

Greater Dandenong Council News

Run, Walk or Roll on 27 January

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**Reuse and Recycle
Drop Off Day**

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What's On

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Big Summer Read

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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



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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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

Non Urgent Police Response

(no sirens)..... 131 444

Dandenong Police..... 9767 7444

Springvale Police..... 8558 8600

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 holiday edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

It is my great honour to have been elected as the Mayor of Greater Dandenong City Council.

I am committed to leading with great passion and pride, doing all I can to ensure our great city is a place that benefits us all, a place where we can all thrive.

You'll see in this edition that we have proudly opened new facilities, enhanced open spaces, launched new programs and continue to deliver important services.

There are a lot of exciting activities and events on in the new year, view pages 12-13 to see what's on.

I'd also like to congratulate previous Mayor Eden Foster who was recently elected as the State Parliament representative for the seat of Mulgrave. It was a pleasure to serve with her as a fellow Councillor and I look forward to our continued work together to support the Greater Dandenong community.

I would like to wish you all a wonderful, happy and prosperous New Year in 2024.

All the best to you and your family.

Mayor

Cr Lana Formoso



New Deputy Mayor

Springvale Central Ward Councillor Richard Lim OAM has been elected as Deputy Mayor of Greater Dandenong City Council.

Cr Lim is passionate about supporting local jobs and businesses and attracting new residents and visitors to Greater Dandenong. He keenly promotes our city's cultural diversity while focussing on strengthening our sense of community.

Elected to Council in 2020, Cr Lim came to Australia from Cambodia in 1980. He has undertaken decades of philanthropy work and has run Lim's Pharmacy in the heart of Springvale since 1991.



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters.



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 using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

Front cover: Runners taking part in the 2023 Fun Run at Dandenong Park. Photographer: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo

New Mayor for Greater Dandenong



“I will strive to make our community a better place...”



On 17 November Noble Park North Ward Councillor Lana Formoso was elected by her fellow Councillors as Mayor of Greater Dandenong City Council.

Cr Formoso grew up in Greater Dandenong and continues to raise her family in Dandenong North.

Elected to Council in 2020, serving most recently as Deputy Mayor, Mayor Formoso thanked her fellow Councillors for the great honour.

“It is such a privilege to be elected as Mayor of Greater Dandenong City Council. I have a genuine heartfelt connection to this city as it has always been my home.

“I was born and raised in Dandenong, went to school here and now find myself working alongside educators who once taught me.

Cr Formoso said she was looking forward to working closely with Council’s CEO Jacqui Weatherill and the executive team and staff.

She thanked outgoing Mayor, Cr Eden Foster for her great work and the many positive achievements she oversaw in her time as Mayor.

“I am proud to be part of one of the most culturally diverse communities in Australia. I am passionate about speaking up, taking part and accepting responsibility to represent and improve Greater Dandenong.

“Over the next 12 months I look forward to being a part of the many ways our community celebrate its cultural traditions and special occasions.

Cr Formoso said many major projects would continue to develop in 2024, including the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, the Keysborough South Community Hub and the Dandenong Community Hub.

“We also expect to see the completion of the Dandenong New Art Gallery, which will be an exciting addition to the artistic and cultural fabric of our community.

“I will be particularly pleased when the Noble Park Athletics track is completed, a project Cr O’Reilly and I have been a part of since its inception.

“As a physical education/health teacher I am passionate about enhancing people’s health and wellbeing, so I will continue to work hard to improve our open spaces, increase our tree canopy coverage, and increase and improve our sports facilities and playgrounds.

“Our advocacy to the State Government to help us fund the \$100 million-plus

Dandenong Oasis redevelopment will also be a priority in the year ahead. I am also extremely pleased that the rectangular sports stadium in Dandenong is back on the public agenda. It would potentially be home for Melbourne City A-League and W-League sides which will be a huge benefit to our city and region.

“One of the many reasons I ran for Council was to improve the road safety in our municipality, in particular the Stud Road pedestrian crossing which I have been advocating for since 2013. I will not stop until it’s delivered.

“I will also maintain my advocacy for a new fit-for-purpose facility for the Dandenong SES Unit. As a proud member, I know how significant their emergency management support is to our Greater Dandenong community,” said the Mayor.

Cr Formoso acknowledged her devoted husband Daniel, two boys Luka and Hugo, mother Radina, and extended family and friends for their incredible support and inspiration.

“I will strive to make our community a better place, a healthier, improved place for future generations.

Councillor Contacts



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● **Yarraman Ward**
Currently vacant due to Eden Foster being elected as State Parliament representative for the seat of Mulgrave.



Council Meetings

Council meetings are held in the chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

In January one meeting will be held on:

► **Monday 22 January.**

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.

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**

Yarraman Ward By-election



Following the departure of Yarraman Ward Councillor Eden Foster, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will hold a by-election to fill the seat.

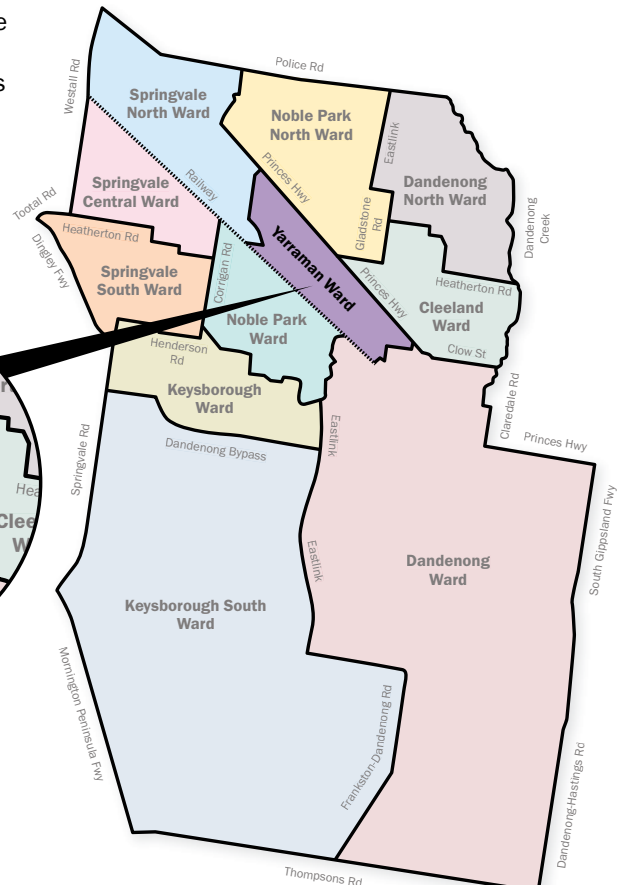
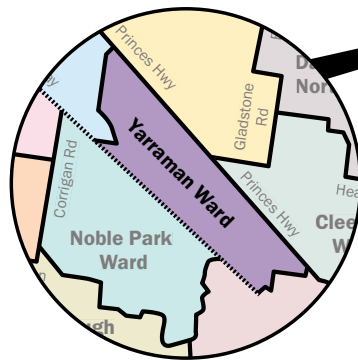
Electoral Commission (VEC) will hold a by-election to fill the seat.

Cr Foster resigned from Council on 20 November after she was elected to the Victorian Parliament as the member for Mulgrave.

The by-election will take place on 9 March 2024 and will be conducted by postal vote. It is only applicable for residents who live in Yarraman Ward, and all affected residents who are enrolled to vote will receive their ballot in the mail.

This by-election comes ahead of general Council Elections which will be held in October 2024 and will see residents across the municipality vote for a new councillor in every ward.

➔ **For more information about voting or nominating visit: vec.vic.gov.au**



► Noble Park North Ward



I was born in Dandenong and love living here, however, I notice there are many issues that need to be addressed.

As a Physical Education/Health teacher, I know there is a need for Council to improve our open space strategy, increase our tree canopy coverage, increase and improve the sports facilities as well as upgrade many of our playgrounds.

I'm extremely passionate about providing more park amenities and improving health outcomes in our community. Many of the capital improvement bids I have requested are starting to come to fruition. Thank you to everyone who has shared feedback regarding upgrades to parks across Greater Dandenong. Recently we held consultations for Bakers Road Reserve, Browns Road Reserve and Madison Reserve. Please continue to have your say on other reserves as we ensure everyone's needs are met.

I'd like to remind Noble Park North residents that we have many weekly programs running at Jan Wilson Community Centre, including Zumba, adult exercise and simply fitness classes for \$6 per session. No registration is required. Please phone 8571 1436 or email communityfacilities@cgd.vic.gov.au for more information. I would like to see residents utilising these great programs and looking after your health and wellbeing.

You can see in this photo I am with local resident Sara who joined me to test out the new playground at Hennessy Reserve. Sara approached me about this reserve when I was first elected in 2020, and it was great to celebrate this new space with her.



If you would like to speak to me about a local issue email iana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 530 536.

Mayor Cr Lana Formoso



Cr Jim Memeti

► Dandenong Ward



Our city is home to a number of top-class sporting facilities so participation in a wide range of sports is possible for people of all ages.

Recently in Dandenong Ward we celebrated the opening of the WJ Crowe Pavilion. Home to St Mary's Cricket Club and St John's Old Collegians Football Club, the new pavilion includes four change rooms plus two umpire rooms, creating equal space for male and female players and officials. As the ward Councillor I have been a strong advocate for this \$6 million upgrade, and I am pleased to see it completed with a \$500,000 grant from the Victorian Government and \$100,000 from AFL Victoria.

The facility also includes two timekeeper rooms, public toilets, social space, a kitchen, meeting rooms and plenty of storage space. Based in the Thomas Carroll Reserve in Dandenong, this pavilion is just one of the upgrades taking place at this location.

We have completed a new playground just outside the pavilion and will soon



finish a new entry plaza to safely connect the car park, playground, pavilion and ovals. We look forward to clubs having full access to the pavilion when the final accessibility requirements are complete early in the year. I also attended the official switching on of the east oval lighting upgrade. The light towers will give players a chance to train for longer hours, meaning more teams can make use of this great space.

You may have noticed some interesting new infrastructure pop up at the corner of Clow and Lonsdale Streets in Dandenong recently. The urban pods are


covered picnic tables that can shade you from the sun and protect you from some light rain.

I encourage all residents to check out the pods and stop for a rest, or grab some lunch from the Lonsdale Street traders, and enjoy a break in the artistically decorated pods.



If you want to contact me about Council-related issues you can email me at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Ross Reserve Pavilion opens

 The \$10.8 million Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion in Noble Park is now open and will serve the Greater Dandenong community and the many sporting clubs who call the ground home, including the Noble Park Junior Football Club, Springvale City Soccer Club, Sandown Lions Football Club, EMC Sports Club, Noble Park Cricket Club and Parkfield Cricket Club.

Reclink Australia also run programs at Ross Reserve to increase sporting opportunities for at risk youth from disadvantaged communities.

Football Victoria Referees will also benefit from all the new facilities.

The new pavilion features six female-friendly change rooms, first aid rooms, three all-gender umpires' rooms, accessible toilets, meeting rooms, a canteen and storage spaces.

New 100-lux LED lighting with upgraded cabling, power supply and switchboard brings Oval 2 up to Australian standards for soccer and Australian Rules.

New scoreboards across two ovals have also been installed, helping local players and spectators keep a closer eye on the score line.

The Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion was completed with the assistance of a \$750,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Grant Fund.



The lighting upgrade project cost \$460,000 and was completed with a \$230,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Local Sports Infrastructure Fund – Community Sports Lighting Stream.

Former Mayor Roz Blades AM has also been duly honoured with the Social Club room within the pavilion named after the Noble Park identity and City of Greater Dandenong Living Treasure. The acknowledgement is in tribute to Roz's significant contribution to the community and her funding advocacy for the building.

Council is close to completing a couple of high-profile projects, including the synthetic soccer pitch, which should be ready for use soon.


The highly anticipated athletics track development is also due to be completed by March, welcoming back athletes of all ages to a facility that meets World Athletics Standard.

Australia Day Awards



Greater Dandenong City Council will recognise the individuals and groups who make a positive impact in our community at the 2024 Australia Day Awards.

The Awards Ceremony will follow a Citizenship Ceremony to welcome the newest residents to Greater Dandenong.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards to find out more.

AWARDS



Community Calendar

The 2024 community calendar was delivered to residents in December. If you didn't receive yours you can collect one from any of Council's customer service centres.

Recycle right



When we talk about recycling, the phrase 'what goes around, comes around' is a great way to describe the process.

Here are some important tips to help you recycle right:

- ▶ keep recycling loose and out of bags
- ▶ keep food scraps out of bags, even compostable bags, and wrap your food scraps in newspaper or paper towels instead.

The process used to create high quality compost from our food and garden waste is not designed to break down compost liners quickly enough, so we ask that you please don't use them.

With so many ways to reduce waste and recycle right, what will you choose to do today?

▶ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/household-waste-collection-services for more information.



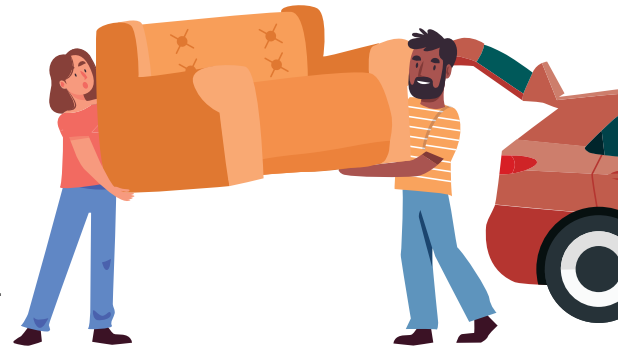
Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day

Across 2023 Council ran its popular Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days on four separate occasions.

The most recent event ran on Sunday 26 November, with hundreds of residents taking advantage of the opportunity to dispose of larger unwanted household goods suitable for donation, as well as electronic and household goods suitable for recycling.

The drop off event will run again on 24 February at Greaves Reserve, 2-20 Bennet Street, Dandenong.

The service is in addition to the free, one-off annual hard waste collection provided to all households in Greater Dandenong.



▶ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day for more information and to register for an SMS reminder for drop off days across 2024.



Cash rewards for recycling

\$ A state-wide recycling scheme is rewarding Greater Dandenong residents for recycling eligible drink cans, cartons and bottles.

Launched in November the Container Deposit Scheme offers 10 cents for each eligible item you recycle. The scheme will help keep our city clean and will provide opportunities for local community groups to fundraise via collection drives.

A recycling pod, set up behind the Dandenong Market, is open from 7am-7pm daily and offers direct bank deposits or vouchers in return for your recycling. The pod can handle large volumes, while smaller units set up in several locations across Greater Dandenong will support smaller collections.

▶ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to find out more.



Dr Seuss's The Cat in the Hat

Friday 19 January
Drum Theatre 10.30am and 1pm

Yikes, the summer holidays are here and if you're looking for something to do with your Thing One and Thing Two, you can bring the whole family to The Cat in the Hat for an experience they'll never forget.

Young and old alike will delight in this lively adaptation of a classic book coming to life before your very eyes. Spoiler alert: things run amuck, and quickly.

Tickets from \$30.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information or to book your tickets.

Family Fun

Monday 22 January and
Wednesday 24 January
Springvale Library 2.30pm-4pm

Bring the whole family for this school holiday event and join in the fun with LEGO, board games and puzzles. Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

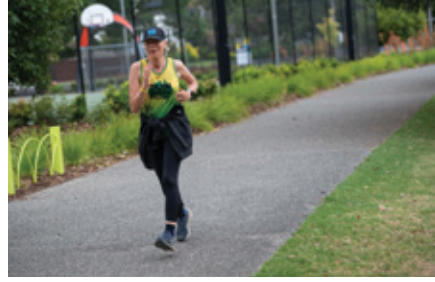
Immunisation appointments



Council's Immunisation Team has introduced a new, online portal to book appointments for public immunisation sessions.

The platform, Central Immunisation Records Victoria, is managed by the Department of Health.

To make a booking you must first create an account, then select Greater Dandenong City Council as your immunisation provider. Follow the prompts to complete your booking.



Greater Dandenong Fun Run, Walk, Roll

Saturday 27 January
Dandenong Park 7.45am-9.30am

Join us and get ready to run, jog, walk or roll to conquer Dandenong Park's 5km course. Free sausage sizzle for registered participants. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/fun-run-walk-roll



Sustainability Festival

Sunday 25 February
Dandenong Market
10am-3pm

The Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival returns to the Dandenong Market next month to put a fun and informative spin on living sustainably. Join in on lots of free activities for all ages, learn practical tips about sustainability and go home with some environmentally friendly goodies.



➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation for more information or phone **8571 1000** for support.



South East Leisure



Enjoy our local pools this summer

Visit Dandenong Oasis and Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) this summer to cool down in the pool on hot days.

Remember to always remain aware and be safe near water.



For more information and opening hours visit southeastleisure.com.au



Come and Try Sports Day

Wednesday 24 January 2024
Springvale Community Hub
9.30am-1.30pm

Discover the joy of sports at our free *Come and Try Sports Day*.

Seize the chance to experience a range of activities like soccer, tennis, basketball, and pickleball.

Try out one sport or stay for all four.

This event is for children aged 5-12 years. Bookings required.



To register visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/come-and-try-sports-day

Walk Against Family Violence



The Greater Dandenong community came out in force to take a stand against family violence at the annual Walk Against Family Violence on Tuesday 21 November.

Council is committed to preventing violence against women in our community and this annual event attracts hundreds of people who share our passion.

This year's walk was no exception with more than 500 people marching from Dandenong Market and through the streets of Dandenong to finish at Harmony Square.

There the audience heard from powerful guest speakers who shared their stories of surviving family violence. Former police officer Melanie Rowe and social change advocate Liana Papoutsis connected with the audience to encourage people suffering family violence to seek help. They also encouraged everybody to challenge gender bias and take action to prevent family violence in our community.

The walk will return in 2024, but in the meantime Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/walk-against to see videos of past walks and to find out more.



What is family violence?

Family violence is any threatening, coercive, dominating or abusive behaviour that occurs between people in a family situation that causes someone to feel fear.

It is a continuous pattern of behaviour and is not just physical or sexual abuse. It can begin as coercive or controlling behaviour and can include financial, emotional and psychological abuse.

Examples of family violence include:

- ▶ Stalking
- ▶ Repeated insults or critical comments
- ▶ Damaging or destroying property
- ▶ Controlling finances
- ▶ Keeping a family member away from family, friends or culture
- ▶ Sharing or threatening to share intimate personal pictures or videos.

How can I help someone experiencing family violence

When someone is experiencing family violence they can feel trapped and out of control. These feelings can be made worse by well-meaning people telling them what to do.

Here are some ways you can help:

- ▶ If someone is in immediate danger phone 000 immediately
- ▶ Believe them and take their fears seriously
- ▶ Listen without interruption or judgement
- ▶ Don't make excuses for the person who has hurt them
- ▶ Understand they may not be ready, or it may not be safe to leave, don't force them
- ▶ Help in practical ways with transport, appointments, child minding or provide a place to escape to.

Support

The Orange Door 311 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong 1800 271 170
Open Monday to Friday, from 9am-5pm

1800 Respect 1800 737 732
24/7 support for those experiencing family violence or sexual assault

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre 1800 015 188
24/7 response line providing emergency accommodation and referral to local support services

InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence 1800 755 988
Support and advice for multicultural women

All signs point to Little India



New signage welcoming visitors to the Little India precinct leaves passers-by with no question of where they are.

Large, colourful signs mark entry to the precinct at Dandenong Station, as well as on Cheltenham Road and Mason Street, while smaller street signs guide the way.

The new gateway signs add to the layers of colour and vibrancy in the precinct which is marked by street art, neon lighting and beautiful window displays created by traders. The new signage was delivered with funding from the Victorian Government's Community Infrastructure and Cultural Precincts Program.

When the sun goes down, more than 100 LED neon lights draw attention to shop windows. Popular motifs of flowers, lanterns, peacocks, candles, lotus flowers, paisleys and elephants feature throughout. The lighting adds to the colourful signage and artwork, creating a character unlike any other street in Dandenong.

More than 10 per cent of our population in Greater Dandenong comes from India and Sri Lanka.

It's no wonder the Little India Cultural Precinct in Foster Street is the oldest cultural precinct in Dandenong and has grown steadily since 1990. It is made up of 32 shops of Indian themed retailers



from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Fiji and Sri Lanka.

Greater Dandenong's diversity means we celebrate the traditions of a wide range of cultural groups.

Little India is a rich and colourful gateway to Indian textiles, food and groceries. The precinct visually showcases the character and authenticity it is renowned for.

Greater Dandenong pride



Greater Dandenong is a welcoming and inclusive community.

In 2024 Council will take part in the Midsumma Pride March, for the third year in a row.

This year Council invites members of the public to join Council staff to march under a Greater Dandenong City Council banner in support of our LGBTIQ+ community.

Every year the Pride March attracts more than 7,000 marchers, and 45,000 supporters who line Fitzroy Street in St Kilda. In 2024 the March will be held on Sunday 4 February.

📍 Council hopes to organise transport for residents who may need support to get to the event. For more information and to register your interest visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pride-march

Message from the Junior Mayor

It has been an honour to be Junior Mayor for Greater Dandenong City Council this year.

I have enjoyed the role and the opportunity to express my thoughts and represent other primary school students through the Children's Advisory Group.

We live in a world that we design, so our voices can shape the City of Greater Dandenong so that everyone can achieve their dreams.

During my time in the role I have promoted inclusivity and a sense of belonging, as united we can embrace the unique identity of every individual.



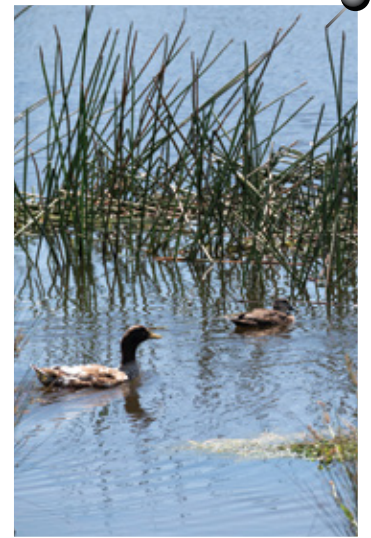
I have enjoyed attending community events and presenting speeches to motivate other young people to get involved in their local community and to speak up on local issues.

I have enjoyed attending local activities and embracing our wonderful community spirit.

I have been the best Junior Mayor I can be and worked hard to create a more peaceful, diverse and environmentally friendly community.

I am grateful for the opportunity, thank you and all the best for 2024.

**Tasneem
Junior Mayor**



Feed the bins not the birds

✘ While it can be a fun experience to feed the ducks, we must remember they are wild animals and feeding them our food can cause harm.

All wild birds, including ducks, have specific dietary needs and inappropriate foods like bread, rice or other scraps can cause illness.

With a constant supply of unnatural foods young birds never learn to forage for themselves, which may lead to starvation when food supply is cut off.

When large numbers of birds are attracted by feeding practices they can increase the spread of diseases that can be harmful to other birds and humans.

Some foods can also increase nutrient levels in waterways and can lead to growth of blue-green algae, which is poisonous to wildlife and humans.

Enjoy watching local wildlife and birdlife, but please remember to dispose of food appropriately and 'Feed the bins, not the birds'.

📍 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals/other-animals for more information.

Glimpse our past

Yesteryear: A Glimpse into Greater Dandenong's Past explores our region's changing landscape and rich historical narratives through elected artworks, images and objects.

Drawn from Council's Civic and Cultural Heritage Collection and local historical society collections, the exhibition shows Greater Dandenong is a new and different way, as it grew from a small township to the city we know today.

Included in the display is an Ordish Brickworks diorama, depicting a typical daily scene from the height of the brickworks operations alongside everyday objects that the men used to create handmade bricks. This was a vital industry in the early days of Greater Dandenong.



Market Day on Lonsdale Street, Dandenong 1906. Courtesy of the Dandenong and District Historical Society.

One of the earliest images featured in the exhibition is of Lonsdale Street in the 1850s. The street is nothing more than a dirt track with a few buildings around it – nothing like the bustling streetscape we see today.

The exhibition will be open at Benga House, in the grounds of Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, 66 McCrae St, Dandenong, until 1 March.

Benga House is open Wednesday to Friday, from 10am–2pm.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

Urban Pods Sprout in Dandenong

Greater Dandenong City Council has installed three "urban pods" at the corner of Lonsdale and Clow streets in central Dandenong.

Designed to provide canopy shelter in a picnic bench setting, the urban pods became popular with passers-by and shoppers almost as soon as they arrived.

In a short time, they have become a welcome resting and eating spot, already proving an attractive addition for public comfort at this busy location, just a stone's throw from Dandenong Market and at the gateway to Lonsdale Street's dining and shopping delights.

The pods also add a touch of functional public art, with Afghan themed canopy designs by artist and textile maker Maria Mazari.

Being of Afghan heritage, Maria has been a frequent visitor to Dandenong since childhood. The artwork Maria created for the urban pods pay homage to the architectural shapes and patterns of the renowned Blue Mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif, where her family is from.



POPULAR
WITH
PASSERS-BY



Big Summer Read

It's not too late to start a new adventure at the Greater Dandenong Libraries.

Join the Big Summer Read, an annual reading challenge presented by the Dandenong and Springvale Libraries in partnership with Public Libraries Victoria.

Local author, illustrator and Australian Children's Laureate for 2022–23 Gabrielle Wang launched the challenge at Springvale Library on 1 December. Gabrielle draws on her Chinese and Australian heritage for her books and

encourages children from diverse backgrounds to embrace their culture and explore their imaginations.

Participants can still register for the challenge via the Beanstack Tracker app (downloadable from your phone via the app store), or in person at Dandenong or Springvale Libraries. The challenge will finish on 31 January 2024.

Participants are encouraged to read books and log them in the app for a chance to be rewarded. Readers will qualify for a milestone reward for every 10 books they read and log.

When participants collect their milestone reward at a library they will also be entered into the draw for some bigger prizes at the end of the program.

Winners of the BIG Summer Read will be presented at the Grand Finale event to be held at Dandenong Library on Saturday 17 February 2024.

Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread for more information.



Little Library

CONVENIENT
AND SAFE



Looking to borrow or return library books, but can't make it into one of our Greater Dandenong Libraries?

Residents in Dandenong North now have a convenient and safe location to carry out their basic library transactions.


Meet the Little Library, a set of bright lockers that members can use to pick up holds and return their books at a time that suits them.

The Little Library lockers can be found in front of Menzies Hall, 41 Menzies Ave, Dandenong North and will be available for use around the clock.

When you place holds simply select "Little Library: Menzies Avenue" as the pick up location.

Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about/little-libraries for more information.

Audiences shout ‘encore’ for Drum Theatre program

 **Drum Theatre’s popular Encore program will get music lovers moving with an exciting new program for Season 1 in 2024.**

Five entertaining shows have been locked in for the first half of 2024, but don’t wait to get your tickets as these are sure to sell out.

Join us for *The Songs of Countdown*, which combines all the classic hits from the show with laugh-out-loud observations and takes on the era. Comedy legend George Kapiniaris and 80s music queen Tottie Goldsmith take a hilarious trip back in time.

Let the musical memories continue when Ian Stenlake and Michelle Fitzmaurice share Academy Award winning songs from the past 80 years. *The Winner Is...* shares iconic songs that have lit up our silver screens, from 1939’s *Over the Rainbow* to 1995’s *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*.


Celebrate the *Spirit of Anzac* and salute our Anzacs and Vietnam Veterans with hit songs and stories from WWII and the Vietnam War.

Explore the avenues and boulevards of Paris and discover the romantic sounds of some of the most famous French chansons of all time in *Paris After Dark – A French International Variety Concert*.



Enjoy three decades of McCartney magic at *Wingspan, Celebrating the Songs of Paul McCartney*.


Encore programs include special ticket prices, complimentary morning tea and a parking voucher.

 Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more details or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666.

The Arts @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Question the Space

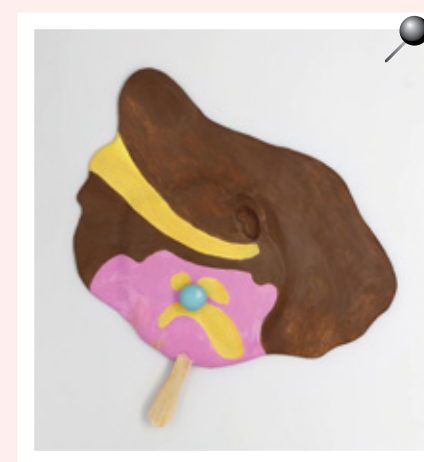
Now until 1 March 2024


 What makes a space an art gallery? What do you enjoy about visiting an art gallery and what do you expect to see?

Question the Space asks what can be a work of art, where can a gallery exist and how do audiences engage these spaces?

Through a range of works and programs both inside and outside Dandenong’s Walker Street Gallery, audiences are invited to look, participate and connect with the art, the artists and the spaces.

High profile artists will engage local audiences at various venues across Dandenong. Artists include Rachel Burke, Ross Coulter, Jordan Fleming, Guerilla Girls, Melbourne Art Library, Kent Morris, Dean Norton, Tina Patlas, Kenny Pittock, Nick Selenitsch and TextaQueen.



 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/question-the-space to find out how you can get involved.



Dandenong Market traders

 **Dandenong Market brings together more than 150 nationalities under one roof in the heart of Australia's most culturally diverse community.**

Known as the world market, Dandenong Market has been trading for 154 years and is one of the oldest markets in Australia.

Here we feature two traders tantalising the tastebuds of market visitors. Both businesses were supported by Council's Business Permit Team to ensure their set up and opening ran smoothly.

Seojin Bunsik

Kihyun's journey began in 2008 when he migrated to Australia. With a background in information technology, he always harboured a dream to work for himself.



One significant challenge Kihyun anticipated was introducing a new food – the Korean chunky hotdog – to a non-Korean audience.

"It's not an unfamiliar food in Korea, but here it is new. Getting people to be curious and try something new is exciting for me," Kihyun said.

Since its opening in late June Seojin Bunsik has become a favourite spot for families and curious teenagers alike. The Korean snack food hot spot offers tasty and playful creations that leave customers feeling delighted.



"Seojin is my baby's middle name. One day I hope to bring him to my store, point up at the sign and say, I did this for you," Kihyun said.

Seojin Bunsik can be found in The Pantry as part of The Northern Food Court every market day.

Butter Mafia

Corporate lawyer turned gluten-free dessert master, Kenn Chia launched Butter Mafia in 2013. It specialises in small-batch sweets with playful names like Mob Wife (a decadent chocolate and raspberry slice) and The Don (a hazelnut and caramel slice).

Butter Mafia has attracted customers from all over Victoria to its Northcote commercial kitchen and frequent pop-up market stalls. But Kenn chose the south east for his first retail outlet, with the Dandenong Market store catering to customers who travel from as far away as Gippsland to savour his cookies, slices, truffles and brownies.

Kenn is already looking to the future with plans to introduce savoury gluten-free offerings to cater to even more customers. Butter Mafia can be found in The Pantry.

Business Support

The Business Support Team offers a variety of services to support our local business community.

- Business communication, support, education, events, workshops
- Employment assistance
- Economic research and analysis
- Business permit support
 - a service to help navigate the permit process


 Business@cgd.vic.gov.au

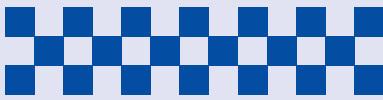
 8571 1550

Scan the QR code to go to website





 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business-permit-support-service for more information and support to set up your own business.



Community safety

Protect your car from theft

Statistics show that seven out of 10 motor vehicle thefts are carried out with the owner's keys.

Most thefts happen without any confrontation with the homeowner.

Victoria Police offer some key crime prevention tips to protect the theft of motor vehicles:

- ▶ lock your car – even if you are leaving it for only a minute, but also while you are driving
- ▶ install anti-theft devices such as a car alarm, engine immobilise, steering wheel brake lock, a wheel lock or a GPS tracker
- ▶ never put your name and address on any keys – use a mobile number
- ▶ park your car in a secure garage or a well-lit area.

Keeping your car locked and removing valuable items, including documents, from view could also prevent theft from motor vehicles.

If you see a thief do not confront them, call 000. Your safety is more important than your possessions.

If the thief is gone, don't touch anything and phone the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

➔ Visit [police.vic.gov.au](https://www.police.vic.gov.au) for more information.



In an emergency

In emergency situations when you need police, fire or ambulance on the scene immediately phone 000.

In a flood or storm emergency where life is not in immediate danger phone the Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) on 132 500.

It is important to stay informed with warnings and advice during an emergency, such as fire, flood or heatwave event. VicEmergency is the official Victorian Government website for emergency warnings and information.

➔ You can access it via [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) or download the app to your smartphone for instant access.



Train like a Saint this summer



Children from ages 6–10 years and 12–16 years can register with the St Kilda Football Club's STK Academy to join either their one-day or and two-day program from 18–24 January 2024.

The fun school holiday programs are held at their elite training facilities, the RSEA Park in Moorabbin and Healthy Futures Hub in Seaford.

Limited spots are available so sign up at stkacademy.com.au/stk-academy-training-programs

Greater Dandenong City Council and the St Kilda Football Club have established a partnership to increase the health and wellbeing of our community through participation in Australian Rules Football.

Health and wellbeing corner



Physical activity can improve your mental health:

Regular physical activity can be a good way to boost your mood, reduce stress and even improve sleep.

Research shows that mental health and wellbeing can be positively impacted by physical activity.

Whether it is day-to-day movement or intensive fitness workouts, physical activity releases endorphins and serotonin to your brain leaving you feeling energised and clear-minded.



Physical activity does not have to be exercise. It could be anything you do in your day-to-day life – such as running errands or doing housework or taking the stairs rather than elevator.



Just keep moving – that's the key.

➔ For more information on how to improve your health and wellbeing through physical activity visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move/how-make-your-move](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move/how-make-your-move)



Image credit: Rachel Burke, Portal 39 (detail), mixed media, 2023

QUESTION THE SPACE

21 NOV 2023 – 1 MAR 2024

Exhibition / Workshops / Events

Walker Street Gallery and various venues in central Dandenong

Artists: Rachel Burke/Ross Coulter/Jordan Fleming/Guerrilla Girls/
Melbourne Art Library/Kent Morris/Dean Norton/Tina Patlas/Kenny Pittock/
Nick Selenitsch/TextaQueen

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/question-the-space

9706 8441 | arts@cgd.vic.gov.au



ARTS | Arts
in Greater
Dandenong

Walker Street
GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE

**GREATER
DANDENONG**
City of Opportunity