

Greater Dandenong Council News

Walk Against Family Violence

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WALK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE



She's my sister
She's my daughter
She's my mother
She's my colleague

I say NO
to Violence against Women

Revitalising
Central Dandenong

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Young
Leaders

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Living
Treasures

▶ PAGE 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

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www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



[@greaterdandy](https://twitter.com/greaterdandy)



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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.



Welcome to the November edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This month we will find out the results of the Council Elections, and your newly elected Councillors will be sworn in on Wednesday 13 November.

We invite everyone to join us for the special meeting, which is open to the public. It will be great to welcome and congratulate any new or returning Councillors as they embark on the next four-year term to serve our community.

If we run out of seats in the Council Chambers there will be room in Harmony Square where the meeting will be live streamed to the Urban Screen. All Council Meetings are also live streamed via greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

The following Monday, 18 November, the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be elected from within the Councillor group. This meeting will begin at the special time of 6pm and is once again open to the public.

Read about your new Councillors, Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the next edition of Greater Dandenong Council News, which will be delivered to your letterbox in early December.



My City

This bright flower appears in the 2024 Community Calendar in the month of November. This image was taken by (then) Year 6 Dandenong Primary School student Mojokouth Teal.

The 2025 Community Calendar is now being finalised and a celebration of

winners of our photography competition will be held at the Drum Theatre later this month. The winning images will go on display for the whole community to see.



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

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.



Front cover: Photos from previous years of our Walk Against Family Violence, including guest speakers Tarang Chawla (2022) and Phil Cleary (2013).

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely.

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FSC
Logo

Revitalising Central Dandenong

**NEXT
PHASE
APPROVED**



 **The next step in the Revitalising Central Dandenong project has been given the green light and is expected to deliver jobs, new homes, commercial and retail space, as well as a new Little India Precinct.**

The State Government has approved a Planning Scheme Amendment, allowing developers Capital Alliance to move ahead with the next phase of the Revitalising Central Dandenong project, which was launched in 2006.

Greater Dandenong City Council CEO Jacqui Weatherill said that over the life of the project Dandenong would see more than \$1.2 billion in private investment, create nearly 500 new homes and 5,000 jobs.

This stage of the development will include 470 new homes, 2500sq metres of community space and new commercial and retail spaces, including a new supermarket and food market hall.

Council is proud to work with Capital Alliance and the State Government to finalise the development plan for final approval.

So far the Revitalising Central Dandenong project has delivered many projects, including:

- ▶ Children's Court (2023)
- ▶ Salvation Army Community Hub (2022)

- ▶ Urban multi-sport free public park (2019)
- ▶ Quest Apartments (2016)
- ▶ Australian Taxation Office (2015)
- ▶ Civic Centre and Harmony Square (2014)
- ▶ Government Services Office (2011)
- ▶ Lonsdale Street Boulevard redevelopment including 260 pin oak trees and coloured light poles (2011)
- ▶ Dandenong Market redevelopment (2011)
- ▶ Stockmans Bridge with 62m integrated artwork (2010)
- ▶ Drum Theatre redevelopment and restoration of Town Hall (2006).

Waste solution for the future



Council has joined with eight other local councils under a new deal to reduce the amount of household waste sent to landfill.

With landfills rapidly filling up, an alternative to burying rubbish in the ground is desperately needed.

Under the new deal, at least 95 per cent less waste will be sent to landfill, and instead will be sent to an advanced waste processing facility in Maryvale, which will turn the rubbish into energy.

The facility will be located next to a paper mill, which will use heat and power generated by the waste to run their mill. Any excess energy will feed back into the power grid.

The move will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 270,000 tonnes annually – the equivalent of removing 50,000 cars from the road each year.

With household waste in Melbourne's south east predicted to increase 40 per cent by 2046, alternatives to landfill need to be found. This doesn't change our commitment to reducing, reusing and recycling

Similar energy from waste facilities are being used safely and reliably in metropolitan areas around the world, including in the United Kingdom, Europe, Asia and North America.

In Victoria these facilities are regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Recycling Victoria, and facilities must be appropriately located, constructed and operated according to strict regulations that minimise risks to the environment and people.

The facility should be open by 2029. Partnering councils include, Bayside, Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Kingston, Knox, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges.



Image provided by Star News Group.

Dandy's Got Talent

Talented young locals took centre stage recently at the Dandy's Got Talent event celebrating Victorian Youth Fest.

Hosted by Council's Youth and Family Services' FReeZA Youth Committee, the event was held at The Castle in Dandenong on Wednesday 25 September. The event provided a platform for emerging artists aged 12-25 to showcase their talents across a range of performing arts categories including bands, singer-songwriters, dancers and cover songs.

It drew a crowd of up to 150 young people eager to support the 23 talented acts who were vying for generous prizes.

The winners included: Borderline Appropriate (band), Sara Tomek (cover songs), Zak Gully (singer-songwriter), and Savannah Darbon (dance). Prizes and sponsorships were provided by DJ City, The Band Booth, RIDDIM, and Shout Out Loud Print.

The success of the event was driven by the hard work of the FReeZA Youth Committee, a program that is run weekly by Council's Youth and Family Services. Young people were supported to oversee management of the event, including stage setup, sound, photography, food service and social media.

Dandy's Got Talent highlighted the creativity, passion, and community spirit of Greater Dandenong's youth, making it a standout celebration in this year's Youth Fest.

➔ Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information about the FReeZA program or to find out more about Council's Youth and Family Services.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

WEDNESDAY

13

NOVEMBER

MONDAY

18

NOVEMBER

MONDAY

25

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

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:

- ▶ **Wednesday 13 November (Swearing In of New Council)**
- ▶ **Monday 18 November at 6pm (Mayoral Election)**
- ▶ **Monday 25 November.**

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**

Junior Mayor

Hello City of Greater Dandenong, its Gemma your 2024 Junior Mayor.

This year I had the honour to be a part of a Citizenship Ceremony. This was an amazing experience. I loved seeing all the diverse people become Australian citizens and join our community. I got to talk to a few people, and it was really interesting to hear their stories about why they came to Australia and how long they have been waiting to become an Australian Citizen. At the Citizenship Ceremony I talked about how my dad migrated to Australia and all the opportunities he has had since becoming an Australian citizen.

Another event I was part of in the City of Greater Dandenong was the Springvale Snow Festival. It was a really fun event and I really enjoyed it. There were lots of performances and so many different activities that everyone enjoyed. There was arts and craft, snow, fireworks and much more. Also, there were food stalls like bubble tea and potato sticks which were a big hit.

Did you know that in the City of Greater Dandenong we have lots of recycle centres? At home with my family, we always talk about ways to be



sustainable. One of the ways that I try to be sustainable is by recycling bottles. If you collect all your plastic cans and glass bottles you can take them to the local recycling centre and get 10 cents per bottle. This is a great way to teach our next generation about the importance of recycling and why we need to recycle, this will help keep the City of Greater Dandenong clean but also this is a great way to earn some extra pocket money, which is an extra bonus to.

Have a great month everyone.





Walk Against Family Violence



Since 2013 the Greater Dandenong community has come together to say 'No to Family Violence'.

As community members marched, guest speakers and performers have joined the day to share their own stories of survival and their own support for a world free of violence.

At our inaugural event anti-violence campaigner Phil Cleary shared his ongoing fight against violence following the death of his sister at the hands of her ex-partner.

In 2016, popular entertainer and victim survivor Colleen Hewitt shared her story and sang to hundreds of marchers.

In 2017 football legend Kevin Sheedy spoke alongside victim survivor 'Rebecca'.

In 2020 and 2021 the pandemic forced us to stop public gathering, but we hosted virtual walks and continued the conversation around preventing violence against women and children.

In 2022 advocate Tarang Chawla shared the story of losing his sister Niki to a violent partner.

In 2023 we heard from two survivors, human rights lawyer Liana Papoutsis and ex-police officer Melanie Rowe.

Join us for the 2024 Walk

This year's Walk Against Family Violence will be held on Tuesday 19 November. Meet at the Dandenong Market at 11am and walk to Harmony Square to hear from guest speakers.

Join the walk and help us send the message that Greater Dandenong says 'No to Family Violence'.

This year's key speaker is victim survivor Simone O'Brien (pictured above centre), who was attacked by her ex-partner shortly after she called off the relationship.

Simone said she had no experience of domestic violence until the 2012 night when her ex-partner turned up at her Brisbane home and beat her with a baseball bat. Looking back there were red flags, but at the time, she could not see the signs.

She sent a text message to her partner on the Monday morning explaining why she wanted to end the relationship, but ignored the hundreds of text messages that came back across the workday.

Arriving home at 6pm, Simone's daughters were cooking dinner and the three were discussing their days when there was a knock at the door. It was her ex-partner – a man family and friends had previously described as a 'gentle giant'.

The attack was witnessed by her then 12 and 15-year-old daughters, but the brave actions of her neighbours helped Simone survive and her attacker held to account.

Placed in an induced coma and taken to hospital, Simone's daughters and her 10-year-old son were called to the hospital in the middle of the night and told to say their goodbyes.

But Simone kept fighting. During the 10-minute attack Simone was hit 45-50 times to the right side of her head. She has fractures all through her skull. She has had more than 50 operations since that day 12 years ago and is now blind in her right eye including a shattered jawline, she has lost her sense of smell and has an implant on her right cheek bone.

After the perpetrator was sentenced to 15 years in gaol, Simone discovered he had been married twice before and had three children.

"I shouldn't be sitting here talking to you about domestic violence, because I am a third wheel. He actually assaulted both of those (ex-wives), they didn't report it... that's my emphasis to anybody report, report, report. We need to protect everyone from these perpetrators."

"I'm a prisoner in my own body for the rest of my life, but instead of dwelling on things I have turned my experience into a positive," she said.

Simone now travels the country talking about her experience and encouraging others to look out for any little red flags and report all incidents of violence. She even speaks to perpetrators, some of whom have told her they regret their actions and the effects it has had on their families.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/walk-against-family-violence to find out more about the walk.

Pyjama Project

Support women and children experiencing family violence by donating a pair of brand new pyjamas to our special collection.

Victim survivors of family violence often leave these situations with few belongings.

Donate a brand new pair of pyjamas for women and children of all ages and place them in the Pyjama Box at Harmony Square on the day of the walk or at any stage during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence (November 25–December 10). Pyjamas will be given to Wayss for distribution.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pyjama-project for more information.

The Year of Youth Leadership

This year marks 15 years of Council's Young Leaders Program.

More than 300 young people have taken part in the program, and in 2024 we celebrated their stories and the impact of diverse youth leadership in Greater Dandenong.

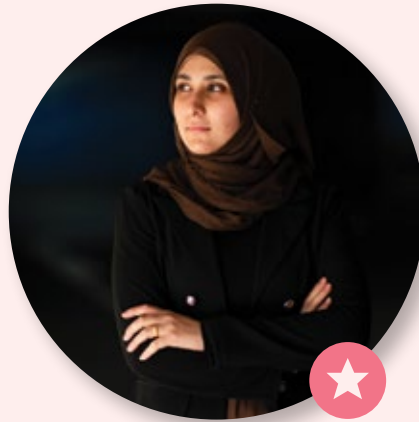
A selection of their stories are featured on our website. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.



Rabia, 2017 Alumni

Construction Finance Officer

Rabia credits the program for both her personal and professional growth through fostering confidence and teamwork skills. Rabia is now a finance officer in the construction industry, and still feels the strong sense of community engagement Young Leaders taught her. Her advice to aspiring young leaders? Embrace challenges and prioritise continuous learning.



Bibi Rafia, 2022 Alumni

Pathology Collection Student

Bibi Rafia is currently pursuing a Certificate III in Pathology Collection. She is grateful for the unforgettable experiences and sense of belonging that the program provided. Bibi initially struggled with confidence and shyness, however she found the program fostered a supportive environment that encouraged her growth. She invites young people to seize opportunities like this program whenever they can.

Andrea, 2010 Alumni

Disability Support Worker

Andrea works as a Disability Support Worker and an Independent Contractor in a few different fields. For Andrea, the Young Leaders program showcased the importance of community programming and how accessibility to information can significantly change someone's life professionally or personally. Her advice to young people is uplifting:

“Community is the most undervalued resource in our everyday lives, take advantage of the ways it helps you access the world around you – invest in community in whatever way that takes shape in your life.”



Duoth, 2021 Alumni

Library Services Officer and STANDOUT Youth Mentor

Duoth works two jobs he loves. He is a Library Services Officer at Greater Dandenong Libraries and a Mentor with STANDOUT Youth. For Duoth, the Young Leaders program allowed him to network and collaborate with like-minded individuals within his community. His advice to young people is:

“The only way to achieve growth is through applying yourself. Being a leader doesn't mean you have every aspect of your life put together, or that you're the best at what you do. To me, it means that no matter the obstacle or environment, you will try your best to surpass it, whilst bringing as many people as possible up with you.”

Have Your Say

Council is looking for community feedback about future plans for four different parks in our municipality.



Have Your Say and share your expectations and ideas to help us create parks and open spaces that reflect our community's needs. Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.



Barry Powell Reserve – new district level playground

We are excited to be planning a new district level playground at Noble Park North's Barry Powell Reserve and want our community to get involved.

We want to create an innovative and fun playground that will provide a different type of experience to other playgrounds in Greater Dandenong.

Your feedback will help shape the draft design of the playground, which will then be shared with the community for more feedback.

Have your say online or join in one of the community drop-in sessions at Barry Powell Reserve on Tuesday 12 November at 2.30pm, or Saturday 7 December at 10am.

Warner Reserve Southern Recreation Precinct

Help us develop a draft concept plan for the southern recreation precinct of Springvale's Warner Reserve, south of Mile Creek.

This project is part of the Warner Reserve Master Plan (2019) and will include formalising the southern soccer pitch, improvements to the dog off leash area, a multi-purpose recreation area, volleyball court and may include new pedestrian paths.

Have your say online or join in one of the community drop-in sessions at Warner Reserve on Tuesday 26 November at 2.30pm, or Sunday 8 December at 10am.

Dandenong Park (Riverside Precinct – Red Gum Rest) – district playground Stage 2

We are planning Stage 2 of the district level playground at the Dandenong Park Riverside Precinct.

We want to hear your ideas about the types of play equipment and experiences, activities and infrastructure you would like to see in the expanded playground design. We are keen to hear from community members who use the existing playground – tell us what you like and don't like.

Have your say online or join in one of the community drop-in sessions at Dandenong Park Riverside Precinct – Red Gum Rest on Wednesday 13 November at 2pm, or Saturday 30 November at 10am.

Ian Tatterson Leisure Park Recreation Precinct

Share your ideas and vision for the future of Ian Tatterson Leisure Park in Keysborough.

Your feedback will help shape a draft concept design that will then go back out to the community for further feedback.

Tatterson Park is the largest district park in the area and currently features a 20-hectare woodland, three sports grounds, a regional playground with a World of Insects theme, a dog off-leash area, as well as extensive wetlands and walking tracks.

Have your say online or come along to one of the community drop-in sessions at Tatterson Park on Saturday 16 November at 10am, or Tuesday 19 November at 2pm.

What's On

Friendly reminders

Friday 1 November

Yoga and Meditation @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 11.15am



Monday 4 November

Toddler Time @ Dandenong Library, 10.30am

Wednesday 6 November

Social Knitwork @ Dandenong Library, 10am

Go Soccer Mums Program @ Ross Reserve, 10.30am

Thursday 7 November

Carers Walking Group @ Noble Park Community Centre, Ross Reserve, 9.45am



Storytime @ Springvale Library, 10.30am

Saturday 9 November

Dandy Show, Greaves Reserve, Dandenong, 9am-9pm

Sustainability Saturdays at the Hub @ Springvale Community Hub, 2pm

Fantastic Forces Think Tank @ Dandenong Library, 3pm

Sunday 10 November

Dandy Show, Greaves Reserve, Dandenong, 9am-4pm

AB Entertainment Presents Marmabandhatil Thev @ Drum Theatre, 4pm

Monday 11 November

Day Trips for Seniors to Government House meet @ NPAC, Ross Reserve, 8.45am

Tuesday 12 November

Nature Play @ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, 10am



Learn From a Local Employer Workshop @ online, 6pm

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

Wednesday 13 November

Edison Bots Code Club @ Springvale Library, 4pm

Thursday 14 November

Sacred Unions: Queer Cinema, Performance and Installation @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 6pm

Council Meeting - new Council sworn in @ Council Chambers, Dandenong Civic Centre, 6pm

Friday 15 November

Zumba Gold @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 10am

Monday 18 November

Council Meeting - Mayoral Election @ Council Chambers, Dandenong Civic Centre, 6pm

Thursday 21 November

Dear Doris @ Drum Theatre, 10.30am

Chronic Pain Support Group @ Springvale Library, 4pm

Talking Faith? Forum @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Saturday 23 November

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

Monday 25 November

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

Friday 29 November

Baby Bounce Outreach @ Keysborough Hall, 10.30am

Save the Date...

Carols in Harmony Square returns to Dandenong on Friday 6 December from 6pm-9pm.

Join us for this family friendly event which includes live performances of your favourite Christmas songs, as well as market, community and food stalls.



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.

#Filtered: The Body Image Project



Around 90 per cent of young people report some concern about their body image.

This figure is reported by Australian charity Butterfly Foundation, supporting people impacted by eating disorders and body image issues, and the families, friends and communities who support them.

Council's Youth and Family Services team has collaborated with local students to co-design an awareness campaign addressing the negative impact social media can have on young people's identity and sense of self.

The Year 8 students from Killester College partnered with the Butterfly Foundation to create a design brief for their #Filtered: The Body Image Project. The design brief was then shared to Year 11 and 12 students studying design through Chisholm Institute.

The Chisholm students were commissioned to create visual designs and formulate a final social media awareness campaign based on the work of the Killester students.

The campaign is now being featured on our Youth Services social media channels. A social media toolkit has also been shared with secondary schools across Greater Dandenong to help students navigate social media safely and positively.



To find out more follow our Youth Services on social media:

Facebook [@cgdyouthservices](#)

Instagram [@GreaterDandenongYouthServices](#)

Fire Danger Period

The Fire Danger Period is when the Country Fire Authority (CFA) restricts the use of fire in the community.

It can be enforced at different times in each Council area in the lead up to the fire season, and the timing is determined by local conditions including the amount of rain and grassland cutting rate. The Fire Danger Period may be declared as early as October and typically remains in place until the fire danger lessens, which could be as late as May.

Once the Fire Danger Period has been declared, fire restrictions come into force. This means you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements.



If you don't get a permit you could be breaking the law and may be prosecuted.



Visit cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions to find out more about restrictions and what you can and can't do during the Fire Danger Period.



Carols in Harmony Square



Celebrate the most festive time of the year when Carols in Harmony Square returns to Dandenong.

Join us on Friday 6 December and celebrate Christmas with the community at this family-friendly event.

Dress up in your most festive outfit, bring your own chairs, picnic blankets and water bottles, and prepare for a lovely night of singing along to your favourite Christmas songs.

The stage in Harmony Square will host amazing local talent, while market, community and food stalls will run alongside fun activities for the whole family.

This free event will also be an opportunity to meet your newly elected Councillors and Mayor.



Join us in Harmony Square Dandenong, on Friday 6 December from 6pm–9pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/carols-in-harmony-square for more details.



Busk Stop is back

Talented local performers will hit the streets of Dandenong this summer as the Busk Stop program returns to Palm Plaza and Harmony Square.

Singers and musicians will be busking on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 15 November to 7 December, shining a light on the culture and character of our city.

Through a collaboration with FReeZA, young performers will be part of the mix. FReeZA is a Victorian Government initiative supporting young people to get involved in planning and running drug, smoke and alcohol-free music and cultural events for other young people.

FReeZA Fridays will take place every Friday across the Busk Stop Schedule.

Busk Stop ran as a pilot program in May this year to bring outdoor street performances to key locations in central Dandenong. The successful program entertained local crowds and gave performers a chance to express their creativity.

Look out for Busk Stop performers between 11.30am–1.30pm on Fridays and Saturdays in Palm Plaza, and between 12pm–2pm on Wednesdays in Harmony Square. The program will then return from 17–31 January.

If you are a performer, singer, musician, puppeteer, magician or dancer and would like to take part now is the time to put your hand up.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/busk-stop for more information.



Seating in central Dandenong

Free and comfortable places to sit are an important part of creating a welcoming space.

As part of our placemaking approach to create great people places, new seating, tables and shade have been installed in two locations in central Dandenong, at Langhorne Place and the corner of Lonsdale and Foster streets.

Creating a safe and sheltered place for people to gather improves comfort for those who might need a break or for

those who want to socialise with friends. This furniture creates opportunities for all members of our community to feel a sense of belonging.

Providing a place for people to sit and eat locally purchased food also supports businesses in the area.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.

Lobbying secures a win for pedestrians



Tireless advocacy from Council, local businesses and residents has resulted in better outcomes around the level crossing removal at Progress Street, Dandenong.

The Victorian Government recently announced, in response to our lobbying, that it would fund a new Fowler Road footpath.



The path will connect to the road bridge over Eumemmering Creek and existing footpaths in the area. Parking will be indented on Fowler Road, which will increase the road's width to further improve safety and accessibility for all road users.

We welcome this decision to fund the footpath with Council assisting to deliver these works.

Australia Day Awards



Helen Heath OAM

Helen Heath OAM Living Treasure

Helen Heath's journey to becoming the inaugural Executive Officer of the Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong began after years of attending Interfaith gatherings after working in youth and family welfare.

"I was very nervous and green when I attended my first Interfaith gathering. I sat next to a Monk, and I was struggling to catch his name. I didn't want to be disrespectful by pronouncing it incorrectly. He could tell I was nervous and said it's just like Tim Tam, the biscuit. We laughed together and it really helped me feel comfortable and connected."

It's this sense of humour, curiosity and deep respect for other cultures and faiths that has led to Helen's impact with the Interfaith Network and community more broadly.

"Humour is a great way to make people feel comfortable. It breaks the ice, which is so important when talking about differences, particularly around faith."

The Interfaith Network is a group of diverse cultural and religious faiths, promoting peace and harmony in Greater Dandenong. The network offers tours for community members to visit places of worship to learn more about local faith communities.



John Mooney PSM, OAM

Alongside her role at the Interfaith Network, Helen performed as "Rhubarb", a silent clown who explored spirituality through gentle humour. Attending nursing homes, school fetes and community events, Rhubarb offered a gentle way to open conversations.

Helen's dedication to others is naturally part of who she is, always seeing the good in people. "I'm more of a glass half full person than a glass half empty. I've seen enough in people to know they can come to the fore when needed."

With current hardships in Australia and overseas, Helen said the role of faith, and particularly interfaith, has never been more important.

"Someone must hold the candle when it flickers. We need to hold hope during challenging times. I see people do this, and it inspires me to keep going," said Helen.

John Mooney PSM, OAM Living Treasure

John Mooney is an inspiring leader with an irrepressible energy for serving people. He has been the principal of Emerson School since 1998, creating a welcoming and uplifting culture where children and families feel empowered to be their best selves.

"Emerson is a truly amazing place. We are an educational restaurant, offering an incredible, holistic learning menu for everyone who comes through our doors. Many parents and children arrive here following a challenging time at schools from other systems and sectors. Many wish they had known about us sooner," said John.

Emerson is a specialist school in Dandenong, priding itself on being a school of first choice – not of last resort, and it has proved to be a recipe for success.

John says schools like Emerson are a gem in the education system, unlocking the potential of those who may otherwise fall through the cracks.

"There are powers at play suggesting schools like Emerson are not needed, or to discourage parents from enrolling in specialist education. These schools are vital. They give children the opportunity to be their best in a place that nurtures their needs."

"We see children at the higher end of academic achievement being given opportunities for scholarships for the top end. It's no different at the other end. We need to meet children where they are and foster a love of learning in a safe environment that sees them as a whole person and provides them with the best chance to succeed."

"Parents who have come to Emerson after a tough time of school refusal often thank us for giving them their child back. They cannot believe the change. Their child is now getting up early to attend and even saying they are disappointed when it's school holidays."

John has a long list of academic and professional achievements, but his focus remains on his students, their families and the dedicated teachers and staff at Emerson.

"It's about decorating others. It's a privilege to be part of a journey that uncovers talents lying within young people. Our kids are inspired and our parents are proud – what a joy to be part of that."

When John was named a Living Treasure at the 2024 Australia Day Awards, he immediately thought of his good friend, Sister Ann Halpin.

"Ann was the epitome of humility and generosity. I couldn't think of a better person to be a Living Treasure. Ann was an enormous inspiration to me, so to be considered for the same accolade is a great honour."

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Libraries at Dusk

The Libraries at Dusk program is aimed at patrons aged 16+ and provides opportunities to be social while learning creative skills.

Thursday 7 November

Book Club @ online, 6.30pm
Kimchi Making Workshop
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm



Thursday 14 November

Kimchi Making Workshop
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm
Create Your Own Bookmark
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 21 November

Peaceful Moonlit Dreams –
Japanese Nagomi Pastel Art
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm
Talking Faith Forum @ Springvale
Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 28 November

Restorative Yoga @ Dandenong
Library, 6.30pm
Peaceful Moonlit Dreams –
Japanese Nagomi Pastel Art
@ Springvale Library, 6.30pm



Talking Faith? Forum

@ Springvale Library on
Thursday 21 November,
6.30pm–8.30pm

Join us for the latest in our series of Talking Faith? Forums where we will be exploring issues related to Youth, Faith and Identity.

The Talking Faith? Forums explore community stories to build interfaith bridges of trust, understanding and friendship.

This series is jointly organised by Greater Dandenong Libraries and the Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network.

Library membership is required to register for this forum.

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

Collection Spotlight: Dyslexic Collection



Greater Dandenong Libraries encourages access to materials for people of all backgrounds and abilities. This month we put the spotlight on the new Dyslexic Collection.

The special font and spacing in these books can assist children with dyslexia to read – which in turn builds their confidence and enhances their love of literacy.

Ask one of our friendly library staff members for help to locate the collection.

PlayStation 5 Consoles



We are excited to announce the arrival of PlayStation 5 consoles at Dandenong Library. Join us to play new games including *FC24* and *Sonic Superstars*, with games updated regularly. Consoles are free to use with a library card, but please note children under 10 years of age must have direct supervision by a parent or guardian. Plan your visit to Dandenong Library to try out the new consoles.

Adult Programs

Greater Dandenong Libraries offer adult programs that support the development of literacy, life-long learning and creativity for all ages.

The programs include book clubs, social and conversation circles, art workshops, digital literacy and technology for adults, developed to inspire learning and create community connections.

For more information visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/adult-programs or phone 1300 630 920.

Regular programs include:

Reading Circle

@ Dandenong Library on the first Wednesday of the month, 11am–12pm

Conversation Circle

@ Dandenong Library every Wednesday during school terms, 6pm–7.30pm

Social Knitwork

@ Dandenong Library every Wednesday 10am–12.30pm

Art, Craft and Conversation

@ Springvale Library fortnightly on Wednesdays, 6.30pm–8pm

Sustainability Saturdays

@ Springvale Community Hub, Saturday 9 November, 2pm–3.30pm

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Josephine Mead: Matrimony

On display until Friday 15 November.

This exhibition explores the meaning of ritual, union and love ceremonies from a queer perspective. Multi-disciplinary artist Josephine Mead invites diverse cultural dialogues through challenging traditional notions of love and commitment.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/matrimony-exhibition for more information.

Cultural Sketch

Tuesday 12 November, 6pm

Join us to hear from, and sketch, a member of our arts community. Our presenter will share their story, creative interests, arts practice, favourite music and other aspects that make up their creative world as they strike a pose for you to draw.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/get-creative



Sacred Unions: Queer Cinema, Performance and Installation

At Walker Street Gallery and
Arts Centre, on Thursday
14 November, 6pm

A showcase of selected short films and performances exploring queer notions of love and identity, preceded by a panel discussion.



9by5 Exhibition

Arts in Greater Dandenong welcomes you to the 17th edition of the 9by5 Exhibition. This open entry exhibition showcases the diverse artistic talent from across Greater Dandenong, Victoria and Australia.

Commemorating the original exhibition *1889: 9 by 5 Impression Exhibition*, we encourage artists at all stages to showcase their creations with us on a 9 x 5 inch canvas.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5 for more information.

The Drum

Join us at Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre to celebrate Diwali and the fast-approaching festive season. drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



AB Entertainment Presents Marmabandhatil Thev

Sunday 10 November, 4pm–7pm

Celebrate this year's Diwali with an unforgettable concert featuring Prathamesh Laghate and Mugdha Vaisampayana, accompanied by Girija Oak, Gandhar Jog, Vinay Cheulkar and Manish Thombre.



Dear Doris

Encore Program
Thursday 21 November,
10.30am

Acclaimed Melbourne jazz vocalist Tamara Kuldin pays homage to the sweetheart of the silver screen, Doris Day.



Save the date...

Rejoice and Be Merry It's Christmas

Encore Program
Thursday 12 December,
10.30am

Featuring Roy Best and Michelle Fitzmaurice alongside compere Chris McKenna, this show will be packed with all your Christmas favourites.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr.

Friday 20 December, 7pm
Saturday 21 December, 11am
(Sensory-sensitive and
Auslan-interpreted
performance) and 5pm
Sunday 22 December, 11am

This delightful adaptation brings the beloved television special to life on stage.



Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce



The Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce has relaunched its services to the business community, including revamped membership options.

The Chamber's mission statement is "Make life easier for business sustainability and growth (economic prosperity) in greater Dandenong".

This mission underscores the Chamber's commitment to fostering a thriving business environment in the region.

The Chamber offers networking opportunities, advocacy and resources for business development. These services aim to facilitate connection and collaboration between businesses, providing valuable opportunities for growth and success.

By focusing on creating a supportive business community, the Chamber plays a pivotal role in enhancing the local economy through its various initiatives and programs.

Visit greaterdandenongchamber.com.au for more information or email info@greaterdandenongchamber.com.au.

Greater Dandenong – a great place to invest

THRIVING
ECONOMIC
HUB



Nexus Dandenong South Industrial Estate. Supplied by Salta.

The City of Greater Dandenong is recognised as Australia's most culturally diverse community, with residents coming from at least 154 different nations.

With that diversity comes an eclectic mix of businesses (almost 20,000 at last count) – making our city a thriving economic hub with opportunities for all.

Last year Greater Dandenong's economic output was \$58.23 billion and regional exports were valued at \$29.72 billion. These figures show why investment in this region is strong.

Other factors, such as our location just 35km south east of Melbourne's CBD and the fact our city is well connected to railway, key arterial roads and motorways, easily linking businesses to ports, airports and the city, are attractive to investors.

One major company that is drawn to our prime location is Walkinshaw Automotive Group, which will consolidate three of its existing sites into a new Australia headquarters in Dandenong South.

In late 2025 the automotive giant will relocate to Salta's 180ha Nexus Dandenong South Industrial Estate.

Walkinshaw Group Communications manager Andrew Wiles said the site would allow for their engineering and manufacturing capabilities to remain close to one another. He said the location was great for transport links, suppliers, and also their 1200 staff members – many of whom live in the south east.

Another large company that saw value in relocating to Greater Dandenong is Trunk Logistics Group. A specialist boutique logistics provider, Trunk Logistics Group recently opened a new facility and head office in Salta's Nexus Industrial Precinct in Dandenong South.

The company chose Dandenong South due to its 'superior connectivity' and said the ability to generate further employment opportunities close to a major population centre was also appealing.

To learn more about investment in Greater Dandenong contact the Business Development and Investment Team at business@cgd.vic.gov.au.



Dandy Show



Celebrating 151 years, the Dandy Show is returning to Greaves Reserve and is ready to entertain the whole family.

Members of the Dandenong Agricultural and Pastoral Society have been working tirelessly throughout the year to prepare for this year's spectacular show, which will be held over the weekend of 9–10 November.

Competitive spirit will be high, from the traditional animal pavilions showing cattle, sheep and poultry competitions, to the art, craft and horticultural pavilions showing a range of competitions open to all ages.

A full program of horse events, including the return of show jumping, will feature in the main arena across both days, while live entertainment and a fireworks show will entertain the Saturday evening crowds.

Visit the many stalls and take part in some free activities, or enjoy the thrill of amusement rides and discover the latest fun show bag.

Children aged 10 and under are free, while adult tickets are \$15.

Visit the Dandy Show, where the city meets the country, on Saturday 9 November from 9am-9pm or Sunday 10 November from 9am-4pm.



Visit dandyshow.com.au to purchase tickets or find out more.

Neighbourhood Watch



Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong will host its AGM and public forum at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, Noble Park, on Wednesday 27 November, from 7pm.

Hear from Senior Sergeant Dave Smith, who has worked in the Victoria Police for 30 years and is currently working in the Proactive Policing Unit.

This public safety forum is a chance to engage with local police and talk about your safety concerns in the Q&A session. All residents welcome.



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other



For more information email nhwgreaterdandenongpresident@gmail.com or phone Dawn on 0407 325 030.

Common statement signed



The Interfaith Network of the City of Greater Dandenong is the oldest network of its kind in Australia.

For the past 36 years Council has been supporting the work of the Network, and every year we join in celebration as we sign a Common Statement. The event symbolises the continued and shared commitment between Council, the faith and spiritual leaders as well as the wider community, as we work towards our shared vision of Many Faiths, One People.

The latest common statement was signed in August 2024 and reads:

We bring greetings from the faith communities to the Mayor, Councillors, and people of the City of Greater Dandenong.

We offer to the City of Greater Dandenong our common commitment to seek to live together in peace and goodwill.

We affirm our desire to promote respect and tolerance for the integrity of each other's beliefs, culture, and traditions.

This desire arises not only from our common humanity but also from our being people of faith and people of prayer.

We recognise that as neighbours, we have responsibilities to the community, the world and ourselves.

We therefore urge all citizens, both religious and non-religious, to put aside intolerance, prejudice and divisiveness, to attain peaceful and truthful co-existence in our City.



CAROLS

IN HARMONY SQUARE

Friday 6 December
6pm - 9pm

225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Free face painting • Carols sing along
Food and market stalls • Family activities
Meet your new Councillors



This is a no smoking and no alcohol event



(03) 8571 1000

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

Online: relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 13 14 50

Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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