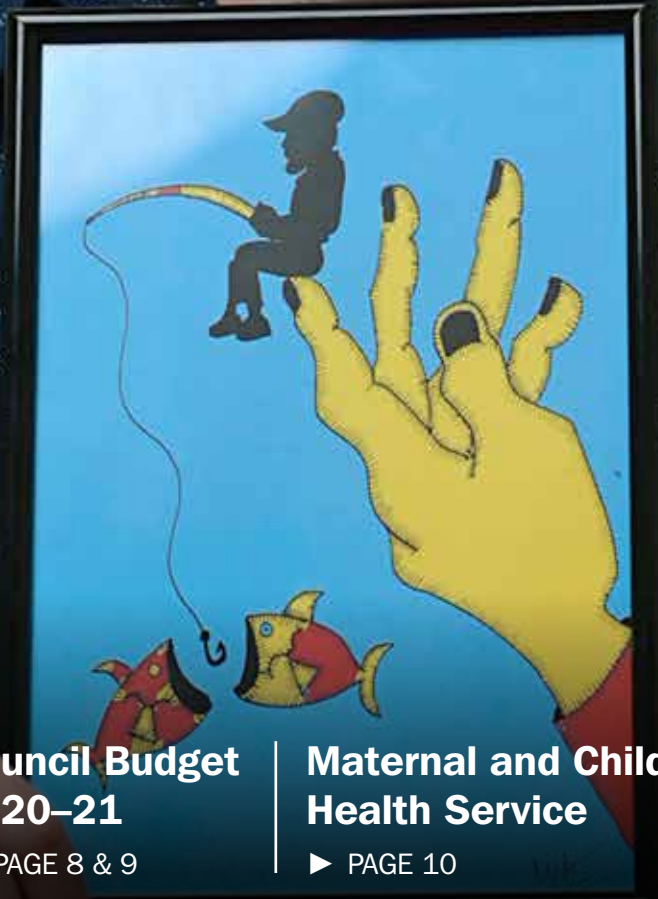


Greater Dandenong Council News

HOME
2020

PAGE 13



Be more sustainable

▶ PAGE 7

Council Budget 2020–21

▶ PAGE 8 & 9

Maternal and Child Health Service

▶ PAGE 10

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

All correspondence to:

Greater Dandenong Council News

PO Box 200

Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au



Phone: 8571 1000



Fax: 8571 5196



www.greaterdandenong.com



@greaterdandy



[facebook.com/greaterdandenong](https://www.facebook.com/greaterdandenong)



[cityofgreaterdandenong](https://www.instagram.com/cityofgreaterdandenong)



[youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong](https://www.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

Mayor's message

Welcome to the July edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

While restrictions continue Council is working hard to support all members of the community.

Greater Dandenong will go to the polls in October and there have been some changes since the last Council Elections held four years ago. Turn to page 6 to read more.

Despite the uncertain times presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has worked to put together a financially responsible budget for 2020-21. Read about this strong investment in our city's future on pages 7 and 8.

Our Maternal and Child Health staff have not stopped supporting parents, and continue to offer mums and dads assistance with family life. Read more about this on page 10.

The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia. Our residents come from 157 different nations, speak more than 200 different languages and follow 100 different faiths. Council has a great relationship with faith leaders across our city and works closely with all of them through the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong. Some of these leaders have shared their own messages of support on page 15.

I wish all our residents the best this month and hope you are staying safe and well.



**Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti**

My City



Dandenong North's Tirhatuan Park forms part of the Dandenong Creek vegetation corridor, providing important habitat for native flora and fauna, including these gorgeous ducks. The park is home to the endangered Plains Grassy Wetland which provides a home for frogs, insects and birds.

Front Cover: Artist Saidin Salkic will exhibit his work as part of HOME 2020.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Keeping the
community
safe



Cleaning the streets of Greater Dandenong

A new workforce has hit the streets of Greater Dandenong to help keep the city clean and the community safe.

Under the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative, people who lost their job due to the COVID-19 pandemic have been recruited to clean high traffic areas and communal touch points across metropolitan Melbourne.

Up to 50 people have been trained under Citywide's Cleansing and Sanitisation Services to help clean in Greater Dandenong. They are focused on public seating, pedestrian signal buttons, handrails, street furniture, bus shelters and playgrounds.

As restrictions further ease and public spaces become busier this cleaning regime will help stop the spread of the virus through contact transmission.



George Andrews Reserve

The main soccer field at George Andrews Reserve, in Trewin Street, Dandenong has recently seen the completion of new infrastructure.

The ground is home to the Dandenong Thunder Soccer Club, which plays in National Premier Leagues (NPL) Victoria.

The new facilities include a corporate box, which features an internal function space, small kitchenette, accessible toilet and a viewing platform. In addition, two 10-seat coaches boxes (pictured) have been installed for home and away teams to use on game days.

Park celebrates history

Dandenong Park has undergone a major transformation and has been given a new lease on life, but aspects of the popular park will pay tribute to its heritage.

Council continues to implement the Dandenong Park Master Plan with \$1 million committed to works in the 2020–21 Annual Budget.

Recent upgrades include a new amenities block, new Stan Prior stage, a multi-sport court and picnic areas, as well as new lighting and furniture throughout the northern part of the park.



In May the Rotary Wheel was taken down for refurbishment. The wheel was installed in 1986 to recognise Rotary's 50th anniversary in Dandenong and its design draws upon the area's industrial heritage.

Interpretive signs will also be installed throughout the park to recognise how it has been used by the community over the years. These signs will recognise the Truby King Health Centre

which opened in 1932, the Stan Prior Soundshell and the Dandenong Bowls Club.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/dandenongparkprecinct to read more about the Dandenong Park Master Plan.

Councillor Contacts



Lightwood Ward
Cr Youhorn Chea
0417 320 645
youhorn.chea@cgd.vic.gov.au



Lightwood Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Lightwood Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



Paperbark Ward
Cr Peter Brown
Ph: 8571 5230
0468 584 837
peter.brown@cgd.vic.gov.au



Paperbark Ward
Cr Tim Dark
0466 403 914
tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au



Paperbark Ward
Cr Sophie Tan
0466 793 727
sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Red Gum Ward
Cr Matthew Kirwan
0403 072 295
matthew.kirwan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Red Gum Ward
Cr Angela Long
Ph/Fax: 9795 6574
0466 004 616
angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Red Gum Ward – Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti
0434 560 239
jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Silverleaf Ward
Cr Zaynoun Melhem
0466 518 082
zaynoun.melhem@cgd.vic.gov.au



Silverleaf Ward
Cr Maria Sampey
Ph/Fax: 9790 1291
0438 800 027
maria.sampey@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY

13
JULY

MONDAY

27
JULY

JULY

all community members to view the meetings via Council's live web telecast.

The July meetings will be held:

Monday 13 July

Monday 27 July

The general public can still submit questions for Public Question Time.

➔ To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on the second and the fourth Monday of the month, at 7pm.

All Council meetings are held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

Council meetings currently remain open to the public, however this could change at short notice. To limit the risks of COVID-19 we encourage

Cr Sean O'Reilly

▶ Lightwood Ward

While restrictions are easing Council is taking a careful approach to reopening facilities.

Please continue to limit your exposure to people outside of your own household.

I can appreciate that you are keen to get back to normal activities, but we can't undo the work that we have all done. The health and wellbeing of all residents continues to be a priority for Council, and we need to take things slowly.

Council has continued to work on major projects, including the Springvale Community Hub, during this period of restrictions. At the time of publication Council was finalising plans to open this wonderful new facility to the public. Visit greaterdandenong.com for the most up to date information.

Another project that is moving ahead is Springvale Boulevard, which has been heavily influenced by community consultation. Streetscape improvements will help reinforce this activity centre as one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations.

Feedback from community members has helped to guide the design process, including comments calling for more greenery. Plant selections for the project will include native Australian plants,



mixed with exotic display gardens, and a bigger shade canopy.

Visitors to Springvale also commented that they wanted more places to "sit and watch". As a result, seats will be placed along Springvale Road, with clusters of individual stools also placed in the shopping strip allowing people to sit individually or in groups.

Virus restrictions have slowed down the redevelopment of Springvale, but soon we'll see all the new Council investment – new modern library, renovated City Hall, renovated Post Office Lane, more car parks at Burden Park, and beautification of Springvale Road, utilised in all its glory.

➔ If you would like to talk to me about any issues please email me at sean.oreilly@cgd.com.au or phone me on 0422 523 258.

Cr Peter Brown

► Paperbark Ward



HARRISFIELD PRE-SCHOOL DROP OFF ZONE NOW AVAILABLE

Council has provided a safe drop off zone for parents and children in response to a petition that parents submitted seeking a safer alternative to the Bowmore Road entrance. The drop off zone is at the Ardgowrie Road entrance to the preschool.

Thank you to Harrisfield Preschool Manager Maryanne Moutsakis, Wendy Forsyth and all the staff for making the Harrisfield Preschool such a friendly, family oriented gem. Give Maryanne a call on 9546 8485 to inspect the preschool or to enrol your son or daughter.

NOBLE PARK UPDATES

*WACHTER RESERVE: wetland water feature and landscaping, a \$575,000 tender approved with work commencing soon. Lunch by the Lake in 2021.

*NOBLE PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE FORECOURT: removal of flooding problem, improved access and landscaping commencing in the second half of 2020. Thanks to Robyn Coslovich for her great efforts at the Community Centre. Contact Robyn on 9547 5801 for your community group needs.

*ROSS RESERVE "ALL ABILITIES" PLAYGROUND: work has commenced with the \$2.1 million budget approved.

*ROSS RESERVE NEW PAVILION: tenders will be advertised in July 2020.

*FORMER YARRAMAN PRE-SCHOOL, JOFFRE STREET: Council will retain this property for community use. Expressions of interest will be sought. Perhaps a good site for a childcare centre?

*DOUGLAS STREET PLAZA: free WiFi is being provided.

Thanks to Council staff, Councillors and Ward Colleagues, Tim Dark and Sophie Tan for helping make all this, and more, happen.



If you would like to get in touch with me you can email me at peter.brown@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0468 584 837.

► Red Gum Ward

Greater Dandenong is home to more than 100 parks, sports reserves and playgrounds. We also have four bushland areas and open space corridors that are used by residents and visitors to enjoy the great outdoors.

As a largely suburban area we are always trying to balance the needs of residents and make sure green space is available for everyone to enjoy. For this reason Council recently asked residents to comment on plans to turn open space at 6-8 Fifth Avenue in Dandenong into a small local park.

Council will consider the responses and will draw up plans to make this into an outdoor asset that can be enjoyed by all. We will add seating and plant more trees and ensure it is maintained as a space that everyone can enjoy.

Many residents and office workers in central Dandenong have already taken advantage of a "quick game" at the urban park at the corner of Cadle and George streets. The park includes a multisport court with goals for futsal, basketball and netball.

The park was built by Development Victoria to replace a temporary pop-up park near Dandenong station, and was partly funded by Council.

On the other side of Dandenong is Dandenong Park, which has undergone a huge transformation over the past few years. Council workers have been busy putting finishing touches on the park, including a 'Tan Track' which will create a circuit path for walkers and joggers.

Over the years this park has been an important asset for our community. It has played host to some wonderful celebrations and when the COVID-19 health crisis passes I look forward to seeing more special community events and cultural celebrations at this park.



If you would like to contact me please email me at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Cr Jim Memeti



Changes to wards in Greater Dandenong



Ward A Springvale North
Ward B Noble Park North
Ward C Dandenong North
Ward D Springvale Central
Ward E Yarraman
Ward F Cleland

Ward G Springvale South
Ward H Noble Park
Ward I Keysborough
Ward J Keysborough South
Ward K Dandenong

At the start of May, the Minister for Local Government announced Greater Dandenong would have its electoral structure changed to single member wards for the 2020 local government elections.

The new ward boundaries were informed by recent work undertaken by the Victorian Electoral Commission and ensure that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters.

Council has suggested to the Minister for Local Government that the 11 wards be named after the areas they predominantly represent. At the time of publication this had not yet been confirmed by the Minister.

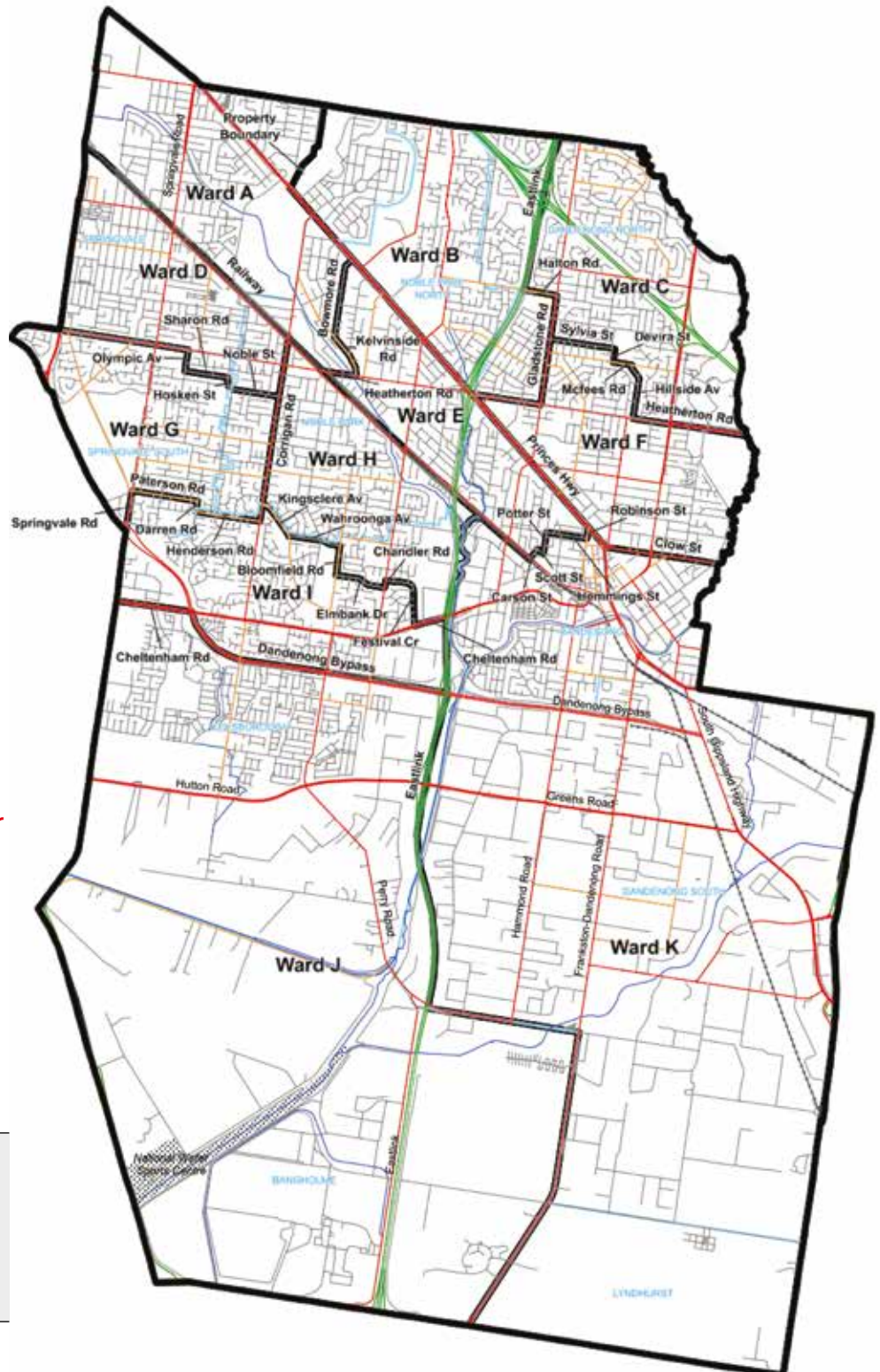
This map shows how the city has been divided into the different wards.

Council elections will be held on 24 October, 2020. If you are enrolled to vote for the State Election and are a Greater Dandenong resident then you are automatically enrolled to vote at Council Elections and it is compulsory to vote.

The elections are conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/councillors for more information. For all general voting enquiries please visit vec.vic.gov.au or phone the VEC on 131 832.





Single use plastics



Council has pledged to end the use of single-use or disposable plastics at events and activities held on Council land.

The *Plastic Use Policy* adopted by Council in December 2019 aims to reduce the impact of plastic pollution on the environment.

Council wants to lead by example and has eliminated single use plastics at Council run events and across its operations. As the policy applies to events and activities held at Council-owned venues and land, we are

encouraging organisations or individuals to follow the policy.

Single use plastics, or disposable plastics, are typically used once before they are thrown away and include:

- ▶ Plastic bags
- ▶ Plastic straws
- ▶ Coffee stirrers
- ▶ Soft drink and water bottles
- ▶ Plastic cups
- ▶ Balloons
- ▶ Unnecessary food packaging.

Council encourages all community members to reconsider the use of

disposable plastics. Each year more than one million seabirds and 100,000 marine animals die from ingesting plastic. Items including balloons and straws get washed into the ocean via suburban stormwater drains.

Plastic does not biodegrade. It breaks into smaller pieces that can be ingested by wildlife that can make its way into the human food chain. This makes plastic a human health hazard as well.

If you are hosting an event or party you could consider decorating with paper products, or items found in nature including flowers or leaves. Reusable fabric bunting or flags can add colour, while light projectors can make for a fun atmosphere.

Use plates, cups and cutlery that can be reused and consider serving drinks in glassware.

Council will support individuals and organisations required to follow the policy through waste education programs. To find out more phone 8571 1000.



For more ideas on how to swap out single use plastics see the back page of this magazine.

How to save energy at home

Over the past few months we have been spending more time at home, which can lead to higher energy bills.

While school students have returned to the classroom, many people are still working from home and households will have noticed an increase in recent energy bills.

Lower energy bills can help save you money, but more importantly it can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, helping to protect the environment from climate change.

So what can you do to help reduce your energy use and keep those bills in check?

- ▶ Get out the winter woollies – when things start to get chilly put on some warmer clothes and delay switching

on your heater. Snuggling under an extra blanket overnight could also mean the heater doesn't have to kick in until morning.

- ▶ Set the heater temperature a degree or two below where you would usually. Between 18-20 degrees is ideal, as every degree higher can increase heating costs by up to 10 per cent.
- ▶ Connect portable heaters to a timer.
- ▶ Keep the cold out by installing door and window seals, exhaust fan and vent covers, door snakes and weather strips. These are cheap, easy to do and some can be done by renters.
- ▶ Check the efficiency of your fridge – set the temperature of your fridge between 3–5 degrees, and your freezer between 15–18 degrees. Check that the seal is working properly and not letting out any of that cool air. If you need a new more

energy-efficient fridge but can't afford it, the State Government has subsidies available for low income households visit victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au for information.

- ▶ Laundry tips – wash laundry in cold water and if your machine has an 'eco' mode use it. Only use a clothes dryer when you absolutely have to, hanging clothes outside gives you access to free energy from the sun.
- ▶ Get ready for summer and install solar – going solar cuts your energy bills and in some instances could help earn your initial outlay back in just a few years. There are a number of solar options available for residents and businesses to consider. Visit greaterdandenong.com/climateandenergy for more information.



Visit victorianenergysaver.vic.gov.au for more tips on how to reduce your energy usage.



2020–21 Budget



The City of Greater Dandenong's 2020-21 Budget has been developed during a period of great uncertainty, but it aims to provide our community with some confidence moving forward.

Council is continuing to monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we acknowledge that the full impacts on Council and our community may not be known for some time.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Jim Memeti said Council faced a unique challenge, but so did other businesses, organisations and individuals in our community.

“A full understanding of the impacts of this pandemic won't be known for many months, so we recognise that our proposed direction for 2020–21 may require changes,” Mayor Memeti said.

“Local economic support for our most vulnerable community members was unveiled in April and totalled more than \$4 million. This community relief package will be reviewed after 30 June and we may need to offer further supports to those doing it tough,” Mayor Memeti said.

Key components of the relief package included an immediate \$100 rate rebate passed to all pensioners for the fourth rate instalment and a \$200 rate waiver on application for any Council ratepayer receiving the Job Seeker allowance.

The past several years have seen strong capital investments in major projects...

Council provided a further \$250,000 in immediate material aid to the community.

Council further waived or reduced a large variety of rents including providing significant financial support of \$1.5 million to traders at Dandenong Market to ensure the Market could continue to trade.

The past several years have seen strong capital investments in major projects, including the Dandenong Civic Centre and Library, redevelopment of the Dandenong Market, construction of the Noble Park Aquatic Centre, construction of Tattersson Park Community Sports Complex and the final stages of the Springvale Community Precinct project.

The 2020–21 Budget continues to build on that strong investment with a capital works program worth more than \$43 million.

“Through sound and prudent leadership, Council remains in a healthy financial position for 2020–21, although this will continue to be tested by the compounding effect of rate capping and the COVID-19 pandemic,” Mayor Memeti said.

Council’s total revenue from rates will increase by the 2 per cent rate cap amount set by the Victorian Government. However, residential rates will rise on average by only 0.4 per cent in 2020–21.

The exact increase residents see on their individual notices will vary due to the annual revaluation process Council is required to undertake.

There are also increases in the waste charge due to Council having much higher costs for recycling and disposing of waste at landfills.

“The short and long-term impacts of this health crisis are yet to be fully understood but this Budget strikes a good balance between ensuring Council continues to provide operational services and support to the community and a capital spending program to provide much needed local infrastructure,” Mayor Memeti said.

Key features of the Budget

- ▶ \$5.76 million for road resurfacing
- ▶ \$4.81 million for Abbots Road widening
- ▶ \$2.58 million for the Keysborough South Community Hub development
- ▶ \$2.42 million for building renewal
- ▶ \$2.3 million for new Ross Reserve Pavilion and All Abilities Playground
- ▶ \$2 million for Villiers Road access road to Keysborough South Community Hub
- ▶ \$1.6 million for footpath renewal and Active Transport Infrastructure Priority Program
- ▶ \$1.5 million for Greater Dandenong Gallery of Art
- ▶ \$1.18 million Vanity Lane streetscape
- ▶ \$1.05 million for Parkfield Reserve oval
- ▶ \$1 million Dandenong Park Master Plan implementation
- ▶ \$810,000 for Dandenong Market improvement works
- ▶ \$600,000 to complete building and landscape works at the Springvale Community Hub.



strong investment





We encourage new parents to seek support where you can...

Maternal and Child Health Service

Greater Dandenong's Maternal and Child Health staff continue to support families in our community.

While the service has had to adjust following restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, an average of more than 320 consultations have taken place each week.

The youngest members of our community, infants under eight weeks of age, are being prioritised for face to face consultations. With some easing of restrictions the service is working towards increasing face to face appointments, however if you have concerns you can contact the service.

Families with children up to the age of two years are encouraged to access expert support via phone calls or video calls when their regular checks are due. Families who have specific concerns about their babies' feeding or development can contact the MCH service booking line on 8571 1880.


While first time parent groups have not been offered, they are now being slowly reintroduced. New parents are being contact directly by early parenting practitioners to discuss coping with a

newborn during this period of social restriction. Sleep and settling is a popular topic of conversation during these phone calls.

Council understands that this is a difficult time for all parents, but especially for those with new babies. Many parents often push themselves to get back to a "normal" routine in the early weeks of having a baby, but this time of isolation and social distancing can have benefits for new parents.

We encourage new parents to seek support where you can, including from family members, friends and health experts including our Maternal and Child Health service or your local GP. Speak openly about your concerns and find time for yourself. The Maternal Child and Health Line is a 24-hour support service and can be reached on 13 22 24.

To make an appointment with the Maternal and Child Health Service please phone 8571 1880.

 Visit greaterdandenong.com/mch for more information.

Ally to LGBTIQ community

Greater Dandenong Council is a proud ally of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) community.

Council commemorated IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia) on Sunday 17 May by raising the rainbow flag in Dandenong's Harmony Square. The flag flew for one week, while Drum Theatre was also lit up in rainbow colours for the same time period.


Council also launched its LGBTIQ Inclusion Statement on this day. The statement says:

"As a diverse municipality, we are enriched by the social, cultural and economic contributions made by LGBTIQ people who live in, work in and visit the City of Greater Dandenong.

"Council is dedicated to ensuring our city is safe, respectful and welcoming for our LGBTIQ residents and visitors.

"Council recognises the real struggles of the LGBTIQ community who experience multiple forms of discrimination and harassment, based on homophobia/transphobia/biphobia/intersexphobia. This often affects their ability to fully participate in everyday life within our community.

"Council is a strong advocate for inclusion and equality and is committed to building a more equitable future for our LGBTIQ community."

 Visit greaterdandenong.com/lgbtiq to read the full statement.

Council's Future Planning



Every four years, following the election of our Councillors, the City of Greater Dandenong creates a strategic plan which guides Council's activities and outlines the resources required to deliver important services to our community.

The plan highlights the key priorities for Council, outlines what we hope to achieve over the next four year period and how we will measure our success. This plan is reviewed every year to ensure we capture the changing needs of our municipality. Each year an Annual Plan is also developed to provide information on the specific actions Council will undertake to ensure the Council Plan priorities are achieved.

We are currently in the final year of the existing Council Plan 2017–21 and with the upcoming Councillor elections in October we will be commencing the development of a new plan for 2021–25. The new Council Plan will also include our health and wellbeing priorities and as part of the project we will review our Community Plan – Imagine 2030.

To create the new Council Plan we will be undertaking a number of consultation activities over the next six months to provide our community with the opportunity to help shape the direction of our city over the next four years.

We value the input of our residents, business community and visitors and would like to see as many people participate as possible. All consultation activities will be advertised on Council's website and through social media channels when available but if you are interested in being a part of our activities and contributing to future planning you can register early by emailing your contact details to plan2021@cgd.vic.gov.au.

*Greater Dandenong City Council is strongly committed to the responsible handling of personal information and is compliant with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. A copy of Council's Privacy and Personal Information Policy is available on Council's website at greaterdandenong.com

Cr Matthew Kirwan and former Greater Dandenong Councillor and Mayor Roz Blades at the 2018 launch of the Back Your Neighbour campaign



Back Your Neighbour

Council continues to work on advocating for the rights of people seeking asylum.

More than 1000 people seeking asylum and their families are living in Greater Dandenong while they await a decision on their claim for asylum without any financial support or little to no opportunity to work.

The COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the stress felt by many who saw benefits cut from the Federal Government's Status Resolution Support Service (SRSS) program.

With casual work being affected by the health crisis many individuals and families who were already doing it tough have been left with nothing.

Greater Dandenong Council leads a group of 32 local councils from across Australia in advocating for people seeking asylum. Together we seek the reinstatement of benefits under the SRSS program and we call on the Victorian State Government to continue the one-off \$3 million financial support package offered in the last financial year.

We call on residents to join the Back Your Neighbour campaign and add your name to our petition.



Visit backyourneighbour.com.au to learn more about the campaign or to sign the petition.

Award winning event



Council's annual Springvale Snow Fest has won two gold medals on the world stage.

While this year's event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council will continue to work on putting together another exciting winter wonderland for 2021.

The 2019 Springvale Snow Fest won Best Municipal Event and Best Australian/Oceanian Region Event at the 2020 Global Eventex Awards.

More than 440 entries from 39 countries vied for dozens of awards at the 10th annual award ceremony.

Each year Council partners with Mt Buller to deliver up to 80 tonnes of real snow fresh from the mountain, and last year more than 40,000 people enjoyed the experience.



My Community Art prize



Young creatives can use their artistic abilities to celebrate the Greater Dandenong community through a new art competition.

If you enjoy painting, drawing or creating digital illustrations then share your talents through the Greater Dandenong. *My Place. My Community Art Competition.*

Use these themes to express yourself:

- ▶ What you love about your community
- ▶ What is special about your community
- ▶ What connects you to community

Entries are open to people aged 12–25 years who live, work or have a significant connection to the City

of Greater Dandenong. Entries must be original and are limited to one submission per person.


Submissions close on Friday 7 August and entries will be judged across three categories, including 12–15 years, 16–19 years and 20–25 years.

A first and second prize will be awarded for each category and a People's Choice Award will also be conducted for an overall winner.

 **Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com for information on how to enter.**



Support for youth


 **While the COVID-19 pandemic has seen many Council events and activities cancelled or postponed, Youth and Family support services are continuing.**

The team has created a range of online alternatives to traditional support services and encourages young people and families to stay in touch.

Youth workers can help provide general advice about how to manage social distancing, positive wellbeing strategies and how to access other support services. Support can be delivered by phone or Skype.

Youth Services provides free and confidential counselling and support services to young people aged 12–25 years who live, work or study in Greater Dandenong. During safe and confidential sessions you can talk about anything that may be bothering or stressing you out, including relationships, family conflict, school issues, mental health issues like anxiety or depression, and much more. A counsellor can see you either on your own or with your family.

Contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 or email youthservices@cgd.vic.gov.au for support.

 **Visit youth.greaterdandenong.com for access to online resources or to find out more.**

NAIDOC Week postponed

The City of Greater Dandenong has a proud connection with its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

During July Council observes NAIDOC Week to help honour this relationship, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic national celebrations have been postponed until later in the year.

The National NAIDOC Committee has taken expert health advice and has decided to postpone NAIDOC Week (5–12 July) in 2020.

Greater Dandenong Council will follow advice from the Committee about rescheduling celebrations and will inform the community when a decision is made.

 **In the meantime visit greaterdandenong.com/diversity to see how Council is supporting the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.**

...working to improve the health of Dandenong Creek in a bid to see platypus return to the area

Platypus habitat

Greater Dandenong Council is working to improve the health of Dandenong Creek in a bid to see platypus return to the area.

Platypus have been recorded in the upper catchment of the Dandenong Creek but would have lived along the whole creek at one stage. They are sensitive animals and require stable banks for their burrows, clean flowing water for their food source and protection from fishing line and other litter that could cause them to drown.

The City of Greater Dandenong, with funding from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program, is tackling habitat destruction, waterway pollution and land clearing – all big contributors to the loss of the platypus from Dandenong Creek.

In collaboration with Council staff and our local community, 3200 indigenous plants will be planted along the Dandenong Creek. It is hoped these plants will replace weed species, help clean the water, stabilise banks and

increase vegetation overhanging the creek for improved conditions for not only platypus but a whole range of animals that call Dandenong Creek home.

➤ If you want to get involved visit greaterdandenong.com/natureandwildlife to find out more about how Council is creating a better home for native plants and animals in Greater Dandenong.

HOME 2020

For the first time in its six year history the HOME Exhibition can be viewed from the comfort of any lounge room across Australia.

The exhibition features work by six artists who come from a refugee or asylum seeker background and will be showcased virtually.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said the exhibition celebrated the diversity of our nation which was reflected by the diversity of our city.

"The City of Greater Dandenong is recognised as Australia's most culturally diverse community," he said.

Residents come from 157 different nations, speak more than 200 different languages and follow more than 100 different faiths.

"Our diversity is our greatest strength, it defines who we are as a community and is a source of powerful storytelling."

This year's artists work across various media and come from all over Australia. Two have very personal links to Greater Dandenong, including one who currently lives in Dandenong. Humaira Fayazi, who now lives in Dandenong, arrived in Australia in 2018 as a refugee from Afghanistan.

Dr Dacchi Dang lived at the Enterprise Migrant Hostel in Springvale when he first came to Australia from Vietnam almost 40 years ago.



Dr Dacchi Dang.

➤ HOME 2020 opens on 9 July. Visit greaterdandenong.com/home to view the exhibition.

Big hearts in business support vulnerable communities



The Material Aid Program in Greater Dandenong is helping deliver food and supplies to residents that are most in need and without other support.

This combined relief effort has supported about 2,200 individuals each week.

This would not be possible without the help of some big-hearted organisations in our municipality, including:

- ▶ Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
- ▶ Red Cross
- ▶ Cornerstone
- ▶ Springvale Benevolent Society
- ▶ Communities Creating Opportunities (CoCO's)
- ▶ Wellsprings for Women
- ▶ Friends of Refugees
- ▶ Enjoy Church
- ▶ We Care
- ▶ Salvation Army.

Food and material relief donations have been delivered to 492 families. This includes many who are people seeking asylum, international students, homeless and the unemployed.



At the time of writing this article, agencies anecdotally reported a 20 to 30 per cent increase over the last two weeks in the number of people seeking material aid, which shows we are far from through this crisis.

The material aid would not be possible without the support of our generous business community who have donated goods and services including:

- ▶ Australian Natural Soap
- ▶ Amazon
- ▶ Dandenong Market
- ▶ Chobani
- ▶ Granny Foods
- ▶ Honbach.

Council welcomes further contributions from local businesses if you can spare the goods or services. Email materialaidenquiries@cgd.vic.gov.au if you would like to contribute to the material aid program.

Talking Business Magazine



Did you know Council produce a dedicated business magazine called *Talking Business*?

The publication comes in two formats, a quarterly 16-page magazine covering some of the latest developments in the area, market trends, industry news and grant funding and training opportunities available to businesses.

The second format is a monthly electronic newsletter where time-sensitive information and opportunities are shared.

The magazine also profiles local businesses who are doing well in their own field.



Subscribe today to see all the latest happenings in the Greater Dandenong business world via greaterdandenong.com/talkingbusiness or call 8571 1550.



Messages of hope

Words of
wisdom

In times of uncertainty many people turn to faith for comfort and guidance, but even if you don't follow a particular faith, the following messages from Greater Dandenong's faith leaders may contain words of wisdom to help you through.

These faith leaders are all members of the City of Greater Dandenong's Interfaith Network, the oldest interfaith network in Australia.

Baha'i

"Never feel alone, as together we are all working through this challenging time. As we look to our inner being, to our connection with God, we will find through Him, hope, strength, comfort and love, for all." – *Agnes Kean*.

Brahma Kumaris

"I keep an aim to stay present and connected to my essence of peace. I know that this peace will reach my beloved ones and ultimately the whole world, providing comfort, strength, hope and clarity." – *Sister Jacqueline Russell*.

Buddhist

"The best way to take care of society is to take care of the present moment." – *Venerable Thich Thien Tam, Hoa Nghiem Buddhist Temple*.

Christian

"We have been looked after by so many generous people during these challenging times. With gratitude, let's not forget to say 'thank you' to all those who work to keep us healthy in body, mind and spirit." – *Anita Davine, St John Vianney Catholic Parish*.

Hindu

"I know the Coronavirus pandemic has gripped the entire world with no boundaries. I pray that God might free us from the pandemic and life might serenely resume its normal course. OHM THAT SATH." – *Sivarasi Rajaratna Sarma Premakantha Kurukkal, High Priest*.

Jewish

"When Jewish people meet, they will wish you Shalom, a friendly and peaceful greeting. In times of crisis we need to be responsive to each other. As a multicultural city we believe in our unity and faith to find the silver lining." – *Roz Blades AM*.

Muslim

"The beautiful nature of compassion is a virtue we all possess. In times of hardship, patience and support is a key factor in maintaining physical and spiritual wellbeing. Let's remember that goodness made with a sincere intention is seen as an act of kindness." – *Imam Mehmet Salih Dogan, Emir Sultan Mosque*.



Sikh

"During a time that we cannot go out, let us use this opportunity to go within to connect to the divine. God mercifully takes care of each of his creations and this world. Have faith, our creator will help us through this adversity, as he always does." – *Jasbir Singh Suropada*.

Sri Sathya Sai Organisation

"Humans need to engage themselves in some action or other, either physically, mentally, or both. Together we pray for hope, that as a community we will unite for the upliftment of all people and commit ourselves to good deeds." – *Ursula Aruma*.



Visit greaterdandenong.com to read messages from these and other faith leaders in full and to find out more about the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong.

Op shops open

Most op shops offer support services beyond bargain prices and have made every effort to continue providing support to our most vulnerable residents.

Many of Greater Dandenong's op shops have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic, but for those who had to close a number have now reopened with additional precautionary measures.

Changes include social distancing requirements, hand sanitisation stations around the stores and screens to protect staff and customers. Many stores have also closed changing rooms and are quarantining donations for a short period.

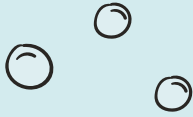
If you have items to donate you should contact your local op shop to check their requirements.

It is handy to note that op shops only take donations during opening hours, which means if you leave donations outside of these hours you are illegally dumping and could face a fine.



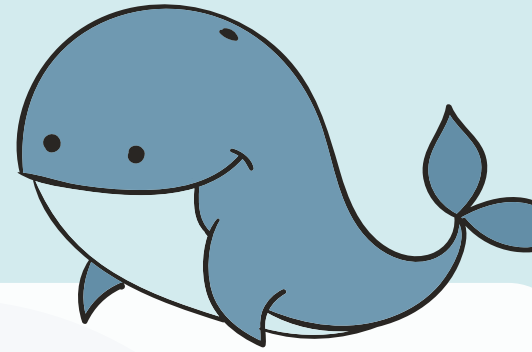
For more information contact: The Salvos on 137 258 St Vinnies 131 812





Did you know that plastic can take hundreds or even thousands of years to break down, causing pollutants that are toxic to humans, animals and plants.

Greater Dandenong Council has committed to reducing the usage of single use or disposable plastic through the adoption of the Plastic Use Policy and is encouraging residents to do the same.



Simple swaps to reduce plastic waste



Plastic straws
> use paper or metal straws, or no straw at all



Plastic drink bottle
> reusable glass or aluminium drink bottle



Takeaway coffee cup
> buy a reusable glass or 'keep' cup



Disposable nappies
> reusable cloth nappies



Greater Dandenong Council has a vision to be one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030. By working together we can achieve this vision and make life better for the people of Greater Dandenong. Visit greaterdandenong.com to find out more.

