  Drum Theatre
  7.30pm

Sunday 18 July

- **Victorian State Ballet's, The Nutcracker**
  Drum Theatre
  2.30pm

Tuesday 20 July

- **Possum Family Fun Playgroup**
  Dandenong Library
  1–2pm (every Tuesday)

Wednesday 21 July

- **FReeZA Committee**
  39 Clow Street,
  Dandenong
  4.30–6.30pm

Thursday 22 July

- **unHOWsed**
  Drum Theatre
  7.30pm

Saturday 24 July

- **Think Tank Session–WildlifeXposure–Native Animals**
  Springvale Library
  3–4pm

Monday 26 July

- **Holiday Activities Committee**
  Springvale Library
  4.30–6.30pm
- **Council Meeting**
  Dandenong Civic Centre,
  225 Lonsdale Street
  7pm

Tuesday 27 July

- **Possum Family Fun Playgroup**
  Dandenong Library
  1–2pm (every Tuesday)

Wednesday 28 July

- **Baby Bounce**
  Dandenong Library
  10.30am
- **Preparing for Tax Time 2021**
  Dandenong Library
  6.30–8pm

Thursday 29 July

- **Paper Flowers Workshop**
  Dandenong Library
  7.30pm



July

Friday 30 July

- **Our Story**
  Drum Theatre
  7pm

Saturday 31 July

- **The Australian Bee Gees Show – A Tribute to the Bee Gees**
  Drum Theatre
  8pm

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Ph: 8571 1666



Following the easing of restrictions earlier this year, Council has taken a gradual approach to introducing in person services and events.

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, Council offers a range of events and opportunities in person and online, following all COVID Safe practices and guidelines.

COVID-19 restrictions can change at any time, so we encourage all patrons to keep informed via our website and social media.

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Keeping our community safe

To ensure we all stay safe while using Council facilities, events and programs, please continue to follow these COVID-19 directions:

- Follow check in procedures at venues
- Maintain social distancing
- Wash your hands

Please stay home if you are unwell and get tested if you have any symptoms as soon as possible.

Support services available

Council has a range of support services available to assist the community with COVID related requirements.

COVID Safety Officers have been employed at Council to support businesses and community groups with a range of requirements, including:

- COVID Safe Plans
- COVID requirements such as QR codes
- Community engagement
- Information about testing and vaccination
- Translated resources.

If you need support please email covid19@cgd.vic.gov.au or call our customer service centre and a member of our team will assist you.

What's on at Drum Theatre

We welcome you back to the beautiful Drum Theatre for part two of Season 2021. Live performance is back, and it brings people together. The July to December season brings more professional live performances with a local flavour, a couple of national tours and some old fashioned-theatre magic.

We hope that you will be uplifted, inspired and moved. Please visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for updates and current COVID-19 restrictions.

Love in the Time of Corona

Friday 2 July and Saturday 3 July, 7pm

Love in the Time of Corona is an innovative, exciting youth performance about the world of young people during the pandemic. It highlights the clash of cultures and identities while reflecting on the fragility of human emotion and our inter-connectedness, through social media and technology. Love in the Time of Corona has been locally written, and the cast are all from the local area. Produced in partnership with Drum Theatre, Love in the Time of Corona is heart-warming, satirical and hilarious – not to be missed by anyone who lived through 2020.



Love in the Time of Corona
Photo by Dandenong Star Journal

Workshop: Smartphone Stories

Saturday 3 July and 10 July, 9am–5pm

A two-day practical workshop in digital storytelling. Smartphone Stories is a fun, interactive project led by expert facilitators that teaches participants how to make films using a smartphone. During the introductory workshop you'll learn the skills to produce, write, direct and edit a film made entirely on a mobile phone.



Workshop: Smartphone Stories

Isaiah Spirit and Beyond

Tuesday 6 July, 8pm

Celebrate NAIDOC Week with the incredible voice, songs, story and spirit of Isaiah Firebrace and his band. Share in the wonder of Isaiah's dream-fulfilling journey from rural small town to X-Factor winner and representing Australia at Eurovision 2017. Isaiah's live show includes his original material and some of his favourite chart-topping songs.

The Nutcracker by Victorian State Ballet

Saturday 17 July, 7.30pm and Sunday 18 July, 2.30pm

Join Clara at her Christmas party, as she ventures into her Nutcracker prince's magical land. Delight at the famous sugar plum fairy pas de deux, breathtaking snow scenes, a beautiful Christmas tree and party surprises. With music by Tchaikovsky and glorious choreography, this delightful and powerful ballet will enchant children and grown-ups alike. It's a rich display of mesmerising classical ballet performed by stars of the Victorian State Ballet.



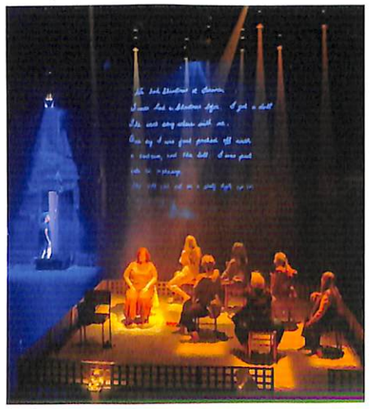
The Nutcracker by Victorian State Ballet

unHOWsed

Thursday 22 July, 7.30pm

More older women are experiencing homelessness than ever before. In *unHOWsed* these women take centre stage and shine a light on the unexplored territory of lives lived on the edge. Their real voices are strong and significant. In a series of poetic, non-linear and true narratives, they bare the emotional baggage that comes with homelessness.

unHOWsed is a multidisciplinary performance work about older women's homelessness drawn from their real experience, with pathos and humour. It is a very relevant and timely topic affecting increasing numbers of women. It is currently one of the fastest growing types of homelessness.



unHOWsed

Our Story

Friday 30 July 7pm, Sunday 1 August, 2pm and 6pm

It's a story of young and old, the collision of cultures and peoples. It's the story of you and me; told through intercultural storytelling styles, dance, song, rap and most importantly, food. Our Story explores the things that bind us together as a community, the parts of our collective identity that transcend culture and language.

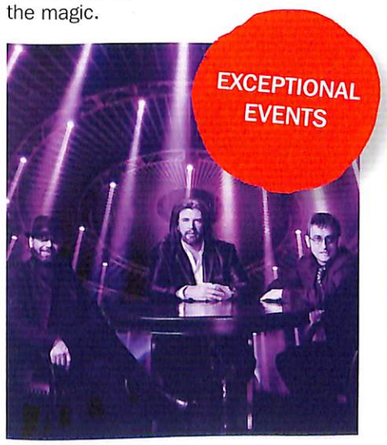
It is the first piece of independent theatre to be made in and presented by the Drum and will be the first of many local stories told in the theatre.

The Australian Bee Gees Show

Saturday 31 July, 8pm

After 25 years on the world stage and over 8000 performances in more than 60 countries, The Australian Bee Gees Show has evolved to become the definitive live celebration of the wonderful music written by the Brothers Gibb. The group was recently voted Best Tribute Show in Las Vegas by the prestigious Las Vegas Review Journal and has made the top 10 in the 'Overall Best Show' category, an amazing achievement in Las Vegas.

For one night you can be part of the magic.



The Australian Bee Gees Show

Shows are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Visit our website for updates **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-opportunities**

Book Encore morning shows for the rest of the year

The Drum Theatre's Encore program is a series of matinee performances with complementary morning tea. A perfect catch-up for friends. The Drum Theatre has recently launched the July to December Encore shows. Book now and treat yourself with a special morning on the third Thursday each month. Find out more from the website or join our eNewsletter to be the first one to know.

- **The Nutcracker** by Victorian State Ballet, Thursday 15 July, 10.30am
- **Gone With the Wind** by Lux Radio Theatre, Thursday 19 August, 10.30am
- **Always Love The Music** by Roy Theaker, Thursday 16 September, 10.30am
- **Denise Drysdale**, Thursday 21 October, 10.30am
- **Piaf And Aznavour Back in Time**, Thursday 18 November, 10.30am
- **I'll Be Home for Christmas with Rhonda Burchmore**, Thursday 9 December, 10.30am

Arts and Culture Education Program

Arts in Greater Dandenong is launching a new Arts and Culture Education Program this month aimed at fostering a love of creativity and arts in schools. As well as offering excursions and tours to various cultural venues including Walker Street Gallery and the Drum Theatre, this program will look to support teachers by offering opportunities to further engage with the arts through workshops, professional development opportunities and resources.

Upcoming workshops include professional development for teachers with Polyglot Theatre, painting and sculpture workshops. To find out more, sign up to our quarterly education newsletter online.



Winning pitch for Greater Dandenong

Council welcomed recent announcements of significant investment for the local area.

As part of the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program, a synthetic soccer pitch will be developed in Ross Reserve, Noble Park and funding for the redevelopment of Burden Park Tennis Club has been granted.

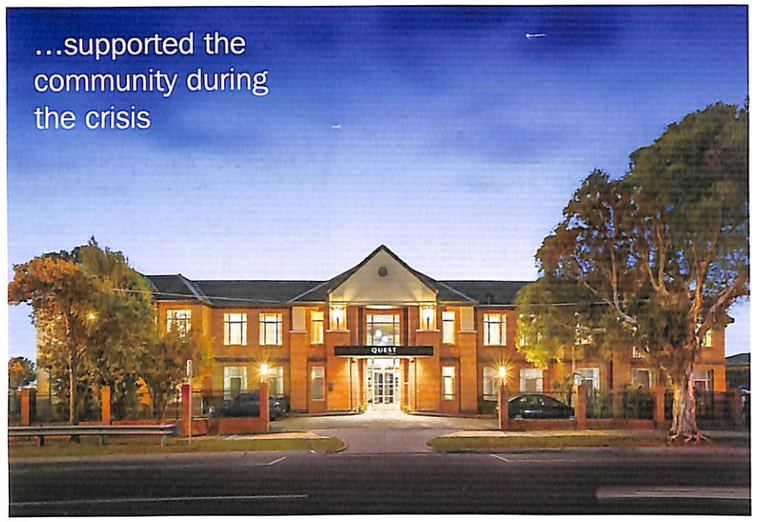
Mayor Angela Long said "We are thrilled to receive this funding which will have lasting benefits for the health of our community through new and improved sports facilities. There is significant work underway throughout our city, and in particular through the work of our Noble Park Revitalisation Board."

Council has received $500,000 via the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Program which has contributed to the delivery of the All Abilities Playground and the Douglas Street streetscape upgrade.

The State Government has funded $1.75 million for the soccer pitch, and $1 million for the tennis club, which will be boosted by contributions from Council and the Burden Park Tennis Club.

Pictured above at Ross Reserve L–R: Springvale City Soccer Club President, Michael Omerovic; Mayor Angela Long; State Member for South Eastern Metro, Lee Tarlamis OAM MP; Sandown Lions Football Club Secretary Monica Nyanaath Tuagch and President Dieng Diu.

Entrepreneurial Quest for connection



Like many accommodation providers, Quest Dandenong's traditional clientele is the corporate traveller which was scarce during 2020. So, like many businesses they investigated alternative markets to help fill their rooms.

Quest Dandenong found many of these new guest experiences to be mutually fulfilling. They brought some lovely people into the hotel who helped keep spirits up and provided some additional revenue for the business.

Here are a few examples of how the business connected with the community:

- Through their Local Heroes program, Quest Dandenong accommodated a volunteer worker and her dog from the Australian Animal Protection Society in Dandenong, who otherwise needed to commute for two hours daily to perform their important animal care work
- They took a number of stranded interstate workers under their wing and provided them with a home away from home while separated from loved ones
- In partnership with Dandenong Hospital, the hotel accommodated medical staff for extended periods
- The hotel hosted a large group of aged care nurses, who selflessly came down from Queensland at the peak of the virus to work at a local aged care facility
- They strengthened their relationships with several community welfare and care groups by providing crisis accommodation to a wide range of clients
- They also hosted a student from Victoria University completing a midwifery and nursing placement at Monash Health.

Given the circumstances of many of these bookings, they were provided at reduced rates.

This provided some utilisation of rooms, but more importantly created employment opportunities, lifted staff morale and supported the community during the crisis.



Good deed for Good Friday appeal

Greater Dandenong's very own local celebrity, Robert Boyle of Rob's British Butcher went to great heights to take part in the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal earlier this year.

Neil Mitchell from 3AW ran a special fundraising event on the Melbourne Observation Wheel. The concept was to raise $5000 for the Royal Children's Hospital where participants don't get off the wheel until the dollars were raised.

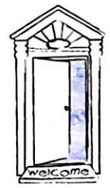
Rob had only 24 hours to prepare for the challenge. The team from Rob's British Butcher engaged supporters through social media and made many calls to their suppliers, their customer base and all their networks from across Melbourne to donate.

With a mix of large and small donations received, Rob's fundraising efforts quickly amounted to $7000 shortly after stepping onto the wheel. By the end of the day Rob raised over $18,000 with a mulching business from Pakenham donating a generous $10,000.

Congratulations to Rob and his team for taking part and the many supporters contributing to the appeal. This is another demonstration of the generosity and spirit of our local business community who think of others even when they themselves may be going through troubling times.

The Open Door

Time for something new? Do you enjoy writing? There's a small creative writing group meeting once a month at The Open Door, a centre for creative spirituality in Dandenong.



The Open Door is a ministry of the Sisters of St John of God. Operating from 110 Ann Street, Dandenong from a little house, the Open Door offers a creative writing group for interested community members.

Everyone is welcome and no previous writing experience is necessary. All you need is a pen, paper, a gold coin donation and the desire to write and make new friends. The group meets every second Thursday of the month between 10am–12pm.

Please call 9791 8664 to book in or email theopendoor@ssjg.org.au

Community News



RSL South East

RSL South East is looking for interested residents in Greater Dandenong to be involved in a new community support group 'Friends of RSL South East'. Like many people, Local RSL branches have suffered through the pandemic which is the reason for starting this new support group to assist where required.

If you would like to join or find out more, please contact gordonalan194@gmail.com



Get your COVID-19 vaccination at Sandown Racecourse

The second of the Monash Health high-volume vaccination centres is now open at Sandown Racecourse. Following the successful opening of Cranbourne Turf Club, the South East Public Health Unit is expanding its reach for members of the public to have their COVID-19 vaccination.



Cr Sean O'Reilly receiving COVID-19 vaccine

Mayor Angela Long attended the clinic on opening day with Cr Sean O'Reilly and said it is an exciting development for Greater Dandenong residents who can now access the free vaccination program locally.

"It was great to visit this facility and hear about the great work Monash Health are doing, with the aim to vaccinate as many of our eligible community as safely and quickly as possible. Vaccination is an important step for us to get back to the way of life we love and protect vulnerable members of our community from the serious health consequences of COVID-19."

The centre at Sandown Racecourse will be open from 9am to 5pm every day, including weekends. To avoid delays or disappointment, booking an appointment before attending the centre is highly recommended. Walk-ins are accepted between 9am and 3pm daily, but you may have to wait for an immuniser to become available. To book, please call 1800 675 398.

There is free parking on site, which is accessed via the Princes Highway, and the nearest train station is Sandown Park. Accessible parking is also available for permit holders.

For more about the vaccination process, making a booking and how to get to the centre, please visit sephu.org/covid-vaccination/

HEAL COUNTRY!

4-11 JULY 2021



Greater Dandenong has a proud connection with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Council will hold community celebrations during NAIDOC Week (4–11 July) to help honour this relationship.

The theme for this year's NAIDOC Week celebrations is Heal Country! This calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

To find out what is happening in Greater Dandenong visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/naidoc-week**

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

AUGUST 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Register your pet online

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New Vision for Greater Dandenong
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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000
Fax: 8571 5196
www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au
@greaterdandy
facebook.com/greaterdandenong
cityofgreaterdandenong
youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au
TIS: 131 450
council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message



Welcome to the August edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

While we continue to monitor and adapt to restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to congratulate our community for doing a fantastic job in adhering to the preventative measures that help keep us safe, keep it up.

Food waste recycling is well and truly underway in Greater Dandenong. Council continues its new food waste recycling service where residents with an existing garden waste service can place their food scraps into the garden waste bin. Read more on page 3.

Celebrate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics during the Greater Dandenong Library Services STEAM Festival. Some of the program will be delivered online and there is something for all ages. Read more on page 10.

Very recently Council had the opportunity to clarify and simplify the operations of our local law. Read more on page 11.

If you are looking for entertainment, we have plenty on offer. Turn to pages 12 and 13 to see what is happening across our city in the arts space and a range of shows at Drum Theatre.

As COVID-19 restrictions slowly ease I want to remind Greater Dandenong residents to be vigilant and maintain social distancing practices, good hand hygiene and get vaccinated if you are eligible. These measures have helped protect so many in our community by slowing the spread and impact of the virus.

I hope you all have a great month.

Mayor
Cr Angela Long

My City



Council engaged well known illustrator, designer and much-loved Melbourne creative Beci Orpin to work with a select number of artistic students from Dandenong West Primary School. The students made creatures out of rocks that have been adapted into a mural design and installation pieces along the shopping strip. Look out for the vibrant mural on Woodward Lane.

Front Cover: Lucky the dog happy to be back home.
Picture: *Thomas Barnes*.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Food Waste Recycling

Food waste recycling is well and truly underway in Greater Dandenong. Since April, residents with an existing garden waste service have been able to place their food scraps into the garden waste bin. Food waste means any food that is left over from meal preparation and plate scrapings, including meat, fish, cheese, rice, pasta and cake.

Approximately 45,400 properties in Greater Dandenong have a garden waste service. Of those residents, over 6,000 households have received their kitchen caddies.

Greater Dandenong City Council would like to thank all residents who have registered for a kitchen caddy and are using the food waste recycling service. Many residents have embraced the new service, using their kitchen caddies whilst preparing meals in the kitchen and playing their part in recycling their food scraps, contributing to the creation of high-quality compost for our Victorian farmers.

Resident Zoe Mohl said the service has benefits for her family as well as the environment.

"It's great to be able to include our food scraps in the garden waste bin along with our garden clippings. It reduces what we place in our general waste bin and we know it's not going to landfill, which is a win for us and the environment," Zoe said.

Frequently asked questions

Will the food and garden waste bin continue to be collected fortnightly?

The green lid food and garden waste bin will continue to be collected on a fortnightly basis and the red lid garbage bin collected weekly.

Can I place my food scraps into a compostable (or other) bag and place it into the garden waste bin?

No – it is very important that food waste is placed loose into the bin. Items such as plastic bags, wrappers, food containers and other general waste items cannot be processed by the composting facility.

The process used to turn the food and garden material in the garden waste bins is highly specialised and is designed to create quality compost. This process is not designed to break down the compost liners quick enough – including those marked with the Australian Standard.

Also, by not accepting any kind of bags, including compostable ones, we are minimising the risk of soft plastics finding their way into the food and garden waste bin.





Zoe Mohl and her daughter Lennan

Hints and tips for managing food waste

- Store your food and garden waste bin in a shaded area
- Layer your food waste in between garden waste material such as grass clippings and leaves
- You can wrap your food waste in 1–2 sheets of kitchen paper towel or a single sheet of newspaper before placing into your bin
- Store food waste in a sealed container (like an old ice cream container) in your freezer until the night before collection and then empty directly into the bin
- Rinse out your kitchen caddy and green lid food and garden waste bin regularly.

Free kitchen caddies still available

Council has a limited number of free kitchen caddies available for residents who would like to participate in the food waste recycling service.

Caddies assist with sorting food waste, by providing a convenient collection point to keep on your benchtop or close to your kitchen.

Residents must have an existing garden waste service to be eligible.

To register visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste



Councillor Contacts



Cleeland Ward – Mayor
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Ph/Fax: 9795 6574
0466 004 616
angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
Cr Bob Milkovic
0435 237 051
bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong Ward
Cr Jim Memeti
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jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough South Ward
Cr Rhonda Garad
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Keysborough Ward
Cr Tim Dark
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Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
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Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
Cr Sophie Tan
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Springvale Central Ward
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Springvale North Ward
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Springvale South Ward
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Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
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eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 9 AUGUST
MONDAY 23 AUGUST

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The August meetings will be held:

Monday 9 August

Monday 23 August

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

New Ward Structure for Greater Dandenong

After the Victorian Local Government elections in October 2020, Greater Dandenong City Council moved to single member wards.

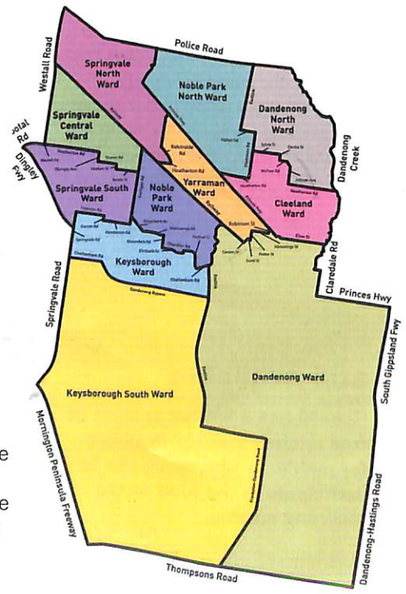
The decision follows reforms to Victorian Councils' electoral representation frameworks and was made by the Minister for Local Government in mid-2020 after a substantial consultation process. Greater Dandenong now has 11 wards and the 11 elected councillors represent a single ward each.

The new ward names are Springvale Central Ward, Springvale South Ward, Springvale North Ward, Noble Park North Ward, Noble Park Ward, Dandenong North Ward, Dandenong Ward, Yarraman Ward, Cleeland Ward, Keysborough Ward and Keysborough South Ward.

Ward meetings can be held to provide an opportunity for councillors to meet informally with constituents over a range of issues and do not typically have a pre-set agenda. They relate to the single ward and would usually only involve the single ward councillor, however other ward councillors may attend.

Community forums can also be held when the community indicates a need for discussion on a specific matter, or when Council needs to engage with the community.

For more information, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Cr Lana Formoso

▶ Noble Park North Ward



In the 2020 Greater Dandenong City Council Elections, Noble Park North residents voted for change. They wanted a fresh perspective and a new pair of eyes. A new, renewed focus on the community and its needs. Since day one, that's what I've endeavoured to deliver.

Already, we've worked together to achieve some stunning accomplishments for Noble Park North Ward – a community that had been underfunded and deprioritised for decades.

The WJ Turner Reserve upgrades that our community wanted for so long are finally completed, working with local sporting clubs to achieve the best outcome possible to maximise open space for community use. The Barry Powell masterplan is also back on the table, and residents can expect that we'll push as hard as is needed to get the necessary upgrades we deserve. As a PE teacher at a local high school, this is incredibly important to me, because I've seen first hand how community sport can change lives.

We'll soon be installing a much-needed crossing point on Bakers Rd which will include some periphery works at the nearby Halton Rd crossing point. This is an important project that will ensure the safety of parents and students is put first.

More broadly, Council has put a significant effort in to supporting all local community and sporting clubs during our COVID recovery. I've been a strong advocate for Noble Park North as we've formulated our plans going forward. I spoke in the election of the need for an equitable COVID recovery, and together, that's exactly what we're delivering.

As an SES volunteer, I've continued to work with my fellow volunteers to keep the community safe during the recent unprecedented storms. It's been heart-warming to see the way our community has banded together to support one another during tough times.

Focusing on the future, I'll continue to advocate for the signalisation of the McFees Road and Stud Road intersection, which will include pedestrian crossing facilities. This important road safety project will assist with improving access to the basketball stadium and I invite you to join me in this effort.

To the Noble Park North community, thank you so much for the support you've shown over this first year. I'm looking forward to achieving even more together.

As your local Councillor, I'm always open for a call or to take suggestions about what the community needs. Never hesitate to text or ring me at 0435 530 536, or email me at lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au

▶ Dandenong Ward

Cr Jim Memeti



Council has commenced planning for a community hub in central Dandenong.

This will be a multi-purpose community facility providing a range of complementary services in a single, accessible location with a range of shared facilities and functions for the community, groups and organisations.

This project represents the next step to develop infrastructure in central Dandenong to meet current and future community needs.

Council is committed to engagement and consultation during the development of the Dandenong Community Hub and has recently completed the first stage of consultation into the development of a business case and concept plan. The consultants sought community views on services for inclusion in the hub and possible locations along Stuart Street in Dandenong. The community also provided their views on alternative locations.

A precise building footprint and construction costs have not yet been finalised and will be informed by feedback in the next stage of development, which includes the production of draft concept plans.

The initial engagement findings were discussed at a Councillor briefing last month and I look forward to seeing this exciting project progress.

If you would like to contact me you can email me at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

New Vision Set For Greater Dandenong

As part of the new *Local Government Act 2020* all Victorian Councils are required to have a long-term vision developed by their community. Although Greater Dandenong City Council already had a vision in place for 2030 that states "Greater Dandenong is a safe and vibrant city of opportunity for all – to visit, work, live and play", the development of the new Council Plan and the requirements of the Act provided the perfect opportunity to review this vision and create a new one for 2040.

This project became the focus for a group of community members called the Greater Dandenong People's Panel.

Who is the Greater Dandenong People's Panel?

8,000 community members were randomly invited to register their interest for a community panel to develop a new vision and provide recommendations to Council on community priorities. Of the 157 registrations received, a group of 31 residents and business owners were selected to take part. This group was representative of the diversity in our city in many categories including age, gender, household type and country of birth. This diversity can be seen in the statistics displayed which represent the demographics of the panel.

The panel spent three days discussing the future vision for our city and how Council can balance the community's diverse needs. They reviewed community engagement responses, read reports about Council's ongoing challenges and commitments and heard from experts in a number of key areas relevant to our city. After many discussions and debates the panel members then agreed on a vision and presented this to Councillors in May.

The vision captures the hopes and aspirations of the panel and our broader community. It will influence Council's decision making and its priorities for the next Council Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan.

As part of the process the panel also developed six key principles which support this vision:

1. Safe and peaceful community
2. Education, training, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities
3. Sustainable environment
4. Embrace diversity and multiculturalism
5. Mind, Body and Spirit
6. Art and Culture.

To read more about this process and the key principles visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2021-25

The selected panel was made up of the below:

Age
18–24 18%
25–44 33%
45–64 33%
65+ 18%

Born Overseas
Yes 67.7%
No 32.2%

Gender
Male 50%
Female 50%

Household Type
Home Owners 51.6%
Private Rental 35.5%
Public Housing 12.9%





Greater Dandenong's new Community Vision

The new community vision as created by the panel is:

- The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all. It's a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity.
- We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual. Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.
- Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability.
- Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.

Information in your language



The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia.

Our residents come from 157 different birth places and speak more than 200 languages.

Communicating with everyone can be challenging, but Council is working to make information as accessible as possible. Our website includes a Google translation function, which can change the language across all pages of the website. The function currently translates more than 85 languages, including Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (traditional and simplified), German, Hebrew, Khmer, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Council places a select number of articles from this magazine onto the website to allow for information to be shared in multiple languages. Look for the icon attached to stories in this magazine then visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gdcouncilnews** and click on the translation icon on the top right corner of the screen to select another language.

Young Women's Leadership and Advocacy Program

Do you want to build your leadership and advocacy skills? Do you want to work with like-minded young people to develop a campaign highlighting the strengths of women in the workplace?

Join Youth and Family Services for Break Out – a young women's leadership and advocacy program to help tackle gender stereotypes and promote opportunities for women in the workplace.

This program is open to young people aged 18–25 years who identify as female, gender fluid or non-binary and have a connection to the City of Greater Dandenong (live, work, study or play).

Break Out is a six-week program that will:

- Explore issues relating to gender equality, with a focus on women's opportunities in the workplace
- Develop your leadership and advocacy skills
- Build your capacity to deliver a project or campaign highlighting the strengths of women in the workplace and empower women to challenge inequality.

Participants may be asked to complete project tasks in between sessions.

Date: Every Monday for six weeks, starting 6 September
Time: 4.30pm–6.30pm
Cost: Free
Ages: 18–25 years

All COVIDSafe guidelines will be fully met to ensure public safety.

How can I get involved?

Visit the website to register your interest via our online form or contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155.

For more information, please contact Youth and Family Services.

Phone: 9793 2155
Email: youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au
Facebook: cgdyouthservices
Instagram: @greaterdandenong youthservices

...build your leadership and advocacy skills

Be a creative champion of your community

Be part of the creative movement that promotes our great city to others. We are on the lookout for young people aged 12 to 25 years who are connected to the City of Greater Dandenong to contribute to the *'Greater Dandenong. My Place. My Community'* art competition and exhibition.

Using paint, pencil, charcoal or digital art, we are encouraging young creatives to show us:

- What you love about your community
- What is special about your community
- What connects you to community.

Join the collective and create a visual narrative on what it means to belong to our community. Artworks in the form of painting, drawing or graphic illustration will be accepted and must be submitted online through the Youth Services website. The original artwork must be kept as it may form part of the exhibition. There are great prizes to be won and your artwork could feature as part of an art exhibit.

Submissions are open from Monday 2 August to Sunday 3 October.



Young people get creative at the recent Youthfest event

For more information or to submit your entry, visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/greater-dandenong-my-place-my-community or contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155.

Progress for Dandenong Green Wedge

Green wedges are the non-urban areas of metropolitan Melbourne that lie outside the Urban Growth Boundary. The City of Greater Dandenong green wedge is located in the middle of the broader 'South East green wedge' which extends from Clarinda in the City of Kingston, to Cranbourne South in the City of Casey.

Council is developing a plan for walking, cycling and equestrian trails in the green wedge.

The first project Council is planning to deliver is the construction of the Riverend Road Loop Trail along Riverend Road and Thames Promenade. This is anticipated to be delivered alongside a road reconstruction of Riverend Road in Bangholme. The project will run over two financial years with the first year developing detailed designs and the second year being construction.

Mordialloc Freeway

The Mordialloc Freeway is currently under construction - connecting the Mornington Peninsula Freeway to the Dingley Bypass.

Construction in or near our green wedge includes:

- A bridge over Springvale Road with new freeway entry and exit ramps
- New entry and exit ramps at Thames Promenade
- An intersection with traffic lights at Wells Road and Thames Promenade
- A new shared walking and cycling path along the Freeway between the Dingley Bypass and Springvale Road, including a water re-fill station, seating and wayfinding signs at Springvale Road.

Council continues to work with the freeway delivery team to minimise the impacts construction has on the green wedge. Once the project is complete, we will undertake consultation to address the traffic impacts the Mordialloc Freeway may have on the area.

Low tree canopy coverage

Greater Dandenong currently has very low tree canopy coverage, at 9.9%. We have a target of 15% coverage by 2028. To track our progress towards this target, Council is currently seeking to map tree canopy across the municipality, including across our green wedge.

Planning reform

Planning for Melbourne's Green Wedges and Agricultural Land project is a State Government project looking to strengthen protections for Melbourne's green wedges and agricultural land. Council made a detailed submission earlier this year which can be viewed on our website. A report summarising feedback received during this consultation phase is due to be released later this year.

For further information, please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/green-wedge-management-plan

Your River Red Gums

The remnant River Red Gums are the most significant and predominant tree species within the Greater Dandenong green wedge and these trees are now protected.

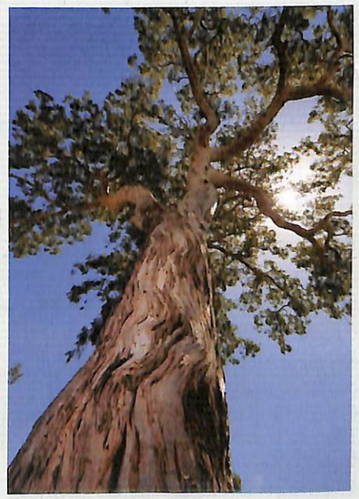
They are beautiful to look at, supply shade and protection and provide valuable foraging and nesting resources for native animals. They also increase property prices.

Treat with care

Most River Red Gums can fend for themselves. Those planted within the last 3–4 years benefit from additional fertilising and watering but can be damaged if too much is applied.

Be careful

Mowers and trimmers can damage the tree's roots and trunk and weaken a tree. Also watch any lawn or herbicide applications – so you aren't pouring chemicals near or on the tree's roots.



Watch where you dig

This is the biggest killer of mature trees. Even if development seems relatively far away, a root system can extend 2–3 times farther than the tree's canopy branches.

Mulch regularly

Mulch around the base of your tree. It should start 2cm from the trunk of the tree and extend as far as the drip line. This also protects your tree from lawn equipment, keeps weeds down and moisture in the soil up.

Know your tree

Keep an eye out for any diseases, dead twigs and mushrooms growing.

Cut back the pruning

Mature trees seldom need help here – except for the removal of damaged branches or branches that are rubbing together.

No parking

Do not park cars under trees. Over the years the soil becomes compacted and can slowly kill the tree.

STEAM Festival

STEAM Festival returns this August to Greater Dandenong Libraries to celebrate all things science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics. This year's festival features special inclusions from Children's Book Week, Science Week and a whole range of new workshops and programs the whole family can enjoy.

Kids can look forward to an assortment of fun activities. Our Think Tank programs provide the opportunity to build anything from hydroelectric generators to prosthetic legs, Code Club will teach participants how to build and control your very own program, and our Choose Your Own Adventure workshop will work through stories with one beginning, two middles and four endings.

Youth and young adults will find a variety of exciting programs to tap into their creative side, including DJ workshops from Big Bao, a Saturday afternoon spray painting stencil-art session and a zine workshop with Melbourne artist and illustrator Ashley Ronning. As a special addition to any young person getting their licence soon, STEAM Festival will also be the home to a special car maintenance workshop from Ford engineer, Petra Ohrt.

You are never too old to learn new tricks and STEAM Festival is the perfect place for it. Adults can learn a wide range of new skills from smartphone photography, air-dry pottery, crochet and cross-stitch, as well as using graphic design tools such as Canva.

Thursday nights will include our regular Libraries After Dark programming where you'll learn to make jewellery using electrical wires and compete with your friends (or meet new people) at our special Sci-Fi Trivia.

Dive into a world of new learning experiences for all ages. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/steam-festival for more information.



Please note, some programs and events may be moved online as required.

Events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Visit our website for updates.

Support to stay active

People aged 65 years and over who need assistance to remain living independently will now have access to affordable exercise classes run by a qualified physiotherapist in Greater Dandenong.

Active Physio classes run in Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park and will assist participants to regain and maintain their strength and resilience, remain socially connected and live independently. The program includes simple resistance and weight bearing exercises under the guidance of a physiotherapist and program support workers.

Mayor Angela Long said many people in this age bracket have reported feeling more isolated since the start of the pandemic, and this is a great way to boost physical and mental health and wellbeing.



"If you're feeling like you've lost confidence and mobility during the COVID-19 restrictions, you're not alone. There is support available and our Community Care team have a range of options," Cr Long said.

The program is designed to be introduced at an early stage to prevent older people having to rely on more intensive services such as a Home Care Package or residential aged care accommodation.

Classes cater for people of all abilities, with individual support and transport also available to help build confidence for those who feel unsteady or at risk of falls.

Bookings are essential

- Tuesdays 2pm–3pm
  Dandenong Oasis Cnr Cleeland St and Heatherton Road, Dandenong
- Wednesdays 9.15am–10.15am
  Cooinda Centre
  587 Springvale Road, Springvale
- Thursdays 9.15am–10.15am
  Noble Park Aquatic Centre
  9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park

For more information or to book, call Community Care on 8571 5503. The program is subsidised by the Australian Government Commonwealth Home Support Program and eligibility criteria applies.

Register your pet online



Last month, an 11-week-old Jack Russell escaped his new home, leaving his owners distraught, having only had him for a few days.

Thanks to dedicated Council officers and a chip that went to the breeder, Lucky was safely returned home, and the family were thrilled and grateful for their support. Losing a pet can be a very stressful time, and Council wants to help reunite owners with their animal companions. That's why we encourage all pet owners to register their pets online as soon as possible. Registered pets are given a tag to allow for easy identification by Council, making it easier to reconnect furry friends with their loved ones.

Every dog and cat three months of age and over must be registered with Council. Pet registration is a legal requirement under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

Council does not charge registration fees for pets under three months old.

Council registration gives you more than just a lost and found service for your pet. Even though microchipping will help in these situations, there are many things that microchipping cannot provide that registration does, such as key community facilities and services that your pet's registration fee pays for.

For more information and to register your pet online, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pet-registration

Have your say

Greater Dandenong City Council is currently developing the 2021–25 Domestic Animal Plan with a draft expected to be available for community feedback later this month. Council invites you to give feedback on:

- Animal management services, programs and strategies
- New Orders that could be made to address responsible pet ownership in the community
- Concerns associated with current council policies on animal management
- Ideas and resources to assist residents to manage and care for their pets
- Dogs in parks and reserves
- How well information provided by Council about pets and animal management addresses the needs of residents.

All Victorian councils must develop a Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) which is renewed every four years. The *Domestic Animals Act 1994* Section 68A requires Councils to evaluate any program, service strategy or review outlined in the DAMP. The Act also requires annual reviews and an evaluation of its implementation, published in Council's annual report.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Council adopts new Local Law

Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*, all local laws sunset ten years after the date they commence. Council's old local law expired on 25 July, providing an opportunity to review what was in place.

The making of the new local law has also been an opportunity to combine Council's old local laws into one collective local law, to clarify and simplify the operations of our local law for the community and council officers.

All members of Victoria Police are authorised officers of Council, and as such are able to take action under Council's Local Law if, and when, they are required to do so.

Victoria Police are often called upon to assist Council officers when dealing with issues such as illegal camping, poor behaviour on Council land or when there may be a risk to the safety of Council staff or other members of the community.

Some clauses of the local law however can be only enforced by Victoria Police. In particular, local laws that relate to the consumption of alcohol or hoon driving, as only the police are provided with the powers to enforce alcohol restrictions or the power to intercept people driving a motor vehicle.

The recent review of Council's Local Law saw an example of this partnership when Victoria Police requested Council to include a new local law to support them in responding to the increasing number of hoon driving incidents they are being asked to deal with. This request has seen Council, within the legislative scope available to it, introduce a local law that only the police will enforce, in lieu of the necessary amendments to the State's road safety legislation being made.

For more information, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/local-laws

What's on at the Drum

EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS



Sun Rising: The songs that made Memphis

Saturday 14 August, 7.30pm

This critically acclaimed show celebrates the music and stories of the early years of Sun Records. You are promised an unforgettable night as Sun Rising brilliantly interprets the timeless songs, legendary performances and classic stories of 1950s Memphis. The show pays homage to both the artists and Sun's owner and producer, Sam Phillips.

The sublime musicianship is an impeccable tribute to the greatest rock 'n' roll performers of all time. Fully endorsed by the Phillips family, this critically acclaimed show has been selling out across Australia.

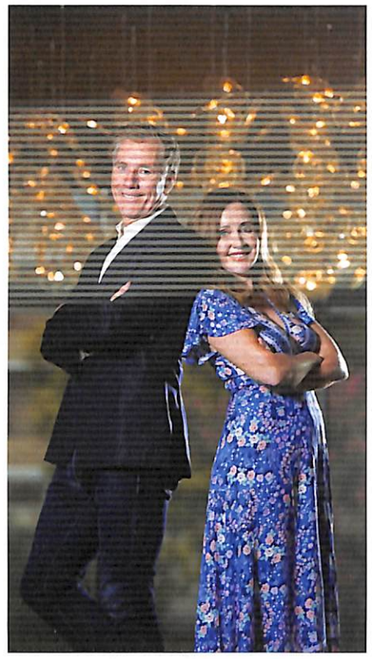
Review

"This has been the best night ever!" – Tess Armstrong, ABC Radio Melbourne

"Sun Rising was brilliant!" – Inpress Magazine

"Energetic, funny, pitch-perfect and undeniably dedicated to this particular era in Rock 'n' Roll," – AAAbackstage.com

For more information and to book your ticket, visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or contact the Box Office on 8571 1666



Marina Prior and David Hobson

Marina Prior and David Hobson: The 2 of Us

Friday 20 August, 8pm

After three back-to-back years of selling out more than 100 shows around the country, soprano and tenor powerhouse legends of musical theatre and opera, Marina Prior and David Hobson embark on their encore tour, The 2 of Us.

Brand new songs, back-stage and life stories and classics from their vast repertoire spanning 35 years. Accompanied by renowned pianist David Cameron, the two-hour, intimate performance includes classics from The Phantom of The Opera, Cats, Evita, Les Miserables, West Side Story, Guys and Dolls, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and La Boheme, as well as favourites from their award-winning albums.

⚠ Events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Visit our website for updates.



Gone With The Wind by Lux Radio Theatre

Thursday 19 August, 10.30am

See *Gone with the Wind* performed on stage as a classic radio play.

The Lux Radio Theatre company has become an audience favourite. Its group of distinguished actors double roles, create live sound effects and perform classic soap commercials of this popular story set during the American Civil War.

Venue Hire

Looking for a venue to stage your school presentation or performance? Why not present your events at the Drum Theatre, your local, award-winning performing arts venue?

The Drum Theatre is available for hire to schools, dance groups, community groups and performance companies. It also offers an entertaining and challenging program of high-quality performances for south east Melbourne to enjoy. The Drum is wheelchair accessible, including lift access to Level 2. Schools, not-for-profit organisations and community groups can also enjoy lower price.

For more venue hire information, visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/venue. Contact the Drum Theatre via 8571 1666 or drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au for bookings.

Arts in Greater Dandenong

Expression of Interest – HOME 2020

HOME 2022 is an exhibition exploring the journeys and experiences of artists with a refugee background or those seeking asylum. Opening in April 2022, HOME will be the second exhibition at the new contemporary art gallery opening in Dandenong.

Expressions of interest are being sought from emerging artists who have recently arrived in Australia as refugees or people seeking asylum to participate in HOME 2022, alongside other emerging and established artists. Two artists will be chosen through the expressions of interest process and commissioned to make new works for the exhibition. Artists chosen through the EOI process will receive an artist fee.

Applications close at midnight on Monday 30 August. For more information and to apply online, please visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-opportunities**.



Signage Policy

Council has published its new Plaques, Memorials and Interpretive Signs policy. All community members are welcome to submit an application. The policy outlines what requests can be made and how they will be assessed.

Plaques, memorials and interpretive signs enrich our public spaces. They are a way to record, reflect on and celebrate history, heritage, and community achievements.

Council's Plaques, Memorials and Interpretive Signage Policy outlines how requests for plaques, memorials and interpretive signs on Council owned or managed land are considered. The policy also informs how we manage and maintain these assets.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/public-art to download the policy or submit your application.



Hung Lin, Untitled, 2021

Past, Present and Future Exhibition

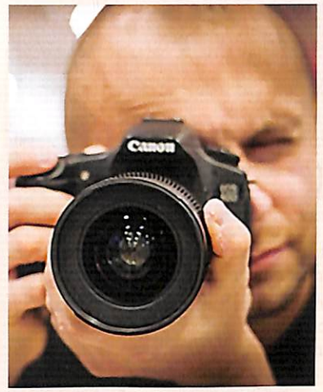
Thursday 5 August – Friday 17 December

This exhibition looks at the past, present and future of exhibitions in the City of Greater Dandenong.

What is a gallery without its audience? Visitors are invited to contribute to the exhibition by considering and sharing their gallery experiences, thoughts and reflections on the walls of the gallery. Looking to the future, artist Kenny Pittock will use these responses as inspiration to create a new work as part of the opening exhibition at Dandenong's new contemporary art gallery.

As we prepare for the opening in early 2022, a new series of works will also be exhibited by artist Hung Lin documenting the development of the new facility, from the construction to the intricate details of the build.

Through an installation of past exhibition posters, Past, Present and Future will also look back on some of the many wonderful exhibitions shown at Walker Street Gallery.



Photography Competition

Every year Greater Dandenong City Council produces a Community Calendar for residents which features photos taken in our municipality.

Council is encouraging residents to submit photos of architecture, outdoor space or something different that takes your eye. Submissions are open until 30 September for our 2022 calendar.

Council will select 12 photos to include in the calendar which will be distributed in December.

- The photograph must be taken within the Greater Dandenong City Council municipality
- The photograph must be taken by you
- If any people are included in the image we will need written permission from them if the photo is selected for the calendar
- Council will notify in October 2021 if your submission has been successful.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos so far.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition

Ibis Budget Dandenong secures ALLSAFE accolade

Everyone can relate to the repercussions of COVID-19 and the accommodation industry is no exception.

Despite the devastating impacts, there are still moments to celebrate and be grateful for. Global brand Accor, which Ibis Budget Dandenong belongs to, launched a global initiative in May 2020 for all Accor hotels to be certified with the new safety label – ALLSAFE. The ALLSAFE label has been developed and verified with Bureau Veritas, world leaders in testing, inspections and certification.

In July 2020, IBIS Budget Dandenong became an approved ALLSAFE hotel, after successfully undergoing extensive audits and inspections, ensuring full compliancy across all areas. Regular inspections and audits are completed routinely to maintain these standards with three dedicated staff members enlisted as ALLSAFE Officers who have undergone additional training as an extension to their current responsibility. An ALLSAFE Officer is available onsite at the hotel 24/7.



Ibis Budget Dandenong

Congratulations to the team at IBIS Budget Dandenong for completing this training during exceptionally difficult circumstances. It's a testament to the team in securing this accolade.

An iconic institution in Dandenong

Lunar Drive-In is famous for its animated neon rocket sign above the ticket box, which is often photographed and shared on social media. That's not all the drive-in is renowned for. Based in Dandenong, it is the largest drive-in theatre in Australia.

The drive-in has four screens showing all the latest Hollywood blockbusters, including frequent screenings of classic and retro titles. The business is open every night of the year, except Christmas night. Charging only $30 per carload (up to seven people) it's quite a steal. David Kilderry, owner of Lunar drive-in says, "films should be affordable for every family, this way they can afford to visit often, making it a family tradition."

When the COVID-19 health crisis arrived in Australia the drive-in was forced to shut its gates like many businesses. At the peak of Victoria's first lockdown, the business had just completed its $4 million expansion. A new Lunar Café and upgraded facilities were ready to open with the café boasting 10 customer service points and over double the floor space.

As restrictions ease, David and his team are ready to welcome back customers. They have added extra ticket boxes, entry lanes and expanded parking areas. Online ticketing is also available, along with popular nightly sales at the five ticket boxes.

The Lunar Drive-In is one of the city's major tourist attractions, with over 400,000 people visiting in 2019. The drive-in attracts most of its patrons from a 20km radius, but also from country Victoria and interstate each day of the week. International travellers regularly attended prior to border restrictions.

Drive-ins are now a rarity in most other parts of Australia and the world. Australia once boasted 350 drive-ins with only 17 remaining in 2021. There are no parking problems, no babysitter concerns and you can come dressed as you are and enjoy a night watching movies under the stars in your cars. 'The Lunar Drive-In' entertaining you since 1956 in Dandenong," David said.

Visit lunardrive-in.com.au to see what movies are on offer.

Beer lovers and makers united at Brick Lane Brewing

Brick Lane Brewing (BLB) in Dandenong South is one of the most innovative and flexible independent breweries in the world, showcasing the highest standards in brewing and sustainability.

The brewery has been built with state-of-the-art brewing facilities, process and packaging equipment and continues to expand. The BLB team ensure quality and consistency with a reduced environmental footprint a key focus. The facility was engineered to reduce primary energy consumption, reclaim energy from kettle vapour and minimise waste streams.

The BLB community includes all those who enjoy good beer – drinkers, customers, partner brewers, independent brewers, suppliers and friends. They believe in inclusivity and diversity in brewing and have an obligation to do good in their local community. BLB actively engage with a broad range of partners across a variety of areas – from brewing great beers, to helping community organisations and charities.

They strive to have a beer for everyone, no matter where you are on your craft beer journey. From their "bloody good Draught", through to the award-winning One Love Pale Ale and Lager, IPAs, limited releases and Someday Sours. They've always got something new planned and love introducing their beers and different styles to everyone. The BLB bar is currently open on Thursday and Fridays, with plans to develop the space further for events and functions.

For more information visit bricklanebrewing.com

Finding homes for feline friends

Late last year, Cheryl Ingram became the Greater Dandenong City Council's first Volunteer Enrolled Foster Carer. Since then, she has taken in over 60 kittens and has desexed, microchipped, vaccinated and found forever homes for 49 of them through her organisation Feline and Friends Cat Rescue in Noble Park.

Some of these litters needed to be bottle-fed until they could feed for themselves.

The kittens require constant care and attention which Cheryl provides around the clock. The litters are found abandoned and unwanted, often in poor health. They face a life of starvation and disease with a much shorter life expectancy than cats who are owned and cared for.

Every year, thousands of cats end up in pounds and shelters. Finding loving homes for these kittens where they will be part of a family is an amazing outcome.

Cheryl's kindness and generosity has saved over 60 cats from being impounded. Feline and Friends Cat Rescue relies on donations for food, litter and vet fees and is solely operated by Cheryl with a little help from a close friend, Judy.

If you can help support or are looking to adopt a cat, please visit: petrescue.com.au/groups/11872/Feline-and-Friends-Rescue or visit her Facebook page.


Cheryl Ingram and Richard Asquith

New home for Australian Animal Protection Society

The Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) has a new home in Keysborough. This relocation has been a long time coming, and now more than ever, could use the support of the community.

With thousands of lost, abandoned, mistreated and unwanted animals desperate for care and refuge every year, the AAPS has opened the doors to care for more animals than ever before.

AAPS is a community-based, not-for-profit charity that relies on donations, volunteers and community support as it does not receive government funding. Recently relocating to the new purpose-built facility, the future for the AAPS is bright. The facility will further accommodate the AAPS passion for animal welfare with a greater capacity to care for, treat and rehome animals. The brand new, state-of-the-art veterinary clinic invites all members of the community to indulge in low-cost, professional vet services of the highest standard. With the health and wellbeing of all furry or feathery friends as their priority, you and your pets could not be in better hands.



New location at 26 Aegean Court (off Naxos way), Keysborough

Visit the AAPS website to learn about the many ways the community can get involved and support the good work of this organisation.

For adoption enquiries phone 9798 8415 or email office@aaps.org.au and for veterinary appointments phone 9585 7936 or email clinic@aaps.org.au

Ice Skating in Springvale – Early Bird Competition

This September school holidays, a temporary outdoor ice-skating rink is coming to central Springvale.

Dates: Thursday 23 September to Saturday 2 October

Ticket prices: $5 children, $8 adults.

Tickets go on sale 9am Monday 2 August.

All early-bird ticket buyers go in the draw for a family ski trip to Mt. Buller

To be in the draw, simply visit greaterdandenong.com/iceskating and buy your tickets before midnight Sunday 29 August.

SPIRIT OF SNOW FEST

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

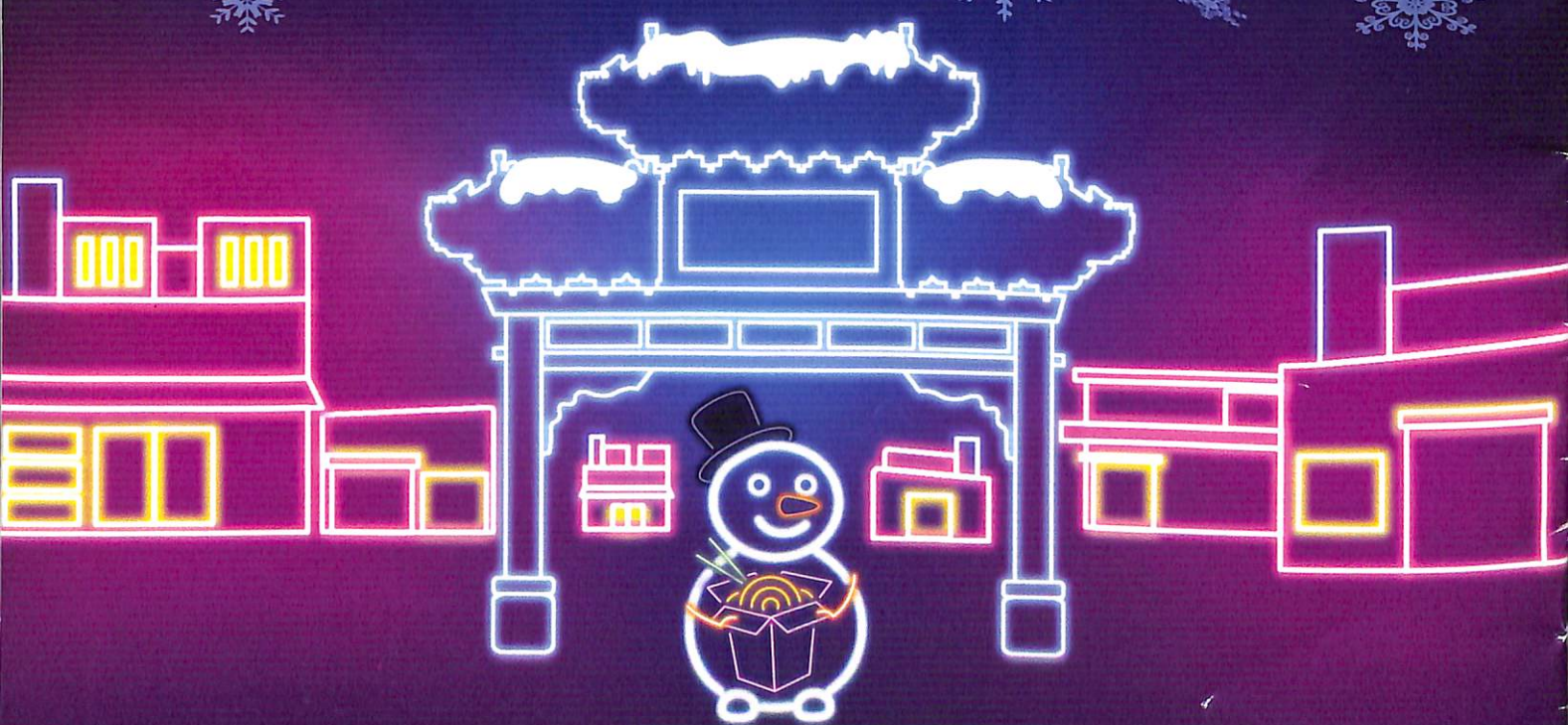
IN AUGUST, 5PM - 9PM

Buckingham Avenue, Springvale

Snow fall special effects • Winter neon light trail • Spectacular night illuminations

Enjoy special deals at participating local restaurants

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/snowfest | 8571 1000



GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

EVENT SPONSORS: Mt Buller FOX 101.9

SEPTEMBER 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Calling all little explorers

PAGE 3

Community Satisfaction Survey
▶ PAGE 6

Waste benefits for farmers
▶ PAGE 10

Spring nesting
▶ PAGE 11

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message



Welcome to the September edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

While restrictions continue to change, Council is working hard to support all members of the community.

With the September school holidays around the corner, enjoy one of our most popular annual, family-friendly events – the Children's Festival. Held online last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been working hard to make this year's event safe for everyone, with options to provide in person and online delivery. Now in its 10th year, it's a highlight of our calendar for children and their families. You can find out more on page 3.

Turn to pages 9 and 12 for even more school holiday action at our libraries and Drum Theatre.

Spring is a wonderful time in our city and it's also nesting time for birds. It's a beautiful time to be out and about and in this issue we look at our bushland reserves becoming a buzzing hive of insect activity. Turn to page 11 to read more.

This year in the annual Community Satisfaction Survey, Council scored highest in the area of customer service at 74. Turn to page 6 to see how Council has once again achieved a fantastic performance rating in comparison to the metropolitan average.

I hope you find something wonderful to do in our city this month, and I look forward to seeing you all out and about.

Mayor
Cr Angela Long

My City



Make Your Move is a call for the residents of Greater Dandenong to be more active. You can improve your fitness and enjoy many of our city's beautiful natural reserves and trails this spring. The benefits of being outside can have a positive impact on mental and physical health. Make Your Move raises awareness about the importance of physical activity by providing more opportunities for people to get active. Our environment is a free and perfect place that encourages movement.

Front Cover: Elijah James Pulo flying a kite.
Picture: *Hilton Stone.*

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Calling all little explorers

exciting programs



Greater Dandenong Children's Festival is back, offering a range of exciting programs, activities and workshops over the September school holidays.

This year's theme is Little World Explorers, giving children the opportunity to travel the world in their own community by joining in cultural experiences through arts, dance, sport, science, magic and circus activities.

Highlights of the Festival include:

Little Day Out

Little Day Out will take place at Ross Reserve on Sunday 19 September with many great free activities for the whole family. Join us for a fun day of live entertainment, arts and crafts, paper airplane and kite making workshops, Ninja Warrior obstacle course and sporting games. This event is suitable for families with children under 12 years of age.

Events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions and may be moved online. Visit our website for updates.



Little World Explorers Story Competition

This competition is open to primary school students living or studying in Greater Dandenong. Students are encouraged to write a short story between 200-400 words on any topic or theme for a chance to see your story come to life as animated short film.

For more details go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/childrens-festival



Australia Day Awards

Nominations open 13 September

Do you know someone making a meaningful, positive impact in our community?

Think of the incredible people who work hard behind the scenes to help make our schools, clubs, fundraisers, community activities safe and great. Why not recognise them by nominating them for an Australia Day Award.

Awards are presented at a ceremony on Australia Day in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Leader of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Corporate Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Sustainability Award
- Living Treasure Award

Nominations open Monday 13 September and close Sunday 24 October.

To make your nomination, fill in the online form at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards

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MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The September meetings will be held:

Monday 13 September

Monday 27 September

SEPTEMBER

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Stay up to date with your immunisations

During a pandemic, it is now more important than ever to help keep your child healthy. It is vital to have your child immunised on time at the ages recommended by the National Immunisation Program (NIP) Schedule.

Greater Dandenong City Council's immunisation team hold several sessions every month for residents. The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from 6 months of age up to 5 years of age.

If your child is overdue or has missed any vaccinations, please speak with your general practitioner or the Council immunisation team. Delaying the vaccinations could not only effect the health of your child, but also family tax payments and entry to childcare and kinder.



In the last 12 months, Council's immunisation team have immunised 2,528 children up to 19 years of age, in accordance with the NIP, including providing catch up vaccinations for children who were overdue. In the same period Council delivered secondary school immunisations to 5,148 students.

To have your child immunised you will need to make a booking at **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation**.

For assistance, please call Council on 8571 1000.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

If you would like information about COVID-19 vaccinations, including checking your eligibility and making a booking, please visit **sephu.org/covid-vaccination/**

Cr Rhonda Garad

► Keysborough South Ward

I want to acknowledge the tremendous challenges the recent lockdowns created for many. To all the parents who battled with home schooling and work commitments, I want to say well done. To business owners who lost money, I want to acknowledge your hardship. To kids who missed their friends, I want to say great effort. It wasn't easy for anyone and in the future, if you find yourself not coping, please ask for help.

On other matters, it is very pleasing that we will have two new public toilets at Westwood and Pencil parks. They will be finished by the time the warmer weather is here. The toilets will be placed in the line of sight of parents from the playgrounds, who need to stay with younger children. This will mean people will not have to cut their visits to the park short to go to the bathroom.

It has also been tremendous to see the growing enthusiasm in the community to save the Keysborough Chapel, on Chapel Road. The chapel has seen better days and there is a need for a fair bit of restoration work. We are hopeful that the current owners will hand it over to the care of the community to be used to benefit everyone.

It won't be a surprise to many of you the traffic challenges on Chapel Road. Council is gathering data on traffic patterns and working on solutions and conducting two independent assessments of the new housing development at HomeCo to ensure as much as possible the safety of users of the centre.



If you would like to discuss any local issues, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 107 584.

Cr Loi Truong

► Springvale South Ward



While the situation around the COVID-19 pandemic keeps changing, Council is working hard to balance all the health and safety needs of our community.

Services have needed to offer flexible delivery to adhere to changing restrictions, and I would like to thank our community members for the support they continue to show to local businesses.

Moving on to capital works, the significant project at Burden Park in Springvale South is well and truly underway. Redevelopment of the tennis facilities includes renovation of the six existing tennis courts which will involve resurfacing to synthetic grass, replacement of the court lighting and fencing, and extension of the courts to meet the current Tennis Australia standards. With funding from State Government, Council and Burden Park Tennis Club, I will be excited to see this $1.17m project come to fruition mid next year.

Speaking of Burden Park and with the start of Spring, I encourage you to get outside and make the most of this lovely season and enjoy the many local parks and playgrounds we have in our city.

I would also like to encourage you to explore the new Springvale Library and the services it offers. Your free membership provides access to a wide range of resources – books and DVDs (including many items in community languages), free computer access, free Wi-Fi, study areas, and community meeting spaces. Free tutoring is available 24/7 during school terms and many programs and events are available for different age and cultural groups including story telling and activities for children. Our libraries are safe and welcoming community hubs, open to everyone to use as a place to learn, be connected, supported and belong.

Lastly, please remember to check Council's website for updated information on the many COVID-19 vaccination sites and testing locations available near Springvale.

It is a privilege to represent the active and diverse community of Springvale South.

If you want to contact me you can reach me at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 004 618.

Record performance rating for Council

Greater Dandenong City Council has once again achieved a record performance rating as part of its annual customer satisfaction survey of residents.

Now in its 22nd year, the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey assesses Council's performance across a range of measures and in comparison to other local government bodies.

Council achieved an overall performance score of 68 which was one point higher than the metropolitan average and seven points higher than the state-wide average.

Council's highest score of the key comparable areas was customer service (74) compared to the state-wide average of 70.

The survey results also found that:

- Greater Dandenong residents identified diversity as the best thing about our community, closely followed by parks and gardens, library services and facilities, community support services and recreational and sporting facilities
- Top performing areas for Council included waste management (75) and sealed local roads (69)
- 79 per cent of residents surveyed are concerned about climate change and 67 per cent believe that it is extremely or very important for Council to respond to its impacts
- Residents scored community consultation a 60, compared to a metropolitan average of 59 and a state-wide average of 56
- Overall Council direction scored 62, compared to the state-wide average of 53 points.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for the full report.

Performance Measure	Council	Metro average	State-wide average
Overall performance	68	67	61
Community consultation (community consultation and engagement)	60	59	56
Value for money	66	62	54
Making community decisions (decisions made in the interests of the community)	63	61	56
Sealed local roads (conditions of sealed roads)	69	68	57
Customer service	74	74	70
Overall Council direction	62	55	53

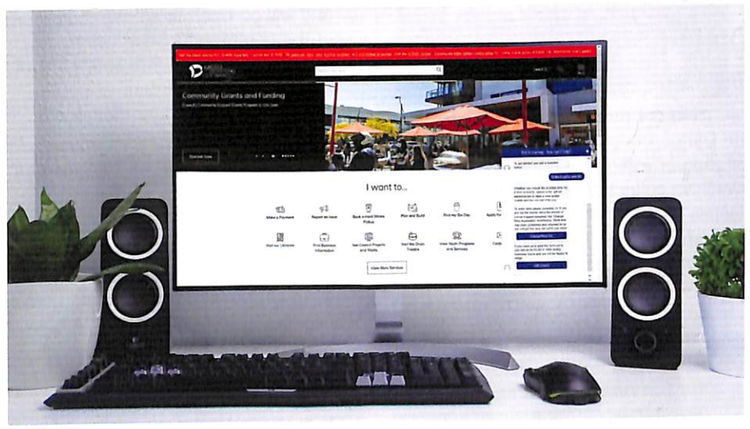


Enchantment of a magical fairy tale



Mayor Angela Long with Masquerade Youth Productions crew

Mayor Angela Long caught some fairy tale magic at the Drum Theatre in July with Masquerade Youth Productions' Cinderella (directed by Emily Keagan, Chorographed by Catherine McGregor and Musical Director Isabella Dymalovski). This dynamic local theatre group provides fantastic performances to children and young people, and made Cinderella come alive in this glittering and enchanting show.



Council's digital front door

Last year, Council completely rebuilt its corporate website, including brand new websites for the Drum Theatre and Youth Services. Together these websites act as Council's digital front door.

For residents this means improved access to information, services and consultations. Some highlights of the corporate website include:

- A help bot, which is an instant online customer service via a computer chat box
- Dedicated pages for Council projects, community consultations, recreation areas, venues and facilities
- The ability to use google translate across website pages so users can read the website text in their own language.

Websites are accessible on all devices, so residents can access Council information wherever they are, at any time.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-websites to know more about the functionality of our websites.

Change Today – Shape Tomorrow

Work to develop the City of Greater Dandenong's Council Plan 2021–25 and Long-Term Financial Plan 2022–2031 continues to progress, with a draft released for community feedback this month.

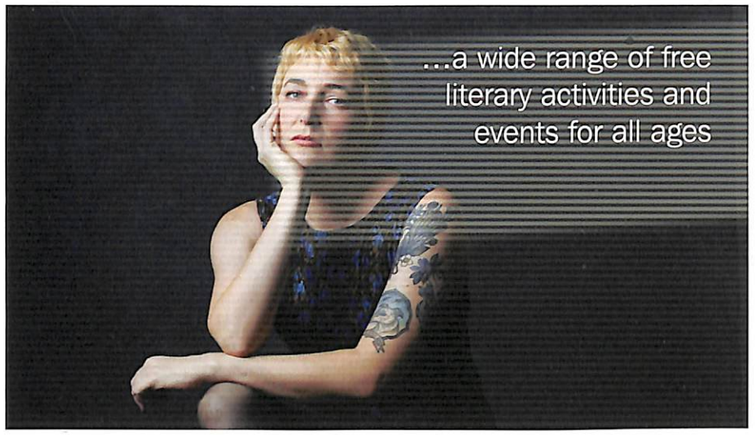
Following extensive consultation through a community survey, ideas wall, pop-up events, children's worksheets and the People's Panel, the plan aims to encompass the aspirations of our community and the needs of everyone living, working and playing in the City of Greater Dandenong.

The Council Plan will set the direction for Council's activities for the next four years and is key to achieving our long-term vision. Following the current phase of community feedback, both plans will be finalised and approved by Council prior to 31 October.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plan2025 for the latest updates and to view a copy of the draft plan once released.

FREE

Melbourne Writer's Festival



Greater Dandenong Libraries are a proud partner of the annual Melbourne Writers' Festival, delivering a wide range of free literary activities and events for all ages.

Last year the festival was delivered virtually and showcased work from an exciting range of artists across a variety of formats, mixing local favourites and new faces.

Melbourne Writers' Festival will return this September with a fantastic program of events including Clem Bastow, with more to be announced. Check the library website for details and to register.

Events include:

Clem Bastow: Late Bloomer

11am on Saturday 11 September

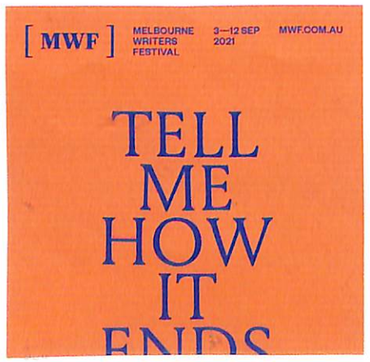
Award-winning cultural critic Clem Bastow discusses her wise and witty memoir Late Bloomer, which deconstructs the misconceptions and celebrates the realities of autistic experience.

Online book club

Would you like to be in a book club?

Join us in our new online book club, The DandEreaders. Each month we will read or listen to a book from our OverDrive collection and meet online to discuss it. The meeting will be monthly on the fourth Thursday at 2pm via Microsoft Teams which is free to access and download.

To find out this month's book for discussion and to register for the online meeting visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson or telephone the Library on 1300 630 920



GREATER DANDENONG SEED LIBRARY

Launch of Greater Dandenong's Seed Library

Saturday 18 September, 11am–1pm

The Greater Dandenong Seed Library will provide an opportunity for community members to become more active in cultivating their own fruit, vegetables and herbs no matter how big or small their garden space is.

The Seed Library will be located in the Springvale Community Hub and will be open to all members of the community. Seed Library members can take free seeds and grow edible gardens at home, then collect and share their seeds, contributing to food security and wellbeing in the Greater Dandenong area.

In the coming months, the library will be delivering programs around growing edible gardens as well as seed saving, composting and cooking to support users of the seed library.

The Seed Library will be launched at the Springvale Community Hub on Saturday 18 September from 11am–1pm, with giveaways and activities for new members who sign up on the day.

To register, call 1300 630 920 during opening hours or visit our website.

Events are subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Visit our website for updates.

Activities for young people in September



Celebrating a win at the Street Style Soccer Tournament


A young person takes part in tree planting during the IMPACT youth volunteering program, April 2021.

There is plenty on for young people in Greater Dandenong this month, with a range of activities across the city.

IMPACT volunteer program

Wednesday 22 September and Thursday 30 September

Young people living with disability are invited to join Youth and Family Services to participate in an environment and sustainability themed volunteer experience. Gain hands on volunteering experience in your community, meet new people and explore future volunteer opportunities that match your interests.

Indoor basketball and volleyball tournament

Thursday 23 September, Dandenong Stadium

Join Youth and Family Services as we celebrate Victorian Youth Week with our 3v3 Basketball and 4v4 Volleyball Tournament. There will be 4 divisions – U14 male, U16 male, U25 female and U25 male – with trophies and medals awarded to the finalists in each division. You can register as an individual or a team but be quick as there are limited spots available.

...plenty of fun to appeal to all interests


Previous volleyball winners in the under 25 female division at the Winter Sports Tournament, June 2019.

Employment bootcamp

Tuesday 28 September, Dandenong Civic Centre

Young people looking for their first part-time or casual job, can take part in this one-day intensive workshop to boost their employability. Participants will receive tips on finding job opportunities, resume support and take part in interview practice, as well as being supported to apply for jobs on the day. Places are limited and registrations are essential.

Street style soccer tournament

Friday 1 October, JC Mills Reserve, Dandenong

Youth and Family Services' 5-a-side Street Style Soccer tournament returns. There will be 4 divisions – U14 male, U16 male, U25 female and U25 male – with trophies and medals awarded to the finalists in each division. You can register as an individual or a team. Limited spots are available so don't delay, register today.

School holiday activities

Monday 20 September – Friday 1 October

Bust school holiday boredom with free or low-cost activities, with plenty of fun to appeal to all interests. Check out the full calendar of events on our website. Bookings are essential.

Greater Dandenong art competition

Entries close Sunday 3 October

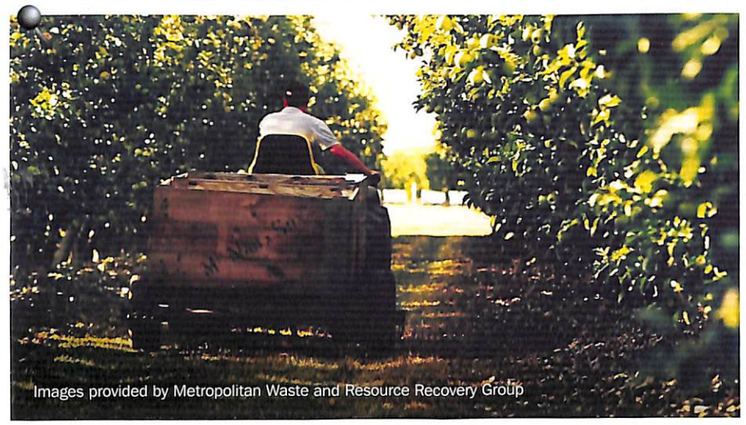
Do you enjoy drawing, painting or creating digital art? Are you a creative young person or do you know someone who is? Submissions are still open for the 'Greater Dandenong. My Place. My Community' art competition.

For the chance to win great prizes or feature in an exhibition, show us what you love about our great community using paint, pencil, charcoal or digital art.

For more information on any of these activities, head to youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or call Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155.

Waste benefits for farmers





Images provided by Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group

Ever wondered what happens to your food and garden waste from your green lid bin after it's picked up? By using your garden waste bin correctly, you are helping farmers produce the best quality food. The materials from your food and garden waste bin is taken to a local processing plant where it is turned into nutrient-rich compost that is used by farmers to grow food crops and pastures.

Just like us, soil needs food and the better fed the soil is, the healthier the crops they grow.

It is important to only place grass, small branches, flowers, leaves, weeds and food scraps in your green lid bin. Other items, such as plastics, glass, bricks and building rubble can contaminate an entire truckload of green waste, making the whole load unusable.

This diminishes the quality of compost and mulch going to our farmers.

Compost has many benefits for the environment such as improving soil structure, increasing the ability of soil to retain moisture, turning food scraps into natural fertiliser to enrich the soil and reducing weed emergence and erosion. Landfills in Melbourne are rapidly filling up and the cost of waste disposal is increasing. Composting helps reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and reduces carbon emissions.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to find out what happens to your food and garden waste and what can go into your food and garden bin.

Yes

- Leaves
- Grass clippings
- Weeds
- Flowers
- Small branches (10cm diameter and 30cm long)
- Garden prunings
- Food scraps (fruit and vegetable scraps, pasta, rice, bread, meat, coffee grounds and tea leaves)

No

- Plastic bags (including compostable bags)
- Plant pots
- Glass
- Bricks
- Building materials
- Stickers, labels, rubber bands from fruit and vegetables

Your food and garden waste helps to make healthy soil for farmers to grow healthy crops and pastures.



Spring is a wonderful time in our reserves

Wattles, wildflowers and orchids bloom throughout spring and our bushland reserves become a buzzing hive of insect activity.

Over winter our blue tongue lizards go into semi-hibernation, finding a log or rock crevice to hide, but as the weather warms you might be lucky enough to spot one sunning itself. Spring is also nesting time for birds. Some will be raising their young in carefully constructed nests while others, including parrots, owls, wood ducks and kookaburras will be occupying tree hollows to nest. Observing the parent birds feeding their demanding, and often very noisy young is a great way to enjoy our local parklands.

After hatching, baby birds grow very quickly and before long, they are ready to fledge the nest. If you see young birds on the ground, please leave them unless they are obviously injured. They are most likely learning to fly, and their parents will be close by. Sometimes our interference can end up separating a young bird from its parents unnecessarily.

Birds such as magpies and masked lapwings are very protective of their young during breeding season and may swoop if you get too close. If you encounter a swooping bird, protect your face and eyes with your hands and calmly walk away. Try to avoid this area or walk in a group. Please do not harm the bird or damage its nest, they are following their instinct.

You can report the incident to Council on 8571 1702. For more information on the care and protection of animals, visit RSPCA Victoria's website at rspcavic.org





Spring into Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve

Join us to celebrate the spring opening of Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve. Enjoy tree planting, a free barbeque and other activities including an animal show and the Live Steamers mini trains.

Participants will require the following:

- Wear closed toe shoes and comfortable clothing
- Gardening gloves
- Water bottle
- Gold coin donation for Live Steamer Trains
- Contact details including name, email address and contact number to check-in on the day
- Smartphone/smart device to scan QR code
- Face mask.

The park has a barbeque, toilet, disabled toilet, picnic facilities, shelter and walking tracks.

This is a free event and bookings are essential.

The event will be cancelled in adverse weather and may be postponed if COVID restrictions change.

All COVIDSafe guidelines will be fully met to ensure public safety for this event. All attendees must be checked in via QR Code.

Event Date and Time
Saturday 4 September 2021, 11:00am–2:00pm

Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Springvale South

To register contact Council on 8571 1702.

Drum roll for arts in Greater Dandenong

Greater Dandenong provides a vibrant hub for arts and culture, offering something for all ages and interests. Residents and visitors can enjoy a range of community led initiatives and professional presentations across a range of artforms and venues.

COVID-19 has presented many challenges for the arts industry, with restrictions forcing many programs to reschedule or move online.

Now, more than ever, is the best time to support your local arts industry and enjoy one of the many outstanding experiences on offer.

Past, Present and Future – Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

This exhibition is now on until 17 December, looking at the past, present and future of exhibitions in the City of Greater Dandenong. Visitors are encouraged to contribute by sharing their gallery experiences, thoughts and reflections on the walls of the gallery. Artist Kenny Pittock will use these responses as inspiration to create a new work as part of the opening exhibition at Dandenong's new contemporary art gallery in 2022.

Past, Present and Future will also include an installation looking back on some of the many wonderful exhibitions shown at Walker Street Gallery.

Instilling a love of art in schools

Council's Arts and Culture Education Program aims to foster a love of creativity and the arts in school aged children through workshops, incursions and excursions, knowledge sharing, tours and professional development for teachers. This month, teachers and practitioners are invited to join Polyglot Theatre to learn about child-led practice through creativity.

The workshops aim to introduce Polyglot's distinctive philosophy, process and work, and assist teachers to expand their existing practice and approach.

This workshop is exclusively for teachers and practitioners working with children, who live or work in the City of Greater Dandenong.

For more information and bookings, please contact the Arts and Cultural Development Team via arts@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 9706 8441.

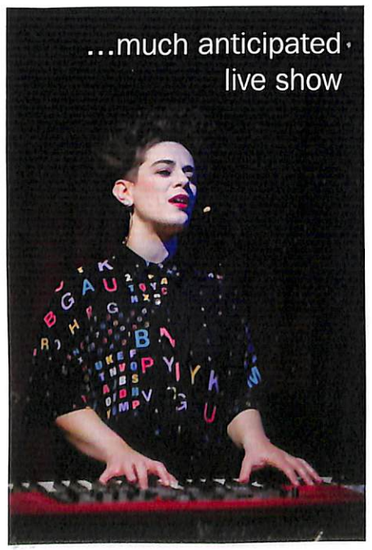
I Have a Face

Friday 10 September, 8pm

Following a postponement due to Melbourne's lockdown, Jude Perl will arrive at the Drum this month with her much-anticipated live show.

Local artist Margot Tanjutco will provide a fabulous set of musical comedy before Jude's show.

I Have A Face won Best Cabaret at the Melbourne Fringe 2018, and Jude has won four Green Room Awards.



Singer/songwriter Jude Perl

SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES



Hidden Creature Gallery, Arena Theatre Company

Hidden Creature Hunt

Let the hunt begin

Part laboratory, part performance and all imagination, Hidden Creature Gallery is an exciting interactive activity for school aged children and their families.

Arena Theatre Company has been in residence running workshops with local kids to create this immersive creature hunt that blends nature and technology, using your mobile phone.

Join the creature hunt in and around the Drum Theatre between 20 September and 1 October. Suitable for all ages.

Note: *Arena Theatre Company in residence is supported by Creative Victoria.*

...support your local arts industry and enjoy one of the many outstanding experiences on offer

Dates are subject to change depending on COVID-19 restrictions, so please keep up to date with the latest information.



Roy Theaker

Always Love the Music

Thursday 16 September, 10.30am

The amazing Roy Theaker and his band present a dynamic and energetic show with a range of musical genres that will delight an audience of various musical tastes.

A former Concertmaster of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, he has shared the big stage with the likes of Hugh Jackman and travelled the world.

This performance is part of the Drum's Encore Program and includes complementary morning tea and a parking voucher.



Rebel

Rebel

Saturday 18 September, 7.30pm

Rebel is a live circus rock tribute to the original rebel, David Bowie.

Rebel is much more than a tribute show, it is a theatrical extravaganza.

The show is headlined by the incredible multi-award-winning Stewart Reeve, and features a rockstar band of artists from across artistic genres.

Age recommendation: 12 years+



Love in the Time of Corona

Love in the Time of Corona

Saturday 25 September, 3pm and 7pm

It seems life imitates art as this show was rescheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions. *Love in the Time of Corona* is back and covers all things panic buying, remote learning and love during the pandemic. It is an innovative youth performance about the world of young people.

Love in the Time of Corona is locally written and the cast are all from the local area. Produced in partnership with the Drum Theatre, *Love in the Time of Corona* is heart-warming, satirical and hilarious. This is not to be missed by anyone who lived through 2020.

The Drum Theatre is in the old Dandenong Town Hall. For more information and bookings go to drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1666.

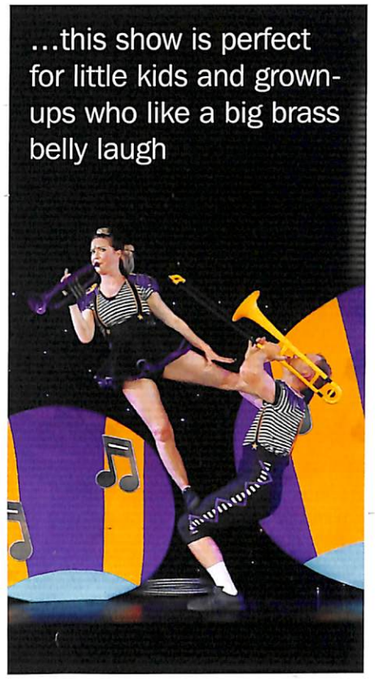
The Drum offers a range of programs for children and has a lot to offer these school holidays.

Brass Monkeys

Thursday 23 September, 2pm

The creators of *Children are Stinky* bring you an all new, action-packed circus spectacular.

Brass Monkeys celebrates kids who march to the beat of their own drum. Bursting with high calibre acrobatics, comedy, live music and high-flying tricks, this show is perfect for little kids and grown-ups who like a big brass belly laugh.



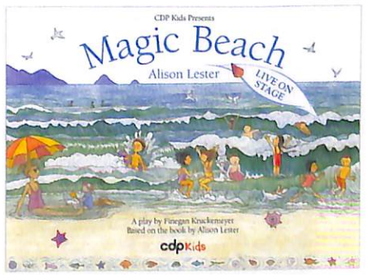
Leg stand blast by Brass Monkeys

Magic Beach

Wednesday 29 September, 12pm and 2.30pm

Alison Lester's classic book comes to life on stage in a wonderful world of song, light, shadow, text and movement for children aged 3-8 years old and their adults.

Every year, an everyday family go on a beach holiday. This isn't just any beach – it's Magic Beach, where everything you can imagine becomes real. The new Australian adaptation from award-winning playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer is a celebration of the power of the imagination and the differences that make every child special.



efm Warehousing increases Dandenong footprint



Artist impression of new efm site

efm Warehousing has expanded its capacity at a new site in Dandenong South. The 15,600 sqm distribution facility at the Rubix Connect Estate will enable the business to experience double digit growth next financial year.

Andrew Swain, General Manager – Commercial, said efm Warehousing had experienced significant growth since it launched in 2005.

"We're a smaller player in the market so we aim to offer more flexible solutions than some of the larger companies in our space, but we also have the backing and governance from a larger corporate structure to present customers a lower risk option," Mr Swain said.

The company opened its first facility in Dandenong South in 2007 and now proudly services customers such as Swisse Wellness and Multigate Medical Products across its various warehouses, which are also located in Brisbane and Altona with ambient and temperature-controlled capabilities.

The new building has achieved a 6 Star, Green Star Rating and will have capacity to store 18,300 pallets. Other features include a 2,500 sqm undercover super awning for all weather loading, EFSR sprinkler system, office space and 107 car spaces.

For more information visit efmlogistics.com.au/warehousing

Easier business permits and registrations

Planning a new business or expanding? Wondering what type of permits your business may need and hoping the process is easy?

Greater Dandenong City Council understands it can be difficult to know where to start. That's why council, in partnership with Small Business Victoria, has implemented the Better Approvals Project. The project aims to lend a hand and take the angst out of the permit approval process. Better Approvals is now in place at over 50 councils across Victoria, which is good news if you have more than one business in different municipalities.

As part the project, Council officers spoke with local businesses to understand their experience with obtaining permits and approvals from council. The major issue we heard was that business operators had to work separately with multiple departments of council such as planning, building, environmental health and local laws.

This often meant businesses passed one step only to find out they then needed to start another permit process in a different department. Council listened and made changes to improve things.

The Better Approvals Project now means there is only one point of contact at the very first step in the process. The Better Approvals Team at Greater Dandenong is here to help with new business application processes from the beginning, right to the very end. The team is here to guide businesses on what permits are needed and then help them apply for more than one permit at the same time – saving everyone time, money and frustration.

New and expanding businesses are encouraged to come and see how we can help. To learn more about the services or to speak to the team, contact us via email business@cgd.vic.gov.au or 8571 1550.

Start, run and grow your business



Council has launched a new program to support new business ventures.

Ignite Greater Dandenong is a program that offers a range of activities and resources for people looking to get a business idea off the ground, or who have recently started their business.

Running over three months, the program includes a mixture of workshops, masterclasses, group mentoring sessions and individual mentoring opportunities.

The program kicked off in late June with a successful in person event. Some of the workshops have moved online due to restrictions with a few such as the Think Tank and Hackathon held in person at a later date.

To register for the next Ignite Program visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ignite-program

Get involved

A South East Melbourne Community Garden Directory

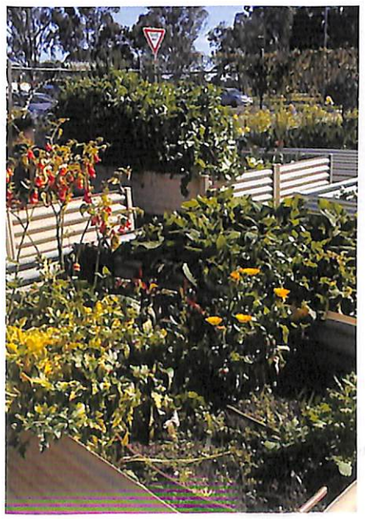
Are you interested in growing your own food? Food From Home can help.

Launched in late 2020, the campaign is here to assist communities in Melbourne's south east to experience the benefits of growing your own food.

Led by not-for-profit organisation, enliven, Food from Home has already engaged over 80,000 people via social media and distributed over 3,000 packets of free vegetable seeds through nine library services across Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia.

Co-designed with local community members, the campaign aims to highlight the environmental and health benefits of growing food and edible gardening, while also addressing the barriers to growing.

Following a survey of over 300 community members, enliven was able to identify the four main challenges to growing food which are knowledge, time, cost and space. As a result, the campaign has created a series of beginner-friendly resources, informative blog posts, videos showcasing local people and their gardens, seasonal recipes, and more recently have launched a 'South East Melbourne Community Garden Directory'.



Community Garden at Noble Park Community Centre



...experience the benefits of growing your own food

The directory was created in response to a community-identified need for better access to current information about how they can get involved, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The first of its kind, this easy-to-read resource details information, interactive maps and downloadable listings of more than 15 community gardens within the City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Cardinia Shire.

Over the coming months, enliven will be expanding the reach and accessibility of the campaign even further through a number of projects, including the development of edible gardening resources in different languages, community workshops on growing native foods, supporting the establishment of local seed libraries, and the distribution of 700 'planter kits' to enable young people and families facing food insecurity and hardship to grow their own food.

For more information about the campaign, connect with enliven online via foodfromhome.org

COVID19 – stay safe, stay informed

As restrictions continue to ease, Council is steadily introducing in person services and events.

To ensure we all stay safe while out and about, using Council facilities and attending events and programs, every member of our community has a crucial role to play in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to follow these vital steps:

- Always check in using a QR code everywhere you go
- Always carry a mask with you and wear it when required as per the Government directives and when you can't maintain 1.5 m distance
- Practise COVID-safe hygiene protocols, such as thoroughly washing your hands and using hand sanitiser
- If you're feeling unwell and have COVID-19 symptoms (no matter how mild), get tested immediately and stay home until you get your results
- Check exposure sites at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites
- Get vaccinated when you are eligible.

COVID-19 restrictions can change at any time and we encourage the community to keep informed via our website and social media. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for the latest information regarding Council facilities, programs and services.

Support services available

COVID Safety Officers have been employed at Council to support businesses and community groups with a range of requirements, including assistance with COVID Safe Plans, QR codes, community engagement, information about testing and vaccination and translated resources.

If you need support, please email covid19@cgd.vic.gov.au or call our customer service centre on 8571 1000 and a member of our team will assist you.



8571 1000
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/childrens-festival

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

OCTOBER 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News

Springvale Transformation

PAGE 3



Sharing parks with pets
▶ PAGE 8

Home Composting
▶ PAGE 9

Wetland Expansion
▶ PAGE 13

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message



Welcome to the October edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

With longer days and a little more sunshine I hope everyone's spirits have lifted.

I acknowledge how challenging the past few months have been with lockdowns and changing restrictions, but I am so proud of the way Council and our community has responded.

We continue to deliver essential services and we are continuing to adapt to ensure we are moving forward, despite the challenges.

I am excited to announce that construction on the Springvale Boulevard Project is underway. This project will enhance Springvale's shopping and dining experiences, enhance the streetscape with wider footpaths, more trees and seating, and see improved street lighting installed.

When complete later next year, this project will reinforce Sensational Springvale as one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations. Read more about this exciting project on Page 3.

Council has a long and proud history of supporting and providing opportunities for children and their families. Council's new Children's Plan 2021–26 is aimed at ensuring all children in our community are celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential. Read more on Page 6.

With all of us spending more time at home, learn more about what simple changes you can make in your own garden to reduce the carbon footprint. We have a great article on home composting on Page 9.

I will definitely be spending more time in my garden over the coming weeks and will be putting the tips learnt in this article to the test.

Until the next edition take care, keep well and stay safe.

Mayor
Cr Angela Long

My City



The Chocolate Lily is a member of the asparagus family and its colour and rich sweet scent is a magnet for native bees, moths and butterflies. You'll see it growing in native grasslands and open areas in woodlands where there is full sunlight or dappled shade. It complements and enriches the ground habitat and is found with other lilies, native grasses and orchids. Chocolate Lilies are widespread throughout Greater Dandenong and their flowers appear from September through to January.

Front Cover: Springvale Community Hub is the new jewel in Springvale's crown. Photo Credit: *John Gollings*.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



Springvale Hub receives architectural award

Springvale Community Hub is living up to its promise of becoming the new community heart of Springvale

The new building has been welcomed by the community and is also attracting the attention of industry leaders in design, public architecture and sustainability.

Springvale Community Hub recently received the William Wardell Award for Public Architecture and Award for Urban Design in the 2021 Victorian Architectural Awards.

The hub was also nominated for the Sustainability Architecture Award and the Melbourne Prize.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said it was pleasing to see the site being recognised for its state-of-the art and eye-catching design.

Hospital Remembered

Do you know that Springvale's first hospital has evolved into a unique community health service? Now, new interpretive signage helps passersby share in the experience. Greater Dandenong City Council unveiled a new interpretive sign to mark the location of Springvale's first hospital. Standing at 3-metres high, the towering Community Hospital Interpretive Sign shares the story of Springvale's unique community health services.

Located along Buckingham Ave, in front of Monash Health Springvale, the sign acknowledges the significant contribution the hospital and health centre have made in delivering innovative health care and services for Springvale.

The Springvale Community Hospital Interpretive Sign is the latest interpretive sign for the City of Greater Dandenong's activity centres and forms part of an ongoing place making program across Springvale, Noble Park and central Dandenong which aims to share local narratives and stories of key locations across these areas.

The project is funded through the Business and Revitalisation team of Greater Dandenong City Council.

Mayor Angela Long said the sign aims to share the story of Springvale's first hospital and its evolution into a unique community health service. "It is a striking design featuring a brief story, historic image and hero words laser cut into the top of the sign making it unique and identifiable from a distance. It's a brilliant structure which pays homage to the history of the site." said Cr Long.



A concept drawing of what Springvale Boulevard will look like when works are complete.

Springvale transformed

Springvale's much anticipated Springvale Boulevard project is now underway.

The project is expected to take just over 12 months to complete.

It will result in improved shopping and dining experiences, streetscape beautification and enhancement, as well as improved pedestrian movement and safety.

The final design was informed by feedback received from residents, traders and visitors who shared their hopes and aspirations for the area.

The boulevard, which will run between Windsor and Balmoral avenues, will feature widened footpaths, new garden beds and more trees providing year-round shade, more seating, improved street lighting, and high-quality, thought-provoking design elements that reflect the diverse cultures of Springvale.

During the construction phase, some parking bays along Springvale Road and at the Warwick Avenue car park will be temporarily removed. These parking bays will be reinstated once the project is complete.

Together with the recently completed Springvale Hub project, Springvale Boulevard will enhance the vibrancy and commercial sustainability of the Springvale Activity Centre.

For regular project updates go to greater dandenong.vic.gov.au

Councillor Contacts



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Springvale North Ward
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Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
0435 202 645
eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 11 OCTOBER

MONDAY 25 OCTOBER

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month at 7pm.

All Council meetings are broadcast live via Council's webcast service.

The October meetings will be held:

Monday 11 October

Monday 25 October

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

▶ Noble Park Ward

Cr Sophie Tan

I'm pleased to announce that works at Ross Reserve All Abilities Playground are now complete. This new district playground looks fabulous and provides an exciting and diverse offer of play to the community, including a tower, cable rides, slides, sand play, nature play and a range of swings that all provide various levels of access to cater to all abilities.

In addition to the playground, the construction of the main toilet and the changing places toilet is well advanced. This is a critical piece of infrastructure requested by the community to enable those who require a higher level of care to be able to stay and play at the playground.

Additionally, stage one of Douglas Street Streetscape works is complete and stage two is underway. Related planting and seating works for both stages are planned for spring.

Noble Park has fewer open spaces compared to other areas in Greater Dandenong. Since 2019, Council purchased four sites for open space.

89 Douglas Street
This has been converted into a small pocket park and the implementation and landscape design are completed.

114 Hanna Street
Council saved 26 Red Gum trees for residents at Yarraman Village and new fences have been installed.



218 Railway Parade
A pocket park landscape design will be prepared in late 2022.

2A Frank Street
Open space improvement of this site is still in the planning stage.

In other exciting news the State Government has confirmed funding for the Frank Street Open Space Redevelopment. This redevelopment will provide a pocket park and green corridor connection between Ross Reserve, Aubrey Moss Memorial Gardens and Copas Park.

Please contact me on 0466 793 727 or email sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au

Cr Bob Milkovic

▶ Dandenong North Ward

As councillors, we do our best to listen and act on the concerns of our community members and traders. Recently, I have been consulting with traders regarding a public toilet installation at the busy and thriving Brady Road shopping centre.

Funding was made available this financial year and we are looking to begin works early next year after we've gone through the procurement processes.

The design proposed was well received with overall support from traders.

The bathrooms will feature two fully compliant toilets, including a unisex accessible and unisex ambulant toilet.

I would also like to update you on the Tirhatuan Park basketball court project which went out to tender in August. I anticipate we will commence preliminary works later this month and have the court completed by Christmas. The progression of these works is dependent on rainfall and how suitable the ground is to allow for access by heavy machinery.

Finally, throughout the month of September we called for comments on many consultations including the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Domestic Animal Management Plan. Council officers are currently reviewing the feedback and an evaluation report will be presented to Council in the near future.

If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters you can reach me at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.



▶ Springvale Central Ward

Cr Richard Lim



Residents, business owners and patrons of Springvale Central can look forward to some exciting changes.

Along with the Springvale Boulevard project, you can look forward to a new community garden, improved parking, outdoor dining experiences and so much more.

Guidelines for the Victoria Avenue Community Garden have now been drafted, meaning works are underway to establish a spectacular green space where residents can gather. This community garden provides a greener future in Springvale for generations to come.

The number 8 car park upgrades have been approved by Council and the funds are allocated in the 2021–22 financial year Budget. The upgrade consists of dedicated up and down ramps, allowing cars to move seamlessly within the parking lot and utilise all 540 parking spaces, greatly easing the traffic challenges throughout Springvale.

Council is also working to establish outdoor dining spaces on footpaths and will provide restaurant owners with the necessary equipment such as shelter, tables and chairs.

Our brand new Springvale Community Hub provides world-class facilities and is a perfect example of Council's dedication to Springvale Central.

Currently, I am working closely with Council to continue the removal of litter, create additional pedestrian crossings in high-traffic areas and help businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I encourage all of Melbourne to watch this space, as the future of Springvale Central is a sight that can't be missed.

As always, thank you Springvale Central for your support and for continuing to make our suburb great.

If you want to contact me, you can reach me at richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 627 164.

City's Vision for Children



Greater Dandenong City Council is committed to supporting and providing opportunities for children and their families.

Council's vision developed in the Children's Plan 2021–26 is for children and their families to be valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

The plan outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children aged up to 13 years. It acknowledges the important role of parents, carers and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing.

The strategic objectives of the Children's Plan align with the Council Plan in supporting children and their families through:

- Providing leadership and advocacy in planning
- Strengthening health and wellbeing outcomes through evidenced based practice
- Supporting engagement in learning, skill development and vocational pathways
- Improving safety and accessibility for children and families to participate in the community
- Valuing active participation and engagement of children and families in planning and activities in their local community.

In striving for continuous improvement, Council will undertake key actions each year which respond to community needs and expectations.

First year actions include:

- Increase awareness of mental health and supports available for children and families
- Strengthen the capacity of parents and carers to support children's learning and development
- Develop pathways for newly arrived and refugee families to access English language education to support children's literacy and learning
- Promote activities that encourage gender, race and disability equity for children
- Provide opportunities for children to be involved in civic engagement and leadership.

For more information and to review the Children's Plan visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Enrol for kindergarten now

Kindergarten is now being offered for two years prior to formal schooling in early childhood settings.

It gives children important opportunities to learn, make friends and develop skills through a play-based curriculum, and helps prepare them for the transition to primary school.

Children must turn four on or before 30 April 2022 to be eligible to attend for 15 hours at a funded kindergarten program.

Kindergarten is offered in a range of settings including community kindergartens, childcare centres, children's centres and schools. Eligible children can attend a sessional program which offers 15 hours of kindergarten per week, or an integrated program which combines kindergarten with childcare.

The Central Enrolment Scheme supports families to identify their three local kindergartens of choice and ensures access to kindergarten is fair and equitable for all.

To view a list of all kindergartens participating in the City of Greater Dandenong Central Enrolment Scheme or to find out more about kindergartens visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Support for seniors

Seniors Festival 2021

Each year in October we celebrate the positive contribution seniors make to our community as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival.

This year we will be providing an exciting online offering as part of Seniors Festival 2021.

This will include video broadcasts and radio programs, opportunities to connect with others in the digital space through a range of fun activities including games and quizzes and some great education content specifically tailored to the interests and needs of older people.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.

The State Government will also deliver its 2021 Seniors Festival direct to your home, via a reimagined program including online performances, recorded interviews and storytelling.

Visit seniorsonline.vic.gov.au for more.

Staying Connected

If the past 18 months have taught us anything it is the importance and value of social connections.

With lockdowns and changing restrictions many in our community, particularly older people and people who live alone, have been experiencing long periods of isolation. Not being able to see friends and family or participate in their regular activities has taken its toll on their mental and physical health.

Last year, Council introduced a new program to help improve social connections. This joint initiative between Council's Community Care and Library teams not only helped address issues of isolation but also helped improve the digital literacy of older people living in Greater Dandenong.

The Tech Savvy Project exposed older residents to the digital world and opened up new avenues to connect, learn and socialise. Council provided tablets, smart devices and internet access, as well as the training to use the equipment.



Living Well in Greater Dandenong

Council is set to launch a new bimonthly newsletter next month.

Living well – Positive Ageing in Greater Dandenong will showcase the many senior citizens, ethnic and cultural groups that provide social activities and educational programs for older residents.

The aim of the newsletter is to promote wellbeing and lifestyle tips and a positive approach to ageing.

A hard copy version will also be available at Council's Customer Service Centres and libraries.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more and to sign up to receive the newsletter.

Staying healthy

Keeping active and moving is really important even when restrictions are in place.

Did you know that our Community Care workers can help you maintain your strength and mobility by supporting and encouraging you to go on walks locally?

Our care workers are also still allowed to visit clients in their homes, even when restrictions are in place.

Council is still providing personal care, unescorted shopping, meals and home maintenance, restrictions or not. All are classified as an essential service.

For more information about the support Council is continuing to provide for older people living in the City of Greater Dandenong call 8571 5503

Immunisation Sessions – October 2021

Even during the COVID-19 restrictions, Greater Dandenong City Council is still holding several immunisation sessions every month for residents.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from 6 months up to 5 years of age.

Date	Location
Monday 4 October	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 7 October	Dandenong Civic Centre, Cnr of Walker & Thomas Streets (enter via Harmony Square), Dandenong
Saturday 23 October	Dandenong Civic Centre, Cnr of Walker & Thomas Streets (enter via Harmony Square), Dandenong
Tuesday 26 October	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Thursday 28 October	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations. To make a booking please go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation

If you need assistance to make a booking, please call Council on 8571 1000

Pets at the park



Let's be honest, our pets are probably the only ones who have enjoyed the past 18 months of lockdowns and changing restrictions.

Our off-leash parks have certainly never been busier.

Council recognises the health and social benefits of owning a pet and encourages responsible dog ownership.

There are currently 15 off-leash parks in Greater Dandenong, and we love nothing more than seeing them well used.

Anyone using the dog off-leash parks are reminded to follow the rules in place. This is not only for your safety and your pets but also to ensure our parks remain a place that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Rules

- Dogs must only be off-leash in areas designated by Council
- Dogs must be put back on leash when they leave the sign posted area
- Dogs must be no more than 50m from the person walking them and under effective control by voice command or hand signal at all times
- Dogs must not be allowed within 20m of a designated cycling path or track, unless they are separated from the track by a fence of at least 1.2m height
- Dogs must not be allowed to chase people or other animals
- Any droppings left by a dog must be cleaned up and disposed of properly.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dogoffleash and use the mapping tool to find out which off-leash park is in your neighbourhood.





Making roads out of tyres

Greater Dandenong is committed to responding to the climate emergency and doing its bit to reduce the carbon footprint.

Council is currently trialling using recycled tyres to resurface roads that do not carry large volumes of traffic.

The joint venture between the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) and Greater Dandenong City Council has seen a 250m section of Church Road, Keysborough, laid with crumb rubber bitumen.

A small percentage of crumb rubber is added to the asphalt, creating a more durable road, better recycling outcomes, and less use of brand-new materials in road construction and maintenance.

The Church Road resurfacing used 128 recycled tyres.

The performance of the road will be monitored over the next five years and all data collected will be used to evaluate the durability and long-term benefits of using recycled materials on Greater Dandenong roads and footpaths in the future.

Remington Drive

Remington Drive in Dandenong South is about to undergo a major upgrade which will lead to improved safety, enhanced traffic flow and reduced congestion.

Preliminary works have already commenced, with major construction earmarked to start before the end of the year.

Preliminary works will include:

- Permanent removal of informal parking and reduced speed limits along Remington Drive
- Temporary line marking and barrier installation
- Installation of no-go zone fencing for vegetation to be protected
- Tree and vegetation removal and weed spraying
- Surveying to confirm the location of underground services
- Temporary driveway widening works for traders on Remington Drive to ensure vehicles have safe entry and access to businesses during construction.

These works will ensure the road continues to meet the current and future traffic demands of Remington Drive and create better accessibility for people travelling in and out of Dandenong South's busy manufacturing areas.

Let's stop wasting food



Each month the average Victorian household throws away uneaten food to the value of $150.

It's time to change the trend and help reduce food waste.

In addition to using your green lid food and garden waste bin, there are several other ways you can recycle your food waste at home.

Have you ever thought about building your own worm farm or making your own compost bin.

Composting household waste, such as garden waste and fruit and vegetable scraps, can decrease household waste by up to 50 per cent and reduce Australia's carbon footprint.

For those items that cannot be home composted such as meat, cheese, bread and pasta they can simply be placed into the green lid food and garden waste bin, mixed with an adequate amount of garden waste.

What can you compost?

Fruit and vegetable peelings, newspapers, grass clippings, weeds, tea leaves, coffee grounds, eggshells, old potting mix and dead flowers. Avoid placing meat or dairy products in your compost until you are confident and experienced in making compost.



Handy hints

- Keep a bucket with a well-sealed lid in the kitchen to collect food scraps
- Sprinkling soil or finished compost on top of food scraps will make a richer compost and help reduce odours
- Add air to the compost so it doesn't smell by turning it with a garden fork weekly or by placing garden stakes or pipes through the heap to allow air in.

To encourage residents to take up composting to feed their home gardens, Council is hosting a free workshop.

Online Workshop

Home Composting, Worm Farming and Bokashi Workshop

Saturday 23 October

Bookings are required at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste

Keep an eye on Council's website when we will soon release details on how residents can purchase subsidised compost bins online.

Libraries get creative with online offering

Greater Dandenong Libraries have found creative and innovative ways to engage with the local community during lockdowns and changing restrictions.

From live-streaming some of their popular children's programs, The Think Tank, Baby Bounce, Toddler Time and Story Time, as well as running online book clubs, the library is providing a flexible service for times when its branches can't physically open.

Community members have been taking advantage of the Click and Collect service, with an average of more than 250 collections each week.

Council's free Library Home Delivery Service has also been averaging around 20 deliveries per week.

Other ways the libraries have been keeping in touch with the community include:

- Online 'outreach visits' to first time parents' groups, book clubs at schools, playgroups and kindergartens.
- Over the phone support to improve digital access including Library Tech Assist.
- Language and literacy services, citizenship information, consular enquiries and employment assistance.

The library also provides free access to online resources for members including:

- movie and documentary screening website *Kanopy*
- study assistance with *Studiosity*
- family history resource Ancestry.com
- literacy support programs.

The website is also home to the library catalogue and thousands of eBooks, magazines and audiobooks.

To find out how you can continue to get your library fix online visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries.

Young people in Greater Dandenong

Youth Showcase

Congratulations to all young people recognised in the 2021 City of Greater Dandenong Youth Showcase.

Council received 60 nominations, sharing stories of how young people have demonstrated resilience and tenacity throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nominations canvassed stories of young people who had been persistent in overcoming challenges related to their study or work; as well as young people who took on caring responsibilities in their family unit or who gave their time to support other vulnerable people in the community during the pandemic.

What was common across all nominees was their ability to maintain a positive attitude and persevere in the face of adversity.

All nominee profiles and a selection of short videos can be viewed at youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Mary (21 years)

Mary is currently completing her community services traineeship, with her placement put on hold indefinitely twice in 2020. Mary had to find other employment during this time and maintain her studies online. On her third attempt, Mary was finally able to secure a work placement for her traineeship and is now recognised by her employer as an integral part of the team.



Manjinder (20 years)

Manjinder arrived in Australia in early 2019 to commence studies in the Bachelor of Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs. Manjinder maintained a positive outlook despite the challenges of trying to participate in remote learning from shared housing, as well as working long shifts at the Dandenong Market to financially support himself.



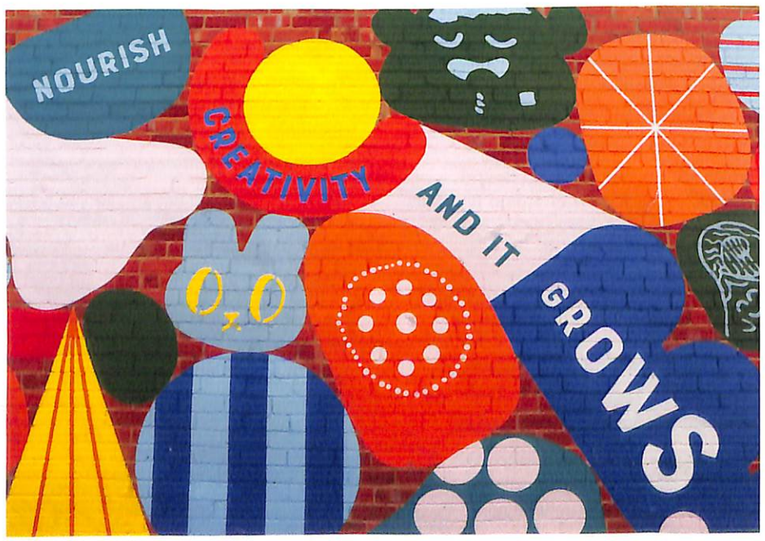
Ibrahim (20 years)

Ibrahim has started two businesses in the aged care and disability sector, now employing over 100 people. Despite the challenges of working in this sector during the pandemic, Ibrahim was able to adapt his businesses to meet the demand and go above and beyond in supporting clients.



Natalie (22 years)

Natalie is an international student who has completed a Bachelor of Engineering Technology. As Vice-President of the Student Committee she has raised awareness of the issues facing international students during the pandemic, including isolation, financial hardship and separation from family. She maintained outstanding academic results whilst working two jobs to financially support herself.



Hemmings Street public art

A display of bold public artworks has transformed the Hemmings Street shopping strip into a funky London style high street.

Well-known illustrator Beci Orpin, developed a co-design process to transform the artworks of local students from Dandenong West Primary School into world-quality public art. The bright, bold colours scream fun and community from a distance. The totems welcome visitors as they drive, walk or ride towards the shops. The combined effect of the artworks giving a strong sense of community pride and sense of place for passersby.

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week from 9–16 October serves as an important reminder to pay attention to ourselves.

A sense of wellbeing and good mental health help us to get the most out of life; through our families, friends, work and ourselves. All the things most meaningful to us. And it's relevant to everyone across all ages, cultures and diversities.

Take the time to mentally pause and consciously engage in those things that bring you enjoyment. Perhaps a walk, run, ride or some other physical activity is a good circuit breaker and stress release. For others, connecting with someone, having a better night's sleep or eating a healthier meal may help achieve this. Whether it's doing something you appreciate or challenging yourself with learning something new there are many different ways we can take care of our mental health and wellbeing.

There are many strategies and resources available to sustain self-care; and support good mental health.

Visit Council's website for further information greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/mental-health

Anti-Poverty Strategy feedback

COVID-19 has exacerbated the challenges faced by communities worldwide, especially for people and communities challenged by poverty.

Greater Dandenong has a higher than average rate of poverty with the average of 27.14 per cent of households having a gross income of less than $300 per week, with many of our community living on the edge of poverty and being only a few weeks away from needing help. Even in good times, community members may not be able to afford to participate fully in community life and children may miss opportunities at school, particularly extracurricular activities.

Council is currently in the process of developing an Anti-Poverty Strategy to assist people in its local community and help get them back on their feet.

Council understands that poverty is not always caused by individual circumstances it can also be caused by structural inequalities. Some of the main causes of inequalities and poverty are access to work and income, education, housing, health and services.



The strategy is being co-designed with key community stakeholders and support agencies who are also working to address the poverty issue. Council is wanting to hear from community members who have or are experiencing poverty and learn more about their individual stories. Council is committed to creating a future where everyone in our community has the opportunity to thrive.

To align with Anti-Poverty Week which begins on 17 October, Council is conducting a survey to gain an understanding of what people think about poverty in Greater Dandenong and what the community thinks could be done to help those in the poverty cycle.

To have your say visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement

Smoke alarms save lives

Did you know it is illegal not to have working smoke alarms in your home?

By law all residential properties must have working smoke alarms that comply with Australian Standards.

Without a smoke alarm, a fire is more likely to damage or destroy your property and is also more likely to cause serious injury or sometimes death.

A working smoke alarm is your first line of defence in the event of a fire.

To find out more visit frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms





INTERESTING FACTS

Drum Theatre fast facts

Drum Theatre can't wait to welcome audiences back when theatres are given the green light to reopen.

While we are busily working behind the scenes on an exciting new program of shows and performances we thought we would share some interesting facts about Dandenong's Drum Theatre.

When did Drum Theatre first open its doors?

The first performance at Drum Theatre was in February 2006.

How many shows does the theatre host each year?

The Drum hosts more than 150 performances for over 60,000 patrons each year.

How many people does Drum Theatre seat?

At capacity the theatre can hold an audience of 518 people.

When was the theatre last refurbished?

New seats were installed at Drum Theatre in 2020.

How old is the original building the Drum Theatre is housed in?

Drum Theatre is located on the site of the former Dandenong Town Hall. The building has maintained its original façade which is now 131 years old.

Does the Drum have an orchestra pit?

Yes, it can be brought up to stage level to extend the stage, lowered slightly and fitted with seats to form the first two rows, or lowered completely to form the orchestra pit.

What type of piano does the Drum Theatre have?

The Drum Theatre has two pianos which can be used by performers and production companies. One is a Steinway Grand piano and the other is a Yamaha Upright piano.

What are the benefits of being a Drum Member?

When you join the Drum Theatre family you receive a $20 gift voucher which you can put towards the ticket price of any show or performance at the theatre. You also get access to discount tickets, complimentary access to the Drum Theatre Digital programs, exclusive offers and pre-sale booking opportunities and discounts at selected local restaurants, cafes and hotels.

What types of shows can you see at the Drum?

The Drum Theatre offers a diverse and vibrant program which includes everything from drama, comedy, opera, puppetry, dance, musical theatre, circus art, music and kids entertainment.

Who are some well-known faces who have performed at the Drum Theatre over the years?

The Wiggles, Rhonda Burchmore, Rachael Beck, Michael Cormick, Guy Sebastian. Bangarra Dance Theatre, James Morrison, Sylvie Paladino, Normie Rowe, David Strassman, Arj Barker, Ross Noble, Ian Moss, Opera Australia, Archie Roach and Dave Hughes.



When I visit a gallery...



We can't wait to welcome you back to Greater Dandenong's gallery spaces. But for now we are wanting to learn more about what a gallery means to you.

We invite you to share your thoughts and experiences on visiting galleries.

As part of the Past, Present and Future exhibition we invite you to share your thoughts and experiences on visiting galleries. With responses and reflections to be included on the walls of Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

Artist Kenny Pittock will then draw inspiration from these thoughts and reflections to create a new work as part of the opening exhibition at the new contemporary art gallery opening in central Dandenong.

You can choose how you want to respond – words, images, it's up to you!

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-opportunities

Q&A with artist Zakiria Tahirian | Invisibility



Join us online for a recorded Q&A with artist Zakiria Tahirian and find out more about his recent exhibition 'Invisibility' held at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre earlier this year.

Held in Gallery One this series of work used both coloured and invisible ink to uncover the feelings that many refugees grapple with but are often unable to express in words.

Listen to Zak speak about his process, hidden themes and the journey he took to bring this beautiful exhibition to life.

facebook.com/artsingreaterdandenong/

Arts in Greater Dandenong gone digital



Loaded with fun and inspiration, there is something for everyone as we continue to bring arts and culture to your screen.

Explore a diverse program of exhibition tours, behind the scenes arts talks and workshops with much on offer for different age groups and interests.

Enjoy an array of new and existing content, delivered by the arts community, and stay connected with Arts in Greater Dandenong from the comfort of your home.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online



Wetland Expansion at Frederick Wachter Reserve

The wetland area at Frederick Wachter Reserve in Keysborough is being expanded as part of a plan to improve water management, water quality and biodiversity outcomes.

The works form part of the reserve's master plan, aimed at maximising the potential of the reserve, both as a recreational and community facility and from an environmental perspective.

The enhanced wetlands will also provide enhanced habitat for native wildlife and will see the return of bird species including the eurasian coot and purple swamp hen.

One of the key objectives of the masterplan is to increase the tree canopy coverage across the park.

Council is currently growing 22,000 trees and plants in nurseries which will be planted in the coming weeks.

Works are also due to commence shortly on a new boardwalk, walking path network and a new playground.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/frederick-wachter-reserve



Will, Sam and Constance Vavasis

Perfect Coffee, Sam's Spice and Grocery and Peanut Market

Meet the man behind three successful Dandenong Market small businesses, Sam Vavasis.

Managing Perfect Coffee, Sam's Spice and Grocery and Peanut Market, Sam's story began almost 50 years ago.

Sam and his family emigrated to Australia from Greece in 1956 and instantly fell in love with the country.

Eventually settling in Melbourne, Sam's parents established the first nut stall at Dandenong Market in 1974. The very humble business consisted of six sacks of nut shells set up on the curb next to a donut van. As a young boy, Sam worked in the stall to help his parents who spoke little English and eventually joined the family business full-time.

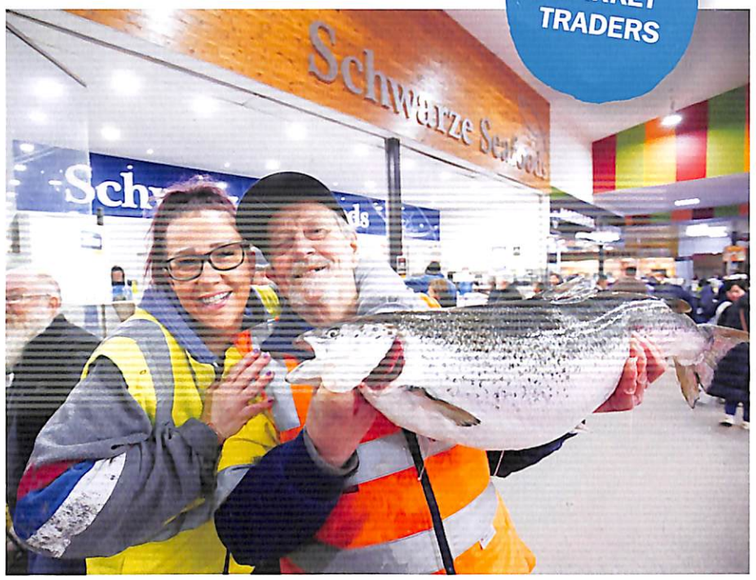
The six sacks of nut shells eventually became Peanut Market, a stall which currently stocks over 400 nut varieties.

In 1996, Sam capitalised on his love for coffee opening café Perfect Coffee. Almost 15 years later, Sam established his third business Sam's Spice and Grocery. All three businesses are owned by Sam who now receives help from his two children, Will and Constance.

Will has big dreams for the business. Further exploring an online space, considering further retail stores and increasing the focus on customer experience are all on the to-do list.

All three businesses are open 7am until 4pm every Market day.

MARKET TRADERS



Dennis and his daughter, Jess Schwarze. Photo credit: Norm Orloff, News Limited

Schwarze Seafoods

Schwarze Seafoods has provided fresh, high quality Australian and New Zealand seafood to the Dandenong Market community for more than 85 years.

The business was most recently passed down to current owner, Dennis Schwarze, who is the third generation to own the popular market stall.

Dennis came to own Schwarze Seafoods following the passing of his father Merv who inherited the business from Dennis' grandmother Alice. Originally operated as a fish and chippery, Schwarze Seafoods has solely provided fresh seafood since the early 1990s.

Dennis, who spent much of his childhood at Dandenong Market, created fond memories helping at his family's shop in his youth.

"Dandenong Market has been my home practically all my life. I am so lucky to be a part of it," said Dennis.



Now in his 60s, Dennis remains eager to continue operating his business and hand picks his product fresh each Market day in the early hours of the morning, a task he has done since joining the business when he was just 16.

These days it is fourth generation Schwarze, Dennis' daughter Jess, who operates much of the business.

Jess has worked for her dad for almost 20 years and admires his dedication to his business.

"He is the hardest working person I know," she said.

Schwarze Seafoods is located in the Meat, Fish and Deli Hall and is open every Market day from 7am-4pm.

dandenongmarket.com.au

40th anniversary celebration



Mayor Cr Angela Long, Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Richard Lim help the club celebrate its 40th anniversary.

The Springvale Italian Seniors Club recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. The club is Greater Dandenong's most recognisable and longstanding Italian club.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Angela Long congratulated the club and said "it is a milestone for any club to be active in a community for 40 years."

"The club is an excellent example of the successful integration of Italian culture, language and customs into the multicultural diversity of Greater Dandenong,' Cr Long said.

The club aims to provide social support and a sense of belonging and companionship for its members. While it is called an Italian Club, the group welcomes all nationalities and currently also has members from Maltese, Australian, Mauritian, Polish, Spanish, and Argentinian backgrounds.

The club has about 155 members and when COVID-19 restrictions allow meets every Wednesday at the Springvale Learning and Activities Centre in Osborne Avenue. Over its long history the club has organised special events to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day and has also hosted dances, excursions and lunches.

For more information phone 9547 2703.

University of the third age

U3A is a University in the original sense of the word, a community of people devoted to learning. It is a volunteer organisation of retired and older people who share a desire to continue to learn new skills while socialising with other like-minded people. U3A is a member of the wider U3A Network Victoria.

Being in your third age is the only qualification needed to participate in the many varying courses on offer in the Dandenong U3A. There are no prerequisites and no exams. It is a great way to make new connections and develop new interests.

Some examples of courses available are languages, arts, exercise and health.

There is a small annual fee which allows members to attend any number of classes.

If you would like to join or find out more go to dandenongu3a.org.au.





Making a difference in Greater Dandenong

Nominations now open

Do you know someone who is making a difference and deserves to be celebrated?

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise individuals or groups whose outstanding work has made a positive contribution to the Greater Dandenong community.

Nominate now on:
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards
Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au
or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Closing date: Sunday 24 October 2021

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

NOVEMBER 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Discover your backyard

PAGE 2

New Kinder
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Gardens for Wildlife
▶ PAGE 9

Detox Your Home
▶ PAGE 11

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

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Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

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facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message



Welcome to the November edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

As we get closer to our vaccine targets and things start to reopen, Council will be ready to welcome you back to our venues and events. Hopefully there will be more to share with you in the December/January edition as we welcome the summer months.

An exciting announcement for this month is the new kindergarten for Dandenong North, on the Rosewood Downs Primary School site. Integrating kindergarten with existing schools is a great way to ensure they are more accessible for local families and ensures a smooth transition from one to the next. Read more about it on page 3.

It's also wonderful to see the brand new All Abilities Playground open in Ross Reserve Noble Park. While we haven't been able to officially open it due to COVID-19 restrictions, we thought it was important to make the playground available to the community as soon as it was ready. You can see a photo below and we hope to see lots of families enjoying this space.

This month we launch our digital literacy program, which aims to help residents improve their skills in all things digital. See page 7 for details and sign up to be part of this exciting initiative.

On Saturday 27 November we will be holding another of our popular Re-use and Recycle drop off days at Greaves Reserve. See the back cover for details and be sure to have your unwanted household goods ready to give away.

On November 11 my fellow Councillors and I will elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the coming 12 months. While it's been a challenging year for everyone, it's been my absolute honour and privilege to serve you. Council has worked hard to ensure that our essential services continue, major projects get underway and our planning for the future carries on.

I would like to thank everyone for working together and continuing to make Greater Dandenong such a wonderful place to live, visit and do business.



Mayor
Cr Angela Long



My City

The All Abilities Playground is now open. Located at Ross Reserve between the Noble Park Community Centre and Noble Park Aquatic Centre, it offers an inclusive experience for all. It provides a play environment for a diverse range of children, youth and adults of all ages, sizes and abilities. Everyone is welcome at this great new facility.

Front Cover: Discover the beautiful Dandenong Creek, right in your backyard. Photo: *Hilton Stone*.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Boost for Noble Park



Noble Park has been selected as one of six new suburban revitalisation initiatives in metropolitan Melbourne.

The revitalisation project will provide a needed boost to the Noble Park activity centre as part of the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Program.

The Suburban Revitalisation Program established by the Victorian Government, recognises that regional and local stakeholders are best placed to identify and respond to community needs and aspirations.

The project aims to complement business activity and visitor attraction in Noble Park, while building on the centre's sense of community spirit and much-loved village character.

The project will include the enhancement of multigenerational community facilities, streetscape upgrades, promotion of sporting and recreational pursuits and see improvements to the general amenity of the retail centre.

The project is overseen by a newly appointed Board convened by the Victorian Government and represented by key community stakeholders.

New Kinder for Dandenong North

OPENING IN 2023



A new kindergarten will be built in Dandenong North thanks to a State Government initiative to build kindergartens on existing school sites.

The new Rosewood Downs Primary School Kindergarten will open in 2023 and will provide 66 kindergarten places.

Mayor Cr Angela Long welcomed the investment saying it would ensure kindergarten was more accessible for children and their families living in Dandenong North.

The new kindergarten will include two rooms, administrative facilities and outdoor play spaces.

"Council has been a strong advocate for early childhood policy reforms, planning and provision for many years now," Cr Long said.

"For a community like ours it is vital kindergartens are easily accessible, particularly given the number of migrant and newly arrived families in Greater Dandenong."

"We see kindergartens as an important first step in a child's education journey. Partnering with local primary schools supports a smooth transition from



kindergarten to school. It also promotes social connections for community members."

Council and the Victorian Government have jointly developed a Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) to estimate the growth in demand for kindergarten within Greater Dandenong over the next ten years. The Rosewood Downs Primary School 'Kindergarten on School Sites Development' will support timely infrastructure to meet the growing demand for three and four year old kindergarten places in the Dandenong North area by 2023.

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Springvale North Ward
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Springvale South Ward
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Yarraman Ward
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eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER | MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER | MONDAY 29 NOVEMBER

Council meetings are usually held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm, or online during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

The November meetings will be held:

- **Thursday 11 November** (Council meeting commencing at 6pm for election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor).
- **Monday 15 November**
- **Monday 29 November**

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

► Keysborough Ward

Cr Tim Dark

Council's City Improvement Projects are at the core of enhancing our sport and recreation facilities. In Keysborough we have a number of these projects coming to fruition.

As part of rolling out the Frederick Wachter Reserve Masterplan, the much loved wetland area is being expanded to improve its water quality and biodiversity. Council is planting thousands of new trees and smaller plants, which will create a more enjoyable place for local residents and improve habitat for native wildlife. We can also look forward to a new boardwalk and walking path network.

Following community consultation in 2020, the final design of the Frederick Wachter Reserve Playground has been completed. There was strong support for both the 'Market Garden' and the 'Wetland' theme to be integrated into the final design. The playground will include junior and senior play zones as well as water and sand play facilities. Kids will have access to swings, trampolines, monkey bars, a rope course, climbing wall and more, complemented by more shade.

Construction of Stage 1 of the playground works is scheduled to commence in early 2022. The existing playground will be retained until future stages of the new playground are funded.



Not far from Frederick Wachter Reserve is Rowley Allan Reserve, which is also undergoing improvements. The long term vision is to make the reserve a high standard multi-purpose sporting space for cricket, Australian Rules football, lawn bowls and netball.

Following community input, an initial focus for improvement will be the upgrade of the netball court area. Also in the concept plan are improvements to cricket nets, a new pavilion and car park, new playground, half basketball court, fitness equipment and creating a path around the oval's perimeter for exercise.

As a Keysborough resident since childhood, I am committed to the ongoing development of services and facilities for our rapidly growing community.

Please contact me anytime on 0466 403 914 or email tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au

Cr Eden Foster

► Yarraman Ward

We have all been on a challenging journey since our first COVID-19 lock down last year and the repeated lockdowns since. I feel especially for young people who have missed the social connection that schooling offers, parents balancing work and home commitments, those who have lost income and the small business operators who rely on people being out and about for their livelihoods.

This can take a toll on a person's mental wellbeing, outlook on life and confidence in the face of uncertainty. We must look after each other.

Many areas of Council are actively providing social and material support to our communities, and a wide range of online initiatives. The Children's Festival is a great example with record numbers participating in online events last school holidays.

Council plays an important role connecting people with mental health services. Our website has a comprehensive list of agencies and helplines to do this. Go to the website and search "Mental Health Services" where you can also access information in 18 community languages.

Recent events in Afghanistan are a reminder that, while living in relative safety here, migrant and refugee communities are affected by what happens in their places of origin. I am proud that Greater Dandenong and Casey Councils joined hands in August to issue our joint Statement of Solidarity with the Afghan Community.

Despite these challenging times, Council's work on the ground improving infrastructure and community assets doesn't slow down. City Improvement Projects are in full swing upgrading facilities and creating new places to enjoy.

In Yarraman Ward, planning is underway to improve Parkfield Reserve's function as a hub for community sport and general community recreation. This is likely to see new cricket nets, a local playground, new park furniture and fencing renewal. For Joan B Sheen Reserve, concept plans have been completed for a playground, park furniture and new fencing. Undergrounding power in the Ian Street shopping strip will commence this year, followed by significant streetscaping in 2022.



Please contact me anytime on 0435 202 645 or email eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Springvale North Ward

Cr Sean O'Reilly



Initial design work has been completed to improve the streetscape at Nullawil Street Neighbourhood Shopping Centre adjacent to Police Road.

After community feedback on the initial design, Council expects works and completion of improvements by early next year.

Council will improve the shopping strip's appearance and amenity, increase shade cover with new street trees along the footpath, a new garden bed with trees and groundcover plantings, and widening a section of the footpath to accommodate new bench seats and more space for outdoor dining.

Small shopping strips are a much-loved feature of our local landscape, providing commuters and residents convenient shopping for daily needs in our "own backyard". Improvements to Nullawil Street are an example of Council's commitment to supporting neighbourhood shopping strips as a focus for local activity.

Sports clubs and facilities are also an essential part of our community's life.

Construction of the new football pavilion at Ross Reserve is proceeding as planned, with the installation of a concrete floor and steel frame completed. The block walls are being installed, with the roof, windows and doors scheduled next. With installation of a new power substation to meet the precinct's requirements, the overall project will be completed by mid 2022. Other minor works at Ross Reserve include a new path and landscaping.

Council has engaged an architect to design the refurbishment of two changerooms at Springvale Reserve for both home and away teams. This will bring these up to modern standards, including disability access, and players will enjoy top-notch facilities on match and training days.

I look forward to keeping you updated on these and other improvements in our neighbourhood. Feel free to contact me anytime on 0422 523 258 or email sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayoral election

The City of Greater Dandenong is divided into 11 wards.

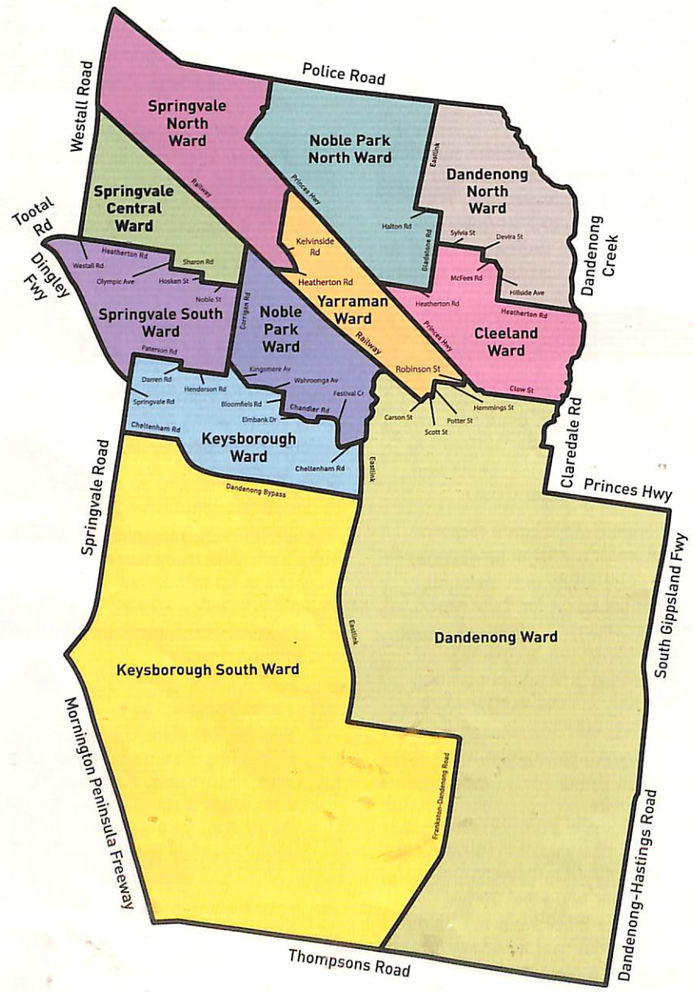
Each ward has a single Councillor who is elected every four years by the community. A Councillor's role is to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers.

A Council meeting will be held on Thursday 11 November for Councillors to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

The Mayor is a spokesperson for Council, helps fellow Councillors make fair and good decisions, chairs Council meetings and carries out ceremonial duties. The Deputy Mayor undertakes these duties if the Mayor is incapable of doing so.

We will introduce the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the next edition of this magazine.

Ward Map



Immunisation sessions – November 2021

Even during the COVID-19 restrictions, Greater Dandenong City Council is still holding several immunisation sessions every month for residents.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from 6 months up to 5 years of age.

Date	Location
Wednesday 3 November	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 16 November	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Thursday 25 November	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 27 November	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square), Dandenong
Tuesday 30 November	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations. To make a booking please go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation

If you need assistance to make a booking, please phone Council on 8571 1000



Getting digitally literate

Council is committed to enhancing the digital literacy of the Greater Dandenong community.

To help people understand more about technology and how to use it, Council has launched a Digital Literacy Upskilling Program.

Digital literacy is a collection of skills and a level of knowledge and understanding needed to access and use technology.

Without these skills it is becoming more difficult to live, work and exist in a digital world.

Aside from the practical skills required to use devices such as phones, tablets and computers, there are other digital literacy skills such as communication, critical thinking, creativity and e-safety.

The good news is that you can learn digital literacy skills, just like you can learn to read and write.

For more information about the Digital Literacy Upskilling Program, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/digital-literacy-upskilling-program

Information in your language

The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse city in Australia. Our residents come from more than 160 different birth places and speak more than 200 languages.

Communicating with everyone can be challenging, but Council is working to make information as accessible as possible. Our website includes a Google translation function, which can change the language across all pages of the website.

The function currently translates more than 85 languages, including Punjabi, Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Khmer, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Council also places a select number of articles from this magazine on the website each month to improve accessibility and allow information to be shared in multiple languages.

Look for the icon attached to stories in this magazine then visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/publications/talkingbusiness** and click on the translation icon on the top right corner of the screen to select another language.

Capturing our history

A time capsule has been created to preserve the story of the former Masonic Hall in Dandenong for future generations.

The Masonic Hall, which is owned by Greater Dandenong City Council and being redeveloped as a contemporary art gallery, has a long and fascinating history.

Mayor Cr Angela Long notes the building's importance. "The Hall is recorded in the City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Study as having local historical and architectural significance.

The building was used by the Freemasons from the 1920s up until 1991, and for a time it was leased by the Spanish Christian Church.

The time capsule documents an important part of Dandenong's history, and we thank Dandenong and District Historical Society and Freemasons Victoria for their input and support for this project", she said.

The time capsule includes items related to the former and proposed future uses of the site, such as land selection papers and historic titles, Freemasons memorabilia including 1938 and 1976 Jubilee souvenirs, local artist Hung Lin's drawings of the site, along with photographic documentation of the redevelopment.

The time capsule will be documented as part of Council's Civic and Cultural Heritage Collection and unearthed to mark the 50-year anniversary of the opening of the new gallery.



Mayor Angela Long and husband Barry will contribute to the time capsule.

A sign of great places



Council's Interpretive Signage Program aims to create meaningful connections between people and places in Greater Dandenong.

The signage features in Greater Dandenong's three activity centres of Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park.

Stories of significant people, buildings and landscape are told through text and images.

The signs are designed to create a point of interest and enhance the experience and connection people have with the place.

The interpretive signs are part of an ongoing place making program to make our places great. The signs influence the way public spaces are understood by residents and visitors. By sharing local narratives and stories of the place they contribute to the cultural landscape and foster a sense of identity, place and pride in the community.

The Interpretive Signage Program was first rolled out in 2012, with the bold signage first installed in Dandenong's Halpin Way and Settlers Square.

Recently a new interpretive sign was unveiled in Springvale.

Three new signs are currently in production for central Dandenong.





These will reference the 100 years of pharmacy practice at 275 Lonsdale Street.

Fast Facts

- Ten signs in Dandenong, with a further three in development
- Nine signs in Springvale
- One sign in Noble Park with another three in development



Mayor Angela Long and Cr Richard Lim OAM at the installation of the Springvale hospital sign.

Springvale's first hospital

Greater Dandenong City Council has unveiled new interpretive signage to mark the location of Springvale's first hospital.

Standing at 3 metres high, the towering Community Hospital Interpretive Sign shares the story of Springvale's unique community health services.

Located along Buckingham Ave, in front of Monash Health Springvale, the sign acknowledges the significant contribution the hospital and health centre have made in delivering innovative health care and services for Springvale.

The Springvale Community Hospital Interpretive Sign is the latest interpretive sign for the City of Greater Dandenong's activity centres and forms part of an ongoing place making program across Springvale, Noble Park and central Dandenong which aims to share local narratives and stories of key locations across these areas.



Gardens for wildlife

Caught sight of a native bee in your garden lately? What about a skink or wattle bird? If you haven't but you'd like to, Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) might be just what you're after.

Greater Dandenong City Council has joined the statewide initiative to connect local people and local fauna through their own gardens. Best of all, size doesn't matter. So, if you've got a balcony or a yard, either can contribute in its own unique way to providing sustainable habitats.

Residents can help displaced or endangered wildlife through shelter, food and water in their own gardens. If you love the environment and want to help play a part, you can! Council staff are available to train you with the relevant information.

Request a garden visit

G4W is free and open to private residents, schools, businesses and community groups. Just register your interest at **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife**.

You'll receive a $20 voucher from Greenlink Sandbelt Indigenous Nursery, a written report offering suggestions for your wildlife garden, the opportunity for a follow up consultation and connection to the statewide G4W Victoria network.

COVID-19 Update

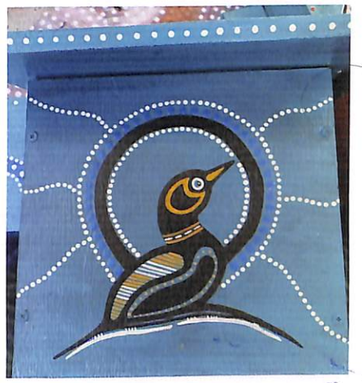
Gardens for Wildlife Greater Dandenong is still operating under COVID-19 restrictions. Our Garden Guides can provide advice based on photos, videos and virtual conversations. Engagement with nature and community is essential for wellbeing during this time, and we look forward to resuming face-to-face visits in the future under COVIDSafe practices.

Nesting boxes

As part of our growing biodiversity initiatives Council staff are installing a series of nesting boxes painted by local Aboriginal artist Ian Harrison.

These boxes will be installed around the city but can currently be seen at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Springvale South and JB Sheen Reserve, Bowmore Road, Noble Park.





Justice of the Peace at your Libraries

Justices of the Peace (JP) can now be found at both the Dandenong Library and Springvale Community Hub.

The service is free and staffed by volunteers. JPs can assist residents with the following:

- Attesting the execution of a document
- Witnessing a statutory declaration
- Witnessing an affidavit for use in court
- Certifying true copies of an original document
- Certifying a person's identity.

No appointments are needed but availability is best confirmed by contacting library branches directly. When the libraries are fully open, session times are as follows:

Dandenong Library
Monday to Thursday
10am–3pm and 6pm–8pm

Springvale Community Hub
Monday to Friday
10am–1pm and 4pm–7pm.

COVID-19 restrictions mean that JPs are currently unable to attend to their normal duties but will return as soon as libraries reopen.

For urgent matters, find your nearest JP at justice.vic.gov.au/justices



Know your recycling

This month we celebrate National Recycling Week from 8–14 November and remind residents what can and can't go into their yellow lid recycling bin.

Spending more time at home can create more waste. From cooking more to receiving more mail and online shopping parcels, many of us are generating more waste than usual.

While we can't control everything right now, we can make sure the contents of our recycle bins are being put to good use and don't end up in landfill.

Here are some tips to help save you time and sort the most common items into the appropriate bins.

- Always remember to keep your recycling out of plastic bags. All items can be placed in the yellow lid bin loose.
- Soft plastics like bread and pasta bags go into the red lid bin. To recycle these items, take them to your local supermarket where there is a recycling bin dedicated to soft plastics recycling.
- Polystyrene packaging is not recyclable and should be placed in your red lid bin.



- Clothing and shoes do not go into your recycling bin.
- Food waste goes into the green lid garden waste bin.

If you do not currently have a garden waste bin and would like one visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bin-options-and-charges**

Follow these simple rules to help make the most of Council's recycling services.

Visit **recycling.vic.gov.au** to search for specific items and find out which bin they belong in.

Join us for a range of informative waste and recycling events in November. Visit the website for all the details **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste**

Declutter this November

Do you ever look around your home and feel overwhelmed by the clutter surrounding you?

In addition to your free hard waste collection, the Drop Off Day provides residents with a further opportunity to declutter your unwanted goods and have them recycled or repurposed to a new home.

To help inspire you, here are some handy tips to get you started:

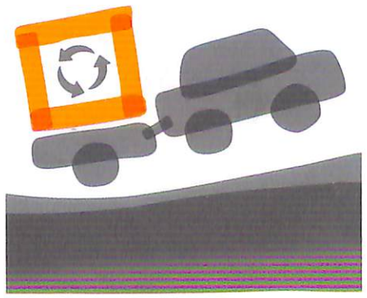
- Don't try to tackle everything at once.
- Work one area at a time. Start off small, even if it is just a drawer or a shelf, or one cupboard or room at a time.
- Complete a section before moving onto the next project.
- Sort your items into categories such as – rubbish, stay, donate, return, recycle.

Pop-up Drive Thru Recycle Day returns

Council will offer residents another chance to reduce waste in the return of the popular Pop-up Drive Thru Recycling Day.

The free collection will be held at Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street Dandenong on Saturday 27 November.

There will be a limit of 15 items per drop off, and they must be brought in a car or trailer.



Some items will be donated to charity, while others will be recycled to create new products.

What you can bring:

- TVs and computers
- Electrical appliances
- Whitegoods (fridges, freezers, washing machines)
- Furniture (chairs, tables, couches, desks)
- Mattresses
- Bicycles
- Homewares (children's items, prams, pushers, baby car seats).

In June 2021 Council held a collection day, which was popular among residents with 70 per cent of the items able to be recovered by charity groups and given a new home.

Items unsuitable for charities were taken to recycling facilities to be shredded and sorted, ready for recycling into new products.

To meet COVIDSafe requirements, please be aware that this event may be cancelled. Please check Council's website for updates.

All COVIDSafe guidelines will be fully met to ensure public safety for this event. All attendees must be checked in.



Free kitchen caddies still available

Council has a limited number of free kitchen caddies available for residents who would like to participate in the food waste recycling service.

Caddies assist with sorting food waste, by providing a convenient collection point to keep on your benchtop or close to your kitchen.

Residents must have an existing garden waste service to be eligible.

To register visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste



Detox Your Home Day

Sustainability Victoria will help you dispose of household chemicals through a contactless drop off service open to all Greater Dandenong residents this month.

Detox Your Home Day is scheduled to run on Saturday 6 November.

To take part in the day you will need to register with Sustainability Victoria, who will then confirm the drop off site and time with you.

Find out more information and register for free at **sustainability.vic.gov.au** or **phone 1300 363 744**.

Council and Sustainability Victoria will monitor the latest advice from health authorities and will update residents if these events are cancelled.

Funding boost for reusable nappies study

Greater Dandenong is one of 12 Councils working together to research and understand how to implement a reusable nappy program to reduce waste to landfill.

The study has received $80,000 from Sustainability Victoria, through the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Councils Fund.

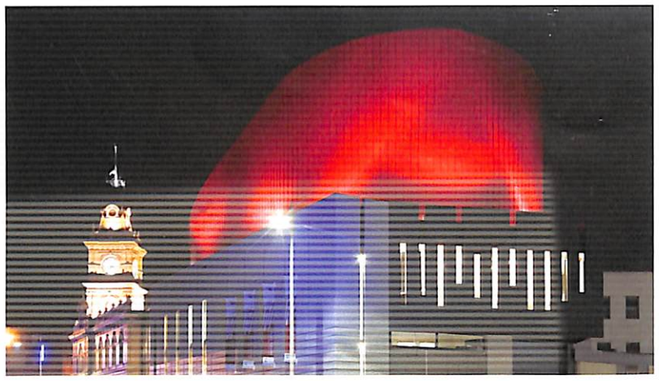
Disposable nappies are becoming one of the most significant waste issues, comprising between 5-15 per cent of waste in household bins. Approximately two billion disposable nappies end up in landfill each year in Australia and it can take up to 500 years for nappies to break down.

The feasibility study will engage with parents to understand current barriers to using reusable nappies and will evaluate the effectiveness of programs to reduce waste and change behaviour.

Mayor Cr Angela Long said the study would offer valuable insights into how Councils can better support their residents to make more environmentally friendly choices.

"We know Greater Dandenong residents want to do all they can to reduce their waste to landfill and this work will help us to understand how we can better support them to do so," Mayor Long said.





The story of Drum Theatre

Drum Theatre first opened its doors in 2006.

The state-of-the-art theatre was the talk of the town at the time, lauded for its architectural design and generous rehearsal spaces, as well as its focus on enhanced audience experience.

Drum Theatre's modern interior was built behind the original heritage façade of Dandenong Town Hall.

The original town hall building operated from 1890 and was essentially the heart of Dandenong, serving many vital functions for the Council and community. Not only did it house the Council offices and council chambers, it also held adult learning classes, as well as a library, a courthouse and Magistrate's offices.

Today Drum Theatre is the perfect blend of old and new; and is a symbol of Dandenong's historical transition from a thriving market town to one of Australia's most diverse and vibrant communities.

Each year, since its opening, Drum Theatre has hosted over 150 performances for over 60,000 patrons.

Drum Theatre is a popular venue for some of Australia's most loved and renowned performers. Here is what they have said about performing at Drum Theatre in Dandenong.

"The Drum Theatre has a rare intimacy that makes the performer feel like the audience is on stage with them. Acoustically it is superb…"
– James Morrison

"Opera Australia loves coming to The Drum. The facilities on stage and off are world class and … the crew are always happy to assist in any way we need. Whenever our touring company see The Drum on our schedule they are thrilled as we know it will be a fantastic week."
– Opera Australia

"The Drum Theatre is a really fantastic venue – Dandenong's hidden gem. Staff are experienced and very helpful. Great range of colour in the rig and the show looked and sounded amazing. Audiences got into the groove quickly and were particularly responsive to the crowd work by the MC. Top night!"
– Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

"I've always loved visiting the Drum Theatre stage, it's a beautiful building in the heart of a diverse and multicultural community. Stepping through stage door has always been a joy; from its staff, to its stage and its audiences."
– Nicholas Starte from the cast of The Midnight Gang

*"I felt at home the moment I walked through Stage Door. The Drum Theatre will always stick with me for your warm hospitality and *divine* Green Room."*
– Rebecca Rolle from the cast of The 91-Storey Treehouse

Have your say on Arts, Culture and Heritage

Council is preparing to develop the next Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022–26.

The strategy will set the direction for the next four years, guiding Council's efforts to promote, support and grow arts and cultural heritage in the City of Greater Dandenong.

We invite you to provide input and share your aspirations and ideas.

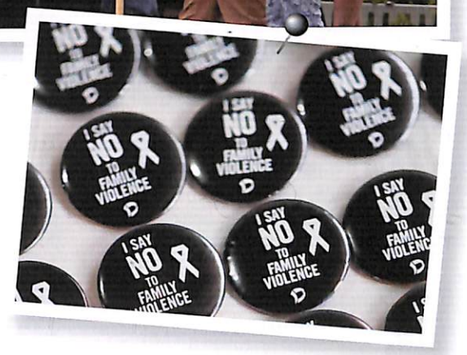
To find out more and have your say visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-culture-and-heritage-strategy

Arts and Culture Education Program

As part of the new Arts and Culture Education Program, schools in Greater Dandenong are being offered the opportunity to host virtual incursions with artists.

If you are interested in hosting a virtual incursion, please visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture-education-program** and email arts@cgd.vic.gov.au to register your interest.





Take a stand against family violence

Residents throughout Greater Dandenong are again preparing to take a stand against family violence on White Ribbon Day, Friday 19 November.

On past White Ribbon Days hundreds of people joined walks hosted by the Greater Dandenong City Council.

According to White Ribbon Australia on average one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner. In 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions have exacerbated the problem with police responding to more calls for help than ever.

According to the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency, there were 92,999 family violence incidents in the year ending March 2021. This represents an 8.2 per cent rise on the year before. In the City of Greater Dandenong police responded to 2,834 incidents of family violence in the same 12-month period.

Mayor Cr Angela Long, who sits on Council's Family Violence Advisory Committee, says Greater Dandenong City Council has been a leading voice in the prevention of violence against women. She encouraged all residents to mark White Ribbon Day by doing what they can to call out and stop violence in their own families, social networks and communities.

"Promoting equality and respect in our communities benefits us all. It strengthens our communities if everyone feels safe and respected," said Mayor Long.

"We can all play our part in making sure the women in our lives are protected and safe."

Greater Dandenong City Council is an accredited White Ribbon workplace and has been recognised for its pioneering role in contributing to national cultural change to prevent and respond to violence against women.

The Council is also proudly at the forefront of promoting gender equality, with a commitment to implementing the State Government's *Gender Equality Act 2020*. Under the Act Council is required to develop and implement a Gender Equality Action Plan which will include strategies for achieving workplace gender equality.

Council has pledged to promote gender equality in its policies, programs and services and publicly report on its progress.

Mayor Long said it was vital that people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities including men, women, trans and the gender diverse.

"Everyone is affected by gender inequality and it impacts people of all ages and backgrounds," she said.

"My fellow Councillors and Council staff take pride in making our city a safe and inclusive place for people of all backgrounds to live and thrive, free of violence and discrimination.

"Please take some time this White Ribbon Day to play your part as well."

Anyone experiencing family violence can get help by contacting:

- 1800 Respect on 1800 737 732
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre on 1800 015 188
- InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence on 1800 755 988
- Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA) 9635 3610
- 000.

Business community rallies around Kindness project

Hollywood may be a world away from Bangholme, but one of its movies has inspired a Greater Dandenong attraction to give back to the community in a creative way.

Ian Clark, owner of Melbourne Cable Park, has set up a 'Pay it Forward' system to support registered charity, Kindness Community.

Mr Clark says it was during lockdown four in May 2021, when the Park began selling take-away meals to keep its on-site chef engaged, that they identified a need to reallocate leftover food.

"We approached the Council, which gave us the name of some suitable organisations, and that's how we connected with Danielle Ashley from the Kindness Community.

"The first week we had 30 meals to donate, and Danielle asked if they could heat them up in our kitchen. At the time, Kindness Community was serving meals in the park under shelter, so I helped to organise a Council building nearby to relaunch the meal centre indoors," Mr Clark explains.

Melbourne Cable Park now has incorporated the initiative into its online sales so when customers purchase tickets to the aqua fun park, they can also purchase a $5 hot meal for a disadvantaged person or contribute financially to the Kindness Community.

Greater Dandenong businesses showing heart

Danielle Ashley grew up in Dandenong and is the founder of Kindness Community, which began in March 2020 to assist with the issue of food security.

"Through Ian's and our own contacts, we receive support from many amazing local businesses," Ms Ashley says,



whose background is in natural health.

Far-reaching effects

Kindness Community now serves dinner to over 100 people a week, which includes a 6pm service each Tuesday night at Memorial Hall in Dandenong, and the delivery of meals to homeless shelters in Dandenong with the leftover meals.

Businesses interested in supporting Kindness Community can visit kindnesscommunity.org.au for contact details or to donate.

All the ingredients for success

Nasrat Hashemi describes himself as a 'happy' refugee who has embraced the opportunities that Australia has offered him to build a successful grocery business at the Dandenong Market.

Nasrat, 32, arrived in Australia from Afghanistan in 2012 as an asylum seeker.

Fluent in six languages – English, Dari, Pashto, Urdu, Persian and Arabic – Nasrat initially found work as a truck driver before deciding he wanted to run his own business. He became the owner of Spice Inn Groceries five and a half years ago.

The business specialises in South Asian groceries including Indian, Pakistani, Afghani, Sri Lankan and Fijian ingredients.

"This country gives people empowerment. I became a businessman



in a short amount of time because of the kindness, support and help of others," said Nasrat.

Like all business owners, Nasrat has had to face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said it was important as a business owner that he play his part in keeping his business and customers safe.

He is thankful for the support he has received from Greater Dandenong Council's COVID Support Officers who helped him draw up his COVIDSafe Plan, which includes floor markings, QR codes, signage, practicing physical distancing and keeping doors open to enhance airflow, among other measures.

"Dandenong Market management, Council, and Victoria Government have been helping us, counselling us, standing with us shoulder to shoulder. It gives you big hope," said Nasrat.

"Everyone, regardless of background, have been affected by the virus. When you are lockdown 5km from your house, it is hard for everyone. We need to show support for one another.

Some customers I see five days a week. I share stories to customers. They are just like good friends or family members.

His advice for others is to 'stay strong and committed'."

"There is sunshine after every darkness. When you're good and healthy, you can run your business and move forward with your life. And only then can you help your friends and family."

Spice Inn Groceries is at Cleeland Street, Dandenong, and is open every day.



Looking for something to read?

If what to read next is proving elusive, let the library inspire you with its Read and Relax Blog and The Open Book Podcast.

It's where library staff review their favourite books, movies and lots more. The perfect place to find out all that's new in the collection, read about the latest award-winning titles and find encouragement for your next read.

Regardless of age or taste the choices are extensive. From picture books to thrillers, health and wellbeing to humour, reviews cover over 30 subject areas. A featured review and monthly new and forthcoming titles list may also help to fill the gap.

Read and Relax is updated weekly with written reviews.



The Open Book Podcast is also there to help you decide. Every month you can listen to lively 'book chats' on feature titles with staff or reviews on books, films and other formats.

Conveniently, titles mentioned in each episode are linked to the library catalogue in 'Episode Show Notes'. This way, if you hear or read about something you like, you can find it easily through the library.

Both the Read and Relax Blog Review and The Open Book Podcast are accessible through Council's website or sign up for our enewsletter, **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries**

To have your say on what you want Library Services to look like in the future visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement during November.

Orange Door Opening

Opening mid November, The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children.

The Orange Door brings together workers from specialist family violence services. They can work with you on your own, or together with family members depending on your situation. This can be done in person or over the phone, with no referral needed.

Workers at The Orange Door are highly trained and experienced in responding to family violence and supporting children, young people, parents and families who need extra support with their care and wellbeing.

The Orange Door welcomes everyone. Access the service at orangedoor.vic.gov.au

Become a Freemason

Freemasonry is a worldwide community of men who believe in the principles of equality and charity. The organisation is proud to honour and respect religious, cultural and political diversity.

It offers men an opportunity to contribute to their local communities, join a network of like-minded individuals, and improve themselves in the process.

If you're interested and want to know more, contact your local Keysborough Freemasons group by calling Steve on 0457 283 877, Ken on 0408 317 671, email joinfreemasons@outlook.com or visit the website at freemasonsvic.net.au

Re-use and Recycle

Drop Off Day

TVs and computers

Mattresses
Limit of two

Electrical appliances
Printers, rice cookers, anything with a cord or battery

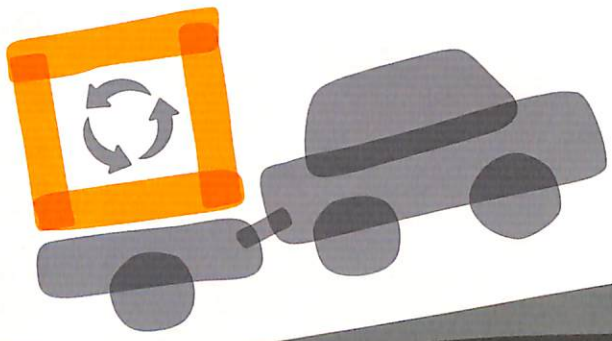
Bicycles

Whitegoods
Fridges, washing machines, dryers, microwaves

Homewares
Toys, cookware, sporting items, baby equipment

Furniture
Chairs, tables, couches, desks

Clothes and linen
Clothing, shoes, fashion accessories, towels, sheets



A **FREE** drop-off for your unwanted electronic and household goods

NOV 27

Saturday 27 November,
8am–1pm

Greaves Reserve,
2–20 Bennet Street, Dandenong

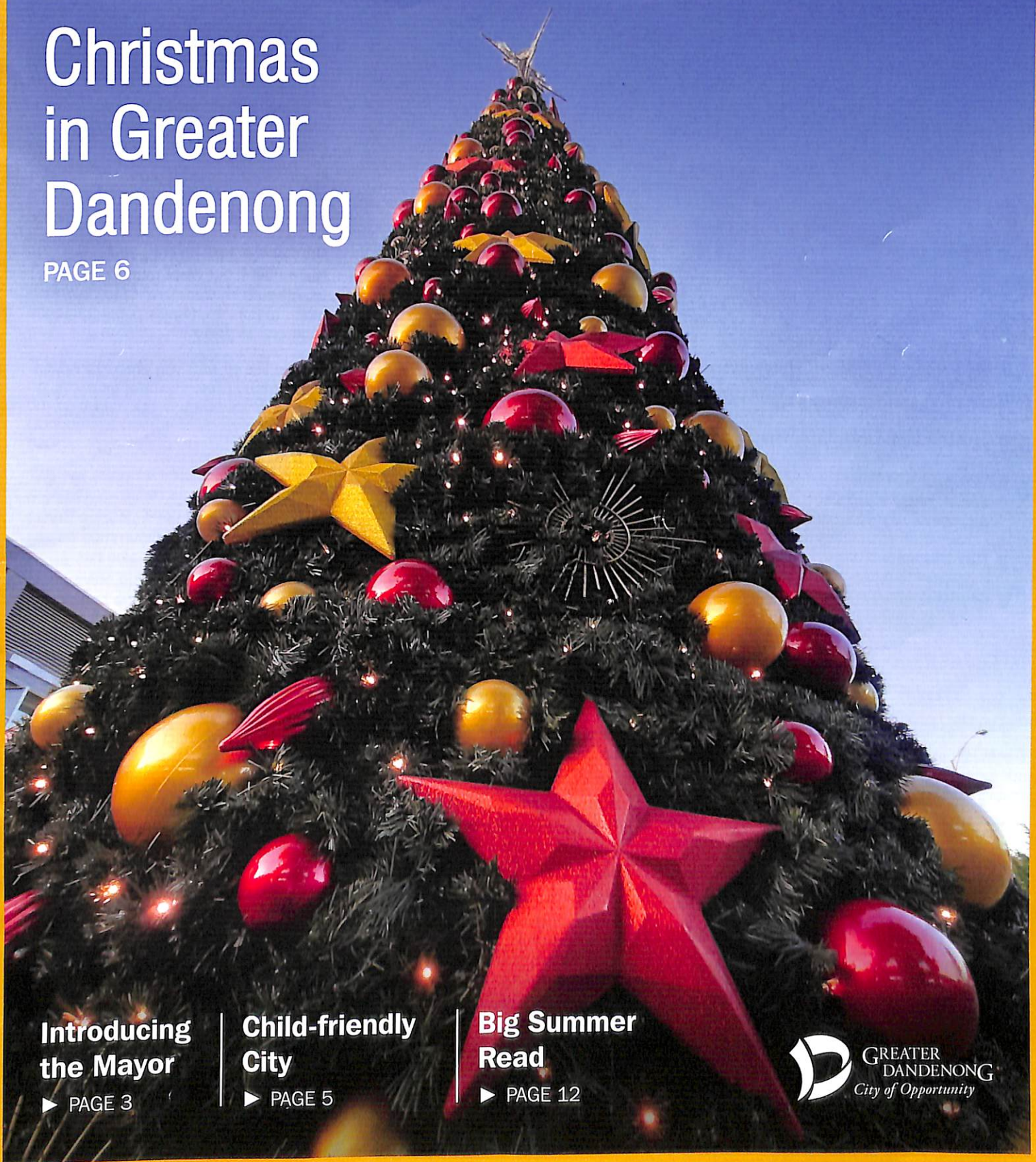
Find out more and register for an SMS or email reminder at
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day

SCRgroup

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

DECEMBER 2021 / JANUARY 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



Christmas in Greater Dandenong

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

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PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the December 2021 – January 2022 edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

It is an honour to have been recently elected as your Mayor for the next 12 months.

With summer now here, there is renewed energy and hope for better times ahead.

I am excited that we are again open for business and can look forward to all the fantastic community events, festivals, activities, and programs our Council offers our culturally diverse community.

In this edition we celebrate the festive season and all the joy, magic and excitement it brings. You will see our activity centres come to life in vibrant Christmas colours.

As stated in our Council Plan, in the year ahead we will work towards achieving:

- a socially connected, safe and healthy city
- a city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- a city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods



- a green city committed to a sustainable future
- a city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes
- a Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in our community.

Our Council is committed to empowering and listening to our community so we can best serve you.

Our focus is now on supporting and rejuvenating our great municipality in a COVID safe environment. There is so much to plan for, create together and celebrate in 2022.

I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for a wonderful, happy and safe new year.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

Let's remain open and COVID safe

Our Council facilities are again open for business and we are so pleased to welcome you back!

When visiting our sites people over the age of 12 years need to be fully vaccinated, unless you have a medical exemption, and must check in via the QR codes displayed.

Please stay home if you are unwell, and please get tested if you have any cold or flu symptoms. Practicing physical distancing and good hand hygiene at all times is so important.

Thank you to our residents who have been fully vaccinated to keep you, your loved ones, and our community safe.

We encourage all eligible members of our community to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Please be kind to one another as we all ease our way back to enjoying the things we love in Greater Dandenong and living safely with COVID-19.

Front Cover: Christmas tree installation in Noble Park's activity centre.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Introducing our new Mayor

Dandenong Ward Councillor Jim Memeti has been elected Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong for the fifth time, having previously served in the role in 2010, 2014, 2017 and 2020.

Having lived in Greater Dandenong for over 40 years, Mayor Memeti shares a similar background to many of our residents having migrated to Australia at a young age.

A local Councillor since 2005, Mayor Memeti will be supported by Cr Eden Foster who has been elected as Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

Although COVID has significantly impacted our great city, the Mayor said there are exciting times ahead.

"I am committed to working with my fellow Councillors to achieve our community's vision for Greater Dandenong and the objectives of our Council Plan.

"We will focus on reactivating our great municipality as we all transition to a new COVID normal. Soon we will again host vibrant community events and festivals so we can celebrate our cultural diversity and provide opportunities for social connection and understanding.

"We will continue to respect and honour our past and embrace all the incredible possibilities for our future," said the Mayor.



Newly elected Mayor Jim Memeti and Deputy Mayor Eden Foster.

He remains steadfast in his desire to change the perceptions of the municipality.

"We are proud to be Australia's most culturally diverse community and maintain our status as the business activity centre of the south east.

"Our strong partnerships with our local and state partners ensure we continue to thrive through innovative investment and deliberate community engagement, generating positive outcomes for our community," the Mayor said.

He is looking forward to working with his colleagues to realise several major projects underway including: the new, innovative Dandenong Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre; the Keysborough and Dandenong Community Hubs, offering a range of shared multi-purpose facilities for the community; the continued revitalisation of central Dandenong, beginning with the Little India precinct near Dandenong Railway Station in partnership with Development Victoria; and ongoing upgrades to the Springvale and Noble Park activity centres, with improved streetscapes, green open spaces and innovative public amenities.

Mayor Memeti is a proud family man, with four generations of his family now living in Dandenong. He has three children, five grandchildren, and another grandchild on the way next year.



2022 Community Calendar

Greater Dandenong is a vibrant and stunning municipality and we have captured some of its most photogenic sights for the 2022 Community Calendar. The calendar will be delivered free to your letterbox and features the kerbside waste collection schedule and handy waste and recycling tips.

If you do not receive a copy of the calendar, or if you would like an extra copy, you can collect one from Council's customer service centres or phone 8571 1000.

Councillor Contacts



Dandenong Ward – Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti
0434 560 239
jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward – Deputy Mayor
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eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au



Cleeland Ward
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Ph/Fax: 9795 6574
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angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
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Keysborough Ward
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Keysborough South Ward
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Noble Park Ward
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Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
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lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
Cr Richard Lim OAM
0435 627 164
richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
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sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 13 DECEMBER

MONDAY 24 JANUARY

DECEMBER JANUARY

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held in the city chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm, or online during COVID-19 restrictions.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Monday 13 December 2021**
- **Monday 24 January 2022.**

You can ask questions during Public Question Time. You can also watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made. Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Our Christmas / New Year Hours

Customer Service Centres

Friday 24 December
Centres to close at 12.30pm
Call Centre to close at 2pm

Saturday 25 – Tuesday 28 December
CLOSED

Wednesday 29 – Friday 31 December
Normal hours resume

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 January
CLOSED

Monday 3 January
CLOSED

Tuesday 4 January
Normal hours resume

Libraries and Springvale Community Hub

Saturday 25 – Tuesday 28 December
CLOSED

Wednesday 29 – Friday 31 December
Reduced hours – check website for details

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 January
CLOSED

Monday 3 January
CLOSED

Tuesday 4 January
Check website for details

DRUM Theatre

The Drum Theatre will reopen on Monday 24 January, the box office is open for online and phone bookings via drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or 8571 1666.

Aquatic Centres

If you're planning a visit to the Noble Park Aquatic Centre or Dandenong Oasis, please contact the centres directly before you visit to check hours and any limits that will apply, via nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au or dandenongoasis.com.au.

Waste Collection

All rubbish, recycling and green waste bins will be collected as per usual, even on public holidays.

For specific opening hours visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

Reflections and Seasons Greetings from your Councillors

Despite the obstacles we have all faced this last year, there are plenty of achievements to celebrate and be proud of in 2021.

It's a privilege for us all to work alongside our dedicated and passionate community to implement initiatives that bring great community outcomes for future generations.

We are proud of how strong and resilient our community has been during such unprecedented times. We have looked after each other and found innovative ways to serve, connect and engage.

Highlights from our work over the last 12 months include:

- the development of our first Community Vision for our Council Plan 2021–2025
- the Springvale Boulevard revitalisation project
- the Noble Park revitalisation project



- the design phase of the new Dandenong Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre
- the new All Abilities Playground
- our commitment to being a child-friendly city via our Children's Plan 2021–26
- our commitment to sustainability, delivering on our renewable energy targets and implementing innovative technology
- our Make Your Move campaign
- the Dandenong New Art Gallery, which will be housed in the former Masonic Hall
- planning for a new Dandenong Community Hub
- our work with our Indigenous community, promoting understanding, tolerance, and acceptance across all sectors of our community – the Springvale Community Hub's ceremonial firepit is a stunning example of how we can respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of our land.

May you and your loved ones have a safe and joyous festive season, and all the very best for the new year.

From your Councillors

Junior Mayor shines in our child-friendly city

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to supporting children and their families and providing opportunities for them to engage within the community.

Our vision for children and their families is to be valued, celebrated, respected, and supported to reach their full potential.

Our Children's Plan outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children 0–13 years, acknowledging the important role of parents, carers, and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing.

As school captain, Murray Congues was the successful nominee for the role of junior Mayor for Greater Dandenong in 2021 and is a voice for greater inclusion and safety for younger people in the city.

Council engaged Murray to help inform our work. He is a representative on the Children's Advisory Group and played an MC role in this year's Children's Forum on 18 November.

"My role means a lot to me because the Children's Advisory Group and I can help the Council make decisions that are more child-oriented.

"What I am interested in is for the children of Greater Dandenong to live in a child safe city that promotes safe parks and walkways and gives families support when needed.

"Children have many ideas to improve the city for children and even adults; children can have an input on what park designs they want or different features around the city. A child-friendly city looks like a city where children's opinions are valued and are taken into perspective, it also is a safe place for children to play and hang around," Murray said.



Murray's vision for the future of young people within Greater Dandenong is a shared one, bridging the age differences throughout our community, and creating a place where all voices are heard, valued, and treated respectfully.

With a strong communal focus that helps us all to live well and harmoniously, Murray has been an outstanding junior Mayor this year and provides incredible value to our city.

Photo: Our 2021 Junior Mayor Murray Congues.

COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENT

Grant recipient giving back this Christmas

Community grant recipient, the City of Greater Dandenong Band, will perform at this year's online Christmas Carols "Bringing Christmas Home" event on Friday 10 December.

The band is one of Dandenong's premier performing arts organisations, with a long, proud history of community service.

The band was awarded a Sponsorship Grant to contribute to local cultural activities and to promote the city via performances nationally. The pandemic meant the band could not perform live, so they pivoted to record *Zero Gravity*, an online musical collaboration with Glenferrie Brass, Skunkworks Productions and Australian singer Danielle Matthews. *Zero Gravity* was made famous by Kate Miller-Heidke at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest.

Cassi de Lacy-Vawdon, City of Greater Dandenong Band Treasurer said Council's funding support helped the band to continue its operations and give back to the community.

"We aim to make music, and music tutorage, as accessible as possible in our community. For the *Zero Gravity* project we relied heavily on the skills, equipment, and expertise of our band members. This project has inspired us to look at upskilling in areas of music production and recording," Cassi said.



City of Greater Dandenong Band captures their online performance with Danielle Matthews.

The grant supports the city's only community band in their aim to provide music at a diverse range of civic and community events for low or no performance fee, and to offer accessible, low-cost music tuition, instrument hire, rehearsal and performance opportunities to everyone who connects with their organisation.

Recent COVID restrictions made rehearsing for the band incredibly challenging, however with the help of Council's grant, the band continued to share their love and passion for music and promote our great city through performances and competitions across Victoria, and internationally via social media.

Council's annual grants program provides funding opportunities to benefit and work in partnership with community.

For more information on Council's grants program visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants. For more information on the City of Greater Dandenong Band visit dandenongband.org.au

The magic of Christmas delights

The festive spirit has returned to Greater Dandenong with bright and oversized vibrant Christmas decorations installed across the city.

In Dandenong, a festive mural adorns the steps leading up to Harmony Square, where visitors are delighted with the much-loved giant 7-metre Santa and reindeer by the Civic Centre. The reindeer and tree display appears opposite Dandenong Market and the Waterloo Star is at Langhorne Place.

Huge Christmas trees, 6-9 metres tall, are at Springvale Community Hub, Multicultural Place and Noble Park.

Dandenong Library's window display showcases a life-size nativity scene and decorative designs.

The large decorations complement a range of smaller ones in all activity centres, including Christmas-themed tree and pole surrounds, decorations on public seating, metal Christmas trees in Springvale, pole and dove installations in Noble Park and holly and present decorations in Palm Plaza's flower beds.

The easing of COVID restrictions allow the return of roving performer appearances in each of the activity centres in the week leading up to Christmas; and the annual Christmas Carols event is online on Friday 10 December from 7.30–8.30pm via Zoom.



Council is excited to bring back the magic of Christmas to our great city, with plenty of lights and decorations for everyone to marvel at and enjoy with family and friends.

For more information on the upcoming Christmas festivities visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events



Minister Pakula joins Cr Angela Long and Cr Richard Lim OAM at the Springvale Community Hub.

Minister tours Springvale Community Hub

Cr Angela Long and Cr Richard Lim OAM welcomed Minister Martin Pakula MP on a tour of the Springvale Community Hub.

The Hub is a shared space that inspires social connections, honours the area's proud past, and respectfully celebrates our community's cultural diversity and future aspirations.

Together they unveiled a plaque in recognition of the State Government's funding support to develop this leading-edge, fit for purpose precinct.

Expected to attract 600,000 visits annually, the Hub has been designed with holistic sustainability principles in mind and is targeting net zero emissions and 6-Star Green Rating.

Have you visited the new community heart of Springvale yet?

For more information on what's on offer at the Hub, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-community-hub

Traffic improvements in Springvale

The Victorian Government is investing $3.9 million to improve safety and traffic flow at the Springvale Road, Virginia Street and Newcomen Road intersection in Springvale.

The local community will benefit from new traffic lights and pedestrian crossings being installed, and greater public transport reliability with bus priority lights.

Changes will also be made at Rosalie Street to make it left turn only on to Springvale Road. A safer speed limit of 40km/h will be in place along Springvale Road from the Springvale shopping precinct to Watt Street.

Road users will also benefit with a new smoother and safer road surface as significant road renewal works are taking place along Springvale Road.

The works will start in early 2022 for completion mid-year. As a result of the upgrade, there will be some changes to car parking in the area.

For more information visit vicroads.vic.gov.au and search 'Springvale Road and Virginia Street intersection upgrade'.

Australia Day Summer Festival 2022

Join us to celebrate our city on Wednesday 26 January for an inclusive and diverse family-friendly event.

We will pay our respects to the traditional owners and custodians of the land, the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, while hosting free, fun and exciting activities at different locations around Greater Dandenong.

Australia Day Summer Festival 2022 is a positive, healthy and active multi-faceted event that will revitalise our existing spaces and activate new places. Featuring: WalkFest partnering with Park Run in Dandenong Park, family entertainment and sporting activities for all ages and abilities.

To find out more and to register go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australiaday



Our immunisation nurse travels to help Fijians in need

City of Greater Dandenong immunisation nurse, Priscilla Singh was honoured to have spent three weeks in Fiji assisting in the country's COVID-19 recovery.

The Fijian born Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) nurse was one of nine medical professionals deployed in Fiji during September.

"I had never done something like this before.

"With Victoria in lockdown, kids home-schooling, and our family retail shop closed…I thought if I was ever going to assist overseas, it would be now," said Priscilla.

She educated Fijian medical staff from the Colonial War Memorial Hospital about the importance of IPC, basic hygiene and vaccination.

In October 2021, Fiji reported that 80% of adults were fully vaccinated, and in November 2021, reached 1.9 million vaccinations nation-wide.



Priscilla Singh: Council's immunisation nurse volunteers to support the Fijian community during the pandemic.

"I am so incredibly proud of my fellow Fijians, they really are amazing in how they got through with very limited resources," said Priscilla.

More than 90% of residents in Greater Dandenong have received their first COVID-19 vaccination and more than 80% have received both doses.

More information on local vaccination clinics can be found at sephu.org/covid-vaccination/finding-vaccination-clinic/

Get outside and Make Your Move

Summer is a great time to get out and soak up some vitamin D, which will help you sleep better, improve your concentration, raise your energy levels, improve your confidence, and more!

You don't have to run a marathon every day, getting active is about how you Make Your Move to best suit you.

There are lots of free summer activities available in Greater Dandenong.

You can also Make Your Move in the kitchen this summer by searching for healthy, delicious, summer recipe treats to make courtesy of the Heart Foundation heartfoundation.org.au.

Discover a better you by committing to your health and wellbeing this summer.

Immunisation sessions – December 2021–January 2022

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from 6 months to 5 years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations.

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation

If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

Date	Location
Thursday 2 December 2021	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Monday 6 December 2021	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 7 December 2021	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Monday 13 December 2021	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 18 December 2021	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Tuesday 21 December 2021	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Thursday 6 January 2022	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Thursday 13 January 2022	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Wednesday 19 January 2022	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 22 January 2022	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Monday 31 January 2022	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

Ross Reserve – a regional destination

Cr Angela Long welcomed the Premier of Victoria and Member for Mulgrave, the Honourable Daniel Andrews MP and the Minister for Community Sport, Minister for Youth, the Honourable Ros Spence MP to Noble Park to officially unveil the innovative All Abilities Playground and to 'turn the sod' for a new synthetic pitch at Ross Reserve.



The Mayor thanked the State Government for their funding support through Sport and Recreation Victoria and the Community Sport Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

Ross Reserve has transformed over the last few years, with both the level crossing removal project and Council's investment in the facilities at the reserve, making it a regional destination.

The All Abilities Playground has been so well received by the community and will bring long-term benefits for years to come as an important inclusive play and social playground that meets the diverse needs of children of all ages and abilities.

The new synthetic pitch at Ross Reserve will be utilised by the Springvale City Soccer Club and Sandown Lions Football Club for training and matches.

The Noble Park Junior Football Club will also utilise the pitch for training and community-based activations.

New coaches' boxes, effective lighting, fencing and landscaping will also be developed to complement the new synthetic pitch and Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion currently being constructed.

This new pitch will provide further ways people can connect and enjoy this great public space.

Ongoing investment in our sport and recreational facilities positively enhances the health and wellbeing of our community.

Council acknowledges the dedication of our community, design and building partners, the Noble Park Revitalisation Board, Noble Park Community Centre, Sandown Lions Football Club, Springvale City Soccer Club, Noble Park Football Club Juniors, Land Design Partnership, Ethos Urban and Warrandale.

Design released for Dandenong's new Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre



An artist's impression of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre's main pool hall.

Have your say on the draft design of the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre – a new 'oasis' for south east Melbourne.

The new aquatic centre will be located at JC Mills Reserve, Cleeland Street, Dandenong and will replace the existing Dandenong Oasis, which is now over 40 years old.

The centre's design builds on the results of previous planning and consultation and aims to create welcoming spaces for people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Mayor Jim Memeti said the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre has been specifically designed to enhance the health and wellbeing of our culturally diverse community.

"The centre aims to minimise barriers and maximise opportunities for residents to be active, socially connect and enjoy numerous health and wellness experiences under one roof.

"The unique world-class aquatic centre will become a popular destination within a regional health and education precinct and will be complemented by expansive outdoor spaces at JC Mills Reserve," said the Mayor.

Residents are invited to view the draft plans and provide feedback by Wednesday 15 December at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/new-dandenong-oasis-consultation

Preparing for climate change and greening our city



After extensive community consultation, Council has adopted the *Urban Forest Strategy 2021–28* and the *Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy 2021–28*.

Both strategies received strong support from the community with key recommendations endorsed to holistically tackle climate change and to increase the tree canopy coverage in Greater Dandenong.

The *Urban Forest Strategy and Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy* complement the existing *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018–2028* to provide the strategic framework for delivery of Council's vision for a healthy, green and resilient urban forest that is well managed, protected and provides benefits to the community.

Increasing the number of shade trees in the city will help cool our neighbourhoods, make our outdoor spaces more enjoyable and will have a positive impact on climate change.

Benefits of planting more trees include shade provision, improved streetscape amenity, a reduction in air pollution and increased habitat for wildlife.

Council declared a *Climate and Ecological Emergency* in January 2020.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement/draft-urban-forest-strategy-and-greening-our-neighbourhoods-strategy

Working towards our sustainable future

Our Council's vision is to become one of Australia's most sustainable cities by 2030. A target has been set to achieve net zero carbon emissions from our operation's energy use by 2025, with a broader municipal target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Achieving our sustainability targets require joint actions by both Council and the community. Some of the ways that Council is playing its role can be seen through the following initiatives.

Renewable power purchasing agreement

We are one step closer to green and clean energy due to our participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO). Council collaborated with other local governments to use our combined purchasing power to source 100% of our electricity needs from Victorian wind farms. These clean renewable electricity sources are good for the environment and lower our energy bills.

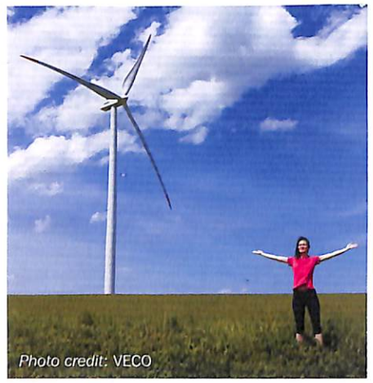


Photo credit: VECO

This renewable wind energy will from 1 January 2022 be powering Council's buildings, libraries, sporting facilities and streetlights. For more information visit veco.org.au.

Sustainable new buildings

Council's *Sustainable Buildings Policy* ensures we deliver sustainable buildings that are comfortable to work in, have lower operating costs and help reduce carbon emissions, both during construction and operation. The Springvale Community Hub was recently accredited a 6 Star GreenStar Building rating, representing 'world leadership' in environmentally sustainable building practices.

Solar energy powering our buildings

Council has solar panels installed across our buildings, with solar power capacity of more than 600kw. Solar panels have been installed at the Dandenong Civic Centre, Springvale Town Hall, Springvale Community Hub, Council's Dandenong Operations Centre, and the Dandenong Market.

Greening Greater Dandenong

Increasing the tree canopy cover of Greater Dandenong, while helping to reduce the impacts of higher urban temperatures, is one of the best and cheapest ways to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Council is working to enhance the local urban forest to create a cooler, greener city that benefits our community's health and wellbeing.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/sustainability



Waste Wise Christmas

On average at Christmas time, waste ending up in landfill increases by 30 per cent.

Here are some fun ideas to help you have your most sustainable festive season yet.



Try your hand at some home-made decorations. You could collect and decorate pine cones, gumtree branches, or adorn your space with edible decorations like strings of popcorn, candy canes and cookies. Indoor plants can be turned into a Christmas tree, with a few decorations or fairy lights. Instead of buying new decorations, swap them with your family or friends.

Each year, three out of 10 Australians expect to receive a gift that they will never wear or use. When giving gifts, consider buying second-hand ones from an opportunity shop or charity store.

You can also donate to a charity as a gift for your loved one. There's plenty of unique ideas, like buying schoolbooks for disadvantaged kids, sponsoring a koala or planting a tree. You can also give an experience gift, such as a cooking class or Drum Theatre voucher. You can also make a home cooked meal. Kids paintings and drawings make for excellent wrapping paper or cards, or try wrapping gifts in a scarf or tea towel. Wrapping paper can go into your yellow lid recycling bin.

To make your festive food more sustainable, shop at local small businesses or head to your closest market. Try to avoid disposable cutlery and plates where you can. Any leftover food waste can go into your green lid food and garden waste bin. Fruit and vegetable scraps can also be home composted, along with napkins and paper towel. Food scraps must be placed loosely into your food and garden waste bin, so remove any packaging. Food and garden waste is collected from your green lid bin and taken to a local composting facility, turning your waste into nutrient rich compost that is used by our Victorian farmers.

You can place all rigid plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, steel cans, aluminium cans, foil and trays, and paper and cardboard into your yellow lid recycling bin.

All recycling must be placed loosely into your recycling bin – no plastic bags of any kind are allowed.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste



Home compost rebate scheme

Would you like to create your own compost for your garden?

To support residents wanting to home compost, Council will be providing discounted compost bins and worm farms to residents.

From mid-January residents will be able to buy discounted compost bins, worm farms or Bokashi bins and other composting equipment through a Council rebate scheme.

One rebate will be available per Greater Dandenong household per financial year.

Home composting is another option to help reduce food waste going to landfill and to complement the existing green lid food and garden waste bin service Council provides.

Approximately 50 per cent of the average garbage bin in Greater Dandenong is made up of food and garden waste.

Composting is easy to do, prevents the wasteful transport of food scraps to landfill and creates great soil for your garden.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options/compost-bins-and-worm-farms

Enjoy your library this summer



Our Seed Library

The beginning of summer will see more seasonal seed varieties added to the Greater Dandenong Seed Library. Members can collect, plant and enjoy rainbow carrots, cherry tomatoes, chives, coriander and green beans.

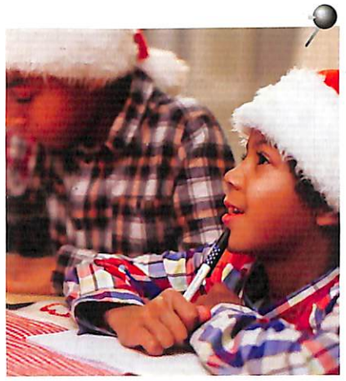
The Seed Library is free to join and members can collect four free seed packets a season from the Springvale Community Hub. At the end of the season, members are encouraged to collect and return seeds from their garden to be enjoyed by other members.

To register for the Seed Library, and to find lots of resources to help you grow your own edible garden visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seedlibrary

Libraries After Dark Summer Series

Libraries After Dark continues across Dandenong and Springvale libraries this summer with both branches open until 10pm. Join in on jewellery making using recycled materials, flower crafting, arts and crafts sessions, games nights, or just pop in for free cuppa or a snack and make some new friends.





Summer School Holiday Program

An exciting new range of free school holiday workshops and activities are available for primary aged children and our youth this summer.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson

BIG Summer Read

Your favourite summer reading program, the Summer Reading Club, is returning in 2021–2022 rebranded as a Victorian state-wide initiative, the BIG Summer Read.

Join the challenge again this summer and take part in fun competitions and activities for your chance to win some amazing prizes!

The program encourages young readers to discover stories as they explore and connect with a range of interactive activities available in our libraries and online.

The BIG Summer Read is part of our Libraries Change Lives Campaign which aims to raise awareness of the ways in which libraries have a positive effect on the community.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/big-summer-read

What's on at Drum Theatre

I'll Be Home for Christmas with Rhonda Burchmore

Thursday 9 December, 10.30am

Australia's leading lady of musical theatre, Rhonda Burchmore will bring you a Christmas show full of favourite tunes. Rhonda loves the Drum and can't wait to bring you her season's greetings, accompanied by her Musical Director, Mr Jack Earle. This performance is part of the Drum's Encore Program, all tickets include a complimentary morning tea and parking voucher.

Rhonda Burchmore



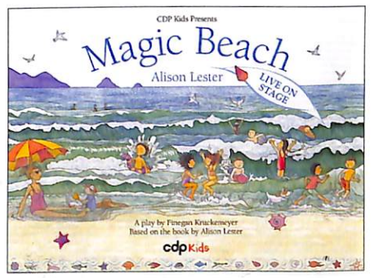


Give the experience of theatre at the Drum – purchase a **Christmas gift voucher**! Visit drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au or call 8571 1666.

Magic Beach

Thursday 27 January, 12pm and 2.30pm

Every year, an everyday family go on a beach holiday. This isn't just any beach – it's *Magic Beach*, where everything you can imagine becomes real. Alison Lester's classic book comes to life on stage for children aged 3–8 years and their adults. This new Australian adaptation from multi-award winning playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer is a celebration of the power of the imagination and the differences that make every child special.



Love In the Time of Corona

Saturday 26 February, 2pm and 7pm

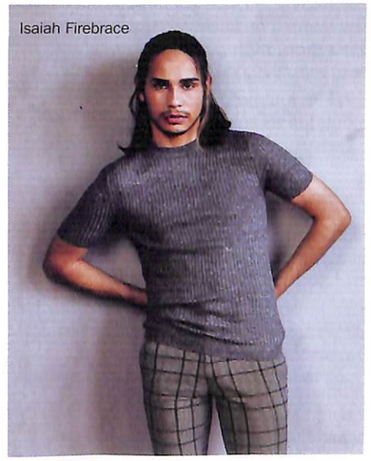
Panic buying, remote learning and love during the pandemic. *Love in the Time of Corona* is heart-warming and hilarious. Written locally and performed by a local youth cast, this innovative performance is produced in partnership with the Drum Theatre and highlights the clash of cultures and identities, while reflecting on the fragility of human emotion and our inter-connectedness through social media and technology.

Isaiah Firebrace – Spirit and Beyond Tour

Saturday 19 March, 8pm

Enjoy the incredible voice, songs, story and spirit of Isaiah Firebrace and his band. Share in the wonder of Isaiah's dream-fulfilling journey from rural small town to X-Factor winner to representing Australia in Eurovision 2017. Isaiah will also be conducting a workshop at the Drum Theatre to encourage children to follow their creative path with confidence.

Isaiah Firebrace



Book your tickets today at drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum/events

All COVID safe guidelines will be followed to ensure public safety for all events.

QUICK ARTS

New QuickArts video series launched

Arts in Greater Dandenong has launched a new online programming series, QuickArts.

The video series connects viewers with artists from across Australia via recorded tutorials, igniting imaginations and encouraging people to take part in creative arts any time from home.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online

Shop local and dine outdoors this summer



If people are the soul of any great local community, then small businesses are the heart.

Our small businesses have always made a difference in the City of Greater Dandenong by creating jobs, generating business for local suppliers, and providing donations to beloved charities, schools, events, and sporting clubs.

These uncertain times over the last 18 months have challenged our hospitality industry and impacted our local small businesses. It's important now more than ever before to shop and dine locally to support our resilient traders and help our community continue to flourish.

With restrictions easing, you will see local restaurants and cafes taking up the offer to create a vibrant outdoor dining space. As the delectable scents of restaurant cooking again start to fill the air throughout our municipality, you can now experience the joy of COVID safe outdoor dining across Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale.

Numerous locations throughout the city have outdoor dining options now available as Council received a State Government grant to support local businesses thrive again this summer.

We look forward to welcoming you back to enjoy our wonderful city and hope to see you out and about again soon.

Visit Dandenong Market

Dandenong Market is the best place to pick up the perfect gift these holidays. Why? Because you can find everything in one shop.

Check out the Market's Bazaar and browse the expansive treasures and trinkets at amazing prices. Every parent will love a thoughtful plant or flowers from one of the five thriving florists.

With postal services backlogged and overseas orders delayed, buying in store is the best way to ensure there'll be presents under the tree ready for Christmas day.

Dandenong Market's General Manager, Jennifer Hibbs said after a tough 18 months, the traders are excited to serve the community once again.

"There's a real buzz in the air. We know from our loyal customers how much they've been missed; our non-food traders really deserve a win this year and this is the perfect time to support them. Many of these businesses make 60% of the year's sales in the last three months of the year," said Jennifer.

Gift giving isn't the only reason to shop at Dandenong Market this Christmas. The Meat, Fish and Deli Hall is a one stop shop for Christmas day cooking. Pick up fresh seafood, pre-order the perfect roast chicken or treat the family to a traditional fruit cake from Melina's Bakery and Larder. Or, pop by one of the Market's many fresh fruit and vegetable stalls to stock up on the best tasting seasonal produce to share with loved ones.

Visit Dandenong Market this year for all your needs this festive season.

Special trading days and times are Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and Friday 24 December 7am–4pm. The Market will be closed on Christmas Day Saturday 25 and Boxing Day Sunday 26 December.

For more information visit dandenongmarket.com.au

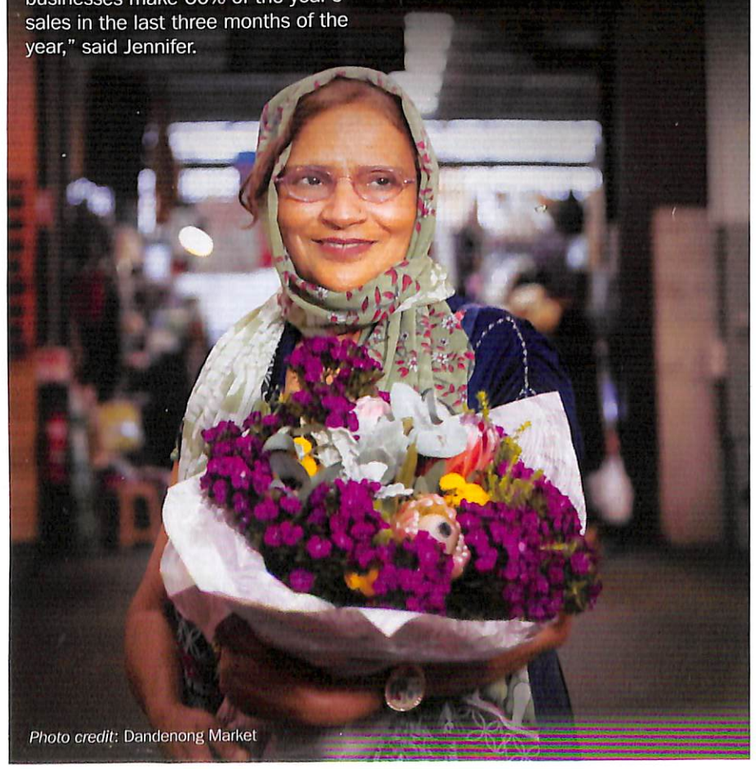


Photo credit: Dandenong Market

Support for local entrepreneurs

Fifteen local entrepreneurs have been supported by the Ignite Program to help kickstart their new businesses.

Relaunched in June 2021, the Ignite Program offered a range of workshops, masterclasses and mentoring opportunities for participants.

A supportive environment was created for connection, learning and interaction with other aspiring entrepreneurs.

Jeff Crosbie, the founder of Crosby & Marr Music Performance said "the program was a perfect opportunity for me to really focus on my business idea and to explore if I could turn my hobby (playing Irish music) into a viable business".

As an active Ignite participant, Jeff said he found the weekly workshops provided him with valuable new ideas for his business.

"The program facilitators and mentors, Marcus Barber and Nicolas Bolto, were very knowledgeable. The guest speakers were also inspiring as they reflected on their own start-up journeys and offered Ignite participants great tips and advice," said Jeff.



Ignite was supported by Nic Bolto's Entrepreneurship Facilitators Program and the Digital Solutions Program, facilitated by the Melbourne Innovation Centre.

Council congratulates the local entrepreneurs for completing their Ignite journey.

Sign up for the Talking Business e-newsletter to learn more about future Ignite Program opportunities at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/talking-business or contact the Economic Development Team at business@cgd.vic.gov.au or on 8571 1550.

Supporting our LGBTIQA+ community

Council is working towards improving the inclusion, recognition and community understanding of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex, queer, asexual and questioning (LGBTIQA+) residents and visitors.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/LGBTIQAplus

Here is a list of further resources to support the LGBTQIA+ community, their families and allies.

Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council at agmc.org.au

Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives at alga.org.au

National LGBTI Health Alliance at lgbthealth.org.au

QLife at qlife.org.au

Rainbow Families Victoria at pridecentre.org.au/resources/rainbow-families-victoria

Rainbow Health Victoria at rainbowhealthvic.org.au

Rainbow Network at rainbownetwork.com.au

Switchboard Victoria at switchboard.org.au

Thorne Harbour Health at thorneharbour.org

Transgender Victoria at transgendervictoria.com

Unite Alliance at youth.greaterdandenong.com

Victoria Police LGBTI Liaison Officers at police.vic.gov.au

Need help with public speaking? Join Toastmasters

Are you horrified by the thought of public speaking?

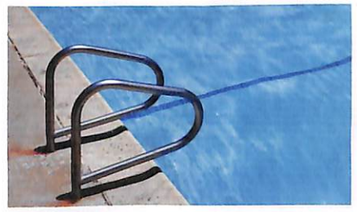
Do you lack the confidence to create a strong and convincing argument?

Maybe you need this skill for your career or you want to give an entertaining speech at a party? Toastmasters can help you improve your public speaking ability in a supportive environment. At Dandenong-Mulgrave Toastmasters people from all walks of life and backgrounds come together fortnightly to develop public speaking, communication, and leadership skills to enhance your professional and personal life.

Contact Asad on 0424 727 185 to join our next meeting.

For more information visit facebook.com/DandenongMulgraveToastmasters or dandenongmulgrave.toastmastersclubs.org

Pool and spa registrations



New laws have come into effect to improve swimming pool and spa safety in Victoria.

All property owners need to register their pool and spa with Council as new registration, inspection and certification requirements have been introduced.

For more information visit the Victorian Building Authority website at vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/safety-guides/swimming-pools

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Greater Dandenong Council News

Frederick Wachter Reserve Upgrade

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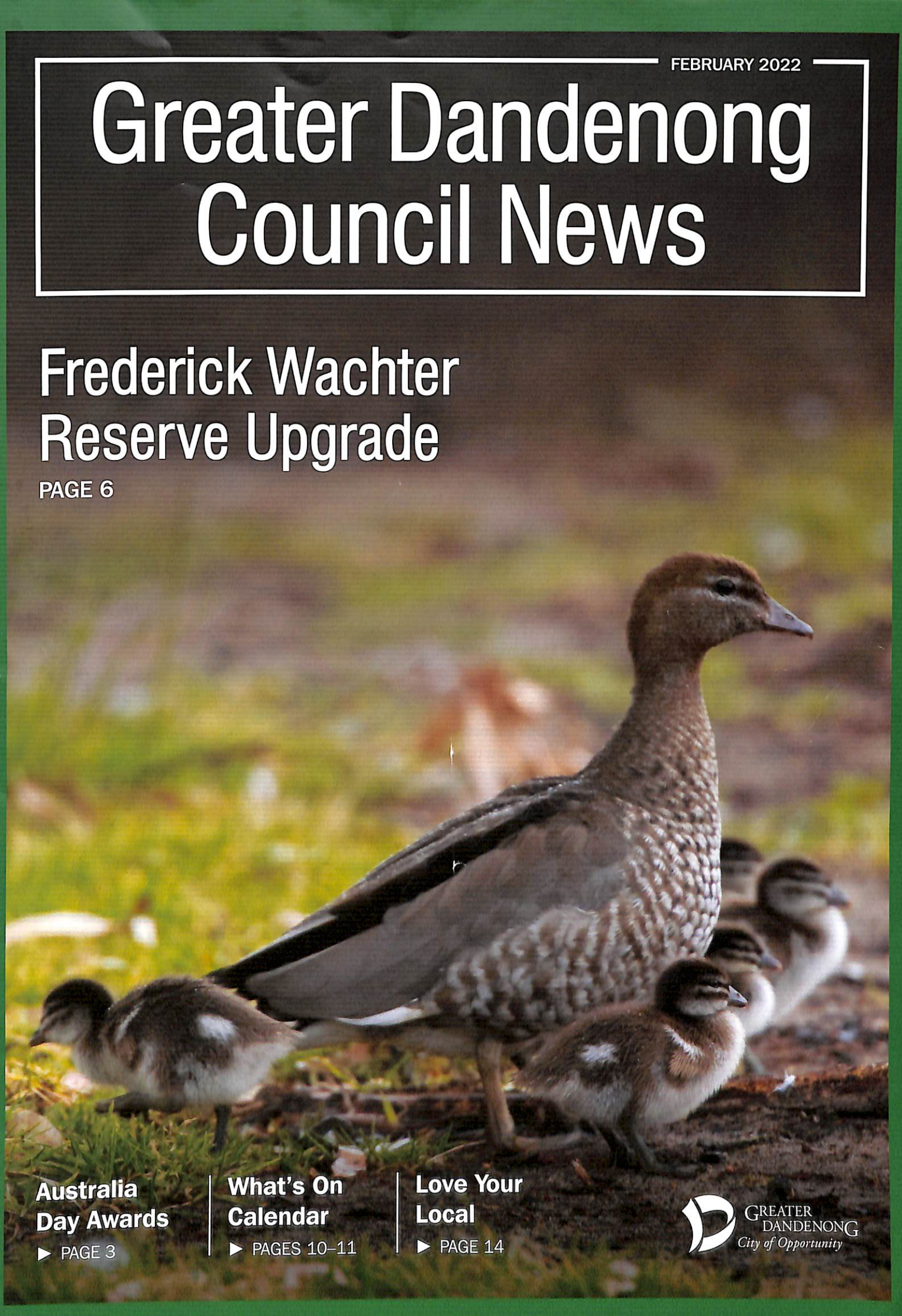

Australia Day Awards
▶ PAGE 3

What's On Calendar
▶ PAGES 10–11

Love Your Local
▶ PAGE 14

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's message



Welcome to the February 2022 edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

I hope you are enjoying a great start to the year this summer with your family and friends.

We are supporting our traders and doing all we can to rejuvenate our great municipality by hosting a variety of engaging festivals, events, activities and programs. Don't miss the return of our popular *What's On* calendar this month on pages 10–11 where there are lots of family-friendly, free and COVID safe events to enjoy.

Improvements around our municipality continue and we would love to hear your thoughts on what we have planned, so be sure to have your say via our website.

We'd like to congratulate our Australia Day Award winners, see page 3; and turn to page 6 to see how the Springvale Boulevard is coming along and upgrades to Frederick Wachter Reserve in Keysborough.

Valentine's Day is on 14 February so enjoy reading about how you can share the love by shopping local on page 14.

Enjoy reading all our great city has to offer this month. Stay safe and remain kind to one another.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti



My City

We reflected on all we had achieved and endured in 2021 and welcomed the new year with family-friendly fireworks at Dandenong Park on New Year's Eve. It was wonderful to see our community celebrating and enjoying our roving performers and musical entertainment. I hope 2022 has started off well for you and your family.

Photographer: Nydane Reth

Acknowledgement
We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to Climate, Culture and Country.

Front Cover: Ducks at Frederick Wachter Reserve, Keysborough.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Australia Day Awards

Greater Dandenong Winners

Citizen of the Year – Amanda Meehan

Amanda Meehan selflessly helps children and families in countless ways via Surrogacy Australia, both as a surrogate and an advocate. She has devoted much of her time to giving back to her community with her involvement at the Darren Reserve Kindergarten and the Keysborough Cricket Club.

Young Leader of the Year – Alice Ho

Alice Ho voluntarily performs leadership, support and advocacy roles for a number of local and national community groups, particularly focusing on the health and wellbeing of young people. She has also volunteered her time to help those in need during COVID delivering food and other necessary items, all while continuing her studies and working her many jobs.

Volunteer of the Year – Korb Sao

Korb Sao is a well-respected and innovative community leader and provides important health information to the Cambodian Diaspora throughout the municipality and beyond through his work with SK Media. He is also an active volunteer and contributor to many local charities.

Community Group of the Year – South East Community Links

South East Community Links (SECL) has been providing practical and tangible support to new arrivals and those in need in our community for over 50 years, serving clients with respect and dignity. Services include emergency relief, settlement services, housing, youth services, financial counselling, no interest loans, partnering with CALD community groups and offering support to families in crisis or subject to domestic violence.

Sustainability Award – Ian Kitchen

Ian Kitchen has been the president of the Greater Dandenong Environmental Group for 25 years and in that time has continuously advocated for the preservation and restoration of our natural environment.

Sportsperson of the Year (joint winners)

Chantel Brown

Chantel Brown at just 14 years old has advocated for junior football and increased female participation in her local sporting community. She is an outstanding sportsperson who encourages her teammates and opposition, both on and off the field, to take the initiative to connect with children in the community.

Knowles Tivendale

Knowles Tivendale initiated the Dandenong Park Parkrun group in 2019–20 and has tirelessly worked to keep it going throughout the COVID pandemic when restrictions allowed. He was also an integral part of the inaugural Australia Day Make Your Move Fun Run at the beginning of 2021.

Corporate Citizen of the Year – James Sturgess

James Sturgess has been an advocate for the Dandenong area for more than two decades. He has been a key stakeholder in the revitalisation of Dandenong, with his goal to look out for the wellbeing and economic health of the community, both for residents and businesses, and particularly for those in need.

Corporate Citizen of the Year Special Commendation – Byron of Byron's Convenience Store

Living Treasures (joint winners)

Natalie Irvine

Natalie Irvine has volunteered at Palliative Care South East (PCSE) for 18 years and has supported over 25 clients with a life-limiting illness as a companion volunteer. She has also provided support in PCSE's bereavement program by assisting with the memorial services, singing in the choir, reading poems or verses, taking registrations and providing support to those in need.

Patricia Ockwell

Patricia Ockwell is a proud Wurundjeri Elder who has served her community through her work in hostels, housing and the justice system. Now in her 80s, Pat's passion and commitment for her community is undiminished and she continues to work tirelessly for fairness, integrity and reconciliation.

Joe Rechichi

Joe Rechichi is a devoted volunteer with the Springvale Benevolent Society, as he does not want struggling families to go without a meal, having known what it was like himself. Joe has also been the Public Officer for the Springvale Italian Senior Citizens Club for over 30 years. Prior to the COVID pandemic, he attended seminars on health and community issues to relay 'information' to the elderly citizens.

Councillor Contacts



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Cr Jim Memeti
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jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward – Deputy Mayor
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Cleeland Ward
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angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
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Keysborough Ward
Cr Tim Dark
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tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au



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Noble Park Ward
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Noble Park North Ward
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Springvale Central Ward
Cr Richard Lim OAM
0435 627 164
richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY

MONDAY 28 FEBRUARY

Council meetings are usually held in the Council chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm, or online during COVID restrictions.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Monday 14 February 2022**
- **Monday 28 February 2022.**

You can ask questions during Public Question Time. You can also watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

FEBRUARY

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made. Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

To check the agenda and to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

Emergency relief for those in need



Greater Dandenong City Council's Emergency Management team and their volunteers have been working tirelessly seven days a week over many months to provide residents isolating due to COVID with emergency food relief packages.

Boxes packed with pantry staples and fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered free of charge to support those who have received a positive COVID test result or who are deemed a close contact and are financially disadvantaged or have no support network.

Families can also be provided with over the counter pain relief medication, baby formula and nappies.

Volunteers, including Council staff, have visited over 416 households across the municipality since August 2021.

If you are in urgent need of supplies and don't have a support network who can help you, please contact the Victorian Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398, and select Option 4, translation services are also available.

Cr Lana Formoso

► Noble Park North Ward

As a lifelong resident of Greater Dandenong, I have been passionate about improving the quality of our city, long before even joining Council. In the last 12 months, I have made 150 customer service reports to Council to seek improvements for our residents.

This year we look to positive change and forward thinking, after what has been an incredibly challenging couple of years with the COVID pandemic.

It's time to bring health and wellbeing to the forefront and foster healthy living habits by getting active. Council's *Make Your Move* strategy aims to increase community sport participation in our municipality, as we are currently ranked the lowest in Victoria. The prevalence of type 2 diabetes is also 36 per cent higher in our city compared to the Victorian average of nine per cent. So, it is essential that we provide encouragement and spaces for our residents to start leading more active lifestyles.

As a Councillor representative on the South East Leisure Board, I am looking forward to working with the team on the development of the new Dandenong Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre. The centre will replace the existing Dandenong Oasis to create an innovative health and education precinct for the south east.

In the Noble Park North ward, planning is underway to upgrade Barry J Powell Reserve with a masterplan being drafted based on community feedback. More exciting developments will unfold in the area as the year progresses.



If you want to get in touch with me email lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 530 536

Cr Loi Truong

► Springvale South Ward

With summer winding down, I encourage our residents to venture outside and enjoy the wonderful parks and recreational facilities across our city.

Burden Park in Springvale South continues to be redeveloped as we upgrade the existing six tennis courts to ensure compliance with Tennis Australia standards.

The Springvale Community Hub has also come alive since the easing of COVID restrictions. The Hub is successfully hosting outdoor movie screenings, clothing and toy swaps and a range of fun, free activities.

The Springvale Library has also welcomed many new visitors who are making the most of their free membership by accessing a wide range of innovative, interactive resources.

New traffic lights will be installed at the Harold Road and Corrigan Road intersection. This will also support improved traffic flow on to Springvale Road.

To remain open, it is important to keep COVID safe, so please stay home if you are unwell and ensure you keep getting tested if you experience any COVID-like symptoms.

I trust 2022 has started off well for you and your family. I wish you all a very happy and safe Lunar New Year too.



You can reach me at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or contact me on 0466 004 618.

Have your say

We value the ideas and opinions of our community and want you to be a part of the planning and decision-making process. Our services are enhanced when you tell us what you think and what you need.

Council regularly seeks community feedback on a range of projects and plans via online consultations, surveys, workshops, focus groups and advisory committees.

Visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say** for more information on how to have your voice heard.

Improvements to Frederick Wachter Reserve



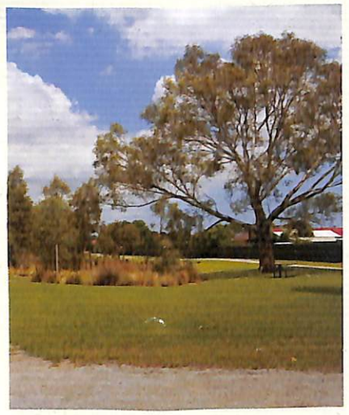
Frederick Wachter Reserve on Kingsclere Avenue in Keysborough will see some major improvements over the coming year, with stage 1 of the new playground to begin and further landscape improvements to the wetland area to occur.

The reserve's wetland is home to many wonderful bird species and has been host to a brood of ducklings since late 2021.

Over the coming months, the wetland will see the construction of a boardwalk and 22,000 trees and plants planted to increase the tree canopy coverage across the park and enhance the habitat for native wildlife.

Located near the existing playground at the southern end of the park, the new playground will provide a diverse environment with a range of play equipment suitable for all age groups to enjoy.

The new playground is based on a market garden and wetland theme and will include a hexagon swing with five swings, a giant basket swing, an accessible spinner, a junior play area with monkey bars and cubby play, and two in-ground trampolines.



Other new additions to the playground will include shade sails, picnic tables and seating areas, accessible paths, landscaping and a grassy mound with shade trees to create a more inviting space for socialising and enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

The existing playground will be retained until future stages of the new playground are funded.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/frederick-wachter-reserve-playground-upgrade

Springvale Boulevard update



The Springvale Boulevard project is still underway, with footpath and road upgrades on Springvale Road between Balmoral Avenue and Windsor Avenue.

Springvale's community and visitors will soon have an improved pedestrian experience with new paving and lighting to enhance local safety.

During construction some parking bays along Springvale Road will be temporarily unavailable and will be reinstated when safe to do so. In the meantime, parking will be available at 'Number 8' Balmoral multi-deck car park and the Warwick Avenue car parks.

While works progress in the area, it is more important than ever to support traders who line the Springvale Boulevard. Stores are still open during normal trading hours.

Council thanks traders for their understanding during this period of construction and the community for continuing to shop locally despite disruptions.

Please contact the MACA Infrastructure team on 1300 348 040 or 8373 4040 for more information on construction works.

For any general enquiries about the project, please email SpringvaleBoulevard@cgd.vic.gov.au

Do you have a little one in nappies?

Please complete this survey **survey.zohopublic.com.au/zs/iwBtuF** or scan this QR code to let us know how you decide which nappy to use for your child.

Scan this QR code

Your input will support research on a reusable nappy program that aims to reduce household waste that ends up in landfill.

With your help, we can gain valuable insights into how Council can better support residents to make environmentally-friendly choices.

If you would like to provide more information, you can also take part in an interview with the project team, contact Council's Waste team on 8571 1000.

This project is supported by the Recycling Victoria Councils Fund, delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government.



Declutter your home



Now the festive season is over, it is a great opportunity to declutter your home and give your larger and smaller unwanted household items a new lease on life to help reduce landfill.

Saturday 26 February – Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day



Drop off your **larger** unwanted electronic and household goods, i.e. TVs and computers, appliances, whitegoods, furniture, mattresses and bicycles, at a free collection service at Greaves Reserve, 2–20 Bennet Street, Dandenong, from 8am–1pm on Saturday 26 February.

The Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day will ensure larger unwanted items in good condition do not end up in landfill. The last event held in November resulted in 20,000kgs of items being either recycled, or recovered by charity groups.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said: "In 2021, residents saved over 70,000kgs of material from landfill via a range of reuse and recycling Council events and community programs."

Residents who take part in the drop off day can bring up to 15 items by car or trailer.

All COVID safe guidelines will be followed to ensure public safety. Residents are to remain in their vehicles during the drop off process.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day

Tuesday 8–Saturday 19 March – Homecycle



Reduce landfill with this free one-off kerbside collection and recycle your **smaller** unwanted goods that are too good to throw out.



Homecycle provides residents with a convenient way to recycle or donate smaller unwanted items such as clothes, linen, homewares, toys, games, sports equipment and small electrical items.

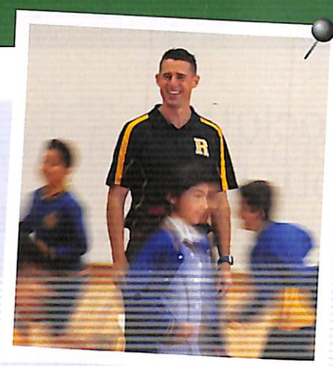
Residents can conveniently place these items into their kerbside yellow lid recycling bin the day after the normal recycling collection day. The items will be collected and passed on to charities.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle



Encouraging active families

This month, the *Active Families* six-week physical and wellness program begins in four local primary schools across our city at St Anthony's Primary School, Dandenong West Primary School, Rosewood Downs Primary School and Woorana Park Primary School.



Rosewood Downs Primary School Principal Julian Growcott

Facilitated by the Bluearth Foundation, the program aims to increase physical literacy in our migrant and refugee families, while encouraging children to have fun, build social connections, learn resilience and empathy, develop new skills, and ultimately inspire a commitment for children to lead a healthy and active life.

Rosewood Downs Primary School Principal, Julian Growcott, hopes the Active Families program will help build a return to more healthy habits after lockdowns and help families grow their own connections to the school and wider community.

"As with many Greater Dandenong schools, we have a diverse and multicultural school community.

Sometimes, it is hard for families within our community to engage with sports, health and fitness opportunities due to language, cultural, geographical or simply practical reasons. A health and fitness program that is accessible and familiar to our multicultural families will certainly help to remove some of these barriers to participation.

"Perhaps the best outcome I would like to see from this program will be to improve the health, fitness and general wellbeing of our families. This will not just be through exercise, which is critically important for all of us, but through building social connections through participation in sports and games. This program will help children participate and engage more positively with the school," Julian said.

Buy or borrow our 25th anniversary book

A book outlining the 25-year history of Greater Dandenong, written by Martin Curtis, has been released and is now available to purchase and borrow from Springvale and Dandenong Libraries.

City of Opportunity – The Making of the City of Greater Dandenong was commissioned by Council and recommended by the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee to reflect on the city's most defining moments since the amalgamations of Springvale and Dandenong Councils in 1994.

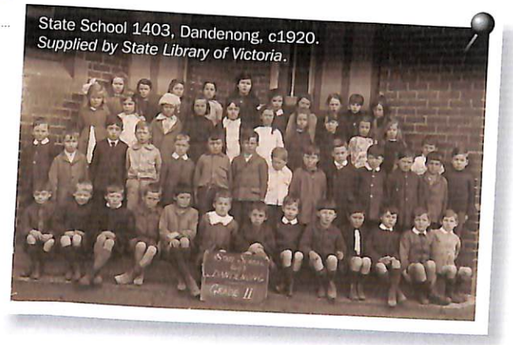
Proceeds from book sales will be distributed to Dandenong and District and Springvale and District Historical Societies to support their ongoing work to capture our municipality's history.

To purchase your copy contact the Cultural Heritage team at cgdlibraries@cgd.vic.gov.au or 1300 630 920.

Greater Dandenong's educational history on show

A free exhibition *Reading, Writing and Arithmetic: Early Education in the City of Greater Dandenong* is on display at Laurel Lodge, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, until 1 March and delves into the beginnings of education in our local area from the 1800s up until the present day.

Open from Tuesday to Friday, 10am–4pm, the exhibition features Laurel Lodge as a private college and the history of State Schools no. 1403 (Dandenong) and 1466 (Keysborough), as well as one of Dandenong's most famous students, Oscar Asche.



State School 1403, Dandenong, c1920. Supplied by State Library of Victoria.

During the mid-19th century, children did not have to attend school, and if they did, their parents could withdraw them at any time, for any reason. Education was a luxury that poorer families could not afford.

Schools were often only one room, with children of all ages taught together by repetition. Punishment was a common occurrence, with the cane being used on both boys and girls.

The arrival of the *Education Act 1872 (Victoria)* brought in free education and mandated all children from 6-15 years to attend school. The Act stated that children were to be educated in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography and drill. Girls were also taught sewing and needlework.

Victoria was the first colony in Australia, and one of the first in the world, to introduce free compulsory and secular education for children.

For further information email culturalheritage@cgd.vic.gov.au or call 8571 1000.



Our Youth Leaders with Councillors

Calling all youth

Would you like to give back to your community and interact with likeminded youth? Then register to join one of our Youth and Family Services' amazing programs tailored to all interests and learning styles.

FReeZA Youth Committee

The FReeZA Youth Committee welcomes people aged 12–25 years to join their weekly Thursday program from 4.30pm–6.30pm during the school term. The committee plans and delivers local youth events and festivals with training and workshops provided for young people to build their skills in event and stage management (including design, sound tech, MC, etc.). FReeZA is a Victorian Government initiative.

Holiday Activities Committee

The Holiday Activities Committee is tailored to people aged 12–16 years and introduces participants to foundational leadership, communication and teamwork skills. Participants then consolidate their learnings and newfound skills to peer lead youth activities during the school holidays. The program is delivered on Monday afternoons from 4.30pm–6.30pm during the school term.

IntroSwim

The IntroSwim program provides people aged 16–25 years with the opportunity to learn basic swimming and water safety skills. The IntroSwim program begins on 7 February.

Young Leaders

Make a positive impact by planning and delivering community projects and developing leadership skills when you join the 16-week Young Leaders program. Commencing on 26 April, the weekly program runs on Tuesday afternoons for two hours for youth aged 16–25 years.

Register at youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/ or contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for further information.

Swapping for sustainability

Wanting to shop more consciously? Then attend the Springvale Community Hub clothes and toys swap events this year.

Shoppers can rest assured that all items are inspected by volunteers to make sure only quality items make it to the racks and tables for swapping.

Clothes and toys swap event coordinator Zoë Mohl said she was determined to make the event a permanent fixture in the community after attending a clothing swap meet at Council's Forever Fest event in 2021.

"The free clothing swap event is more than just a place to trade items amongst community members. It's about making meaningful connections with neighbours, including the kids who have a blast coming together to play while parents browse the racks.

"I hope it will encourage our community to consider other ways they could be living a bit cleaner and greener too. Swapping clothes is just the beginning," Ms Mohl said.

Proof of a COVID vaccination or exemption will be required upon entry to the Springvale Community Hub.

Upcoming clothes and toys swap dates:

- Saturday 19 February
- Saturday 19 March
- Saturday 9 April (Sustainability Festival).

Immunisation sessions – February 2022

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

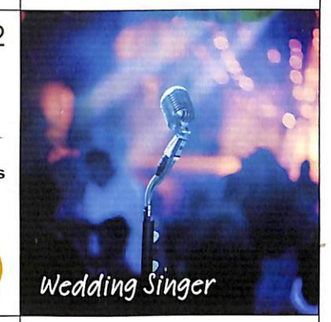
The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

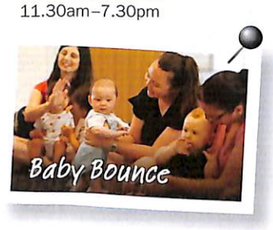
Bookings are required for your child's immunisations.

Date	Location
Thursday 3 February	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Thursday 10 February	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Wednesday 16 February	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 22 February	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre,18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 26 February	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Monday 28 February	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

What's On February 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Subject to COVID restrictions, the following events and opportunities are scheduled for February. Please check our website and social media for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.		2 ► WORLD WETLANDS DAY	3 ► **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am	4	5 ► **BIG Summer Read Finale** Dandenong Library 2pm	6 ► **StoryWalk** Springvale Community Hub 5pm
7 ► **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am		9 ► **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	10 ► **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ► **Wedding Singer** Drum Theatre 7.30pm	11 ► **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ► **Wedding Singer** Drum Theatre 7.30pm	12 ► **Open Air Movies Launch** *Up* Springvale Community Hub 4pm ► **Think Tank – Digging Dinosaurs** Dandenong Library 3pm–4pm ► **Wedding Singer** Drum Theatre 2pm and 7.30pm	
14 ► **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ► **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 225 Lonsdale Street 7pm		16 ► **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	17 ► **Gone with the Wind** Drum Theatre 10.30am ► **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ► **World Fare Night Market** Dandenong Market 4.30pm–9pm	18 ► **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ► **Open Air Movies** *Fantastic Mr Fox* Springvale Community Hub 7pm	19 ► **Think Tank – Digging Dinosaurs** Springvale Library 3pm–4pm ► **Clothes and Toys Swap** Springvale Community Hub 1pm–3pm	20 ► **Afghan Community Welcome Event** Harmony Square, Dandenong 11am–4pm
21 ► **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am	22	23 ► **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am ► **SEBN Charity Golf Day** Victoria Golf Course 11.30am–7.30pm	24 ► **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ► **The DandEreaders online book club** 2pm ► **Young People Leading Healthier Communities workshop** Springvale Library 4.30pm–6.30pm ► **World Fare Night Market** Dandenong Market 4.30pm–9pm	25 ► **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ► **Open Air Movies** *Big* Springvale Community Hub 7pm	26 ► **Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day** Greaves Reserve 2–20 Bennet Street, Dandenong 8am–1pm	**Drum Theatre** We are thrilled to welcome you back to the beautiful Drum Theatre for Season 2022. Reconnect with friends and family to share in the stories, music and laughter that can be found at our exceptional events. This season experience a fabulous range of live performances from national touring companies to home-grown ensembles. We appreciate your continued support of the Drum and the local arts industry.
28 ► **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street 7pm	**Until 1 March** ► ***Reading, Writing and Arithmetic: Early Education in the City of Greater Dandenong* exhibition** Laurel Lodge, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens Tuesday–Friday, 10am–4pm	**Save the Date** ► **Saturday 5 March** Community Celebration Springvale Community Hub 4pm–7pm Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more details	**Every Thursday** ► **Libraries After Dark** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 7.30pm every Thursday	**Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre to officially open on 10 February at 12pm	► **Thursday 10 February–Friday 25 March** *JALSA: Celebration of South Asian women artists* exhibition Walker Street Gallery and Art Centre – Gallery One Tuesday–Friday, 12pm to 4pm	*Lineage and Line* exhibition Walker Street Gallery and Art Centre – Gallery Two Tuesday–Friday, 12pm to 4pm Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts



Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Ph: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council news visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be fully met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

Pet registrations due in April



Did you know you can register your pet online? Pet registrations are due by 10 April annually and can be done so via the "renew your pet registration" menu on our website.

You can also nominate to receive an eNotice so your annual renewal notice is emailed straight to your nominated inbox rather than receiving a letter in the mail.

If your pet is lost and gets taken to a local vet practice, pound or shelter, legislation prohibits it being reunited with the owner unless the Council registration is current. Pet registration is not the same as microchip identification.

Around 36 per cent of all stray dogs are returned directly to the owner, however unregistered pets and out of date contact information on microchip records unfortunately result in too many stray animals being impounded.

If a Council ranger picks up an animal that is currently registered, all efforts are made to locate the owner through microchip records or tags. If the owner can be found the animal will be returned without impounding.

Failure to register or renew the registration of a pet carries a penalty of over $360, so register your pet to keep them safe.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pet-registration for more information.



Former Mayor, Cr Angela Long presents a donation to the Kindness Community.

Giving back to the community

The Kindness Community and Springvale Benevolent Society both received a $7000 donation from Council due to the cancellation of the annual Mayoral Charity event.

Former Mayor, Cr Angela Long, said the $14,000 of unspent funds for staging the event was instead given to these two deserving charities.

The Kindness Community provides a free meal service for disadvantaged people in Greater Dandenong every Tuesday.

Food parcels are prepared and delivered regularly throughout the community by the Springvale Benevolent Society's team of volunteers who provide crisis care for those in need.

Cr Long and her husband Barry also donated $600 to the Greater Dandenong State Emergency Service from their own funds. This donation was raised by the sale of scrap aluminium, saving over half a tonne of aluminium waste going to landfill.

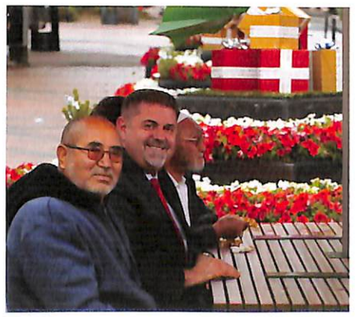
Relax in Palm Plaza

Did you know there are now new tables, benches and umbrellas in Dandenong's central activity centre?

Free and comfortable places to sit are now available in Palm Plaza so you can connect with others in a relaxing environment.

Palm Plaza is Dandenong's' most occupied public space, which is not surprising given its prime location between the shopping centre and Dandenong Market.

Synthetic grass cubes also add a playful touch to the space and are movable. The new comfortable furniture is also surrounded by seasonal floral displays.



Mayor Jim Memeti enjoying the new Palm Plaza furniture.

The new furniture was selected for its durability and made in Australia. The umbrellas are proudly manufactured in Dandenong.

FREE open air movies return to Springvale

Enjoy watching movies under the stars again on weekends from February to April at Springvale Community Hub. The program launches with a special afternoon screening of the popular film *Up* at 4pm on Saturday 12 February.

Open air movies will then run for free every Friday night at 7pm from 18 February until 8 April at the Hub.

A diverse range of movies will be shown over the next few months including classic children's films, family favourites from the 80s, action, adventure and comedy films, and anime including the much-loved *Princess Mononoke*.

Special movie screenings will also be presented to celebrate International Women's Day in March and Greater Dandenong's Sustainability Festival in April.



Bring along a picnic and your own rug or chair to enjoy the movies outdoors again with friends and family.

All COVID safe guidelines will be followed to ensure public safety.

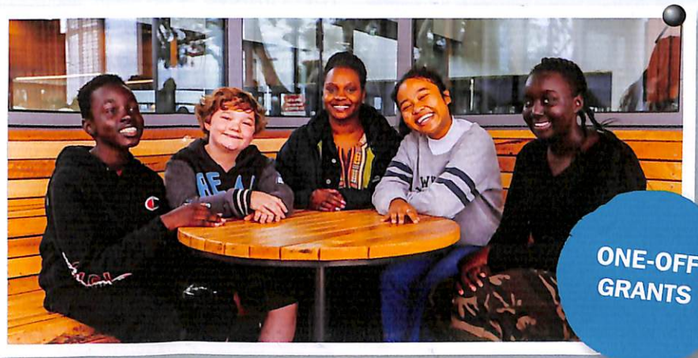
For more information and to register visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies

Council Grants and Funding

Council offers a range of one-off and multi-year grant and funding opportunities for community groups and organisations to deliver community projects, services, and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community.

A Council grant assisted the Cornerstone Connection Centre to deliver a weekly creative writing group for people who experience homelessness, are seeking asylum, or are struggling with addiction and mental health concerns.

Cornerstone CEO, Naomi Paterson said the funds have aided their program to expand so they can support community members in need beyond the scope of their usual clientele.



"One of our community members came along thinking that we had a breakfast program, not realising that it was the morning of the creative writing program. He joined in, telling us it is not something he would normally think to participate in.

"He found the creative outlet and connection with other community members in such a safe and supportive environment a great encouragement, and led to him feeling supported and much less isolated," Naomi said.

Multi-year funding opportunities for large community service projects and sponsorship for events and activities are now open and close on Monday 28 February.

Single-year funding of up to $10,000 for one-off projects for community groups and organisations open on Monday 7 February and close on Monday 14 March.

For more guidelines and information on grant rounds and to submit an application visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants.

DANDENONG MARKET
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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

greater Dandenong

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9701 3850 info@dandenongmarket.com.au

MARCH 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



Heritage Hill shines in Autumn

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Our Living Treasures
▶ PAGE 14

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls
Police/Fire/Ambulance 000

Street lighting faults/ non-operational
United Energy 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults/ non-operational 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection
WM Waste Management Services 9721 1915

Australian Animal Protection Society 9798 8415

RSPCA 9224 2222

Nurse on Call 1300 606 024

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's message



Welcome to the March 2022 edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This month we welcome the wonderful hues and colours of autumn. Speaking of colours, turn to page 3 to read about the new flora and fauna mural in central Dandenong and discover the beauty of local gem Heritage Hill.

Find out how you can contribute to a more sustainable future by heading to page 8.

Make the most of the twilight hours and visit the Springvale Community Hub to enjoy a free Open Air Movie session with your family and friends. Find out what other great events we have on in March on pages 10 and 11.

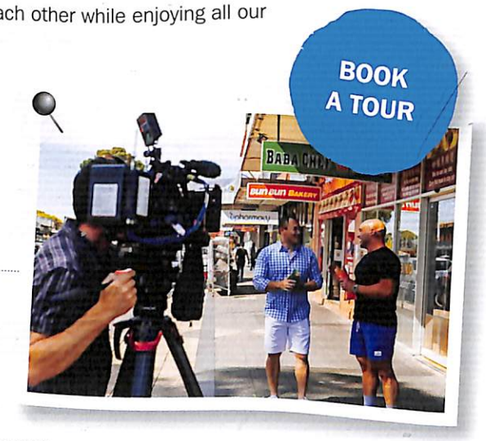
As we celebrate Cultural Diversity Week (March 21–28), we have much to be proud of as Australia's most culturally diverse community. May we continue to respect each other and reflect on the great contribution we all make to our inclusive and harmonious Greater Dandenong.

Stay safe and remain kind to each other while enjoying all our vibrant city has to offer.



Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

My City



Channel 9's popular travel and lifestyle TV show Postcards filmed a segment in Springvale recently to feature the suburb as one of the state's best food destinations.

Postcards presenter, chef and Providoor founder Shane Delia was hosted by the City of Greater Dandenong's Food and Cultural Ambassador Karl Lim as they visited the popular Springvale Market Square, Bun Bun Bakery and Golden Lake Cake and Roast.

Fresh and unique produce, cheap prices and friendly traders were presented by Karl as Shane and the Postcards crew enjoyed the vibrancy and cultural richness of Springvale.

Book a food and cultural tour to travel the world without a passport. Various tours are on offer throughout the year, including individual and group tours.

To book visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-tours

▶ **Afghan Bazaar Cultural Tour**
Dandenong
Thursday 24 March
6pm–8pm

Acknowledgement
We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to Climate, Culture and Country.

Front cover: Photo of Laurel Lodge, Heritage Hill, Dandenong by Hilton Stone.

MIX Paper from responsible sources FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.







A hidden gem

Positioned in the heart of Dandenong, the stunning Heritage Hill precinct is of great local historical and cultural significance. The precinct features three well preserved heritage buildings nestled within two acres of beautifully landscaped gardens.

This hidden gem is a peaceful green oasis, providing a calm space in the bustling suburb of Dandenong. The two mature Moreton Bay Fig trees create a shady canopy, perfect to sit under and relax with a picnic or a book. Another noteworthy tree on the grounds is the rare Queensland Kauri Pine, which also joins the Moreton Bay Fig trees on the National Register of Significant Trees.

Perched among the lush garden are the buildings Laurel Lodge (1869), Benga House (1936) and St James' Anglican Church (1864). They offer a glimpse into the everyday lives of prominent locals who lived in the region during the late nineteenth and early-to-mid twentieth centuries. The three buildings all have rich and fascinating histories that highlight Dandenong's transition from a small slab hut township into the bustling, diverse community centre we know today.

Laurel Lodge and Benga House offer opportunities for learning, participation and creative endeavours through tours, programs, exhibitions, and special events. The original staircase in Laurel Lodge sets the scene for vintage photos, whilst Benga House opens out onto a beautiful formal garden surrounded by roses, ornamental trees, and manicured lawns making it perfect for weddings or special events.

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong

For venue booking phone 8571 5340 or email bookings@cgd.vic.gov.au.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-venues/heritage-hill-museum-and-historic-gardens

New art transforms park

Established mural artist Hayden Dewar has created a large installation to transform the south facing wall of Pocket Park, between Palm Plaza and Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

The installation titled *Together* acknowledges and celebrates our First Nations People, local flora and fauna and the diversity of Greater Dandenong.

The artwork features two large creatures, the ringtail possum and a crow painted on a gum tree branch with a mythical creature called a solarquin. This creature sits at the centre of the work and represents the search for a harmonious existence with nature and each other.

Hayden said: "the possum is one of the most recognisable native fauna species which has learnt to adapt to the urban environment. It will be rendered with many colours to represent the diversity of cultures and backgrounds that exist in Dandenong".

In 2020 Hayden also completed a painting in Noble Park called *Roots* which can be seen from the street and train.





For more information on Council's public art program visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/public-art

Councillor Contacts



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Yarraman Ward – Deputy Mayor
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Cleeland Ward
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angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
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bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward
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Keysborough South Ward
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rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward
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sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park North Ward
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0435 530 536
lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
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Springvale North Ward
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0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

TUESDAY	MONDAY
15 MARCH	28 MARCH

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held in the Council chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm, or online during COVID-19 restrictions.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Tuesday 15 March 2022**
- **Monday 28 March 2022.**

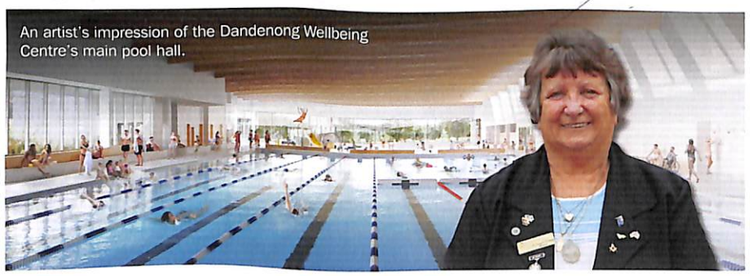
You can ask questions during Public Question Time. You can also watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made. Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

To check the agenda and to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

▸ Cleeland Ward

Cr Angela Long



An artist's impression of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre's main pool hall.

Greater Dandenong City Council will build a new aquatic and wellbeing centre to replace the Oasis swimming pool in J C Mills Reserve, Dandenong, within the Cleeland Ward.

The centre will include on the ground floor an eight lane, 50-metre pool which will have a boom so it can reduce to 25-metres, two warm water pools, a leisure pool, a learn to swim pool, spa, sauna, steam room, toilets and change rooms. Also on the ground floor will be an allied health area, community rooms, cafe, and kitchen. On the first floor will be a large gym, program rooms, toilets, and change rooms.

On the east side of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre planning is underway for new club rooms for hockey and soccer clubs to replace the old Maurie Jarvis pavilion.

The Oasis swimming pool will not be demolished until the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is opened to the public. This exciting major project is planned to start next year and be completed by 2025.

Another project I am advocating for is the Dandenong Community Hub which will be built near the Dandenong Market. Design work is underway on this project.

I encourage anyone that is eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Please ensure you have your first two doses and your booster soon; it is how we can best keep each other safe.

If you need to contact me, please do so on 0466 004 616 or angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Cr Bob Milkovic

▸ Dandenong North Ward

We have had a great start to the new year and Councillors are always excited to see new developments and improvements happening across the city and in their own wards. The Dandenong North ward is seeing ongoing upgrades to facilities and sites.

Council recently negotiated a new short-term deal with the Department of Transport to provide a limited number of new bus shelters within Greater Dandenong. The first of these has been delivered at a busy bus stop on Outlook Drive near Outlook Gardens, replacing an old shelter.

Over in Tirhatuan Park, stage 1 groundworks are underway to create a futsal and basketball court, along with a netball training area.

The community notification posters are installed on site, and the works are expected to be completed by the end of March, weather and schedule permitting.

The safety of our community is of the utmost importance as always. The full kerb, channel replacement and road resurfacing works along Kriegel Way and Outlook Drive are due to finish at the end of March. These road resurfacing and kerb replacements in the ward ensure that whether you're travelling on foot or in a vehicle, it will be a smooth ride.

If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters you can reach me at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.



Cr Rhonda Garad

▸ Keysborough South Ward

It is tremendous to see so many people enjoying the two new dog parks, since the opening of the new section along Villiers Road. The 90 trees that were planted last year, in and around the dog parks, are doing well and will soon provide greater shelter for dogs and their owners.

The old dog park is still in use until the work on the Keysborough Hub starts later in the year. Unfortunately, construction of the Hub has been delayed due to COVID-19 impacts, the Green Star accreditation process, and some changes within the architectural firm overseeing the project.

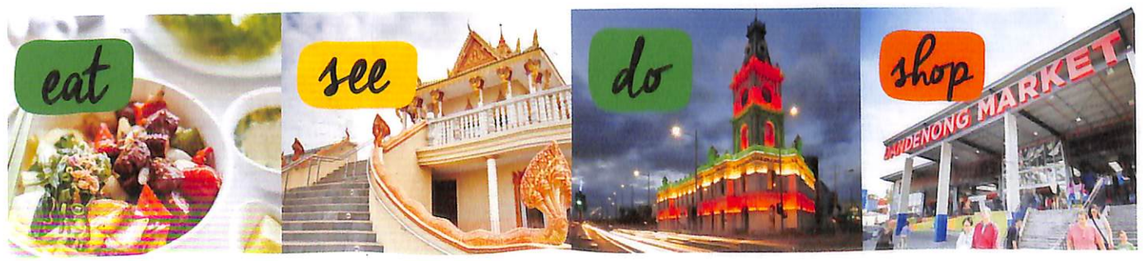
Work on the two public toilets at Westwood Boulevard and Picnic Park have commenced and will be completed very soon. These will be welcomed new amenities for users of the parks.

Further improvements to Westwood Boulevard have commenced with the upgrade of the sports and recreation area and the exciting redevelopment of the playground later in the year.

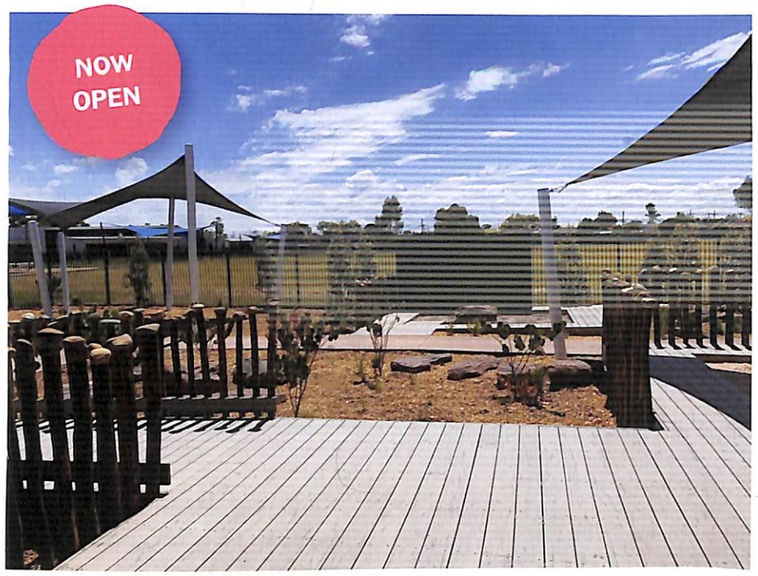
Finally, we have started a local group of volunteers to assist with planting native plants in nature strips. This will not only reduce the need for mowing but also increase insect life in Keysborough. If you would like to be part of the group or want to plant your nature strip, please get in touch with me.

You can phone me on 0435 107 584 or email rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au.





New kindergarten now open



Keysborough Primary School Kindergarten is now open.

Located at Keysborough Primary School, 31–53 Coomoora Road, Springvale South, this wonderful new facility was funded by the State Government through the Kindergartens on School Sites Program. The program is one of a number of infrastructure funds to support the rollout of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten.

The Bilbungra Kindergarten service has relocated to the new Keysborough Primary School Kindergarten site to expand its service delivery and to accommodate both three and four-year-old children attending two years of funded kindergarten.

Having the kindergarten and school together may help local children make a smooth transition from pre-school and reduce the number of drop-offs for



some parents with kindergarten and school-aged children.

For enrolments phone 8571 1817 or email council@cgd.vic.gov.au

For more information on kindergartens in Greater Dandenong visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten/kindergartens-greater-dandenong

Have your say

Council's *Complaints Policy* outlines the approach to providing a fair, transparent, and consistent process for managing complaints about a service, action, decision, or policy made by Council, Council staff and Council contractors.

To have your say on the policy's content visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement/complaints-policy-consultation



Traffic works in Springvale

Works have started to install traffic lights at the busy Springvale Road, Virginia Street and Newcomen Road intersection in Springvale.

The Victorian Government is investing $3.9 million to improve safety and traffic flow at this key intersection with new traffic signals, new pedestrian crossings on the northern, eastern, and western ends of the signalised intersection and an extended right turn lane for northbound and southbound vehicles on Springvale Road.

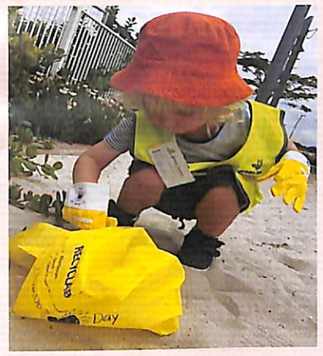
Other safety improvements include modifying parking around the intersection, road renewal and resurfacing works, and improved public lighting.

As part of these works, Rosalie Street will become left turn only on to Springvale Road and a safer speed limit of 40km/h will be implemented along Springvale Road from the Springvale shopping precinct to Watt Street.

During works there will be changed traffic conditions with lane closures and safer speed limits in place for the safety of workers. Traffic management will be on-site to help motorists travel through the area safely as works progress.

Construction works will be taking place between Sandown Road and Lascelles Street to deliver a smoother and safer Springvale Road with works expected to be complete by mid-2022.

For more information visit vicroads.vic.gov.au and search 'Springvale Road safety improvements'.



Clean Up Australia Day

Lend a helping hand and join us at multiple sites across the City of Greater Dandenong for Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 6 March.

Clean Up Australia Day is a national day to care for our environment and to help pick up litter. Come along and tag us in your Instagram post at #CUADdandenong.

For more information visit cleanup.org.au

Illegal rubbish dumping

Council's parks, works, and waste and cleansing teams work tirelessly to keep our streets and public spaces clean, safe, and enjoyable for all.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) can fine individuals and businesses caught dumping rubbish or organics unlawfully.

Please do what you can to protect our environment and dispose of your rubbish properly via your household bins and or Council's waste and recycling services.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keeping-city-clean/illegal-dumping

Give your unwanted items new life

Homecycle



Homecycle will occur from 8–19 March and gives residents the chance to take part in a free one-off collection of smaller items that can be reused and recycled but are not normally included in the regular kerbside recycling bin.

Smaller items that will be accepted include: textiles – clothing, shoes, handbags, fashion, accessories, manchester, linen, jewellery; household items – toys, games, puzzles, cookware, cutlery, craft goods, DVDs, CDs, records; sporting equipment – bats, balls; small electrical items – mobile phones, chargers, cables, anything with a cord and battery; and printer cartridges (empty or full).

Group your items into the categories listed above and place the items for each category into a separate plastic bag. Place the bags into your yellow-lid recycling bin the night after your recycling bin has been emptied. Place your bin on the nature strip for collection.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle



A sustainable tomorrow

The City of Greater Dandenong's Sustainability Festival is back for its ninth year.

This year's theme *A Sustainable Tomorrow, Together* reminds us that looking after our shared environment is everyone's responsibility. Even though everyone's 'piece' may be small, by working together our actions can make a significant difference.

Mark Saturday 9 April from 10am–3pm in your calendar for our all-day market event at Springvale Community Hub. This is a free, family friendly event with fun and interactive activities that cover a wide range of sustainability themes.

You can find out how to practice more sustainable living with interactive workshops and activities for all ages on waste, biodiversity, climate change and more at the festival. There will also be indoor and outdoor market stalls where you can get your hands on some great innovative products, homegrown produce and environmentally friendly food to keep you fed throughout the day.



The festival commences at 10am with a special Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony from the Bunurong Land Council.

We will be revealing the full list of stallholders and workshops in the coming weeks so be sure to check our website regularly.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival

Proudly diverse

As participants in Council's Youth and Family Services Change Makers Program, a group of local young people have produced a powerful video to raise community awareness of racism and discrimination.

The video highlights that society places labels on people from different cultural backgrounds and ethnicities based on false stereotypes. These harmful racial stereotypes have negative impacts on the wellbeing and sense of belonging of young people in our community.

This video is a thought-provoking piece by young people championing an important and pervasive issue of public concern.



The Change Makers group shared their powerful message with the newly established Anti-Racism Taskforce and created a leadership forum to continue the important conversation.

To view the YouTube clip visit Greater Dandenong's YouTube channel and search 'proudly diverse'.

For information on Council's Youth Programs visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about-us

Introducing our Make Your Move Ambassadors

Council has endorsed the Make Your Move Greater Dandenong Physical Activity Strategy to encourage residents to be more active, more often.

Being more active doesn't have to be hard or expensive. There are lots of free ways to keep active throughout Greater Dandenong. Small, gradual changes can make a big impact.

Our Make Your Move Ambassadors are keen to motivate others to lead active lifestyles.



Peter Ogunyemi, Dandenong

What activities do you enjoy that keep you active?

I am aiming to compete at the Paris Paralympics in 2024 in track and field. I currently play Wheelchair AFL for Essendon. I also play Wheelchair Rugby, enjoy riding my tricycle, going to the gym and like to join in any activity for fun.

What small changes have you made in your life that help you to 'Make Your Move' daily?

I got active. Getting active changes life and helps maintain a healthy weight. It also helps reduce the risk of having illness and helps improve cardiovascular health. Mentally you will be strong.

Why did you want to become an ambassador?

To help motivate not just people with disabilities but everybody I come across.



Julie Klok, Noble Park

What activities do you enjoy that keep you active?

Cycling and e-biking on the many trails across Greater Dandenong, walking, going to the gym, gardening and generally keeping active.

What small changes have you made in your life that help you to 'Make Your Move' daily?

I try to cycle or walk wherever I can instead of using my car.

What is an interesting fact that you would like to share with everyone?

I never played competition sport, always in the 'leftover' team at school. I didn't enjoy the competitive aspect of it and developed my love for being active later in life.



Murray Congues, Dandenong

What activities do you enjoy that keep you active?

I enjoy playing water polo, swimming at the local pool and walking with my friends.

What is the most surprising or interesting benefit of keeping active?

After you have completed exercise you feel satisfied and encouraged to do more.

Why did you want to become an ambassador?

I wanted to have a go at something different and encourage people of all ages to get outdoors and experience the wonderful amenities that the City of Greater Dandenong provides.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move

Immunisation sessions – March 2022

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations.

Date	Location
Thursday 3 March	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 10 March	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 16 March	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 22 March	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 26 March	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

Save the Date

- **Sunday 3 April**
  Keysborough's Big Picnic
  Frederick Wachter Reserve

Visit our website for more details

What's On March 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the following events and opportunities are scheduled for March. Please check our website and social media for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.	1 ▸ **Day Trip for Seniors: Puffing Billy** Belgrave to Lakeside Return 10am To book phone 8571 5556 ▸ **Reading, Writing and Arithmetic: Early Education in the City of Greater Dandenong Exhibition** Heritage Hill 10am	2 ▸ **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	3 **WORLD WILDLIFE DAY** ▸ **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am 	4 ▸ **Community Support Grants Program Information Session** Online 10.30am ▸ **Celebrating Women: International Women's Day** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 5.30pm–7.30pm ▸ ***Bend It Like Beckham*** Open Air Movie screening Springvale Community Hub 7pm	5 Celebration Community Celebration ▸ Springvale Community Hub 4pm–7pm ▸ ***Madagascar*** Open Air Movie screening Springvale Community Hub 7pm	6 **CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY** 
7 ▸ **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am	8 ▸ **International Women's Day Breakfast** Springvale Town Hall 7.15am–9am ▸ **Community Support Grants Program Information Session** Online 6pm	9 ▸ **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	10 ▸ **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ▸ **International Women's Day Lunch** Venue TBC 11.45am–1.45pm	11 ▸ **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ▸ ***Skater Girl*** Open Air Movie screening Springvale Community Hub 7pm	12 ▸ **The Think Tank: Super Science** Dandenong Library 3pm	
14 **LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY**	15 ▸ **Day Trip for Seniors** Queen Victoria Market 9.30am To book phone 8571 5556 ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street 7pm	16 ▸ **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	17 ▸ **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am	18 ▸ **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ▸ ***Storm Boy (1976)*** Open Air Movie screening Springvale Community Hub 7pm ▸ **1927 Music Concert** The Drum 7.30pm	19 ▸ **The Think Tank: Super Science** Springvale Library 3pm ▸ **ISAIAH: Spirit and Beyond Tour** The Drum 8pm	20 ▸ **A Taste of Ireland** The Drum 10.30am and 7.30pm 
21 **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS** ▸ **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am	22 **WORLD WATER DAY** ▸ **Art Series – Acrylic Pouring** Springvale Library 6.30pm–8.00pm	23 ▸ **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	24 ▸ **Young People Leading Healthier Communities** Springvale Library 4.30pm–6.30pm ▸ **Our Beat** The Drum 6.30pm ▸ **Rebel – rock n roll circus** The Drum 8pm	25 ▸ **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ▸ ***Stardust*** Open Air Movie screening Springvale Community Hub 7pm	26 Festival Noble Park Big Day Out ▸ Community Festival for all ages and abilities. Visit our website for more details.	
28 ▸ **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street 7pm	29 ▸ **Day Trip for Seniors** Direct factory outlets in South Wharf 9.30am To book phone 8571 5556	30 ▸ **Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am	31 ▸ **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am	Every Thursday ▸ **Libraries After Dark** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 7.30pm every Thursday Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-after-dark	8–19 March ▸ **Homecycle** Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more details	21–28 March **CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK**

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Ph: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council news visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be fully met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Seen

Celebrating the local community through portraiture, *Seen* is a portrait prize that invites artists to capture the faces and people of the City of Greater Dandenong.

Using any medium, you are invited to submit up to two portraiture works for inclusion in the exhibition. The subject of the work must live, work or study in Greater Dandenong.

Judged by an esteemed panel of industry professionals, prizes will be awarded in the categories of Open, Secondary School, Primary School and a People's Choice Award.

Entry is free. Entries close 3pm on Friday 11 March. *Seen* Exhibition dates: Tuesday 5 April–Friday 17 June.

Apply now at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-opportunities/seen



Vonda Keji, *Dichotomy series*, digital photograph, 2016

ENTRIES NOW OPEN



Priyanka Kaur & Avneet Singh, Dancing Rani, acrylics and ink, 2021.

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Exhibitions on until Friday 25 March

Open: Tuesday–Friday, 12–4pm

Gallery One
JALSA: Celebration of South Asian women artists exhibition

Gallery Two
Lineage and Line exhibition

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts

Have you been to Garnar Lane?



***Shine* is a photographic exhibition by artist Kitty Owens on display in Garnar Lane, Dandenong, 24 hours, seven days a week until June.**

As an artist in residence at Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens in Dandenong, Kitty has created photographic work that depicts the reflections and the play of light of the local museum display.

Kitty Owens is a visual artist, writer, and museum curator. Owens' practice is focussed on history and museology.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/public-art/garnar-lane-display-boxes

Around Town

Around Town will bring a series of art installations, performances, and events into public spaces in Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale, visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/around-town**

Keeping COVID safe at home

While we continue to wear masks, sanitise and socially distance, there is still a chance you may catch or be a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Catching COVID-19 is nothing to be embarrassed about and the focus should instead be on making sure you have the support you need to make isolating as easy as possible.

The Victorian Government has put together some tips to help you plan in case you or a household member tests positive:

- always have basic medical supplies like a thermometer, pain relief and your regular medications available
- make sure you have enough face masks, hand sanitiser and gloves if you must isolate
- plan ahead for who can safely deliver supplies to you if you must isolate
- plan ahead for home activities to keep you entertained if you must isolate.

If you get COVID-19, or you are a household contact of someone who has, you must immediately isolate for seven days and not leave your house during this time.

Here are some pointers to help you effectively isolate at home:

- **stay in your room** as much as possible, away from others; use a separate bathroom if you have one; try not to enter shared areas, such as the kitchen or living room
- **limit the number of people** who are staying in the house; consider alternative places for them to stay if possible
- **masks, ventilation and hygiene matter** so keep the doors and windows open as much as possible to let the fresh air blow through; if you need to be in the same room as someone else at home, always wear a face mask and keep a distance of at least 1.5 metres away from other household members; wash or sanitise your hands for at least 20 seconds after you cough, sneeze, blow your nose or take off gloves and masks.

You can find more tips by visiting coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist-prepare-covid-isolation and coronavirus.vic.gov.au/managing-covid-19-home.

Copas Park's rich history

A new interpretive sign was unveiled by Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti and Minister for Suburban Development The Hon. Shaun Leane within the flourishing rose garden of Noble Park's Copas Park to celebrate the park's history and honour the unique contribution locals have made to its creation over time.

The Mayor said the Copas Park interpretative sign provides opportunities for people to interact within the community and to acknowledge the special cultural diversity of Noble Park.

"The aim of this interpretative sign is to break down barriers and encourage community connectedness.

"We want to share local stories that provide a sense of place and meaning, especially for the 70 per cent of Noble Park residents who are born overseas.

"This new Copas Park interpretative sign highlights the park's unique creation and the dedicated Noble Park locals who have contributed to its establishment over time," said the Mayor.



Minister for Suburban Development The Hon. Shaun Leane and Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti at Copas Park.

Tom Copas, whom Copas Park is named after, was a Noble Park local involved in the park's planning and landscape planting. He was a keen horticulturalist, coming from a long line of pioneering fruit growers and gardeners from South Australia.

Tom was also the head rosarian at Springvale Botanical Cemetery (formerly known as the Necropolis). Tom also actively contributed to the Noble Park community and was a trustee at the Noble Park Hall for 25 years.

To acknowledge Tom's contribution to the park and his passion for rose growing, a beautiful new rose garden with heritage pink roses and a cluster of the Spirit of Enterprise red roses has been planted by Council's horticultural team.

The new Copas Park interpretive sign forms part of an ongoing placemaking program across activity centres in Springvale, Noble Park and central Dandenong made possible with funding support from the Noble Park Revitalisation Board and the Victorian Government.

The project is part of the Victorian Government's ongoing Noble Park Revitalisation and has been identified as a priority through the Noble Park Suburban Revitalisation Board.

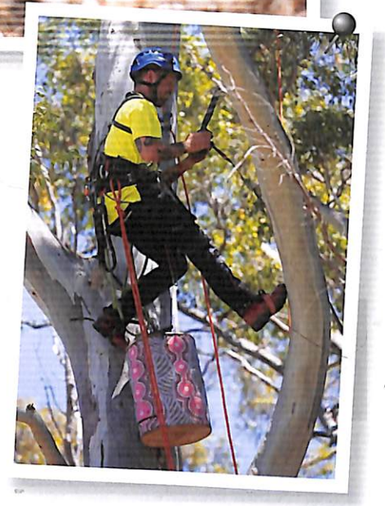
Connecting with our natural wonders

Home to flourishing biodiversity, there are more than 100 parks and reserves, totalling 600 hectares of open space, in Greater Dandenong.

This autumn explore the incredible biodiversity and natural wonders in your neighbourhood. Take a self-guided walking tour along the Alex Wilkie Reserve Nature Trail and follow the interpretive signage through the stunning bushland. You can also go birdwatching at Fotheringham Reserve, located across from Yarraman Creek. Visit Tirhatuan Park, a beautiful open space park that forms part of the Dandenong Creek vegetation corridor, providing important habitat for our native flora and fauna.

This month to celebrate World Wildlife Day on 3 March and World Water Day on 22 March visit the Dandenong Wetlands to see water birds fishing for food, birds of prey flying overhead hunting, and listen to frogs calling. You can also read the interpretive signage placed around the parkland highlighting interesting facts about the wetlands.





Council has many environmental programs to join that promote and grow our biodiversity and increase the habitat of local wildlife, e.g. for the sugar glider and powerful owl. You can join the Gardens for Wildlife Program, a free service to support the creation of wildlife habitats in your own backyard.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-environment/biodiversity-nature-and-wildlife



Deputy Mayor, Cr Eden Foster with Living Treasure Be Ha.

Our Living Treasures

At a special Australia Day Awards ceremony on 26 January at Springvale Town Hall, four outstanding people were inducted as Greater Dandenong Living Treasures, Be Ha, Natalie Irvine, Patricia Ockwell and Joe Rechichi.

A Living Treasure is a truly exceptional person whose contribution leaves a lasting legacy for the people of our municipality, tirelessly contributing to enrich the lives of others.

We honour our Living Treasures and thank them all for their selfless and valuable community service.

See the full list of Greater Dandenong Living Treasures at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/history-and-cultural-heritage/living-treasures

Making: Our Future

Watch out for the street flags being installed across the municipality to celebrate and highlight Manufacturing Week this month. Co-designed with young people, the images on the flags underpin an ongoing marketing campaign promoting careers in the manufacturing sector to young people and their influencers – teachers, family members and peers.

Supporting our own thriving manufacturing base is essential for economic growth. *Making: Our Future* is about promoting the myriad of career opportunities manufacturing offers to young workers and to ensure a talent pipeline is maintained for existing and future businesses.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/future-made



Victorian Tourism Award Winner

For their leadership in tourism excellence, Melbourne Cable Park was awarded the *Excellence in Accessible Tourism* and came runner's up in the *Adventure Tourism* category at the Victorian Tourism Awards.

Melbourne Cable Park is a world-class outdoor adventure centre, located in tranquil parklands at Bangholme. Open all year round, the Park is an activity hub for the energetic, with spectacular panoramic views of Melbourne. A choice of exciting and challenging water and non-water based activities are available, suitable for all ages and abilities (including an accessible wakeboard program).



The company will now progress as a national finalist to the Australian Tourism Awards later this year.

For more information on Melbourne Cable Park visit melbournecablepark.com

Creative Writing Group at The Open Door

You are invited to join a group offering writers of all levels an opportunity to share creative writing prompts, stories, and brainstorm ideas in a relaxed manner. Take a couple of hours to awaken your inner writer and spark your imagination in this encouraging and fun workshop.

New writers welcome.

When: Second Thursday of the month 10am–12pm (excludes public/school holidays)

Where: 110 Ann St, Dandenong

A gold coin donation is welcome.

Full vaccination status and masks required upon entry please.

For any enquiries/bookings please contact Jo/Tayla on 9791 8664 or email theopendoor@ssjg.org.au.

Support for new businesses

If you or someone you know is looking to start a business, or has recently started their business and need support, then join the Ignite Program.

The program is free and offers workshops, mentoring and a range of activities and resources for people who are looking to start a new business.

Register your interest at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ignite-program or email business@cgd.vic.gov.au.

SEEKING COMMUNITY GOOD NEWS STORIES FOR NEXT EDITION!

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

GREATER DANDENONG
SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL

'A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW, TOGETHER'

Saturday 9 April 2022
10am - 3pm

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Free entry

Live music

Market stalls, food and workshops

Wheelchair Access



Find out more at **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival**

APRIL 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



School Holiday Fun at Drum Theatre

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Keysborough's Big Picnic
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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Councillor Contacts



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Springvale South Ward
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MONDAY	TUESDAY
11 APRIL	26 APRIL

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held in the Council chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Monday 11 April 2022**
- **Tuesday 26 April 2022.**

With COVID-19 restrictions easing, the gallery is open again to the public.

You can ask questions during Public Question Time.

You can also watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

To check the agenda and to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

▸ Noble Park Ward

Cr Sophie Tan



The Noble Park Activity Centre is becoming a more vibrant hub as stage 4 of the Douglas Street upgrade works near completion.

The new planting, seating area, traffic signalisation, public lighting and overall streetscape upgrade of the Leonard Avenue intersection has also created a fresher look in the ward.

Up to 50 trees will be planted in a suitable location as part of the Tree Planting Plan. Appropriate locations are currently being assessed by our Parks team and will be planted this month.

A new interpretive sign at Copas Park has been installed within a new rose garden; and a new interpretive sign at the Noble Park Public Hall is currently in progress.

Several other capital works in the Noble Park Ward will be completed this year. The 2A Frank Street public open space redevelopment's community consultation and concept design have been completed. The new space includes a performance platform, shade structure, trees, tables and benches, landscaping and lighting. Construction is anticipated to commence in June.

The procurement phase of the Noble Park Reserve neighbourhood playground project is underway. The project includes a new playground, the installation of shade sails, path connections and seating.

I'd like to extend my thanks to the Victorian Government's Noble Park Suburban Revitalisation Board for their support towards many new projects in the Noble Park Ward, including: the Leonard Avenue and Buckley streetscape concept designs, Library Lounge Feasibility Study at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, pedestrian counters across five locations which provide real-time movement data, five seasonal display crates in the Noble Park Activity Centre and the Transformed temporary public art project.

There is much more to come, but I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone who celebrates their New Year in April a Happy New Year!

If I can help you and your family with any local government matters, please contact me on 0466 793 727 or sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Cr Richard Lim OAM

▸ Springvale Central Ward

It is more important than ever to rejuvenate Springvale, and with Council's investment in ongoing projects, we are well on the way.

The Springvale Boulevard project has been developing for some time now and I want to thank the traders and visitors to the area who have shown a great deal of patience. Our great communication with these business owners has meant that they are always aware of the changes happening around them and they have time to prepare for any possible disruptions. We have completed stage 2 drainage works and installed structural soil, which will help drainage for the new garden beds. Roadside kerb installation and public lighting works are now underway to enhance local safety.

Council is also assessing future upgrades to the 'Number 8' Balmoral Avenue multi-deck car park, seeking the best way to improve access and make structural repairs to improve safety.

I was so pleased to see so many residents and friends attend the Springvale Community Hub Community Celebration early last month. It was special to finally be able to officially celebrate the new community and civic heart of Springvale together.

I am determined to help transform Springvale into a cultural hub, where we can celebrate the diversity and contribution of our multicultural community across the Springvale Central Ward. I am in talks with Council and cultural organisations to share more live performances at Multicultural Place, so stay tuned.

It was great to celebrate Multicultural Arts Victoria's In Situ launch at Multicultural Place recently with music, dancing and global rhythms on display.

Thanks to everyone who took part in our Clean Up Australia Day efforts in central Springvale, the improved cleanliness in our public spaces is appreciated by all.



Finally, I'd like to wish all those celebrating a very Happy Songkran New Year and hope everyone's 2022 is off to a great start.

You can contact me on 0435 627 164 or richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Have your say

Tell us what you think of these current projects out for public consultation.

Railway Parade Shopping Centre, Noble Park streetscape upgrade

This project aims to improve the overall facilities and appearance of this neighbourhood shopping centre. Council is seeking your feedback on the draft concept plan. Your ideas will help shape the design of the shopping centre improvements.

Have your say by 11 April at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/railway-parade-consultation.

Noble Park Community Centre business plan development

Council wants to hear about your ideas for the future of the Noble Park Community Centre to make sure the plans reflect local community needs.

Have your say by 14 April at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/NPCC-consultation, or pick up a hard copy survey from the Noble Park Aquatic Centre, Noble Park Community Centre and the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, or in person on Thursday 7 April from 10.00am–12noon outside Coles in Douglas Street.



Railway Parade Shopping Centre

This Noble Park Revitalisation Initiative is funded by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR).

Draft Greaves Reserve Master plan

Have your say on the draft Greaves Reserve, Dandenong master plan that aims to provide more sporting and recreational facilities, additional parking, roads and pathway links, new infrastructure, toilets and improved landscaping.

Have your say by 28 April at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/greaves-reserve-consultation or attend a drop-in session at Greaves Reserve on Saturday 9 April or Sunday 10 April from 10.30am–1.30pm.

Noble Park Youth Committee



Fifteen passionate young people (aged 12–25 years) who want to make a positive impact in their local community and improve the lives of others have come together to form the Noble Park Youth Committee.

After researching and developing two projects in September–October 2021, the group has recommenced meeting weekly at the Noble Park Community Centre to now bring these two projects to life.

1. **Noble Park Students' Connect** – a weekly program that provides free tutoring and homework support to young people aged 12–20 years. Running every Tuesday during the school term, the program provides more than just study support, it features a calendar of workshops and recreational activities that young people can come along to build social connections. They can also access guidance to help navigate their education and employment pathways. No registration is required, young people can just visit the Noble Park Community Centre between 3:30pm–6.00pm, or access tutoring online via Zoom.
2. **Noble Park Big Day Out** – an all ages and abilities fun community festival held on Saturday 26 March near the skate park and surrounding areas. Key highlights included live performances and a silent disco, a rock-climbing wall and reptile encounter, as well as free workshops, sports, and art activities.

The Noble Park Youth Committee's projects have been funded through the Noble Park Revitalisation Project, an initiative of the Victorian Government (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions).

To find out more, contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 or visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au.

Abbotts Road upgrade

To improve traffic flow and to ease congestion, Abbotts Road in Dandenong South is being upgraded.

Works have included the widening of Abbotts Road to two lanes in each direction, a new pedestrian path, new storm water drainage and underground services, improvements to traffic signals and street lighting and the relocation of overhead powerlines.

Abbotts Road has been closed for through traffic recently to enable a third party to undertake major construction works.

Dandenong South is an important destination for workers in Melbourne's south eastern growth corridor.

Abbotts Road is one of only a few east-west connections from the Casey residential growth areas into the Lyndhurst and Keysborough industrial area and is an important freight link.

We thank our community and local businesses for your patience during this time.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/works-and-projects/abbotts-road-upgrade

Revitalising central Dandenong



The Victorian Government has previously committed to invest $290 million to help further transform central Dandenong into a vibrant and thriving economic hub.

To commence in 2023, Melbourne-based developer Capital Alliance has been selected by Development Victoria for the next phase of the project that is expected to:

- deliver a new Little India precinct
- inject $600 million into the Dandenong economy during its development and construction phase
- create 2,600 construction jobs
- create 5,000 ongoing jobs
- deliver 470 new dwellings and 2,500 square metres of community space
- deliver new commercial and retail spaces, including a new supermarket and food market hall
- deliver social enterprise initiatives
- improve public safety and amenity.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/revitalisation-and-placemaking/revitalising-central-dandenong

B-cycle your batteries

Did you know you can't put batteries in your recycling or rubbish bin?

Your kerbside bins aren't suitable for recycling batteries as they are hazardous, toxic, flammable and corrosive.

You can however recycle your batteries for free at retail stores ALDI, Bunnings, Officeworks, Woolworths and Coles and at Council's customer service centres. Council's recycling stations accept household batteries, CDs, DVDs, mobile phones and light globes.

For each battery that gets recycled, more than 95 per cent of its materials can now be remade into paint, car tyres, metal tools, computer parts, brand new batteries and more.

B-cycle is Australia's new national government-backed battery recycling scheme that aims to redirect 90 per cent of used batteries going to landfill.

To search for your closest battery drop-off point visit recyclingnearyou.com.au/batteries

Our waste champions

LOCAL CHAMPIONS



The living room of Liam and Blake's house is filled with toy garbage trucks. They are fascinated with the high-tech moving parts and flashing lights.

Seeing their local garbage truck come down their street each week has captured their imagination and ignited their passion for waste and recycling.

The highlight of their week is when they can both go out excitedly to say hello to their garbage truck driver wearing their own high-vis uniforms like their idol.

Though Liam is in primary school now, in kindergarten he was their resident "recycling coordinator". Passionately telling other children what items should go into which bin.

Thanks Liam and Blake for being our local waste and recycling champions.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste



Reduce by reusing

Remember to take your reusable bags with you when you go shopping.

Plastic bags are no longer the way to go as single use plastics make up one third of the litter we see in our streets, parks and waterways. By switching to reusable bags when you shop, you help the environment, reduce harm to wildlife and reduce the number of unnecessary plastics that end up in landfill.

Keep your reusable shopping bags near your front door, in your car, or in your handbag or backpack so you always have one available to use.

For more information visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/recycling-and-reducing-waste/at-home/avoid-waste/minimise-single-use-items/bags

South East Leisure on track

South East Leisure is a newly formed subsidiary company of Greater Dandenong City Council and has been established to improve the community's health and wellbeing outcomes via accessible, high quality leisure and aquatic experiences.

From 1 July this year, South East Leisure will be responsible for the operation of Dandenong Oasis, Noble Park Aquatic Centre, Springers Leisure Centre and Dandenong Stadium.

South East Leisure has recently joined the Sports Environment Alliance to support and contribute to Council's vision to become one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.



CEO and leisure and recreation industry leader, Mr John Clark has recruited a talented and experienced executive team to successfully guide South East Leisure's operations.

For more information visit southeastleisure.com.au



Immunisation sessions – April 2022

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations.

Date	Location
Monday 4 April	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 7 April	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 14 April	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 20 April	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 26 April	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 30 April	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.



Host a play street

Council is launching the *1000 Play Streets* campaign locally, designed and pioneered by Play Australia.

To create stronger and healthier communities, the campaign aims to turn quiet residential streets throughout Greater Dandenong into places for neighbours of all ages to meet each other, connect and play freely and safely in their street.

Would you like to hold a fun get together for you and your neighbours?

Register your desire to host a play street with Council via our website. Once your application has been accepted, we'll work with you to produce invites for your neighbours to join in, organise the permit so we can close your quiet residential street to traffic and provide sporting equipment so you can enjoy your play street.

You can host a one-off event or regular events in your street.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/1000-play-streets

Parkrun at Dandenong Park

Meet new people and get moving by joining other runners, joggers and walkers in the 5-kilometre parkrun which starts at 7.45am each Saturday at Dandenong Park, corner of Pultney and Wilson Streets.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said: "I strongly encourage people to 'make a move'. It's good for our health and the Dandenong Park course is wonderful. It's one of the best parks in the region".

Council's *Make Your Move physical activity strategy 2020–2030* states that more than half of Greater Dandenong residents are not doing the recommended 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous daily exercise. It identified the cost of taking part in organised sport as one of the barriers.

Parkrun helps people get more physically active, it's free, it's fun and caters for people of all ages and abilities.

For more information visit parkrun.com.au/Dandenong

Have you been here lately?

An area of more than 17 hectares, Dandenong Park, 174 Lonsdale Street, was established over 100 years ago, and is a fantastic multi-purpose open space. It is also a destination for many community gatherings, sports and recreation activities, family BBQs, community festivals and weddings.

The ongoing vision for Dandenong Park is to bring it into the 21st century, while respecting its past.

Council continues to improve the park's landscape and facilities, including:

- a new playground
- a large picnic area with BBQs, seating, tables, and shelters
- new shared cycle and walking paths
- new public toilets
- new Stan Prior Stage for festival and events
- two new table tennis tables
- a multi-purpose activity court with basketball and futsal goals
- new fitness equipment.



Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said Dandenong Park is very significant to him as he married his wife there amongst the gardens.

"What I love most are the floral displays in the north area of the park," said the Mayor.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-environment/open-spaces/dandenong-park

What's On April 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Please check our website and social media for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually. **School Holidays** ► 11–22 April	**Soccer clinics** ► **Ross Reserve Noble Park** **11 April** 11.00am–1.00pm (mixed) **13 April** 11.00am–1.00pm (female) 2.00pm–4.00pm (male)			1 ► **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ► **Open Air Movies** ***Princess Mononoke*** Springvale Community Hub 7.00pm ► **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 7.00pm	2 ► **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 12.00pm, 7.00pm	3 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS** ► **Keysborough's Big Picnic** Watchers Reserve 11.00am–4.00pm ► **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 12.00pm, 7.00pm
4 ► **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ► **Peer2Peer Homework Club** Dandenong Library 4.00pm	5 ► **Women's Health Workshop – Endometriosis** Springvale Library 6.30pm **Don't miss** ► **Every Saturday** Parkrun at Dandenong Park 7.45am ► ***Seen* Exhibition** 5 April–17 June Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre ► **Nature Play Week** 6–16 April ► **Hidden Creature Gallery** 11–22 April Drum Theatre	6 ► **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ► **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am ► **Reading Circle** Dandenong Library 11.00am	7 ► **Storytime** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ► **Libraries After Dark – Climate Conversations** Dandenong Library 7.30pm ► **Libraries After Dark – Disability and Climate Change** Springvale Library 7.30pm	8 ► **Baby Bounce** Springvale Library 10.30am ► **Open Air Movies** ***March of the Penguins*** Springvale Community Hub 7.00pm	9 ► **Sustainability Festival** Springvale Community Hub 10.00am–3.00pm ► **The Think Tank – Creepy Crawlies** Dandenong Library 3.00pm ► **Sun Rising: The Songs That Made Memphis** Drum Theatre 5.00pm	**Saturday 9 April** ► ***Seen* Opening Event** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 2.00pm–4.00pm 
11 ► **Springvale Fresh Tour** Springvale Central 11.00am ► **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7.00pm	12	13 ► **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am ► **Let it Go – The Songs of Frozen in Concert** Drum Theatre 10.30am, 1.00pm	14 ► **Libraries After Dark – Short and Sweet Film Night** Dandenong Library 7.30pm ► **Libraries After Dark – Games Night, Scattegories** Springvale Library 7.30pm	15 **GOOD FRIDAY**		17 **EASTER SUNDAY**
18 **EASTER MONDAY**	19	20 ► **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am	21 ► **Blowin' in the Wind** Drum Theatre 10.30am ► **Discover Dandenong Creek Festival** Tirhatuan Park 11.00am–2.00pm ► **Our Beat** Drum Theatre 6.30pm	22 **EARTH DAY** **Skateboarding clinics** ► **Noble Park Skatepark** **21 April** 11.00am–12noon (beginners) 12.10pm–1.10pm (some experience) **22 April** 11.00am–12noon (beginners) 12.10pm–1.10pm (some experience) **28 April** 4.30pm–5.30pm (beginners) 5.40pm–6.40pm (some experience)	23 ► **Alchemy Dance Company Presents ZEITGEIST** Drum Theatre 1.00pm ► **The Think Tank – Creepy Crawlies** Springvale Library 3.00pm	24 ► **Alchemy Dance Company Presents ZEITGEIST** Drum Theatre 1.00pm, 6.00pm 
25 **ANZAC DAY**	26 ► **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7.00pm	27 ► **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 9.30am	28 ► **Online Bookclub – The DandEreaders** Online 2.00pm ► **Libraries After Dark – Khmer Book Day** Springvale Library 7.30pm		30	

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Enquiries: 8571 1550
Bookings: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council news visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

Arts in Greater Dandenong

Seen Exhibition

Tuesday 5 April through to Friday 17 June
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Celebrating the local community through portraiture, *Seen* captures the faces and people of Greater Dandenong.

Seen Opening Event

Saturday 9 April, 2pm–4pm
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Join us to celebrate, through art, the people that make Greater Dandenong the vibrant place it is.

School Holiday Program – Make your own Mushroom Dream House

Thursday 21 April, 10am–12noon
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Each participant will make their own mushroom dream house with artist Ariba Naqvi. Suitable for children over seven years old.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts

Visit the Drum Theatre

AYPT presents Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical

Thursday 31 March, 7pm
Friday 1 April, 7pm
Saturday 2 April, 12pm and 7pm
Sunday 3 April 12pm and 7pm

SpongeBob's pleasant existence is abruptly interrupted when his beloved underwater town discovers that Mt. Humongous, a nearby volcano, will erupt and completely obliterate Bikini Bottom.

Sun Rising – The Songs That Made Memphis

Saturday 9 April, 5pm

This show, with sublime musicianship, is an impeccable tribute to the greatest rock 'n' roll performers of all time.

Let it Go – The Songs of Frozen in Concert

Wednesday 13 April, 10.30am and 1pm

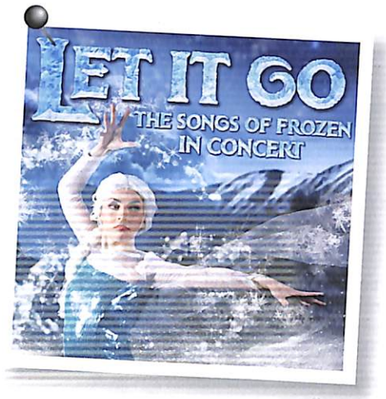
Features sisters Anna and Elsa in full costume, along with some of their popular friends from the Frozen movies.

Hidden Creature Gallery

11–22 April, 10am–4pm

Drop into the Drum Theatre any time to experience this exciting interactive work for school-aged children and their families. Arena Theatre Company will create an immersive and fun space that combines inspiring art and cutting-edge technology. Approximately 30 hidden creatures are available to hunt for with your smart phone.





Blowin' in the Wind

Thursday 21 April, 10.30am

Many great singers who performed during the war are highlighted in this wonderful production, including Dame Vera Lynn, The Andrews Sisters, Bob Dylan, Normie Rowe and The Sapphires.

Our Beat

EXCITING EVENTS

Thursday 21 April, 6.30pm

A free monthly open stage night that brings together musicians, artists, actors, comedians, dancers and the community.

Alchemy Dance Company Presents ZEITGEIST

Saturday 23 April, 1pm
Sunday 24 April, 1pm
Sunday 24 April, 6pm

ADC's 2022 season captures the Zeitgeist of the here and now through fusion styles of jazz and contemporary dance.

All Drum Theatre ticket holders receive 10% off a pre-show meal at Beletti Restaurant Café Bar and Ettamo Eatery. All Drum members receive 10% off accommodation at Dandenong City Edge Apartment Hotels.

For more information visit **drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au**

Greater Dandenong Libraries





BIG Summer Read

More than 4800 books were read by over 300 local children who took part in this year's BIG Summer Read program at Dandenong and Springvale Libraries.

Prizes were presented to children aged between 4–13 years old who completed the reading log and read at least 10 books over the summer. Other prizes were awarded to children who drew their favourite book character, read a biography, or wrote a letter to their favourite author.

Every child who took part in the BIG Summer Read received a participation certificate.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and to local parents and guardians who encourage their young ones to read and develop their literacy skills.

The BIG Summer Read is part of our *Libraries Change Lives* Campaign that aims to raise awareness of the ways in which libraries can have a positive effect on the community.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/big-summer-read

School holiday fun

Hop into our Dandenong and Springvale Libraries this Easter and school holiday break (11–22 April) to enjoy interactive programs for primary school children and young adults.

Watch the Magic Easter Show, learn about dinosaurs and fossils, or update your skills in a Digital Design workshop, there is something for everyone.

Calligraphy Brush Painting
Monday, 11 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Springvale Library, The Studio

Pottery Play
Tuesday, 12 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Springvale Library, The Studio

Dinosaurs and Fossils
Wednesday 13 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Dandenong Library, Children's Area

Magic Easter Show
Thursday 14 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Springvale Library, Exhibition Hall

Wildlife Presentation
Tuesday 19 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Springvale Library, The Studio and Foyer

Digital Design
Wednesday 20 April, 2.30pm–4.00pm
Dandenong Library, Program Rooms 1 and 2

LEGO
Thursday 21 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Dandenong Library, Training Room 1

Yoga and Mindfulness
Friday 22 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm
Dandenong Library, Program Rooms 1 and 2

Book your April library experience by visiting greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson

Khmer Book Day – Libraries After Dark

Thursday 28 April, 7.30pm–9.00pm
Springvale Library, The Studio

Susadei! Come along to our first ever Khmer Book Day. Browse through our new Khmer book collection, meet new people and suggest new titles and programs that you would like to see in the libraries.

For more information about our libraries visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries

Reconciliation Action Plan launched

It was with great pride when the Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti, officially launched the second *Greater Dandenong Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)* at the Waa and Bulln Bulln Corroboree Fire Pit, Springvale Community Hub.

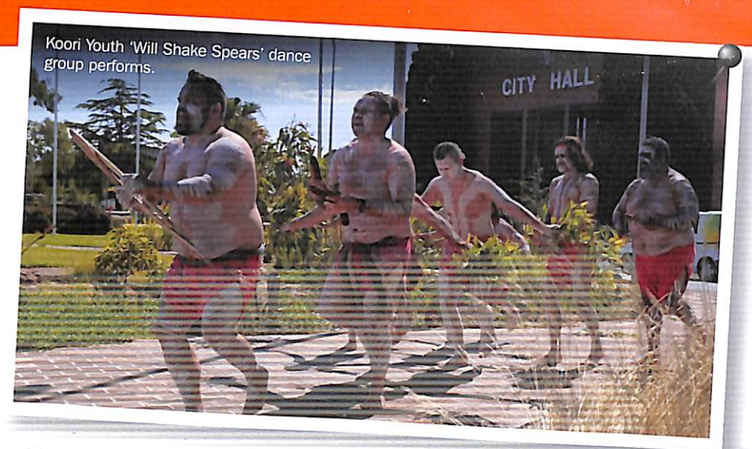
The Reconciliation Action Plan was endorsed and ratified by both Council and Reconciliation Australia and will assist Council to realise its vision for reconciliation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, the Bunurong Land Council.

The plan embodies Council's commitment to advance the process of reconciliation and strives to embed reconciliation across policy, business, and community structures. It also expresses our shared commitment to equality, opportunity, respect and inclusion.

Council is committed to:

- creating meaningful partnerships that empower and embrace Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' involvement and leadership in decision-making
- promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures and experiences, free of racism and discrimination
- creating equitable employment and business opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- improving the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples who live in, work in, and contribute to the Greater Dandenong community.

This plan outlines a clear way forward for both Council and the broader Greater Dandenong community to positively contribute to reconciliation.



Koori Youth 'Will Shake Spears' dance group performs.


Smoking ceremony by Uncle Shane Clarke at the Waa and Bulln Bulln Corroboree Fire Pit.

To view the plan visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-action-plan-january-2021-december-2023

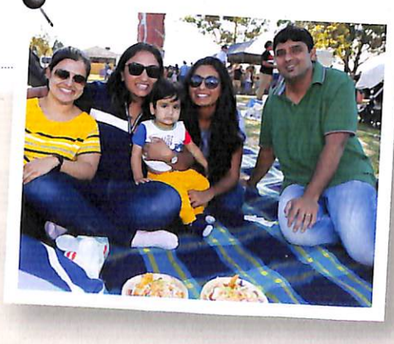
Keysborough's Big Picnic

Save the date on Sunday 3 April, as the popular Keysborough's Big Picnic returns to Frederick Wachter Reserve, 133–155 Kingsclere Avenue, opposite Parkmore Shopping Centre, from 11am–4pm.

Bring your picnic blanket and chairs to enjoy a range of family and pet friendly activities for all ages and abilities.

You can enjoy kite flying, an Easter egg hunt, live music and community group performances, a silent disco, circus acts, face painting, an animal farm, a pet photo booth, library storytime, the Make Your Move Zone, with the support of local sporting clubs, and market stalls. A range of delicious food and beverages can be purchased from food trucks.

There will be something for everyone, so come along for a fun and relaxing day out.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysies-big-picnic



Mental health support for expecting and new parents

It is estimated that one in every five new and expecting mothers, and one in every 10 new fathers, experience depression and/or anxiety before or after the birth of their child.

ForWhen is a national support line and a judgement free referral service that connects parents who are struggling to navigate pregnancy and new parenthood to critical mental health services when they need it most.

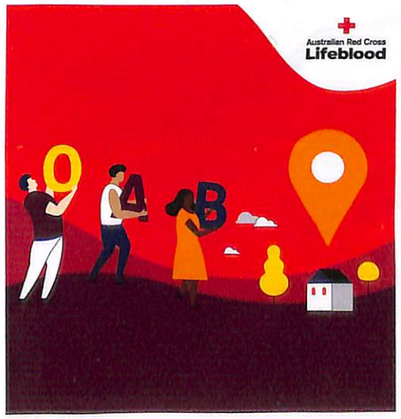
Phone the helpline on 1300 24 23 22 between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday–Friday to speak with a clinically trained professional and local specialist who will connect you with the right service to best support your mental health.

For more information visit ForWhenHelpline.org.au

Give blood to help save lives

It's time to give blood and change lives. One in three people in Greater Dandenong will need blood, and they need people like you to give it. We're popping up in town from 4 to 8 April at St Mary's Community Centre in New Street, Dandenong.

Don't forget to pre-book your spot at lifeblood.com.au or phone 13 14 95.



Neighbours look out for each other

Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong works with residents to help prevent crime and ensure safe and secure neighbourhoods.

On Wednesday 25 May at 7.30pm, Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong will host a Q&A Information Session with Victoria Police and guest speaker Senior Sergeant Kent Standish at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park. Anti-theft products will also be on sale.

For more information visit facebook.com/nhwgreaterdandenong or contact President Dawn Vernon on 0407 325 030 or president@nhwgreaterdanderong.org.



New ethical market

On the second Sunday of each month from 10am–2pm, the Australian Animal Protection Society will host a community market, showcasing ethical and sustainable local businesses, while also raising funds to support the Keysborough animal shelter.

Come along to support local businesses and animals in need while paving the way for an ethical future. This is a dog friendly and plant-based event at 26 Aegean Court, Keysborough.

For more information visit aaps.org.au/events/ethical-market/



Keysborough's BIG PICNIC

- 2022 -

#keysiesbigpicnic

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Live music and performances • Easter egg hunts • Fun for pets
BYO picnic mat and chairs • Kite flying • Make Your Move Zone

SUNDAY 3 APRIL | **11AM–4PM** | **FREE EVENT**

WACHTER RESERVE
Kingsclere Ave, Keysborough
(opposite Parkmore Shopping Centre)

8571 1000 | greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysies-big-picnic

MAY 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



Introducing Our Junior Mayor

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Election Priorities
▶ PAGE 3

What's On Calendar
▶ PAGES 10–11

Thank You Volunteers
▶ PAGE 14

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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Phone: 8571 1000

Fax: 8571 5196

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's message



Welcome to the May 2022 edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

We are a proud child-friendly city, so it is a pleasure to introduce our new Junior Mayor, Mya Durakovic. Mya was elected by her Children's Advisory Group peers. I look forward to working with Mya and the group throughout the year, so our children's voices are heard, learn more on page 6.

We are advocating for our strategic election priorities to federal and state political candidates in the lead up to this year's elections. Read more about our key priorities on page 3.

The Budget, Council Plan, Community Engagement Framework, and several key strategies are out for public consultation this month – be sure to have your say, learn more on page 8.

From 16 May, National Volunteer Week takes place and we thank our Greater Dandenong volunteers for their tireless and selfless work, our tribute to them is on page 14.

Best wishes to those celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday 8 May and all the best for the month ahead.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

My City

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

National Reconciliation Week is from 27 May to 3 June annually.

The 2022 theme is *Be Brave. Make Change*.

Council recently launched the *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2021–23* and will hold a reconciliation event on 27 May, visit Council's website for more information.



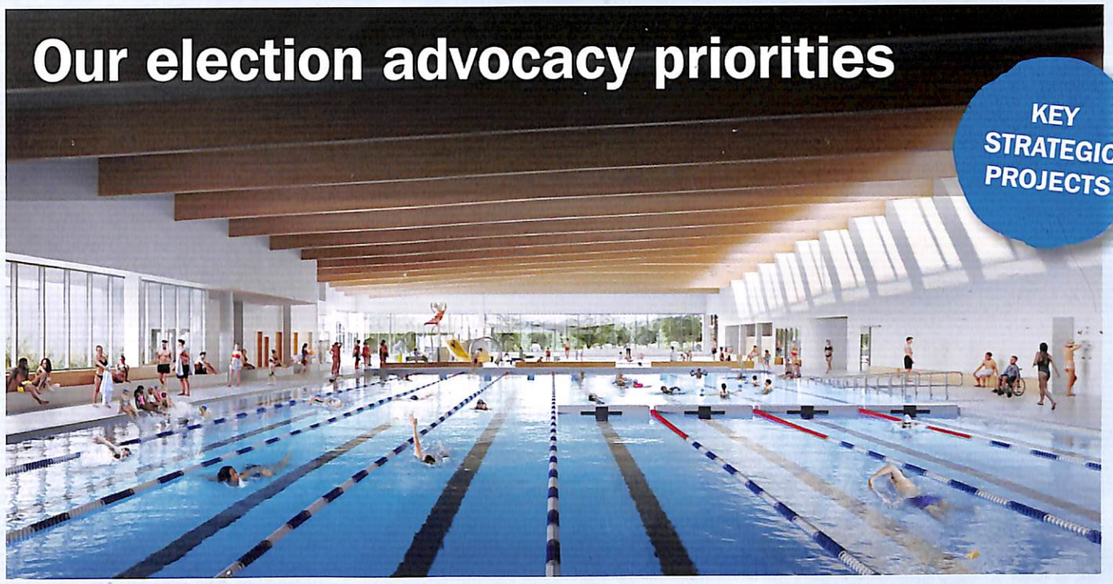
Acknowledgement
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture and Country.

Front cover: Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti with Junior Mayor Mya Durakovic. Photo by Hilton Stone.

MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C102126

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Our election advocacy priorities



An artist's impression of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre's main pool hall.

Greater Dandenong City Council is advocating to federal and state government candidates to seek funding support to realise key strategic projects that will make our region an even better place to live, work and visit.

Council has a great record of converting government funds into significant outcomes.

Here is what we are seeking from federal and state governments in 2022:

- ***Dandenong Wellbeing Centre*** – $20 million funding commitment (approximately 24 per cent of the total project cost) to address the health and wellbeing of one of Victoria's most multicultural and disadvantaged communities.
- ***Dandenong Sports and Events Centre*** – major funding support to progress the detailed planning, design and development of this centre.
- ***Refugee Status Determination*** – replace the existing system with a single Refugee Status Determination process and an independent, timely and fair merits review. Replace Temporary Protection Visas with a permanent humanitarian visa. Increase funding to urgently clear the backlog of asylum applications and appeals. Provide access to Centrelink, Medicare and other support services for applicants. Provide funding to local services who are supporting individuals and families seeking asylum.
- ***Social and affordable housing*** – increase funding of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement for affordable housing and social housing. Increase Commonwealth Rent Assistance payments to low income renters. Ensure liveable income is made available to people seeking asylum. Fund the construction of a bespoke crisis accommodation facility in Greater Dandenong for women and children experiencing family violence.
- ***Sustainability*** – electrification of Council's buildings and assets to phase out natural gas across Council's assets. Set up Council assets for future 'virtual power plant' schemes in which excess renewable electricity generated by on-site solar can be shared throughout the community. Electrification and energy efficiency upgrades across Greater Dandenong's industrial sector. Purchase electric fleet vehicles. Installation of electric vehicle fast chargers at Council's assets and across the municipality.
- ***Transport infrastructure*** – fund the extension of planned shared user paths that have a benefit for commuters and recreational users, i.e. the extension of the Djerring Trail between Yarraman and Dandenong; the planned Cranbourne rail corridor path between the Dandenong South industrial area and the central Dandenong activity centre; and the EastLink trail bridge.

Contact your local candidate to let them know what matters to you and our Greater Dandenong community in this year's federal and state elections.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Councillor Contacts



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Cr Jim Memeti
0434 560 239
jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward – Deputy Mayor
Cr Eden Foster
0435 202 645
eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au



Cleeland Ward
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angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
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bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward
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Keysborough South Ward
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rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward
Cr Sophie Tan
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sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
0435 530 536
lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
Cr Richard Lim OAM
0435 627 164
richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
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0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 9 MAY

MONDAY 23 MAY

Council Meetings – now open to the public

Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Monday 9 May 2022**
- **Monday 23 May 2022.**

With COVID-19 restrictions easing, the gallery is open again to the public.

You can ask questions during Public Question Time and watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

Access to the public car park below the Civic Centre remains closed until further notice as an ongoing COVID-19 safety precaution. Council apologises for any inconvenience. Accessible parking is available in Lonsdale Street, at the front of the Civic Centre.

To check the agenda, to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

► Yarraman Ward

Cr Eden Foster Deputy Mayor

It is great to see our wonderful city flourishing once again after what has been a challenging period for us all.

After bringing it to Council's attention in 2020–21 as part of my Capital Improvement Program bid, I am pleased to see plans are underway to make streetscape improvements along the Railway Parade Shopping Centre. Community consultation has been completed and will be considered when putting plans together.

As part of the Noble Park Suburban Revitalisation project, the Victorian Government will invest $680,000 in the Ian Street streetscape project to deliver new public lighting, street furniture and landscaping, as well as the relocation of powerlines along the retail and dining strip.

Vital drainage works are underway along Callander Road, which will address the overflow of rainwater. These works will be very welcome given the rainfall we have already had this year and will reduce damage caused by any possible flooding in the area.

I encourage everyone to get involved with Council's *Make Your Move* strategy. Parkrun at Dandenong Park is held



every Saturday morning and is a great way to get more active. My personal best so far is 36 minutes for a 5km run/walk, an improvement on 41 minutes and 40 minutes for my first two attempts. It would be great to see more of our city's residents getting involved.

Please feel free to contact me at any time on 0435 202 645 or eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

Cr Sean O'Reilly

► Springvale North Ward

The Nullawil Street Neighbourhood Shopping Centre adjacent to Police Road has undergone streetscape improvements and has been well-received by visitors and traders in the area.

Council has planted street trees along the footpath to increase shade cover and installed a new garden bed with trees and groundcover plantings.

The widening of a section of the footpath has also allowed for new bench seats to be installed, giving visitors the chance to sit down and enjoy the surrounds. I hope to see our local community continuing to support the small businesses in this area.

I thank everyone for their patience during the process and look forward to seeing the trees flourish over time.

Patience has become a common theme among many projects, as we are still feeling the impact of the pandemic, which is continuing to cause delays in deliveries and the supply chain. Supplies



for the new local Turner Reserve playground are on their way, and construction will begin later in the year.

As your local ward Councillor, I will ensure that residents are informed with the most current information as our projects and consultations continue to progress.

You can contact me by phone on 0422 523 258 or sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Keysborough Ward

Cr Tim Dark



Improvements across Keysborough are continuing and will create more opportunities to enjoy enhanced sports and recreational spaces.

Council has planted many trees and small plants throughout Fredrick Wachter Reserve as part of the masterplan to expand the wetlands and improve the park's water quality and biodiversity. These landscape works will improve the quality of life and natural habitat for our native wildlife.

The first stage of Fredrick Wachter Reserve's new boardwalk has also commenced, with pylons installed in early April. The boardwalk will run around the wetlands and residents and visitors will soon be able to enjoy a safe walking track without disturbing the flora and fauna.

The reserve's new playground, which will include junior and senior play zones as well as water and sand play facilities, is anticipated to begin construction of stage one works in late May. The playground will also be covered by shade, allowing children to play safely no matter the weather.

Rowley Allan Reserve upgrades are also underway, beginning with the refurbishment of the netball courts. New courts, new lighting and player's shelters are to be completed by the end of this month, subject to weather conditions. These works kick off Council's vision to make the reserve a high standard multi-purpose sporting space for cricket, Australian Rules Football, lawn bowls and netball.

I look forward to seeing sports enthusiasts, young and old, coming together to enjoy the first stage of upgrades at the Rowley Allan Reserve and look forward to hearing community feedback.

You can contact me on 0466 403 914 or tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au



Our new Junior Mayor

Keysborough Gardens Primary School Captain and Grade 6 student, Mya Durakovic has been elected Junior Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong.



Mya is thrilled to receive the recognition and said it is an honour and so important that Council seeks a child's perspective on any issue.

"I am excited to be elected Junior Mayor by my peers in the Children's Advisory Group and feel it is so important to listen to my peers and be a voice of my generation," said Mya.

Fourteen members of Council's Children's Advisory Group applied to be Junior Mayor and gave a speech presenting their ideas for the year ahead and why it is important for Council to have a Junior Mayor. Mya received the most votes for the leadership position from her fellow advisory group members.

Council's Children's Advisory Group for 2022 has 34 students from 17 primary schools, with two students from each school.

City of Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti, congratulated Mya on her election as Junior Mayor.

"Mya is an impressive young person and will make a difference in our community this year. I look forward to working with her and the members of the Children's Advisory Group to achieve our community's vision for Greater Dandenong and the objectives of our Council Plan.

"As a child-friendly city, we are committed to supporting children and their families and providing opportunities for them to engage within the community and to have their voices heard," said the Mayor.

The role of the Junior Mayor aims to provide a local primary school student with the opportunity to learn more about how local government works and the democratic process, to build their leadership skills and to share their voice on Council and community issues.

The Children's Advisory Group meet twice per term and are supported by Council's Children's Services team, participating primary school teachers and staff from Mission Australia Communities for Children. The group will consult with various Council departments throughout the year to discuss issues impacting the community, local facilities, activities in Greater Dandenong, and Council's ongoing commitment as a child-friendly city.

Creating compost in your own backyard

International Composting Awareness Week (1–7 May) is held annually to celebrate and encourage the use of compost in local communities to improve or maintain high quality soil, grow healthy plants and to protect our natural environment.

Up to half of the average household red lid garbage bin contains food and garden waste. It is important to compost this waste, such as fruit and vegetable scraps, to help decrease household waste, reduce what is sent to landfill and to reduce Australia's carbon footprint.

In January, Council introduced the compost rebate program. In celebration of International Composting Awareness Week, and to support Greater Dandenong residents who want to start composting at home, we have partnered with Compost Community to offer compost bins, worm farms or Bokashi bins at a discounted price.

Get the whole family involved in turning your backyard into a leafy oasis. By using these composting systems, you can turn your old food scraps into rich natural fertiliser and compost that can be used in your garden and pot plants.

This is a new service and Council is pleased to offer this to residents who have a green lid bin. Get in quickly and place your order by visiting greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options/compost-bins-and-worm-farms.

If you need support on how to kick off your composting journey, Council is hosting several free workshops during International Composting Awareness Week.

Online and in-person workshops will teach you all about composting, worm farms and Bokashi, including how you can most effectively compost and start a worm farm at home.

To find out more visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events



Maternal and Child Health Outreach Program

Council's maternal and child health service is free to all families living in the City of Greater Dandenong with children under five years.

The service provides valuable health information, parenting support and wellbeing assessments for children during which nurses check their growth, physical health and development.

An enhanced outreach program is also available for families who have additional needs and may be vulnerable in our community.

Maternal and child health nurse Sandy recently joined the outreach enhanced program after spending time working in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory. Sandy has extensive experience and now works four days per week for Council.

She connects with families to provide support in the location that best meets the needs of the child and their family. This can include visits to their home, kindergarten, or childcare centre, as some families are unable to visit their local maternal and child health centre.

Over the last few months, Sandy has been working closely with AMES and Refugee Health at Monash to support newly arrived families from Afghanistan. She supports them with their transition to their new home and helps connect them to other local support services.

We welcome all Greater Dandenong families to reach out and connect with your local maternal and child health nurse. If your child needs an appointment, please phone 8571 1880.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/maternal-and-child-health



Go rainbow on 17 May

Tuesday 17 May is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), a significant day that celebrates LGBTQIA+ people globally, and raises awareness for the work still needed to combat discrimination.

On May 17 1990, the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from the Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems.

Council is working towards improving the inclusion, recognition and community understanding of our LGBTIQA+ residents and visitors.

For more information visit idahobit.org.au

For local resources and support services visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/LGBTIQAplus

Changes to public open space levy

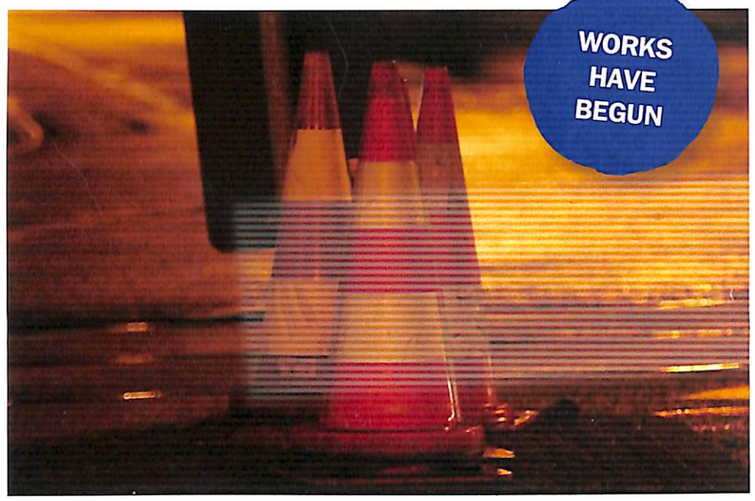
Council is proposing to increase the public open space contributions levy for developments that subdivide land in Greater Dandenong. The one-off levy applies when two or more additional lots (to an existing lot) are created.

These changes are required to help ensure the quality and amount of open space (parks and reserves) meet the needs of residents, visitors and future generations as identified in the *Greater Dandenong Open Space Strategy 2020–30*.

This change is to be introduced through an amendment to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme known as Amendment C228.

Written submissions on these proposed changes can be made to Council by Friday 20 May 2022.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say or phone the Strategic Planning Department on 8571 1000.



Yarraman Station Car Park

The Victorian Government's *Car Parks for Commuters Program* is building new and upgraded parking at stations across the state. This will free up local streets and make it easier for passengers to catch the train.

Yarraman Station commuters will soon benefit from 55 new and upgraded parking spaces. New lighting, CCTV and bicycle parking will be installed to make it safer for commuters and more convenient for people to ride to the station and further ease pressure on car parking.

Works at the station have begun and are to be completed by late 2022.

For more information visit carparks.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 105 105.

Have your say this May

Council values the ideas and opinions of our community and wants you to be part of our planning and decision-making processes.

There are several key strategic documents being developed to help shape the future of our city. We want to hear what you think about our direction.

Council has completed extensive consultation in the last two years on many topics. Community feedback has created a new community vision and influenced the four-year Council Plan. This feedback has also helped Council draft other strategies and plans to ensure we are working towards the key goal of making the City of Greater Dandenong a home for all.

Visit the *Have Your Say* page on our website and share your thoughts and ideas on our current consultations:

- Community Engagement Framework
- revised Council Plan and Annual Plan
- Budget, Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan
- Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy
- Libraries Strategy.

For more information and to get involved visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say

Greater Dandenong Community Safety Forum

We want to hear from you about community safety in Greater Dandenong.

Come and meet your local Councillors, Council staff and local Victoria Police members and share your ideas.

When: Thursday 19 May 2022
Time: 6.30pm–8pm
Where: Ian Tatterson Pavilion

For more information please contact Jo Thorn on 8571 5230 or email jo.thorn@cgd.vic.gov.au

Residents with immediate concerns don't have to wait until the Community Safety Forum to raise issues. Contact Council on 8571 1000 or your Ward Councillor at any other time.

Boosting Against COVID-19

Booster vaccinations to help prevent the spread and severity of COVID-19 are readily available at the Dandenong Plaza Walk-In Vaccination Clinic and the Sandown Racecourse Vaccination Centre.

Third dose vaccination rates across Greater Dandenong currently sit at 45 per cent. We thank those who have already had their COVID-19 boosters and we encourage those who are yet to get theirs to visit a vaccination clinic.

Please continue to keep your community safe.

For more information visit sephu.org



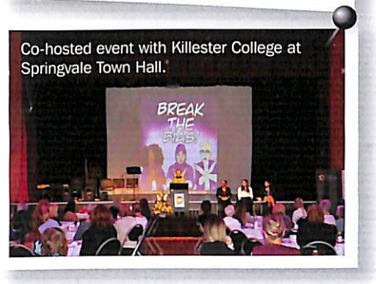
Break the bias

Council recently celebrated International Women's Day and the incredible contributions made by women throughout our municipality by holding several community events.

The campaign theme for this year was #BreakTheBias.

Throughout Greater Dandenong we promoted the importance of a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination. A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.





We can break the bias in our communities. We can break the bias in our workplaces. Together, we can all break the bias. Knowing that bias exists isn't enough, action is needed to level the playing field.

Council is finalising its Gender Equality Action Plan, currently 63 per cent of staff and 45 per cent of Councillors are female.

For more information visit internationalwomensday.com

Active Families

Council received $50,000 from the Department of Health to run a physical activity and wellbeing project in local schools for migrant and refugee families.

The aim of the *Active Families* project was to create behavioural change, teach skills and provide opportunities for local families to embed new habits into their daily life at low cost.

Council engaged the Bluearth Foundation to run the six-week physical activity and wellbeing program with between 80-100 participants from Rosewood Downs Primary School, Dandenong North, St Anthony's Primary School, Noble Park, Dandenong West Primary School, Dandenong, and Woorana Park Primary School, Dandenong North.



Students and their families were invited to participate in activities they sometimes helped co-design to get active and to have fun. They played touch tag (rated the most fun by all participants), completed movement challenges, played games involving outdoor equipment, and took part in opportunities for reflection to promote mindfulness and connection.

"The Active Families program is really fun. The games are so fun, I now play them with my sisters at home after school and on the weekends," said Grade 5 student Laura, age 10, from Rosewood Downs Primary School.

Immunisation sessions – May

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. The Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations.

Date	Location
Monday 2 May	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 5 May	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 12 May	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 18 May	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 24 May	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 28 May	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

What's On May 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30  	31 Yoga sessions 3 May–2 June Six-week yoga program delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays ▸ **Noble Park Community Centre** 6pm–6.45pm To register visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keep-calm-and-yoga	Please check our website and social media for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.	May		Saturdays ▸ **Parkrun** Dandenong Park 8am	1 1–7 May ▸ **International Composting Awareness Week**
9 ▸ **Your Relationship with Money – Financial Literacy Workshop** Dandenong Library 6.30pm–8pm ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	10 ▸ **Introduction to Life Drawing – Part 1** Online via Arts in Greater Dandenong 6.30pm–8pm	11 ▸ **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am–12.30pm ▸ **Code Club – Lego Mindstorms** Springvale Library 4pm–5.30pm	12 ▸ **GRID Series – ELAURA** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm ▸ **Libraries After Dark – Pop-up Reading Circle** Springvale Library 7.30pm–9pm	12–14 May ▸ **Paradise Lots – performances** Car park, 250 Thomas Street, Dandenong 7pm–8pm	14	15 15–21 May ▸ **National Families Week**
16 16–22 May ▸ **National Volunteer Week**	17 **INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, INTERPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA (IDAHOBIT)** ▸ **Introduction to Life Drawing – Part 2** Online via Arts in Greater Dandenong 6.30pm–8pm	18 ▸ **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am–12.30pm ▸ **Code Club – Lego Mindstorms** Springvale Library 4pm–5.30pm ▸ **Starting Your Small Business – Business Workshop** Springvale Library 5.30pm–8.30pm	19 ▸ **Always Love the Music** Drum Theatre 10.30am–11.45am ▸ **Greater Dandenong Community Safety Forum** Ian Tatterson Pavilion 6.30pm–8pm ▸ **GRID Series – Jacki Tut** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm	20 **WORLD BEE DAY** 	21 ▸ **Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow 2022** Drum Theatre 7.30pm–9.45pm  	22 **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY** **In Situ performances, art installations and events visit**: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/in-situ Save the date – June ▸ **Emerging Writers' Festival** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson
23 **WORLD TURTLE DAY** ▸ **Debt, Scams and Financial Abuse – Financial Literacy Workshop** Dandenong Library 6.30pm–8pm ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	24 Neighbourhood Watch Let's watch out for each other	25 ▸ **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am–12.30pm ▸ **Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong Q&A Information Session with Victoria Police** Paddy O'Donoghue Centre 7.30pm	26 **NATIONAL SORRY DAY** ▸ **Online Bookclub** The DandEreaders 2pm ▸ **Our Beat** Drum Theatre 6.30pm–10pm	27 27 May–3 June ▸ **National Reconciliation Week**		

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Enquiries: 8571 1550
Bookings: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council news visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

Arts in Greater Dandenong

Portraiture: Technique and the Secrets of Colour Part 2

Thursday 5 May
10am–12pm
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

In an age of photography, why paint a portrait? Join award-winning artist Andrew Mezei in this workshop that focuses on painting with colour – controlling colour use, creating depth and exploring the emotional elements of colour.

Please note: part 1 of this workshop is on 28 April.

Introduction to Life Drawing

Part 1–Tuesday 10 May
6.30pm–8pm, online

Part 2–Tuesday 17 May
6.30pm–8pm, online

Anyone can sketch from a picture but it's a whole other experience when you have a professional model posing live on screen. *Introduction to Life Drawing* is an inclusive online life drawing experience from the comfort of your home or studio.

Hosted by Artist Jean-Luc Syndikas who runs Melbourne based collective 'Top Secret Life Drawing'.

Arts Online

Come join our online creative programs and experience a range of workshops that you can participate in at home.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online/workshop-videos



Image from QuickArts – papier-mâché picture frames tutorial, created by Kitiya Palaskas.



What's on at The Drum Theatre

Melbourne 7-Melody Notes presents Mother's Day

Saturday 7 May
4.30pm–7pm

A musical concert for Mother's Day, featuring 7 Melody String Quartet, Chinese ensemble music, Chinese traditional dance, Cantonese songs and opera, and other guest performances.

Tamil Puththaandu Vizha 2022 and Kalai Vizha



Sunday 8 May
5pm

A celebration for Harvest Festival, also known as Tamil New Year. The event will feature various young talents from all over Victoria, performing traditional bharatanatyam, musical segments, drama, speeches and awards.

Paradise Lots – performances

Thursday 12 May–Saturday 14 May
7pm–8pm

Paradise Lots is a community-driven performance project in which a group of young people transform a multi-storey car park into a large-scale performance space.

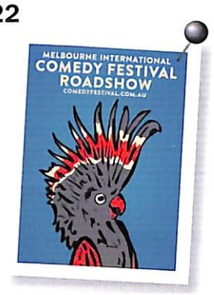
Always Love the Music

Thursday 19 May
10.30am–11.45am

The amazing Roy Theaker and his band present a dynamic and energetic show of a range of musical genres that will excite, delight and amuse.

This performance is part of the Drum's Encore Program. All Encore tickets include complimentary morning tea and a parking voucher.

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow 2022



Saturday 21 May
7.30pm–9.45pm

Buckle up for a night of stand-up, sketch, satire, silliness and song in this rip-roaring road trip designed to satisfy all your comedy cravings.

Our Beat

Thursday 26 May
6.30pm–10pm

Our Beat is a free monthly open stage night that brings together musicians, artists, actors, comedians, dancers and the community.

For more information phone 8571 1666 or email drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au

"What an amazing night we had at The Drum Theatre. We listened to the open mic night for a while, had a couple of drinks then headed into the show. Rebel was amazing, we loved every minute of it. It was our first, but certainly not our last visit to The Drum Theatre. Can you please thank all staff that were there for being so helpful and smiling all night. Thank you." Patricia

Connect with your local library

GRID Series

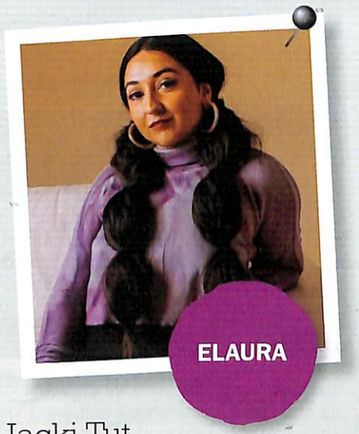
Join us at Dandenong Library for a special collaboration between Libraries After Dark and GRID Series.

GRID Series builds bridges between early career creatives in outer suburbs around Australia and the industries they wish to innovate. Join us for a special series of workshops where local musicians will give a performance and teach a part of their craft in an interactive and inclusive workshop.

ELAURA

Thursday 12 May
Dandenong Library
7.30pm–9pm

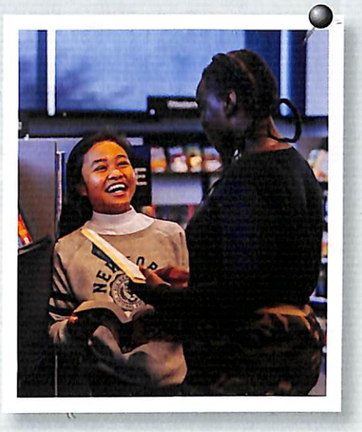
ELAURA's voice – spoken or sung, English or Spanish, is RnB-infused neo-soul. Whether accompanied by her six-piece band or armed with her electric guitar, ELAURA will leave you with your mind full of melodies.



Jacki Tut

Thursday 19 May
Dandenong Library
7.30pm–9pm

Jacki Tut is a 22-year-old South-Sudanese Australian artist from Melbourne's south-east. Not seeing herself as belonging to any single genre, Jacki instead moves through RnB, soul and hip hop to cultivate her sound.



Emerging Writer's Festival

In its 19th year, the Emerging Writers' Festival is one of Australia's most established and well-respected literary festivals.

Annually, the Emerging Writers' Festival brings writers, editors, publishers, and literary performers together with the reading public.

The Emerging Writers' Festival is delighted to continue a program partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong.



Seed Saving Workshop

Thursday 19 May
Springvale Library
7.30pm–9pm

Do you want to understand how to harvest and sustain your garden for years to come?

Join us for a free special seed saving workshop delivered by Cultivating Community. Learn different seed saving techniques, how to store your seeds correctly, how to make your own packets and more.

Follow us on Social Media

Greater Dandenong Libraries now on Facebook and Instagram

Keep up to date with Greater Dandenong Libraries on Facebook and Instagram and stay informed about what's happening with library collections, programs, events and more.

Get to know library staff with the 'Faces of the Library' series and tag #GreaterDandenongLibraries to share pictures and tell us what you love about the library.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson or follow us on social media @greaterdandenonglibraries

Thank You Volunteers

National Volunteer Week from 16–22 May this year celebrates the theme *Better Together*.

Council would like to celebrate and thank our wonderful team of volunteers who give so generously of their time across 15 different programs and services.

Our volunteers are an integral part of the Greater Dandenong community and contribute to the culture, vibrancy, health and wellbeing of our city.

Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse community in Australia, and this is reflected in the variety of people who volunteer with our programs on a regular basis.

Volunteering with Greater Dandenong City Council provides you with an opportunity to share your time, talents and abilities in a supported and professional environment.

By joining our volunteer team you can learn new skills and expand your circle of friends while making a valuable contribution to the community.

Council has a host of interesting volunteer roles available including Gardens for Wildlife, reading buddies, assisting at festivals and events and much more.

You're sure to find something of interest and you can volunteer a little or a lot.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/volunteering or phone the Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service on 9562 0414.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK 16-22 MAY 2022
Better Together



Join a local playgroup

Playgroups are a great way for children aged 0–5 years and their families to meet, play and learn.

There are over 57 community playgroups in the City of Greater Dandenong that cater for a range of activities, languages and abilities.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said that local playgroups create special bonds within the community and help families to support each other.

"Playgroups are fantastic, not only for young children, but also for caregivers who can form new support systems locally.

"Spending time with your children and watching them grow and learn is a wonderful experience. Our local playgroups provide valuable opportunities for connection and belonging," said the Mayor.

Greater Dandenong City Council also has 'small talk', supported playgroups for families run by qualified facilitators where parents can develop their skills to enhance their connection with their child.

For more information about local playgroups visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/playgroups or call Council's Playgroup Development Officer on 8571 1826.

Charity golf day car giveaway

For the first time ever at the City of Greater Dandenong – Industry Take A Swing for Charity Golf Day, a hole in one was miraculously achieved.

Ben Edmonds was the fortunate prize winner and is now the proud owner of a new Nissan X-Trail thanks to Dandenong Nissan.

The charity golf day has raised over $535,000 for 14 charities over the past 13 years to support those most vulnerable in our community.

Thank you to our gold sponsor KPJ Group, silver sponsors Grenda Group and Macpherson Kelley, and bronze sponsors Telstra Business Technology Centre and Erntec. Dandenong Nissan sponsored both the hole in one and putting competitions.

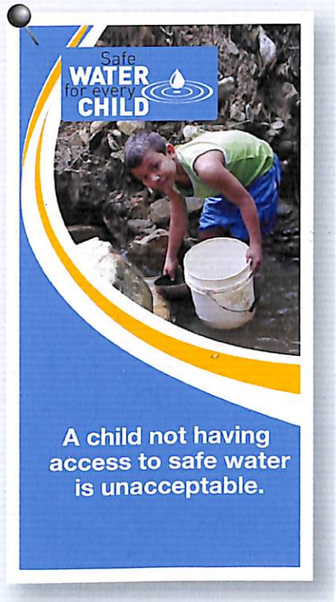


This year's beneficiary is Wellsprings for Women, a charity that delivers a wide range of services to women in our community. Over $35,000 was raised this year to help buy a food truck to build on the charity's cultural cuisines project. This project involves training and supporting local women in a range of roles and responsibilities in the catering industry.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said: "it means a lot to Council that we have generous local businesses that are committed to giving back to our community".

Disaster Aid Australia

Disaster Aid Australia is a project by the Rotary Club of Greater Dandenong and Endeavour Hills that has delivered $250,000 of international aid in 2020–21.



Since 2010 this project has provided smart aid assistance to help people rebuild their homes and access clean drinking water following major international disasters, most recently the Ukrainian crisis and Typhoon Odette in the Philippines.

The project has also installed hundreds of water filters in developing countries, protecting thousands of people under its Safe Water for Every Child program.

To find out more visit disasteraidaustralia.org.au



Need help with public speaking? Join Toastmasters.

Are you horrified by the thought of public speaking? Do you lack the confidence to create a strong and convincing argument?

Maybe you need this skill for your career, or you want to give an entertaining speech at a party? Toastmasters can help you improve your public speaking ability in a supportive environment.

At Dandenong-Mulgrave Toastmasters people from all walks of life and backgrounds come together fortnightly to develop public speaking, communication, and leadership skills to enhance their professional and personal life.

Contact Bis on 0449 681 786 to join our next meeting.

For more information visit facebook.com/DandenongMulgraveToastmasters or dandenongmulgrave.toastmastersclubs.org

Combined Probus Club of Noble Park

You are welcome to join the Combined Probus Club of Noble Park on the first Monday of every month at 10am.

A social club for people over 55 years who are no longer working full-time, all new members are welcome for a coffee, to enjoy a speaker and take part in social outings throughout the year.

For more information contact Secretary Lesley Jarutis via email at LesleyJ941@hotmail.com



Celebrating 60 years

The German Lutheran Church in Springvale recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

An extension has been completed to the current multi-purpose hall. Construction of a new professional kitchen was made possible by funding by the Victorian Government's Multicultural Infrastructure Grant Program. Combined with a new foyer, this new facility comfortably offers contemporary, communal fellowship for up to 100 patrons. Church facilities will be open for hire soon.

For more information visit stjohnsgerman.com



Friends of Refugees

An independent, voluntary, Australian-based, not for profit organisation, Friends of Refugees responds to the world's most humanitarian crisis, helping to create a positive future for people seeking asylum and refugees in Australia.

The organisation relies on donations of goods and funds to provide support to asylum seekers and refugees in our community.

For more information visit friendsofrefugees.org.au

RECONCILIATION AUSTRALIA

BE BRAVE. MAKE CHANGE.





NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2022

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2022

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

JUNE 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



Seen Exhibition Winning Artwork

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

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Phone: 8571 1000

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www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

@greaterdandy

facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's message



Welcome to the June edition of Greater Dandenong Council News, and welcome to the winter season.

Despite the chill in the air, now is a good time to get outdoors and consider how your garden can help support and attract local wildlife. We recently ran a competition to pick a mascot for our Gardens for Wildlife program, see the winner and find out more about the program on page 3.

This month Council will vote on our Annual Budget. Read about our key priorities on Page 6.

The last week of June is the start of the school holidays, and there are plenty of activities to entertain the family during this period. Visit pages 10–11 for our regular What's On calendar, and then turn to page 12 for holiday specific programs running across our libraries and arts facilities.

While health regulations and COVID safe guidelines have changed in recent months, Council encourages everyone to get their booster shots and consider getting a flu jab to help protect against other viruses this winter.

In the meantime, I encourage you to look out for one another and practice kindness, towards yourself and others.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

My City

Sunday 5 June is World Environment Day, the United Nations day to encourage awareness and action to protect our environment.

Council's vision for Greater Dandenong is to be one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

Visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability** for more information.



Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture and Country.

Front cover: Seen exhibition artist Gabriel Hingley with friend Gora Odiel at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Dandenong. Behind them is Gabriel's winning exhibit *Gora*, acrylic on canvas. Photo by Hilton Stone.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely. It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria on a FSC MIX certified paper using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C102126

Faces of Greater Dandenong celebrated at *Seen*





Van Thanh Dat Dao, *Spring on Mother's Back*, Oil on canvas (highly commended)

Visit the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre and you'll be moved by the faces and stories on display.

The *Seen* exhibition celebrates our local community through portraiture, with entrants capturing the people who live, work and play in Greater Dandenong.

Prizes were offered across four categories, including a People's Choice category which will be decided by exhibition visitors.

Open Category
Winner: Gabriel Hingley, *Gora*, acrylic on canvas

Secondary (School) Category
Winner: Tarika Wimalasuriya, *Personality of Three*

Primary (School) Category
Winner: Fiona Zhou and Areyana Singh, *Fiona*

Open Category Winner and artist Gabriel Hingley said he admires Gora Odiel and his family's resilience. They came to Australia to flee war-torn South Sudan.

"I'm pleased to be a part of the *Seen* portraiture prize and to feature my friend Gora. He and his family have been through a lot of hardship, but they have pulled through.

"Gora is full of joy and positivity, a natural and well-respected leader and elder amongst the Anuak people in his community. He smiles whenever I see him, and has a dignified presence, so I wanted to capture that in a portrait," said Gabriel.

Seen was judged by esteemed industry professionals Zia Atahi, Alojz Babic and Esther Gyorki.

Proudly sponsored by The Drum Theatre, the Star News Group and Zart, view the *Seen* exhibition at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong, until Friday 17 June.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seen for more information.

Gardens for Wildlife mascot chosen

The votes have been counted and the winner has been crowned in the competition for the Gardens for Wildlife Greater Dandenong mascot.

Five semi-finalists were chosen by local students which included the eastern long-necked turtle, the pobblebonk frog, the short-beaked echidna, the wandering ringtail damselfly and the yellow-tailed black cockatoo.

The handsome yellow-tailed black cockatoo was chosen as the winner. Recognisable for their distinct yellow cheek patch and their loud wailing calls, these birds can be found in a range of environments and are especially fond of eucalypt woodlands.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti thanked the hundreds of people who voted for the mascot.

"The yellow-tailed black cockatoo is a wonderful mascot that will inspire everyone to do what they can to help local wildlife thrive," the Mayor said.

Gardens for Wildlife is a free program providing advice on how to attract and support wildlife with indigenous plants and wildlife gardening practices.



Whether you have a big backyard or a small balcony, there are always opportunities to support local wildlife by providing shelter, nesting habitat, food and water sources.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife to find out more about the program and how to get involved.

Councillor Contacts



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Noble Park North Ward
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Springvale Central Ward
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Springvale North Ward
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sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
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loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

TUESDAY	MONDAY
14 JUNE	27 JUNE

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Tuesday 14 June**
- **Monday 27 June**

With COVID-19 restrictions easing, the gallery is open again to the public and you can ask questions during Public Question Time.

Alternatively, you can watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

To check the Council agenda, to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

▸ Dandenong Ward

Cr Jim Memeti Mayor

As Mayor of our great city, it is my responsibility to advocate for all members of our diverse community. In the lead up to the recent federal election, I travelled to Canberra with Keysborough South Ward Councillor Rhonda Garad and a delegation of councillors from other local governments, to highlight the dire situation facing people seeking asylum in Australia.

We represented the Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum and urged our politicians to get behind the Back Your Neighbour Campaign, seeking urgent support for thousands of people living in limbo. We will continue to seek better support for this vulnerable group and will call on all Australians to 'Back Your Neighbour'.

Last month, Council called for community feedback on a number of projects and plans for the future of our city. These key strategic documents included:

- Community Engagement Framework
- Revised Council Plan and Annual Plan
- Proposed Budget, Long-Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan
- Arts and Cultural Heritage Strategy
- Libraries Strategy.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to these consultations. Over the past two years Council has been working to capture our community's vision for Greater Dandenong, and this has helped influence the four-year Council Plan and other strategies and plans to ensure we are working to make our city a home for all.



Mayor Memeti, Cr Garad and community advocate Sajjad Askary.

It is important for Council to empower every member of our community to play more of a role in civic life. At times this includes the opportunity to have a say on our projects and plans. You can visit Council's website at any time and find the 'Have Your Say' section to see what we are consulting on.

If you would like to talk to me about any Council issues, please phone me on 0434 560 239 or email jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au

Cr Loi Truong

▸ Springvale South Ward

The safety of residents across our city is always a priority for me, and Council has been successful in receiving funding under the Federal Government's Blackspot Program to improve one particularly hazardous intersection in the Springvale South Ward.

Work has begun to install traffic lights at the intersection of Harold and Corrigan roads in Noble Park. Statistics taken from previous years show that there have been a number of crashes involving cars turning out of Harold Road. Traffic lights will help make conditions safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Following a period of consultation last year, Sandra Reserve in Noble Park has now been fitted with new play equipment. The new playground was designed to encourage active, challenging, imaginative social play for younger and older children. The old equipment was removed and donated to a Rotary Club project supporting overseas communities, read more on page 8.

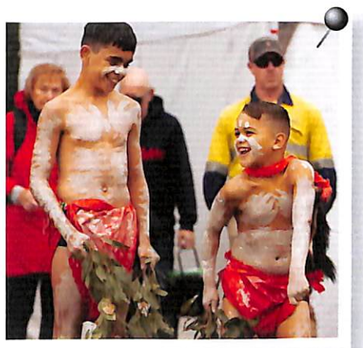
Upgrade works at the Burden Park Tennis Club are also progressing well with the first stage of the upgrade almost complete. The courts have been resurfaced with synthetic grass and the lights and fencing have been replaced to meet current Tennis Australia standards. Once the first three courts are open for play, the remaining three courts will be closed for upgrading, ensuring that tennis players can continue to use this facility throughout the works.

Sustainability is important in helping to protect our environment and one way to be more sustainable is to take part in the monthly Springvale Community Hub Clothes Swap. You can contribute up to 10 items of clothing to each swap. This month's event will be held on Saturday 18 June. You can find out more information via Council's website.



In the meantime, if you would like to get in touch with me I can be reached via email at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone on 0466 004 618.

Discover Dandenong Creek Festival



Over 500 people enjoyed the return of the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival to celebrate the wildlife and wonders of the picturesque location.

Mayor Cr Jim Memeti said the festival provided visitors with a great opportunity to learn more about our local flora and fauna in this significant corridor.

"The festival provided everyone with a chance to celebrate and recognise the cultural, community and habitat connections that the Dandenong Creek provides," said the Mayor.

The Koori Youth Will Shake Spears Aboriginal Dance Group and Djirri Djirri Wurundjeri women's dance group both performed, with the Lions Club of Dandenong hosting a delicious barbeque.

Visitors enjoyed roving performances from the Connies and local parks and sustainability mascots Harry Habitat and Lily Litterbug.

A range of family-friendly activities were also on offer including the Welcome to Country, Smoking Ceremony and Yidaki performance by the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Djirri Djirri workshop by Wurrundjeri community, a live animal show by Black Snake Productions, face painting, a Council plant giveaway, activities with Parks Victoria Rangers, water bugs with Greater Dandenong Environment Group and fishing with Native Fish Australia. Stall displays were hosted by OzFish, Living Links, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, Lower Dandenong Creek Peri-Urban Weed Management Partnership, Marine Mammal Foundation and Council's Parks, Sustainability and Waste teams.



The event was delivered in partnership with Melbourne Water's Living Links Committee who are celebrating 15 years of partnership enhancing the Dandenong Creek corridor and other green links across Melbourne's south-east.

Dandenong Creek starts in the Dandenong Ranges and winds its way down through Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs, passing through Dandenong, flowing into the Patterson River and onto Port Phillip Bay. It is an important corridor, providing key habitat for many animals and plants.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/discover-dandenong-creek

Proposed Council Budget 2022–23 highlights



The proposed Budget 2022–23 strikes a balance between ensuring Council continues to provide services and support to the community, while managing a capital spending program to provide much-needed local infrastructure and stimulation for local employment and businesses.

Despite the constraints of rate capping, Council will maintain a significant investment in the infrastructure of our city, implementing an extensive Capital Works Program of $55.6 million in 2022–23.

Key capital projects in the proposed Budget 2022–23 include:

- $12.5 million for roads
- $10.7 million for Keysborough South Community Hub (stage 2)
- $4.3 million for widening of Perry Road, Keysborough
- $4.1 million for drainage renewal and upgrade program
- $2.5 million for reconstruction of the athletics track at Ross Reserve
- $2.5 million for widening of Abbotts Road, Dandenong South (stage 2)
- $1.8 million to begin construction towards the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (formerly Dandenong Oasis pool).

Council's Capital Works Program for 2022–23 of $55.6 million includes $38 million from rates revenue; $26 million of this is being invested to the renewal of infrastructure and community assets across the municipality, identified and prioritised through Council's annual asset management planning.

The challenge to fund the appropriate replacement of existing assets (roads, drains, buildings, etc) is one that the City of Greater Dandenong shares with many other municipalities, as our key infrastructure was built in the 1960's and 1970's. The proposed Budget 2022–23 allocates $41.81 million towards the renewal and upgrade of our assets.

The most significant amount of funds allocated in the proposed Budget 2022–23 and Long-Term Financial Plan is the $176.19 million cost to provide ongoing operational services to the community.

In support of climate change and sustainability, the proposed Budget 2022–23 includes an increase in the tree planting program budget from $492,000 in 2021–22 to $862,000.

The proposed Budget 2022–23 also allocates funds to the:

- commencement of detailed design for the Dandenong Community Hub
- Rosewood Downs Primary School kindergarten room fit out and maternal child health community facilities
- detailed design of the Barry Powell Reserve and new Tennis Table Centre.

Property rates in 2022–23 will increase by 1.75 per cent, in line with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government. A resident's rate bill may vary by more or less than the rate cap due to the relative property valuation, the type of property classification (residential, commercial, industrial, etc) and other charges not subject to the rate cap (for example, the waste charge). The increase in general rates and waste charges for the median residential valued property is 0.95 per cent on average. The total annual impact is $14.07 or 27 cents per week.

Council remains in a steady financial position for 2022–23 through sound and prudent leadership by Council and its staff, although this will continue to be tested by the compounding effect of rate capping and COVID-19 impacts that have cost $24 million in the past two years.

The final version of the proposed Budget for 2022–23 will be adopted by Council on 27 June.

How to pay your rates

There are several ways you can pay your rates, including online or via instalments. All residents receive a hard copy of their rates notice by post. However, you can opt to receive your rates notice via email.

To do so you can simply register with EzyBill or BPay View to have your notice delivered directly to your email inbox.

For Ezybill visit greaterdandenong.ezybill.com.au to register your details. Once you have activated your account you can register your properties to receive any future rate notices via email.

Register with BPay View via your bank or financial institution to have a copy sent to your internet banking account. This method offers convenient email, SMS or bank message reminders and secure online or mobile access.

Other ways to pay your rates include:

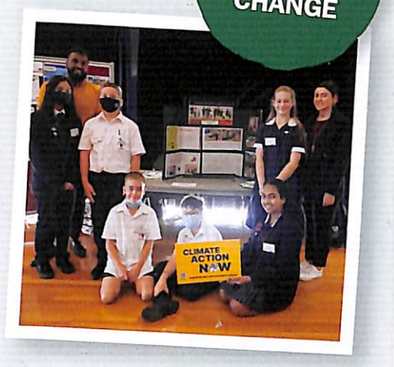
- pay in person at any of Council's customer service centres or any Australia Post outlet
- pay online via mygreaterdandenong.com, PostBillPay or BPay
- pay over the phone using a credit card or via BPay using telephone banking
- pay instalments via direct debit
- pay by cheque which can be mailed to Council.

Visit mygreaterdandenong.com and use the online payment method to pay your rates or any other Council bills, such as animal registrations, infringement notices or permits. For further assistance phone 8571 1000.

A sustainable future

LEAD POSITIVE CHANGE

Students from five Greater Dandenong primary and secondary schools took part in the CERES Student Environment Leadership Summit at the Springvale Town Hall.



Council's Sustainability team helped CERES facilitate the summit. Clothes and toys swap event coordinator Zoë Mohl also spoke with the students.

Each school brought a display to present to highlight what sustainability initiatives are occurring at their school.

Kat Young, CERES Student Programs Communications and Operations Coordinator said the CERES School of Nature and Climate Student Programs team were excited to give students the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead positive change in their personal life and wider community.

"During the summit, we talked about the urban heat island effect, the importance of green space and looked at their school audits to identify sustainability solutions. We equipped students with important climate communication and behaviour change skills to take back to their school and community.



"The summit was a valuable tool to create student and community awareness on the climate and ecological crisis. We value the opportunity to inspire the young leaders of Greater Dandenong," Ms Young said.



Council's Sustainability Festival, *A Sustainable Tomorrow, Together*, was back for its ninth year and was full of inspiring ideas and workshops for all ages at the Springvale Community Hub.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said this year's theme reminded us that looking after the environment is everyone's responsibility.

"While we may see our own actions towards a sustainable future as small, by working together our actions can make a significant difference," the Mayor said.

The indoor and outdoor market featured stalls with great innovative products to help protect the environment, and homegrown produce and free environmentally friendly food kept everyone fed throughout the day.



Bike n' Blend was a huge hit with 390 smoothies made; 90 terrariums, bee hotels or eco bathbombs were made; 100 beeswax wraps were made; 460 free vegetarian/vegan meals and 100 vegan iced-creams were served.

Council's Parks and Horticulture stall ran pot planting activities, teaching the community how to grow their own food from home and plant habitat gardens for native wildlife, with approximately 300 vegetable seedlings given away.

Transforming Greater Dandenong through art

Have you spotted a splash of colour in Noble Park lately? This new 49-metre-long pavement mural off Douglas Street by artist Happy Decay is hard to miss.

Titled *The Colour Connection*, the mural playfully welcomes pedestrians to enjoy the experience of moving from one place to another.

The new temporary public artwork has been commissioned as part of the Noble Park Revitalisation Initiative with funding from the Victorian Government.





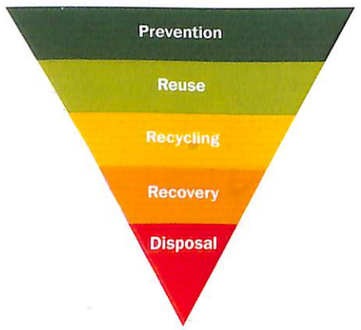
The **Greater Dandenong. My Place. My Community** art mural has been created in collaboration with young people and led by Council, community and artists Mike Makatron, Karena Bravo, Bryan Itch and Sebastian Fransz. The art project creates a sense of community pride and connection. The mural is at the rear of 39A Clow Street, Dandenong Market southern car park entrance.

Are your kerbside bins overflowing?

Learning some sustainable bin skills can help reduce the amount of waste going into your bins and give you some good environmental karma in the long run.

This waste hierarchy is a simple tool used to explain environmental outcomes in order of preference.

Most Preferred



Least Preferred

From the top (most preferred down) the options are:

- **Prevent** waste by really thinking about if you need an item before purchasing it.
- **Reuse** food waste by freezing leftovers or sharing excess meals with friends or colleagues. Give your old games, books or furniture a chance to be reused by donating them to charity or selling them online.
- **Recycle** everything you can.
- **Recover** energy from food and organics waste through composting or via your green-lid bin.
- **Disposal** to landfill is the last resort. Waste sent to landfill is buried underground and can leak toxins into the air and water. What goes in your red-lid bin is landfill, it's not sorted by us or anyone else.

To find out more information on how to reduce your waste visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options

Playgrounds find a second life

Council continues to give new life to old playgrounds by partnering with Rotary to send play equipment overseas.

The Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds (RORP) program disassembles playgrounds earmarked for replacement, and flatpacks them for shipping overseas. Rotary members do a thorough inspection of equipment to make sure it is still safe and usable by overseas communities.

In 2020, Rotary took an old playground that was removed to make way for the All Abilities Playground at Ross Reserve, Noble Park and relocated it to Sri Lanka.

More recently the old playground at Sandra Reserve, Noble Park, was removed and will be sent to Fiji along with playgrounds collected from other Victorian suburbs.

Throughout 2022 Council has earmarked four other playgrounds suitable for relocation through this program.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said the partnership with Rotary was a win-win situation for all.

"While we work here to replace playgrounds to make them safer and more accessible for local children, we get to see the removed equipment given a second life overseas," the Mayor said.



Our Citizen of the Year

At Council's 2022 Australia Day Awards, Amanda Meehan was named Greater Dandenong City Council's Citizen of the Year.

Since then, she says the accolade has given her a chance to reflect on how her passion and drive is making a difference for others.

"My kids like to say, 'My mum's the best person in Dandenong', but it's nice to think people are watching and I'm making a difference in this community," Amanda said.

A busy mum of five, the Keysborough woman is heavily involved in community life. She is also studying to become a registered nurse and is embarking on a surrogacy journey for another family.

She is involved with the Silverton Cricket Club, Wallarano Primary School and Darren Reserve Kindergarten, working to make life better for children across our city.

"The nomination was shocking, but very nice. It's nice to hear what other people think about me. It is really humbling."

Amanda became involved in surrogacy in Victoria when she offered to have a baby for her best friend who is in a same sex relationship. In March 2018 she gave birth to a baby girl, who now knows the role Amanda played in her creation and even facetimes her every day.



Amanda continues to support Victorian families looking to embark on the surrogacy journey and will maintain her work locally to make life better for children and families across Greater Dandenong.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more about Amanda.

Make your move

Local residents made their move and enjoyed the facilities at Noble Park's Ross Reserve recently by taking part in free City in the Park soccer clinics run in conjunction with Melbourne City Football Club.

Sunil Menon, Head of Community, Melbourne City Football Club said: "The club has seen the passion for the game in this region and it's exciting to be out meeting the local community and creating connections through a love of the game".

A Skateboarding Masterclass was run in conjunction with Shredability, at the Noble Park Skate Park.

The free sessions were funded by the Victorian Government through the Noble Park Revitalisation Board which aims to create a safe, vibrant and accessible community, set up to support future generations.



For more information on how to Make Your Move visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move

Upcoming immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. The Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations, here are the sessions for June.

Date	Location
Wednesday 1 June	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 2 June	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 9 June	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Tuesday 21 June	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 25 June	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 29 June	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

What's On June 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Please check our website and social media platforms for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.	Friendship Café ▸ **Springvale Neighbourhood House** Weekly every Tuesday (during school term only) from 9.30am–12pm Weekly every Wednesday (during school term only) from 10am–12pm	1 ▸ **Reading Circle** Dandenong Library 11am ▸ **All Abilities Badminton** Springers Leisure Centre 6pm ▸ **Taking Your Business Online Workshop** Springvale Library 6.30pm	2 ▸ **Carers Walking Group** Burden Park 10am ▸ **Conversation Circle (low to intermediate English)** Dandenong Library 6pm	3 ▸ **Strength Training** Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am 27 May–3 June ▸ **National Reconciliation Week**	4 ▸ **Na Hanyate (It Doesn't Die) – English Musical** Drum Theatre 4pm Parkrun ▸ **Saturdays** Dandenong Park 7.45am	5 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ▸ **Walk of Unity in Faith** Harmony Square, Dandenong 12pm–3pm
6 ▸ **Peer2Peer Homework Club** Dandenong Library 4pm	7 ▸ **Keep Calm and Yoga On** Noble Park Community Centre 6pm	8 ▸ **Small Business Mentoring Bus** 28 Douglas Street, Noble Park 10am ▸ **Code Club: Lego Mindstorms** Dandenong Library 4pm	9 ▸ **Conversation Circle (low to intermediate English)** Dandenong Library 6pm	10 ▸ **Strength Training** Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am	11 ▸ **Think Tank Mad About Science – Natural Disasters** Dandenong Library 3pm–4pm	12 ▸ **Malhar 2022** Drum Theatre 3pm
13 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY June	14 ▸ **Keep Calm and Yoga On** Noble Park Community Centre 6pm ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	15 ▸ **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am ▸ **Code Club – Lego Mindstorms** Dandenong Library 4pm ▸ **Advanced Strategies To Taking Your Business Online** Springvale Library 5.30pm	16 ▸ **Our Beat** Drum Theatre 6.30pm ▸ **Emerging Writers' Festival Workshop: An Editor's Perspective with Suzy Garcia** Springvale Library 6pm–7.30pm ▸ **Emerging Writers' Festival Liminal Spaces Q&A panel** Springvale Library 8pm–9pm	17 ▸ **Strength Training** Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am 27 June–8 July ▸ **School Holidays**	18 ▸ **Dandenong Market Street Food Tour** 10.30am ▸ **Think Tank Mad About Science – Natural Disasters** Springvale Library 3pm–4pm ▸ **Clothes Swap** Springvale Community Hub 1pm–3pm	*Seen* exhibition Celebrates our local community through portraiture. Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong until Friday 17 June **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seen**
20 ▸ **Peer2Peer Homework Club** Dandenong Library 4pm	21 ▸ **Keep Calm and Yoga On** Noble Park Community Centre 6pm ▸ **Art Series** Springvale Library 6.30pm–8pm	22 ▸ **Code Club – Lego Mindstorms** Dandenong Library 4pm ▸ **All Abilities Badminton** Springers Leisure Centre 6pm ▸ **Maximising Your Marketing** Springvale Library 6.30pm	23 ▸ **The Wiggles-Super Hero Tour!** Drum Theatre 10am and 12.30pm ▸ **Online Bookclub: The DandEreaders** Microsoft Teams online 2pm ▸ **Emerging Writers' Festival In the Suburbs workshop** Dandenong Library 7pm–8.30pm	24 ▸ **Strength Training** Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am ▸ **Dandenong Market Street Food Tour** 10.30am Thursday 23 June	25 ▸ **Food and Cultural Tour** Little India Precinct, Dandenong 12pm–3pm 19–25 June ▸ **Refugee Week**	
27 WORLD TURTLE DAY ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	28 ▸ **Keep Calm and Yoga On** Noble Park Community Centre 6pm	29 ▸ **The Social Knitwork** Dandenong Library 10am ▸ **All Abilities Badminton** Springers Leisure Centre 6pm	30 ▸ **The Sapphires** Drum Theatre 7.30pm			A Floral Muse exhibition Explores how flowers and plants have been celebrated in many civilisations throughout time, featuring items from private collections and Council's Civic and Cultural Heritage Collection. Benga House, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong, until Thursday 28 July **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/floral-muse-exhibition**

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Enquiries: 8571 1550
Bookings: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council news visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

What's on at the Drum Theatre

Na Hanyate (It Doesn't Die) – English Musical
Saturday 4 June at 4pm

Malhar 2022
Sunday 12 June at 3pm

Our Beat
Thursday 16 June at 6.30pm

The Wiggles – Super Hero Tour!
Thursday 23 June at 10am and 12.30pm

The Sapphires
Thursday 30 June at 7.30pm
For more information visit **drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum/events**



Arts Online

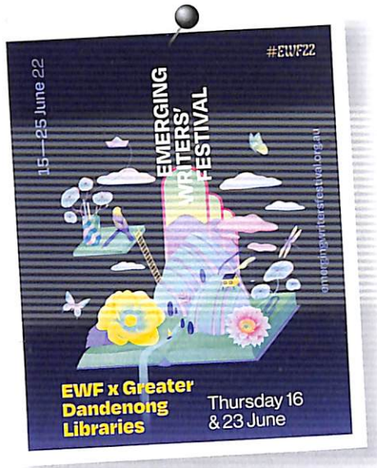
Art for Kids

Free art resources for children and families to enjoy these holidays: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/art-kids**

QuickArts

Come join our online creative programs and experience a range of workshops that you can participate in at home: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/workshop-videos**

Events in our Libraries



Short Story Workshop: An Editor's Perspective with Suzy Garcia

Thursday 16 June
Springvale Library
6pm–7.30pm

Join us for a workshop at Springvale Library as *Kill Your Darlings'* Deputy Editor Suzy Garcia guides you through a short story workshop. Suzy Garcia will discuss what editors look for, the components of compelling short fiction and how you can make your story stand out from the rest. The workshop will include a look at some amazing previously published short stories and what makes them so good.

The Think Tank Mad About Science – Natural Disasters



Dandenong Library,
Saturday 11 June
3pm–4pm

Springvale Library,
Saturday 18 June 3pm–4pm

Explore the scientific processes behind the explosive energy of nature's fury. Learn about different types of natural disasters and how they affect us in Australia. Create a blizzard and erupt a flurry of snow powder! Learn how to make a hurricane and tornado in a bottle and release a chemical volcanic disturbance underwater to model a tsunami.

Emerging Writers' Festival

In its 19th year, the Emerging Writers' Festival (EWF) is one of Australia's most established and well-respected literary festivals bringing writers, editors, publishers and literary performers together for the reading public.

The festival continues in 2022 with a hybrid offering of in-person and online events featuring storytellers of all kinds across a program of performances, professional development and innovative programming.

The Emerging Writers' Festival is delighted to continue a program partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong.

LIMINAL Spaces

EXCITING PROGRAM

Thursday 16 June
Springvale Library
8pm–9pm

A panel discussion/author talk and Q&A event featuring the LIMINAL editorial team.

Leah Jing McIontosh (host) in discussion with Cher Tan, Danny Silva Soberano and Adolfo Aranjuez. Topics include: creating spaces for marginalised voices, the importance of working within your community/communities, cross-community/inter-community collaborations and advice for emerging writers.

In the Suburbs

Thursday 23 June
Dandenong Library
7pm–8.30pm

A workshop on writing a memoir with local author Christopher Raja, author of *Into The Suburbs – Exploring topical issues of race, class and migration*, an affecting portrait of one family's search for home.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson



Springvale Boulevard update

Construction is nearing completion on the $6 million Springvale Boulevard Renewal Project.

Council would like to thank businesses and visitors to central Springvale for their patience with the works which have affected traffic and pedestrian movements and parking in the activity centre.

Improvements to the iconic commercial strip include new paving, street furniture, lighting and wider footpaths for improved trading and dining conditions.

In addition to these features, new garden beds and established trees will be planted to give the Boulevard a more natural feel and improve shade across the precinct. The improvements are supported by the State Government and Greater Dandenong City Council.

The design is a nod to Springvale's status as one of Melbourne's most beloved and leading cultural destinations.

The completed project will improve access to, and within the wider shopping precinct, ensuring it remains an attractive and sustainable destination for retail, cultural and tourism activities into the future.

Council hopes the boulevard will become a social hub that encourages people to connect and relax with friends and family, and where community celebrations can light up the local streets.

Greater Dandenong City Council would like to acknowledge the ongoing support and resilience demonstrated by Springvale businesses during the construction period.

Springvale Boulevard, together with the recently completed Springvale Community Hub, will celebrate Springvale's rich cultural tapestry and create a renewed sense of pride within the community.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Springvale-boulevard for more information.

Hooning is dangerous

Hoon driving is illegal behaviour and can endanger our community.

Council is working with Victoria Police, the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Victorian Government's Department of Transport to reduce hoon driving in Greater Dandenong.

Hoon driving is:

- driving at dangerous speeds
- illegal drag racing or speed trials
- overloading a vehicle where there are more passengers than seat belts
- intentional loss of traction or drifting
- inciting, encouraging or organising any of the above.

If you witness hooning contact CrimeStoppers via their website at crimestoppersvic.com.au and select 'Report a Crime' or phone 1800 333 000.

Planning Scheme amendment

Greater Dandenong City Council is proposing changes to the planning rules that affect land in the Noble Park Major Activity Centre.

The amendment proposes a new Noble Park Local Planning Policy and a new Design and Development Overlay (DDO). The DDO contains guidelines to ensure all new development is of high quality and is well-designed.

Council has also suggested its preferred building heights for the centre, which ranges from three to six storeys.

The Noble Park Local Planning Policy and DDO can be viewed online or in person at a Council office. The community is invited to have a say on the proposed documents and written submissions can be made to Council before Friday 24 June.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say or phone the Strategic Planning Department on 8571 1000.





Haars Nursery

Employer Insights

The Greater Dandenong region is home to more than 17,500 businesses, employing over 95,000 people.

A series of videos featuring local businesses talks to employers and their staff to explore and highlight employment opportunities in our city. The videos challenge perceptions of what it's like to work in manufacturing, logistics and hospitality and showcase the variety of job opportunities across Greater Dandenong.

The videos feature local businesses, many of whom are industry leaders, and are aimed towards jobseekers and students.

South East Business Networks created the videos through their Community Revitalisation Project, funded by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions. Businesses featured in the video series include:

- Atura Hotel Dandenong
- Chobani
- Ego Pharmaceuticals
- Haars Nursery
- Hilton Manufacturing
- Jayco
- Ronson Gears
- Spreading Happiness (Pana Organic)
- Successful Endeavours.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/employer-insights to watch the videos and find out more about employment opportunities across Greater Dandenong.

Food and Cultural Tour

Little India
Saturday 25 June, 12pm–3pm

Experience the wonderful smells, colourful sights and tantalising flavours of Victoria's first Little India precinct located in Foster Street, Dandenong.

The tour guide will lead you on a journey through this vibrant precinct, awakening your senses and revealing the rich Indian culture.

Learn about Indian history, culture, art and regional differences and see these locally through sari, sweets and grocery shops. The tour includes a delicious meal in one of Little India's local restaurants.



Did you know we also do group food tour bookings? If you have between six and 12 people who are interested in a group tour with an expert, please phone 8571 1550 to discuss a tour date and time that is convenient for you.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-tours



Collective Impact

Paul D'Arcy has employed about 100 people over the past 25 years, and that's not just a number to a man who loves seeing people grow, learn and achieve.

The Managing Director of Dandenong South's Direct Mail Solutions is hoping to make an impact on many more in the coming years, and recently launched a not-for-profit social enterprise to support at-risk youth.

When Mr D'Arcy moved his business last year, several other businesses joined him at his South Gippsland Highway warehouse. When he expressed his desire to help employ and mentor at risk-youth those other businesses jumped on board, forming Collective Impact.

Working in conjunction with Social Engine and Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia, Collective Impact is making a better future for vulnerable young people.

When Mr D'Arcy entered the workforce he said the mentorship he found among older employees set him on the right path and he hopes he can be as inspiring to a new generation.

"Collective Impact is still in its infancy, but we are helping to build awareness around employing kids and giving them a chance. I also personally believe that a workplace should be relaxed and fun – we can get the job done while enjoying ourselves.

"I have a teenage boy and I hope that when he enters the workforce he finds a supportive environment in which he can learn and grow, and also have fun," Mr D'Arcy said.

Collective Impact brings together a range of businesses covering marketing, design, print, production, warehouse distribution and charitable sectors.

Visit collectiveimpact.org.au to find out more.

To all those who've come from far and wide,
we're happy you're here

#refugeeweekau
19 – 25 June 2022

refugeeweek.org.au
@OzRefugeeCounc

Refugee Week
Coordinated by Refugee Council of Australia



Caring for the carers

Are you providing ongoing unpaid care for a family member or a friend who has a disability, mental illness, chronic illness, aged-related condition, or for someone receiving palliative care? If the answer is 'yes' – you may be a carer.

Every caring journey is different and may have its challenges, but you don't need to do this alone.

For carers residing in Greater Dandenong, you can speak with Alfred Health Carer Services about your caring role. They can provide you with free information and connect you with useful supports and services relevant to your caring situation. You may also be able to access short-term respite, facilitated coaching, peer-to-peer support groups and events that focus on education and social connection.

Carers of all ages are encouraged to access this service. Phone 1800 512 121, Monday to Friday 8.30am–5pm, or visit alfredhealthcarers.org.au for more information.

For 24/7 emergency respite and after-hours support, call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737.

AlfredHealth
Carer Services



Wallara CEO Phil Hayes-Brown

Wallara wins two national awards

Wallara's CEO Phil Hayes-Brown has been recognised as the Most Outstanding CEO/Director at the inaugural Australian Disability Services Conference and Awards.

The company was also awarded the Best Remote Service/Program for their platform Wallara Online.

Established in Dandenong in 1959 by Council and parents of children with disabilities, Wallara has evolved over the years to become an innovative, sector-leading support service for adults with different abilities.

For more information visit wallara.com.au

Facebook: @WallaraAust

Instagram: @WallaraAustralia



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CHRIS KOHLER, FINANCE REPORTER
Channel 9 News Melbourne

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CORNER CLOW & CLEELAND STREETS, DANDENONG

JULY 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



Enrol in Kindergarten

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Springvale Snow Fest
▶ PAGE 5

Library and Information Week
▶ PAGE 12

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

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Fax: 8571 5196

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facebook.com/greaterdandenong

cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's message

Welcome to the July edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.



This month we celebrate NAIDOC Week. A chance for us to reflect on how we support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Earlier this year, Council adopted the second *Greater Dandenong Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)*, and we continue to work towards reconciliation with our First Nations people. Find out more about the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live on page 3.

Last year Council supported members of our Community Care team to study for further qualifications through Chisholm Institute. Find out more on page 7.

As a Council we are always looking at ways to reduce the amount of rubbish sent to landfill. Read about our food and organic waste program and our commitment to Plastic Free July on page 8.

Greater Dandenong is proudly a Child Friendly City and this year I have been working alongside our Junior Mayor, Mya. Turn to page 9 to find out what she has been working on.

There's always plenty to do in Greater Dandenong, even during these winter weeks. Turn to pages 10–11 and check out the community calendar which is full of interesting events, especially for the school holidays. I look forward to seeing you all out and about this month.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

My City

Sunday 31 July is National Tree Day. Started in 1996 by Planet Ark, the day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting day.

Council has committed to planting more trees in public spaces to help increase our tree canopy.



Visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/environmental-events** to learn more.

This photo shows one of the majestic red gums near Shepley Oval in Dandenong.

Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture and Country.

Front cover: Students from Darren Reserve Kindergarten, Springvale South. Photo by Thomas Barnes.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely. It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria on a FSC MIX certified paper using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C102126

CELEBRATE

NAIDOC Week

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held each year in the first week of July.

NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee. The week is a chance to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Learn about the oldest continuous culture on earth and support our First Nations people by getting involved in NAIDOC Week.

The theme this year is Get Up! Stand Up! Show Up! and calls on all Australians to continue to push for change.



Council wins award for excellence

Council won the *First Nations Community Partnership Initiative Award* for the Waa and Bulln Bulln Corroboree (Springvale ceremonial fire pit) at the LGPro Awards for Excellence.

The ceremonial fire pit, Waa and Bulln Bulln Corroboree, was designed by Indigenous artist and Kirrae Whurrong woman Fiona Clarke and her collaborator Ken McKean, in partnership with Bunurong and Wurundjeri Land Councils.

The ceremonial fire pit depicts the coming together of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples and their connection to Country.



By telling First Nations' stories through public art, the Greater Dandenong community continues to connect with the longest living culture in the world.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/public-art/waa-and-bulln-bulln-corroboree-springvale-ceremonial-fire-pit

Welcome to Bunurong Country

Womenjika. Welcome to Bunurong Country.

On 1 July 2021, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (Land Council) was appointed by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for a large part of southern Melbourne and beyond, including all the land within the City of Greater Dandenong.

This recognition places several legislative rights and responsibilities on the Land Council, including being the only party recognised to speak on behalf of Bunurong Country, including language, culture, cultural heritage and representation of the Bunurong community. The Land Council inclusively represent the Traditional Custodians of all Bunurong Country.

The Land Council works closely with Greater Dandenong City Council on many projects such as Council's Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), use of Bunurong language throughout the Council, public safety initiatives, art galleries and use of Bunurong art. The Land Council is also working towards having the Bunurong bushland crew work alongside Council repairing Country.

The Land Council looks forward to building a strong relationship with Council, residents and businesses within the city.

Contact the Bunurong Land Council via email admin@bunuronglc.org.au or visit their website bunuronglc.org.au

Bunurong Land Council

Councillor Contacts



Dandenong Ward – Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti
0434 560 239
jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward – Deputy Mayor
Cr Eden Foster
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eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au



Cleeland Ward
Cr Angela Long
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0466 004 616
angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
Cr Bob Milkovic
0435 237 051
bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward
Cr Tim Dark
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Keysborough South Ward
Cr Rhonda Garad
0435 107 584
rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward
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Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
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lana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
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0435 627 164
richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY 11 JULY

MONDAY 25 JULY

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Monday 11 July**
- **Monday 25 July**

With COVID-19 restrictions easing, the gallery is open again to the public and you can ask questions during Public Question Time.

Alternatively, you can watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

To check the Council agenda, to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

▸ Cleeland Ward

Cr Angela Long

The baseball facilities at Robert Booth Reserve have undergone continuous improvement with support from Council, the State Government, and volunteers from both the Dandenong Angels and Mulgrave Rebels baseball clubs. The baseball facilities are among the best in the state and one of the few fields south or east of Melbourne.

The upgrade of the flood lights to the infield to 350 lux, and the outfield to 250 lux at a cost of around $800,000 has enabled the clubs to conduct night games and extend training times. A recent fencing overhaul, including higher fencing at the backstop, and bull pits cost $80,000. This investment has improved the safety for players, spectators and other users of the reserve, as well as improving the general look of the facility.

In September 2018, the new pavilion at the reserve was officially opened, replacing a very old and tired one. This new facility has enabled both clubs to operate and manage their clubs in a more professional manner.

Mulgrave Rebels play in the summer competition, from October to March, and have had an historical year in 2021–22, with the top four sides participating in finals and earning a promotion to the Premier League Division 1.



David Ashwood, Cr Angela Long and Nick Thompson.

Dandenong Angels play in the winter competition, from April to September, and have managed to kick off their season this year after heavily affected seasons in 2020 and 2021. Between 2016–19 the Angels won four consecutive A grade flags following a 52-year A grade premiership drought.

Both clubs are looking for new players from juniors to seniors and can be contacted via:

- Dandenong Angels President, David Ashwood at davidash.wood@bigpond.com
- Mulgrave Rebels President, Nick Thompson at president@mulgraverebels.com

If you need to contact me on any Council related issues, please email at angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone on 0466 004 616.

Cr Rhonda Garad

▸ Keysborough South Ward

It is an exciting time for Keysborough South. We have things coming to fruition, and new things afoot.

We now have two fantastic toilet facilities in Westwood and Pencil Parks, which means visitors can stay longer. Their locations now allow clear sight lines for parents when children are using them.

I want to thank the residents who have worked so diligently in helping Council and the EPA to track the chronic smells in Keysborough South. The EPA will be setting up a community engagement group to continue to track and monitor smells and air quality. You can stay informed through my Facebook page.

The new dog park in Villiers Road has had plantings and paths completed. The 90 trees planted last year are flourishing and will provide protection from the summer heat. It is quite dark in the park on winter evenings, so we hope the soon-to-be installed lighting in the adjacent park will improve this. If not, we will look at solar lighting options.

We have new lighting in Chapel Road that has improved the section from the Dandenong Bypass to Westwood Boulevard. In addition, the new bus route through Keysborough South is being well utilised. We will continue to push the State Government for bus shelters and half hourly buses, particularly as traffic issues become more acute.

The Keysborough Hub went out to tender in June, so hopefully we see the commencement of building soon.

It was fantastic to be invited to the Mother's Day event at Keysborough Gardens Primary School. Congratulations to Principal Sherri Jenkins and her team, and the fantastic parent group that organised this great event. We are about to install flashing traffic limits on Chapel Road to slow the increasing volume of traffic near the school.

Great to see some people attend the recent community Victoria Police forum. It was great to hear of the many ways Police are reaching out to build stronger connections that will keep the ward safer.



Cr Rhonda Garad and Principal Sherri Jenkins, Keysborough Gardens Primary School.

I am always contactable via phone on 0435 107 584, Facebook at facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard or via email at rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au

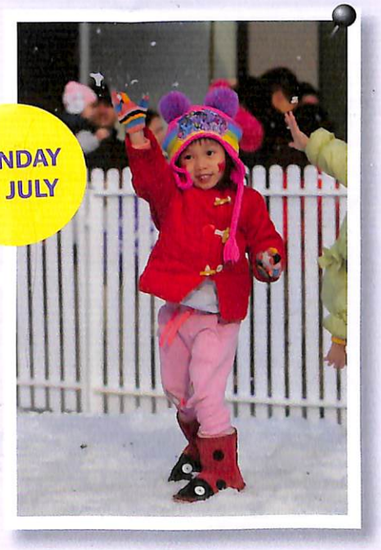
Springvale Snow Fest is back

A magical winter wonderland will again delight in the heart of Springvale on Sunday 31 July from 12pm–7pm.

This award-winning winter carnival and street food festival is back to celebrate its 10th year along Buckingham Avenue.

SUNDAY 31 JULY





What makes Springvale Snow Fest special is the authentic snow experience. Real snow is delivered from Mt Buller to cover the two free snow play areas.

There is something for everyone at Springvale Snow Fest, enjoy food and market stalls, arts and crafts, airbrush tattoos, face painting, live ice sculpting, roving performers and musical entertainment, rides from $2–$6 and fireworks at 6.50pm.

For more information visit snowfest.com.au



Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti and ASRC CEO Mr Karapanagiotidis OAM at the opening.

Refugee Resource Hub now open

Support for local people seeking asylum and refugees has a bright new home in Greater Dandenong.

The Refugee Resource Hub powered by the ASRC (Asylum Seeker Resource Centre) recently opened in Thomas Street, Dandenong.

The ASRC started 21 years ago as a TAFE project about food security. Headed by founder and CEO Kon Karapanagiotidis OAM, the ASRC has since grown in response to the needs of the people.

The organisation stresses that the people it supports don't need a handout, they need a hand up.

The Refugee Resource Hub aims to do exactly that, providing material aid, healthcare, legal aid, a foodbank, counselling, education and employment services.

Other community organisations are also co-located at the hub, including Sisterworks, Centre for Migrant and Refugee Health (CMRH) and the Australian Hazara Women's Friendship Group.

The organisations and most of the staff at the hub have refugee backgrounds and are proud to work alongside new arrivals.

At the opening of the hub Mr Karapanagiotidis said the brand new centre was a beautiful welcoming space for all.

"I want to say to refugees and people seeking asylum, 'You are welcome, you are seen, you are loved, and you are home'."

The hub is located at 205 Thomas Street, Dandenong.

Visit refugeeresourcehub.org.au to find out more.

2023 Community Calendar photographic competition

Do you love taking photos of your surrounds? Would you like to have your work seen in households across Greater Dandenong?

Then enter the 2023 Community Calendar Photographic Competition.

Council is inviting residents and visitors to Greater Dandenong to capture their favourite parts of our city with the opportunity to feature in our 2023 Community Calendar.

First prize is $1000, second prize is $500 and third prize is $250, with the top 12 photos to feature in next year's



Community Calendar. Submissions close on Friday 16 September.

All photos chosen to appear in the calendar will also feature in an exhibition at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre later this year.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition

Upcoming immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. The Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations, here are the sessions for July.

Date	Location
Monday 4 July	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 7 July	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 14 July	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 20 July	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 23 July	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Tuesday 26 July	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.



Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti and Damien Van Eyk, Chief Commercial Officer at Chisholm Institute with Council graduates.

Congratulations Class of 2022

With an ageing population, there is high demand for qualified community aged care workers in Greater Dandenong.

Recent graduates of the Certificate III Individual Support traineeship, delivered in partnership with Chisholm Institute, have been celebrated at the Springvale Community Hub for successfully completing their training.

Graduates provided physical, social and emotional support to elderly residents who need Council's Community Care services.

Feedback from clients was extremely positive, with trainees displaying a positive attitude, initiative, creativity, empathy and understanding.

The traineeship initiative coincided with the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety that identified workforce capacity as a major problem and barrier to people accessing Community Care services.

For more information on the course visit chisholm.edu.au/courses/certificate-iii/individual-support

For more information on Council's community care services visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-services/aged-disability-and-carer-services

Springvale Boulevard upgrade



Artist impression of Springvale Boulevard.

New footpaths, landscaping, lighting and street furniture are being installed, with the project expected to be completed ahead of schedule in early August 2022.

The project will transform the area into a highly accessible, functional and beautiful boulevard to attract more visitors to the area, create new trade opportunities and foster a renewed sense of community pride in the Springvale Activity Centre.

Council and the Victorian Government's investment in this key strategic project will reinforce the status of 'Sensational Springvale' as one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations and reflect our community's aspirations for the area.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-boulevard

Improved traffic safety in Springvale

New traffic signals, pedestrian crossings and a safer 40km/h speed limit have all been implemented to improve traffic flow and safety at the Springvale Road, Virginia Street and Newcomen Road, and Rosalie Street intersections.

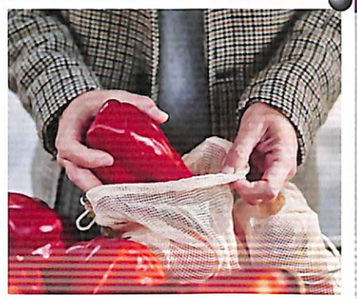
The Victorian Government's Department of Transport has invested $3.9 million to complete the works.



Mayor Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Richard Lim OAM and Cr Sean O'Reilly in Springvale with Lee Tarlamis MP and Meng Heang Tak MP.

It's the month to part with plastic

Plastic Free July is here. It is a month-long challenge to help you reduce your reliance on single-use plastics.



Single-use plastics, such as takeaway containers, coffee cups and straws are a huge problem for our environment, our wildlife and our health.

This month, Council encourages you to participate in the Plastic Free July challenge to help work towards a vision of a world free of plastic waste. Whatever you choose to do, you are making a positive impact on the environment and inspiring people around you to do the same.

Here are some tips to get you started:

- bring your own bags to the shops and market to carry your shopping, and to bag up your loose fruits and vegetables too
- avoid buying single use wet wipes and instead use cloths and towels
- when shopping for packaged food, look for items in cardboard, tin or glass packaging instead, recycle them in your yellow lid recycling bin
- carry a cup or reusable drink bottle with you whenever you go out and refill it with water from one of the many public drinking fountains located around Greater Dandenong.

In November 2019 Council introduced a Plastic Use Policy. Early next year, the Victorian State Government is bringing in their own single-use plastic ban which will see drinking straws, cutlery, plates, drink-stirrers, expanded polystyrene food and drink containers, and cotton bud sticks eliminated from sale or supply.

Sign up to the Plastic Free July challenge at **plasticfreejuly.org**

Council is running three online workshops across July to help event organisers, community groups and sports clubs reduce their use of plastics. Visit Council's website and search our events for details.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability/sustainability-and-waste for more information.

Celebrate National Tree Day

National Tree Day with Planet Ark falls on Sunday 31 July this year, and Council will hold two community planting events over the last weekend of the month to celebrate.



- Saturday 30 July, 10am–1pm, Tirhatuan Park, 4 Kriegel Way, Dandenong North
- Sunday 31 July, 10am–1pm, Tatterson Park, Keysborough

Participants are encouraged to wear clothing and footwear suitable for uneven and muddy ground, and bring water, a pair of gloves and a hand towel.

Extra activities at each event include a barbecue lunch, a traditional Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, live animal shows, workshops and colouring in activities.

Bookings are essential. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/environmental-events to register.

Recycle your food scraps

For many families, food waste takes up a lot of space in the garbage bin, but you can reduce the amount of waste you send to landfill.

Did you know food can be recycled along with your green waste? For the past year, Greater Dandenong City Council has allowed residents to dispose of all food waste in your green lid garden waste bin.

Once collected the bins are taken to a processing plant and the waste is turned into a nutrient rich compost that is used on gardens and farms across Victoria. Council even uses the compost in several local gardens and parklands to keep our green space looking beautiful and healthy.

All food scraps can be placed in the bin, including fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice, bread, meat, coffee grounds and tea leaves.

Garden waste including leaves, grass clippings, weeds, flowers, small branches and garden prunings can also be placed in the bin.

Council still has a limited number of free kitchen caddies available for residents who pay for the green waste collection (green lid bin).

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/household-waste-collection-services for more information about recycling your food waste.



Our Junior Mayor

I'm Mya Durakovic and I'm the Junior Mayor for 2022.

I'm 11 years old, in grade 6, I'm one of the school captains at Keysborough Gardens Primary School, and I love school. I have a younger sister called Gemma, Mum, Dad and a dog called Teddy.

Being Junior Mayor means I'm the voice of my generation. I will have meetings with fellow students from the Children's Advisory Group and will try my best to fix any problems or concerns they might have. I realise that this is a big opportunity, but I will give it my all and try my best in everything I do.

I was lucky enough to attend the Sustainability Festival in Springvale, where I read out a speech I had written. Sustainability means to care and look after your planet by recycling, using less power and technology, active traveling such as walking, bike riding, scootering to school and work if you can, and much more.

Being sustainable is very important for us because it helps keep our environment healthy and beautiful. It also helps us keep ourselves and other living things alive and safe. If we aren't sustainable, our gardens won't grow, and we won't be able to have fresh produce every day.

Some ideas of how to stay sustainable in your own household are by using solar panels, turning the lights and power points off when you're not using them, not wasting water, throwing all your food scraps into your compost bin, maybe even growing your own veggie garden or community garden and use the mulch from your compost bin to help your garden grow.



MYA DURAKOVIC

I can't wait to see what else I will do as the Junior Mayor of 2022. If you have any questions or see me out and about, don't be afraid to come and say hi.

Enrol your child in kindergarten for 2023

Kindergarten (sometimes called 'state funded kindergarten' or 'preschool') is an important step for young children aged three to five years. Two years of early education is now offered for up to 15 hours per week, before children start primary school.

Enrolling your child now into kindergarten for 2023, will provide your child with important opportunities to learn, make friends and develop social skills through a play-based curriculum, delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and qualified educators, in range of settings including community kindergartens, long day care centres and schools.

The kindergarten programs are designed to improve your child's development, health and wellbeing and loving of learning in an inclusive setting for all children with all abilities.



Research has shown that early education helps set children up for a bright future. Children who go to kindergarten are more independent, confident learners and are more likely to make a smooth transition to primary school.

Kindergarten children will develop:

- social skills, like how to play with other children in a calm, sharing and rewarding way
- self-awareness and respect for others
- emotional skills, like understanding their feelings
- language, literacy and numeracy skills
- the joy of learning and group activities together with other children their own age
- the ability to make new friends
- exposure to new ideas and concepts.

Sending your child to kindergarten also gives families opportunities to meet other families and make community connections.

In 2023, kindergarten will be offered for free with new subsidies for all children enrolled in either sessional kindergartens or long day care centres.

For more information and to enrol your child in kindergarten for 2023, phone 8571 1817, email childrenservadminsupport@cgd.vic.gov.au or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

What's On July 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Please check our website and social media platforms for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.	4–8 July ► **Dandenong Pop-Up Blood Donor Centre** St Mary's Community Centre Pre-book your spot at lifeblood.com.au or phone 13 14 95 from 10am–12pm		July	1 ► **Blockbuster Friday** Youth School Holiday Program Reading Cinemas, Dandenong 11.30am–3pm ► **Creative Drama** Springvale Library 2.30pm–4pm	2 ► **Brass Monkeys** Drum Theatre 2pm For children 3–10 years 3–10 July ► **NAIDOC Week**	26 June–9 July ► **Pop Up Art** In Situ Winter School Holiday Program Noble Park, Springvale, Dandenong
4 ► **Karate Basics and Stranger Danger** Dandenong Library 2.30pm–3.15pm	5 ► **Roll up! Roll up!** Craft activity and rice paper roll workshop Presented by Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation Dandenong Library 2.30pm–4pm	6 ► **Reading Circle** First Wednesday of the month Dandenong Library 11am–12pm ► **The Laugh-Out-Loud Show** Dandenong Library 2.30pm–3.20pm	7 ► **Fantasy Drawing Workshop** Springvale Library 2.30pm–4pm ► **NAIDOC Week Film Night – Ablaze (PG) – Libraries After Dark** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm	8 ► ***Ice Age* movie screening** Presented by Springvale Snow Fest Springvale Community Hub 12pm–2pm ► **Circling Time: Songs and Stories – Singing up Country with Kutcha Edwards** Drum Theatre 7.30pm	9 ► **Community Planting Day** Westwood Boulevard Reserve Keysborough 10am–1pm	A Floral Muse exhibition Explores how flowers and plants have been celebrated in many civilisations throughout time, featuring items from private collections and Council's civic and cultural heritage collection. Benga House, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong until Thursday 28 July **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/floral-muse-exhibition**
11 ► **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm *Unending Expectations: Contemporary Glass exhibition* **Until Friday 5 August** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre Corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/upending-expectations**	12 ► **Guided tour of *Unending Expectations: Contemporary Glass*** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre Time TBC ► **Art Series – Ariba Naqvi's Build your Mushroom Dreamhouse** Dandenong Library 6.30pm–8pm	Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games **28 July–8 August** Be inspired by our Australian athletes and Make your Move. **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move** MAKE YOUR MOVE	14 ► **The Barber of Seville** Opera Australia Drum Theatre 10.30am (Special Encore Performance) ► **Still Life Painting with Mahjabin Bahadori – Libraries After Dark** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm	15 ► **The Barber of Seville** Opera Australia Drum Theatre 7.30pm  Movie Screening Friday 8 July	16 ► **The Think Tank – Dry Ice Chemistry** Dandenong Library 3pm–4pm ► **The Barber of Seville** Opera Australia Drum Theatre 7.30pm	 Snow Fest Sunday 31 July
25 ► **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	26 27 June–8 July ► **School Holidays** To book in for youth events including basketball and volleyball tournaments, bowling, indoor laser tag and pizza making visit our website.	27 25–31 July ► **Library and Information Week** Rewrite. Renew. Reimagine.	28 ► **Research Your Family History** Springvale Library 7.30pm–9pm ► **Decluttering Art Workshop with Vivian Qiu – Libraries After Dark** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm	29 30–31 July ► **Open House Melbourne** Visit Greater Dandenong venues **openhousemelbourne.org**	30 ► **Community Planting Day** Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North 10am–1pm ► **Teas of the World** Springvale Community Hub 11am–2pm	31 NATIONAL TREE DAY ► **Community Planting Day** Tatterson Park, Keysborough 10am–1pm ► **Springvale Snow Fest** Buckingham Avenue 12pm–7pm

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Springers Leisure Centre
Ph: 9701 5900

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Cultural Tours
Enquiries: 8571 1550
Bookings: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council News visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Library and Information Week



Research Your Family History

Thursday 28 July
Springvale Library
7.30pm–9pm



Want to explore your family history but not sure where to start? Join us for a special research workshop as part of Library and Information Week to understand what resources Greater Dandenong Libraries have available to help you. The workshop will provide tips on how to search online platforms, including Ancestry and Find My Past. Seek answers to your questions and walk away feeling inspired to discover more.

Grow Your Business with the Libraries

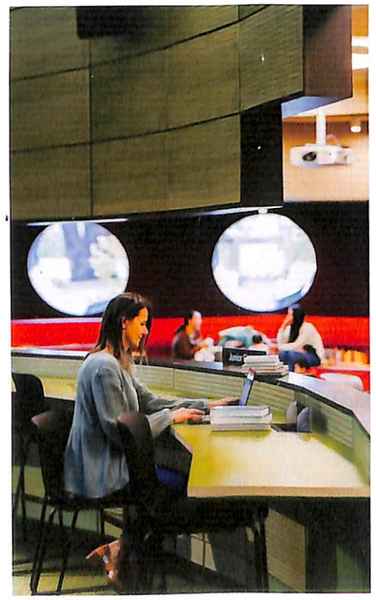
Thursday 4 August
Dandenong Library
7.30pm–9pm

Not sure where to find help for your small business? Greater Dandenong Libraries have a wide range of resources to help you grow your business. Join us for a special Library and Information Week program where you'll meet our Business Portfolio Librarian who will introduce you to the many free online resources the library has to offer.

Warm up your winter at the library

Spend a cold winter's day with some great reading at Greater Dandenong Libraries.

There are many ways you can enjoy our collections, get recommendations from our staff, and connect with other readers. Join in our *Warm Winter Reads* challenge throughout July that encourages you to read something every day.



Read and relax

Reading Circle
First Wednesday of the month
11am–12pm
Dandenong Library

In this friendly group you can connect with other readers and share what you have been reading. A library staff member will also highlight new and interesting items available at the library.

Online Bookclub – The DandEreaders
Fourth Thursday of the month
2pm–3pm
Would you like to be in a bookclub? Each month we read a different title from our overdrive e-book and audio collection and meet online to discuss it. Visit the library website for this month's bookclub title and to register.

Read and Relax Blog – library staff review their favourite books, movies and more.

Open Book Podcast – monthly episodes feature bookchats, reviews, recommendations, and interviews to keep you inspired.

BookMatch – get personalised book recommendations from our librarians based on what you like.

You can always speak to one of our friendly staff and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more great book recommendations.

School Holiday Fun

There are so many great activities planned in Greater Dandenong Libraries in the July school holidays. For more information and to book visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson**

Stay connected

Like us on Facebook at @greaterdandenonglibraries

Follow us on Instagram @greaterdandenonglibriaries

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson

July at the Drum Theatre

Brass Monkeys

Saturday 2 July
2pm

Brass Monkeys celebrates kids who march to the beat of their own drum. Bursting with high calibre acrobatics, a ton of comedy, live music and high-flying tricks, this show is perfect for little kids and grown-ups who like a big brass belly laugh.



Circling Time: Songs and Stories – Singing up Country with Kutcha Edwards

Friday 8 July
7.30pm

From the wings of a darkened stage drifts the evocative, slightly haunting sound of clap sticks. A stoically paced figure slowly emerges singing in his traditional language. This mesmerising introduction heralds a performance by renowned Aboriginal singer/songwriter and proud Mutti Mutti, Yorta Yorta and Nari Nari man, Kutcha Edwards.





The Barber of Seville

Special Opera Australia Presentation

Thursday 14 July, 10.30am
(Encore-sized Performance)

Friday 15 July and
Saturday 16 July, 7.30pm

Beyond haircuts and beard trims, this canny barber is the city's matchmaking maestro.

Become a Drum Member

Want more out of your theatre experience? Become a Drum member to enjoy a range of benefits such as discounts and exclusive offers.

For more information phone 8571 1666 or visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Arts Program



Nadège Desgenetéz, *Elemental Bodies (#1)*, *2022*

Unending Expectations: Contemporary Glass

Tuesday 28 June –
Friday 5 August

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Launching in Victoria exclusive to Dandenong, *Upending Expectations: Contemporary Glass* celebrates a diverse range of artists whose experimental, innovative and at times cross-disciplinary practice, utilises glass and its properties of light, transparency and reflection.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/exhibitions



The Indirect Object, Oasis

Luminosity

Luminosity, a light-based art installation and projection project, brought the streets of Springvale, Noble Park and Dandenong to life at night recently. A component of the In Situ events program funded by the Victorian Government's Outdoor Economy Package.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/in-situ

Centres now managed by South East Leisure

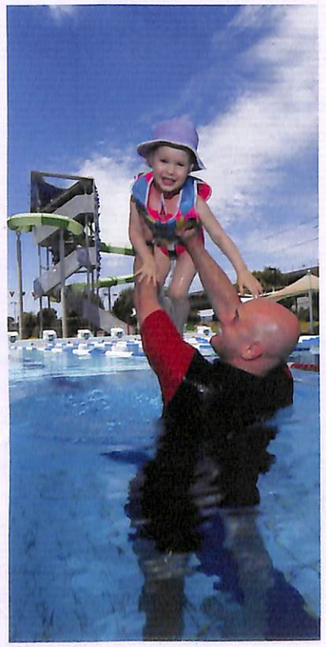
From 1 July, Council's leisure facilities throughout Greater Dandenong will be managed by South East Leisure (SEL).

These facilities include Dandenong Oasis, Dandenong Stadium, Springers Leisure Centre and Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC).

SEL is committed to improving community health and wellbeing outcomes through accessible, high quality leisure experiences.

Council would like to thank YMCA Victoria and Dandenong Basketball Association for their professionalism and previous management of these centres.

For more information visit southeastleisure.com.au





Mr Sher Alam, who runs Royal Golden Reception, Dandenong.

COVID Safe support for local business

With the effects of the pandemic continuing to affect businesses, Greater Dandenong City Council has dedicated resources to offer information and advice to navigate the challenges.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, Council has resources to support businesses, community venues and the general community.

Local business owner Sher Alam, who runs Royal Golden Reception in Dandenong, acknowledged business owners worldwide were facing challenges operating under COVID restrictions.

Mr Alam said his business was not eligible for government support, but it was now back up and running with thanks to support from Council officers and the wider community.

He said Council staff were friendly and helpful and provided support with a COVIDSafe Plan, and signage and kept him up to date with the changing restrictions.

Continue to do all you can to protect your health. Consider booking in for your flu vaccine and keep up to date with your COVID-19 booster vaccinations.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/covid-support-program and coronavirus.vic.gov.au for more information.

Quit smoking

One in five adults in Greater Dandenong smoke, but there is support for those wanting to break free from smoking.

Quit Victoria statistics show that 20.1 per cent of Greater Dandenong adults smoke, compared to 16.4 per cent across Victoria.

Quit Director, Dr Sarah White said the recent launch of a hard-hitting anti-smoking campaign hoped to encourage people to quit their smoking habit.

You'll have the best chance to quit smoking if you talk to your doctor and contact Quitline.

Quit is here to help.

"Counsellors are there to listen, to provide information and to support the caller to make their own plan to quit. There is no judgement, just someone who understands and can help."

The Quitline offers an interpreter service for languages other than English.

For more information visit quit.org.au or phone the Quitline on 13 7848 Monday to Friday, from 8am–8pm.



...talented young local performers

Australian premiere at Drum Theatre

Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre recently hosted an Australian first performance of Disney NEWSIES Jr, featuring talented young local performers.

Produced by Masquerade Youth Productions (MYP), the cast of 50 performers aged 8–18 years came from Greater Dandenong and surrounding suburbs.

Artistic Director Carmen Powell said the cast and crew worked especially hard to pull the production together.

MYP have been performing since 2014 and every season the not-for-profit company stages a musical at the Drum Theatre.

Visit myproductions.com.au for more information.

Help young people get their driving licence

South East Community Links (SECL) is seeking volunteer L2P driving mentors to help supervise L-platers under 21 years old who are seeking to obtain their P-plates.

L2P driver Esmat Amiri said "the L2P program is very valuable to my community because many of us do not have access to a family car or driving mentor."

L2P driving mentor, David Jefferies, has helped 70 drivers in the past 12 years and said he has made some great friendships through the L2P program.



Mayor Cr Jim Memeti, L2P driver Esmat Amiri and L2P driving mentor David Jefferies

"It is a great way to make a significant difference for young people, and it is very safe. I encourage other volunteers to give it a go," David said.

Since the pandemic, more young people are on the waiting list for the L2P program.

L2P driving mentors are supported by the L2P program coordinator and accredited driving instructors.

To volunteer, phone Monica at SECL on 0402 021 852 or email mbakowski@secl.org.au

SPRINGVALE SNOW FEST

31 JULY

Sunday, 12pm-7pm

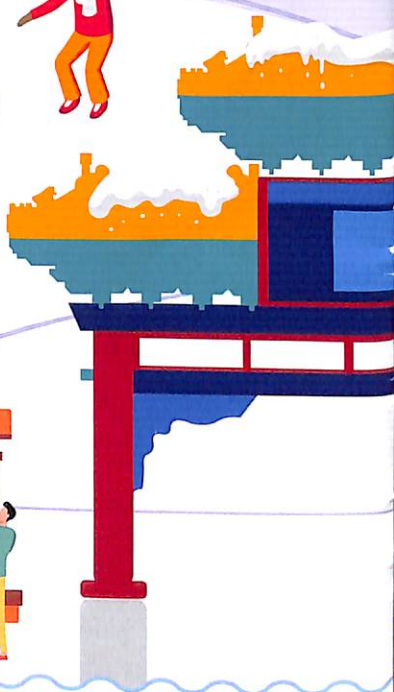
Buckingham Avenue, Springvale

WIN A TRIP TO MT. BULLER

- Fireworks 6.50pm
- Food stalls
- Face painting
- Ice sculpting
- Rides
- Lion dance
- Real snow from Mt Buller
- Snow Princesses
- Live music
- Free winter activities







Major sponsor: MtBuller

Event sponsors: Bank of Melbourne, FOX 101.9

snowfest.com.au | Ph: 8571 1000

Greater Dandenong City of Opportunity

AUGUST 2022

Greater Dandenong Council News



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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

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Phone: 8571 1000

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cityofgreaterdandenong

youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls Police/Fire/Ambulance	000
Street lighting faults/ non-operational United Energy	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults/ non-operational	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society	9798 8415
RSPCA	9224 2222
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024

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Mayor's message



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Finally, as Mayor of Greater Dandenong I am proud to report we received a positive response from the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey run across all local government areas in Victoria. You can read about our results on page 3.

I hope you have a great month.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

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An exciting new temporary mural for Noble Park has been installed by multidisciplinary street artist and illustrator Happy Decay, Bjarni Wark.

The artist ran onsite mural workshops with students from Noble Park Primary School and St Anthony's Primary School so they could also help enhance the urban streetscape.

For more information visit happydecay.com.au/Melbourne-public-art

Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture and Country.

Front cover: Council's Festival and Events Volunteers Ludmilla Karganova, Lilian Antony, Sandra Davidson, Nancy Alphonso Crowe and Margarita Karganova.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely. It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria on a FSC MIX certified paper using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

FSC www.fsc.org MIX Paper | Supporting responsible forestry FSC® C102126

Our valuable volunteers

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Whatever your skills and interests, Council may have a volunteer position to suit you.

Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said volunteers make a valuable contribution to our community, and after a long period of cancelled events and affected services, volunteering is more important than ever.

"Volunteers are crucial to the support and wellbeing of people of all ages and from all walks of life," the Mayor said.



Meals on wheels volunteers Hitch Kajim, Heather Hanratty and Bill Radford.

"For so many people the world is a new place, and a welcoming smile from one of our volunteers can provide assurance and a feeling of safety."

Wednesday 31 August is National Meals On Wheels Day, to recognise our outstanding volunteers and their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council is currently seeking volunteers to support the meals on wheels service, however opportunities for other activities and services are also open, including:

- home library service
- support for children
- events ambassadors
- English tutors
- support elderly residents
- Gardens for Wildlife guide.

Explore current opportunities and fill out a volunteer application form via Council's website.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/volunteering or phone 8571 5335 for more information or contact the Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service on 9562 0414 for other local volunteering opportunities.

Community satisfaction survey results

Council has scored highly in a state-wide annual community satisfaction survey.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is now in its 23rd year and assesses Council's performance across a range of measures in comparison to other local government bodies.

Council scored 68 for overall performance, compared to a state-wide average of 59. Waste management practices were also highlighted, scoring eight points higher than the state average, with an overall score of 76.

When compared to all Victorian councils Greater Dandenong scored significantly higher across all seven measurable areas.

The survey also found:

- residents said the best things about Council are our parks and gardens, customer service and our diversity
- this magazine was rated by residents as the best way for Council to keep residents up to date
- regarding safety, 43 per cent of residents said they feel safe in the community, compared to a low of 36 per cent in 2018
- regarding climate change, 78 per cent of residents said they were concerned about climate change, while 84 per cent said Council had an important role to play in responding to climate change.

A copy of the full report can be found on Council's website.

2022 Performance Measures	Council	Metro average	State-wide average
Overall performance	68	65	59
Consultation and engagement	59	58	54
Community decisions	62	59	54
Sealed local roads	66	65	53
Waste management	76	71	68
Customer Service	73	72	68
Overall Council direction	61	53	50

Quarterly community feedback sought

National Field Services will now phone residents on behalf of Council on a quarterly basis to seek feedback for the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

This will ensure Council is more regularly informed about what is important to our community.

Please note you will not be asked any personal information and phone calls from National Field Services will come from a phone number with the prefix (03) 9977, not from a mobile number.

If you are called, thank you for providing your feedback to help Council improve its service delivery to you.

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Yarraman Ward – Deputy Mayor
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Springvale North Ward
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Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
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loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY	MONDAY
8 AUGUST	22 AUGUST

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- **Monday 8 August**
- **Monday 22 August.**

Currently the gallery is open to the public and you can ask questions during Public Question Time.

Alternatively, you can watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

To check the Council agenda, to view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

► Dandenong North Ward

Cr Bob Milkovic

Even though this winter has been a cold and wet one, it is nice to see people out and about making the most of the parks and gardens in Greater Dandenong.

While Tirhatuan Park has always been popular with locals and visitors, we have invested in this park over the past few years to make it even more appealing.

The dog off-leash park, with separate fenced-in areas for large and small dogs, is always busy, as is the playground. Sporty types have benefitted from tennis court upgrades, and recently it has been great to see visitors making the most of the newly completed basketball court.

Tirhatuan Park forms part of the Dandenong Creek vegetation corridor, providing important habitat for native flora and fauna. Every July we celebrate National Tree Planting Day, and this year we hosted a planting day at Tirhatuan Park, giving the community a chance to contribute to greening our city.

Another Dandenong North Ward location that has seen some work lately is the Brady Road shopping strip. Work is about to begin on the installation of a public toilet in the car park opposite the shops, but you may have noticed some colourful additions to the footpath in front of two food businesses.



Ruba Abouzaki Karameh, Rizk Karameh and Rima Abouzaki with Cr Bob Milkovic.

Outdoor dining installations were introduced in Greater Dandenong last year, providing outdoor dining spaces to support businesses to trade despite ongoing pandemic restrictions.

Brady Road businesses Baladi Products (pictured) and Chooks on Brady have been welcoming customers to their new spaces for several weeks now. The bright umbrellas certainly add some colour to the streetscape.

If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters, you can reach me at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.

Cr Sophie Tan

► Noble Park Ward

Noble Park has benefitted from the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Program, which aims to rejuvenate the centre and speed up the recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

The project has already received $2.1 million to improve public space and amenity while supporting local business and community activity, while another funding round will be offered to implement further initiatives.

There is so much happening in Noble Park at the moment.

Designs have been completed for the Leonard Avenue and Buckley Street streetscape revitalisation. Plans to rejuvenate the two streets include upgrading the commercial streetscapes and creating a centre that meets the day to day needs of residents, workers and visitors, while maintaining and enhancing Noble Park's unique village character.

At the time of writing this column, we were awaiting news on funding for the construction phase.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plan-and-build/works-and-projects to keep up to date.

The design is now complete for the Open Space at 2A Frank Street, works have commenced and are planned for completion in September this year.

Other Noble Park revitalisation initiatives currently in progress include:

- pedestrian counters at five different locations
- a library lounge feasibility study
- a tree planting plan (for up to 50 new trees)
- an interpretive signage program sharing local stories of people and places iconic to Noble Park
- three temporary public art pieces under Council's Transformed Art Program.

Another project that has already been funded under Council's 2022–23 Capital Works Budget is the upgrade to Kenneth Reserve Pocket Park, which includes the creation of a sensory garden.



Projects recently completed and ready to be enjoyed include upgrades to the Douglas Street streetscape and petanque courts at the Noble Park Community Centre.

If I can help you or your family with any local government matters, please phone me on 0466 793 727 or email sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au

Maintain an active and healthy lifestyle

Learn how our *Make Your Move* ambassadors keep active in winter.

It can be hard to stay motivated to eat well and move during the colder months.

Exercise can help to beat those winter blues. After just 10 minutes of exercise, the brain releases 'feel-good' chemicals serotonin and dopamine, which can help reduce anxiety and depression. Exercising outside also provides benefits by taking in fresh air and vitamin D.

Make Your Move ambassador Julie maintains her weekly bike rides during winter and heads to the gym twice a week.

"You soon warm up with a bit of exercise.

"My volunteering also keeps me occupied, as does a hobby I really enjoy. I make small quilts which I donate to the Friends of Refugees and to Council," said Julie.

Make Your Move ambassador Peter keeps active in winter by maintaining his regular routine at the gym, eating healthy, using his manual wheelchair instead of his scooter, playing AFL and riding.

"I also enjoy my downtime by enjoying a game with my family. Having a balance is extremely important to maintaining a healthy mindset," said Peter.



Make Your Move ambassador Julie Klok

By regularly maintaining a mix of both physical activity and non-incidental activity, like volunteering, you can improve your lifestyle, health and wellbeing. Try to get outside when you can, keep active and maintain your social connections.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move

Keep our city beautiful

Council and the community are working hard to protect our environment for future generations, but dumped rubbish across our city is taking its toll.

One particular area of concern is our green wedge. In 2021–22 Council collected 219.984 tonnes of dumped rubbish, up from 180 tonnes the year before.

While cleaning up is a costly affair, it also has serious effects on the environment, causing fire risks and contaminating our soil and waterways.

An export ban on tyres was introduced in December 2021, and already Council has seen regular dumping of commercial quantities of tyres on green wedge land. In some cases, up to 100 tyres have been left in a single location.

While Council actively monitors dumping hot spots (including with CCTV cameras) and regularly issues infringement notices, we can all play a role in keeping our city beautiful.

Residents are entitled to one free hard waste collection each year and can take advantage of the twice-yearly Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days where you can dispose of larger household items.

If you see someone dumping rubbish anywhere in Greater Dandenong you can report them to Council by phoning 8571 1000, by submitting an online report form at Council's website or via the smartphone app Snap Send Solve.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste-and-recycling services/keeping-city-clean for more information.

Bag it and bin it

More families are taking advantage of Greater Dandenong's open space and walking their dogs in local parks.

While it is great to see more people out and about Council Rangers have noticed an increase in complaints about people not cleaning up after their dogs.

Please make sure that if your dog does its business, you bag it and bin it, so the next person doesn't step in it.

Rangers are conducting random patrols at local parks and may issue on-the-spot infringement notices for people who fail to bring a bag.



Please do the right thing and clean up after your dog so we can all enjoy our open space.

Don't feed the birds

Public parks and wetlands across Greater Dandenong are great places to view birdlife but feeding wild birds can do more harm than good.

Feeding birds such as magpies, pigeons, ducks and seagulls can cause the birds health problems. Birds can forage for their own food and a natural diet helps them keep healthy.



Please respect the wild nature of birds and their health by not feeding or handling them. Keep your distance and keep our environment safe for all.

Upcoming immunisation sessions

Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents.

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. The Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations, here are the sessions for August.

Date	Location
Monday 1 August	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 4 August	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 11 August	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 17 August	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 23 August	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 27 August	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

Compost in the classroom

Council's Waste Education Team has returned to the classroom to encourage composting by students.

During the pandemic Waste Education Officers supported online education, but recently returned for face-to-face learning holding composting workshops with Year 1 and 3 students at Keysborough Gardens Primary School.

Sessions covered the benefits of composting including what items can and can't be composted, and some hands-on activities, including a planting workshop with compost and recycled egg cartons.

Students learnt the importance of separating rubbish into the appropriate bins and how we can ensure our rubbish gets turned into something useful. In this case, food scraps placed into the green lid garden waste bin are turned into high quality compost to help feed our gardens.



Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti with Cr Rhonda Garad and students from Keysborough Gardens Primary School.

By educating children through schools and kindergartens important messages are shared with families, friends and the whole community about how to implement sustainable practices that create long-term change.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste-education to find out more about our waste education programs.



Helping kids to eat healthy

Belinda Nowakowski, Healthy Kids Advisor for Greater Dandenong, recently hosted two booked out workshops at the Springvale and Dandenong Libraries to help children and their families explore food via a colourful hands-on rice paper roll session.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation has partnered with the Healthy Kids Advisors initiative to boost community access to healthy, delicious food and drink.

Belinda will be visiting local schools to collaborate with staff and students on fun, tasty ways to embrace fresh, healthy, delicious food and drink options in the spaces they play and learn. This might include reducing sugary drink options and increasing access to water, boosting healthier, tasty options on the canteen menu, or planning fun, healthy fundraisers.

"These little swaps can make a big difference to our region. They increase volunteer opportunities and social connections, support nearby growers and businesses and positively impact the food habits of the whole community," said Belinda.

Healthy Kids Advisors is a three-year initiative supported by the Victorian and Australian Governments. This community engagement initiative connects schools, outside school hours care, sports clubs and community facilities throughout Greater Dandenong with pleasurable food education and the Vic Kids Eat Well movement.

If you are a school, or sports club that may benefit from free, tailored guidance on reaching your healthy eating goals visit **kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/healthy-kids-advisors** or email Belinda at **belinda.nowakowski@kitchengardenfoundation.org.au**

Improving where you live

The pandemic continues to place pressure on all aspects of Council's services and operations.

This year's Budget strikes a balance between ensuring Council continues to provide services and support to the community, while managing a capital spending program to provide much-needed local infrastructure and stimulation for local employment and businesses.

Council will maintain a significant investment in the infrastructure of our city. Key projects to be delivered through the 2022–23 Budget include the commencement of the Keysborough South Community Hub, the widening of Perry Road in Keysborough and the reconstruction of the athletics track at Ross Reserve in Noble Park.

Funding has also been allocated to design development of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre (formerly Dandenong Oasis), and to commence design work for the Dandenong Community Hub, Barry Powell Reserve and the new Table Tennis Centre.

Our capital investment builds on the great work we have delivered over the past several years, including the Springvale Community Hub, Dandenong Civic Centre and Library, redevelopment of the Dandenong Market, reconstruction of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre and the Tatterson Park Community Sports Centre.

Council continues to support climate change and sustainability in Greater Dandenong and has increased its tree planting program from last year.

WHERE YOUR RATE DOLLARS ARE SPENT

- Capital Works Program **$55.59 million**
- Buildings, Roads, Traffic Management and Drainage Maintenance **$27.40 million**
- Planning, Building and Regulatory Services **$19.77 million**
- Parks, Community Facilities, Sport and Recreation **$20.73 million**
- Waste Collection, Street and Public Facilities Cleaning **$26.64 million**
- Family, Children and Youth **$16.26 million**
- Library, Arts, Culture and Community Engagement **$16.25 million**
- Health, Aged and Community Services **$15.20 million**
- Risk Management, Property and Insurance **$4.08 million**
- Greater Dandenong Business, Place Making and Revitalisation and Economic Development **$4.06 million**

Revitalising Greater Dandenong

Investment across Greater Dandenong is creating quality facilities across our city and adds value and enjoyment to the lives of the people who live, work and visit our city.

Revitalisation focuses on increasing investment, and works to meet the needs of the wider community while attracting people from outside the municipality.

Major works have been taking place in suburbs across Greater Dandenong, here is just a snapshot of recent and upcoming projects.

Noble Park

Established in 2021 the Noble Park Revitalisation Board is working with the local community to identify opportunities to make the suburb thrive.

The Noble Park Activity Centre is reaping the benefits of significant investment to unlock the suburb's full potential and to speed up recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.

A range of current projects builds on the investments of recent years including the new train station and level crossing removal, Ross Reserve upgrades and new all abilities playground.

RECENT AND UPCOMING PROJECTS



Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery

Projects include:

- Sport activations including soccer clinics in partnership with Melbourne City Football Club, skateboarding masterclasses and Keep Calm and Yoga sessions at Noble Park Community Centre
- Noble Park Big Day Out including live performances, workshops and activities for youth
- Pavement Mural by street artist/ muralist Happy Decay decorating a pedestrian thoroughfare off Douglas St.

Springvale

At the time of publication the first stage of the $6 million Springvale Boulevard Renewal Project was due to be completed.

Improvements to the iconic Springvale shopping strip include work to make the area more pedestrian friendly and encourage visitors to connect and relax with friends and family.

The works complement the new Springvale Community Hub and create a signature boulevard befitting of one of Melbourne's most iconic cultural destinations.



Springvale Boulevard Renewal Project

Dandenong

The Revitalising Central Dandenong initiative is intended to transform central Dandenong into a vibrant and thriving economic hub.

The long-term project is expected to attract more than $1 billion in private sector investment and create 5000 jobs. To date about $700 million has been invested to rejuvenate and re-establish Dandenong's city centre as the capital of Melbourne's growing south east region.

New projects recently completed or still under construction include:

- Launch Families Supportive Housing Project, 1 Allan St. This $31 million project contains 60 apartments to house and support women and children, including those impacted by family violence.
- Children's Court of Victoria, 153 Foster St. Will provide a five-level commercial building with the Children's Court of Victoria being the major tenant.
- Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery, 5 Mason St. Exciting new initiative celebrating art and culture in Greater Dandenong.

Keysborough

Through community consultation, Council has created a plan for the Keysborough South Community Hub which will support local families into the future. The hub will include community activity rooms, community meeting rooms, a community lounge and kitchen, two kindergarten rooms, childcare rooms and consulting suites for Maternal and Child Health and other specialist services.

Construction of the hub, which is in Tatterson Park at the corner of Villiers Road and Chapel Road, will begin this year.

What's On August 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 ▸ **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am ▸ **STEAM Festival – Design Thinking** Springvale Library 4pm–5.30pm	*Upending Expectations: Contemporary Glass exhibition* **Until Friday 5 August** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/upending-expectations**	**3** ▸ **Reading Circle** First Wednesday of the month Dandenong Library 11am–12pm ▸ **Code Club-Musical Instruments** Three-week workshop Dandenong Library 4pm	**4** ▸ **Carers Walking Group** Burden Park 10am ▸ **Storytime** Dandenong Library 10.30am ▸ **Grow Your Business with the Libraries** Dandenong Library 7.30pm–9pm	**5** ▸ **Rose-Mary Faulkner Artist in Conversation** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 3pm–4.30pm ▸ **Friday Night Film** Springvale Library 6pm ▸ **Songs in the Key of Motown** Drum Theatre 8pm	**6** ▸ **Think Tank Science Week – Beyond Glass** Dandenong Library 3pm–4pm Saturdays ▸ **Parkrun** Dandenong Park 7.45am	Captured Exhibition **16 August–29 September** Three contemporary artists, Steven Cybulka, Emme Orbach and Noah Spivak explore the materiality of industry. Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/captured**
8 ▸ **STEAM Festival – Design Thinking** Dandenong Library 4pm–5.30pm ▸ **The Australian Poetry Slam Word Travels: Spoken Word Workshop** Springvale Library 6.30pm–8pm ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	**9** ▸ **Art Series – Miniature Crystal Sculpture Workshop** STEAM Festival Dandenong Library 6.30pm–8pm ▸ **Winter Warmers: Neuographic Art Workshop** Online 7pm	**10** ▸ **Strength Training** Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am ▸ **Code Club-Musical Instruments** Three-week workshop Dandenong Library 4pm August	**11** ▸ **Conversation Circle – low to intermediate English** Dandenong Library 6pm ▸ **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 7pm ▸ **Libraries After Dark** Zentangles Springvale Library 7.30pm–9pm	**12** ▸ **Tech for Adults – Green Screen** Dandenong Library 2.30pm–4pm ▸ **Friday Night Film** Springvale Library 6pm ▸ **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 7.30pm	**13** ▸ **Dandenong Wetlands Community Planting** 270 Stud Road, Dandenong (near Dandenong Stadium) 10am–1pm ▸ **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 12pm and 7pm ▸ **Think Tank Science Week – Beyond Glass** Springvale Library 3pm–4pm	**14** ▸ **AYPT presents: Nickelodeon's SpongeBob The Musical** Drum Theatre 12pm and 7pm
15 ▸ **Zumba** Jan Wilson Community Centre 6pm	**16** ▸ **STEAM Festival – World of Maths** Springvale Library 4.30pm–6pm ▸ **Art Series – Miniature Crystal Sculpture Workshop** Springvale Library 6.30pm–8pm	**17** ▸ **Baby Bounce** Dandenong Library 10.30am ▸ **Code Club-Musical Instruments** Three-week workshop Dandenong Library 4pm	**18** ▸ **Gems of Jazz, by Packed House Productions** Drum Theatre 10.30am, Encore Program ▸ **Our Beat – Underrated Volume 1** Drum Theatre 6.30pm	**19** ▸ **Tech for Adults – Robotics (Lego Mindstorms)** Springvale Library 2.30pm–4pm ▸ **Friday Night Film** Springvale Library 6pm	**20** ▸ **Victorian State Ballet – The Little Mermaid** Drum Theatre 7.30pm	**21** ▸ **Victorian State Ballet – The Little Mermaid** Drum Theatre 2.30pm
22 ▸ **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	**23** ▸ **STEAM Festival – GIF Making** Springvale Library 4pm–5pm GIF Making Tuesday 23 August	 Friday 5 August	**25** ▸ **Growing Crystals: Emme Orbach** Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 10am–12pm ▸ **Afghan Bazaar Food and Cultural Tour** Book via Drum Theatre 6pm	**26** ▸ **Tech for Adults – Scratch** Springvale Library 2.30pm–4pm ▸ **Friday Night Film** Springvale Library 6pm ▸ **The Australian Bee Gees Show – A Tribute to the Bee Gees** Drum Theatre 8pm	Community Support Grants Program Round 2 open until 31 August Apply online at **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants** Information sessions available: – Thursday 4 August, 10am–11am – Tuesday 9 August, 5.30pm–6.30pm – Thursday 18 August, 2pm–3pm – Wednesday 24 August, 5.30pm–6.30pm **Book your place at commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1432.**	**28**
29 ▸ **Toddler Time** Dandenong and Springvale Libraries 10.30am		**31** NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS DAY ▸ **Community Support Grants Program Round 2 Due**				Please check our website and social media platforms for updates, as event dates may change or be offered virtually.

Contact:

City of Greater Dandenong
Ph: 8571 1000

Drum Theatre
Ph: 8571 1666

Dandenong Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Ph: 9793 4511

Jan Wilson Community Centre
Ph: 8571 1436

Springvale Library
Ph: 1300 630 920

South East Leisure
Ph: 9767 3100

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Ph: 9706 8441

Dandenong Market
Ph: 9701 3850

Food and Cultural Tours
Enquiries: 8571 1550
Bookings: 8571 1666

To submit your event for our website and Council News visit: **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event**

COVID safe guidelines will be met to ensure public safety for all Council events.

Stallholder search at Dandenong Market

Dandenong Market is calling on new businesses to consider opening a stall at the iconic market.

The Market Leasing Team is looking for locally grown, foraged or manufactured foods as well as small and microbusinesses that offer a product or service not already available at Dandenong Market.

Businesses could include locally designed or handmade products, vintage or repurposed and upcycled goods, hobbies and collectibles, cosmetics, skin care and perfumes, or hair and beauty services.

Specialty foods and other products that support the market as 'The World Market' are always popular, as are culturally based items that resonate with our local community.

If they qualify, new traders could be eligible for a generous marketing package to help spread the word of their new location.

Dandenong Market has just completed its annual customer research survey, recording a satisfaction rating of 8.4 out of 10.

If you have a small business idea that you think is suited to a stall at the Dandenong Market visit dandenongmarket.com.au to find out more.



Transport terminal for Dandenong South

Melbourne's largest intermodal terminal is due to open in Dandenong South in 2024, helping to reduce the number of trucks on our roads.

The $28 million project, funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, will connect to the Port of Melbourne allowing port shuttles to run to and from Dandenong South up to five times per day.

The project aims to reduce transport costs for businesses and take trucks off suburban roads. The terminal will offer users 24-hour access to drop off and pick up containers via its fully automated gantry crane system.

The development will be overseen by Salta Properties and is designed to handle up to 560,000 20ft containers every year.

Visit salta.com.au/projects/Dandenong-south-intermodal-terminal for more information.

Looking to develop, relocate, invest or start a business in Greater Dandenong? Then contact Council's Economic Development team as they support local business owners.

For a free discussion on how Council can help you email **business@cgd.vic.gov.au**, phone **8571 1550** or visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business**

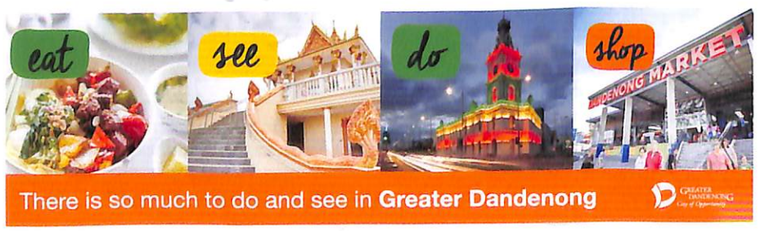
New Food Tour

Council has launched a new food tour called 'Off the Menu', featured recently on Channel 9 News.

The tour allows adventurous guests to experience a tasting of various exotic cultural foods that you will never find on a western menu.

This is one of the many food and cultural tours offered by Council to support local businesses and to provide unique experiences to visitors.

To learn more about our food and cultural tours visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-tours





Fleur Smolenaers from Uniting Vic.Tas with Social Knitwork members at Dandenong Library.

Social Knitwork

For the past eight years, the Social Knitwork has been meeting once a week at the Dandenong Library to connect with like-minded people, to knit colourful items for charity and to share morning tea.

The group kindly donated their creative knitted toys, blankets, beanies, infant clothes and scarves recently to Fleur Smolenaers from Uniting Vic.Tas to pass on to those in need.

The Social Knitwork welcomes new members of all abilities who would like to help create knitted items for worthy causes. The group meets every Wednesday from 10am–12pm at the Dandenong Library.

The group is also seeking wool donations so they can continue their valuable work. Please leave your wool donations for the Social Knitwork at the Dandenong Library service desk.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries



Probus Club

The Combined Probus Club of Noble Park is a social club for people over 55 years that meet monthly.

The group aims to foster friendships and social connections among retirees and hosts regular outings and gatherings for members.

The group meets at Club Noble, Moodemere Street, Noble Park on the first Monday of the month from 10am–12pm. Meeting dates for the rest of the year are:

- 1 August
- 5 September
- 3 October
- 7 November
- 5 December.

Contact Mrs Lesley Jarutis at lesleyj941@hotmail.com for more information.

Enter Dandenong Stadium for free

South East Leisure has removed the door entry fee, promoting better access to Dandenong Stadium for all attendees to enjoy sport and recreational activities.

For more information visit dandenongstadium.com.au or southeastleisure.com.au



Connect with locals and get active

KeepActive is a new local website that increases the options adults have to get active, making it easier for people to find local groups, organisers (i.e. community houses, non-profit organisations, venues and local club social groups), trainers and coaches.

Everyone has different barriers that may stop you from getting active. To break these barriers, KeepActive helps you to discover and create local activity groups to suit you.

For example, if you are looking for a female only walking group, an Indian community badminton group or a beginners tennis group, you can find a variety of local groups via KeepActive, or you can create your own to suit your needs.



KeepActive provides you with so many options and opportunities to connect locally to improve your fitness, increase your confidence and keep you engaged in your community.

Interested? Visit KeepActive.com.au to find out more.

Young Animators Competition

Enter now to see your short film screened during Children's Festival and win some great prizes.

Submissions close Sunday 4 September for children 12 and under.

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/childrens-festival

8571 1000

Presented by

Greater Dandenong Children's Festival

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