

Greater Dandenong Council News

Street Art

PAGE 13



**Springvale
Snow Fest**

▶ PAGE 3

**Council
Elections**

▶ PAGE 7

**2024-25
Budget**

▶ PAGES 10-11

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 July edition of Greater Dandenong Council News

Recently Council voted to approve the Annual Budget 2024–25. There are many economic pressures affecting both Council and residents and we believe this Budget strikes a balance between maintaining and improving services and supporting our community.

Read more about Council's long-term focus and key strategic activities and projects on pages 10 and 11.

Council Elections are set for October 26 and are your chance to have a say on who will represent Greater Dandenong for the next four years. I want to encourage all Greater Dandenong residents to consider running for Council, but in particular I want to encourage women from diverse backgrounds to get involved.

We need to see people from all backgrounds representing our community. As a councillor and most recently Mayor I have been able to manage family life and my civic duties and I want to be an example for other women.

I was motivated to run for Council partly because I wanted to advocate for better pedestrian conditions on Stud Road. See the article on page 3 which shows these efforts have paid off and you really can make a difference. If I can do it, you can too. Find out how to enrol to vote or enrol to be a candidate on page 7.

Stay warm and keep well this winter.

Mayor

Cr Lana Formoso



My City

Greater Dandenong has numerous dog off-leash areas around the city.

Dog off-leash parks provide a great way for dogs (and their owners) to get regular exercise and socialise with others. There have been some local improvements to existing off-leash areas across Greater Dandenong over a period of time allowing responsible dog owners an opportunity to safely and legally exercise their dogs.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/off-leash-parks to find an off-leash park near you.



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: Artist Olana Janfa in front of his artwork in Settlers Square Dandenong. Picture: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo

Springvale Snow Fest



Join the fun as Springvale transforms into a magical winter wonderland for the annual Springvale Snow Fest on Sunday 28 July.

Returning in 2024 for its 12th year and with even more excitement, this event promises a day of thrills and delights for all ages.

Dive into fun with snow play areas filled with real snow freshly delivered from the slopes of Mt Buller. Explore an exciting new sport in the Sports Activity Zone or enjoy the family rides, tantalizing food trucks and market stalls.

Live entertainment will fill the air, complemented by free children's activities for the entire family to enjoy. Discover engaging activities and connect with event sponsor Optus, who will be hosting a variety of community-friendly activities.



As dusk falls prepare for a dazzling finale as a magnificent fireworks display illuminates the night sky. Fireworks will commence at 6.50pm, marking the perfect conclusion to a day filled with winter enchantment.

Springvale Snow Fest

Buckingham Avenue,
Springvale
Sunday 28 July
12pm-7pm



Visit snowfest.com.au for more information.



Council's advocacy on Stud Road pays off



Greater Dandenong City Council Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso welcomed a commitment to improving safety on Stud Road in the Victorian Budget.

Cr Formoso said Council's persistent, sustained advocacy on behalf of our community had paid off with a Victorian Government commitment to improve the intersection at Stud Rd and McFees Rd and install a pedestrian crossing.

"We were pleased to hear of the commitment to this project. There have been too many fatalities and crashes on this stretch of road. I understand there's funding for detailed design in 2024-25 and for the project to be implemented in the following year or so," Cr Formoso said.

"We have a large residential neighbourhood on one side of Stud Road, and on the other, Dandenong Stadium, a park, wetlands, bike paths and a bus stop. There are four lanes



of traffic entering and exiting the M1 and until recently, the speed limit was 80 km/h."

"We were pleased to secure a meeting with our local MP, Gabrielle Williams and the Minister for Road Safety Melissa Horne early in 2024. We were pleased they came to Dandenong to discuss the matter in person, and this led to a great outcome."

In April the Department of Transport and Planning introduced a speed limit of 60kmh on the stretch of Stud Road between Heatherton Road and Cheam Street.

"Alongside Greater Dandenong City Council and community organisations, I've personally advocated for this matter to be addressed by the State Government for a decade. It will be such a relief to have the traffic lights and other elements of the road improvements installed, and we will be urging the Department to bring a sense of urgency to the implementation."

Councillor Contacts



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● **Yarraman Ward**
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phillip.danh@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY

8

JULY

MONDAY

22

JULY

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 8 July**
- ▶ **Monday 22 July.**

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**

JULY

Cr Sean O'Reilly

▶ **Springvale North Ward**



Greater Dandenong has many top-class sporting facilities and one of these is Ross Reserve in Noble Park.

Some time ago Council carried out extensive consultation with the community to create the Ross Reserve Masterplan to ensure the space meets the community's needs for years to come. I am happy to report that we have implemented a lot of these changes and recently completed some major upgrades.

Opened late in 2023, the \$10.8 million Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion serves many local clubs and is the home ground of the Noble Park Junior Football Club, Springvale City Soccer Club, Sandown Lions Football Club, EMC Sports Club, Noble Park Cricket Club and Parkfield Cricket Club.

Football Victoria Referees will benefit with this new facility as will Reclink Australia, which runs programs to increase sporting opportunities for at risk youth.

New installations across the two ovals include 100-lux LED lighting with upgraded cabling, power supply and switchboard, and new scoreboards.

Works on the new synthetic soccer pitch has also been completed. The project included perimeter fencing, two coaches' boxes, a technical box, floodlighting for the pitch to 200 lux



and associated landscaping around the new pitch to integrate it with the surrounds and link with the new pavilion.

The highly anticipated athletics track redevelopment has just been completed. It now meets World Athletics Standards and can now accommodate regional and some state athletics competitions.

I would like to encourage all our residents to take a stroll around Ross Reserve to discover all the wonderful new improvements. The benefit of having top class sporting facilities in your own backyard can not be overstated. From a swim at NPAC, a kick of the footy or soccer ball or even a run on the athletics track, our community should be proud of these upgrades and get out and use all these facilities.



I am always open to hearing from residents about their issues in Springvale North Ward and across our city. You can contact me via email at sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0422 523 258.

► Keysborough Ward



It is wonderful to see numerous new projects being completed or in process in the Keysborough Ward.

Earlier this year the new Frederick Wachter Reserve playground was opened to the community and has since provided much enjoyment to the local children.

In April, Council sought community feedback on the new informal recreation area planned for Frederick Wachter Reserve. This consultation has just closed and is currently being reviewed before Council decides what to include. This project is part of the Frederick Wachter Reserve Master Plan.

In the meantime, further works in Keysborough include new sports ground lighting systems at both Frederick Wachter Reserve and the Rowley Allan Reserve on Cheltenham Road at a cost of approximately \$380,000 each.

The lighting systems had reached the end of their useful serviceable life and no longer meet the Australian Standards



required for the level of sport played at both reserves. The recently installed lighting systems comply with the current Australian standards for Australian Rules Football community competition level sport.

The lighting installations were completed earlier this year with testing and commissioning completed in late March in time for the current winter football season. The new lights will ensure that the clubs have the best possible lighting levels in order to train and play safely.

I will continue to advocate for funding to improve Keysborough and ensure our reserves become wonderful sporting and recreational parks for the community to enjoy for many years down the track.

On other exciting news, during May we saw the steel frame (Phase 1) of the Keysborough South Community Hub being erected. Situated on the corner of Chapel and Villiers Road, the hub will include a range of services, programs, and flexible meeting spaces. The project is due to be completed later this year.



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

Cr Sophie Tan



Noble Park has recently undergone a transformation with many projects completed across the 2023-24 financial year.

I am excited to announce new projects which appear in the 2024-25 Budget and are specific to Noble Park will include:

- Road resurfacing projects on sections of Knox Street and David Street
- Road rehabilitation works on two sections of Buckley Street
- Design of car park and picnic area at Noble Park Reserve.

Upgrade of kindergarten and childcare area at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre. In collaboration with the Noble Park Revitalisation Board and as part of the Matching Grant Program, carry over funding will support the completion of more projects within the Noble Park Activity Centre.

Further minor projects earmarked for Noble Park Ward include drainage, public art, open space, Neighbourhood

Shopping Centre Signage, CCTV and open space furniture.

As part of the 2024-25 Capital Improvement Program I have requested the following upgrades:

- Greenglade Reserve – Furniture and landscape upgrade, estimated cost \$80,000
- Pop Up seasonal greening in laneways and/or open space, estimated cost \$10,000
- Digital tour of NPK (Stage 2), estimated cost \$8,128
- CARDIAC Connect Monitored AED Cabinet (requested by Noble Park CFA), estimated cost \$1,872.

I am also excited to announce that coming soon to the Noble Park Activity Centre will be a Little Library. A set of bright lockers will allow library members who can't make it into one of our branches to pick up holds and return books at a time that suits them. Stay tuned for more information about the location and how to access this service.



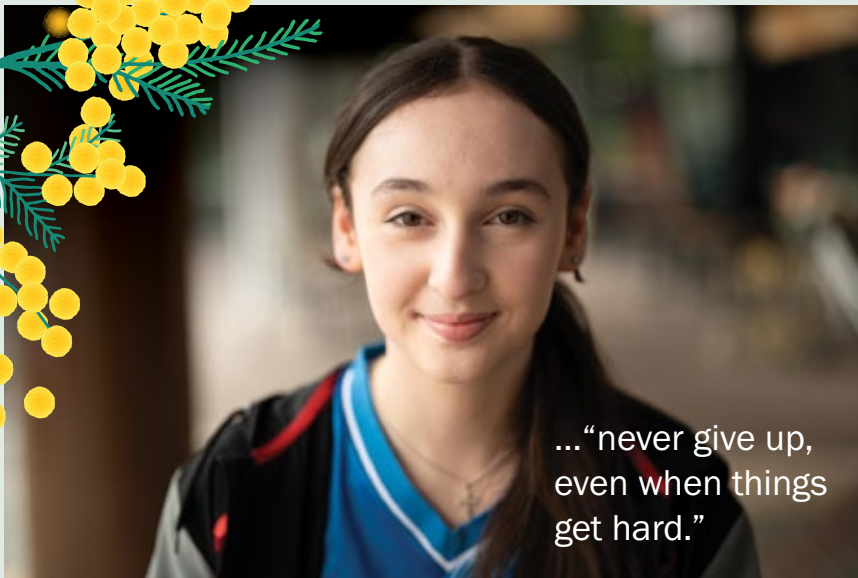
It's certainly an exciting and very busy year ahead but I look forward to making Noble Park a special place to work, live and play.

I hope you get out and about to discover Noble Park and enjoy everything that it has to offer.



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

► Noble Park Ward



...“never give up, even when things get hard.”

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.

Sportsperson of the Year: Connie Psihogios

At just 15 years old Connie Psihogios is one of Australia's highest ranked table tennis players and was one of the youngest contenders at the Australian Olympic Qualifiers in May. While Connie narrowly missed selection for the 2024 Olympic Games, her future is bright in the sport she has dedicated her life to.

Connie's love for table tennis was sparked when she was seven years old, after her dad suggested they play together for fun and connection.

“I was playing soccer at school and enjoyed volleyball. When dad introduced me to table tennis, the love started from there,” said Connie.

“I enjoy the adrenaline of when the ball goes fast, and the level of focus you need to play well. You can be the best player there, but it's all about who has the best strategies – it's more of a mind game.”

Now training six days a week at the Dandenong Table Tennis Association, Connie has had experiences most teenagers could only dream of.

She travelled to India as part of her Olympic trial preparations and spent months there without her family.

“I barely had internet connection, the lights would turn off while I was trying to train or talk to my parents online, the air was foggy and the pollution where I was staying was very high. I was very homesick because it was so different. But I loved the training, I got a lot out of it and met some great people.”

Her advice for aspiring athletes is “never give up, even when things get hard.”

Connie said she was surprised when she was awarded the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Sportsperson of the Year.

“It meant a lot to me. I was very shocked, not only because I'm so young but because table tennis isn't very popular or well known.”

Like all high-performance athletes, Connie has had to make sacrifices to achieve her dreams.

“My friends and family are very understanding. It's great to have their support when I have to miss out on things due to training. It's all part of the path to reach my goals.”

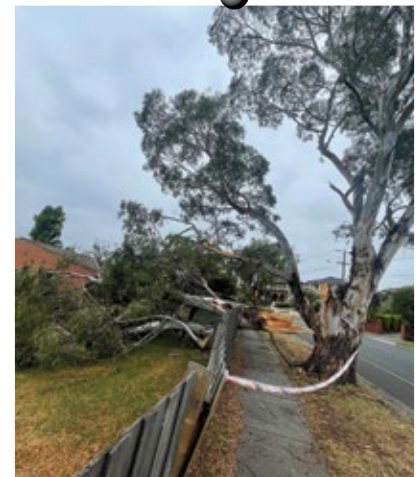
Storm Clean Up Continues



Council received about 1500 customer service reports following the severe storms on 13 February 2024.

It is estimated, a quarter of Council's street and park trees (about 20,000-25,000 trees) were damaged or impacted by the storm.

Council began responding to reports on the day of the storms, and that emergency response soon gave way to a proactive approach, with Council working with five tree contractors to systematically collect and chip fallen branches.



Even months later Council is still working through a back log of non-storm related tree requests which were previously on hold while our focus was on the storm response.

These requests are prioritised based on risk and we anticipate a return to standard service response times in the coming weeks.

These timelines demonstrate the severe and lasting impacts of a major storm on Council's Urban Forest.

Council Elections



Council Elections Day is scheduled for Saturday 26 October 2024. New Councillors will be elected across all 11 wards in Greater Dandenong.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducts the election process on behalf of Council. The 2024 elections will be held by postal voting.

Ward Boundaries

The VEC recently undertook a ward boundary review of the 11 wards in Greater Dandenong. Under the *Local Government Act 2020* each ward must contain a similar number of voters and changes in population, housing locations and voting entitlements continue to impact the number of voters in each ward.

Following community consultation the VEC recommended some changes to the boundaries in Greater Dandenong. These changes will come into effect for the October elections and will affect a small number of voters. Visit [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/electoral-representation-advisory-panels-eraps](https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance/electoral-representation-advisory-panels-eraps) for more information.

Voting

If you are enrolled to vote for the Federal and State elections and are a resident of the City of Greater Dandenong, then you are automatically enrolled to vote at the Council Elections and it is compulsory for you to vote.

If you have recently moved to Greater Dandenong, or moved to a different address within our city, you will need to change your Victorian enrolment details. You can check your enrolment or enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au or by phone on **131 832**.

The cut off for new enrolments is 4pm on Wednesday 7 August.

Council enrolled voters

Previously called the CEO List, council enrolled voters are not automatically enrolled to vote in Greater Dandenong, but certain rules allow voters to register. You can apply to be on the list of council enrolled voters if you satisfy one of the following conditions:

- ▶ Own and pay rates on a property in Greater Dandenong but do not live in Greater Dandenong
- ▶ Are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in Greater Dandenong
- ▶ Pay rates on a property in Greater Dandenong as a business occupier, but have no other voting entitlements in this city
- ▶ Are a director or company secretary of a company that pays rates in Greater Dandenong and have no other voting entitlement in this city

A letter detailing the requirements for council enrolled voters has been sent to all potential council enrolled voters. Application forms included with the letter need to be returned to Council by 4pm on Wednesday 7 August.

If you apply to be on the list of council enrolled voters and are accepted, it will be compulsory for you to vote.

Postal voting

The VEC will automatically post a ballot pack to each eligible voter between 7–10 October 2024.

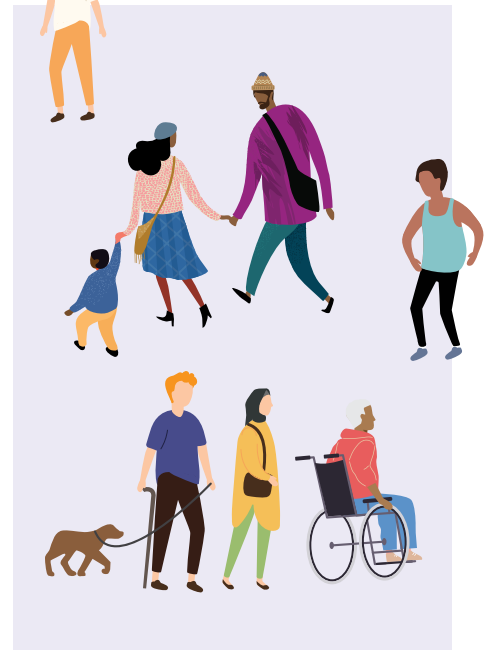
Completed ballot papers must reach the VEC's Returning Officer (in the envelope provided with the ballot papers) by 6pm on Friday 25 October 2024. You can post your ballot or hand it in at the VEC's temporary Election Office in Greater Dandenong. The temporary Election Office will open on Monday 9 September.

Ballots cannot be lodged with Council.

Running for Council

It is important for councils to represent the diverse needs and aspirations of local communities, and Council Elections are an opportunity for voters to elect the candidates they think best represent their community.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is running information sessions for the community and prospective candidates, both in person and online.



These sessions will cover:

- ▶ Local Government and the important role councils play for local communities
- ▶ The role and responsibility of a Councillor, Mayor, Deputy Mayor and CEO
- ▶ The election process and candidate requirements
- ▶ What newly elected councillors can expect soon after the elections
- ▶ Councillor training and development opportunities.

Visit mav.asn.au/stand-for-council-2024#CCIS for more information and session dates.

Local Government Victoria has a range of information for people interested in running for Council. Visit localgovernment.vic.gov.au to find out more.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/your-council/council-elections-2024 for more information.

What's On

NAIDOC Week 7–14 July



Monday 8 July

Simple Fitness @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 8.30am

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

Tuesday 9 July

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

Wednesday 10 July

Trees: A Canopy Extrordinaire Exhibition @ Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens (Benga), 10am–2pm

Thursday 11 July

Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 9.30am

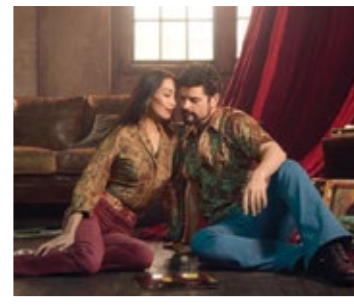
Friday 12 July

Celebrate Plastic Free July with GOGRN @ Springvale Community Hub 10am–1pm



Friday 12 July and Saturday 13 July

Opera Australia: La Boheme @ Drum Theatre, 7.30pm



Saturday 13 July

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

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

Monday 15 July

Zumba @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 6pm–7pm

Wednesday 17 July

Strength Training @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 8.30am

Friday 19 July

Yoga and Meditation @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 11.15am–12.15am



Saturday 20 July

Harry Potter Science – The Think Tank @ Dandenong Library, 3pm–4pm

Sunday 21 July

The Keysie Market – Winter Edition @ Springers Leisure Centre, 10am–2pm

Monday 22 July

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

Sunday 28 July

Springvale Snow Fest 2024 @ Buckingham Avenue, Springvale, 12pm–7pm



Winter Food Drive

Dandenong's Asylum Seeker Resource Centre is running a Winter Food Drive on Saturday 27 July from 10am–2pm.

Any donation of canned food, rice, biscuits, dried fruit, nuts, olive oil, razors and deodorant would be much appreciated.

Donations can be dropped off at the rear of 205 Thomas Street, Dandenong (access via the Oldham Lane carpark).

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.

New waste trucks

KEEP
OUR CITY
CLEAN



Council is rolling out new look trucks to help keep our city clean.

The eye-catching trucks share key messages about what doesn't belong in your kerbside collections.

The general waste truck features the message to keep batteries out of bins. Batteries in bins can cause fires in your bin or in the trucks.

The recycling truck asks residents to keep your recycling loose. Items in bags can't be sorted and will be sent to landfill.

The food and garden waste trucks encourage residents to add food scraps in with your garden waste. Food and garden organic waste is turned into compost for use by Council and farmers.

You can help our waste and recycling efforts by ensuring you follow the tips on our trucks.

NAIDOC Week



Held across the country from 7–14 July 2024, NAIDOC Week celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme *Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud*, celebrates the unyielding spirit of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and invites all to stand in solidarity, amplifying the voices that have long been silenced.

"Blak, Loud and Proud" references the unapologetic celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and calls for a commitment to justice and equality. It invites all Australians to listen, learn and engage in meaningful dialogue, fostering a society where the cultural wisdom and contributions are fully valued and respected.



Greater Dandenong City Council, Bunurong Land Council and Dandenong Market are holding a 2024 Keep the Fire Burning Blak, Loud and Proud NAIDOC event on Sunday 7 July from 10am–2pm.

The Bunurong Land Council will host a Welcome to Country and Traditional Smoking Ceremony, while the Koorie Youth Will Shake Spears traditional dance group will perform. Cultural activities will include basket weaving and wood burning.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/naidoc-week-2024 for more information.

National Tree Day 2024

Join Council in greening our city to celebrate National Tree Day this month.

Created by Planet Ark, the day started in 1996 and has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

National Tree Day is an opportunity for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to the community. This year's goal is to plant one million native trees across Australia on Sunday 28 July.

Council is committed to planting more trees and plants to increase our tree canopy and enhance biodiversity.



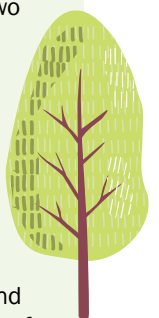
This year, Council is holding two community planting events to celebrate National Tree Day.

Community members are invited to come along to Tirhatuan Park on Saturday 27 July or Tatterson Park on Sunday 28 July and plant a tree or seedling, learn about our local plants and wildlife and find out how to create a Garden for Wildlife in your own backyard.

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation will open both events with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony and there will also be a free barbecue provided for participants.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/environmental-events to find out more.



Budget 2024-25

\$ The Budget 2024-25 confirms Council's commitment to maintaining and improving services and infrastructure, while delivering important capital projects of community value.

This is a responsible, balanced budget that prioritises service sustainability while recognising economic pressures on both Council and ratepayers. It strikes a balance between ensuring Council continues to provide services to support the community, and a capital spending program to provide much needed local infrastructure.

Average rates will increase by 2.75 per cent, in line with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government, the increase equates to 67 cents per household per week.

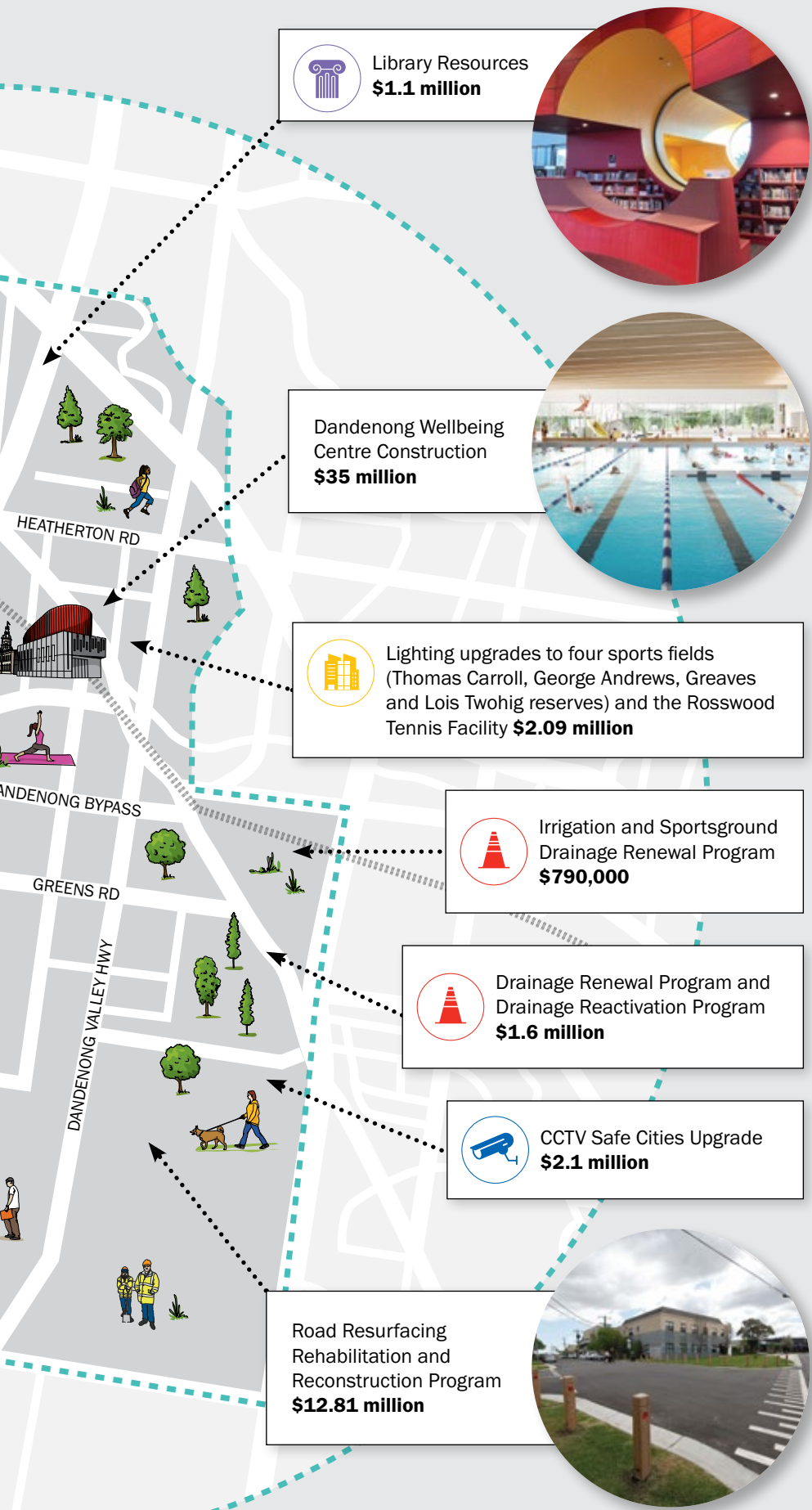
While Council's financial position remains sound for 2024-25, this will continue to be tested by the compounding pressures of rate capping and economic conditions. Council will either have to make significant changes to its operational services or accept that timelines for new projects will face longer delays if they are to be affordable for Council.

Greater Dandenong covers an area of 129 square km and has a population of 164,000 people. Nearly two-thirds of our residents were born overseas (coming from at least 154 different countries) making our city the most culturally diverse in Australia.

This budget sets out to make Greater Dandenong a thriving, vibrant city now and into the future.



A THRIVING CITY




 Library Resources
\$1.1 million





Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Construction
\$35 million



 Lighting upgrades to four sports fields (Thomas Carroll, George Andrews, Greaves and Lois Twohig reserves) and the Rosswood Tennis Facility
\$2.09 million

 Irrigation and Sportsground Drainage Renewal Program
\$790,000

 Drainage Renewal Program and Drainage Reactivation Program
\$1.6 million

 CCTV Safe Cities Upgrade
\$2.1 million

Road Resurfacing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program
\$12.81 million



Council has a focus on achieving the following objectives:

- 1 A socially connected, safe and healthy city
- 2 A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- 3 A city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods
- 4 A green city committed to a sustainable future
- 5 A city that support entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes
- 6 A Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in the community.

Our community has set the following vision as we move towards 2040.

“The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all. It’s a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity.

We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual. Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.

Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability.

Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.”

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Greater Dandenong Libraries offer a fantastic variety of free programs and activities across our two branches. Join us at our Springvale or Dandenong branches for these exciting events.

Toddler Time



This is a special time for parents or guardians to have some fun while listening to stories to help in your child's imagination and vocabulary. These sessions encourage a love of books and reading that is important for your child's literacy and their comprehension of the world around them.

Toddler Time sessions run at both Dandenong and Springvale Libraries from 10.30am–11am every Monday.



Art, Craft and Conversation

Are you into arts and crafts? The libraries offer a space to relax, enjoy good conversation and work on your art and craft projects together. Whether you enjoy painting, sewing, knitting, collage, origami or something else entirely, everyone is welcome. Participants are invited to bring along their own projects or use some of the provided materials.

These sessions run from 6.30pm–8pm every second Wednesday at Springvale Library.

COMING IN AUGUST

STEAM Festival



Throughout August you can discover all things STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics).

Expect to see special new events, workshops and programs all the family can enjoy. Our regular programs are also getting in on the action with lots of creative Code Club and Libraries At Dusk offerings

For more information visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/steam-fest

Children's Book Week



Greater Dandenong Libraries is celebrating Children's Book Council of Australia Children's Book Week from 17–31 August. This year's theme is 'Reading is Magic' and celebrations will include workshops for local primary schools and a weekend public event.



Be a volunteer Justice of the Peace



Qualified and registered Justices of the Peace (JPs) are invited to support document signing centres at the Dandenong and Springvale libraries.

Both libraries have experienced an increase in demand and more JPs are needed to fill their rosters.

The service operates all weekdays at both libraries, while Dandenong Library provides a service on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings.

Any JPs who live locally and would like to join the roster can contact for more information:

- ▶ Dandenong Library, Colin Rimington on 0488 782 392
- ▶ Springvale Library, Bill Hearn on 0418 379 872.

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

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

This winter, our cultural spaces are your cozy havens for experiencing creativity and entertainment.

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

HOME

Greater Dandenong Council's longstanding program *HOME* is back for another year.

Past *HOME* exhibitions feature multiple artists from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds. This year, *HOME 24*, will feature a single artist – Ethiopian-Norwegian artist Olana Janfa who will exhibit his work in *Too Much Drama*.

Combining bold images and political statements with a sense of humour in vivid colours and tones, the exhibition will be displayed across Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre and Settlers Square in central Dandenong. The exhibition is open until Friday 6 September.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/HOME.



Olana Janfa painting in Settlers Square Dandenong.

Consume: Being Biracial Podcast Live Interview

Join us for a live event featuring Olana Janfa being interviewed by Being Biracial podcast hosts Kate Robinson and Maria-Birch Morunga. The event will include an Ethiopian pop-up



Podcast hosts Kate Robinson and Maria-Birch Morunga

restaurant by Afro Café in Dandenong. This recording will be a celebration of shared experiences across different cultures. Be a part of the live recording on Thursday 11 July at 6pm.

Calling all Creatives

Greater Dandenong City Council's Individual Artist Grants Open Soon. If you have an exciting creative idea that you want to bring to life you could receive up to \$5000 to make it happen.

Turn your idea into reality and get support to understand application requirements. Contact the Arts Team to book a time to discuss your creative vision. Email arts@greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5320.

Drum Theatre

La Bohème

Friday 12 July at 7.30pm and Saturday 13 July at 7.30pm

Opera Australia will be touring with *La Bohème*, the story of original bohemian love and one of the most captivating operas performed in Italian with English subtitles.

Devdas

Saturday 20 July at 4.30pm and Sunday 21 July at 4.40pm

Enjoy a taste of the culture and customs of Bengal in the Hindi musical *Devdas*. Based on a book written by eminent Bengali author

S.C. Chattopadhyay in 1917, it is an iconic tale of love and tragedy.

Celtic Illusion

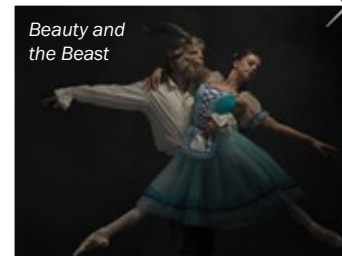
Tuesday 23 July at 7.30pm

Celtic Illusion's The Magic Returns is back to raise the bar once again at The Drum. Book now to experience the hype of one of the largest and most unique dance-and-illusion shows in the world.

Aaj Robibar

Saturday 27 July at 6pm

Aaj Robibar (Today is Sunday) is based on a popular Bangladeshi television series written by eminent playwright Humayun Ahmed. Performed in Bengali language.



Coming in August...

Indulge in Victorian State Ballet's classical ballet production of *Beauty and the Beast*. One of the world's most loved fairytale classics this production features beautiful set design and costumes, as well as superb choreography and skilled dancers. This performance is part of The Drum's popular Encore Program. Book tickets now for Thursday 8 August at 10.30am.

➔ Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to secure your tickets.

From Kitchen Passion to Sustainable Success



In 2023 the owners of *Naked Asian Grocer* decided they needed more room.

Business owners Jian and Brian found a suitable location in Greater Dandenong and sought help from Council's Business Permit Support service to guide them through the process. Both agreed Council's support made the transition simpler.

Driven by their love of cooking, the pair started their business in 2021 to offer a sustainable alternative for Asian ingredients. They offer ingredients free from single use plastic packaging and the option for customers to purchase only what they need, eliminating food waste.

Today, *Naked Asian Grocer* boasts a diverse range of over 130 products, carefully sourced and rigorously tested to ensure the highest quality. Fuelled by a desire to make a greater impact, Jian and Brian are constantly seeking ways to innovate and expand their business.

Their commitment to sustainability extends beyond their product offerings.



By prioritising local suppliers and offsetting carbon emissions from global sourcing, *Naked Asian Grocer* is not only redefining Asian grocery shopping but also setting a new standard for environmental responsibility in the industry.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect of their story is their unwavering dedication to their customers. Actively seeking feedback and engaging with their community, Jian and Brian are not just

running a business—they're building a movement towards sustainable living, one plastic-free ingredient at a time.

Join the journey towards sustainable Asian cooking with *Naked Asian Grocer*.



For the latest updates, recipes, and more, visit nakedasiangrocer.com or follow them on social media.

Springvale on Show



Recently Channel 7's new lifestyle show, *Melbourne Weekender* visited Sensational Springvale.

Celebrity chef Gary Mehigan joined his old friend Duncan Lu to experience an ultimate Vietnamese foodie tour in Springvale.

They visited the Springvale Shopping Centre as well as Springvale Central tasting a variety of food along the way. For lunch they went to the *Minh Duc Bakery* for a pork roll and then *Pho Hung* for a bowl of beef pho. They finished with a traditional dessert at *Ben Thanh Hot Bread and Cakes*.



Springvale traders got to showcase their authentic flavours and viewers got a preview of the shopping experience in Springvale.

The television network, in collaboration with Council, ran a competition for two people to come back and experience a full personal food and cultural tour in the area.



To view the segment go to 7plus.com.au and watch *Melbourne Weekender* episode 1 or visit melbourneweekender.com.au for more information.



**FREE
AND OPEN
TO ALL**

Garden blooms for all abilities



Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just looking for a new experience, Noble Park Community Centre's accessible garden is a great place to go.

"This beautiful space aims to provide gardening opportunities for people of all ages and abilities. It fosters inclusivity and wellness, offering an environment to share horticultural passion, meaningful connections and a sense of belonging," says Frank Cutuli, Garden Facilitator.

Recent upgrades include mobile garden beds on wheels and widened, level surfaces to ensure the space is accessible for all, including those using wheelchairs and walkers who can now navigate the garden with ease.

Plant selections will be carefully curated to consider cultural suitability, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and represented in the community space.

The garden came to fruition thanks to the generous support of a Federal Government Stronger Communities Programme Grant and local suppliers and sponsors, including Garden World Nursery in Dingley and the Horticultural Group.

Community members are invited to join the Gardening for All Abilities program, led by Frank Cutuli every Tuesday from 1pm–2pm. Participation is free and open to all, regardless of gardening expertise.

Visit nobleparkcommunitycentre.org.au or phone 9547 5801 for more information.

The Keysie Market

From an idea during COVID lockdowns in 2020, to a community launch in 2022, the Keysie Market is the biggest not for profit market in south east Melbourne.

Created to support the mental health of local residents and to give small businesses a platform, the market has gone from strength to strength since it started.

The Keysie Market Winter Edition is the sixth event to run and will feature live entertainment, unique stalls and delicious foods. Join in for a fun day out with friends and family at Springers Leisure Centre, 400 Cheltenham Rd, Keysborough on Sunday 21 July from 10am–2pm.



Visit keysiemarket.com.au to find out more.



Dandenong Zero



The Dandenong Zero project is working to end rough sleeping in Greater Dandenong.

Council is working together with about 20 specialist agencies, community organisations and government departments to address the complex issue of homelessness for the people in our city.

Every night, more than 40 people sleep rough in Greater Dandenong – on our streets and parks, under bridges, in cars and in abandoned buildings. We know this fact because the Dandenong Zero project ensures we know each rough sleeper by name.

Getting to know the individuals means we can offer them the unique supports they need.

To date the Dandenong Zero project has housed 23 people in long-term, affordable housing and many more people in hotels, motels and crisis accommodation, connecting each of them to the support and services they need.

Everybody has the right to safe and affordable housing and this winter, Council will continue to work with the Dandenong Zero project and build relationships with people sleeping rough to support them on the journey out of homelessness.

If you or someone you know is experiencing or at risk of homelessness there are places you can seek support.

WAYSS – 9791 6111

Launch Housing via the Housing Victoria Crisis and Emergency line 1800 825 955

The Salvation Army 1800 627 727

Ask Izzy website at askizzy.org.au



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/works-and-projects/Dandenong-zero-homelessness-project for more information about the Dandenong Zero Project.

SPRINGVALE

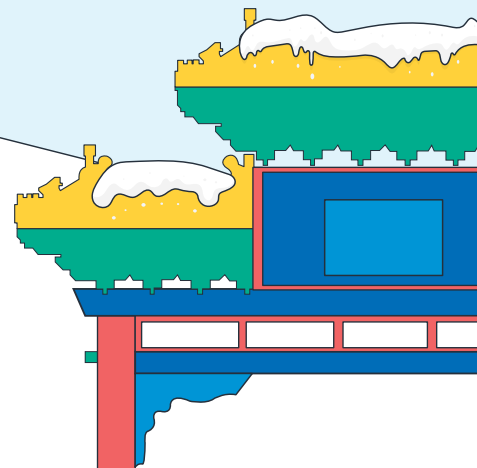
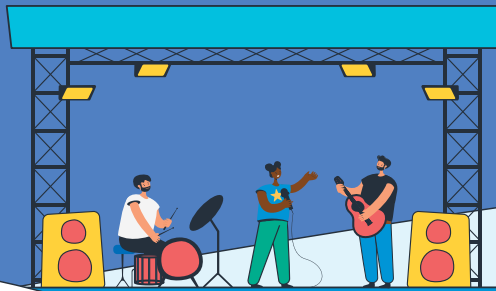
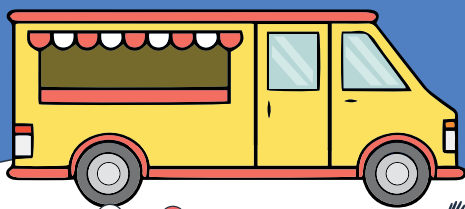
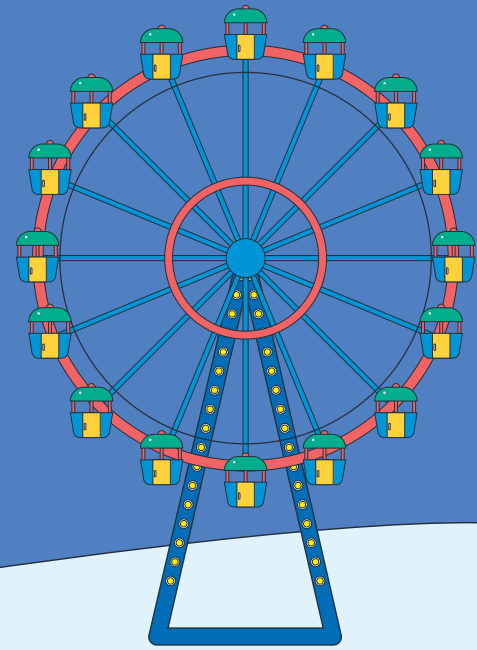
SNOW FEST

SUNDAY 28 JULY 12PM-7PM

Buckingham Avenue, Springvale

Real snow from Mt Buller

Food Stalls • Live Performances • FReeZA Youth Stage
Lion Dance • Amusement Rides (\$6 - \$10)
Children's Activities • Fireworks 6.50pm



Free entry

snowfest.com.au

MAJOR SPONSORS



Acknowledging Bunurong Country

