

# Greater Dandenong Council News



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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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**Speak and listen: 1300 555 727**

**[relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)**



**TIS: 131 450**



**[council@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 June edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This month we celebrate Refugee Week. The City of Greater Dandenong has been a Refugee Welcome Zone since 2002 and we are proud to celebrate the many refugees who call our city home. Find out more about how we can celebrate and support refugees on page 3.

Recently we announced our new Junior Mayor. Meet Gemma and hear about her plans for the coming year on page 6.

We are committed to engaging with our residents on all matters that affect them. This month is your last chance to have input into our Annual Budget 2024–25 process. Turn to page 9 to find out about our new online engagement platform and how to have your say on the Budget.

With winter comes colder weather and shorter days, but our city is full of wonderful parks, reserves and sports facilities to help you keep active in all weather. Turn to page 9 to read about the new synthetic soccer pitch at Ross Reserve.

I hope you all have a great month, and I look forward to updating you on the 2024–25 Budget in our next issue.

### Mayor

**Cr Lana Formoso**



## My City

This colourful wall is part of the new Ross Reserve Pavilion in Noble Park. This beautiful feature was captured by local resident Cheryl Lambert who entered this photograph into the 2024 Community Calendar Competition. On her entry Cheryl said: “We are so lucky to have such a funky modern building. Ross Reserve just keeps getting better and better.”



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.



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Front cover: Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso with Greater Dandenong Junior Mayor Gemma.

FSC  
Logo

# Back Your Neighbour



**COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS**



**The Back Your Neighbour campaign is run by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum.**

The Taskforce was started here in Greater Dandenong and is made up of more than 40 local governments nationwide who are advocating for the thousands of people living without support while their claims for refugee status are being processed.

On behalf of the Taskforce, Council wants to thank community champions who support the campaign and call on all Australians to Back Your Neighbour.

We are proud to have the support of Springvale resident Be Ha, who is President of the Springvale Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association and arrived in Australia in 1979 by boat. Be was named a Living Treasure of our city in 2022 and has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of refugees, women, youth and multicultural communities.

We are also proud to be supported by Qutbiallam Timor, Director of the Refugee Resource Hub in Dandenong, and Barat Ali Batoor, a filmmaker and refugee advocate. Both men call for safety and equality for people seeking protection in our community.



Scan this QR code to find out more about Back Your Neighbour and sign a petition to support a compassionate and just approach to supporting people seeking asylum.



Visit [backyourneighbour.com.au](http://backyourneighbour.com.au) for more information.

## Celebrate Refugee Week

**As a Refugee Welcome Zone, Greater Dandenong City Council will celebrate Refugee Week (17–23 June) with a community event for all ages.**

The free event will be held at Springvale Community Hub and will feature live performances, cultural experiences, fun activities and a variety of community stalls.

This year, the theme for Refugee Week 2024 is *Finding Freedom: Family*. We encourage all participants to explore the journey of resilience and unity that defines the refugee experience, with a focus on the power of family in the face of adversity.

This event will be held on Saturday 22 June, from 1pm–3pm, at Springvale Community Hub. It aims to show support to refugee communities in Greater Dandenong and to engage and connect our community with local services.

For more information email [thiviya.nagenthiram@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:thiviya.nagenthiram@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 8571 1452.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/refugee-week](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/refugee-week) for details.



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TUESDAY

11  
JUNE

MONDAY

24  
JUNE

## 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 11 June** (Due to the King's Birthday public holiday on 10 June)
- ▶ **Monday 24 June.**

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](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)**

JUNE

## Cr Phillip Danh

As the newest Councillor in Greater Dandenong I am looking forward to representing the people of Yarraman Ward. I have lived in Greater Dandenong my entire life and now I want to make a difference for my fellow residents.

I want to highlight a few great projects that have seen some major upgrades in this ward, including the Railway Parade Streetscape Upgrade. This shopping strip is much-loved by locals, and improving the look of the area and the access means even more people will feel welcome here.

This project has been carried out over stages and the upgrades were designed with feedback from the community. It delivered new paving, street trees that will increase shade, as well as new landscaping with areas for seating and other street furniture. We have also started construction of a new pocket park at 218 Railway Parade offering green open space for the community.

Noble Park is undergoing a transformation, and the Ian Street precinct is no exception. Upgrades carried out in collaboration with Council and the Noble Park Revitalisation Board were funded by the Victorian Government's Office of Suburban Development.

### ▶ Yarraman Ward



Recently completed, the upgrades include the undergrounding of power poles contributing to a cleaner look. New streetlights and improvements to pedestrian access also improve accessibility and safety to the shopping precinct. New trees, landscaping and street furniture also add to the look and feel, with several art projects in surrounding streets helping to uplift the neighbourhood.

Noble Park is a unique and vibrant area and investment through the Revitalisation Board is helping to highlight the village character that makes our suburb so special.

➔ **I want the people of Yarraman to know I am here for you and ready to represent you in my role as Councillor. If you would like to contact me you can do so via email [phillip.danh@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:phillip.danh@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 0473 482 153.**

## ► Keysborough South Ward



**As summer fades, I hope you are enjoying the spectacular autumnal colours adorning our parks and gardens.**

It's hard to believe that after three and a half years, the revitalization of Westwood Boulevard is nearing completion. The new shade sails arrived just in time to provide respite from the last of the hot summer days. This project has transformed Westwood Boulevard into a vibrant community hub, with additions including 70 perimeter trees, new play structures under shaded canopies, a new nature play area with flagstone seating, an exercise station, public toilet facilities, a sheltered picnic area, an upgraded basketball half-court, new concrete pathways, and a freshly resurfaced kick-around area.

On another important community matter, the proposed electoral boundary changes in the Greater Dandenong wards have raised considerable concerns. Specifically, the suggestion

to merge the Green Wedge zone of Keysborough South with the industrial expanse of Dandenong South under one ward could challenge the balance between maintaining our cherished green spaces and the dynamics of industrial development.

I spoke at the public forum, emphasizing the potential for gradual industrial encroachment into the Green Wedge area, which could alter its essential character. The council has also expressed concerns that such a merge could create conflicting priorities for future council representation. We've seen strong community feedback, with over 200 submissions opposing the first model of these changes. Special thanks to the Willow Lodge Village Residents Association and their secretary, Carmel Perkins, for their active role in voicing these concerns, highlighting the potential impact on living costs and the quality of life for our residents, particularly our valued aged pensioners.

## Cr Rhonda Garad



➤ **Please feel free to contact me at any time on 0435 107 584 or [rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au)**

## Cr Bob Milkovic



**Early education for children is so important, and kindergarten plays a key role in getting our kids ready for school.**

Council recognised the need for more kinder places across Greater Dandenong, and last year we celebrated the opening of a new kinder on the grounds of Rosewood Downs Primary School.

The kindergarten has 66 licensed places and was officially opened to students in Term 2 last year. The kinder offers 15 hours of education to children across the three year old and four year old groups. Since the kinder started operating we have seen a growing number of enrolments, with current figures sitting at 26 three-year-old students 29 four-year-olds.

This facility was jointly funded by Council and the Victorian School Building Authority, and includes an outdoor learning and play space, an administration area, maternal and child health services, and a small community space to support new parent groups and playgroups.



By including these facilities on the same site as the primary school we offer Dandenong North parents an all-in-one space to support their growing families. From those early days with a new baby, to kindergarten and primary school,

## ► Dandenong North Ward

this building creates a familiar place for children and creates a support network for families as they move through those different stages of life.


This month residents have a final opportunity to have a say on the Draft Budget for 2024-25. As Councillors we have responsibility to allocate your rates to services and projects that benefit our whole community. This Draft Budget was created following input from our residents, and we would like to offer you all one last chance to let us know if we are getting it right. You can visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to share your thoughts or visit a customer service centre to read a hard copy of the budget and provide your feedback.

➤ **In the meantime, if you want to contact me with a Council related matter you can email me at [bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au) or by phone on 0435 237 051.**

# Introducing the Junior Mayor



**GEMMA  
DURAKOVIC**

 **Hello City of Greater Dandenong, my name is Gemma Durakovic and I am so excited to be your 2024 Junior Mayor.**

I was so surprised to be elected Junior Mayor by my peers at the student advisory group and I would like to say good job to everyone that gave it a shot. You are all winners.

An important part of being Junior Mayor is that I will always try to give my peers a chance to speak up and share their opinions on how we can help the community.

I am passionate about showing others in the community how to live in a more sustainable environment by showing kids how to recycle different types of materials and the importance of recycling and helping our community where we can.

I love being outside and love sports so I will also encourage students to improve their health and fitness by encouraging them to be outdoors more and use active travel to get to school when they can, which will also help reduce traffic congestion in school areas during peak times.

**Being Junior Mayor is not just a title it is a responsibility and I know I will give it my 150 percent best.**

If you see me around, please come and say hi I would love to meet you, have a chat and hear any ideas you might have.

## Children stepping up to make a difference



**Greater Dandenong City Council values the voices of our youngest residents and each year local primary school students form the Children's Advisory Group.**

The group engages with teams across Council to share their thoughts and help shape the future of their community.

On Wednesday 20 March the Council Chambers were buzzing with excitement, as 20 eager candidates from the Children's Advisory Group ran for the position of Junior Mayor. Each candidate delivered a speech, and talked about promoting diversity, inclusivity, community engagement, and addressing social issues like homelessness and mental health.

Gemma Durakovic, a Grade 6 student at Keysborough Gardens Primary School, spoke about the importance of the role in giving students a voice in shaping our community. Gemma also shared her passion to make positive change, advocating for a more sustainable environment, and improving health and fitness for all. Gemma was elected by her peers as City of Greater Dandenong's Junior Mayor for 2024.

Gemma will team up with Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso to represent our community at special events including citizenship ceremonies and community events.


Gemma is one of 34 Grade 5 and 6 students, representing 17 primary schools in Greater Dandenong, who are involved in the Children's Advisory Group. Being part of the Children's Advisory Group is a great opportunity for children to learn more about their community and have their voices heard.



# Australia Day Awards

Earlier this year eight community members and two community groups were recognised for their outstanding contribution to the City of Greater Dandenong at the 2024 Australia Day Awards.

## Community Leadership Award: Glenyse Duck

 **When Noble Park resident Glenyse Duck retired from her life-long career in nursing, she never expected to learn so much in her next phase of life.**

Jumping into a range of volunteer roles in 2011, Glenyse taught English to new migrants as a tutor with AMES, became a tour guide at Healesville Sanctuary and became a volunteer for Palliative Care South East (PCSE). This is where she found her calling, leading the “Share My Story” program.

“This is a free service offered to anyone with a life limiting illness. We work with clients and their families to develop a complete biography of their life,” said Glenyse.

“It’s very validating for the client to share their story. It is cathartic, bringing an immense sense of enjoyment, satisfaction, and achievement.”

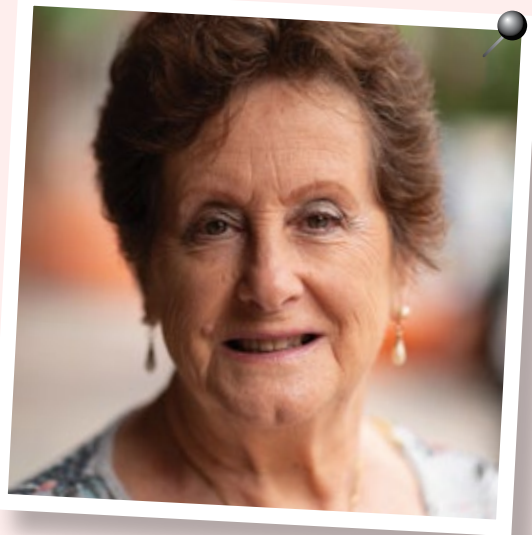
Glenyse meets with clients over a few sessions to collect memories and photos. She then spends hours editing, formatting, and perfecting the final product, which is presented to the client and their families as a complete, spiral-bound book and USB with a digital version.

To date, Glenyse has completed approximately 44 biographies.


“My mentor has done over a hundred! There’s a lot of dedication that we all put into these stories. I thoroughly enjoy creating them. It truly is an honour,” said Glenyse.

When Covid-19 restrictions hit in 2020, Glenyse and the whole team at PCSE knew they needed to find a way to keep going.


“I quickly learnt how to Zoom and do Facetime. Time was too precious to wait for lockdowns. I’m proud that we were able to think outside the box and keep up this important work during that really challenging time.”



“Many of our clients say they would never have remembered some of the memories they’ve shared with us if it wasn’t for this program. It is amazing to be a part of something that leaves an ongoing legacy for their immediate families, grandchildren and future generations.”


 **Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Australia-day-awards](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Australia-day-awards) to find out more about the 2024 award winners.**

## Pride Month

 **International Pride Month commemorates the Stonewall Riots of June 1969, a pivotal moment and movement in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights.**

This month Council will host a special morning tea for LGBTQIA+ community members in celebration of Pride Month and as an opportunity for a discussion around how Council better support our rainbow communities.

At the time of publishing a date was yet to be decided, however the morning tea will be open to all members of the Greater Dandenong LGBTQIA+ community and will be advertised on our website.


 **To find out more visit the What’s On page at Council’s website [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)**

## Council Elections

**Local Government elections will be held across Victoria later this year.**

Greater Dandenong residents will vote for new representatives across all 11 wards in October.

Voting will take place by postal ballot and every eligible voter will receive their voting papers in the mail.

 **Visit [vec.vic.gov.au](https://vec.vic.gov.au) to find out more about the election process and how to get involved.**

# What's On

Friendly reminders

## Saturday 1 June

Busk Stop – Georgie Karanasios @ The Checkerboard, corner Langhorne and Lonsdale streets, Dandenong, 10am–12pm

Kantha and Kantha @ Drum Theatre, 5pm

## Tuesday 4 June

Nature Play @ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Springvale South, 10am–11am



Starting a Small Business Masterclass @ Dandenong Civic Centre, 12pm–1pm

Cultural Sketch @ Walker Street Gallery, 6pm–8pm

## Wednesday 5 June

LEGO Boost Code Club @ Springvale Library, 4pm

## Thursday 6 June

Carers Walking Group @ Noble Park Community Centre, 9.45am



## Friday 7 June

Dad's Group @ Springvale Library, 10am–11.30am

## Saturday 8 June

Springvale Urban Harvest @ Springvale Community Hub, 1pm

Tra\$hy Dreamland Closing Event @ Walker Street Gallery, 4pm–6pm

## Tuesday 11 June

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

## Wednesday 12 June

Social Knitwork @ Dandenong Library, 10am

## Saturday 15 June

Family Fun @ Dandenong Library, 3pm

## Tuesday 18 June

Grow Your Small Business with Strategic Advice @ Dandenong Civic Centre, 12pm–1pm

## Wednesday 19 June

Strength Training at Jan Wilson Centre, 8.30am



## Thursday 20 June

Wingspan, Celebrating the Songs of Paul McCartney @ Drum Theatre, 10.30am

## Saturday 22 June

Refugee Week Celebration @ Springvale Community Hub, 1pm–3pm

## Monday 24 June

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

## Tuesday 25 June

Sensitive Storytime @ Springvale, 10.30am

## Saturday 29 June

*Too Much Drama* exhibition launch @ Walker Street Gallery, 6pm–10pm

## SAVE THE DATE

Opera Australia's *La Bohème* @ Drum Theatre on Friday 12 July and Saturday 13 July at 7.30pm

## Foodie fun

Foodie Futures is a two-day, hands-on experience for young people interested in food, volunteering and skill development.

Happening over the July school holidays, the free program offers participants (aged 16-25 years old) the opportunity to earn a nationally accredited food handling certificate, develop hands-on culinary skills and sample some of the tasty delights on offer at the Dandenong Market.

This program partners with COOK4CALD and Food Filled, two remarkable youth established and led volunteer organisations – both prioritising combatting food waste and hunger. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and support the work of these not-for-profit organisations beyond the program.

Visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs](http://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs) to find out more.

To submit your event for our website and Council News visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event)

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



# Ross Reserve synthetic soccer pitch



**Council recently celebrated the latest upgrade at Ross Reserve with the official launch of the new synthetic soccer pitch.**

Located behind the Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion, which was opened late last year, the pitch has already proved popular with local users including for club training, casual games and community programs.

The ground is used by Springvale City Soccer Club, Sandown Lions Football Club and Noble Park Junior Football Club, and recently hosted a Go Soccer Mums program run by Reclink Australia to encourage local mums to get active and learn new skills.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso said Ross Reserve was a great community asset.

“Ross Reserve has long been a gathering point for sport in our community, and now more people than ever will be coming here to get active and take advantage of the wonderful new facilities.”



The \$2.3 million project was partly funded by Council and a \$1.75 million grant from the Victorian Government’s Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

The Ross Reserve precinct is in Memorial Drive, Noble Park and includes the world-class Noble Park Skate Park, Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC), the All Abilities Playground, Noble Park Community Centre athletics track, sports ovals, dog off-leash area, picnic area and fitness equipment.

## Have Your Say



**Council is currently seeking community feedback on four of its key plans – Revised Council Plan 2021–25, Long Term Financial Plan, Proposed Budget 2024–25 and Annual Plan.**

These documents were created following consultation with the community, which identified the service areas of greatest importance to residents.

The resulting documents are now on display and open for community feedback until Wednesday 12 June.

The final documents will then be presented to the Council meeting on Monday 24 June.

**Visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to get involved and share your thoughts.**

The next edition of Greater Dandenong Council News will be delivered later than usual to allow for us to include more details of the adopted Budget. You should expect delivery of the magazine by the end of the first week of July, but if you would like to be first to read the news you can sign up to receive the digital edition direct to your inbox.

**Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to subscribe.**

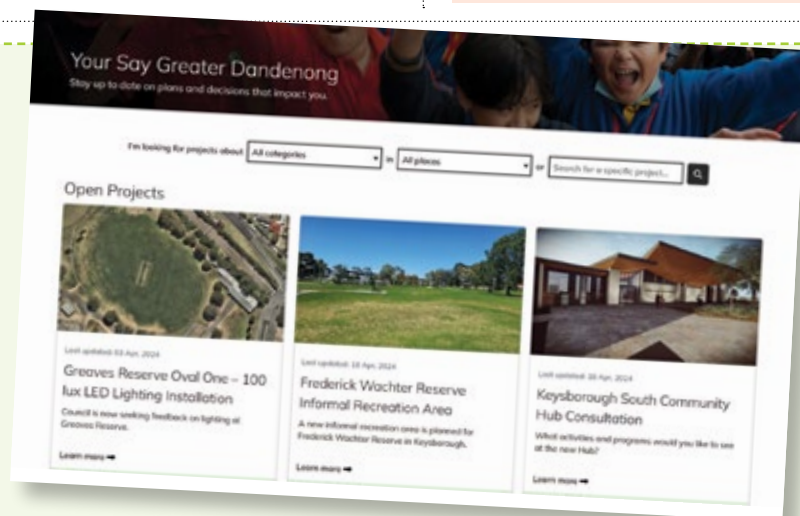
## Your Say Greater Dandenong



**Greater Dandenong City Council is committed to thorough, consistent and genuine community engagement to inform responsible decision making.**

We have introduced a new look Have Your Say page to help residents stay up to date on plans and decisions that impact you.

The online platform includes more than 40 tools to help Council tailor engagements to our community’s needs and includes content in 10 languages other than English.



Find all open consultations to have your say or revisit previous consultations to see the outcome of your feedback.



**Visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to find out more.**

## Keep it loose



**A simple step like keeping recyclable items out of bags and placing them loose in your yellow lid bin can have a big impact.**

Plastic bags can contaminate recyclables, which means even when you think you are doing the right thing, you might be sending more waste to landfill.

Sorting machines can't see through bags, meaning they don't know what is inside. Bags can also damage equipment and create a safety hazard for staff at sorting facilities.

By keeping items loose, more of your recycling can be turned into new things like roads, footpaths, glass jars, planter boxes and park benches.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste-education](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste-education) to find out more about the dos and don'ts of recycling.



## Gardens for Wildlife

**Did you know that privately owned land takes up over 70 per cent of the City of Greater Dandenong?**

That means our local wildlife relies on residential gardens to provide much-needed habitat, shelter, natural food and water.

The Gardens for Wildlife Greater Dandenong program supports residents, businesses, schools and community groups to attract and support wildlife with indigenous plants and wildlife gardening practices.

Whether you have a big backyard, a small balcony or share a community garden, there are many ways to provide shelter, nesting habitat, and natural food and water sources.



After registering for the program, residents receive a free, one-hour garden visit from trained volunteer garden guides that offer suggestions and will help you build your skills and knowledge in creating your own garden for wildlife.

Volunteer garden guide Dorothea Kassell, pictured, got involved in the program to promote the benefits of gardening, for both wildlife and people. Gardening can help to boost mental wellbeing, build knowledge and strengthen people's connection to nature.



"I really enjoy volunteering as a garden guide as it enables me to help people make changes to their garden to attract more birds, lizards, frogs or bees. It's a great pleasure to see different gardens and meet new people," Dorothea said.

The program is free and participants also receive a voucher for 20 indigenous plants from Greenlink Sandbelt Indigenous Nursery, a written report with suggestions for your wildlife garden and the opportunity to become a part of the state-wide Gardens for Wildlife Victoria network.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife) to find out more.


## Enrol your child in kindergarten for 2025



Kindergarten programs are delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher and are designed to encourage your child's learning and interests through play experiences and activities, such as exploring the natural world, being exposed to new ideas and solving problems.


Kindergarten also gives families the opportunities to meet other families and make community connections.

Kindergarten is offered in a range of settings including community kindergartens, childcare centres, and schools. To attend a kindergarten program, children must be three or four on or before 30 April in the year they are attending.


 **Kindergarten is two years of early education before children start primary school and is strongly recommended for all children.**

Research shows that attending a kindergarten program improves a child's health and wellbeing, helps them to develop strong social skills and encourages a love of learning.

Children who go to kindergarten are more independent and confident and are more likely to make a smooth move to primary school.

 **For more information and to enrol your child in kindergarten for 2025, phone 8571 1817, email [childrenservadminsupport@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:childrenservadminsupport@cgd.vic.gov.au) or visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten)**

## Winter school holidays

 **Young people aged 12–25 can join Greater Dandenong's Youth and Family Services for a jam-packed winter school holiday program from Monday 1 July–Friday 12 July.**


With activities such as ice skating, rock climbing, tie dying, movies and pizza making, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/holiday-activities](http://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/holiday-activities) for more information and to book your spot.

If sport is your thing then join the epic Volleyball Tournament on Thursday 11 July, where you can block, bump, dig or dive your way to glory.



Gather your friends and register as a team, or sign up as an individual and we can match you with a team. The competition will run across four divisions, including Under 16 Male, Under 16 Female, Under 25 Male and Under 25 Female.

 **Registration is essential. Visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/youth/events/volleyballtournament](http://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/youth/events/volleyballtournament) for more information.**

# love your libraries

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Change Lives



## Family history research

**?** If you want to learn more about the past, including your own family tree or the history of Greater Dandenong, the library has resources to support you.

The Genealogy and Local History reference collection includes access to books, microfiche and a dedicated Family and Local History PC, and is located at Springvale Library.

The PC and microfiche reader gives direct access to:

- ▶ Select Births, deaths and marriage records
- ▶ 19th and 20th Century local newspapers
- ▶ Additional historical resources.

While the Local and Family History Collection is not for loan, there are several family history magazines you can borrow in addition to great resources in our History and the World Biography Collections to help support your interest.

Staff are available to help with basic searches but more detailed support can be requested.

**Phone 1300 630 920 during opening hours for more information.**

## Library programming for all



**Greater Dandenong Libraries were recently named recipients of a prestigious State Library Victoria Award.**

The 2024 Pierre Gorman Award includes a grant to support a Self-employment Training Program empowering individuals with disabilities through inclusive entrepreneurship.

In announcing the award State Library Victoria said, "This program embodies inclusivity, innovation and the transformative power of library services."

The program will be launched later this year in partnership with local agencies supporting people with disabilities. It is being produced with the aid of the Pierre Gorman Award presented by the Library Board of Victoria.

The award is named after Dr Pierre Gorman who was born in 1924 and dedicated his life to improving services for the hearing and speech impaired. The award was introduced in 1997 and inspires Victorian public libraries to enhance their services for people with disabilities.



## Libraries at Dusk

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

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

### Thursday 6 June

Virtual Reading Circle  
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Still Life Drawing @ Dandenong Library,  
6.30pm



### Thursday 13 June

Introduction to Canva @ Dandenong,  
6.30pm

Still Life Drawing @ Springvale, 6.30pm

### Thursday 20 June

Calligraphy @ Dandenong, 6.30pm

Introduction to Canva @ Springvale,  
6.30pm

### Thursday 27 June

Calligraphy @ Springvale, 6.30pm

Podcast Basics @ Dandenong, 6.30pm

## The Arts

### Drum Theatre



Experience the original bohemian love story in this Opera Australia touring show of *La Bohème*.

Performed in Italian with English subtitles this is one of the world's favourite operas. Puccini's score captures the soaring spirit of young love and this new production breathes new life into the tale.

*La Bohème* will launch its tour of three Australian states at Dandenong's Drum Theatre, on Friday 12 July at 7.30pm and Saturday 13 July, at 7.30pm.

Visit [drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) for more information and to secure your ticket.



Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre will host an entertaining range of shows as part of its Season Two Encore program.

The season will kick off in August with a flourish, with five new performances for daytime audiences. With cheaper ticket prices, free morning tea and a parking voucher Encore shows are great value.

Indulge in Victorian State Ballet's classical ballet production of *Beauty and the Beast*. Described as 'fresh and engaging' this production features

beautiful set design and costumes, as well as superb choreography and skilled dancers.

Celebrate the Dandenong Children's Festival over the September school holidays with the whole family at a performance by *The Quizzical Mr Jeff*.

Inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, *All Shook Up* is a jukebox musical presented by Escapees Theatre Company.

Enjoy a tribute to Doris Day as acclaimed Melbourne jazz vocalist Tamara Kuldin performs *Dear Doris*. Featuring an eight-piece ensemble of Australia's finest and most celebrated jazz musicians this sentimental journey of song celebrates the sweetheart of the silver screen.

Finish off the year with a performance of festive songs and laughs to get you into the true spirit of Christmas. This Promac Productions show is led by star tenor Roy Best and award-winning singer Michelle Fitzmaurice and compere Chris McKenna.

Visit [drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to secure your seat.

### Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



### A Tra\$hy Dreamland

Say goodbye to this large scale, playful exhibition as artist Moon Girle farewells her installation at a special event on Saturday June 8, from 4-6pm.

Join us for a magical afternoon, featuring entertainment, refreshments and the opportunity to re-home some of the objects that shape the work.



### HOME 24 – Olana Janfa: Too Much Drama

Celebrate the opening of the newest exhibition at Walker Street on Saturday 29 June, 6pm-10pm.

This exhibition is the newest iteration of HOME, Greater Dandenong City Council's longstanding program of exhibitions featuring artists with a refugee and asylum seeker background.

Olana Janfa is Ethiopian and Norwegian, and his work combines bold images and political statements with lightness, dry humour and vivid colours. This exhibition brings together old and new works by the artist which will be displayed inside the gallery and in Settler's Square in central Dandenong.

The opening night will include a DJ set by Dandenong-based music group RIDDIM and traditional Ethiopian food pop-up stall with coffee ceremony by Afro Café, Dandenong.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts) for more information.

## Vietnamese delights in the heart of Springvale



**Council's Business Support Team works with locals to help make their business dreams a reality.**

The team offers everything from business permit support to educational opportunities and is on hand to discuss your needs and offer advice.

A new Vietnamese restaurant in Springvale, Dai Viet is just one business to benefit from the team's support.

Owner, Dat Luong wanted his restaurant to share the Vietnamese culinary culture with the local community. The highlight of the restaurant is the unique stone bowls which are an integral part of their dish presentation.

Dat has found it challenging to build a customer base, as there are some fantastic restaurants that surround them in Springvale. However he is confident that once customers try his food, the crowds will come.

Dat expressed gratitude for the invaluable advice and assistance provided by the staff from Greater Dandenong's Business Support Team in setting up the restaurant. He said the support was instrumental in navigating the initial stages of this culinary enterprise.



**You can visit Dai Viet at Shop 2A/218-220 Springvale Rd, Springvale, or search them on Facebook.**

## Revitalising soft plastic recycling



**LOCAL LEADER IN RECYCLING**

**In a bid to tackle the mounting challenge of soft plastic waste, Australian Paper Recycling (APR) created APR Plastics.**

A local leader in recycling, the company has developed a solution to help businesses manage the soft plastics that often fill up their general waste bins, including shrink wrap, pallet wrap and bubble wrap.

**This waste is turned into a recycled plastic resin that is used to create products such as builders' film and carrier bags.**

In a bid to expand their impact, APR Plastics turned its attention to soft plastics previously managed through the REDcycle program at supermarkets. In August 2022, recognising the need for soft plastic recycling in Australia, they unveiled their groundbreaking recycling solution called Enespa.

The process begins with the collection of soft plastics, which are shredded and dried. These materials are then subjected to high temperatures within a closed-loop recycling system, designed to disintegrate the plastics into their fundamental components: gas, liquid, and solid.

What sets APR Plastics' approach apart is its holistic use of the resulting byproducts.

The extracted oil undergoes refining processes, ultimately finding new life in food-grade plastics or serving as a sustainable fuel source. Meanwhile, the gas generated during recycling powers the system itself.

Any residual waste or contaminants are transformed into valuable resources that have versatile applications in industries ranging from paints to tyres.

Through partnerships with local councils, including Greater Dandenong City Council, APR Plastics is encouraging individuals and businesses to take responsibility for a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Soft plastics recycling drop-off points are located across our city. The orange coloured waste bins look like your kerbside collection bins and take household soft plastics for recycling. Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste) to find bin locations and read more about recycling.

## Artism Project empowers



**The Artism Project, led by acclaimed Japanese artist Toshi Handa aims to encourage artistic expression for people living with a disability.**

Toshi led a series of tailored workshops at the Noble Park Community Centre to create a vibrant art installation for the centre.

From his studies at Osaka Designers College to his international exhibits in Switzerland, Australia and Japan, Toshi brings a wealth of experience and passion to the project. He began art and craft classes for local children at the Community Centre in 2013 and over the past six years has expanded his focus to teaching individuals with disabilities.

Toshi is dedicated to supporting creative exploration and social inclusivity among his pupils. The Artism Project aims to bridge the gap between people with disabilities and society.



**TAILORED WORKSHOPS**

By fostering self-expression and social interaction the project seeks to dismantle biases and promote integration, while simultaneously raising awareness and creating enduring pathways for meaningful inclusion in our community.

Visit the Noble Park Community Centre, at 44 Memorial Drive, Noble Park to see the impressive sculpture installation.

Go to [nobleparkcommunitycentre.org.au](http://nobleparkcommunitycentre.org.au) to find out more.

## JPs extend hours

**The Dandenong and Springvale Justice of the Peace (JP) Association is trialling Saturday sessions at Greater Dandenong Libraries.**

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.

The popular service is seeing an increase in attendees at regular weekday sessions and will trial Saturday sessions at Dandenong Library.

Visit [libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/justices-peace](http://libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/justices-peace) for session times.

With an increase in hours, the service is also seeking more volunteers to cover shifts at both Dandenong and Springvale. To apply phone Colin Rimington on 0488 782 392.

## Winter safety



**Figures show that winter is one of the highest risk periods for household fires.**



As the weather cools down, more homes turn on heaters, stoke inside fires and plug in electric blankets.

Data from the Country Fire Authority (CFA) shows that more than 70 per cent of fatal house fires start in the bedroom or lounge room, and many are caused by heating systems, appliances and equipment.

No matter where you live, you are at risk of fire in the home, but most fires in the home are preventable. Here are some simple actions to reduce the risk:

- ▶ Get a licensed gas fitter to test any gas heaters
- ▶ Turn off all heaters before going to bed
- ▶ Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire
- ▶ Clean chimneys and flues yearly
- ▶ Never leave a lit candle unattended
- ▶ Never leave cooking unattended
- ▶ Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after each use
- ▶ Turn off electric blankets before you get into bed
- ▶ Never overload power boards.

Install smoke alarms and practice your home fire escape plan regularly.

Visit [emergencyprepare.com.au/home-fire](http://emergencyprepare.com.au/home-fire) to find out more.

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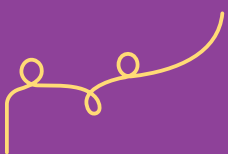
**The City of Greater Dandenong has been a Refugee Welcome Zone since 2002. We pledge to uphold the human rights of refugees, show compassion and celebrate diversity in our community.**

आपका स्वागत है      Chào Mừng

**WELCOME**

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خوش آمدید



REFUGEE WEEK 2024  
16-22 JUNE

Finding Freedom: Family  
To unconditional love, to strength in times  
of adversity, to unwavering bonds.

refugeeweek.org.au  
#RefugeeWeekAU



**Refugee  
Week**

Coordinated by  
Refugee Council of Australia