

FEBRUARY 2024

Greater Dandenong Council News

Springvale Lunar New Year Festival

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for the heat**

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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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Dandenong VIC 3175

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Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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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

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 February edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

With a community as diverse as Greater Dandenong, there is always something to celebrate. This month many of our residents will celebrate the Lunar New Year alongside visitors from all over Melbourne. On behalf of Council, I wish everyone a Happy Lunar New Year and a healthy and prosperous Year of the Dragon. Read more about these celebrations on page 3.

Council's vision is to be one of Australia's most sustainable cities by 2030. Our annual Sustainability Festival helps to share information to support our community to live more sustainably. See page 3 for more information.

We support residents of all ages through our many programs and activities. Hear more about our city's Young Leaders on page 7, or read about support for our senior residents on page 9.

If you support the arts then turn to page 13 to find out all the wonderful things happening across our city's arts venues, including the iconic Drum Theatre.

With a long hot summer forecast this year I encourage you all to turn to page 15 to read about being prepared on days of extreme heat.

I hope you all stay safe, and cool, this month and enjoy all that is happening in our city of celebrations.

Mayor

Cr Lana Formoso



My City

Public art is a common sight across Greater Dandenong, with some art staying for just a short time.

Copas Park in Noble Park was illuminated across December with a temporary lantern display, the first project in the Our Street NPK program. Students created the lanterns, and residents will have more opportunities to get involved in future activations.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-street to learn more.



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.



Front cover: Photo of lion dancers taken by Springvale resident Maria Tsaimos. Maria entered this photo in the 2024 Community Calendar Photographic Competition, and it appears on the month of February in the calendar.

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It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

FSC
Logo



Enter the Year of the Dragon

Springvale's popular Lunar New Year Festival will welcome the Year of the Dragon on Sunday 4 February.

The popular annual festival is organised by the Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA) and proudly supported by Council, and attracts visitors from all over Melbourne to welcome in the new year.

This year will be the Year of the Dragon, forecast to foster growth, progress and abundance. Under the Chinese Zodiac 2024 is the perfect year to set the foundations for long-term success.

Greater Dandenong Deputy Mayor, Cr Richard Lim is a long-term supporter of Springvale's Lunar New Year Festival and represents Springvale Central Ward, where the celebration is held.

"I have been going to this event for many years. People come to experience different types of food, entertainment and the lion dance, which is one of the most important parts," the Deputy Mayor said.

"People who are Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean and Japanese come to enjoy an environment, atmosphere and culture like home. It is also an opportunity for others to celebrate a different culture and the New Year."

The event will see the closure of Buckingham Avenue and surrounding streets to traffic, with amusement rides, food stalls and live entertainment taking over the space.

The event will run from 10am–10pm and will finish with a spectacular fireworks display.

Celebrate Sustainable Living



 **The Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival is returning to the iconic Dandenong Market on Sunday 25 February.**

Join us at the Market's Outdoor Terrace between 10am–3pm and celebrate all things 'green' in our city and beyond. Entry to the festival is free and there will be a range of interactive activities for all ages, including:

- ▶ Live cooking demonstrations on energy efficient induction cooktops
- ▶ Painting workshop with 'fish-safe' paints made from edible materials and food waste
- ▶ Fun games with Council's new Environmental Education eVan
- ▶ Seedling giveaways
- ▶ Facepainting
- ▶ Live music.

As well as easy to understand advice on:

- ▶ Keeping yourself and your pets safe in the summer heat
- ▶ Solar panel rebates
- ▶ How to recycle right and reduce your waste
- ▶ Providing habitat for local wildlife and increasing biodiversity in your backyard



- ▶ Environmental volunteer opportunities, and much more.

The festival will feature local primary schools, Council's FReeZA Youth Committee, environmental organisations and residents all working to make a difference in Greater Dandenong.

This year's festival is one not to miss. Don't forget to bring a reusable bag for shopping, a bottle to stay hydrated and any eligible recyclable containers to return for cash at the Dandenong Market reverse vending machine, as part of the state-wide Container Deposit Scheme.

Event partner of the National Sustainable Living Festival 2024.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival for more information.

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.

MONDAY

12

FEBRUARY

MONDAY

26

FEBRUARY

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 view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings**

Council Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ **Monday 12 February**
- ▶ **Monday 26 February.**

You can ask questions during Public Question Time. You can also watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Cr Loi Truong

▶ **Springvale South Ward**



Firstly, I would like to wish everyone celebrating the Lunar New Year this month a happy and prosperous New Year.

Greater Dandenong is such a multicultural community and all across the year the many different cultures celebrate festivals and traditions that are important to them, including new years. We proudly support all of these celebrations and encourage our residents to share their traditions.

In the Springvale South Ward we have a few projects that will be completed this year, including the shade sails at Burden Park. The two shade sails and a large umbrella over the sandpit will help protect children from the sun while they play.

To celebrate National Tree Day last year, more than 800 students from across Greater Dandenong planted thousands of seedlings at Springvalley Reserve. This year we will add to the amenity at the reserve by adding a walking track, furniture, a barbecue, shelters and more trees. This former landfill site, which covers 32 hectares, is coming back to life and attracting visitors who are enjoying the wide open green space.

One of our most popular attractions in Springvale South is Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve. This valuable resource is one of the last remaining examples of the



vegetation that covered this area before European settlement. The 4 hectare park in Mackay St, is open to the public every Friday and on the third Sunday of the month during spring, summer and autumn, and includes a visitors centre and sense trail. You can even bring a picnic or use the barbecue at the park for a fun family day out.

The Springvale Community Hub is hosting free Open Air Movie screenings on Friday 16 and Friday 23 February. Bring your own snacks, a picnic blanket or chairs.



You can reach me at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or contact me on 0466 004 618.

► Cleeland Ward



Library patrons who live in Dandenong North have a more convenient way to borrow and return library books following the installation of a Little Library Locker. The Little Library consists of multiple little lockers at the front of the Menzies Avenue Hall and can be used by multiple people at once.

Patrons can use the library website (libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) or contact library staff on 1300 630 920 to place a hold on library items for collection from the locker. They can also return library items at this location. Instructions on how to use the Little Library, including a QR code linking the Little Library back to the library website is situated on the side panel of the locker. Any Greater Dandenong library patron can use the Little Library by using their library card (physically or virtually) to collect their items once they are



notified (via SMS, email or post) that they are available. Patrons can order books, magazines and audio visual items. This is a great innovation for the residents that live around the Menzies Ave region

Cr Angela Long

so that they do not have to visit either of our libraries at Dandenong or Springvale, which for some is difficult.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Why not visit the Dandenong Market and pick up some lovely flowers from the many flower stalls? While you are there you might want to explore this world class market and pick up some fresh meat, seafood, fruit and vegetables at very reasonable prices, or you might fancy buying something from the general merchandise area. You can also sit down and have a fresh meal or a snack from a wide variety of food stalls selling food from all over the world.



If you have any Council-related inquiries please contact me at angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0466 004 616.

Cr Rhonda Garad

► Keysborough South Ward



Progress and Priorities in Keysborough South Ward

As your councillor for Keysborough South Ward, I am dedicated to addressing the community's most pressing issues. A major concern for many has been the offensive odour pervading our area. After three years and nearly 200 complaints, I'm pleased to report that the EPA is taking decisive action. They are installing monitors in homes to track the odour's origin and its health impacts. Rest assured, I will keep pushing for ongoing air quality monitoring within the industrial zone to ensure safety standards are met.

In environmental news, we've achieved a significant milestone with the passage of a new law to protect trees on private property. This is a crucial development in safeguarding our large trees, vital for mitigating extreme heat and enhancing our environment's health. Many of you have expressed how much you value a beautiful and healthy living environment, and this law aligns perfectly with those values.

Addressing traffic congestion at Keysborough Gardens Primary School is another priority. In collaboration with



local member Tim Richardson and the school's leadership, we are working to enhance student safety and improve traffic flow. These efforts will benefit not only the school but also nearby residents, easing driveway access and encouraging safer pedestrian paths.

Exciting developments are underway with the Community Hub on Villiers Rd. Construction is set to start this February, with opportunities for community involvement in the advisory group next year. This hub is a key step in enhancing our community facilities and services.

I thank you for your ongoing support and welcome your ideas as we continue to improve Keysborough South Ward. Let's keep working together for a better community.



If you would like to contact me you can phone me on 0435 107 584, email Rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au or find me on Facebook at [RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard](https://www.facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard)

Community Satisfaction Survey



Every year Council takes part in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, which compares our performance with other Victorian councils.

Across February and March residents may receive a call from an independent market research agency who conduct the survey.

The survey has been designed to assess the performance of Council across a range of measures to identify ways to improve service delivery to residents.

The results are also benchmarked against other local councils and will be made available in the second half of this year.

The survey will involve 100 interviews conducted with a representative sample of residents.

National Field Services will conduct the survey and we assure residents that your personal details and individual responses will remain confidential. If you have any questions please phone Council's Customer Service Centre on 8571 1000.

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.

Cr Foster resigned from Council on November 20 and was elected to the State seat of Mulgrave.

The by-election will take place on 9 March 2024 and will be conducted by postal vote. It is only applicable for residents living in, and ratepayers of property within, Yarraman Ward. 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.



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

Exhibition space and rooms for hire

Springvale Community Hub provides exhibition space inside the Mitchell Hall, a prominent community space for local artists or groups to display original works.

Council invites emerging, mid-career and established individuals, collectives and groups who live or work within Greater Dandenong to showcase their art at the Hub.

There are also a range of affordable meeting and community rooms for hire.



Rooms suitable for small groups of two up to groups of 50 people and are available during the Hub's opening hours.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-community-hub



Pocket Park opens

In 2019 Council recognised the need for more green space in Dandenong and purchased a house block at 77 Herbert St.

The block was turned into a pocket park as part of a 'greening our city' initiative which was completed with funding from the Victorian Government's Local Parks Program.

The park includes exercise equipment, a sensory garden, seating and newly planted trees that will grow to create a shaded oasis in years to come.

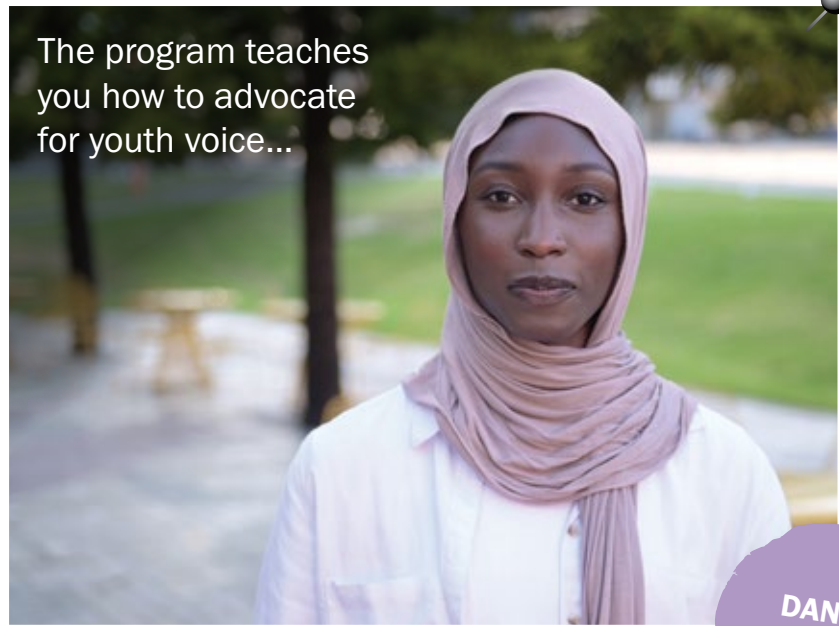
The initiative included the planting of 278 trees between Dandenong High School and Robert Booth Reserve which has created a green spine. Improvements were also made to the Herbert Street neighbourhood shopping strip streetscape as well as the dog off-leash area at Robert Booth Reserve.

The project was designed to improve comfort for residents walking through the neighbourhood, provide additional open space and reduce the effects of climate change by creating more shade.

Cleeland Ward Cr Angela Long celebrated the opening of the new park in December.

Celebrating Youth Leadership

The program teaches you how to advocate for youth voice...



**DANYA
DAOUD**



This year marks 15 years of Greater Dandenong City Council's Young Leaders program.

Leaders program.

The program continues to make an impact on the whole community, especially past participants like Danya Daoud.

For young people like Danya, the program has led to life changing opportunities. In 2023 Danya was named the Young Leader of the Year at the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

The award recognised Danya's work in addressing structural and systemic racism and for championing youth voice.

One of her final acts as Young Leader of the Year was to deliver the keynote speech at Council's annual Children's Forum, sharing with local Grade 6 students her leadership journey.

"The Young Leaders program has a much bigger impact than just on the young leader," Danya said.

"The program teaches you how to advocate for youth voice and to spread awareness in the community.

You realise how much more there is outside of school and the different opportunities for careers – such as in community advocacy."

Council is now calling for 16–25 year olds to join the 2024 Young Leaders program. Participants learn skills such as leadership, public speaking, project management and the role of local government. Participants use their new knowledge to deliver a community project designed to address local youth issues.



To find out more visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program) or phone 9793 2155.

The Holiday Activities Committee is a six week leadership program for people aged 12–16. Build confidence while helping to plan school holiday activities.

Meets every Tuesday, 4.30pm–6.30pm, starting 20 February. Visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/holiday-activities-committee](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/holiday-activities-committee) for information.

Fix Our Fashion



If you think about sustainable fashion, then join us for this workshop to learn how to repair, rewear and shop second hand.

Free activities will run across the day, including workshops with Boomerang Bags Greater Dandenong and Tamara Russell from Karhina Textiles, who will teach you the basics for mending your own garments.

Bring up to 10 items to swap for free as part of the Springvale Clothes Swap and join a presentation on sustainable textiles and the problems of fast fashion.

Fix Our Fashion will be held at Mitchell Hall, Springvale Community Hub, on **Saturday 10 February**, from 11am–2pm.



Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Event

If you've had a post-holiday clean out and want to recycle unwanted household items bring them along to the Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day on Saturday 24 February.

The event is open to all residents and will be held at Greaves Reserve, 2–20 Bennet St, Dandenong, from 8am–1pm.

Drop off larger unwanted electronic and household goods, including televisions, computers, whitegoods, furniture, mattresses and bicycles for free. Good quality items will be donated to charity, while other items will be recycled.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day for more information.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Open Air Movies



Open Air Movies are returning to Greater Dandenong every Friday night in February.

Enjoy a selection of family favourite films on the big screen underneath the evening stars in this free series. Movies will screen at Harmony Square (February 2 and 9) and Springvale Community Hub (February 16 and 23), from 7pm.

Join your family and friends and bring your favourite movie snacks along with a warm and cosy blanket. Films include ET – The Extra Terrestrial, The Super Mario Bros. Movie and Chasing Coral.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies for more information.



Save the Date

Noble Park Community Fun Day

Noble Park Community Fun Day is a day of free entertainment for the whole family with awesome rides, performances, food trucks, and fun activities.

The event celebrates what makes Noble Park so special and will be held at the Noble Park Skate Park and surrounds, on **Sunday 2 March** from 11am–3pm.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/noble-park-community-day for more information.



Clean Up Australia Day



Registrations are now open for Clean Up Australia Day to be held on Sunday 3 March.

Community groups and individuals will host clean up sites across Greater Dandenong. Why not gather family and friends and help to clean up your neighbourhood.

Visit cleanup.org.au to find a local site and get involved.

Save the Date

Ride to school



National Ride2School Day is Australia's biggest celebration of active travel and encourages students to walk, ride, scoot or skate to school. Join classmates on **Friday 22 March** and kick start a healthy habit for the future.

Visit bicyclenetwork.com.au for more information and to register.

Recycling Reminder



The State Government runs a Container Deposit Scheme offering cash refunds for recycling cans, bottles and cartons.

Greater Dandenong is home to two large recycling stations including one at the rear of the Dandenong Market car park and a second machine in the Warwick Avenue car park in Springvale.

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

Improving Springvale Reserve



 **Work has begun to upgrade Springvale Reserve, a much-loved community sporting venue and home to the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club and Silverton Cricket Club.**

With support of a \$2 million contribution from the Victorian Government, upgrade works will include:


- ▶ new 100 lux LED lighting on the oval
- ▶ two new netball courts with 200 lux LED lighting

- ▶ two new coaches' boxes
- ▶ a new play space, kitchen and canteen.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, Council is committed to encouraging our community to keep active and enjoy our many local sport and recreation facilities.

**DAY TRIPS
EVERY
MONTH**

Day trips for seniors

 **Social activities are key in helping our senior residents stay healthy and connected.**


Every month Council's Positive Ageing Team puts on a series of day trips for seniors. The trips include lunches, morning teas, visits to gardens, historic properties and top tourist destinations.

Transport is provided on all trips, so participants must be registered users of Council's Community Transport Service, and they need to be independent and mobile (mobility aids can be accommodated).

Day trips are popular so participants are limited to one trip per month and there are limited seats on each trip.

Across February trips include a trip to Steavenson Falls in Marysville, Mornington Main St Market and a train ride on the Walhalla Goldfields Railway.

Trips are listed in the Living Well Newsletter, which is distributed by the Positive Ageing Team every second month. You can get a copy from the libraries or any Greater Dandenong Customer Service Centre or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/living-well-greater-dandenong to sign up for an electronic copy.

 **Contact the Positive Ageing Team on 8571 5556 for more information.**



Community Calendar

The 2024 Greater Dandenong Community Calendar features images taken by our community.

In a public competition, almost 200 entries were received, with 12 finalists chosen to feature on the pages of the calendar. Four photos were then chosen across different categories to take home cash prizes.

A photo of public art totems in Hutton St, Dandenong, won the Built Environment category for photographer David Vo.

A visit to Dandenong's Heritage Hill proved a winner for local resident Averil Levin, whose photo of the succulent plant display took out the honours in the Nature category.

The category for Young People (aged 4-16) was taken out by Dandenong Primary School student Mojkhouth Teal with his picture of a pretty purple flower on the school grounds.


The overall prize was won by photographer Thanh Tran, who was also a finalist in the 2023 calendar competition last year. His photo of a grevillia flower features on the final month of the 2024 calendar.

Council would like to thank all entrants and congratulate the winners.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition to find out more about the 2025 Community Calendar Photography Competition.

Pitch upgrade to attract players



 **A multi-use court in central Dandenong has undergone an upgrade in the hopes of getting more people active.**

The court at the corner of George and Cadle streets was built in 2019, but was recently transformed by the Melbourne City Football Club.

The bright blue pitch, affectionately known as the Blue Pitch, will be used by the soccer club's City in the Community scheme to run programs and activations for locals. City in the Community is the charitable arm of Melbourne City and aims to empower young people through football.

The multi-use court can be used for more than just soccer, with provisions for basketball and netball games also being a part of the court's design. Other informal activities are also encouraged on the pitch.

Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso attended the opening and praised the football club for helping to encourage a more active community.

"The City in the Community program aligns with Council's Make Your Move call to action. Being more active is beneficial for both physical and mental health," Mayor Formoso said.



We value the ideas and opinions of our community so 'have your say' on our current consultations by visiting our website at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say




Keep our wildlife cool this summer

Weather and climate experts have predicted extreme heat this summer, putting our wildlife at risk of dehydration and death.

The Gardens for Wildlife team have provided some tips to help you create a safe and inviting habitat in your backyard.


- ▶ Provide a reliable, fresh water source. Leave shallow dishes of water in shady areas, avoiding metal dishes as they will get very hot in the sun.
- ▶ Putting shallow dishes of water high up or in trees will help keep wildlife safe from predators while they drink or bathe. A shallow dish of water at ground level is accessible to reptiles and insects on a hot day.
- ▶ Regularly refresh the water to avoid disease or mosquitos breeding.
- ▶ Plant indigenous plants. Native wildlife will use these to find shelter from heat and predators. Indigenous plants are perfectly suited to our local soils and can withstand our hot, dry summers.
- ▶ Keep an eye out for heat-stressed wildlife. If you do come across wildlife in distress phone Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300.

Council's Gardens for Wildlife guides can visit your garden and offer suggestions and guidance to increase habitat and food sources for local wildlife.

 **To find out more about the program or register for a free garden visit** greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife



Celebrating Elaine

 **Dandenong North Ward Cr Bob Milkovic and his children are celebrating the incredible career of retired school crossing supervisor Elaine.**

Elaine handed in her 'lollipop' sign at the end of 2023 after 16 years of service to the Rosewood Downs Primary School community in Dandenong North.

Cr Milkovic thanked Elaine for her dedicated service.


"Elaine has seen all of my three children start and finish primary school. She has looked after the safety of our community for 16 years," Cr Milkovic said.

"On behalf of Rosewood Downs and Dandenong North residents I want to thank her for her dedication and commitment and wish her all the best in her retirement."

Across Greater Dandenong there are 78 school crossings. As students return to classrooms this month, Council encourages motorists to remain vigilant around schools, and for pedestrians and motorists to follow the directions of school crossing supervisors.

 **Greater Dandenong City Council is always looking for new supervisors. For information email regservadmin@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.**

Children's University

 **Thirty-two students from St Anthony's Primary School, Silvertown Primary School (pictured) and Sirius College have graduated from Swinburne University of Technology's Children's University.**

The program encourages primary school students to experience learning destinations outside of school.

All Children's University Swinburne members are issued a Passport to Learning. In their passports, students collect stamps from different learning destinations they have visited and record their learning activities. Once members have accumulated a minimum of 30 hours of learning they officially graduate.




Council is proud to have supported the program in Greater Dandenong with South East Leisure and Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

Congratulations to all of the students and their families involved in the innovative program.



Cat desexing program success

 **Our animal management team was successful in obtaining a grant from Animal Welfare Victoria to fund a cat desexing program for residents of Greater Dandenong.**

Over 90 cats have been desexed, microchipped and registered with Council through the program.

Two local residents Robert and Theresia were happy to have their cats cared for.

"The program came at such a good time. I'm on the pension and times are really tough. These cats came into my life unexpectedly and now are my all. I really appreciate how Council has helped with this, thank you," Robert said.

"Thank you for the opportunity given to me and Memeng to be a part of this program. It is really helpful timing and with the support it has also improved Memeng's health," Theresia said.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Connect with your local library

The return of school sees the return of regular programming at Greater Dandenong Libraries.

A wide range of free programs and activities at Springvale and Dandenong branches offers something for all ages.

From Libraries at Dusk events, engaging early years programs for babies, toddlers and pre-school aged children as well as a variety of adult programs.

On **Mondays** enjoy Toddler Time from 10.30am–11am at both Springvale and Dandenong Libraries.

Tuesday welcomes the Possum Family Fun Playgroup at Dandenong Library from 1pm–2pm.

Every **Wednesday** there is Baby Bounce from 10.30am–11am at Dandenong Library and Library Help for Adults at Springvale Library from 2pm–5pm.

Also on **Wednesday** you can join the Conversation Circle at the Dandenong Library from 6pm–7.30pm to practice your English in an informal group discussion.

On **Fridays** join Baby Bounce at Springvale Library from 10.30am–11am, or join Language Playgroup from 11am–1pm at Dandenong Library.



Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more great activities and events.

Libraries at Dusk

Running every Thursday evening the Libraries at Dusk program provides opportunities to be social while learning creative skills.

The Libraries at Dusk program is aimed at patrons 16+ and runs across both Springvale and Dandenong library branches.

Thursday 8 February

Make your own Library Bag
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Mindful Movement
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 15 February

Mend It workshop
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Skincare Workshop
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 22 February

Skincare Workshop
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Pressed Flower Cards
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 29 February

Glass Gardens
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Sushi Making
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Big Summer Read finale



Junior bookworms enjoyed a summer of reading as part of the Big Summer Read.

Primary school aged children joined the annual reading challenge and will celebrate their achievements at the finale to be held at Dandenong Library on Saturday 17 February from 2pm–4pm.

Libraries Change Lives



Victorian public libraries change lives by offering communities a place to learn, create and belong.

Dandenong Library is at
225 Lonsdale St, Dandenong.

Springvale Library is at
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale.

Opening Hours

Monday 9am–9pm

Tuesday 9am–9pm

Wednesday 9am–9pm

Thursday 9am–9pm

Friday 9am–9pm

Saturday 10am–5pm

Sunday 12pm–5pm



Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out what's on at your local library.

Drum Theatre

Join us at the Drum Theatre as great theatre returns to Dandenong for 2024. Visit **drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au** for more information or to book tickets today.



Soweto Gospel Choir

Wednesday 14 February at 7.30pm

The world-famous choir bring their show Hope to Greater Dandenong.

The Arts

Question the Space

This intriguing exhibition asks what can be a work of art, where can a gallery exist and how do audiences engage with the space?

Through a range of works and programs both inside the gallery and around central Dandenong, audiences are invited to look, participate and connect with the art, the artists and the spaces.

Question the Space is running until Friday 1 March.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/question-the-space for more information.

The Songs of Countdown

Thursday 15 February at 10.30am

This Encore show features comedy legend George Kapiniaris and music/TV superstar Tottie Goldsmith in a celebration of the Countdown era.



Ballroom Blitz

Monday 18 March at 7.30pm

The ultimate dance extravaganza choreographed by a three-time *Dancing with the Stars* champion.



TextaQueen

Join Question the Space artist TextaQueen in a special online workshop. Develop your own poster design to battle the challenges you face in the world, taking design inspiration from vintage movie posters.

Join TextaQueen online on Wednesday 14 February at 7pm.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts to book.



The Winner Is...

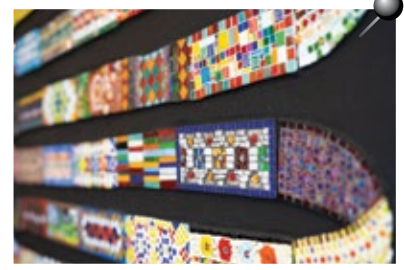
Thursday 21 March at 10.30am

Academy Award winning songs that have lit up our silver screens for over 80 years.

Queen Rocks

Friday 22 March at 8pm

An electrifying tribute to Queen's timeless hits.



Hanging by a Thread

Currently on display at the Drum Theatre, *Hanging by a Thread* is an impressive culturally significant artwork that is not to be missed.

Produced in Dandenong, the mosaic incorporates works of Victorian artists and Afghan women. Facilitated by the Afghan Women's Organisation Victoria as part of a global project to draw attention to the social and economic conditions of Afghan women and girls following the Taliban takeover.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/hanging-thread to find out more.



Grow in
GREATER DANDENONG



Grow in Greater Dandenong



The Grow in Greater Dandenong Kickstarter program helps aspiring entrepreneurs and businesses grow successful ventures. The four-week program covers business planning, marketing, finance, operations, and more.

For existing businesses, the program provides valuable support to assess current operations, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and recognise industry opportunities.

Participants of the program have access to business mentoring to develop strategic plans that translate their vision into reality.

Alex Scheucher, a recent participant in the Grow in Greater Dandenong Kickstarter program, is a passionate tennis enthusiast and a dedicated long-term member of the Dandenong North Tennis Club.

As part of the Grow in Greater Dandenong Kickstarter program, Alex created a business plan and action strategy to bring his innovative business venture We Do Tennis to life. We Do Tennis provides tennis clubs with tennis ball machines. Through his business Alex is now able to share his love of tennis with others and make a living doing what he loves.

If you aspire to elevate your business or transform your entrepreneurial dreams into reality, Council also run additional small business workshops to support new and existing businesses.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grow-in-greater-dandenong for more information.



Promoting investment in the south east



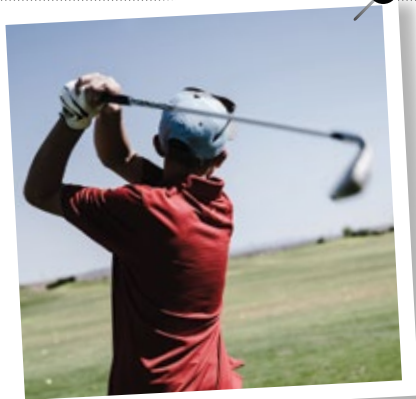
Council recently hosted Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM)'s launch event for their latest report *Unlocking The Potential: Promoting Investment in Greater South East Melbourne* at The Drum Theatre.

The report highlights that locating new government jobs in Melbourne's existing suburban jobs hubs would generate more than \$27 billion in net benefits over a 30-year period.

Council's CEO Jacqui Weatherill was the master of ceremonies for the event with more than 60 political, business and community leaders in attendance.



For more information and to read the report visit gsem.org.au



Take a Swing for Charity

The annual City of Greater Dandenong Industry Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day returns for its 15th year.

This year's event will be held at the prestigious Kingston Heath Golf Club on Tuesday 20 February. But don't worry if you aren't into golf, a charity auction and dinner will follow the nine holes.

Previous events have raised more than \$600,000 for local charities and organisations supporting those most in need.



It's not too late to register for the event or sign up as a sponsor. For more information contact Sandra George at Sandra.george@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

Be prepared for a heatwave

As summer continues it's a good time to think about how to get through days of extreme heat.

High temperatures can affect anybody, with heat-related illnesses ranging from mild conditions like heat rash and heat cramps, to life-threatening heatstroke.

If you feel mild effects get out of the sun, drink cool water and rest until you feel better. If the situation is more serious and a person suffers seizures, collapses or loses consciousness call 000 immediately.

Visit [emergencyprepare.com.au](https://www.emergencyprepare.com.au) for more information about preparing for emergencies, including a heatwave.

REDUCE
THE IMPACT
OF HEAT

Here are things you can do to help reduce the impact of heat.



Plan ahead

Plan activities in the coolest part of the day, or plan them for another day. Plan to do activities in known cool places.



Check in on those most at risk

Check in on others regularly. Look after those most at risk in the heat, including neighbours who live alone, older people, those with a disability, the young, people with a medical condition, as well as pregnant and nursing mothers.



Drink water

Drink plenty of water even if you don't feel thirsty (check with your doctor if you normally have restricted fluids).



Keep cool

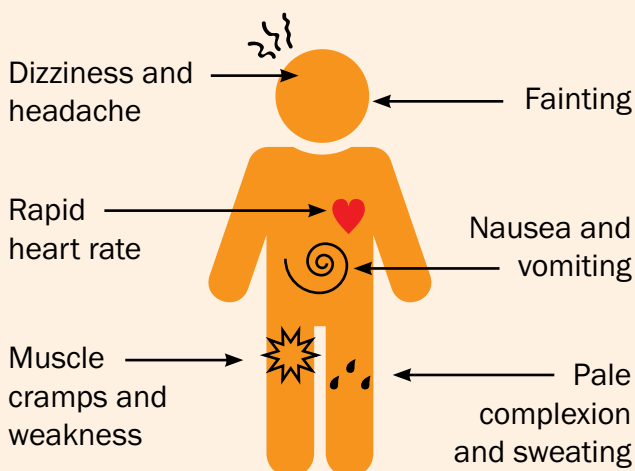
Keep yourself cool by using wet towels, putting your feet in cool water and taking cool showers. You don't need to cool your whole home during high heat. Close windows and doors and only use the coolest rooms in the property with a fan or air conditioner on low speed.



Protect your pets

Make sure your pets have clean, cool water and shade. If the ground is too hot to rest the back of your hand against, it is too hot for your pet's paws.

Heat Exhaustion



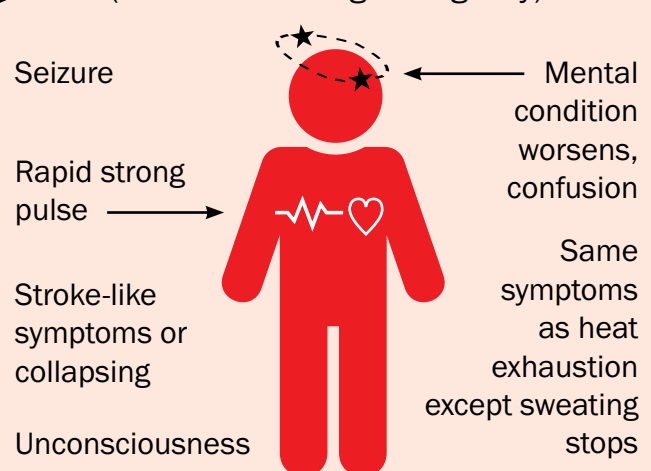
What to Do:

- ▶ See your doctor or call NURSE-ON-CALL 1300 60 60 24
- ▶ Lie down in a cool area, fan if possible
- ▶ Drink water if not vomiting
- ▶ Remove outer clothing
- ▶ Wet skin with cool water

OR

Heat Stroke

(A life threatening emergency)



What to Do:

- ▶ **Call Triple Zero 000** immediately
- ▶ Get the person to a cool area and lay them down, do not give fluids
- ▶ Remove clothing, wet skin with water fanning continuously
- ▶ Position an unconscious person on their side and clear their airway

Greater Dandenong

Sustainability Festival

Sunday 25 February

10am-3pm

Dandenong Market, Corner Clow and
Cleeland Streets, Dandenong

FREE
ENTRY

ACTIVITIES,
MUSIC AND
PRIZES



greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival