

Greater Dandenong Council News

Ross Reserve Athletics Facility

Project delivery highlights

PAGES 10-11



**Have
Your Say**

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**Our Streets
Noble Park**

▶ PAGE 7

**Little
India**

▶ PAGE 14

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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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 August edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This month we celebrate some of the major projects completed in the last financial year (2023–24). Following the recent adoption of our Budget 2024–25, we thought it was time to reflect on some of our recent achievements. Turn to page 10 to read more.

Council values the ideas and opinions of residents, ratepayers and businesses and offers many opportunities to be a part of future planning and decision making. See page 3 to find out about more opportunities to have your say this month.

In just two months residents will be asked to vote in the Council Elections. This is your chance to have a say about who will represent you for the next four years. See more on page 6.

With climate change affecting our environment Council has committed to increasing the tree coverage in our city to help minimise the effects of rising temperatures. Read about the success of our efforts on page 3.

Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia and is home to Victoria's original Indian cultural precinct. We celebrate Little India on page 14.

I hope you all have a great month.

**Mayor
Cr Lana Formoso**



My City

Dandenong Park has been a local gathering place for more than 100 years. Covering more than 17 hectares in the heart of Dandenong, the park has recently undergone major upgrades. One of these upgrades has been the lighting which has created a brighter, friendlier space for visitors, allowing people to stay longer and enjoy all this treasured open space has to offer.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more about Dandenong Park and the other parks and reserves across our city.

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: Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso at the newly refurbished Ross Reserve Athletics Facility. Picture: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo

Have
Your Say

Reserve Master Plans



Council is developing draft Master Plans for Lois Twohig Reserve in Dandenong North and Spring Valley Reserve in Springvale South, and we want to hear from residents.

Lois Twohig Reserve, in Carlton Road, is home to sporting clubs, a playground, tennis courts, sports ovals, a dog off leash area, a pétanque court and fitness equipment and also has a retarding basin.

A Master Plan will ensure the reserve serves the community now and into the future and will help Council plan for projects and advocate for funding to complete them over the short, medium and longer term.

Spring Valley Reserve started life as a landfill site and has been undergoing works to become open space for the community since it closed in 1998.



Recently new topsoil and grass has been installed to help the park meet Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) requirements.

Now Council wants to create a draft Master Plan to ensure this park meets the future needs of our community. The reserve has extensively grassed area with trails and features a picnic and barbecue area, a basketball half-court, dog off leash area, two playgrounds, a public toilet, fitness equipment and a beach volleyball court.



Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to have your say on the Lois Twohig Reserve Master Plan and the Spring Valley Reserve Master Plan. These consultations close on Sunday 18 August.

Tree canopy grows



Council is proud to report that sustained efforts to plant more trees has paid off, with an increase in canopy tree cover across our city.

With climate change affecting our environment, increasing our tree coverage is one way to reduce the impact of increasing temperatures, reduced rainfall and the growing number of storm and bushfire events.

A recent audit of canopy cover in Greater Dandenong revealed the coverage has increased from just 9 per cent in 2018 to 14 per cent, which puts us on track to reach our goal of 15 per cent by 2028.

This increase is a result of significant efforts by Council and the community, including the planting of 20,000 semi-mature trees over the past 10 years. Mother nature also supported these plantings with generous rainfall coming at the right time.



For Council, this time of year is the start of planting season with new street and park trees, tube stock and regenerative planting all set to begin. Community planting days and the One Tree Per Child initiative will also return for 2024.

Council's Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28 aims to create a healthy, green and resilient city that improves our resiliency to climate change and improves the health of our community.

By strategically planting more trees in locations of greatest need and advocating for greater quality landscaping and canopy trees on privately owned land, Council aims to increase our canopy cover to create more shade and habitat for wildlife.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy-2021-28 to read more about the Urban Forest Strategy.

Councillor Contacts



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MONDAY

12

AUGUST

MONDAY

26

AUGUST

AUGUST

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

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

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

Council Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ **Monday 12 August**
- ▶ **Monday 26 August.**

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

Cr Jim Memeti

▶ Dandenong Ward



I am proud to represent the people of Dandenong Ward and will always work to get the best for the community of Greater Dandenong.

I am pleased to note that Council passed it's 2024-25 Budget recently, and within the Budget we made provision to progress towards building the new Dandenong aquatic facility to replace the ageing Dandenong Oasis.

Over the past 12 months several big projects were completed in my ward including the WJ Crowe Pavilion at Thomas Carroll Reserve. The beautiful new pavilion includes four change rooms with associated amenities, a new social/multipurpose room, canteen and a timekeepers room. Opened in December 2023 the \$6 million project was funded with grants from the State Government (\$500,000) and AFL Victoria (\$100,000).

Another major project in Dandenong Ward will benefit drivers who travel on Abbots Road through Dandenong South. The \$5 million project saw the road widened to two lanes in each direction between Taylors Road and the Cranbourne railway line. New pedestrian paths were added, while stormwater drainage and street lighting were upgraded. Traffic lights were also added at the Taylors Road intersection and National Drive intersection. These improvements have already resulted



in improvements to traffic flow and the reduction of congestion.

Recent works at the George Andrews Pavilion have made the ground more welcoming to players, supporters and other visitors, and ongoing works will make this space even more inviting. The new playground is due for completion this month and a lighting upgrade on field one is due to be completed later this year following a power upgrade to the ground.

➔ **I will continue to advocate for the residents of Dandenong Ward. If you want to discuss any Council related issues please contact me via email at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.**

► Noble Park North Ward



In 2012 I first noticed Stud Road did not have a safe pedestrian crossing near the Dandenong Stadium and I decided I wanted to ensure our community would have safe access on this extremely dangerous stretch of road. It was one of the main reasons I ran for Council in 2020 and I'm thrilled the State Government announced in the May 2024 Budget to fund the construction of a signalised crossing, this makes me incredibly humbled that advocacy and standing for what is right can have a huge impact on our communities.

Another reason I ran for council was to ensure the entire city, but particularly my ward, had adequate sporting facilities, open space, renewed playgrounds, exercise equipment, improved roads, drainage and footpaths.

Since being elected in 2020 I have had an incredible amount of capital improvement projects delivered including:

- Brand new park and play equipment in Hennesy Way, Dandenong North \$100,000
- Brand new playground, exercise equipment, fencing and walking path at Browns Road Reserve, Noble Park North \$200,000
- Federal Blackspot funding for Browns Road, Noble Park North \$400,000



- Stage 1, 2 and 3 of the Barry Powell Reserve Masterplan \$457,000 so far
- Works at Heritage Kindergarten \$105,000
- Kitchen and changeroom facility upgrades at WJ Turner Reserve \$210,000
- Plans are moving forward for a kitchen upgrade and new pitches masterplan for Lyndale United Soccer Club with these projects set to be undertaken across 2024-25

Cr Lana Formoso

- Upgrades to Bakers Reserve \$250,000
- Upgrades to Madison Reserve \$100,000
- Kerb and channelling works throughout the ward
- Improved footpaths throughout the ward

Road safety initiatives totalling \$250,000 including:

- School crossing on Manning Drive
- Pedestrian refuge on Bakers Road
- Pedestrian Refuge on Halton Rd
- Traffic calming on Templewood Ave and Frgnal Drive

I have also had the honour of being elected as a Victorian Local Governance Association board member. The VLGA plays a pivotal role in shaping our community and ensuring councillors are equipped to focus and serve. I look forward to being the only voice from the south east on the VLGA so we can make our sector better equipped to serve communities.



If you want to get in touch with me you can email ana.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 530 536.

Junior Mayor

Hello City of Greater Dandenong, it's me Gemma your 2024 Junior Mayor.

I can't believe we are already in August this year has gone so fast. Did you know that next month we have the Greater Dandenong Children's Festival and Little Day Out, which I'm really excited about. The Little Day Out is an event for everyone. There is a giant slide which will be so much fun to go on, there will be face painting, performances and lots of fun activities for kids to enjoy. I love this event and have been with my family in the past, it is a great way to get out of your house and spend time with family and friends.



I'm really excited to be a part of the Childrens Festival and Little Day Out, to be able to get out and talk to people and talk to other kids and see what they think needs to be done in our community.

Something about me is that I love to play sport and keep active. I play netball, love to run and also go on bike rides with my family around the City of Greater

Dandenong. I would encourage everyone to get outside as much as possible and throw a ball or go for a walk, run or even play in a local park. A great way to keep active is to 'Active Travel' to school. This is an awesome way to keep fit but also helps to keep our busy roads clear in peak hour traffic.

I hope to see you guys at the Little Day Out, it's going to be so much fun.



If you see me around, please come and say hi I would love to have a chat and hear any ideas you might have. Have a great month and I hope to be hearing from everyone soon.



Council Elections



Council Elections Day will be held on 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.

If you are a resident of Greater Dandenong and are not yet enrolled to vote you have until 4pm on Wednesday 7 August to register. Check your enrolment details are up to date, or enrol to vote at vec.vic.gov.au or by phone on 131 832.

Ward Boundaries

The VEC recently undertook a ward boundary review, which resulted in minor changes to the boundaries to ensure an even number of residents will vote in each ward.

The review attracted 213 submissions in response to a preliminary report and decided to make adjustments to the boundaries of seven of the 11 wards.

The main changes include the green wedge area of Lyndhurst moving to sit in Keysborough South Ward, the industrial area north of Eumemmerring Creek moving into Dandenong Ward and the green wedge and caravan park south of the creek moving into Keysborough Ward.



Other minor adjustments happened in Springvale Central, Springvale North, Springvale South and Yarraman wards.

Residents will receive a ballot pack relating to the ward in which they are eligible to vote.

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.

A letter detailing the requirements for council enrolled voters has been sent to all potential 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. Application forms are also available on Council's website.

Running for Council

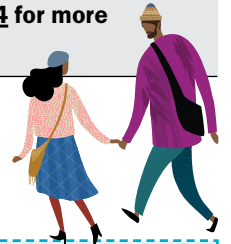
It is important for Council to represent the diverse needs and aspirations of local communities, and Council Elections are an opportunity for voters to elect the candidate they think best represents their community.



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.



Council's focus for the year ahead

At the Council Meeting of 24 June, Council adopted several key plans to guide its future strategic direction.

The adopted documents include the 2024–25 Budget, Council Plan 2021–25 (Revised 2024), Annual Plan 2024–25 and Long-Term Financial Plan (2025–34).

Council is committed to improving local services and facilities for our community, and our strategic priorities for the year ahead ensure the long-term financial sustainability of Council. However, like many households and businesses, we face increased costs.

In 2024–25 Council has committed to investing \$93 million in the capital program, including:

- ▶ Dandenong Wellbeing Centre Construction – \$35 million

- ▶ Keysborough South Community Hub Construction – \$19.74 million
- ▶ Perry Road Construction and Widening from Greens Road to Pacific Drive – \$4.99 million
- ▶ Parkfield Reserve Tennis Courts Redevelopment – Northern Courts Construction – \$950,195
- ▶ Greaves Reserve Oval 4 Lighting Installation – \$584,200.

We will devote \$286,000 to increase the tree planting program throughout our municipality along with \$80,000 on landscape improvements as part of the implementation of our Urban Forest Strategy.

Council will also invest over \$12 million to improve our local roads through the Road Resurfacing, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction programs.



Our community's vision continues to guide Council's priorities now and into the future. We will continue to work to:

- ▶ improve the health and wellbeing of our residents
- ▶ support the most vulnerable in our community and ensure local support networks are inclusive
- ▶ educate our community about climate change and the importance of protecting our biodiversity
- ▶ support our local businesses and enhance skill development to improve local employment and learning opportunities.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more about these documents and see what Council has planned for 2024–25.

CERES summit a sustainable success



Primary school students gathered at Springvale City Hall recently to build their environmental leadership skills.

The 75 students from 12 Greater Dandenong primary schools took part in the Student Environment Leadership Program Summit, which was delivered in partnership by Council and environmental education centre CERES.

CERES facilitators helped students understand environmental issues and how they could implement sustainability projects that make a real difference.

Each school left with an individual action plan, which included ideas such as a nude food initiative, how to improve waste management, install water tanks or sell reusable items at the canteen.

The summit set students up to become proactive environmental leaders, equipped with the knowledge and motivation to make meaningful change in their schools and beyond.

One teacher reflected that the summit was a “fantastic opportunity for our school to focus on our sustainability journey and to identify areas that need attention. We received expert advice from the CERES staff to create an action plan that we will take back to school.”

➔ Visit school.ceres.org.au/programs/ for more information on CERES’ Student Environment Leadership Program and other school opportunities.



Keep it loose



Recycling correctly is a small way to help keep our city sustainable.

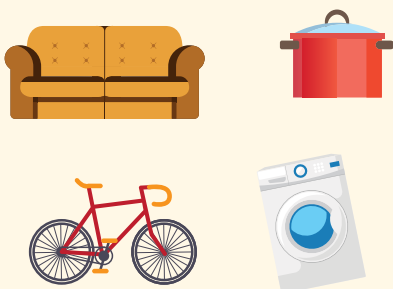
When we recycle right, we prevent items from going to landfill and help give them a new life as recycled products.

Did you know that items need to be placed in the yellow lid recycle bin loose? Items in plastic or paper bags can’t be processed and can even damage the recycling equipment. This means the hard work you put into sorting your recycling will go to waste.

Instead of using bags try collecting your recycling in a basket, tub or cardboard box that can then be emptied into your kerbside collection bin.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste education to refresh your recycling knowledge and support a more sustainable future.

Keep it Clean



Keep it clean

Dumped rubbish makes our city look messy, damages the environment and results in large fines.

Council is working to remove unsightly rubbish from our streets, parks and shopping strips but we need the community’s help.

Residents, renters, property owners and businesses are all encouraged to do the right thing and dispose of rubbish responsibly.

Council offers easy solutions. You can book a hard rubbish collection or take advantage of the Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day on Saturday 24 August. Residents can dispose of large and small household goods. Many of these items will be donated to charity or recycled.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keep-it-clean to find out more about reporting illegally dumped rubbish or how to dispose of your waste correctly.

What's On

Friendly reminders

Thursday 1 August

Carers Walking Group Simple Fitness @ Noble Park Community Centre, 10am



Friday 2 August

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

Saturday 3 August

Walking Football 4 Health Victoria Weekly Program @ Dandenong Soccer 5s, 1pm–2pm

Tuesday 6 August

Cultural Sketch @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 6pm–8pm

Wednesday 7 August

Zumba Gold @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 10am

Youth On Air – Podcast @ Dandenong Library, 4.30pm–6.30pm

Thursday 8 August

Encore – Victorian State Ballet: Beauty and the Beast @ Drum Theatre, 10.30am

Friday 9 August

Bring Your Bills @ Dandenong Civic Centre, 10am–2pm

Saturday 10 August

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

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

Sustainability Saturdays at The Hub – Mend It @ Springvale Community Hub



Saturday 10 August, 7.30pm and Sunday 11 August, 2.30pm

Victoria State Ballet: Beauty and the Beast @ Drum Theatre

Monday 12 August

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

Tuesday 13 August

Winter Nature Play @ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, 10am–11am

Wednesday 14 August

Strength Training @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 8.30am

Interfaith Network's Public Tours to Places of Worship @ Various locations around Greater Dandenong, 8.30am–3pm

Pen Power @ Online Workshop, 7pm–8.30pm

Friday 16 August

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

Tuesday 20 August

Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 9.30am–10.30am

Thursday 22 August

Our Beat and Ethiopian Pop-up Restaurant by Afro Care @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 6pm–9pm

Saturday 24 August

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

Monday 26 August

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

Wednesday 28 August

Claiming Deductions for your Home Based Business @ Online Workshop, 11am–12pm

Dandenong North Ward Meeting with Cr Bob Milkovic @ Dandenong Stadium, 270 Stud Rd, Dandenong, 6pm–8pm

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day

Have you got unwanted items you don't need anymore?

Council's Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day in on **Saturday 24 August** from **8am–1pm** at Greaves Reserve.

Items accepted for reuse:

- ▶ Furniture (chairs, tables, couches and desks)
- ▶ Bicycles
- ▶ Homewares (toys, cookware, sporting items and baby equipment)

- ▶ Clothes and linen (shoes, towels and sheets)

Items accepted for recycling:

- ▶ TVs and computers
- ▶ Electrical appliances (printers, rice cookers, anything with a cord and battery)
- ▶ Whitegoods (fridges, washing machines, dryers and microwaves)
- ▶ Mattresses (limit of two per car)

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.

Colour Our Street NPK – Guardians of the Laneway



Colour has been introduced to laneways, walls, signal boxes and even zebra crossings in Noble Park as part of the Colour Our Street NPK initiative.

Colourful critters Foxie and KoAla were recently born as a result of a yarn bombing and painting project on bollards at the entrance to Noble Park Public Hall Laneway. These two creatures have taken up the role of Guardians of the Noble Park Public Hall Laneway in Buckley Street, Noble Park.

The unique project was a collaboration between Council Volunteer of 17 years Ingeborg Thiele, who crocheted the heads, and students from St Anthony's Primary School who painted the bodies of Foxie and KoAla.

Students were proud to be involved with one saying: "It was an honour to be chosen for the project", and another saying: "I loved painting outside with my classmates."



COLOURFUL CRITTERS



Colourful laneways, walkways and streets in Noble Park help promote active living and create vibrant spaces, helping communities experience a safe and fun journey to and from the station, shops and home.

This project was unique in that it fostered an intergenerational bond between our dedicated Council volunteer, Ingeborg and the students. Ingeborg has since visited St Anthony's Primary School and generously presented each student involved with a bumble bee memoir.

Perform in Our Street NPK



Live music has returned to Noble Park with the Perform in Our Street NPK initiative.

Throughout the 1990s and the early 2000s the Muso Network hosted singers, musicians and songwriters at The Venue, which served as a starting point for many local performers.

Fast forward to 2024 and Our Street NPK recreated this vibe in Noble Park by hosting live outdoor performances in the Frank Street Open Space.

A very talented local performer Kobe White of Australian Idol fame kicked off the series with his glorious vocals, he was joined by another local vocalist ITM and the King of Swing himself, Frankie Davis Jr. – who got crowds up and dancing.



Over the four sessions, participants enjoyed the best of pop, rock and covers, from Royal Drew, performing alongside DJ Alexandre from RIDDIM Radio.

Families were captivated by Kavita Kalyan's dulcet tones and invited to put on an Indian scarf and learn some dance moves with Bindaas Bollywood crew. With One Voice, who rehearse at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, were thrilled to perform just across the street from their usual location.

The Perform in Our Street NPK 2024 series concluded with a One Love African Drumming singing and music workshop on Saturday 8 June.

All these activities have been made possible with the support of the Noble Park Revitalisation Board and funding from the Victorian Government.

Delivered in Greater Dandenong 2023–24

The City of Greater Dandenong is a vibrant, diverse and resilient community and Council is proud to work to ensure our city is a great place to live, work, visit and play.

The 2023–24 Budget was a realistic and responsible budget that addressed the growing cost of living and inflationary pressures, while investing in our community. It included a capital works program worth \$58 million, continuing our commitment to invest in community facilities and infrastructure.

Here are some highlights of the projects, services and activities Council delivered in 2023–24.

Ross Reserve Pavilion

Ross Reserve is one of the most popular precincts in Greater Dandenong and is home to the Noble Park Aquatic Centre, Skate Park and sports grounds. Council celebrated the finalisation of three major projects in 2023–24. Including the \$10.8 million Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion, the \$2.3 million Synthetic Soccer Pitch and the \$6 million redevelopment of the Ross Reserve Athletics Facility.



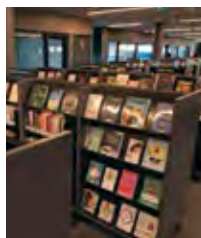
Spring Valley Reserve

Following years of rehabilitation of the previous landfill site, Spring Valley Reserve was opened to the public. In celebration of National Tree Day Council launched the One Tree Per Child program with the largest ever tree planting initiative seen by the international conservation program. More than 800 students from 14 local primary schools planted 2,300 trees and shrubs.



Little Library

A Little Library giving residents the opportunity to collect and return borrowed items without having to visit a library was installed at Menzies Avenue, Dandenong North. The Little Library opened in October 2023, and has so far been used by more than 80 community members to undertake more than 700 loans and carry out more than 140 renewals.



Library services

Every month of the 2023–24 year Dandenong Library welcomed an average of 30,000 visitors while Springvale library welcomed an average of 37,000 visitors each month.

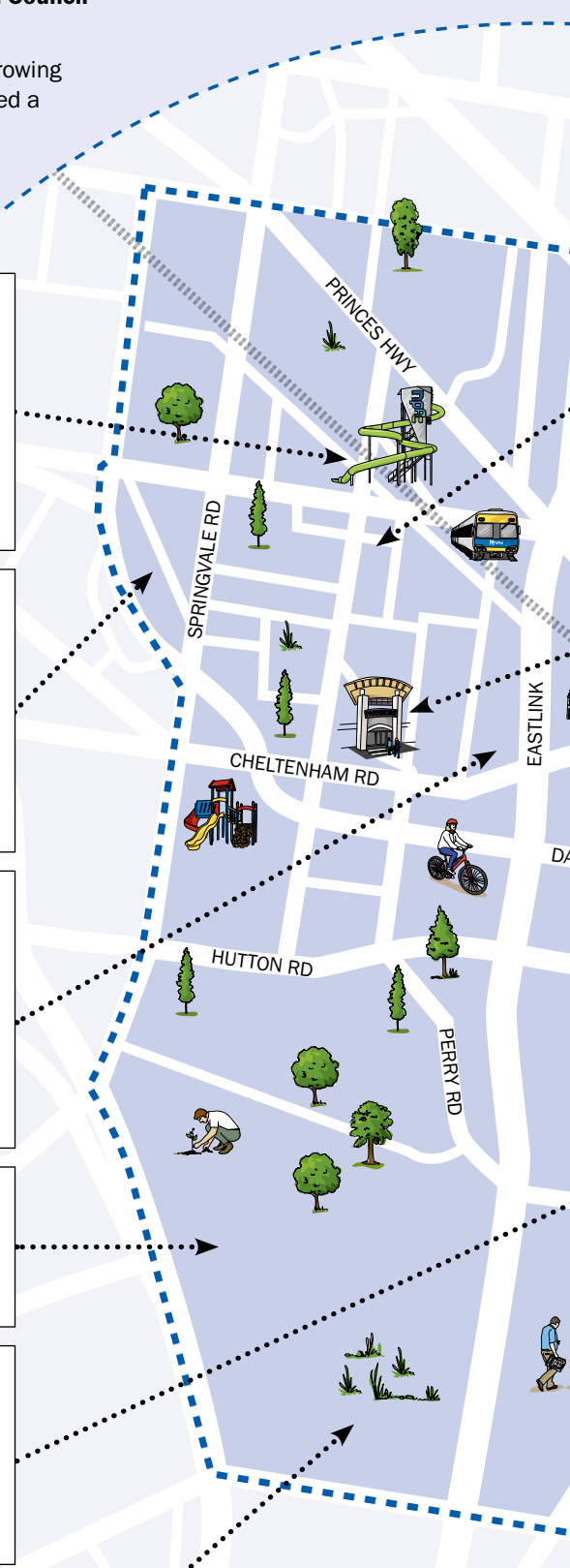
Abbotts Road upgrade

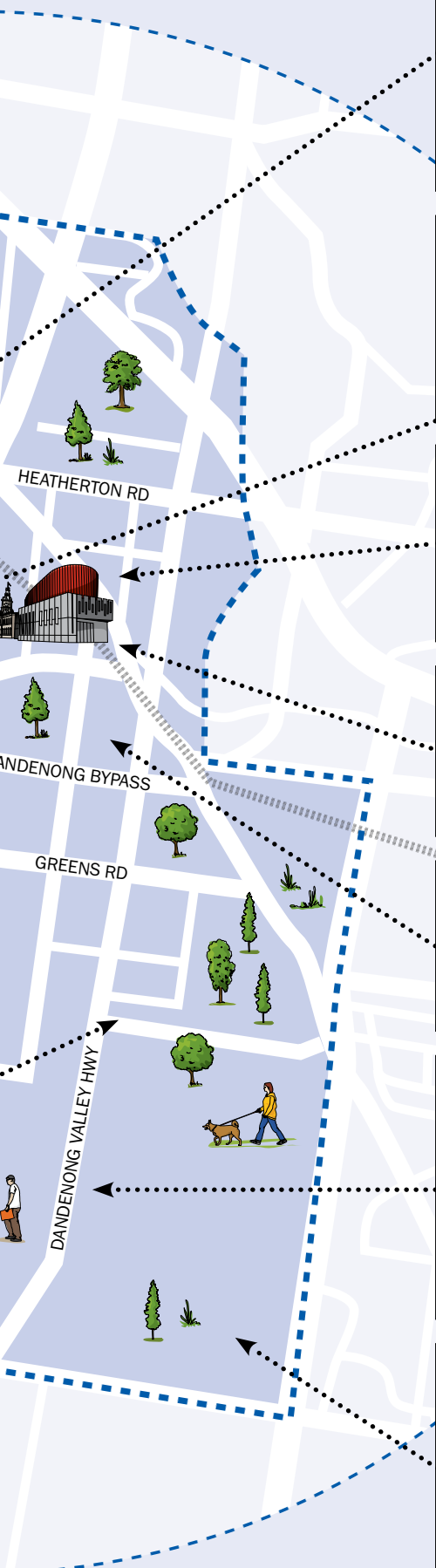
A \$5 million project saw the widening of Abbotts Road to two lanes in each direction. An important transport link, the road helps create a safer link to Dandenong South and Keysborough industrial areas. The project has also made the area safer for pedestrians, vehicles (including larger freight vehicles) and cyclists.

Waste Services

Across four Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days more than 2,200 vehicles dropped off their household waste items. This included 375 mattresses, 136 bikes, 8.55 tonnes of electronic and 28.6 tonnes of steel.

Across the year about 22,000 households booked a hard waste collection, and kerbside collections totalled more than 4.45 million. This included 2.5 million red lid garbage bins, 1.24 million yellow lid recycling bins and almost 700,000 green waste bins.





Noble Park Revitalisation

Noble Park has undergone a transformation with many projects being completed in collaboration with Council and the Noble Park Revitalisation Board with funding support from the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Project. The \$2 million project finished on 30 June 2024, and enhanced the village feel of Noble Park's activity centre with a number of public art projects and activations, including live music performances in community spaces.

Frederick Wachter Reserve

In 2023 the new playground was opened at Frederick Wachter Reserve. Following extensive community consultation the playground was built featuring two distinct themes – market gardens and wetlands.



Herbert Street Pocket Park



Council completed a pocket park at 77 Herbert Street, including exercise equipment, a sensory garden, seating and new trees. The project complemented the planting of 278 trees along Herbert Street, which created a green spine designed to increase shade and create a corridor to help wildlife travel safely.

Railway Parade upgrades

The Railway Parade shopping strip underwent an upgrade following feedback from the community. The inviting changes include new paving, street trees that will increase shade, as well as new landscaping, seating and other street furniture. A pocket park at 218 Railway Parade was also completed.

George Andrews Reserve

Across 2023-24 two major projects were completed at Dandenong's George Andrews Reserve, including a verandah added to the pavilion to give spectators more protection from the elements. A new mural celebrating the city's links to the Macedonian village of Keshava was also painted on the pavilion.

Blackspot Funding for road projects

New traffic lights and pedestrian crossing at Corrigan Road and Harold Road intersection, Noble Park \$517,790.

Nine safety treatments, including raised platforms and intersections and lighting upgrades on Bloomfield Road, Noble Park \$671, 232.

Raised pedestrian crossing near a school in Browns Road, Noble Park \$394,896.

Raised platforms and line markings on Outlook Drive, Dandenong North \$138,634.

Festivals and Events

Every year Council celebrates our vibrant and diverse community through a range of festivals and events, including the Greater Dandenong Children's Festival, Springvale Snow Fest, Discoer Dandenong Creek Festival, Keysborough's Big Picnic, Noble Park Community Fun Day, Sustainability Festival and Carols in Harmony Square. About 80,000 people attended our events across the year.



love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

STEAM Festival



Steam into Greater Dandenong libraries this August as we celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

Each week in August the libraries will feature some exciting STEAM events. For the full program visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au.

Cosmodome: Launching Minds into Orbit

Sunday 11 August
@ Springvale Library
2pm–2.45pm and 3pm–3.45pm
For ages 5 +

Science Behind Sci-Fi

Wednesday 14 August
@ Springvale Library
6.30pm–7.30pm

Get Scientwisted Science Show

Saturday 17 August
@ Dandenong Library
3pm–4pm
For ages 5+

STEAMDANCE with The Australian Ballet Education and Outreach team

Thursday 29 August
@ Springvale Library
4pm–4.45pm (ages 5–8)
5pm–5.45pm (ages 9–12)

Libraries at Dusk

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

Thursday 1 August

Cricut Session @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Book and Blogs @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 8 August

Coding for Beginners @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Cricut Session @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 15 August

Bee for Biodiversity @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Botanical Drawing @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 22 August

Science Themed Trivia @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Bee for Biodiversity @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 29 August

Botanical Drawing @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

The Australian Ballet Education and Outreach Workshop @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm



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 the *Magic Journey Show* on Saturday 31 August at Springvale Library.

The Think Tank – Butterfly Adventures

Saturday 3 August, @ Dandenong Library, 3pm–4pm

Saturday 24 August, @ Springvale Library, 3pm–4pm

Join us for a hands-on discovery of all things butterflies, including their lifecycles and the role they play in the environment. For ages 7–11 years.



Dungeons & Dragons

Saturdays – 24 August, 7 September and 5 October @ Dandenong Library 12.30pm–4pm

Join South East Gaming to play the ultimate tabletop role-playing game – Dungeons and Dragons. Join us for one or all of the four-part series. Ages 14+. All materials provided.



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

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

HOME 24 – Olana Janfa: Too Much Drama

Don't miss this colourful exhibition by Ethiopian-Norwegian artist Olana Janfa displayed across Walker St Gallery and Arts Centre and Settlers Square in central Dandenong. Combining bold images and political statements with lightness, dry humour and vivid colours and tones.

➤ On display until Friday
6 September. Visit
[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/
HOME](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/HOME) for more information.



Our Beat

This special session of the popular Our Beat program ties in with Olana Janfa's exhibition and will be dedicated to performers wanting to share their culture and stories. This evening will celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and those reconnecting with their roots amid colonialism and displacement.

➤ The session will also feature an Ethiopian pop-up restaurant by Afro Café, and will be held at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre on Thursday 22 August, from 6pm–9pm.

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@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5320.

Drum Theatre

➤ Join the Drum Theatre family and unlock a world of exclusive benefits to elevate your theatre experience. Get discounted tickets for select events, access to early bird tickets and 10 per cent discount at the Drum Theatre Bar.

Join now and secure a free one-year membership at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI). Memberships are \$15 or \$10 for concession.

➤ Visit [drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/
drum-members](http://drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum-members) or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666 for more information.



Beauty and the Beast

Victorian State Ballet: Beauty and the Beast

Thursday 8 August at 10.30am
(Encore show – shorter format)

Saturday 10 August at 7.30pm
and Sunday 11 August at 2.30pm

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. The Encore performance includes cheaper tickets, a parking voucher and complimentary morning tea.

Community Performance – South Metro Showtime presents: Beyond the Door

Thursday 15 August at 7.30pm,
Friday 16 August at 7.30pm,
Saturday 17 August at 2.30pm
and 7.30pm, and Sunday 18
August at 2.30pm

Scouts and Guides from across south east Melbourne present an original production for all ages.

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

Little India Trader Stories



Traders in the Little India cultural precinct have shared their stories to enhance the experience for visitors exploring this Dandenong gem.

The stories are being shared through colourful posters displayed in shopfronts.

One of those business owners is Mr Sajjad Rehman who is the proud owner of *Bombay Fashions*.

Having migrated to Australia from Pakistan in 1990 he left behind his career as a Computer Science Analyst and Software Designer in Pakistan to forge a meaningful new life in Australia.

Mr Rehman shared that opening *Bombay Fashions* in 1994 was one of his greatest accomplishments.

"I am so proud of what my family and I have achieved," he said.

"We started off humbly in Noble Park, later operated a little stall at the Dandenong Market and now we have our very own, life size shop in Little India.

Mr Rehman has invested countless hours of time, effort, energy and love into making his store the successful clothing boutique that it is today.

"Without the help of my wife, my three daughters and my son, this business is impossible.

"We have built strong relationships with our customers and that is very important to me. They have become family".

The Little India Cultural Precinct in Foster Street is the oldest cultural precinct in Dandenong and was the first Indian Cultural Precinct in Victoria. It is made up of 32 shops of Indian themed retailers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Fiji and Sri Lanka.



It is well worth a visit to Little India to discover a rich and colourful gateway to Indian textiles, food and groceries. Look out for the posters on shopfronts windows and step inside, the business owners would love to have a chat with you.



Corporate Citizen of the Year – Vanessa Field



Vanessa Field has been the Director of Springvale Service for Children for 10 years, and her passion for accessible family services is just as compelling now as it was a decade ago.

"This role brings me so much joy, knowing we are giving families and children the best possible start. It's not the hundreds of people we do it for, it's for the one person who otherwise might fall through the cracks – that is what drives me," said Vanessa.

Springvale Service for Children provides a toy library, playgroup, early learning programs, and a range of supports for families to break down the barriers to accessing early education and family services.

"We see a lot of vulnerable people who may have never had access to their own education, so they have no idea where to start for their children and grandchildren."

Vanessa says the toy library is a great way to welcome people to the centre.

"People walk past and see something their children would like, they come in and are met by our wonderful staff and volunteers who can provide guidance on how to access further support services."

Being named Corporate Citizen of the Year came as a pleasant surprise to Vanessa, who has been working hard to build the sustainability of all local children's services.

She says Springvale Service for Children is a community asset, rather than a service.

"It's somewhere the whole family can grow and connect. If they are experiencing cultural barriers, financial disadvantage or social isolation, we provide a safe space to get together and talk about what they want for their children and how we can best support them."



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.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Knitwork celebrates 10-year milestone



Local knitters have been meeting weekly at Dandenong Library for a decade, creating much-needed items for charity while enjoying good conversation.

A Cultural Threads project brought the group together 10 years ago, to create a welcome mat for the library. Participants enjoyed the project so much, they decided to continue their catch ups, forming the Social Knitwork Group.

"Many knitters don't have an outlet for their knitting, so when we came together for the project we thought why not keep it going," said Margaret Boyd, one of the founding members.

Margaret was knitting for designers and charities at the time and has enjoyed sharing her expertise with less experienced knitters.



"We have people at all levels, some crochet as well. The social aspect is wonderful, it gives people somewhere to go and an opportunity to enjoy a great chat. We solve many of the world's problems on a Wednesday morning!"

Hats, blankets, scarves and items for young children are created by the group and donated to Uniting Vic.Tas, with wool donated by community members.

"The generosity of people is amazing. We welcome all donations and thank everyone who has contributed over the years," said Margaret.

All donations of 8 ply yarn are welcomed and can be dropped at the library.

➤ The group meets every Wednesday between 10am and 12.30pm. All welcome, and registrations are not required.

Court Network



Attending court and need some support? Court Network is here to help.

Court Network is a free community

service provided by volunteers for court users. Volunteers are in Dandenong/Melbourne courts every day helping people navigate court processes and systems. We can provide non-legal support, information and referrals.

You can book support on our website courtnetwork.com.au or through our phone service on 1800 571 239.

In court, just look out for the pink lanyard.

Do you have time to be a volunteer?



Volunteering makes a positive difference in the community. It can also improve life for those who share their time, talents and abilities.

Council's Festivals and Event team is currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers who would like to get involved in future festivals and events.

Volunteering with the City of Greater Dandenong is a great way to meet and interact with new people, gain work experience and take active part in community. As a bonus volunteers will receive a Volunteering Acknowledgement Certificate.



Volunteers will need to be over 18 years old and contribute to at least four festivals and events throughout the year.

➤ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/volunteering to become a volunteer.

A free festival
for you and all of
your friends.

STEAM FESTIVAL

AUGUST
2024

Come have fun with a range of activities, events
and workshops for all ages happening throughout
August at Greater Dandenong Libraries.

a celebration of

Science | Technology |
Engineering | Arts |
Mathematics



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1300 630 920

libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/steam-fest