

Greater Dandenong Council News



Australia Day Award Winners

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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:

Greater Dandenong Council News

PO Box 200

Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au



Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



@greaterdandy



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police / Fire / Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults /

non-operational

United Energy..... 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults /

non-operational..... 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline..... 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management

Services..... 9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society..... 9798 8415

RSPCA..... 9224 2222

Nurse on Call..... 1300 606 024

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 March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

The annual Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise the outstanding contribution made by individuals and organisations in our community. Read about our very deserving winners on page 3.

Council's Festival and Events team is always hard at work helping our community celebrate a range of special days. Turn to page 7 to find out how you can join in the fun at Greater Dandenong's biggest picnic. There is also a call out for community groups and businesses to get involved in July's Springvale Snow Fest. Find out more on page 11.

Yarraman Ward residents will be going to the polls to elect a new Councillor on March 9. Read more on page 7.

One of my passions is supporting our residents to get more active. This month we celebrate National Ride to School Day and encourage students to Get Active and Get Moving all month long. Turn to page 9 to find out how you can win some great prizes for yourself and your school by being more active.

If you notice an issue out in the community Council has many ways you can report to us including via email, a simple phone call or in person. Find out more on page 15.

As we welcome autumn I hope you all stay safe this month and enjoy getting out and about in Greater Dandenong.

**Mayor
Cr Lana Formoso**



My City

In February 2021, Council worked with the Bunurong Land Council to create a Message Tree in Dandenong Park.

A cultural ceremony took place before a small audience and saw Bunurong Elder Mik Edwards remove a section of bark from the 100 year old River Red Gum. The bark was later used to make a shield using traditional methods passed down through generations of Bunurong elders.



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: Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award winners on stage at the Drum Theatre. Photographer: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award Winners



Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil, Member for Dandenong Gabrielle Williams, Deputy Mayor Cr Richard Lim, Glenyse Duck and Mayor Cr Lana Formoso.

Community Leadership Award

Glenyse Duck has volunteered with Palliative Care South East since 2011 and has supported many individuals and their families through the end of life process. She also volunteers with AMES teaching English to new migrants. The Noble Park resident dedicates her time to improving the lives of those around her.

Young Leader of the Year

Angeline Karvinkop took part in Council's Young Leaders Program 2023 and has volunteered for a range of organisations supporting newly arrived migrants, school students, young carers and homeless people. Angeline's selfless work supports some of the most marginalised people in our community.

Volunteer of the Year

Michael Prior has been a dedicated volunteer at the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) for over 16 years and has been the unit controller since 2021. Michael is a champion for change within the organisation and continues to push for more diversity including women only training events and the recruitment of members from diverse cultural backgrounds.



Sportsperson of the Year

At just 14 **Connie Psihogios** is one of Australia's top ranked table tennis players, and in 2023 played as part of a team which qualified Australia for the Paris Olympics. A member of the Greater Dandenong Table Tennis Association Connie is a strong role model for young females on and off the court, and combines her school study with training and competing at the highest level.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

Vanessa Field is Director at the Springvale Service for Children and her passion places families and children at the heart of her mission to provide the community with early years services that welcome all and reflect our city's rich diversity. Vanessa's work has helped avert the potential closure of several early years services in Greater Dandenong.

Community Group of the Year

Garage 35 Arts Studio is a collective of local artists under the age of 35 predominantly from refugee and migrant backgrounds. The group offers a shared studio space to support the arts community and make a creative hub for people from many different cultures to feel connected and safe.

Sustainability Award

As a member of multiple community environmental groups, **Matthew Kirwan** is helping to empower Greater Dandenong residents to tackle climate change and make a difference. Matthew is committed to making Greater Dandenong a healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative community dedicated to environmental sustainability.

Living Treasure Award

Helen Heath is a selfless community member who has consistently gone above and beyond to promote understanding, respect and acceptance in our multicultural community. She works with many organisations and groups including the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network.

Emerson School Principal **John Mooney** is an inspirational leader that has developed Emerson into a leading specialist educational school. Through improved learning outcomes and education in life skills, students and their families benefit from John's vision to create a community rich in diversity and welcoming to all.

Outstanding Contribution to the Arts

In 2023 the **Noble Park Community Art Show** celebrated its 18th anniversary. The unique community event is dedicated to increasing community participation and connectedness by celebrating the arts in a socially inclusive environment.

Councillor Contacts



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● **Springvale North Ward**
Cr Sean O'Reilly
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● **Springvale South Ward**
Cr Loi Truong
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loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

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

TUESDAY

12
MARCH

MONDAY

25
MARCH

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:

- ▶ **Tuesday 12 March (due to Labour Day public holiday on 11 March)**
- ▶ **Monday 25 March.**

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

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

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

MARCH

Cr Bob Milkovic

▶ Dandenong North Ward



Council's Homecycle program gives residents a chance to give their smaller unwanted household items a second chance at life. An easy way to reduce landfill and recycle your items, Homecycle collects your goods right from your kerbside.

Simply place items in your yellow lid recycling bin after your normal collection has taken place. Leave your bin on the nature strip where it will be emptied. Good quality items will be donated to charity, while all other items will be recycled. You can donate clothing, linen, sports equipment, toys, puzzles, cookware and small electrical items including mobile phones and chargers. This month Homecycle will run from Tuesday 12 March to Saturday 23 March.

This month we celebrate Cultural Diversity Week (18–24 March). As the most culturally diverse community in Australia, Greater Dandenong is home to people from more than 150 different countries. Our libraries in Springvale and Dandenong offer material in many different languages, and are constantly growing their diverse collection to ensure we reach out to all our residents. Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/collections/community-languages to find out more.



Every April we celebrate the natural beauty of our city at the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival. Dandenong Creek is an important waterway that starts in the Dandenong Ranges and flows into the Patterson River and onto Port Phillip Bay. The creek and its surrounds offer a key habitat for many animals and plants.

The free family festival includes wildlife demonstrations, craft and science activities, and the opportunity to learn from organisations working to protect the Dandenong Creek. It will be held at Tirhatuan Park, Kriegel Way, Dandenong North, on Thursday 11 April, from 11am–2pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/discover-dandenong-creek for more information

➤ **In the meantime you can contact me on email at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.**

► Noble Park Ward



Last year (2023) was a great year with so many projects completed and new facilities opened in Noble Park Ward and across the suburb of Noble Park.

Highlights include:

- Opening of the Health and Wellbeing Gymnasium at NPAC
- Opening of Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion
- Blackspot Program funding to install raised platforms on Bloomfield Rd, (Kingsclere Ave to Yarraman Rd)
- Streetscape improvements in Leonard Ave
- Frank Street pocket park stage two works including a pergola for shade.

The coming year will be another busy year with more great projects coming. Including a Noble Park Mobile Library Service (in May/June), Noble Park Reserve works to improve oval drainage (valued at \$250,000), and Blackspot Program funding of \$955,480 to improve safety in Railway Parade.

The Noble Park Revitalisation Board also continues to support projects that rejuvenate the suburb of Noble Park. Stage 1 of the Muderra Way traffic calming mural is underway and features artwork designed by Bunurong artists, celebrating the traditional custodians of the land Greater Dandenong sits on. Stage 2 has also received funding and will include painting railway columns.

The Laneway Activation program also continues and in January a community painting day was held as part of the Colour Our Street program. A local arts group facilitated the mural painting in the laneway next to the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre. This project in particular has received a great response from local children.

A calendar of activations under the Our Streets Program will continue across 2024. In Copas Park a public art display has been set up in the form of three steel lanterns, showcasing a revolving display of art. Paint and Chat workshops were also held in the park across December and January.

Cr Sophie Tan



If you have any local issues you would like to discuss, please contact me via email at sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 793 727.

Cr Tim Dark



Last year I joined my fellow councillors and local children to celebrate the long-awaited opening of the new playground at Frederick Wachter Reserve.

In 2019 Council adopted the Frederick Wachter Reserve Masterplan, and in 2020 we consulted with local families on the future of the playground. Two key themes emerged from our engagement and we were able to include both the market garden and wetland themes in the final design.

Work was completed in late 2023, and it is wonderful to see so many local children enjoying this new playground. If you haven't tried the new equipment out yet, the perfect opportunity to explore Frederick Wachter Reserve is coming on Sunday 24 March at Keysborough's Big Picnic. This family-friendly event has been drawing crowds to Keysborough for many years now and is the only large-scale Council event where we encourage you to bring your pets.



Works continue to improve Rowley Allan Reserve on Cheltenham Rd, Keysborough. In 2021 Council adopted a Concept Plan with the vision for the reserve to be a multi-purpose sporting space for cricket, Australian Rules Football, lawn bowls and netball.

In 2022 the first stage of the plan was complete with the netball facilities receiving a major upgrade including a new single court, half court for warm-ups, lighting, shelters and seating. Funding has been set aside to create female-friendly changerooms in the sports pavilion and Council has committed to improvements across the reserve as funding becomes available. I will continue to advocate for these projects to be funded and works to be completed as soon as possible. I would love to see this space become the high-quality sporting and recreation park the Keysborough community deserves.

I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Easter.



Please contact me any time at tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0466 403 914.

Open Space in Greater Dandenong



Get inspired in autumn and discover the dozens of parks and reserves across our city.

Greater Dandenong is home to more than 600 hectares of parks and reserves, including playgrounds, sportsgrounds, bushland reserves and dog off leash parks.

Resident Cheryl Hepburn took this beautiful image of Dandenong Park and entered it into the Community Calendar Photo Competition last year. Her photo appears in the March edition of the calendar.

Established more than 100 years ago the historically significant site has undergone a revamp over recent years and is a destination for many community gatherings from family barbecues to larger celebrations.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-environment/open-spaces to find out more about open spaces in Greater Dandenong.

**FUTURE
ROLE**

Council's review into Aged and Disability Services

Council has undertaken a review into its future role in providing aged care and disability services.

The Commonwealth Government, which has the key responsibility for providing and funding these services has proposed significant changes to their delivery.

In response Council, who is contracted to provide a range of in-home support services, undertook extensive community consultation to decide what role we will play in the future delivery of aged and disability services.

Councillors were due to consider several options regarding our future role at a Council meeting on Monday 26 February. This edition of Council News went to print before the meeting took place.

Whatever the decision, there will be no change to current services before 30 June 2024. Council will contact affected clients directly with information about the discussion after the 26 February Council meeting.



The April edition of Council News will explain Council's discussion on this matter. In the meantime, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/aged-care-reforms for the most up to date information.

Gender Equity at Council

Greater Dandenong City Council celebrates International Women's Day in 2024 knowing that it is taking steps towards gender equality in our workplaces and in the community.

The Gender Equality Act 2020 requires local governments to eliminate the systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs and delivery of services in workplaces and communities. Put simply, Council is obligated to take action to progress equality and respect for all genders.

Council's Gender Equity Action Plan 2021–2025 sets out actions to address inequality in the workplace, including when it comes to recruitment, training and promotion of staff.

Externally, Council undertakes a gender impact assessment of all new policies and funding proposals – to ensure all community members are taken into account when considering services and activities.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Lana Formoso said International Women's Day was a key date to celebrate.

"International Women's Day is important to celebrate the contribution of women in our community, as colleagues, volunteers, friends and family members. But we should remember that every day is an opportunity to promote equality."

Council acknowledges the United Nations International Women's Day theme of *Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress*.

Join SEBN to celebrate International Women's Day this year. Keynote speaker Kim Payne will share her message of empowering professional women to get more out of life.


Join us at Drum Theatre, corner Lonsdale and Walker streets, Dandenong
Wednesday 6 March, 12.30pm.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/south-east-business-networks-sebn for more information.




Keysborough's Big Picnic

 **The City of Greater Dandenong's biggest picnic will return this month.**

Featuring live performances, roving performers, workshops, food and market stalls, pet competitions and the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Keysborough's Big Picnic promises to be a fun family-friendly event.


Bring your pets and enjoy a day out with the whole family.

Join us for Keysborough's Big Picnic on Sunday 24 March from 11am-4pm, at Frederick Wachter Reserve, Kingsclere Ave, Keysborough.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysboroughs-big-picnic for more information.

Community grants now open




 **Greater Dandenong City Council has two new rounds of community grants open, supporting the community to deliver projects and provide programs, activities and services.**

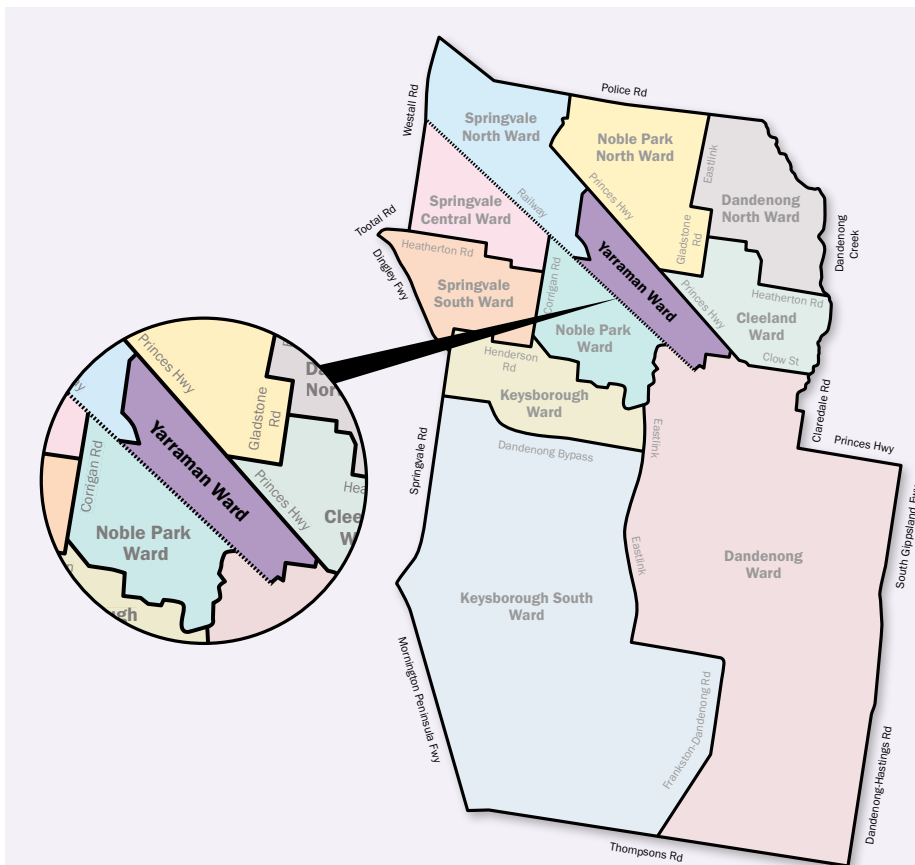
The medium grants program opened last month and will close on Tuesday 12 March for one-off grants to support delivery of projects, programs and events.

The large grants program opened on March 1 and will close on Monday 1 April. The large grants support eligible organisations to support sustainability and capacity-building of important local

services. The grants also support the delivery of projects that contribute to the achievement of Council's Plans and Strategies and build community capacity, social inclusion, healthy partnerships and/or provide social and economic benefit.

All applications must be made online through Council's website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants

 **To book an appointment for personalised support with the Community Funding Team please email commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1432.**



Yarraman Ward By-election

Residents living in, and ratepayers of property within Yarraman Ward will vote for a new councillor this month.

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

The election will be held by postal vote and all eligible voters should have received their ballot in the mail. Voting closes on Friday 8 March and the results of the vote will be declared on Friday 22 March.

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.

What's On

Homecycle Tuesday 12 March
to Saturday 23 March

Friday 1 March

Baby Bounce Outreach
@ Paddy O'Donoghue Centre,
10.30am

Saturday 2 March

Noble Park Community Fun Day
@ Noble Park Skate Park and
surrounds, 11am–3pm

Sunday 3 March

Clean Up Australia Day

Monday 4 March

Small Business Mentoring Bus
@ Springvale Community Hub
Carpark 10am–3.30pm

Tuesday 5 March

Nature Play playgroup session
@ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve,
Mackay St, Springvale South,
10am–11am

Wednesday 6 March

Social Knitwork
@Dandenong Library, 10am

SEBN International Women's Day
Lunch @ Drum Theatre, 12.30pm

Friday 8 March

Family Fun
@ Springvale Library, 3pm

Saturday 9 March

Springvale Urban Harvest
@ Springvale Community Hub,
1pm–3pm

Springvale Community Hub
Clothes Swap

@ Springvale Community Hub,
1pm–3pm

Yarraman Ward By-Election

Monday 11 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 12 March

Council Meeting
@ Council Chambers, Dandenong
Civic Centre, 7pm

Wednesday 13 March

Micro:bit Code Club
@ Springvale Library, 4pm–5.30pm

Thursday 14 March

Art Workshop – Fabric Collage
Bookmarks
@ Springvale Library, 10.30am

Monday 18 March

Ballroom Blitz
@ Drum Theatre, 7.30pm

Wednesday 20 March

A Taste of Ireland – The Irish Music
and Dance Sensation
@ Drum Theatre, 7.30pm

Thursday 21 March

Chronic Pain Support Group
@ Springvale Library, 4pm

The Winner Is...
@ Drum Theatre 10.30am

Wominjeka
@ Drum Theatre 12pm

Friday 22 March

National Ride to School Day

Queen Rocks
@ Drum Theatre, 8pm

Saturday 23 March

The Think Tank – Vulnerable
and Endangered Species
@ Springvale Library, 3pm

Sunday 24 March

Keysborough's Big Picnic
@ Frederick Wachter Reserve,
11am–4pm

Monday 25 March

Council Meeting
@ Council Chambers, Dandenong
Civic Centre, 7pm

Wednesday 27 March

Art, Craft and Conversation
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Neighbourhood Watch Forum
@ Paddy O'Donoghue Centre,
7.30pm

Friday 29 March

Good Friday Public Holiday

School Holiday program

The school holidays start at the end of this month and Council's Youth and Family Services have an exciting line-up of free and low-cost activities organised.

The Holiday Program will run from Tuesday 2 April to Friday 12 April and will include sport workshops, art and craft activities, excursions, and events. Young people aged 12–25 years who have a significant connection to the City of Greater Dandenong are invited to register.

For more information or to book your spot, visit www.youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/holiday-activities



Carers Walking Group

Carers are invited to join a relaxing walking group to connect, socialise and learn about services and supports.

Do you care for a person with a disability, older person or someone with a mental illness? Join the Greater Dandenong Pathways for Carers walk which meets on the first Thursday of each month at Noble Park Community Centre, Memorial Drive, Noble Park. Meet at 9.45am for a 10am start.

For information phone Mala Doyle on **8571 1000** or email disabilityinclusion@cgd.vic.gov.au

Friendly
reminders

Council advocating for immunisation program

ADVOCATING
FOR BETTER
HEALTH



Despite State Government funding cuts to an important immunisation program, Greater Dandenong City Council will continue to advocate for better health outcomes for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Since it started in 2016 the PRIME (Program for Refugee Immunisation Monitoring and Education) service has resulted in vastly increased immunisation rates among refugees and people seeking asylum.

For participants enrolled in the program for 12 months or more, immunisation coverage was lifted from a baseline of 11% to:

- ▶ 92.5% for children
- ▶ 91.7% for adolescents
- ▶ 82.4% for adults.

The service was offered across four key sites in Melbourne, including in Greater Dandenong where up until October 2023 more than 6400 people used the service.

In December 2023, just two weeks before State Government funding ceased, PRIME won a Multicultural Excellence Award for Health from the Multicultural Commission of Victoria.

Council fears the end of the program will place more stress on local GPs who don't have the capacity to manage complex catch up programs and will result in lower immunisation levels for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Lower immunisation rates will reduce opportunities for children and families to have access to early childhood education, out of school care and family support from Centrelink. Adults may also lose employment opportunities if vaccinations are not up to date.

Lower immunisation rates can also pose a significant public health risk.

Greater Dandenong City Council and other key stakeholders continue to advocate to the State and Commonwealth governments for funding to continue.

In the meantime Council's immunisation program is doing all it can to support catch up vaccinations for refugees and people seeking asylum in Greater Dandenong. Newly arrived families can contact Council for advice about catch up services.

➔ **Phone 8571 1000 or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation for more information.**



Green van to educate all

Greater Dandenong City Council has launched an environmental education van.

The electric van is an LDV eDeliver9, and boasts a variety of custom features designed to engage and educate the community, including two 140W solar panels, mini wind turbine, a TV screen, mobile charging station and more.

The van will visit community festivals and events and will help share sustainability messages across the community.

➔ **To find out more email sustainability@cgd.vic.gov.au**

Get Active, Get Moving

Getting to and from school is a great time to be more active.

During the month of March, Greater Dandenong primary school-aged students are encouraged to walk, ride or scoot to and from school.

Register your school and join Council's competition to go in the running to win great prizes such as a Bounce voucher for your class, Rebel sport vouchers, or a scooter.



➔ **Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/active-travel to register and find out more.**

Young Leaders Program



Greater Dandenong City Council is celebrating 15 years of youth leadership through the annual Young Leaders Program.

The program introduces young people aged 16-25 years to local government and supports the development of skills across a wide range of topics, including leadership, communication, public speaking, advocacy and conflict management.

A key component of the program is the planning and delivery of a project addressing local youth issues.

In 2023 Young Leaders developed two projects, including a survey and forum focussing on improving reporting pathways for young people who have experienced racism and discrimination. The second project addressed climate change locally with the development of educational resources.

Past graduates from Greater Dandenong City Council's Young Leaders program have gone on to further their education and career opportunities including working in tiers of government, health, community services, engineering, the trades and community development.



Young people credit the program with boosting their self-confidence, strengthening their leadership skills, and building community networks while contributing to their community.

A 2023 Young Leader program graduate said: "For me, stepping out of my comfort zone to meet new people and going from being shy to being someone who can confidently express themselves was a memorable transformation throughout this program."

The program is now accepting applications for 2024.



Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program for more information.



Nature Play runs during school terms and is aimed at children 0-6 years of age and their families.



Registrations are essential. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and search nature play for more information or to register.

Nature Play returns for 2024

Nature Play returns to Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve for Term 1.

Nature Play is an outdoor, child-led playgroup session facilitated by a qualified ranger. The program aims to encourage children and their families to get outdoors and explore nature.

The sessions begin with a nature walk and participants can visit the 'Sense Trail', where children are encouraged to explore the sights, sounds, smells and textures of the Australian bush.

Bin it!



Council is encouraging everyone to take responsibility for litter in our city.

The annual Clean Up Australia Day campaign encourages community groups and individuals to come together and clean up their neighbourhood.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso encouraged everyone to join a clean up on Sunday 3 March and help keep Greater Dandenong beautiful. The Mayor will be involved in supporting the clean up of 26 parks in her Noble Park North Ward.

"Every little bit helps on this Clean Up Australia Day. Dumped rubbish is unsightly and bad for the environment," the Mayor said.

"Littering can also have a detrimental effect on the environment, but people seem to think that the smaller the rubbish the less impact it has – this is simply not true."

To coincide with Clean Up Australia Day, Council will launch the Bin it! campaign, to change the way people think about littering.

From food packaging and drink containers to cigarette butts, litter dirties our streets, clogs our stormwater drains and has a major impact on the environment.

"I encourage everyone to Bin it, or take it home, no matter how small their rubbish is. Every little bit makes a difference in keeping our city beautiful," the Mayor said.

Visit greaterdandenong.com.au/waste to find out more about keeping our city clean.



Visit cleanup.org.au to find out more about Clean Up Australia Day and find a local clean up site.



Springvale Snow Fest



The annual Springvale Snow Fest will return to the streets of Springvale on Sunday 28 July.

From 12pm–7pm, Buckingham Avenue will come alive with children's activities, amusement rides, food and market stalls, roving entertainment and a stage program. The event will finish with a dazzling fireworks display.

Council is seeking community groups, businesses and individuals who would like to be involved with the award-winning event as a performer, stallholder or as an event sponsor.



For more information contact the Festivals and Events team on events@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5090.

Wominjeka



Four Bunorong artists have created welcome flags for Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre.

Help us celebrate their stunning work as we unveil the flags at a special event titled *Wominjeka*.

Coinciding with Harmony Week (March 20–26), *Wominjeka* will celebrate First Nations art and culture. The original art works convey a heartfelt welcome message and will remain on display in the Drum Theatre foyer, welcoming visitors to the venue.

Come along and meet the artists, connect with representatives from the Bunorong community and celebrate First Nations art. Lunch will be provided.

Wominjeka

Thursday 21 March,
12pm–1.30pm
Drum Theatre foyer, corner
Lonsdale and Walker streets,
Dandenong.

Our City, Our Future

Every four years, Council is required to develop a Council Plan.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020* following each Council election, we must complete a new Council Plan which outlines the key areas of focus for our organisation for the next four years.

With the next election happening in October we are asking our community to tell us what is most important to them. Share your thoughts about how we can help achieve your community vision, and what key activities and projects you would like to see happening.

Key engagement activities will commence shortly and will be advertised on Council's website, via social media and in customer service centres across the city. We would love to hear from as many members of our community as possible.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2025-29 to get involved.



Register your pet

**DUE BY
APRIL 10**

Registering your pet and keeping microchip details up to date can give you the best chance of being reunited with a missing cat or dog.

The law requires all owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with Council. Registrations are due by 10 April, so now is the time to register your pet for the year ahead and confirm microchip details are up to date.

Council Rangers love to reunite lost pets with their owners, but out of date information can slow that process.

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

Heavily discounted fees are offered for desexed pets and those over 10 years of age. Penalties can apply if you fail to renew your registrations.




Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pet-registration for more information.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Harmony Week

 **The City of Greater Dandenong is recognised as the most culturally diverse community in Australia. With residents from at least 154 different nations, our city proudly celebrates this diversity at every opportunity.**

Every year Harmony Week encourages Australians to embrace our diversity. This year Harmony Week falls on 20–26 March and Greater Dandenong Libraries will celebrate with a series of activities, including:

Art Series – Chinese Brush Painting
@ Springvale Library
Tuesday 19 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Kamishibai (Japanese storytelling)
Workshop @ Springvale Library
Wednesday 20 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Libraries at Dusk – Rainbow Rice Paper Rolls
@ Dandenong Library
Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Libraries at Dusk – Nature Journaling with Native Plants and Bushfoods
@ Springvale Library
Thursday 21 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Children’s Lion Dancing Workshop
@ Dandenong Library
Friday 22 March, 6.30pm–7.30pm



Libraries at Dusk

Running every Thursday evening the Libraries at Dusk program is aimed at patrons aged 16+ and provides opportunities to be social while learning creative skills.

Thursday 7 March

Selling or Donating Unwanted Items Online
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Reading Circle
@ Online, 6.30pm

Thursday 14 March

How to Start a Veggie Garden
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Selling or Donating Unwanted Items Online
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 21 March

Rainbow Rice Paper Rolls
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Nature Journaling with Native Plants and Bushfoods
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm


Thursday 28 March

Create an Extraordinary Tree Brooch
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

How to Start a Veggie Garden
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm




Baby Bounce Outreach

 **Build your baby’s literacy, confidence and motor skills through songs, rhymes and stories at Baby Bounce. The sessions are also an opportunity for children and parents to socialise.**

Held weekly at the Springvale and Dandenong Libraries, and during Term 1 at the Paddy O’Donoghue Centre, 34 Buckley St, Noble Park.

Outreach sessions are held every Friday during school terms, from 10.30am–11am. Bring your own blanket for your baby to lay on.

 **Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 630 920 for more information.**


Chronic Pain Peer Support



Are you affected by chronic pain? Join this peer support group and connect with new people and share stories. Sessions will include occasional speakers nominated by the group.

This group is suitable for those aged 16+.

Held on the third Thursday of the month at Springvale Library, 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale. This month’s session will be held on Thursday 21 March, from 4pm–5.30pm.

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

Drum Theatre



The Drum Theatre offers a great season of entertainment for everyone. Consider purchasing a Drum Membership to take advantage of some great offers.

For a limited time, for just \$5 you can receive discount tickets for selected performances, exclusive offers and pre-sale booking opportunities and special offers at participating businesses.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum-members to find out more.

Ballroom Blitz

Monday 18 March at 7.30pm

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

The Arts

A Tra\$hy Dreamland

Take part in this fun and immersive installation and let your creativity shine. Engage with the community through self-reflection, mass production and ethical ways of reusing broken and unwanted objects.

Explore the reflective space which will foster important conversations about the environment and cultural diversity.

The artwork will encourage you to connect and reflect on the community's nostalgic dreams through a unique sensory experience.

A Tra\$hy Dreamland by artist Moon Girl will be on display at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre from Tuesday 19 March.

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.



Spirit of the ANZAC

Thursday 18 April at 10.30am

Reminisce the music from World War II and Vietnam War eras in the lead up to Anzac Day 2024.



Tra\$h God's Abode, found and donated materials 2021. Photo: Chris Bowes.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/exhibitions for more information.



Hanging by a Thread

Produced in Dandenong, the *Hanging by a Thread* mosaic artwork is part of a global project to draw attention to the social and economic conditions of Afghan women and girls following the Taliban takeover. The artwork is on display now in the Drum Theatre Foyer.

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

The journey to Session Road



In 2023 budding restaurateur Noel Velasquez fulfilled his culinary dream

by launching Session Road in Keysborough, featuring a fusion menu blending Filipino and Vietnamese flavours.

But his dream took an unexpected turn during the opening week in July when a kitchen tile explosion forced the temporary closure of the restaurant.

Session Road, named after a prominent street in Baguio, Philippines, honours Velasquez's heritage and incorporates his wife's Vietnamese background to create unique dishes like Sisig Bahn Mi, a baguette filled with flavourful Filipino pork mince.

Transitioning from a business analyst job, Velasquez pursued his passion for barbecue, inspired by successful friends in Melbourne's restaurant scene.

In setting up Session Road, Velasquez sought assistance from Greater Dandenong City Council's Business Permit Support, which guided him through the permit process and connected him with Transcend's two-day Business Plan Accelerator Workshop. Through the workshop Velasquez was able to develop his business plan and access industry mentorship.

Session Road reopened in November 2023, and despite the setbacks, Velasquez's journey exemplifies the power of passion and resilience in making dreams come true. While working to reopen the business Velasquez was experimenting with new recipes and cherishing family time.

Session Road can be found on Facebook – search for "Session Road Keysborough" and are located at 1/41 Popes Road, Keysborough.



Business grant opportunity



Following the success of round 1, Council has reopened the Buy Local

Business Grant Program to support local businesses.

Greater Dandenong businesses make a large contribution to the local economy, which adds to the vibrancy and strength of our community.

Council introduced the program to enhance local networks and support businesses to navigate challenging economic times.

The program supports local businesses to use a new professional service from another supplier within Greater Dandenong. The program can support your business in the following areas:

- ▶ Developing website designs and marketing plans
- ▶ Increasing cybersecurity measures to protect your business online
- ▶ Upskilling and mentoring services to support business development
- ▶ Improving your daily operations with accounting services
- ▶ Utilising accounting services to improve your daily business operations
- ▶ Health and wellness initiatives.



Take advantage of this unique grant opportunity to support your business and staff. Funds are limited, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/buy-local-business-grants for more information.

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



Report an issue



Council strives to maintain our local community to the highest possible standard. By reporting issues residents can support us to achieve this.

If you see something broken, missing or in need of attention please let Council know. There are a number of different ways to report incidents and issues, including:

- ▶ **Snap Send Solve** This free smart phone app lets residents report quickly and on the spot. Simply snap a photo and fill out some simple details. The app will send the report to the responsible authority, including Council. Download the app directly to your phone from your preferred app store.
- ▶ **Online Report Form** Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and fill out an online form to report an issue.
- ▶ **Phone Council** Our customer service call centre is open Monday–Friday from 8.30am–5pm on 8571 1000. Deaf or hard of hearing residents and those with speech impairments can contact Council through the National Relay Service on 1800 555 660. To speak to Council in your own language phone through the TIS (Translation and Interpreting Service) on 13 14 50 and ask to be put through to 8571 1000.



Look left, look right, look bike

Motorbike riders are more vulnerable to injuries when riding on our roads, so VicRoads is encouraging motorists to look out for motorcyclists.

In slow moving traffic always make sure to give motorcyclists enough space on the road and look twice, check your mirrors and do a head check for blind spots. Always look out for motorcyclists when changing lanes.

The road rules allow for motorcyclists to ride between lanes in slow or stationary traffic – this is called lane filtering. Riders can move between lanes and traffic at speeds of up to 30km/h.



Visit www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules to read more about sharing the road to keep everyone safe.



Neighbourhood Watch Forum

Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong will host a public forum and Q&A session with experienced police officers.

Hear from Detective Sergeant John Curnow and Detective Sergeant Katie Johnston as they talk about their experiences and answer your questions.

All residents are welcome to attend the forum at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley St, Noble Park on Wednesday 27 March, at 7.30pm.



To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch, or to volunteer with the service, email nhwgreaterdandenongpresident@gmail.com or phone 0407 325 030.

Community Safety – preventing home burglaries

The first step to preventing home burglaries is to secure your property by locking all doors, windows, gates and sheds, and never hide a spare key on your property.

Make sure that your property is neat and entry points are visible from the street – don't give a thief a place to hide from passers-by.

Install a security door, sensor lighting or security cameras where you can.

If you are heading away this summer here are some tips to make it look like someone is home if you can't be:

- ▶ Ask a neighbour to collect your mail (including junk mail), or have your mail diverted
- ▶ Arrange to have your bins taken out and brought back in

- ▶ Ask someone to occasionally park their car in your driveway
- ▶ Get someone to mow your lawns and maintain your garden if you are on an extended holiday
- ▶ Do not advertise your holiday plans online
- ▶ Install a video doorbell to remotely interact with someone who rings the bell
- ▶ Consider getting a house sitter.



To report a crime in progress phone 000. For non-emergencies phone the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

KEYSBOROUGH'S

BIG PICNIC



Supported by



SUNDAY
24
MARCH 2024

11AM-4PM
FREE EVENT

**FREDERICK
WACHTER
RESERVE**
Kingsclere Ave,
Keysborough

8571 1000 | greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysboroughs-big-picnic

