

# Greater Dandenong Council News

## Harmony Week

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Leadership Award**

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## Customer Service Centres

### Dandenong Civic Centre

225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

### Springvale Community Hub

5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

### Keysborough Customer Service

Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,  
Keysborough

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TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

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



TIS: 131 450



[council@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@cgd.vic.gov.au)

## Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police / Fire / Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults /  
non-operational

United Energy..... 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults /

non-operational..... 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline..... 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management

Services..... 9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society..... 9798 8415

RSPCA..... 9224 2222

Nurse on Call..... 1300 606 024

Non Urgent Police Response

(no sirens)..... 131 444

Dandenong Police..... 9767 7444

Springvale Police..... 8558 8600

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

# Mayor's Message

## Welcome to the March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This is a particularly special month in Greater Dandenong as we commemorate Harmony Week from Monday 17 March.

In this city, we come from many different backgrounds and live in harmony together. That's why the occasion is so close to our hearts – it is an opportunity to proudly share and recognise the strength in our diversity.

Whether you celebrate by wearing orange, going along to one of the cultural events taking place or enjoy peaceful reflection, I encourage you to acknowledge Harmony Week. Find out more on page three.

On page seven, we learn more about Sue Doherty, the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recipient for the Community Leadership Award. Sue is an incredible person who goes above and beyond volunteering her time to With One Voice Choir.

We have many events, workshops, classes and outings on pages eight, 12 and 13 so you can get out and about and enjoy autumn in Greater Dandenong.

Ramadan Mubarak to everyone observing Ramadan between the end of February and the end of March. Read more about the holiest month of the year for our Muslim communities on page 14.

## Mayor Cr Jim Memeti

## My City

This image was taken by Greater Dandenong resident Shaun Enlund at Tatterson Park in Keysborough. It is the March image in our 2025 Community Calendar.

Bird watching is a popular past time in Greater Dandenong and our vibrant birdlife adds to our city's biodiversity. Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity) to find out more about the flora and fauna that can be found in Greater Dandenong.

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: Children entertained the Noble Park community with dance during the Summer Spice Bollywood Festival. Picture: Hilton Stone.

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FSC  
Logo



# Celebrating Harmony in Greater Dandenong



**In a multicultural community where we live together in peace all year round,**

**Harmony Week provides the perfect chance to showcase some of Greater Dandenong's vibrant community events.**

In recognition of Harmony Week between 17–23 March, we spoke to organisers of three local cultural celebrations.

## Colours of Culture Carnival

Anna Khodr is the Director of the Colours of Culture Carnival to be hosted by the Druze Community Centre on Sunday 2 March.

“It’s more than just a vibrant celebration; we want this to be a true testament to the incredible diversity and the strength of our community. We want this event to symbolise unity in our differences, showcasing how various cultures can come together to create a rich tapestry of experiences, traditions, and stories,” Anna said.

With activities for kids of all ages, competitions, an animal farm, rides and market stalls, the day is set to be fun for the whole family.

“We believe events that emphasize fun and enjoyment create a sense of community spirit. When individuals participate in shared experiences, they develop a collective identity that goes past cultural boundaries, fostering a sense of unity and belonging which in turn enhances community cohesion.

“Our carnival celebrates and values inclusiveness, multiculturalism and cultural diversity. By bringing everyone together and highlighting their positive contributions to our community we create a space where unity and respect thrive.

“This celebration reminds us of the strength that comes from embracing our differences and the importance of fostering a welcoming environment for all.”

**Details: From 11am on Sunday 2 March at the Druze Community Centre, 256 Hutton Rd, Keysborough.**

## Summer Spice Bollywood Festival

For Summer Spice Bollywood Festival organiser, Kavita, harmony and cultural diversity was the essence of the December event in Noble Park.

With music and performances, food, henna, face painting and activities for the kids, the celebration brought all the colour and vibrancy of India to the Frank Street open space.

The festival was so successful that Kavita and the team from Kaylan Industries already have plans underway for a 2025 event.

The group creates appreciation for Indian arts and cultural diversity mainly through performing and teaching Indian music.

“The event will be aimed at supporting local communities and businesses, as well as creating awareness and fostering a sense of pride in Indian culture,” Kavita said.

“It will feature traditional Bollywood performances, art and cuisine that highlight Indian culture and heritage. This enriches the community's understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.

“We believe this event can become a vibrant and inclusive event that strengthens community ties, celebrates local culture, and fosters a strong sense of belonging and pride among residents.”

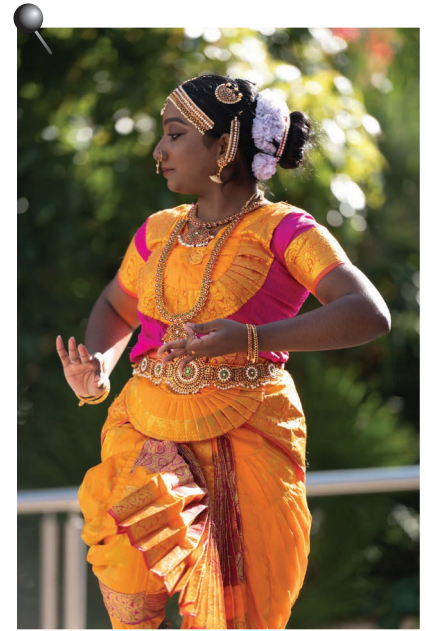
## Interfaith Network Harmony Week Event 2025

If inspiring conversation over morning tea is your idea of harmony, why not join the Interfaith Network for a Harmony Week Event on Thursday 20 March in Dandenong?

The event will be opened by our very own Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti.

“Greater Dandenong holds the title of the most culturally diverse city in Australia. Our community speaks over 130 different languages and practices more than 80 different faiths,” Cr Memeti said.

“What distinguishes us in this community is also what brings us together. Our differences enrich our lives and open our



horizons to different opportunities. I'm looking forward to celebrating Harmony Week with you all.”

Following the Mayor's introduction, keynote speaker, Jana Favero, Deputy CEO of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, will lead the conversation. Jana will be followed by a dynamic community panel including Peter Johnstone, Council's Coordinator Community Advocacy and Anisa Sharif, Australian Federal Police Community Liaison team member.

**Details: Thursday 20 March, 9:20am–12:00pm, The Chamber Room, 1/39 Clow Street Dandenong. IFN Members and Concession: \$25 General Admission: \$35. Registrations close Thursday, 13 March. Visit [interfaithnetwork.org.au/ifn-events](http://interfaithnetwork.org.au/ifn-events)**

## Share Your Story

Do you love our local events? If so, be sure to check out our coverage of Lunar New Year on page 14.



**If you're part of a community group promoting harmony in Greater Dandenong we would love to hear from you. Email us your story at [news@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:news@cgd.vic.gov.au) or call 8571 5581.**

## Councillor Contacts



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TUESDAY

11  
MARCH

MONDAY

24  
MARCH

MARCH

## Council Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ **Tuesday 11 March** (due to Labor Day on the Monday)
- ▶ **Monday 24 March**



**To view meetings or to find out more about Public Question Time visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)**



## When Door Knockers Visit – Have Your Say About Council

**At Greater Dandenong City Council, serving our community is our most important job.**

Each year we survey our residents to find out what we're doing well and how we can better deliver for you.

This year, rather than phone surveys, we've asked an independent research company to conduct door knocking for the Community Satisfaction Survey.

The research company is called Metropolis Research and their staff

speak 17 languages so you have your say in your own way!

If the door knocker doesn't speak your language, you can request a call back from someone who does.

This will help us ensure our survey results fairly represent our diverse community.

Door knockers will conduct the Community Satisfaction Survey across Greater Dandenong for two to four weeks from 5 April 2025.

The survey will take around 15 minutes of your time and help us serve you better.

Be sure to have your say!

## ► Noble Park North Ward



**We're set to begin the exciting transformation of the playground at Barry J Powell Reserve in Noble Park as part of our master plan for the 10-hectare site.**

This year, we will be constructing the new neighbourhood playground at the Bakers Road end of the reserve. This is a priority project of the master plan. The nature theme of this new play space has been shaped by our community's input.

The play area will complement the fantastic improvements we've already finished on this side of the reserve, with new multipurpose courts proving a popular addition.

The long-term master plan also includes enhancements to sport and recreation facilities, community spaces, landscaping, and pedestrian networks.

Thanks to everyone who took part in the latest consultation in December. Your feedback will help shape future plans for the southern end of the reserve.

If you're passionate about opportunities for to get active or find it challenging, please take part in our Physical Activity Participation Survey before the end of March.

By sharing how you move or what is stopping you, you can empower us to support an active community. Find out more on page 9.

The first few months of 2025 have treated us to some spectacular community moments.

On Australia Day, Afri-Aus Care CEO, Selba-Gondoza Luka, accepted our Community Group of the Year Award on behalf her organisation and received an Order of Australia Medal! Congratulations and thank you to Selba and the team.

Speaking of amazing women, International Women's Day is coming up. To mark the occasion, we're hosting an International Women's Day event inspired by Olivia Newton John's legacy on Thursday 6 March. I hope to see you there.

## Cr Lana Formoso



**If you would like to talk to me about local issues, please contact me via email at [Lana.Formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lana.Formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 0435 530 536.**

## Cr Jim Memeti



**I'm so humbled that you have entrusted me to represent the Dandenong Ward as your Councillor for my sixth consecutive term.**

We have so much to look forward to as we work together to improve the local area. Our many wonderful parks and playgrounds are a great place to start.

We got well underway during the last Council term, delivering some fantastic upgrades and expansions including the WJ Crowe Pavilion Redevelopment Project.

This project was made possible through our advocacy and generous funding support from the Victorian Government who contributed \$500,000 and AFL Victoria who contributed \$100,000. These contributions were on top of Council's \$5.4 million towards the project.

Your feedback also helped us deliver the beautiful Thomas Carroll Reserve Playground Upgrade. This challenging and imaginative playground encourages



our youngest residents to get out, get active and play with their friends.

Likewise, local children have more to explore at George T Andrews Reserve thanks to upgraded and additional play equipment which is now open.

Last year, we finished off improvement works at Clow Street Reserve pictured above. We completed landscaping and

## ► Dandenong Ward

garden bed planting while retaining the existing trees. We also focussed on maintaining the grass area for our community to play and enjoy the open space. As you can see, making our parks and playgrounds the best they can be is a passion of mine and in 2025 we will be starting with Dandenong Park!

In December, we finalised stage one of our community consultation on Dandenong Park Red Gum Rest Playground Expansion. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Our staff are reviewing your feedback which will help us create the next draft concept plan.


Dandenong ward has wonderful parks and playgrounds which we will keep maintaining and upgrading this term.



**If you would like to talk to me about local issues, please contact me via email at [Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 0434 560 239.**

# Fusion Theatre to Touch More Lives Thanks to Council Grant



 For more than 25 years Fusion Theatre has been providing a creative outlet local people with disabilities in Greater Dandenong.

Their theatrical workshops and creative opportunities are so popular that they have a waiting list of budding actors keen to get involved.

Now, thanks to a Strategic Partnership Grant from Greater Dandenong City Council, the Fusion team are launching a new workshop series called the Art Day Project.

Fusion Artistic Director, Jo Raphael, said that as well as other activities, the \$71,700 grant over two years had empowered the organisation to heavily subsidise workshops.

For \$10 a session participants will explore storytelling, character, movement, improvisation, sound, projection, props, and puppetry.

All of this fosters self-discovery and personal growth in a supportive environment while promoting inclusion and breaking down barriers and challenging stereotypes surrounding disabilities.

**“We provide an inclusive environment for people with and without disability to work together with professional theatre directors to create original theatre,”** Jo said.



“Everyone deserves the opportunity to be involved in art activities to be creative and to express themselves. However, not all arts environments are easily accessible, affordable, or able to accommodate a wide range of diversity of abilities.

“Fusion works hard to create inclusive arts opportunities for everyone.”

Jo said it was rewarding to see the community benefits as local people enjoyed contemporary performances by the Fusion theatre group.

“It’s the diversity of our actors and artists that make the quality of our work unique and wonderful.”

Fusion opportunities also enable actors to attend auditions and gain employment as professional actors. Alex Litsoudis is a founding member who has been with Fusion for 26 years.

Alex said, “Drama workshops are a great experience, you get to be creative and develop new skills and confidence. You get to meet and work with lots of interesting people and have fun.



“I’ve gained so much from Fusion workshops over the years. I’ve worked with different directors and artists and I’ve even had professional opportunities to be in film and TV. It’s been important to me, and I really hope others can have this opportunity to shine.”

Mandy Moreton, a former Fusion member, is looking to rejoin.

“I love drama and theatre because I love acting and making people laugh and being with other people. I’d love to see more people getting involved in drama. I reckon if people tried it, they’d really like it. You get a lot of joy and fun and new friends,” Mandy said.

Jo added that Fusion also wanted to ensure the new workshops reached as many new people as possible.

“If the participants enjoy the workshop program and wish to continue with the company, there may be an opportunity for them to be part of a new Ensemble and take part in productions later in the year.”

The team are also developing a sensory project.

“Our sensory theatre project provides immersive and participatory theatre performances for people with profound in multiple learning disabilities. Sensory theatre involves all of the senses - sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

“This performance has been created alongside young people with disability and trialled with audiences in 2024. We are looking forward to programming more performances in 2025.”

 **Visit [fusiontheatre.com.au](https://fusiontheatre.com.au) to register. Email [fusiontheatreit@gmail.com](mailto:fusiontheatreit@gmail.com) or call 0407 301 378 for more information.**

## Community Leadership Award Recipient Sue Doherty “An Exceptional Example of Dedication and Selflessness”



**Sue Doherty is the devoted coordinator of the Greater Dandenong With One Voice choir where she has been volunteering for more than 15 years.**

Sue was awarded the Community Leadership Award for her efforts in creating a sense of belonging and connection among choir members.

“I feel very honoured to have been nominated and elated in being chosen,” Sue said.

“I love working with the Greater Dandenong community; it brings me great joy in helping them fulfil their lives.”

Enya Cai, General Manager, Creativity Australia and With One Voice choirs said Sue is an exceptional example of dedication and selflessness.

“Sue is the person everyone feels immediately drawn to, a generous and kind soul. She has spent her life volunteer for many organisations, and thousands of people have benefited from the magic of her care, humour and compassion.”

Sue leads by example through weekly rehearsals, event planning, performance facilitations and administrative tasks that tackle the complexities surrounding choir participants disadvantaged backgrounds.



“I love working with the Greater Dandenong community; it brings me great joy in helping them fulfil their lives.”

Choir Conductor, Cherie Baxter said, “Most members face significant life challenges such as disabilities, chronic illnesses, and social isolation.

“Through her dedication and empathy, Sue has created a safe and welcoming space where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together, find their voices, and experience the joy of singing.”

Sue is described as the ‘heart and soul of the choir’ who fosters a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment for all members.

“Through her dedication and empathy, Sue has created a safe and welcoming space where individuals from diverse backgrounds come together, find their voices, and experience the joy of singing,” Cherie said.

The With One Voice choir program is supported by Creativity Australia, a not-for-profit charity. The program welcomes anyone from ages 9 to 90 from all faiths, cultures, and backgrounds.

The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards are a fantastic opportunity to see the wonderful work that inspiring individuals do to give back to the community.

“I think recognising contributions to community is important, as in today’s world and thinking, it appears as if everyone is for themselves, and it becomes a lonely place. But when you do life with others particularly if there is positivity, any burden or problem you may be carrying becomes a little lighter,” Sue said.

## Apply now for Council’s 2025 Young Leaders Program



**The inspiring program is open to people aged 16-25 years who live, work of study in Greater Dandenong.**

The program introduces young people to local government and supports the development of skills across a wide range of topics, including leadership, communication, public speaking, advocacy and conflict management.

Young Leaders runs from May to September and provides a unique

opportunity for young people to connect with one another and make a positive impact by planning and delivering community projects.

**Visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program](https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program) for more information and to register your interest.**

# What's On March 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31 <b>Toddler Time</b> (Every Monday from 10.30am-11am) Springvale Library					1	2 <b>Clean Up Australia Day</b> Various locations and times
	For more exciting local activities visit <a href="https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events">greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events</a>					
3 <b>Day Trips for Seniors - Soundfair Hearing Information Morning Tea</b> (10am-11.30am) Springvale Library <b>Laps and Lattes</b> (11am-11.45am) Dandenong Stadium	4 <b>Library Help for Adults</b> (1pm-3pm) Dandenong Library	5 <b>"WE" - Women's Empowerment Workshops</b> (10.30am-12.30pm) Paddy O'Donoghue Centre <b>Dandenong Career and Support Expo</b> (10.30am-1pm) Dandenong Civic Centre	6 <b>International Women's Day Event</b> <b>Library Help for Adults</b> (2pm-5pm) Dandenong Library <b>Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation</b> (2.30pm-3pm) Dandenong Hospital (Sacred Space)	7 <b>Library Help for Adults</b> (2pm-4pm) Dandenong Library <b>Baby Bounce Outreach</b> (10.30am-11am) Keysborough Hall <b>Sports Club at the Hub</b> (4.30pm) Springvale Library		9  <b>During this month: We Built This City Exhibition</b> Open times: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10am-2pm (excludes public holidays) Benga, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens 66 McCrae St, Dandenong
10 <b>Labour Day</b>	11 <b>Day Trips for Seniors - Ballarat Begonia Festival 1</b> (8am-4.30pm) Noble Park Aquatic Centre <b>Business Plan Accelerator Workshop</b> (8.30am-3.30pm) Springvale City Hall <b>Council Meeting</b> (7pm) Dandenong Civic Centre	12 <b>"WE" - Women's Empowerment Workshops</b> (10.30am-12.30pm) Paddy O'Donoghue Centre <b>Business Plan Accelerator Workshop</b> (8.30am to 3.30pm) Springvale City Hall <b>Conversation Circle - Low to Intermediate</b> (6pm-7.30pm) Dandenong Library	13 <b>Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation</b> (2.30pm-3pm) Dandenong Hospital (Sacred Space) <b>Day Trips for Seniors - Ballarat Begonia Festival 3</b> (8am-4.30pm) Noble Park Aquatic Centre <b>Storytime</b> (10.30am-11am) Dandenong Library and Springvale Library <b>Library Help for Adults</b> (2pm-5pm) Dandenong Library	14 <b>Baby Bounce Outreach</b> (10.30am-11am) Keysborough Hall and Springvale Library <b>Sports Club at the Hub</b> (4.30pm) Springvale Library		<b>During this month: 9 by 5 Exhibition</b> Opening times: Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday 8 March: 10.30am-2.30pm (extended time) Saturday 22 March: 10.30am-2.30pm (extended time)
17 <b>Toddler Time</b> (Every Monday from 10.30am-11am) Dandenong Library and Springvale Library	18 <b>Australian Citizenship Information Sessions</b> (11am-12.30pm) Dandenong Library	19 <b>The Social Knitwork</b> (10.30am-12.30pm) Dandenong Library	20 <b>Dandenong Library Chronic Pain Support Group</b> (4pm-5.30pm) Springvale Library	21 <b>Embrace Kids - Documentary Screening and Harmony Day Party</b> (6pm-8pm) Drum Theatre		
24 <b>Council Meeting</b> (7pm) Dandenong Civic Centre	25 <b>Library Help for Adults</b> (1pm-3pm) Dandenong Library	26 <b>Art, Craft and Conversation</b> (6.30pm-8pm) Springvale Library	27 <b>Storytime</b> (10.30am-11am) Dandenong Library and Springvale Library	28 <b>Sports Club at the Hub</b> (4.30pm) Springvale Library		





## Fun Run, Walk and Roll Wrap Up

**There was some awesome energy on display during the Fun Run Walk and Roll event at Dandenong Park on 25 January.**

Thank you to Dandenong parkrun and all their incredible volunteers for hosting this community-friendly event.



## How do you Make Your Move



**We know that being active has benefits for your physical and mental wellbeing, and we're supporting our community to be more active.**

Take part in our Physical Activity Participation Survey and tell us how, when and where you get active. Your answers will help us plan ways we can support physical activity for all community members.

There are many ways to get active in Greater Dandenong, including organised sport and casual activities, like walking, cycling and gardening. Council encourages all residents to Make Your Move and discover activities that make you feel good.

The survey will help us remove barriers that may stop our community members from being active and will help us to direct resources to the right places.

The survey will be open until the end of March and there will be many different ways to have your say, including an online survey and pop up stalls.

**Visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/participation-survey](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/participation-survey) to find out more or call 8571 5501 if you would like a hard copy of the survey.**



Get ready for an unforgettable day of fitness, fun, and community spirit at the inaugural South East Running Festival! Whether you're a seasoned runner, a casual jogger, or just looking for a great day out with the family, this event has something for everyone.

**Sunday 13 April 2025**

**Dandenong Stadium**  
270 Stud Road, Dandenong

**21.1km, 10km, 5km & 1km Childrens Dash**

**Scan QR Code for more info & to register**





## We Built This City – Civic Centre Harmony Square

**Today, Dandenong's Harmony Square and Civic Centre is a bustling meeting place serving civic and community needs. The space pays tribute to the history of the local area.**

Formally opened in April 2014, the site was chosen for its central location to link Lonsdale Street businesses and shared pedestrian spaces through to the railway station.

Described as setting a new benchmark for the design of civic space, the precinct was acknowledged as a much-needed thoroughfare and meeting place for our diverse community.

The award-winning design draws inspiration from Dandenong's River Red Gums and local Indigenous landscape. These elements are reflected through the colours in the façade of the building, the brown tree like trunks that support the corrugated red canopy and the timber cladding of the building interior.

The outside paving design is described as a woven story of the place inspired by textiles including Aboriginal possum skin cloaks and patterns found in nearby retail shops. Poetry at each major entrance celebrates the shared history of the site.

**Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/we-built-this-city](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/we-built-this-city) to find out more about this site and other important heritage sites across Greater Dandenong.**

*Greater Dandenong City Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible.*

[www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

## Starting a new chapter in Greater Dandenong



**When Penguin Random House Distribution outgrew its current Scoresby home, moving to the thriving Dandenong South industrial precinct was the perfect choice.**

With almost 200 staff working at the distribution site, it was important that the move benefit employees – without disrupting their daily lives.

“It was all about where our people are located and maintaining continuity for our business and employees,” Operations Director Matthew O’Brien said.

Penguin Random House Distribution oversees the distribution operations for publisher Penguin Random House, as well as being a third-party logistics provider to the publishing industry.

While staff were the primary consideration when deciding where to relocate to, Greater Dandenong's investment in logistics capability and roads was also a key factor.

“The support infrastructure in Greater Dandenong for our business was very strong,” Matthew said.

The warehouse will be bigger and more environmentally friendly. It will have a Five-Star Green Star rating under the Green Building Council of Australia rating system.

The new factory will also have an automated goods-to-person picking system from KNAPP, enabling the company to streamline operations, improve efficiency and ultimately grow to ship more than 50 million books a year across Australia and New Zealand.

Matthew anticipates the move will create more jobs in the region, though it's hard to say how many.

“As growth comes, we'll add permanent roles over the course of the next five or six years,” he said.

If you have a new chapter in your business story, we'd love to hear from you too.

**Reach out via email at [business@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@cgd.vic.gov.au) or visit Council's business webpage to learn about the services available to you.**

## Snapshot of Businesses in our Municipality



**We have over 20,000 businesses in Greater Dandenong.**

South East Melbourne is one of the fastest growing regions and one of the most important economic centres in Australia.



**Learn more about businesses in Greater Dandenong here: [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business)**

## Free home internet for school students and their families



**Do you know carers or families of school aged children who are struggling to pay their internet bills? The Australian Government and nbn are offering free internet for up to 30,000 families and carers through the School Student Broadband Initiative (SSBI).**

To apply, follow the four steps below:

- ▶ Contact the National Referral Centre on **1800 954 610** Monday–Friday, 10am–6pm (AEDT) or visit [anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet](http://anglicarevic.org.au/student-internet)
- ▶ They'll ask you some questions to see if this offer is right for you.
- ▶ If you qualify, you'll get a voucher.
- ▶ Use the voucher to connect through your chosen participating internet provider. Use your voucher before the 30,000 places are taken.\*

### The best part is

- ▶ Free internet until 30 June 2028
- ▶ Free Wi-Fi router
- ▶ No lock-in contract
- ▶ Callback webchat and interpreting services

*\* Applications close when 30,000 places are reached. Being issued a voucher does not reserve your place in this program and you must use your voucher before the 30,000 places are taken otherwise it becomes invalid.*



An Australian Government Initiative



## Keysborough South Community Hub Celebrates a Major Milestone

**OPENING  
LATER THIS  
YEAR**

**Keysborough residents will soon be enjoying a wide range of new services, programs and flexible meeting spaces with construction of the Keysborough South Community Hub reaching lock-up stage.**

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti, said the build had progressed smoothly since work commenced in early 2024.

"The building is really taking shape now," Cr Memeti said.

"I'm counting down the days until the doors of this new facility officially open later this year.

"The brickwork and roof are complete, internal walls and ceilings are being installed, a state-of-the-art air conditioning system is being connected and cabinetry is being prepped."

The Keysborough South Community Hub has been designed in, with and for the community. It will be a high quality, landmark place for creating connections. It is innovative and environmentally sustainable, featuring low maintenance, natural and modern materials and is adaptable to future needs.

Everyone will be welcome to use its multi-purpose spaces, catering to a wide range of users, including by multiple community groups at the same time. Access for all ages and for different abilities will be universal and the Hub will offer integrated facilities and service delivery.

**➔ To keep up to date on the Keysborough South Community Hub visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysborough-south-community-hub](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysborough-south-community-hub)**

# love your libraries

Libraries  
Change Lives

## Art Series



Artists of all disciplines visit the library each month to teach their craft. No matter what your interest or skill level the Art Series is for you.



Express your creativity and meet new people through the 90-minute workshops that are held at both Dandenong and Springvale libraries. The series often connects to cultural activities and exhibitions at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

Join us in March for Monoprinting in Nature.

**At Dandenong Library on Tuesday 11 March, at 6.30pm**

**At Springvale Library on Tuesday 18 March, at 6.30pm**

## Family Fun



Family fun is an interactive program where primary school aged children and their families can learn to play different board games, create with LEGO, solve puzzles and more.

**At Springvale Library, every Saturday, 3pm-4pm.**

## Celebration of Diversity

Celebrate Cultural Diversity Week (17-23 March) and Harmony Day (21 March) with a series of workshops exploring the best cultural traditions and arts from around the world.

### Fluffy Rafia Key Rings

**At Dandenong Library on Tuesday 4 March, 10.30am-12pm**

Weave your own key ring and explore this timeless craft that teaches patience, dexterity and the value of imperfection.

### Coffee from Around the World

**At Springvale Library on Tuesday 11 March, 10.30am-12pm**

Embark on a coffee tasting journey through Lebanon, Turkiye and Vietnam.



### Arabesque Embroidery

**At Dandenong Library on Tuesday 18 March, 10.30am-12pm**

Transfer intricate motifs onto a cotton bag and bring them to life with hand embroidery.

## Chinese Painting

**At Springvale Library on Tuesday 25 March, 10.30am-12pm**

Learn the basics of Chinese painting with Echo Wu, who combines traditional and modern styles.

## Think Tank



Immerse yourself in science at The Think Tank, a monthly science program for 7-11-year-olds and their carers.

Join us in March to explore the wonderful world of toys. Learn how playing with and building toys is a great way to ignite a child's imagination and build their skills. Look at how toys are constructed, explore simple machines and spark children's interest, allowing them to have fun while learning.

### Toys Incursion

**At Dandenong Library on Saturday 15 March, 3pm-4pm**

**At Springvale Library on Saturday 22 March, 3pm-4pm.**

## Youth Engagement

Take a break from study and chill with the Library Youth Engagement team.

Open to everyone aged 12-25, play board games, video games and explore mindful colouring at the Dandenong Library youth area every Tuesday, 4.30pm-5.45pm.



# ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

## Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



### Confluence: The Dreaming Project

This multi-artform installation explores global shared experiences through the lens of Australian First Nations perspectives, highlighting themes of identity, heritage, and unity. Inspired by the Dandenong Creek's cultural and natural significance to the Bunurong, Wurundjeri, and local communities.

Open from Tuesday 25 March to Friday 30 May



### Shopping for art

The Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre has launched a gallery shop, offering a curated selection of locally crafted items, including limited edition t-shirts, tote bags, art cards and framed works.

The debut collaboration with Chilean-Australian artist Paulina Zamorano of Zam Studios sets the tone, featuring bold, sustainable designs that capture the essence of Arts in Greater Dandenong.

Open Tuesday to Friday, from 12pm-4pm

### Connect with us

Instagram @artsgreaterdandy  
 Facebook /artsgreaterdandenong  
 newsletter  
[drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](mailto:drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

## The Drum

### 9 by 5 Exhibition

This open-entry exhibition showcases diverse artistic talent from across the nation. Celebrating its 17th year the exhibition features more than 200 works. Come along to the Drum Theatre foyer and explore the diverse entries. You can check it out Monday to Friday, from 10am-4pm, until 2 May.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5) to find out more.

### Elvis and Buddy: Rock and Roll Sensation

Friday 14 March at 8pm

Get ready to shake, rattle and roll in a whirlwind of rock 'n roll magic as we celebrate two legends of music.



### Encore – Women of the 60s

Thursday 20 March at 10.30am

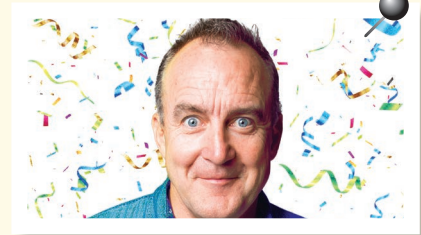
Step back into the electrifying era of the 1960s, featuring the songs of Dusty Springfield, Dionne Warwick, Shirley Basey and Lulu.



### Embrace Kids

Friday 21 March at 6pm

This documentary is aimed at building our kids' body image and to help them wholeheartedly embrace their uniqueness.



### Jimeoin – Pandemonium

Saturday 22 March at 7.30pm

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



### Save the date...

#### Fritz

Friday 11 April at 11am

Step into the charming and comical universe of Fritz, an eccentric and loveable magician's rabbit as he tries to save the day and the show.

# Springvale Lunar New Year



With mouth-watering food, entertainment and fireworks, the Springvale Lunar New Year Festival was a smash hit welcoming in the Year of the Snake with style.

Hosted by Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA) and supported by Greater Dandenong City Council our city's biggest community event was a celebration of harmony, hope and unity on Australia Day.



## Ramadan – A Time for Reflection and Community

**Ramadan will take place from the end of February until the end of March and is the holiest month of the year for Muslims.**

It is a time of fasting and prayer, and also for self-reflection and community building.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said, "This is a significant month not only for those of us in the Islamic community but for all Greater Dandenong residents."

"It's a welcome opportunity for us to get to know one another better and develop that deeper understanding of each other's faith, customs, language and culture.

"It is about coming together to foster a greater sense of cultural connection and understanding, and what it actually means for each of us to belong in a community where we can live differently but still together."

This is incredibly important for us here in Greater Dandenong.

We are recognised as the most culturally diverse community in Australia. Home to people from 154 different nationalities, our residents speak more than 130 languages and follow more than 80 different faiths. Over half our residents were born overseas.

We value understanding, acceptance, respect and appreciation for the diverse cultures and customs, and the teachings of others as we celebrate our multicultural community.

Ramadan Mubarak!

## Engaging Our Community

### Meet Israel, our new Community Engagement Lead.

Israel joined the team at Greater Dandenong in December 2024.

Israel's job at Council is to design new and exciting ways to engage with you, our community, on decisions that affect you.

This is an important part of what we do, as your feedback ensures we're providing you the services, infrastructure and support you need.

If you see Israel when you're out and about across Greater Dandenong, be sure to say hi and check out the open



engagements on our consultation page, [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

### What do you love about your job so far?

I love exploring ways to listen and serve our community better. Every day is a mix of meaningful conversations, fresh ideas and real impact. Seeing people feel heard and included makes my work feel like more than just a job – it's a joy!

### What attracted you to the City of Greater Dandenong?

Its cosmopolitan feel. Greater Dandy is the place to be – a city where cultures meet, ideas thrive, and the food scene is next level. I've experienced the sense of

community and warm neighbourly charm where a friendly chat with someone from one of over 150 nationalities is always just around the corner.

### What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I'm a dedicated caddie for myself – mastering the art of becoming a semi-professional golfer. Otherwise, you'll find me playing soccer or watching documentaries.

📍 Visit [jobs.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://jobs.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to learn more about why Greater Dandenong City Council is a great place to work and browse our open employment opportunities.

## Have Your Say in Greater Dandenong

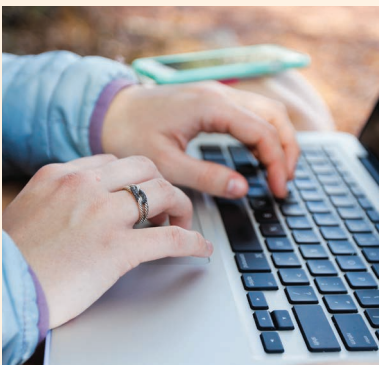
**We are committed to thorough, consistent and genuine community engagement that will help us make good decisions for the benefit of the Greater Dandenong community,**

Our Have Your Say platform is a comprehensive online tool that helps us do this.

Discover the latest projects where you are invited to have your say, view timelines for action and see how we have responded to your feedback.

Stay up to date on plans and decisions that impact you by registering with the website.

📍 Visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) for more information.



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# Batteries don't go in bins

**Putting batteries in kerbside bins causes fires.**

**You can drop off small batteries at our  
Customer Service Centres in Lonsdale Street  
Dandenong, Parkmore Shopping Centre and  
Springvale Community Hub.**

**Find your nearest battery recycling drop off point:**

**[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/which-bin](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/which-bin)**

