



# Performance at a Glance

## Vibrant Healthy Supported Community

### Highlights

- Volunteers provide an invaluable service to the community, supporting a range of Council managed activities. Over the year, 296 volunteers gave a significant 33,877 hours of their time.
- The Drum Theatre provided new opportunities to experience the arts in a range of forms. It is quickly becoming a strong regional attractor with 6,813 members of which 50% are local and 50% from the wider region. It has attracted 76,047 attendances throughout the year and 46 major touring shows were held.
- 21 community festivals held, providing community members with a variety of vibrant and diverse events in which to get involved.
- 2,593 Greater Dandenong residents naturalised at Citizenship Ceremonies throughout the year.
- Extensive progress made in planning the development of a range of community facilities, including the Dandenong Community Facilities Plan and the Springvale Children's Service Centre. Completing the consolidation of the Visy Cares Centre and establishing The Castle as a fully operational music and youth venue have provided the community with revamped facilities that maintain a strong focus on youth activities.
- 17,384 immunisations administered at seven infant sessions and 18 schools. This significant increase has resulted from the introduction of the cervical cancer vaccine.
- Longer term activities and programs of the Community Safety Plan have been reviewed with future actions recommended. Work focused on safer environments, drug and alcohol use and antisocial behaviour in public places and road safety.

### Challenges

Caring for our ageing community will require a focus on leisure and accommodation needs of people in retirement, concerns for the isolation that often affects older individuals and finding the right mix of professionals and volunteers to support them.

### The Year Ahead

- Partnerships with community organisations to be developed and maintained.
- City of Greater Dandenong and local business promotion campaign to showcase Dandenong to the community and wider region.
- Alternate accommodation for HL Williams Court Aged Care Facility clients to be successfully finalised.
- Disadvantaged young people to be supported to find employment and practical skill development opportunities within Council.

# Environmentally Active City

## Highlights

- Activities undertaken as part of the Waste Minimisation and Education Strategy throughout the year include:
  - Multi Unit Dwelling Waste Education Project completed. The project included conducting resident surveys, signage installation, informative materials and educational BBQs.
  - Feasibility study of Public Place Recycling conducted at the Dandenong Stadium. The project is considered feasible and will be implemented with Sustainability Victoria funding in 2007-2008.
  - Business Streams Stormwater Education project conducted at Noble Park and Springvale. The project included trader engagement, stormwater education workshop and awards ceremony.
    - Six 'Your Sustainable School' newsletters distributed to schools.
    - Three 'SustainableTeacher's Forums' conducted.



- 'Waste Minimisation' presentations delivered to three classes (75 students) at Lyndale Primary School.
- 'Detox your home' household chemical collection day held.
- Waste and recycling presentations delivered at six schools.
- Stage 3 of the Dandenong Wetlands Master Plan has been completed.
- 21,967 seedlings have been planted throughout the year.

## Challenges

Creating a sustainable balance between the need for economic growth and protection of the environment needs to be achieved by challenging ourselves, residents and industry to actively find ways to reduce reliance on finite natural resources, create infrastructure that supports clean energy, determine efficient ways to use land and implement changes to reduce pollution, waste and litter.

## The Year Ahead

- Environmental Improvement Strategy 2007-2008 action plan to be implemented and the strategy reviewed.
- Water management initiatives identified and implemented.
- Dandenong Floodplains development continued.

## Well Planned Liveable City

### Highlights

- New Municipal Buildings Program – A facilities planning consultant has commenced a comprehensive space needs analysis to quantify the building space requirements.
- The Municipal Strategic Statement review completed and the statutory process of exhibition commenced.
- 100% of the revised annual budget for the City Improvement Program invested. The 2007-2008 program adopted by Council on 12 June 2007.
- The Dandenong Wetlands regional playground completed along with three playgrounds that have been refurbished at Gatley Reserve, Rosene Reserve and Blackmore Road Reserve.
- State Basketball and Volleyball Centre construction continued. New basketball courts to the south east corner open for use.
- Leisure Strategy 2006-2007 action plan implemented.
- Tatterson Park – sprigging of grass undertaken. Architectural consultants engaged for the pavilion design. Scoping of 2007-2008 works has been undertaken.
- Integrated Transport Strategy 2006-2007 action plan implemented. This is an ongoing action plan to be delivered over the next 15 years. Works are advancing with improved roads, public transport, cycle routes and parking.
- Advocacy approaches successful in gaining Thiess John Holland to provide lighting for the new Hanna Street pedestrian path across Eastlink into Greaves Reserve which is required for community safety. Further advocacy projects include marking of bus lanes on some arterials.
- 1,460 trees have been planted in line with the Leafy Legacy Strategy.
- Several significant and interesting arts projects achieved.
  - Vessels of light installation of two vessels at Walker Street car park and Ewart Lane.
  - Reverie Lighting (occurs every night at dusk).
  - Wonders of Dandenong Walking Tours (run on the third Wednesday of each month, attracting 226 participants since October).
  - Other projects in progress include salvaging timber from Oakwood Park and Fotheringham Reserve, and the 400 year old tree which was removed from Hammond Road.

### Challenges

The community's need for infrastructure and buildings that have capacity to handle current and future demands requires all levels of government working together to plan and design assets that allow for future growth, develop assets with whole of life costing considered and maintain assets to a safe and presentable standard.

### The Year Ahead

- Green Wedge Policy review to be completed.
- Drainage Strategy 2007-2008 action plan implemented and Drainage Catchment Studies Stage 2 and 3 to be completed.
- Car Parking Plan covering the city developed.
- Street Lighting Strategy 2007-2008 action plan to be implemented.

# Prosperous Dynamic City

## Highlights

- New investment in residential, commercial and industrial properties by building approvals reached \$403.5 million for the year.
- Seven BYO restaurants, 24 licensed premises, three general licensed premises and three club licensed premises recorded in central Dandenong.
- 46 major touring shows were held at the Drum Theatre including:
  - Australian Ballet School
  - Graeme Connors
  - Dorothy the Dinosaur
  - John Waters
  - Wendy Stapleton
  - Sleeping Beauty
- Shop front improvement program continued in Little India, Foster Street Dandenong.
- A concept was developed for Railway Parade, Noble Park shopping precinct and a contractor was appointed to 'brand' the area.

## Challenges

Encourage manufacturing, trades and service industries to re-invent their organisations with new business models that will assist them to address emerging skills shortages and develop abilities to remain relevant and grow in increasingly competitive global markets.

## The Year Ahead

- Business investment attracted and fostered through promotional activities, publications and partnerships.
- Shop front improvement project to be implemented.
- 'Manufacturing Week in Greater Dandenong' to be organised and promoted.
- Investment Gap Analysis undertaken and new businesses targeted.

## Regional Capital of the South-East

### Highlights

- A survey undertaken in conjunction with VicUrban determined there are 226 commercial and 369 retail businesses established in central Dandenong.
- The development of the Dandenong Produce Market continued with the town planning application for Stage Two submitted.
- The final 'Design and Mobility Plan' for central Dandenong was completed and reported to Council.

### Challenges

Creating positive images and perceptions about Greater Dandenong, and inspiring confidence in everyone about how great our city is, will require a marketing focus aimed at minimising potentially damaging press and maximising constructive media coverage.

### The Year Ahead

- Dandenong Produce Market upgrade – Stage Two construction to commence.
- Major infrastructure projects monitored and updates/progress reported.
- Retail Revitalisation Strategy 2007-2008 action plan implemented.



# Recognised Leading Organisation

## Highlights

- The Budget 2007-2008, revised Council Plan 2006-2010, Corporate Plan 2007-2008 and Strategic Resource Plan 2007-2011 presented to Council and adopted on 12 June 2007.
- The Local Government Sector Annual Community Satisfaction Survey results for Greater Dandenong were released and Greater Dandenong rated highest in the outer metropolitan region for Council's engagement in decision making on key local issues.
- A draft Information Technology Plan developed and recommendations now being considered by the Information Technology Steering committee.

## Challenges

Prioritising the needs and growing demands of our community against the limited resources available will require us to redesign our services to ensure they remain relevant in meeting the changing needs of the community.

## The Year Ahead

- 10 year financial plan implemented, reviewed and improvements reported annually.
- Occupational Health and Safety promoted – focus and direction of the committee and staff involvement in creating safer workplaces reinvigorated.
- Two City of Greater Dandenong community consultation road-shows to be organised.