

# 2017 - YEAR IN REVIEW - NEWSMAKERS



Keerthi, Saduni, Leon, Dandenong MP Gabrielle Williams, Sukart, then-Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti, Kalows, Bruce MP Julian Hill and Kelly.

## Work to plan

By Casey Neill

Unemployment was a key focus in Greater Dandenong right from the start of 2017.

Councillors voted to establish a mayoral taskforce to tackle youth unemployment in particular at their January meeting.

In November, the council unveiled the Mayoral Youth Employment Taskforce Action Plan.

The first objective is to bring together young people and industry through a jobs fair.

In March, the State Government launched a \$500,000 project to upskill disadvantaged job-seekers and connect them with employers, the Dandenong-Doveton Community Revitalisation project.

The funding will enable the One Percent Project to involve more businesses and better connect the region's employment programs with local job opportunities.

The Dandenong-Doveton Community

Revitalisation project overall will strengthen links between employers, school transition programs and TAFE institutes to create more opportunities for early school leavers to get into pre-apprenticeship programs.

The City of Greater Dandenong Employment Taskforce will work closely with community service agencies and schools to connect families struggling to find work with employment services and employers.

The year featured plenty of employment success stories, too.

In November, Daniel's Donuts hosted Industry and Employment Minister Ben Carroll to highlight the Jobs Victoria program and partner organisation The Bridge.

The Springvale business employed two young women from multicultural backgrounds through the project about six months earlier.

## Rising sky rail 'unites' city

By Casey Neill

Workers raised the first Noble Park column for Noble Park's elevated rail in February, and put the first column into place in March.

It was part of the project dubbed sky rail, which will remove the level crossings at Heatherton, Chandler and Corrigan roads in Noble Park and create open space and parkland.

In April, Premier and Mulgrave MP Daniel Andrews visited the work site at Mons Parade to celebrate a 70-tonne Super T beam milestone.

"The first four beams, these horizontal beams we see behind us, were installed just a couple of days ago," he said.

He said the level crossing removal would "unify" Noble Park.

By August, more than half of the beams needed to raise the rail line in Noble Park were in place and Greater Dandenong Council was advocating for a multi-deck car park near Sandown Railway Station.

Cr Tim Dark said the sky rail project was building "a permanent wall between two sides of Noble Park".

In November, Liberal candidate for Mulgrave Maree Davenport said drug addicts and dealers would "flood" the open space beneath the sky rail in Noble Park.

She spoke out after the State Government revealed new designs for the parkland, which included a 1275 square metre fenced dog park, walking paths and 100 extra car spaces for commuters.



An artist's impression of the new Noble Park Railway Station.

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## Hoseah hits a high

amazon

By Casey Neill

Dandenong High School student Hoseah Partsch touched hearts in lounge rooms across Australia during 2017 with his captivating voice and positive attitude.

The Cranbourne West 18-year-old was the runner-up on television talent show *The Voice* in July.

He soon had one of the country's highest selling singles with *Paper Planes* and was offered a national tour with Culture Club and his coach Boy George.

"Boy, he's brought out another Hoseah. I just feel like I'm a fresh Hoseah," he said.

Hoseah auditioned to help his single mum and three siblings. In October he landed a modelling gig with menswear brand Johnny Bigg.

"I'm just a normal kid from Melbourne trying to chase his dream and make a better future for his family," he said.

He's going to keep working hard and "push to get that house that my mum's always wanted".

"When school finishes, I'm just going to write music. Music is going to be my everyday job," he said.

Dandenong High School principal Susan Ogden was blown away by Hoseah's performances.

"He has a quiet dignity, humility and he has stayed true to who he is despite the hype," she said.

"He is an inspirational young man and we wish him well."



## Amazon sets up big centre

Rumours about Amazon's move into Dandenong South started in July and quickly generated excitement.

The US online retail giant's PR team said there was nothing to share at the time, despite several advertisements for Amazon jobs at what is now their first Australian warehouse and distribution centre, in Pellicano's M2 Industry Park.

The Committee for Dandenong joined the buzz.

"We don't know that they're coming," spokesman Jamie Sturgess said.

"But we'd be surprised if they don't come."

He said an Amazon warehouse would bring jobs to the region and hoped it would give governments a push to deliver promised and proposed infrastructure, a point he reiterated in August.

"It will draw other businesses into the area if Amazon is a roaring success," he said.

"For that to happen, the State Government's got to make moves on infrastructure. Urgent, practical and strategic action is needed to make sure the south-east of Melbourne is not left behind or loses its competitive advantage."

He said key projects included an overpass to connect Remington Drive to Pound Road West, the Abbots Road level crossing removal, a Bangholme Road EastLink exit ramp, the Port of Hastings, the long-planned Dandenong South Inland Port project and more.

The first orders started leaving Amazon in

## Dandenong District Historical Society

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**From:** Chris Keys [chris.keys@dingley.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 April 2016 9:42 AM  
**To:** 'Dandenong & District Historical Society'  
**Subject:** FW: 1914 Dandenong v Pakenham premiership clash

Chris Keys

0418340754  
[Chris.keys@dingley.net](mailto:Chris.keys@dingley.net)  
11 Dryandra Cres  
Keysborough 3173

**From:** Jarrod Potter [mailto:jarrod.potter@starnewsgroup.com.au]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 April 2016 9:15 AM  
**To:** Chris Keys  
**Subject:** Re: 1914 Dandenong v Pakenham premiership clash

Thanks Chris.

Are there any other big Dandenong sports-during-the-war stories I've missed? The ones on Otto Lowenstern, the Couve brothers and Jack Walker have gone done great and I'm keen to tee up a few more this year.

Best Regards,

Jarrod Potter  
Sports Journalist  
Tel: (03) 5945 0655  
Mob: 0400 863 868  
Twitter: @JarrodPotter  
[www.starnewsgroup.com.au](http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au)



On 10 April 2016 at 07:04, Chris Keys <[chris.keys@dingley.net](mailto:chris.keys@dingley.net)> wrote:  
Will take a look at this this week. Get back to you.

Sent from my iPhone

On 8 Apr 2016, at 10:41 AM, Jarrod Potter <[jarrod.potter@starnewsgroup.com.au](mailto:jarrod.potter@starnewsgroup.com.au)> wrote:

Hi Chris,

That time of year again!

Was wondering if you had any information about the 1914 Dandenong v Pakenham match, particularly the Pakenham team.

There's a man playing in that match for Pakenham, Harry Cook, who apparently returned from the camps just to play in this match. Would love any information you have on that match or even the Pakenham side if such information exists within DDHS.

Best Regards,

Jarrold Potter  
Sports Journalist  
Tel: (03) 5945 0655  
Mob: 0400 863 868  
Twitter: @JarrodPotter  
[www.starnewsgroup.com.au](http://www.starnewsgroup.com.au)



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Version: 2016.0.7497 / Virus Database: 4545/11968 - Release Date: 04/05/16

## Dandenong District Historical Society

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**From:** Casey Neill [casey.neill@starnewsgroup.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 17 March 2016 10:29 AM  
**To:** Dandenong & District Historical Society  
**Subject:** Re: Street Name

Hi Chris,

Further to my previous email, we've had a request from a reader for the history of Jones Road. Do you have any information on that one?

Cheers,

Casey.

Casey Neill  
Journalist  
*Dandenong Journal*  
Tel: 03 5945 0611  
[dandenong.starcommunity.com.au](http://dandenong.starcommunity.com.au)



On 15 March 2016 at 14:28, Casey Neill <[casey.neill@starnewsgroup.com.au](mailto:casey.neill@starnewsgroup.com.au)> wrote:

Hi Chris and team,

I hope you're all well.

I'm getting in touch about our Street Name column. The next one will appear in our 11 April edition.

I'm on holidays for two weeks from next Thursday 24 March and I'm hoping to file the story before I go.

Are you able to please help me out?

## Dandenong District Historical Society

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**From:** Casey Neill [casey.neill@starnewsgroup.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 December 2015 4:14 PM  
**To:** Dandenong & District Historical Society  
**Subject:** Street name

Hi Chris and team,

Further to my previous email regarding our What's in a Street Name column, I came across three streets I think would make easy subjects:

- Crump Lane
- Boyd Lane
- Garnar Lane

I understand the council has created way-finding signage for these lanes and that information is available is Gipps-Land Gate.

The column next appears in our 14 December edition (the final edition for the year!).

Its first appearance in the New Year will be 8 February.

If there's any chance you could get both to me next week I'd be extremely grateful. You can take your pick as to which streets get the call-up.

As always, thanks so much for all of your help.

Cheers,

Casey.

I've attached a list of the streets we have covered previously. Any new additions from across Greater Dandenong would be very welcome.

As always, thanks for your help.

Cheers,

Casey.

Casey Neill  
Journalist  
*Dandenong Journal*  
Tel: 03 5945 0611  
[dandenong.starcommunity.com.au](http://dandenong.starcommunity.com.au)



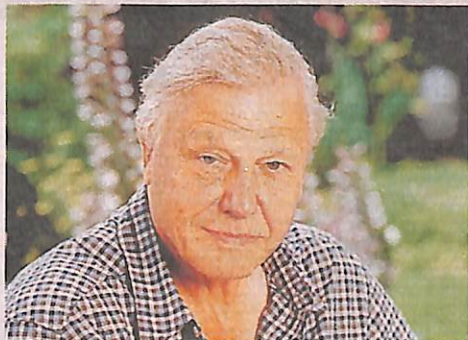
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Lonsdale Street – June 2014  
Walker Street – July 2014  
Corrigan Road – August 2014  
Clow Street – August 2014  
McRae Street – September 2014  
Masters Street – October 2014  
Kidds Road – November 2014  
Gladstone Road – December 2014  
Pound Road – February 2015  
Bennet Street – February 2015  
Tharle Street – March 2015  
Ordish Road – April 2015  
Wedge Road – May 2015  
Dunbar Lane – June 2015  
Kirkham Road – July 2015  
Macpherson Street – August 2015  
Hemmings Street – September 2015  
Rudduck Street – October 2015  
Foster Street – November 2015  
Crump Lane – December 2015  
Langhorne Street – February 2016  
Kingsbury Lane – March 2016  
Garnar Lane - April 2016  
Ewart Lane – May 2016  
Swords Road – June 2016  
Boyd Lane – July 2016  
Lewis Street - August 2016  
Ericksen Street - August 2016  
Hutton Road - September 2016  
Harris Street - October 2016  
Jarvis Crescent – November 2016  
Oldmeadow Street – December 2016  
Royals, Prime Ministers and Melbourne Racing Club - January 2017  
Patchell Lane – February 2017  
Ross Street – March 2017  
Eric Wilson Way – April 2017  
Oldham Lane – May 2017

## Tour cancelled



### Pacemaker for Sir David

Sir David Attenborough has cancelled his sellout June tour of Australia after being scheduled to undergo surgery in London on Tuesday to have a pacemaker installed.

Sir David's tour, scheduled to begin in Brisbane next week, was to feature highlights of the naturalist and broadcaster's six decades of nature filmmaking.

He was scheduled to appear at The Plenary at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on June 21 and 22.

Lateral Events chief executive Simon Baggs advised that discussions concerning a potential rescheduling of the tour would begin after Sir David, who last toured Australia in 2012, recovered from surgery.

Sir David also appears on *Badger Swagger*, a new star-studded single released on Tuesday by former Queen guitarist Brian May to promote a campaign against the British government's decision to cull badgers in a bid to combat tuberculosis in cattle.

Meanwhile, tour ticket holders are advised to check the website [alifeonearth.com.au](http://alifeonearth.com.au) for refund information.

John Saxby

## Media



### Journalists face the sack

A publisher of local newspapers in Melbourne that is half-owned by Fairfax Media will sack 34 of its staff, including journalists, and close down seven local papers in the city's south-east, in another round of sackings in the media industry.

Also, Australian Associated Press on Tuesday announced it would sack 25 people as part of a restructure of its editorial departments.

Metro Media Publishing, half-owned by Fairfax Media, will later this month close the seven local newspapers: the *Knox Weekly*, the *Monash Weekly*, the *Casey Weekly Cranbourne*, the *Casey Weekly Berwick-Pakenham*, the *Maroondah Weekly*, the *Peninsula Weekly* and the *Frankston Weekly*.

The publisher's chief executive, Antony Catalano, said the company would continue to publish the *Dandenong Journal*, the oldest community newspaper in Victoria.

Mr Catalano said the decision to close the seven papers was "regrettable but inevitable".

AAP's editor-in-chief, Tony Gillies, said the new agency's sackings reflected structural shifts in the media worldwide. He said the overall job reduction of up to 25 journalists represented about 10 per cent of editorial staff.

Clay Lucas

June 5 2013