

Greater Dandenong Council News



Wominjeka – Welcome Flags

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**Yarraman Ward
Councillor**

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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

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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 May edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Very recently we welcomed a new Councillor to the team. A by-election was held in March to elect a new representative in the Yarraman Ward. I want to congratulate Phillip Danh. You can read more on page 3.



Every May we celebrate Volunteer Week. There are many Council and community services that rely on the generosity of volunteers, including an organisation that I am proudly a member of the Greater Dandenong State Emergency Service (SES). Turn to page 6 to read about Council's Volunteer of the Year and SES Unit Controller Michael Prior.

May 27 marks the start of National Reconciliation Week. This is a time for everyone to come together to learn about First Nations shared histories, cultures and achievements. Read more about the work Council is doing with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on page 7.

I am proud of the work Council does to advocate for refugees and people seeking asylum through the Mayoral Taskforce we established in 2018. Find out more about the Taskforce and the Back Your Neighbour Campaign on page 9.

Turn to page 10 to find out how Council plans to brighten our local streets through a trial program to encourage busking in central Dandenong and a series of grants to help locals make the best use of public spaces in Noble Park.

I hope you have a wonderful month and enjoy everything our great city has to offer.

Mayor

Cr Lana Formoso

My City

Greater Dandenong Libraries host a range of activities to suit visitors of all ages. Earlier this year the Melbourne Museum team brought some replica dinosaur bones, fossils and stories to inspire the next generation of archaeologists.



Visit librariesgreaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and find out what other programs and special events our Springvale and Dandenong libraries offer.



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: Artists Kylie Armstrong and Adam Magennis in front of the Welcome artwork at the Drum Theatre.
Picture: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo


 RAISE
AWARENESS

#Proud2Be Project



A new video produced by local youth aims to raise awareness of the stigma and discrimination that exists for culturally diverse LGBTIQ+ young people.

The #Proude2Be project was created by young people with lived experience and participants were supported to make a short video to raise community awareness and understanding of the challenges they face.


A series of posters was also created to support the video's key messages and share information about support services.

The video will be released to the public on IDAHOBIT (International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination and Transphobia), on Friday 17 May.

The video and posters will be shared across our community, including through a social media campaign and workshops to be delivered at local secondary schools.

Participants hope this campaign will help to raise community awareness of some of the more subtle forms of discrimination, and the impacts this issue has on the lives of young people.

#Proud2Be was funded by the City of Greater Dandenong and the Victorian Government through the Healthy Equal Youth program.

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



New Yarraman Ward Councillor Phillip Danh with previous Councillor now the Member for Mulgrave Eden Foster.

New Councillor for Yarraman Ward

Phillip Danh is the new representative on Greater Dandenong City Council, after a by-election was held to fill an extraordinary vacancy.

Phillip Danh was among 13 candidates standing for the by-election which was held in March. Cr Danh will represent Yarraman Ward on Greater Dandenong City Council until the next council general election in October 2024.

Read more from Cr Danh in the June edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Future of aged care and disability services



At its meeting on Monday 25 March 2024, Greater Dandenong City Council considered the future of its role in aged care and disability services.

A report to Council included feedback from extensive community consultation, expert advice and detailed financial modelling.

Councillors voted to continue to offer services for the foreseeable future. This means there will be no change to services for existing clients.

The Commonwealth Government's Aged Care Reforms aim to create a simplified aged care program that provides older Australians with better access to a full range of services.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso said the new approach would allow residents aged 65 and over the right to choose their preferred service providers as their needs changed.


"While these changes provide more choice for clients, the reforms mean Council's services will need to change significantly to meet the new requirements," Cr Formoso said.

Recent changes by the Commonwealth extended the transition date for the bulk of Council's in-home aged care services from July 2025 to July 2027. This extension means Council has more time to make a final decision about the future provision of services.

Cr Formoso thanked all the clients, staff and community members who participated in the consultation process for their thoughtful contributions.

She also acknowledged Council's aged and disability staff for their continuing service and support for the community. She affirmed Council's commitment to supporting older residents to enjoy healthy, active lives with strong social connections while living at home.

Council has been in direct contact with residents who access the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) services and the Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP).

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/aged-care-reforms for more information.

Councillor Contacts



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www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

MONDAY

13
MAY

MONDAY

27
MAY

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 13 May**
- ▶ **Monday 27 May.**

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**

MAY

Cr Richard Lim OAM

▶ Springvale Central Ward



Springvale is such a wonderful place to live and to visit, and Council is working to make it even better.

Throughout 2023 we engaged residents in extensive consultations to find out what you valued most about Springvale and what would make it a better place for our diverse community. We visited local schools, hosted two community leader forums and three pop-up stations. More than 100 people attended our forums and focus groups and we received a lot of great feedback via our website.

The result is the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan, a 10-year plan, which will deliver a range of exciting initiatives to the Springvale Activity Centre. This will include new infrastructure that will support the growth of the activity centre, streetscape improvements, better and safer pedestrian access and more green spaces.

Council will continue to work with the community and keep you all informed about the delivery of these projects. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/shape-springvale to keep up to date with the latest.

Recently the Channel 7 television program Melbourne Weekender came to Springvale to film a story about the wonderful food and culture on offer



here in Springvale. Celebrity chef Gary Mehigan took the camera crew around to some of his favourite shops and restaurants. I know how sensational Springvale is, and it is great to see our suburb receive the recognition it deserves.

This month we invite residents to have their say on the Draft Budget for 2024–25. The Draft Budget was created following feedback from residents late last year. The papers will be on display from Wednesday 15 May until Wednesday 12 June. You can view copies at one of our customer service centres or on Council's website.

➔ **If you would like to talk to me about any Council-related issues please email me at richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 627 164.**

► Springvale South Ward



Earlier this year I celebrated 15 years as a councillor with Greater Dandenong City Council.

Since 2008 I have dedicated myself to the people of this city and I am proud that I have continued to be re-elected to represent my community. I am proud to be able to give something back to this city and the country of Australia, which took me in as a refugee from Vietnam in 1983.

This community is made up of people from all over the world, many of whom came here as refugees, just like me. Next month the Springvale Community Hub will mark Refugee Week (16–22 June) with a celebration on Saturday 22 June. Keep an eye out for more information closer to the date.

Just over four years ago Council adopted the Burden Park Master Plan and I am proud to say we have completed many great projects to upgrade this park.



One of the most interesting upgrades was the building of the Ninja Warrior Course, which I am photographed in front of. People of all ages visit this park to challenge themselves on the exercise equipment, which was the first of its kind built in Victoria.

I want to thank my fellow Councillor Sophie Tan for advocating for new traffic lights at the intersection of Harold and Corrigan roads, Noble Park. I also want to thank Council staff who carried out these works last year. They have made improvements to the traffic flow.

Cr Loi Truong

Since 2021 Burden Park has been home to a Woody Meadow, planted under a trial program with the University of Melbourne. The program is studying woody meadows as a way to improve public planting sites with native shrubs and small trees. This month the gardens will undergo intense pruning, which will hopefully promote flowering and denser coverage in the long term. Please don't be alarmed if you see our parks team out pruning these trees and trust they will grow back to be more beautiful than ever.

In the meantime I want to wish all the mothers in Greater Dandenong a very Happy Mother's Day.



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

Cr Angela Long



Have you seen the Container Deposit Scheme recycling facilities set up around our city?

I welcome these recycling facilities and use them to recycle cans, and plastic and glass drink containers. The money that I personally receive by recycling these drink containers goes to the Greater Dandenong State Emergency Service (SES).

Over the last 10 years, even before the recycling facilities were opened I was crushing the aluminium cans and taking them to the metal recycler. I used to get around 80 cents per kilogram (an average of 70 cans per kilogram). Now I get \$7 for the same amount and I can also get money for plastic and glass drink bottles – that way I can donate more to the SES. I have personally donated about \$10,000 over the past 10 years.

I encourage everyone to recycle drinking containers and if you do not need the money for yourself there are plenty of charities around the Greater Dandenong area that are always looking for donations. Some help feed the



homeless, and others are local service providers. You can select a charity to donate your money to at the collection point and there are several Reverse Vending Machine's set up across Greater Dandenong, including at the rear of the Dandenong Market and in the Warwick Avenue Carpark in Springvale.

I would like to thank patrons from St Marys and St John Vianney's bingo, Noble Park RSL and friends for their contribution of drinking containers so that I can make these donations.

Visit cdsvic.org.au/locations to find a refund point, including Reverse Vending

Machines, over the counter drop of points and depots for large scale returns (more than 500 containers). Council aims to be one of Australia's most sustainable cities by 2030 and recycling is just one action we can take to make this happen.



If you need to speak to me about anything related to Council please contact me on 0466 004 616 or via email at angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Cleeland Ward

...Michael is not driven by public recognition – but by his desire to give back to people in times of need.



Volunteer of the Year



Michael Prior has been a volunteer for the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) for more than 18 years and currently serves as the Unit Controller for the SES Greater Dandenong. Earlier this year he was recognised as Volunteer of the Year at the 2024 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

On top of his full-time job as an urban planner, Michael volunteers approximately 1000 hours per year to help those in need during an emergency.

Originally enticed by his desire to learn how to use a chainsaw and drive a boat, Michael's commitment to helping others is what has inspired him to continue volunteering for close to two decades.

"This is such a rewarding role. Many people say they feel isolated in their community. At SES you will make at least 50 new friends and learn skills that you didn't think you could do. It feels amazing when you use your skills to help others," Michael said.

Michael attended the 2019–20 Victorian bushfire response, helping the community at Cann River, East Gippsland during and after the fire. Along with his crew members, he was awarded the National Emergency Medal for his service.

In February 2024, SES Greater Dandenong received more than 400 requests for assistance when destructive winds brought down trees on roads and buildings. "For more than three days our crews used chainsaws to clear the roads and fix broken tiles and roof damage."

Michael is a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion and is paving the way for more accessible volunteering opportunities.

"Volunteer emergency services are for everyone. I encourage women and people of every faith and cultural group to join Greater Dandenong SES. Our members speak over 30 languages and we're aiming for 50!"

Michael is currently working towards his vision for future growth of the service and is campaigning for a building to co-locate SES and CFA services in Keysborough.

Like all volunteers, Michael is not driven by public recognition – but by his desire to give back to people in times of need.

"There are many people that do so much for the community in Greater Dandenong. I'm thrilled and honoured to be recognised for my small contribution."

National 20-26 MAY 2024
Volunteer
Something for Everyone Week

Volunteering in Greater Dandenong

Volunteering has positive impacts for both the receiver and the giver.

At Greater Dandenong City Council we are fortunate to engage more than 100 volunteers across 12 service areas.

This National Volunteer Week (20–26 May) we want to recognise our volunteers are compassionate and respectful, kind and determined. Some have been serving this community for more than 30 years.

The theme for National Volunteer Week 2024 is *Something for Everyone* and references the wide range of roles available for volunteers. Every interest, hobby or skillset can make you a great volunteer.

Long-term volunteer Eva said she was proud of volunteering for Council.

"It means a lot to me, not only helping me better understand the community and culture, but also bringing meaning and purpose to my life. It is my honour to be part of this amazing family. Looking forward to the next 10 years."

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/volunteering to find out more about volunteering with Council.



Contact the Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service to find out about other volunteering opportunities in our community. Email info@gdvrs.org.au or phone 5962 0414.

Drum Theatre says Wominjeka

A series of colourful Welcome flags adorns the entrance to Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre.

The stunning visual messages were created by four local Aboriginal and Bunurong artists, Uncle Mark Brown, Adam Magennis, Kylie Armstrong and Lakeisha Clayton.

Their creation was celebrated at a special event held in the Drum Theatre foyer on March 21. Titled *Wominjeka* the public event marked National Close the Gap Day and Harmony Day, both important days for the Greater Dandenong community.

National Close the Gap Day acknowledges the ongoing strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in sustaining the world's oldest living cultures and it advocates for health equality for all. Harmony Day celebrates our cultural diversity, which includes our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Wominjeka means Welcome in languages of the Boonwurrung Bunurong peoples and Woi Wurrung Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin Nation.

Each artist created an original flag that conveys a heartfelt Welcome message and reflects what performing arts mean to their Culture and Community.

The flags are a visual reminder of the steps we walk towards Reconciliation with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The original artworks are now proudly on display in the Drum foyer for all to enjoy.

**WELCOME
FLAGS**



Reconciliation Week



National Reconciliation Week is celebrated on the same days each year, 27 May–3 June.

The theme for 2024 is *Now More Than Ever* and is a reminder to all of us that no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will – and must – continue.

Now more than ever we need to tackle the unfinished business of Reconciliation. Supporters must stand up to defend and uphold the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. To call out racism wherever we encounter it and to actively reinforce the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across our society.

Reconciliation Week starts on 27 May which is the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum to recognise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution.



Uncle Shane Clarke Welcomes a crowd to Country at the 2023 Reconciliation Week celebrations.

The week finishes on 3 June, which is Mabo Day and celebrates the 1992 High Court Decision recognising the existence of native title rights and rejecting the claim that Australia belonged to no one prior to British occupation.

This Reconciliation Week, Greater Dandenong City Council invites all communities to come together to learn about First Nations shared histories, cultures and achievements.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week-2024 to find out about what events are happening in our community.

What's On

Friendly reminders

Wednesday 1 May

Strength Training @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 8.30am



Reading Circle @ Dandenong Library, 11am-12pm

Thursday 2 May

Trees: A Canopy Extraordinaire Exhibition @ Benga, Heritage Hill, 10am-2pm

Carers Walking Group meet at Noble Park Community Care, 10am

Friday 3 May

Yoga and Meditation @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 11am

Saturday 4 May

Family Fun @ Springvale Library, 3pm-4pm

Tuesday 7 May

Nature Play @ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, 10am-11am



Bilingual Storytime (Vietnamese) – Celebrate Mother's Day @ Drum Theatre, 11am-11.45am

Wednesday 8 May

Art, Craft and Conversation @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm-10pm

Thursday 9 May

Student Environment Leadership Summit @ Springvale Town Hall, 9.30am-2.30pm

Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation @ Dandenong Hospital, 2.30pm

Saturday 11 May

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

Springvale Community Hub Clothes Swap @ Springvale Community Hub, 1pm-3pm

Sunday 12 May

Mother's Day

Monday 13 May

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

Tuesday 14 May

Competitive Advantage – Strategies for Business Success @ Dandenong Civic Centre, 10am-12pm

Wednesday 15 May

Social Knitwork @ Dandenong Library, 10am-12.30pm

Thursday 16 May

Paris in Love – An International French Variety Concert @ Drum Theatre, 10.30am



Chronic Pain Support Group @ Springvale Library, 4pm

Monday 20 May

Toddler Time @ Springvale Library, 10.30am

Toddler Time @ Dandenong Library, 10.30am

Friday 24 May

Dad's Playgroup @ Dandenong Library, 10am-11.30am

Baby Bounce @ Springvale Library, 10.30am

Saturday 25 May

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day @ Greaves Reserve, Dandenong, 8am-1pm



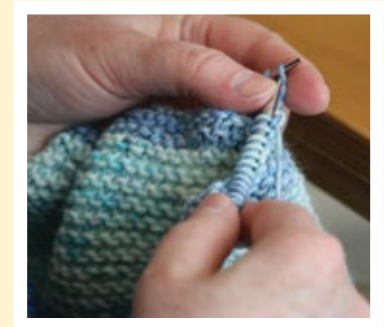
Monday 27 May

Reconciliation Week Flag Raising @ Harmony Square, Dandenong, 10.30am

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

Wednesday 29 May

Social Knitwork @ Dandenong Library, 10am-12.30pm



To submit your event for our website and Council News visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event

Please visit our website and social media platforms for updates, as event details may change.

Stand together for our neighbours and friends

ENSURE
LASTING
CHANGE

...more than 40 participating local governments from across Australia



In 2018 Greater Dandenong City Council established a Mayoral Taskforce to advocate for the rights of people seeking asylum within our community.

The Back Your Neighbour campaign now has more than 40 participating local governments from across Australia. The campaign continues to call on the Federal Government to provide basic work and study rights, ensure a timely and fair application process and establish a financial safety net while people seek refugee protection in Australia.

Collective advocacy efforts have had some success and have contributed to the Federal Government's plan to end the policy of temporary protection, expand the Refugee and Humanitarian Program and allocate \$160 million to address processing delays.

But we can't stop here. We need your voice to ensure lasting change. Join us in supporting a compassionate and just approach for our neighbours in need.

- ▶ Like, follow and share the Campaign on Facebook and Instagram [@backyourneighbour](#)
- ▶ Write to your local Federal MP, urging them to support our advocacy efforts
- ▶ Scan the QR code to find out more and sign the petition now.



Visit backyourneighbour.com.au for more information.



In October and November 2023 Council asked the community to share their thoughts on what services were important to them.

Residents shared what they would like to see more of and where Council should focus its spending. The following key services were identified as important:

- ▶ Parks and gardens
- ▶ Roads and footpaths
- ▶ Rubbish and recycling
- ▶ Libraries
- ▶ Street lighting.

To read more about the community's feedback please visit our website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/budget-2024-25-consultation-report

The responses received were shared with the Executive Team and Councillors and were reviewed as part of the process to develop the Draft Budget 2024-25 and Council's Annual Plan.

These documents will soon be available for further feedback from the community and will be on display from 15 May until 12 June.

Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to get involved and share your thoughts.



Our Street NPK



While the Our Street NPK program is coming to a close, there are still more fun activities and projects happening across the suburb.

Including at Frank Street Open Space, which will host:

- ▶ Music performances on Saturday 18 and 25 May, and 1 and 8 June from 3.30pm–5.30pm
- ▶ Children’s entertainment on Sunday 2, 9, 16 and 23 June from 1.30pm–3.30pm
- ▶ Pop Up Fitness sessions mid-week

At Copas Park discover History in Our Streets and enjoy learning about the history of Noble Park through artistic illustration and content exhibited in the new Pudding Lanterns, maybe even take a guided tour of Noble Park’s artwork and history.

Join in some good old-fashioned fun at Copas Park on Sunday 30 June, from 11.30am–1.30pm with giant games, a didgeridoo performance and more.

While many public artworks have been created as part of the Colour Our Street program, check out the latest artwork on the Douglas Street zebra crossings.



Our Street is supported by the Revitalising Noble Park initiative which has invested in projects across Noble Park to rejuvenate the suburban centre. The whole program is supported by the Victorian Government through the Office of Suburban Development in partnership with Greater Dandenong City Council.



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



Unique events for Noble Park



City of Greater Dandenong locals will be encouraged to apply for one-off grants to run unique events and activities in two public spaces.

Three grants will support individuals and organisations to deliver programs, projects and events that benefit the community at either the Frank Street Open Space, Copas Park or the Civic Space outside Noble Park Train Station.

Designed to encourage locals to feel connected to public space and the Noble Park community, the grants will be offered in two values.

The \$5,000 grant will support individuals, while community groups and organisations can apply for a \$10,000 grant.

Council will offer support with the event application and permit process, and all other related processes to help deliver the programs. Applications are now open and will close on 15 September 2024 or when funds run out. This project is proudly supported by the Revitalising Noble Park initiative.



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

Busk Stop



Held throughout May, Busk Stop will bring a series of outdoor street performances to key locations in central Dandenong.

Local artists and performers from a cross section of mediums including musicians, singers, jugglers, mimes, dancers, puppeteers or performance artists, will perform for passers-by at one of three designated “Busk Stops”.

This initiative is part of a pilot project to promote street performers in Greater Dandenong.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/busk-stop to find out more.

FREE SERVICE

Justice of the Peace



Justice of the Peace (JPs) are available at both Dandenong Library and Springvale Community Hub, Monday to Friday. The service is free and assists residents with attesting the execution of documents, witnessing statutory declarations and affidavits, certifying true copies of original documents, and certifying a person's identity.

Appointments are not necessary, but it is recommended to confirm JP availability before you visit by phoning 1300 630 920.

Session times

Dandenong Library

- Monday: 10am–3pm
- Tuesday: 10am–3pm and 6.30pm–8pm
- Wednesday: 10am–3pm
- Thursday: 10am–3pm and 6.30pm–8pm
- Friday: 3pm–6pm

Springvale Community Hub

- Monday: 10am–1pm and 4.30pm–6pm
- Tuesday-Friday: 10am–1pm and 4pm–6pm

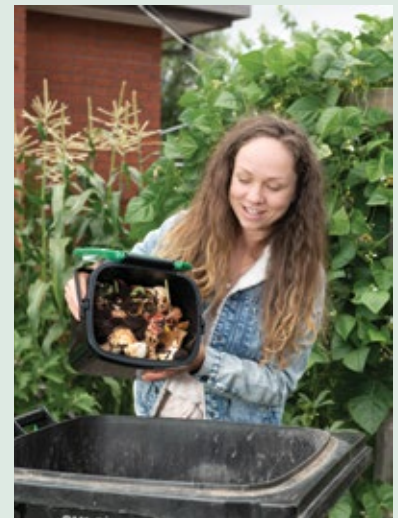
Volunteers wanted

Several volunteer JP positions are available, with plans to expand the service to offer weekend bookings. Chair of the Dandenong and Springvale Association, Colin Rimington said it is a great opportunity for local JPs to give back to the community.

“This is a great way to meet new people and stay up to date with the information you need as a JP. We provide regular training and have opportunities to meet quarterly. We'd love to hear from you if you would like to apply to volunteer at one or both of our centres.”



Volunteers are not required to be a member of the Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices. To apply phone Colin Rimington on 0488 782 392.



Better soil for a better future



International Compost Awareness Week (5–11 May) is a chance

to learn about the importance of composting to create a sustainable future.

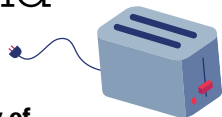
Composting turns food scraps and garden into rich natural fertiliser. Compost can then be used to improve the health of your soil and plants.

There are several ways you can compost at home, including through the use of compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets.

Greater Dandenong residents can also add food scraps to their green lid garden waste bin, including foods you cannot compost like meat, bones and dairy as well as bread, pasta and cereal. The kerbside collection delivers to a facility that turns this into high quality compost that is used on our local parks and reserves, and by farmers across Victoria.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options/compost-bins-and-worm-farms](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options/compost-bins-and-worm-farms) to find out more.

Reuse and Recycle



Due to the popularity of Council's Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days there are more opportunities to take advantage of the free service.

In 2024 Council will hold four events, giving residents the opportunity to get rid of larger unwanted household items suitable for donating or recycling.

Almost 600 vehicles attended the first 2024 Drop Off day in February.

From this single event we donated:

- ▶ 38 bikes to BrainWave Bikes
- ▶ 15 children's car seats and children's furniture and toys to Big Group Hug



- ▶ 3.3 tonnes of furniture to Outlook Hampton Park
- ▶ 1.55 tonnes of clothing and bric-a-brac to SCR Group.

We were also able to recycle 2 tonnes of mattresses, 3.1 tonnes of e-waste and 5.6 tonnes of metal and whitegoods.




The next Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day will be held on Saturday 25 May. Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) for more information.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Love your Libraries

 **The library offers many different programs and activities throughout the year for visitors of all ages. There is certainly something for everyone.**

The Social Knitwork

– every Wednesday, 10am
@ Dandenong Library

Baby Bounce

– every Wednesday, 10.30am
@ Dandenong Library

Reading Circle

– first Wednesday of the month
@ Dandenong Library

Storytime

– every Thursday, 10.30am
@ Springvale Library and
Dandenong Library

Toddler Time

– every Monday, 10.30am
@ Springvale Library and
Dandenong Library

Art, Craft and Conversation

– every second Wednesday,
6.30pm @ Springvale Library

Dad's Group

– every second Friday, 10am
@ Springvale Library or every second
Tuesday, 10am @ Dandenong Library

Have you
always wanted
to read more?

The library's online
Bookclub is here to help
you choose a book you
will love. Here are some
top reads for May.

Safe Houses
by Dan Fesperman

Set in postwar Berlin, this gripping suspense novel follows a young woman who stumbles upon a dark truth. The story takes us on a thrilling journey as she goes on the run to protect her life. Years later, her daughter embarks on a quest to unravel the startling secrets from her mother's past, leading to unforeseen consequences.

The Supernova Era
by Cixin Liu


This captivating novel explores a world transformed by a cosmic event—a supernova explosion—that damages human chromosomes, threatening the survival of all but children under 13. As society grapples with this new reality, the story delves into the complexities of human nature and resilience amid a rapidly changing world.

TOP
READS

The Foyles Bookshop Girls
by Elaine Roberts

Set against the backdrop of World War I, this heartwarming tale follows the lives of three girls who find solace and friendship amidst the turmoil of wartime London. It's a story of love, hope, and resilience, offering a glimpse into the lives of ordinary individuals facing extraordinary challenges.

National Simultaneous Storytime

 **Every year National Simultaneous Storytime brings children from all around the world together at the same time to read the same book.**

This year's book is *Bowerbird Blues* by Aura Parker, a moving story of longing and connection.

Greater Dandenong Libraries has invited a school to celebrate the event with a reading at Springvale Library on Wednesday 22 May. The event will be live cast to the children's area at Dandenong Library.



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

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 discounted tickets for select performances, exclusive offers, pre-sale booking opportunities and special offers at participating businesses.

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

Bilingual Storytime – Celebrate Mother’s Day

Tuesday 7 May, 11am–11.45am

Join us for an entertaining and fun morning of Vietnamese bilingual storytelling as we get ready to celebrate Mother’s Day. Children will get to create their own card and gift for someone special in their life.



Paris in Love – An International French Variety Concert

Thursday 16 May, 10.30am

Award winning entertainer Milko Foucault-Larche will join forces with Parisian born Corinne Andrew for this new Cabaret celebrating the essence of French popular music. Performed in English and French, this show is not to be missed.



Coming in June.... Wingspan, Celebrating the Songs of Paul McCartney

Thursday 20 June, 10.30am

Wingspan delivers McCartney’s hits from his early Beatle days and songs from his early solo albums to the formation of Wings. This is a must see show for any die-hard Wings and Beatles fans or just genuine music lovers stretching over three generations (60’s, 70’s and 80’s).



Just announced – Coming in July Opera Australia: La Bohème

Friday 12 and Saturday 13 July

Experience the original bohemian love story. When Mimi meets Rodolfo and it’s love at first touch. La Bohème exposes your soul to the feelings that only music can express. Buy your tickets now before they sell out.

The Arts



A Tra\$hy Dreamland

You are invited to participate in a fun and installation by Naarm-based multidisciplinary artist Moon Girle. Engage with the community through self-reflection, mass production and ethical ways of reusing broken and unwanted objects.

On display at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre until 8 June. Open Tuesday–Friday from 12pm–4pm.



Cultural Sketch

**Tuesday 7 May 6–8pm
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre**

Cultural Sketch offers our arts community opportunities to gain skills, pass on knowledge and share experiences.

Join us to hear from, and draw, artist Moon Girle for our presenter in May as they pose, share their favourite objects, their creative and cultural journey, and favourite playlist. Network with your creative peers and learn more about our local arts community.

This session includes a special tour of *A Tra\$hy Dreamland* exhibition. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/creative-rise to register and find out more.

Bridging Pathways for those with Disabilities



The Bridge Inc started more than 50 years ago as a collective vision of parents and community leaders striving to create opportunities for local children with disabilities.

Today, the organisation has evolved, with multiple offices around south-east Melbourne, that are dedicated to fostering employment and community connections.

The Bridge Works and Bridge 2Works are located on Cheltenham Rd, Dandenong and employ a diverse workforce within the manufacturing sector. With about 70 supported staff and 20 team leaders, these workplaces offer a wide range of employment opportunities through collaboration with local, interstate and international businesses.

The Bridge services a wide range of clients making the workload diverse. For instance, some staff work on putting together bowel cancer screening kits for distribution (supplying up to 1/3 of our



nation's requirements). While others re-package products from overseas suppliers for distribution to the Australian market.

One stand-out client for The Bridge Works is a company called Soap Aid. Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation committed to recycling and distributing soap to communities facing major hygiene challenges. Staff working at The Bridge Works will sort, clean and process soap that is either redundant stock or recycled from hotels, using innovative machinery to create fresh and usable soap bars. These bars are then redistributed to communities around the world.

The Bridge 2Works represents a new chapter for the company, offering exciting prospects for both staff and the broader community. As the organisation continues to evolve, it will explore fresh ideas and new opportunities, that will reinforce its commitment to community support and meaningful employment.



Visit thebridgeinc.org.au for more information.

Welcoming Prince of Yazh



An authentic Sri-Lankan restaurant run by a mother and son team opened in Dandenong in September last year.

Distinguishing itself by specialising in Northern Sri-Lankan cuisine, the owner Jay, started the business as a way to share food with people, just like he would at home with friends and family.

Jay most recently worked as an accountant, but previous experience working in hospitality with family encouraged him to collaborate with his mother on this new venture. His mum actively contributes to kitchen operations, ensuring exact seasoning and maintaining the integrity of each menu item Jay said.

Prior to setting up his new restaurant, Jay engaged with the Business Permit Support Service at Council to find out about what permits might be needed. This service ensured his business was fully compliant from the start, saving time and money.

Jay finds a lot of customers travel from outside Greater Dandenong to eat at his restaurant and would love to have more locals visit. Jay purchases all the produce and protein used within his restaurant from the Dandenong

Market, which in turn supports the local economy.

On Sundays the restaurant features a unique dining experience with bottomless rice and curry on a banana leaf for lunch as well as all you can eat hopper service for dinner. This offering is inspired by the traditions of Sri Lanka where locals celebrate events at hotels whilst enjoying an all you can eat buffet.

The future is looking bright with some new and exciting adventures that will be happening for the team at Prince of Yazh. Be sure to keep an eye on their social media pages so you don't miss out.

Prince of Yazh is at 111 Foster St, Dandenong. Phone 0437 264 456 for bookings.

NEW

Stronger Together: Neighbourhood House Week



Neighbourhood houses are the beating heart of community engagement and support within the City of Greater Dandenong. With seven houses currently operating in the area, these spaces offer an array of social, educational and welfare programs, fostering lifelong learning and community involvement.

In 2024 Neighbourhood House Week (13-19 May) has the theme *Stronger Together*. There will be more than 100 activities across local houses and community centres during the week, bringing people from all walks of life together to connect, learn and play.

All seven local centres have formed a collaborative cluster aiming to streamline local learning and community development efforts while providing a platform for shared experiences and solutions.

Through inclusive programs and shared spaces these centres cultivate an environment where every voice is heard, every story is valued and every member contributes to the vibrant mosaic of our shared community.

Local neighbourhood centres are encouraging residents to celebrate community and join in simple acts of togetherness, whether it's a shared meal, a collaborative project or just a friendly chat.

Contact your local Neighbourhood House to find out more.

Noble Park Community Centre
nobleparkcommunitycentre.org.au
 Ph: 9547 5801

Wellsprings for Women
wellspringsforwomen.com
 Ph: 9701 3740

Dandenong Community and Learning Centre
dandenongclc.org.au
 Ph: 9792 5298

Springvale Neighbourhood House
snh.org.au
 Ph: 9548 3972

North Dandenong Neighbourhood House (Search Facebook)
 Ph: 0448 658 354

Keysborough Learning Centre
kickeys.com.au
 Ph: 9798 7005

Springvale Learning and Activities Centre
springvalelac.org.au
 Ph: 9547 2647

Celebrating 150 years of excellence in education

Dandenong Primary School marks its 150th birthday this month, hosting a range of events to commemorate the historical milestone.

Opening on Monday 4 May 1874, Dandenong Primary School has a long legacy of excellence, shaping the lives of countless students since its humble beginnings 150 years ago.

Growing from just a handful of students in three or four classrooms in the early years, to 430 students in 2024, the school proudly serves the Greater Dandenong region - one of Australia's most culturally diverse communities. The school's highly dedicated staff are almost as diverse as the student population, with more than 13 languages spoken between them.



The school will celebrate the anniversary with an action-packed day on Saturday 4 May, 2024.

Starting with a community park run and breakfast in Dandenong, the school will hold a "Back to School" Open Day followed by a special reunion dinner.

Each event provides past and present school community members with an opportunity to reconnect, share memories and acknowledge the

dedication of all involved in Dandenong Primary School's history.

Principal Daniel Riley said the events were an important way to acknowledge the school's past, present and future.

"Happy 150th anniversary to our extraordinary school community," said Mr Riley.

"Together, we honour the generations of educators, students, and community members who have shaped our legacy of excellence in learning and teaching. Here's to another 150 years of inspiring futures and shaping minds."

The photo accompanying this article was taken by Dandenong Primary School student Abigail Tivendale and featured on the month of May in Council's Community Calendar.

Our City, Our Future



What is most important to you in Greater Dandenong? How can Council help make our city a home to all?

Council is developing a new Council Plan to help us achieve our community vision and improve the health and wellbeing of the people who live in and visit our city. We want to hear from you.

To find out more go to
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2025-29



Scan the QR code
for more information