

Greater Dandenong Council News

Splash Out in Summer

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**New Mayor and
Deputy Mayor**

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Councillors**

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**Lunar
New Year**

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Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre

225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub

5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service

Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,
Keysborough

*See page 11 for holiday opening hours

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



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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.

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the December/January edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

I am so honoured to be serving as your Mayor again.

On behalf of your newly elected Councillors, thank you for entrusting us to represent you over the next four years.

Like our wonderful community, we are a diverse group with different ages, backgrounds and areas of expertise. You can learn more about us, including our three first-time Councillors, on page five. We are already off to such a positive start!

The morning after the Mayoral Election I was proud to join the Walk Against Family Violence from Dandenong Market to Harmony Square.

The annual walk has become an institution in Greater Dandenong. Community members, Council staff and Councillors came together to show their support for a world free from violence. This is a great expression of the community spirit our residents are known for.

We have many special events and activities to keep you and your family entertained over the summer months in Greater Dandenong. Check out everything on offer on pages eight and nine.

I wish you and your loved ones a harmonious 2025.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti



My City

As the weather becomes warmer, snakes like this Lowlands Copperhead (photographed at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North) can be found basking in sunny places and near waterways. If you see one while out and about, keep your distance, calmly back away and allow the snake to go on its way.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals/other-animals for more snake safety tips.



Picture: Reiner – iNaturalist, 2024.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters.



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

It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

Front cover: Santa enjoys a relaxing dip at Noble Park Aquatic Centre before setting off in the sleigh.

FSC
Logo

Meet your New Mayor and Deputy Mayor



The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected by their peers on Monday 18 November 2024. They will serve in their roles for 12 months.

Mayor Councillor Jim Memeti

Cr Memeti was first elected to Council in 2005, on a mission to change people's perceptions of Dandenong. He has since served the community as Mayor in 2010, 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2022.

The Dandenong Ward Councillor is a proud Dandenong resident of more than 50 years, married to Mary, a father of three and grandfather of six.

"Dandenong is home to four generations of my family," Cr Memeti smiled, acknowledging his family in the chamber.

"I am as proud now to represent our diverse, vibrant multicultural community as I was the day I was elected back in 2005. We have much to celebrate.

"Whatever faith you follow, wherever you were born and whatever language you speak at home – Dandenong, and indeed Greater Dandenong – can be a welcoming home for anyone.

"We have a manufacturing hub of national significance. We have wonderful people, a food scene to rival any in the world, and our community is resilient and tenacious.

"I am committed to bringing my experience to serve this community."

Cr Memeti spoke to his vision for a united Council with a shared commitment to supporting the community to thrive and prosper.

"We have the talent, the resources, and the passion to make great things happen. And as your Mayor, I will work tirelessly to harness that collective energy to serve the people of our municipality. There are challenges before us, but the opportunities to make a lasting impact are even greater."

Deputy Mayor Councillor Sophie Tan

Cr Sophie Tan was elected Deputy Mayor in her sixth year as a Councillor. Cr Tan also served as Deputy Mayor back in 2021.

"Personally, culture is very important to me and I know I can bring everyone together to help our community to achieve their visions," Cr Tan said.

A business and commerce graduate working in the financial industry, Cr Tan said she would be firmly focused on working with the Mayor, CEO and Executive Team to relieve cost of living pressures for residents.

"I want to help our residents and small businesses tackle the cost of living, which is one of the biggest issues they are facing.

"I will also advocate for more support from the state and federal governments for our infrastructure projects and housing."

Councillor Contacts



Dandenong Ward Mayor

Cr Jim Memeti
0434 560 239
Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward Deputy Mayor

Cr Sophie Tan
0466 793 727
Sophie.Tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Cleeland Ward

Cr Rhonda Garad
0435 107 584
Rhonda.Garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward

Cr Bob Milkovic
0435 237 051
Bob.Milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward

Cr Melinda Yim
0428 331 557
Melinda.Yim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough South Ward

Cr Isabella Do
0427 161 104
Isabella.Do@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park North Ward

Cr Lana Formoso
0435 530 536
Lana.Formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward

Cr Alice Phuong Le
0429 059 974
AlicePhuong.Le@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward

Cr Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258
Sean.Oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward

Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
Loi.Truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward

Cr Phillip Danh
0473 482 153
Phillip.Danh@cgd.vic.gov.au

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

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 9 December
- ▶ Tuesday 28 January.

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

DECEMBER /
JANUARY

MONDAY

9

DECEMBER

TUESDAY

28

JANUARY



Pictured (left to right): Cr Loi Truong, Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Melinda Yim, Cr Rhonda Garad and Cr Isabella Do.

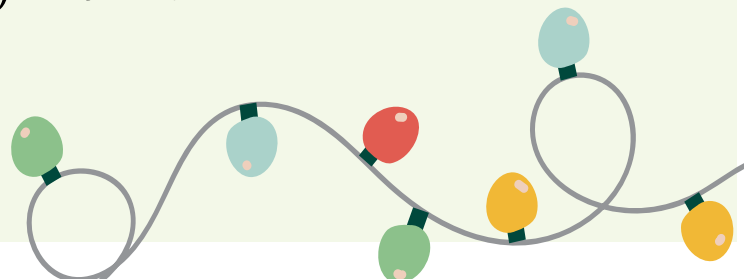
Seasons Greetings from your Councillors

We wish all the residents of Greater Dandenong a safe and peaceful festive season spent with those you love.

As we say goodbye to 2024, we would like to let you know how much we appreciate the passion and resilience of this community.

We will continue to do great things together in 2025.

– *From your Councillors.*



Greater Dandenong – Meet Your Councillors!



Pictured (left to right): Cr Alice Phuong Le, Cr Isabella Do, Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Sophie Tan, Cr Sean O'Reilly, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Phillip Danh, Cr Loi Truong, Cr Bob Milkovic, Cr Lana Formoso and Cr Melinda Yim.



The results are in. Your Councillors for the next four years were sworn in at a special meeting on Wednesday 13 November. The group includes eight returning and three first-time Councillors.

Greater Dandenong City Council CEO, Jacqui Weatherill, congratulated the new Council group.

“We are very much looking forward to working with you to achieve wonderful outcomes for our community, this Council term.”

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/councillors to read about each Councillor and hear from them on their aspirations for the term.

Ms Weatherill acknowledged all the candidates who stood for election.

“It’s a significant commitment of time and effort to stand for election, and we’re fortunate to have so many strong candidates,” Ms Weatherill said.

“You were willing to stand up and make a difference in your local area, influence issues and outcomes that you care about and serve the wonderful community of Greater Dandenong – and that should be acknowledged.”

Ms Weatherill also thanked outgoing Councillor, Angela Long for her 25 years of service, including three terms as Mayor.

“Angela’s contribution to Greater Dandenong will continue to have a positive impact on our residents and the organisation for many years to come. I would also like to again express my gratitude to our retiring Councillors, Richard Lim and Tim Dark, whose dedication to our city has been significant and is appreciated.”

The Council Meeting schedule for the next year is now available on our website. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings for more information.

The Victorian Electoral Commission declared the results of Greater Dandenong’s Local Government Elections on Monday 11 November.

Councillors 2024-2028

Dandenong Ward –
Mayor Cr Jim Memeti

Noble Park Ward –
Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan

Cleeland Ward –
Cr Rhonda Garad

Dandenong North Ward –
Cr Bob Milkovic

Keysborough Ward –
Cr Melinda Yim

Keysborough South Ward –
Cr Isabella Do

Noble Park North Ward –
Cr Lana Formoso

Springvale Central Ward –
Cr Alice Phuong Le

Springvale North Ward –
Cr Sean O’Reilly

Springvale South Ward –
Cr Loi Truong

Yarraman Ward –
Cr Phillip Danh

Christmas Giving

At the Springvale Community Hub, we're hosting a Christmas Giving Drive to support those in need this holiday season.

We're accepting donations until Sunday 15 December and will provide them to local organisations which support the community.

You are welcome to contribute in-date food and grocery items, and we also accept new clothing with labels attached, and gifts.

If you would like to buy a toy to donate, please consider shopping for a child aged 10 years and over.

Don't wrap your gift. Leave it under the Christmas Tree at Springvale Community Hub.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-community-hub for more information.



Christmas in the City



The festive spirit returns to Greater Dandenong with bright and oversized decorations brightening our city streets.

In Dandenong, a festive mural adorns the steps leading up to Harmony Square where a nine-metre Christmas tree takes pride of place. A reindeer and Christmas tree also overlooks the Lonsdale and Clow street intersection opposite the Dandenong Market.

In Noble Park the eight-metre Christmas tree returns to the railway public space.

The Waterloo Star lights up Springvale's Multicultural Place, while everyone's favourite Santa atop a Reindeer overlooks Springvale Community Hub.

The large decorations are complemented by a variety of smaller ones in our activity centres. Watch out for our roving performers who will bring a special Christmas cheer to popular public spaces in the days leading up to Christmas.

We wish our community and local businesses a safe and very merry Christmas.



New Year's Eve Fireworks

Ring in the New Year with family and friends at the Dandenong New Year's Eve Fireworks.

This family-friendly event promises an evening full of fun and community spirit, with the fireworks finale set to explode at 9.25pm. It's the perfect way to welcome a new year with loved ones.

There will be cultural performances celebrating our city's diversity, food stalls to treat your tastebuds and market stalls for browsing. Bring your own picnic and blankets and relax in a laid-back setting as we farewell 2024 and welcome 2025.

Major sponsor, Optus, will be there 'Making Moments that Matter' at a special stall, so gather your family and friends and join us for this spectacular night. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



This year's celebration will be held at a new location in central Dandenong. Join us on Tuesday 31 December at Wilson Oval, enter off Pultney Street, from 6pm-9.30pm.

Please note, there will not be fireworks at midnight.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/new-years-eve-fireworks for more information.



Sharing Our New Year Traditions



The Springvale Lunar New Year Festival is Greater Dandenong's biggest community event and the second largest festival of its kind in Victoria.

The energy and vibrancy of the festival reflects our community, which is home to people from 154 nations who speak more than 130 languages.

Our Councillor group is as beautifully diverse as our residents who celebrate the new year in different ways, depending on their family traditions.

Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan's background is Cambodian and Chinese. Cr Tan chatted to us about why the new year is a special time for her and her family.

"In my family, we celebrate Cambodian New Year and Chinese New Year which are variants of Lunar New Year, as well as New Years Day on January 1."

"For us, it is mainly about the family gathering, cooking dinner and getting together to enjoy each other's company," the Deputy Mayor said, adding that Lunar New Year is celebrated across many parts of Asia, in different ways in different countries, and is becoming more popular around the world.

"We pray to our ancestors on New Year's Eve and the prayer depends on which animal is the year's angel. This year will be Year of the Snake which begins on January 29."

"We go to the Buddhist temple and make an offering to the new angel. It might include fruits, flowers, drinks and food and there is meaning behind each. For example, noodles represent a long life and mandarins are good luck.

"We would give a pair of mandarins though, never four because that is bad luck. We wear red because that is good luck too and we avoid black and white because those colours represent death.

"We're not really strict about it in Australia but there are lots of traditional rules like you can't cut or wash your hair and you need to clean your house on New Year's Eve. One thing is for sure, you can't cry on Chinese New Year because that will bring you bad luck!"

Cr Tan said older people give 'red pockets' to younger people.



"I give my nephew a little pocket with money in it for good fortune and he isn't allowed to spend the money for the whole year."

Year of the Snake

The Chinese Zodiac is a 12-year cycle steeped in legend.

The snake is the sixth animal in the Zodiac cycle. Those born in the year of the Snake are associated with being intuitive, wise, charming, intelligent and diligent.

Zodiac cycles represented by animals are common around the world, but there are variations. For instance, in Japan instead

of a pig they have the boar, in Vietnam instead of the ox they have the buffalo and a cat instead of the rabbit.

What day is it?

Celebrating the New Year is not only unique to your family, culture, religion and location. When you mark the day also depends on which calendar you follow. As always in Greater Dandenong, it is our diversity that ties the festivities together.

Our municipality is home to large Russian, Greek and Serbian communities, including many Orthodox Christians who follow the Gregorian Calendar and celebrate New Year's Day on 14 January.

"It changes for different generations too. In the olden days in China, they were busy at this time of year so they celebrated in April when they had more free time," Cr Tan said.

People from different regions and religions across India have distinct customs and dates for marking the beginning of the year, including Gudi Padwa, Baisakhi, Puthandu, Bihu and Ugadi celebrations.

Nowruz is celebrated by our Persian and Afghan communities around March each year.

Springvale Lunar New Year Festival

The Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA) have been coordinating the annual Springvale Lunar New Year Festival for over 30 years with strong support from Council.

This year's festival is taking place on Sunday 26 January, Australia Day, and will celebrate our rich and diverse community.

Like previous years, the festival will be a spectacular of colour, movement and amazing food, with lion dances, stalls, performances and rides from 10am to 10pm.

How do you celebrate the new year?

We would love to hear about how you and your loved ones bring in the new year.



If you would like your stories and photographs included in a future edition of Greater Dandenong Council News please email them to news@cgd.vic.gov.au with your name and contact details.

What's On December 2024

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	31					1
	New Year's Eve Fireworks at Wilson Oval, Dandenong 6pm-9.30pm				We Built This City Exhibition Benga, Heritage Hill, 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong Every Wednesday and Thursday 10am-2pm	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Festive Wreath Making at Springvale Community Hub (ages 16+) 6pm	Nature Play at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve 10am	The Social Knitwork at Dandenong Library 10am Ph: 1300 630 920	Carers Walking Group at Noble Park Community Centre 10am	Yoga and Meditation at Jan Wilson Community Centre 11.15am	Family Fun at Springvale Library 3pm Ph: 1300 630 920	
						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Council Meeting at Council Chambers, Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm		Interfaith Network's Public Tours to Places of Worship 8.30am Ph: 8774 7662	Rejoice and Be Merry It's Christmas at Drum Theatre 10.30am	Baby Bounce Outreach at Keysborough Hall 10.30am Ph: 1300 630 920	Springvale Urban Harvest at Springvale Community Hub 1pm	
						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Simply Fitness at Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am		Drop in festive craft at Springvale Community Hub 10am-3pm	Christmas Movie Night at Springvale Library 6.30pm Ph: 1300 630 920		Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jnr. Drum Theatre Several performances from Friday 21 December - Sunday 22 December Ph: 8571 1666	
						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Christmas Day	Boxing Day Public Holiday			
					Tashabok exhibition Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre Until Friday 28 December greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/exhibitions/azza-zein-tashabok	

What's On January 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 New Year's Day Public Holiday	2	3	4	5
6 Inflatable World opens at Springers		8	9 Tie-Dye Creations (for 12-25 years) at 39 Clow Street, Dandenong 2pm Ph: 8571 1620			12
13 Crochet Creations (for 12-25 years) at Dandenong Library 2.30pm Ph: 8571 1620	14	15 Learn to make Rice Paper Rolls at Noble Park Community Centre 11am Ph: 8571 1620	16	17 School Holiday Cricket Clinic (for 12-25 years) at Parkfield Reserve, Noble Park 12pm Ph: 8571 1620	18	19
			23 Volleyball Tournament at Dandenong Stadium 8.30am-5pm Ph: 8571 1620	24 	25 Fun Run, Walk or Roll at Dandenong Park 7.30am	26 Australia Day 
27 Australia Day Public Holiday	28	29				



Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2025

Each year we recognise individuals and organisations who do outstanding work that makes a positive impact on the Greater Dandenong community.

The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise and reward the people who make a difference in areas such as community service, education, community engagement, the environment, civic participation, the arts and sports.

On Sunday 26 January we will host a special award ceremony to acknowledge the winners of the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2025. The ceremony will be held at Springvale City Hall and will follow a special Citizenship Ceremony.

The closed ceremony is only for award winners and their families, but we will share details about the winners after the event.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Australia-day-awards for more information.



City of Celebration

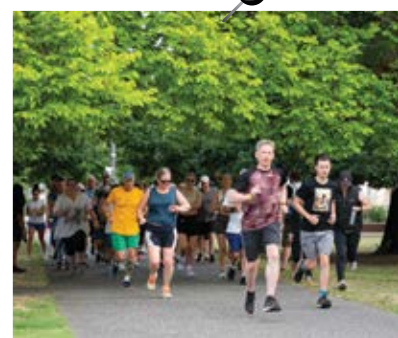
From Diwali Festival to Africa Day and Lunar New Year to Nawroz Festival, we love to celebrate the diversity and cultural richness of our community.

In 2024, Council's Festivals and Events team supported the delivery of 274 wonderful occasions in Greater Dandenong.

We invite our community members to come and celebrate with us in 2025.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/holding-event-greater-dandenong to find out more about hosting a community celebration in our city. From permits to safety plans and everything in between, we want to help build community connection through a range of events.

You can reach out to our Festivals and Events team directly via email at events@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5090.



Fun Run, Walk and Roll 2025

Join us for the annual Greater Dandenong Fun Run, Walk and Roll on Saturday 25 January as we celebrate the Australia Day long weekend.

Get your body moving and run, walk, roll, dance or skate your way through the 5km scenic Dandenong Creek trail loop at Dandenong Park.

Whether you are a seasoned runner or simply looking for a chance to get active, there's something for everyone.

Bring your family and friends for a day of active fun. Course briefing will start at 7.30am and the fun run will commence at 8am.

Those who have registered can enjoy a delicious sausage sizzle after completing the course. There will also be prizes on offer.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/fun-run-walk-roll-2025 for more information.

School Holidays in Greater Dandenong

If you're aged between 12 and 25, please join us for fun activities and creative classes these school holidays.

Whether you want to learn how to tie-dye or crochet, make rice paper rolls or explore your pottery skills, we have a creative outlet for all interests.

If you're looking to get active, there is a badminton clinic and mini-tournament, a day at the beach or

even a visit to Gumbuya World! If you have a competitive streak, prepare to serve, set and spike your way to victory at our volleyball tournament.

Join us for a packed calendar of free and low-cost events from Monday 8 January to Thursday 22 January.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to register.

Summer Lovin' at Your Leisure Facilities



This summer, Council's leisure facilities have everyone covered, with excitement and fun to make the most of the warmer months.

One of Australia's biggest indoor playgrounds, *Inflatable World* is making a splash at Springers Leisure Centre from 6-31 January. It's the perfect way to keep the kids entertained until school returns, so make sure you don't miss out on this action-packed adventure.



For those hot summer days take a dip at the Dandenong Oasis or Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC).

When the temperature hits 26°C the Splash Park opens at NPAC, and then if it hits 28°C the famous Water Slide opens – making this the ultimate day out for the family.

Visit the South East Leisure website to see when the Inflatable Course, Tarzan Rope and Cargo Net will be

open at Oasis. The best part is, these fun activities are all included in your standard entry cost.

Beyond the fun, there's no better time to prioritise water safety. Enrol your child in swimming lessons this January and ensure they're confident and safe in the water for 2025.

Memberships are perfect for staying active through the festive season and beyond, and provide access to both aquatic and gym facilities at Oasis and NPAC.

Lastly – how does a \$200 voucher sound? SEL is taking part in the Get Active Kids initiative, this means eligible young people can score \$200 off their new or existing gym membership or receive 10 weeks of free-swimming lessons at either NPAC or Dandenong Oasis.

Make this summer one to remember with endless fitness and family fun at your leisure facilities.



Visit southeastleisure.com.au for more information.

Our Christmas and New Year Hours

Customer Service Centres

- Monday 24 December – closing at 12pm, call centre closes at 3pm
- Tuesday 25 December – closed
- Wednesday 26 December – closed
- Thursday 27 December – normal hours resume at Dandenong and Parkmore, Springvale closed
- Friday 28 December – Springvale closed
- Monday 30 December – Springvale closed
- Tuesday 31 December – Springvale closed
- Wednesday 1 January – closed
- Thursday 2 January – Springvale closed
- Friday 3 January – Springvale closed
- Monday 6 January – normal hours resume at Springvale



Libraries and Springvale Community Hub

- Monday 23 December – 9am-5pm
- Tuesday 24 December – 9am-5pm
- Wednesday 25 December – closed
- Thursday 26 December – closed
- Friday 27 December – 9am-5pm
- Saturday 28 December – 10am-5pm
- Sunday 29 December – 12pm-5pm
- Monday 30 December – 9am-5pm
- Tuesday 31 December – 9am-5pm
- Wednesday 1 January – closed
- Thursday 2 January – 9am-5pm
- Friday 3 January – 9am-5pm
- Saturday 4 January – normal hours resume



Arts venues

The Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre will be closed from Monday 23 December until Monday 6 January. The gallery will reopen on Tuesday 7 January.

The Drum Theatre will be closed from midday Tuesday 24 December until Sunday 5 January and reopen at 10am on Monday 6 January 2025.

Waste collection

All rubbish, recycling and green waste bins will be collected as per usual, including on public holidays.



For specific opening hours for any Council venue, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

BIG Summer Read



Your favourite summer reading program is back.

The BIG Summer Read is an annual reading challenge for children aged 4 to 12 years presented by Public Libraries Victoria and Greater Dandenong Libraries.

From 1 December to 31 January 2025, children can log their reading activities for a chance to win fantastic prizes.

Prizes include scooters, cinema vouchers, Melbourne Cable Park passes, LEGO sets, art supplies, popular books and much more.

Prizes will be awarded at a special event at Dandenong Library in February.

Join us for a summer filled with happy reading, adventure and imagination. Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread for more information.



Christmas at the libraries

Santa will be dropping by to visit children taking part in special sessions at Dandenong and Springvale Libraries.

He will join Toddler Time on Monday 9 December at Dandenong Library.

Then he will share his love of books with children at the Storytime sessions on Thursday 12 December at Dandenong Library and Thursday 19 December at Springvale Library.

Libraries at Dusk will also host Christmas-themed events across December.

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

Thursday 5 December

Origami Creations at Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Book Club online, 6.30pm

Thursday 12 December

Christmas Decorations at Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Christmas Movie Night at Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 19 December

Christmas Movie Night at Springvale Library, 6.30pm

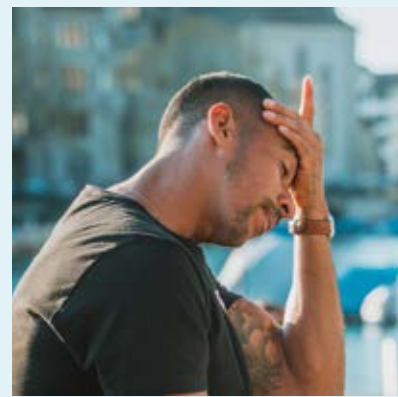
Christmas Decorations at Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Chronic Pain Support Group

Are you affected by chronic pain? Join this peer support group and connect with new people and share stories. Sessions will include occasional speakers nominated by the group.

The group meets at Springvale Library on the third Thursday of each month from 4pm–5.30pm.

Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/chronic-pain-support-group or phone 1300 630 920 for more information.



Join Greater Dandenong Libraries for Free

Did you know it is free to join Greater Dandenong Libraries and membership is open to everyone?

You can sign up in person or visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about/join online. Don't forget to have your identification handy!

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



Tashabok

This exhibition by Azza Zein has been evolving since 2020, and includes videos, painting and sculptural works.

Born to a Syrian mother and a Lebanese father, Zein grew up in Beirut and is now based in Melbourne. With a background in economics, Zein's work comments on the dematerialisation of the economy and invisible labour, through the lens of the migrant experience.

➤ The exhibition runs from Tuesday 10 November until Friday 28 December. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/exhibitions/azza-zein-tashabok for more information..

Save the date...



9 by 5 Exhibition

We invite you to join us for the 9 by 5 Exhibition opening event at the Drum Theatre on Saturday 15 February, from 3pm-5pm.

We thank all artists who have registered and kindly remind them to deliver their artworks to the Drum Theatre between January 6-17.

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

The Drum

Get ready for the launch of the Drum Theatre Season One 2025.

Sign up for our newsletter or follow us on social media to be the first to hear about upcoming shows, events and more – including five special Encore performances to kick off the first half of the year.

Follow us on Instagram [@artsingreaterdandy](https://www.instagram.com/artsingreaterdandy)

Follow us on Facebook [/artsingreaterdandenong](https://www.facebook.com/artsingreaterdandenong) and [/TheDrumTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrumTheatre)

➤ Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to sign up for the newsletter.



Rejoice and be Merry it's Christmas

Thursday 12 December at 10.30am

Wind up a fantastic year at the Drum with this Christmas show by Promac Productions led by

star tenor, Roy Best, alongside award-winning singer, Michelle Fitzmaurice, and compère, Chris McKenna.

Packed with Christmas favourites this is part of the Drum's Encore Program. All Encore tickets include complimentary morning tea and a parking voucher.



Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer Jr.

Friday 20 December at 7pm

Saturday 21 December at 11am (sensory-sensitive and Auslan-interpreted show) and 5pm

Sunday 22 December at 11am

Join a cast of merry characters as they embark on a heartwarming adventure filled with beloved holiday tunes. This delightful adaptation brings the beloved television special to life on stage.

Save the date...

Jimeoin Pandemonium

Saturday 22 March 2025 at 7.30pm

Have you ever wondered what goes on inside Jimeoin's head? By the end of this show you'll know that it's absolute Pandemonium.



2025 Community Calendar

We'll be delivering your beautiful 2025 Community Calendar to all Greater Dandenong households throughout December.

The calendar contains the kerbside waste collection schedule and handy waste and recycling tips. It also features stunning photographs of our city taken by our residents.

We were overjoyed by the response to our Community Calendar Photo Competition, with over 100 images submitted. Thank you to everyone who contributed... it was certainly tough to narrow down our 12 finalists for the calendar.

📍 If you do not receive a copy by the end of December, you can collect a 2025 calendar from Council's customer service centres or phone 8571 1000.

Hard Rubbish Collection

As the festive season approaches, many of us find ourselves cleaning up around the home.

Whether it's in preparation for family gatherings, new presents and toys taking up space, or sprucing up for a fresh start in the new year, these clean ups can produce extra waste.

While this time of year is a great time to refresh your space, it is important to dispose of unwanted items properly.

While it is tempting to leave old furniture and unwanted items out on the nature strip, this can lead to a range of issues including environmental harm and a less than festive look for your neighbourhood. It can also lead to fines for your household.

At Council, we run a free hard waste collection service all year round, with residents eligible for one free pick up each year. To book your free collection phone 9721 1915.

📍 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keep-it-clean for more information.

Have a Sustainable Christmas

♻️ It is hard to avoid extra waste at Christmas, but with the right preparations you can make the festive season more sustainable.

From unwanted presents to mountains of wrapping paper and leftover food, our rubbish bins seem to overflow at this time of year.

Here's a few tips to help you keep waste low this Christmas.



Give gifts that keep giving

With limited space and finances, we are all tired of giving and receiving pointless presents. This year, try gifting that keeps giving, such as:

- ▶ A loved recipe
- ▶ Potted cuttings from your garden
- ▶ Homemade cookies, body scrubs or preserves stored in recycled jars
- ▶ Seeds from your fruit and vegetables
- ▶ Tickets to a workshop (check out your local library for some fun and free workshops)
- ▶ Subscription to a local toy library
- ▶ Make a donation in the recipient's name
- ▶ Ask the recipient what they need and get a group of people to pitch in for a gift.



KEEP THE SAME TREE FOR YEARS TO COME

Use (and reuse) a living Christmas tree

Every plastic tree will eventually end up in landfill but living trees are 100 per cent biodegradable. If you plant a tree in your backyard or use a small to medium sized tree in a pot, you can keep the same tree for years to come.

While you are at it, reuse materials to make decorations. Classic paper chains replace tinsel and homemade ornaments reusing materials found around the house can create a unique Christmas tree.


Reduce food waste

It's all too easy to buy too much of everything at Christmas, leaving behind a lot of waste. The average Victorian household throws away more than \$2000 worth of wasted food each year.

Plan your meals ahead of time and when shopping stick to your list. After family gathering make sure you send guests home with leftovers (in reusable containers).

📍 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-bright-green-future-news and sign up to receive our sustainability themed newsletter so you can receive helpful tips all year round.

Celebrating 15 Years of the Young Leaders Program

 **If you love an inspirational podcast, be sure to jump on to our website this summer where you can hear stories from local youth leaders making positive contributions to our community.**

youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/youth-leadership-2024



A Taste of the Young Leaders Youth Leadership Podcast Series

Monica Deng – Project Officer at the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre, Victoria University, and Director of SSAYU

“Everybody has leadership capacity, whether you are an introvert or an extrovert, regardless of your background. It’s a matter of tapping into it and allowing it to manifest.”

Daniel Olasoji – Co-founder of the African Youth Alliance and host of ‘The Disruption Podcast,’

“Leadership must be part of how you live your life. You don’t realise how many people are watching you and taking inspiration from your actions. It’s about having integrity and being open and honest with people.”


Kobi Sainty – Artist and proud Bunurong Palawa man

“Follow whatever your passion is. The sky is the limit. You can do whatever you want to do as long as you put your mind to it and keep pushing forward. Don’t give up.”

This year, we’re celebrating 15 years of our Youth and Family Services team delivering the incredible Young Leaders program. In recognition of this awesome achievement, we have hailed 2024 the ‘Year of Youth Leadership’.

Through the program, young people have a unique opportunity to learn about local government, develop leadership skills, collaborate with like-minded peers and make a positive impact through community projects.

The podcast series is just one of these exciting community projects created by our Young Leaders!

 **For your chance to be involved, visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program and apply for the 2025 Youth Leaders program.**


Save the Date – Sustainability Festival

Greater Dandenong’s Sustainability Festival team wants to help you do more with less in 2025.

The Dandenong Market will once again host the hands-on festival on Sunday 23 February 2025.

The festival will cover a range of sustainable living themes that will help you protect planet Earth and reduce cost-of-living pressures. Join us and find out how to make simple changes that can make a big difference.

With live entertainment, free activities, experts ready to chat and giveaways, the Sustainability Festival is a great day out with family and friends.

 **Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival-2025 for more information.**

Spirit of Enterprise

Celebrate the spirit of our diverse community and explore the Spirit of Enterprise Trail.

The trail follows the history of the Enterprise Migrant Hostel in Springvale and shares stories of the positive impact its residents and staff had on the development of Springvale.

Each trail marker celebrates Springvale’s important role in welcoming and supporting the settlement of migrants and refugees from all over the world.


The trail starts at the former Enterprise Migrant Hostel Tribute Garden and ends at the Springvale Community Hub, passing through eight sites of significance.

The Spirit of Enterprise project was started in 2000 by a small group of locals. It has since been recognised as a project of national significance and won an international award for outstanding contribution to culture.

Between 1970 and 1992 the Enterprise Migrant Hostel provided a place of refuge for more than 30,000 migrants and refugees from more than 58 countries.

The role of the hostel was to act as a transition between ‘an old way of life and a new one’.

Many of the residents went on to settle in the local area and shared their own faiths, cultures and traditions to build the Greater Dandenong community we enjoy today.

 **Visit enterprisehostel.org/home to find a copy of the map and more information.**

Are You Prepared for an Emergency?


Emergencies come in many forms and can happen at any time, affecting you in ways you don't expect.



Having a plan in place before an emergency strikes can save you and your family a lot of stress and help you to recover quickly. Visit emergencyprepare.com.au to learn more.

Know Your Risks

Heatwave

 Heat kills more Australians than any other natural disaster. Extreme temperatures can affect any body and heat-related illnesses can range from mild conditions to life-threatening heatstroke.

Things you can do to help reduce the impact of heat:

- ▶ Plan ahead and avoid activity during the hottest part of the day
- ▶ Check in on those most at risk
- ▶ Drink plenty of water even if you don't feel thirsty
- ▶ Keep cool by staying home or finding a cool place to be (local libraries and shopping centres are air conditioned and open to all)
- ▶ Protect your pets and make sure they have fresh water and shade
- ▶ Allow time to recover from hot days; your body can take time to return to normal.



Storm



Storms are common in Victoria and most minor damage is preventable if you take some simple actions to prepare. Stay up to date with weather warnings and avoid going out during stormy weather.

Tips to prepare your property:

- ▶ Maintain your roof and keep your gutter, spouting and downpipes clean and free of blockages
- ▶ Trim or remove tree branches overhanging your home
- ▶ Inspect and fix fences regularly
- ▶ Secure loose items in your yard
- ▶ Ensure all household members know where, how and when to turn off the mains power, water and gas in case of an emergency
- ▶ Talk to neighbours, family and friends about your plans and how you can help one another in an emergency.

Power Outage



Power outages can occur at any time and can be caused by heatwaves, bushfires or storms. Be prepared for an outage by packing an emergency kit. Ensure your kit has torches, spare batteries, a mobile phone and charger, a battery-powered or wind-up radio and fresh water.

If using candles, never leave them unattended and ensure placement is away from flammable materials and on stable surfaces.

Food safety can become an issue if outages last for several hours or more. Try to keep cold and frozen foods cold by moving food from fridge to freezer and only open fridges and freezers when absolutely necessary.

House Fire



Most fires in the home are preventable if you take steps to reduce the risks. Everybody should have working smoke alarms installed, prepare an escape plan and regularly check your house for possible causes of fire risk.

- ▶ Always keep at least one metre of clear space around a heater
- ▶ Turn heating source off before going to bed or leaving the house, if you have an open fire always put fire out before leaving or going to bed
- ▶ Clean the lint filter in your clothes dryer after every use
- ▶ Never leave a lit candle unattended
- ▶ Never leave cooking unattended in the kitchen
- ▶ Never overload power boards
- ▶ Replace damaged equipment.

Bushfire and Grass Fires

Bushfires and grassfires don't only impact those living in rural areas. Fires can occur in urban areas where houses have grass, bushland or parkland around them.

Prepare your property in the lead up to fire season by keeping your grass low, keeping your gutters clear of litter and trimming overhanging branches.

Stay alert for danger and monitor the Fire Danger Rating system and know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.

Important Contacts

In an emergency call for **police, fire** or **ambulance** on **000**.

For flood and storm emergencies and support after damaging events, phone the **SES** on **132 500**.

During an emergency you can get timely information by phoning the **Vic Emergency Hotline** on **1800 226 226**.

Download the **VicEmergency app** for the latest information on emergencies and warnings. The app includes warnings and incident notifications for fire, flood, storm, earthquake, tsunami, weather warnings, shark sightings, beach closures and more. You can also follow VicEmergency on Facebook for real time warning notifications.



VIC EMERGENCY
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

DANDENONG MARKET
Fresh & Vibrant Since 1889

GIFT IDEAS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

FESTIVE SEASON Shopping

TRADING HOURS

NEW Thurs 19 Dec:	7am – 4pm	Thurs 26 Dec:	CLOSED
Fri 20 Dec:	7am – 4pm	Fri 27 Dec:	7am – 4pm
Sat 21 Dec:	7am – 4pm	Sat 28 Dec:	7am – 4pm
Sun 22 Dec:	7am – 4pm	Sun 29 Dec:	9am – 4pm
NEW Mon 23 Dec:	6am – 4pm	Mon 30 Dec:	CLOSED
Tues 24 Dec:	6am – 2pm	Tues 31 Dec:	7am – 4pm
Weds 25 Dec:	CLOSED	Weds 01 Jan:	CLOSED

(normal trading recommendations)

ARRIVE EARLY & AVOID THE QUEUES THIS FESTIVE SEASON

DANDENONGMARKET.COM.AU
MELBOURNE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

OPEN TUESDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
except 12.00 – 12.30pm on Wednesdays

Celebrating the Year That Was – Annual Report 2023-24

There is a lot to celebrate about the 2023-24 financial year in Greater Dandenong and you can read all about it in our Annual Report.

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/annual-report-2023-24

Highlights include:

- ▶ Our continued investment in community facilities and infrastructure with a \$50 million capital works program.
- ▶ Successfully delivering 11 major festivals and events, engaging almost 80,000 attendees.
- ▶ Recording a 14.2 per cent increase in visits to our Dandenong and Springvale libraries, to 813,506 visits.
- ▶ Increasing tree canopy coverage from 9 per cent in 2018 to 14.1 per cent in 2023-24.
- ▶ Introducing a cat curfew to reduce the significant risk cat overpopulation has to our environment.
- ▶ Welcoming a commitment from the State Government to fund a traffic safety project on Stud Road.
- ▶ More than 2500 people providing feedback as part of our engagement for the upcoming Council Plan 2025-29.

Business Support

The Business Support Team offers a variety of services to support our local business community.

- Business communication, support, education, events, workshops
- Employment assistance
- Economic research and analysis
- Business permit support
 - a service to help navigate the permit process

✉ Business@cgd.vic.gov.au
☎ 8571 1550



Scan the QR code to go to website





Pets and Hot Cars Don't Mix



Soaring summer temperatures can be dangerous for pets, especially if you leave them in the car while running errands.

Even with the windows open, a parked car can quickly become a furnace. Pets can suffer heat stroke or brain damage which can lead to death in as little as four to six minutes.

Never leave your pet unattended in a car – even on a mild day when the car is parked in shade and the windows are down. The results can be catastrophic.



If you find a distressed pet left unattended in a car phone 000 immediately.

Stay Safe Online

Greater Dandenong Libraries are a great resource to help residents of all ages stay safe online.

From seeing through fake news to experiencing inappropriate behaviours and scam activity, there's a lot to look out for when you're online.

As an e-Smart accredited service, our libraries run programs for people of all ages, including a Scams and Scones program aimed at our senior residents.

The program takes a fun and hands-on approach to helping everyone protect themselves online, including how to spot a scam before you get ripped off.

Here are some top tips:

- ▶ Think before you click on a link and share personal, private or financial information
- ▶ Don't open emails, links or attachments from anyone you don't know
- ▶ Ask yourself if the email or phone call is fake – if something doesn't feel right then don't continue
- ▶ Act quickly if something feels wrong and ask for help when things do go wrong.

Even the most vigilant of us can get fooled so remember you are not alone.

Report criminal activity to the police on 000 immediately, or contact your bank if you suspect illegal activity.

Support is available through the Library Tech Assist drop-in sessions which offer one-on-one support for technical assistance including cybersafety, how to use a phone, tablet or laptop, and help with internet searching and emails.

Sessions are held at Dandenong and Springvale libraries, every weekday from 2pm–4pm. Registrations are not required.



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

LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee historic first meeting

We'll be celebrating a very happy and historic milestone when our new LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee has its first ever meeting in February 2025.

Increasing the visibility of Greater Dandenong's LGBTIQA+ communities and growing their voices in local decision-making is a priority for us and the establishment of this committee is something to wave the flag about.

The Advisory Committee was set up so LGBTIQA+ community members have a greater voice to Council around their



needs and aspirations and increased opportunities to influence decisions.

Everyone in Greater Dandenong can join the celebration of this progress in including LGBTIQA+ voices when we walk in solidarity together in the 2025 Midsumma Pride march, also in February.



Please contact the Community Advocacy Team on 8571 1000 to RSVP your interest to be part of the march on Sunday 2 February 2025.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS IN DANDENONG

Live Entertainment
Food Trucks
Roving Performers

This is a no smoking, no alcohol and no drugs event.

Tuesday 31 December
6pm – 9.30pm

Free
Entry

Wilson Oval
95 Pultney Street, Dandenong
Entry from Pultney Street, Dandenong

Fireworks at 9.25pm. No midnight fireworks.



Major Sponsor:

OPTUS



(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

Follow us:



Greater Dandenong **FUN RUN** WALK & ROLL



Free
Event

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY

DANDENONG PARK, 174 PULTNEY STREET, DANDENONG
7.30AM CHECK IN (NEXT TO THE BASKETBALL COURT)

Registration is essential. Scan QR code to register. Sausage sizzle for registered participants.

For more information, visit the link below:
www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/greater-dandenong-fun-run-walk-roll

