

AUGUST 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News



Springvale Community Hub

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Satisfaction**

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Elections**

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**STEAM
Festival**

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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

All correspondence to:

Greater Dandenong Council News

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Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au



Phone: 8571 1000



Fax: 8571 5196



www.greaterdandenong.com



@greaterdandy



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police/Fire/Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults/
non-operational

United Energy.....13 20 99

Traffic signal faults/
non-operational.....

8571 1000

Hoon Hotline.....1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management
Services.....9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society.....9798 8415

RSPCA.....9224 2222

Nurse on Call.....1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the August edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

While our community still deals with restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council continues to support our community's most vulnerable and works to protect the health and safety of all our residents.

Very recently we celebrated the completion of one of the biggest projects to happen in our city in recent times. The Springvale Community Hub has been completed, however we have had to hold off on opening until restrictions are once again lifted.

Many of you would have seen this building take shape over the past year, and we can't wait to welcome the community inside, but this will have to wait. See the opposite page for a sneak peak inside.

In October the people will go to the polls for the Council Elections. Find out all you need to know about how to enrol and how to vote on pages 8 and 9.

Celebrate Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics during the Greater Dandenong Library Services STEAM Festival. The program will be delivered online and there is something for all ages happening. Read more on page 10.

With strict lockdown restrictions now back in place I want to remind Greater Dandenong residents to be vigilant and maintain the social distancing practices and good hygiene that have helped protect so many in our community. You are doing a fantastic job, keep it up.



**Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti**

My City



Springvale Library first opened in 1973 as part of the Dandenong Valley Regional Library Service. It was closed in March 2020.

Front Cover: Mayor Jim Memeti inside the children's area at the new Springvale Library.
Picture: Hilton Stone.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



amazing indoor and outdoor space



Springvale Community Hub

The opening of the much-anticipated Springvale Community Hub has been placed on hold as COVID-19 restrictions are ramped up.

This amazing indoor and outdoor space has been several years in the making and is set to encourage connection and become the new community heart of Springvale. While Council is keen to welcome the community to the new space, the health and safety of our residents is a priority.

It includes flexible community spaces, a modern, state-of-the-art library, customer service area and plentiful parking. The outdoor space is being completed, but already includes an extensive children’s play area, lawn area and large urban screen just like the one in Harmony Square, Dandenong.

Library users and visitors to the customer service desk will soon be welcomed in limited numbers and encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines.

Mayor Jim Memeti said he was thrilled to see the site transform into an amazing place for the whole community.

“The Springvale municipal offices were demolished in July 2015, and I have watched alongside the wider community as this site has taken shape over the past five years,” Mayor Memeti said.

“The Springvale City Hall underwent its first major refurbishment since opening in the late 1960s and reopened in 2017 as stage one of this project.

Now this whole precinct is one we can all be incredibly proud of.”

By the Numbers



- ▶ The Springvale Library collection includes more than 65,000 items including books, magazines and dvds
- ▶ There are more than 40 public computers and devices accessible at the library
- ▶ The Hub is home to seven community rooms and three meeting rooms available for programs and venue hire
- ▶ The library has five community rooms available for public use
- ▶ The new Springvale Community Hub is expected to have more than 770,000 visitors each year.



Visit greaterdandenong.com to join the Mayor on a behind the scenes tour of the new building.

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Silverleaf Ward
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MONDAY

10
AUGUST

MONDAY

24
AUGUST

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 are closed to the public for the time being. You can

view the meetings via Council's live webcast.

The August meetings will be held:

Monday 10 August

Monday 24 August

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

AUGUST

Cr Maria Sampey ▶ Silverleaf Ward



While the situation around the COVID-19 pandemic keeps changing, Council is working hard to balance all the health and safety needs of our community.

Some services have reopened, but we are particularly concerned about protecting our elderly and most vulnerable residents. Our Community Transport Program, which provides flexible transport options to individuals and groups, has not yet restarted, but as soon as we get the all clear, the bus trips will begin again.

Although our Community Transport Program has been suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic we have been reviewing our shopping trip timetable

and once restrictions are lifted we will increase from eight per fortnight to 11 trips per week. This will give older and frail residents more opportunities to access safe and secure transport to do their shopping. These trips take residents to Dandenong Market, Parkmore, Waverley Gardens and Dandenong Plaza. If you need support for essential shopping right now please phone 8571 5503.

In the meantime, we continue to support community groups to plan for their return to regular seniors' activities. We know that groups and clubs provide a valuable source of social connection for our older residents and we are looking forward to welcoming your meetings and activities back to Council buildings when it is safe to do so. Council staff have put together some information to help groups plan for their safe return.

Council continues to work with community members on the Positive Ageing Advisory Committee to explore how to support our ageing community. There are currently some vacancies on the committee. If you have an interest in how Council can best support older residents to maintain their wellbeing for as long as possible please phone 8571 5503 to talk about joining.

➤ You can contact me at maria.sampey@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0438 800 027.

Cr Sophie Tan

► Paperbark Ward



This year has undoubtedly been tough and challenging for all as we face unprecedented global health and economic crises at the same time. While we have recently re-introduced tough restrictions, Council continues to work hard to deliver services and projects for our residents and community.

Here are some of the Paperbark Ward projects that Council approved in the 2020–21 Budget:

- \$2.3 million for new Ross Reserve Pavilion and All Abilities Playground
- \$1.19 million for streetscape upgrades in Douglas Street, Noble Park

- \$700,000 for sports field lighting at Parkfield Reserve
- \$575,000 for construction of the Frederick Wachter Reserve Wetlands
- \$80,000 for design and implementation of a new pocket park at 89 Douglas Street, Noble Park
- \$20,000 for Wi-Fi at NPAC
- \$20,000 community garden at Chandler Road Reserve.

Council has also submitted funding applications for several projects under the Federal and State governments' Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program. The results of these applications were not known at the time of publication, however if the funding is granted construction works need to start within six months.

The three projects in Paperbark Ward include:

- Landscaping and amenities around new basketball court at Ross Reserve
- A health and wellbeing gymnasium at NPAC
- A synthetic soccer pitch at Ross Reserve.

The Draft Noble Park Activity Centre Structure Plan community consultation was completed recently. Main proposals include:

- Building height and setback guidance for new development
- Removal of Heatherston Road roundabout and signalise the intersection
- Widen Buckleys Lane to 9m from Copas Park towards the centre
- Encourage the planting of trees.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the online survey for this draft plan. All submissions and feedback will be considered before the Structure Plan is finalised and submitted to Councillors for their consideration.



If you have any local issues that you want to discuss please contact me anytime on 0466 793 727 or email at sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Red Gum Ward

Cr Matthew Kirwan

COMMUNITY HUBS

Planning for the new **Keysborough South Community Hub** is being finalised. Thank you to everyone who gave feedback on the draft design – it was a huge response. Once the detailed design is completed the project will go out to tender with construction scheduled in 2021. As you can see in the photo (accompanying this column) onsite on Chapel Road, my daughters Sylvia and Eloise are excited.

With regards to the **Dandenong Community Hub**, the feasibility stage was completed last financial year. In this year's budget the Business Case and Concept Design stage was funded by Council to proceed. A community hub to bring Dandenong residents together is sorely needed.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In the coming weeks, the long-awaited **Greater Dandenong Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** will be

coming to Council for endorsement.

This is our plan for a net zero emissions organisation by 2025 and a net zero emissions community by 2040, targets coming from the science. We are backing this plan with extra resources, with \$400,000 extra in this year's budget to put it into effect.

GOODBYE

I won't be standing for re-election in October this year. It's been a privilege and a very rewarding experience to serve you for almost eight years.

In my time on Council I have been passionate about social justice and the environment, better community infrastructure and increased opportunities for civic participation.

Of the many capital projects I've advocated for, it's timely to see a few particular projects that residents asked me for are starting construction this year; Greater Dandenong's first all abilities playground in Noble Park, a




regional art gallery in Dandenong, the upgrade to Hemmings Shopping Strip and the Keysborough South Community Hub.

I hope I have played my part in making Greater Dandenong a more fair, liveable and sustainable city.



Until October please contact me via matthew.kirwan@cgd.vic.gov.au and 0403 072 295.

Community Satisfaction Survey

 **Greater Dandenong Council has once again achieved a record performance rating as part of an annual customer satisfaction survey of residents.**

Now in its 21st year, the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey assesses Council's performance across a range of measures and in comparison to other local government bodies.

Council achieved an overall performance score of 69, a record result for Council, up from 67 in 2019. The figure was three points higher than the 2018 score, and 11 points higher than the 2020 state-wide average.

This year Council scored highest in the area of customer service (73) and compares to the state-wide average of 70.

The survey results also found that:

- ▶ Greater Dandenong residents identified diversity as the best thing about our community, closely followed by customer service, community activities and public events, and library services and facilities
- ▶ On a safety question, 46 per cent of residents said they felt safe in their local area, compared to 40 per cent in 2019 and 36 per cent in 2018
- ▶ Residents scored community consultation a 62, compared to a state-wide average of 55, and a metropolitan average of 58
- ▶ Advocacy scored 62, compared to a state-wide average of 53
- ▶ Overall Council direction scored 63, compared to the state-wide average of 51 points.

 **Visit greaterdandenong.com for the full report.**


Performance Measure	Council	Metro average	State-wide average
Overall performance	69	66	58
Community consultation (community consultation and engagement)	62	58	55
Advocacy	62	57	53
Making community decisions (decisions made in the interests of the community)	63	59	53
Sealed local roads (conditions of sealed roads)	68	67	54
Customer service	73	74	70
Overall Council direction	63	54	51

Abandoned vehicles

Council can issue fines and tow any vehicle deemed to be abandoned in the streets of Greater Dandenong.


If a car is registered but parked in the same place for seven consecutive days it can be reported to Council as an abandoned vehicle. We will do our best to identify the owner and speak to them directly, but we can issue a fine if the vehicle is not moved.

Unregistered vehicles can't be parked on public land, but if they are Council will place a yellow sticker on the vehicle and try to contact the last registered owner. If that is unsuccessful the vehicle will be towed.

 **You can report an abandoned vehicle via the Snap Send Solve app, or phone customer service on 8571 1000.**



Pedestrian safety

 **We are all pedestrians at some stage of our journey. So whether we are driving, cycling or walking each of us has a responsibility to ensure we use the road space safely with others.**

Here are some key rules to remember:

- ▶ In a shared zone used by both vehicles and pedestrians, drivers and cyclists must give way to pedestrians.
- ▶ At intersections, with or without pedestrian lights, drivers are required to give way to any pedestrians crossing the road they are turning into.
- ▶ Drivers must always give way to a pedestrian on a pedestrian crossing and must not overtake a vehicle stopped at a pedestrian crossing.
- ▶ When entering or leaving a driveway or private property drivers must give way to pedestrians and cyclists on any footpath, path or nature strip.

With more people getting out and enjoying their local streets on foot, Council would like to remind everyone that safety is important and we encourage all drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to be aware of their surroundings.

Helping residents get tech savvy



A joint initiative between Council's Community Care and Library teams will help address issues of social isolation and assist Community Care clients to get more tech savvy.

The Tech Savvy Project will help isolated residents keep in touch with family, friends and support networks, while also giving them the confidence to shop for essential items online. With help from the Australian Government, council has provided some eligible residents with iPads and/or internet connections, as well as training to use the equipment.

Self-isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic has affected many Community Care clients, but this project will help rebuild important social connections and improve feelings of self-sufficiency.

Library staff have trained Council's Community Care workers who can educate clients in their own homes about programs such as Zoom and Facetime, as well as safely shopping online.

To find out more about the project phone 8571 5503.

Greater Dandenong benefits from wind power

The City of Greater Dandenong will now have guaranteed access to renewable energy for the next decade thanks to a new agreement.

Under the agreement between Alinta Energy and Procurement Australia all public lighting in Greater Dandenong will be powered by 100 per cent clean electricity from the Bald Hills Wind Farm in Gippsland.

The 10-year group purchasing agreement includes 13 Victorian councils and one Victorian Government authority and started last month.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said the agreement reinforced Council's commitment to responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency it declared in January this year.

"By getting energy from renewable energy sources, instead of coal-fired power, we are not only tackling climate change head on, but we are also ensuring value for money."

Greater Dandenong Council is committed to working towards being a net zero carbon city by 2040 and is currently preparing its draft Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Visit greaterdandenong.com.climateandenergy for more information.



Works at Spring Valley Reserve

Council is working to improve the protective cap on a former landfill site in Springvale South, with parts of the reserve fenced off for the duration of the works.

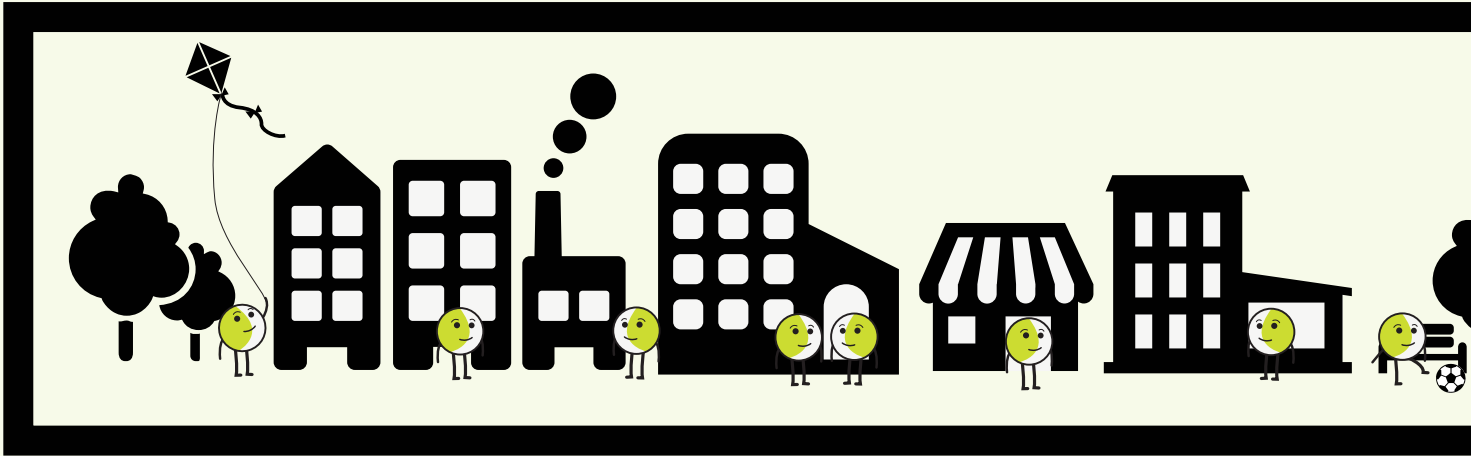
Spring Valley Reserve was once used as a landfill by the South Eastern Regional Waste Management Group between 1993 and 1998. After that time a clay cap was added over the landfill site and it has been used as a park by residents.

The current works involve removing cover soil from sections of the reserve and adding additional clay to the clay cap that covers the buried rubbish.

The northern end of the park remains open while works are happening, but southern access to the reserve will be closed to the public for the duration of the works due to the large number of trucks that will be entering and exiting the sites.

Construction works are expected to be completed by December 2020. For more information phone 8571 1000.





Voting in Council Elections – Impo

Elections for the Greater Dandenong City Council will be by postal voting on 24 October 2020. The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducts the elections on behalf of Council. You can phone them on 131 832 with any enquiries about the Council elections.



If you are enrolled to vote for the Federal and State elections and are a resident of the City of Greater Dandenong, then you are automatically enrolled to vote at the Council elections and it is compulsory for you to vote.

Recently moved to Greater Dandenong?

If you have recently moved into Greater Dandenong, or moved within Greater Dandenong, you will need to change your Victorian enrolment details. You can check your enrolment or enrol online at enrolment.vec.vic.gov.au or by phoning the VEC on 131 832. To be included on the Voters' Roll with the correct information about your address for this year's Council elections, any new enrolment details must be received by the VEC before 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

Special category voters

You will be automatically included on the Greater Dandenong Chief Executive Officer's Voters' List (CEO List) if you own a property within Greater Dandenong but do not live in Greater Dandenong. This situation occurs with many businesses and rental properties. There are many legal rules that apply to the CEO List. In easy terms, if you are not automatically enrolled on this list, you can apply to be included on it if you:

- ▶ are a non-Australian citizen who lives and pays rates in Greater Dandenong, or

- ▶ pay rates on a property that you occupy and have no other voting entitlement in Greater Dandenong, e.g. you are a business occupier of a property that pays rates as a condition of the lease and have the prior agreement of the owners to apply to vote at this election, or
- ▶ are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates in Greater Dandenong and have no other voting entitlement within Greater Dandenong.

To apply to be on the CEO list, please email governance@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5216. Applicants will be sent a statutory form which must be completed and received by Council by 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

Those on the CEO List who own more than one property within Greater Dandenong but do not reside here will be included on the Voters' Roll (from the CEO List) against the property with the highest capital improved value. If you want to be listed against a different property, then a statutory form must be completed and returned to Council by 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.

Those properties on the CEO List who have multiple owners who do not reside within Greater Dandenong will automatically list the first two owners from Council's database on the CEO List. If the owners of the property wish to change this, then a statutory form must be completed and returned to Council by 4pm on Friday 28 August 2020.



Important Information You Must Know

New regulations gazetted on 9 July 2020 means there can now be four CEO List voting entitlements per property, which can be comprised of up to two joint owners and two joint occupiers. For more information contact the VEC directly.

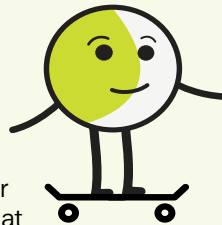
It is not **compulsory for anyone on the CEO List** to vote, regardless of whether an application is made to be included on it or not. A person is only entitled to be on the Voters' Roll for one address within the municipality.

Remember that Friday 28 August 2020 is Entitlement Day. No one can apply to vote or change their enrolment details after this day.

Postal voting – how does it work?

The VEC will automatically post a ballot pack to each voter on the Voter's Roll between 6–8 October 2020. Completed ballot papers must reach the VEC's Election Manager (previously called the

Returning Officer), in the envelope provided with the ballot papers, by 6pm on 23 October 2020 either by handing them in at the VEC's temporary Electoral Office at 279 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, or by post. Please do not send them to Council or lodge them at Council's customer service centres.



Will there be early voting?

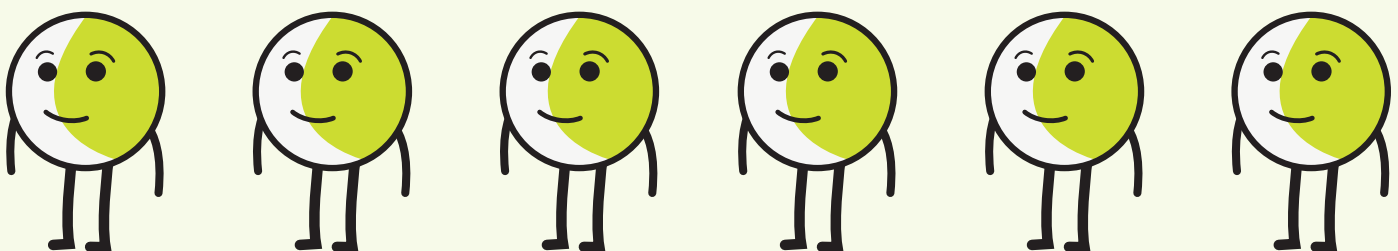
There will be an opportunity to vote after 22 September 2020 and prior to receiving a ballot pack if you attend the VEC's temporary Electoral Office in Greater Dandenong, at 279 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. This office will not open until mid-September. All activities at the VEC's Electoral Office will be conducted under a COVID-19 Safe Plan.

Do you want to run for Council?

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will hold candidate information sessions across Victoria in September as part of the preparations for the October elections. These sessions will include information about:

- ▶ eligibility requirements for running as a candidate in a Council election
- ▶ how to nominate as a candidate
- ▶ what is involved in running a campaign
- ▶ voting.

➔ For information about the VEC's and other candidate information sessions being held in Greater Dandenong, please visit greaterdandenong.com and search for Council Elections or phone Council's Governance Unit on 8571 5216.





Reflect Project



Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre will light up next month with work created by local students to reflect their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Renowned projection artist Yandell Walton (pictured) has been mentoring students online, and has created a light projection featuring footage created by the young artists.

Walton connected regularly with the students to develop their understanding of digital art practices and how traditional art forms can be manipulated into powerful projections.

The students were asked to respond to the impact the Coronavirus has had on them.

Work was chosen to represent a range of art mediums as well as the diversity of young people living in Greater Dandenong.

The finished product will be projected onto the outside of the Drum Theatre throughout September.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/arts to find out more.

STEAM Festival

Celebrate science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics at the Greater Dandenong Libraries' third annual STEAM Festival.

The month long festival will include online events and programs for children and adults, including the celebration of the Melbourne Writers' Festival (7–16 August) and National Science Week (15–23 August).

There's plenty to get the children interested, including:

- ▶ Sea Monster Languages – design your very own sea monster and create a coded language for the monster to use
- ▶ Saturday Think Tank sessions – Mad About Science, Fizzics Education, Marine Mammal Foundation and WildlifeXposure present entertaining live sessions combining education and fun
- ▶ Code Club programs – guided, self-paced workshops to do at home, including Scratch coding, website building, artificial intelligence and Rube Goldberg machines



- ▶ Themed Storytime, Baby Bounce and Reading Buddies sessions.

Adults can also book into some fun programs:

- ▶ Podcasting from Home online workshops with Madison Griffiths
- ▶ Deakin University Life and Environmental and Sciences lecturer, Dr Trevor Thornton about making good environmental decisions
- ▶ Art Series with Quince Francis building a giant nest to encourage wildlife into your own garden
- ▶ Student-run science communication team Let's Torque discuss what STEAM means to them.



Visit greaterdandenonglibraries.com.au or phone 1300 630 920 to find out more and book into your own fun session.

Arts online

Parents looking for a creative outlet for budding artists can find some great workshops and activities on Council's website.

The City of Greater Dandenong has been given exclusive access to create the characters for a new online activity created by arts group Playable Streets.

Local children are invited to help create content for the interactive online activity Sounds Exquisite. We are asking children to get creative and draw crazy creatures and tell weird and wonderful stories for the game. Later in the year the characters will come to life via Playable Streets' website.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/artforkids to download instructions and find out how to take part in this activity. While you are there check out the origami workshop video or find a downloadable arts activity to engage children of all ages.

Stop wasting food



Each week the average Victorian household throws away uneaten food to the value of \$42. This adds up to a staggering \$5.4 billion annually across the state.

This action not only hits the hip pocket, but also takes up valuable space in our rubbish bins.

There are many ways to reduce the amount of food going to waste, but first we need to understand why we waste food. The most common reasons include:

- ▶ We buy too much food
- ▶ We cook too much food
- ▶ We don't know how to use leftovers
- ▶ Food is thrown out before the use by date
- ▶ We don't check the fridge or cupboards before buying more food
- ▶ We buy takeaway instead of cooking the food we have at home.

By planning meals in advance, shopping with a shopping list and checking what food you already have at home, you can cut your costs at the supermarket and reduce food going to waste.

Thinking about where our food comes from and how much energy has been used to produce and transport that food can also help cut the impact we have on the environment.

Involving your children in meal planning, shopping and meal preparation can also teach them valuable skills for the future.

Find out more about how to reduce food waste at a free online workshop.

The Food Waste Avoidance Workshop will be held live on Wednesday 26 August from 6.30pm–7.30pm.

Hear great tips on:

- ▶ Food waste issues
- ▶ Why we waste food
- ▶ How to reduce food waste
- ▶ Meal planning ideas
- ▶ Food storage
- ▶ Loving your leftovers.

Visit greaterdandenong.com to find out how to sign up to the workshop.

Heavy rain affects parks



Heavy rainfall has affected parks across Greater Dandenong, but Council's Parks Team is working hard to reduce areas of flooding.

Melbourne has experienced the wettest start to the year in more than a century. In fact, Greater Dandenong recorded 500mm of rain from January to April and continuing heavy falls in winter have had an effect on many parks.

The Parks Team continue to assess affected areas and is carrying out maintenance works to help reduce water damage. This includes topping up paths and creating swales to help shift water from areas of heavy use.

Many of our parks are along waterways, such as Dandenong Creek, and are designed to flood to ensure surrounding properties don't. Water levels in parks subside as the rain decreases and water levels go down, which means wet weather can make this problem come and go.

Creating accessible open space is important to us and we will continue to make our parks and reserves fun and safe spaces for all.

You can help the Parks Team by reporting problem areas at local parks and reserves. You can do this by using the free Snap Send Solve app available for smart phones, or by phoning Council on 8571 1000.



Let there be light

A project to replace flood lighting at Dandenong's Shepley Oval was recently completed.

The lights were upgraded to a more energy efficient set up that will help illuminate the sports ground during night training and matches.

The new lights mean tenant clubs Dandenong Southern Stingrays Football Club and Dandenong Cricket Club can host night games, and also allows Council to host exhibition games or special events at the ground.

Lighting upgrades have recently been completed at other sports grounds in Greater Dandenong, including Coomoora Reserve in Keysborough, Alex Nelson Reserve in Springvale South, and Robert Booth Reserve in Dandenong.



Abbotts Road upgrade

Council will soon begin work on widening Abbotts Road between Taylors Road and National Drive.

Dandenong South is an important destination for workers in Melbourne's south eastern growth corridor and Abbotts Road is one of only a few east-west connections from the Casey growth areas into the Lyndhurst and Keysborough industrial areas. It is also a very important freight link.

Works include:

- ▶ widening Abbotts Road to two lanes in each direction
- ▶ new pedestrian path
- ▶ upgrade of stormwater drainage and underground services
- ▶ relocation of overhead powerlines
- ▶ upgrade to street lighting.

This project will help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion for vehicles who use the road, it will also make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and improve access for buses, emergency and service vehicles.

Pocket Parks



Council understands the importance of open space in our community and is always looking for ways to increase the quantity and quality of available open space.

Open space includes sporting fields, nature reserves, gardens, playgrounds, trails and civic spaces. It also includes pocket parks, which include, seating and a green environment for local residents.

Council recently sought community feedback on newly created pocket parks and will soon begin creating community spaces in the following locations:

- ▶ 90 Gove Street, Springvale
- ▶ 6-8 Fifth Street, Dandenong

Consultation is now open for a pocket park at 89 Douglas Street, Noble Park. Details can be found on Council's website.

Play equipment has been upgraded at three local parks and was designed to encourage active, challenging, imaginative and social play for both younger and older children.

Plans were put out for community feedback earlier this year and the new playgrounds are now complete. They are at:

- ▶ Geoffrey Carson Reserve, Woomera Avenue, Keysborough
- ▶ Regent Park, Regent Avenue, Springvale
- ▶ Olinda Reserve, Olinda Avenue, Springvale.

 **Visit greaterdandenong.com to discover more open space in Greater Dandenong.**

Keshava Park

Council will this month unveil a plaque at a Dandenong South reserve that recognises the contribution migrants have made to our city.

The particular migrants all come from one village in North Macedonia – Keshava. They first came to Australia during the 1960s and many found their way to Dandenong South.

While the distant village is still only home to a few hundred people, Greater Dandenong Mayor Jim Memeti said he believed more than 3000 local people could trace their roots back to the village.

The park itself was named by land developers after the road it is located on – Keshava Grove. During development of the area local families nominated the name in recognition of their roots and it was selected.


The park is a popular place for local families to visit and includes a playground, barbecue facilities, a public toilet and access to the Dandenong Creek bike trail. It is also home to Greater Dandenong's only community orchard.

Dance Cancelled

Due to ongoing restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, Council is disappointed to announce the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Multicultural Seniors Dance.

The dance was due to be held at Springvale City Hall on Friday 4 September.

The health and safety of our residents is always Council's top priority, and we look forward to welcoming residents back to more social events once it is safe to do so.

 Visit [greaterdandenong.com](https://www.greaterdandenong.com) for up to date information about restrictions to Council services and activities.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

The annual Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise the exceptional contribution by people within our community who work selflessly to enrich the lives of others.

Applications are now open for the 2021 awards, and Council invites our community to nominate people who they believe are making a difference in Greater Dandenong.

Awards are presented in the following categories:

- ▶ Citizen of the Year
- ▶ Young Leader of the Year
- ▶ Volunteer of the Year
- ▶ Sportsperson of the Year
- ▶ Corporate Citizen of the Year
- ▶ Community Group of the Year
- ▶ Living Treasure Award.

Winners will be selected by a community panel and will be presented with their awards on 26 January.

Earlier this year awards were presented to the 2020 winners, which included:

Citizen of the Year

Christine Keys, President of the Dandenong and District Historical Society

Volunteer of the Year

Agnes Kean, founding member and current President of the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong

Community Group of the Year

the Greater Dandenong Environmental Group

Sportsperson of the Year

Dean Jones from the Silverton Cricket Club

Young Leaders of the Year

(joint winners) Jemma Leeson and Tanishka Sharma.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

Julie Busch

Sustainability Award

Bryan Hunter

Council also inducted four more people as Living Treasures, including Robert 'Bob' Malcolm, Ian McDonald, Margo Hartley and Josephine De Lange. The Living Treasure Award is given to people who have made a lasting impact on life for all of the City of Greater Dandenong community.

 **Nominations for the 2021 Australia Day Awards close on Monday 31 August. Go to [greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards](https://www.greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards) for more information and to submit and online nomination.**

Great Bites Open for Business



The Great Bites booklet has been a staple in the Greater Dandenong community for many years, listing places to eat across our municipality.

The foodie guide celebrates Greater Dandenong's vibrant, multicultural and unique food scene, listing restaurants, bakeries, cafes and other food-related businesses.

Many businesses shut down in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic and as they reopened, found creative ways to work with the new and constantly changing restrictions, including social distancing and increased cleaning regimes.

Some businesses have shut their doors completely during lockdown, while others continue to provide takeaway

food offerings, but all of them are using time to figure out a new way of running their business during the biggest health pandemic of modern times.

Council's Greater Dandenong Business Team has been working with local businesses to support them to continue serving the community, and came up with the Great Bites Open for Business initiative, encouraging businesses to promote themselves.

At the time of publication the web-based tool listed more than 30 local businesses including catering, wholesale, takeaway and sit in establishments.

Visit [greaterdandenong.com/greatbitesopenforbusiness](https://www.greaterdandenong.com/greatbitesopenforbusiness) to find your next Great Bite or if you are a business wishing to be included on the list.

...join us in trying to save just a small part of our fabulous world

Greater Dandenong Environment Group



Ian Kitchen talks about how the Dandenong Environment Group was established.

"Thirty years ago some of us thought that Dandenong needed a group to increase awareness about environmental issues, so we met and started the group.

The first practical activity was a tree planting in Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North. A council gardener dug the holes for us and one of the neighbours served us beer over his back fence for being public spirited. Those were the days!

Over the years we have worked closely with the Council on many projects. We operated an indigenous plant nursery in the Council depot for over twenty years, growing thousands of plants each year. These plants were used in revegetation works throughout the city and the surplus was donated to schools and residents.

The group has been steadfast in working with the Council to formulate local environmental policy to protect our green open spaces that conserve our biodiversity.

We have had a busy program for many years.

- ▶ At two sites we carry out Melbourne Water's Water Watch program. The quality of the water is rated by testing it chemically and by identifying the water bugs in it.
- ▶ We conduct a bird count at one site and record the results in the Birds Australia database.
- ▶ We are part of the Frog Watch program, doing frog surveys at night.
- ▶ Each year, we organise a Clean Up Australia Day event – so far we have done eleven.
- ▶ With grant support, we have organised nature activities, including night walks and talks for the general public with a professional presenter.

We look forward to new things in the future and hope that you will join us in trying to save just a small part of our fabulous world and making Dandenong a better place in which to live, work and play."

➔ To find out more about the group and how to take part in their activities phone 8571 1702.



Breastfeeding support continues

Many health services have been forced to adapt to a new way of operating during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) is one such organisation and now offers online assistance for mums and their support people.

Founded by six Melbourne mums in 1964, ABA is Australia's largest breastfeeding information and support organisation with a national network of volunteers and a variety of resources and services available for breastfeeding families.

For 24/7 support phone the National Breastfeeding Helpline on 1800 686 268. Antenatal Breastfeeding Education Live sessions run online every weekend, and the ABA Dandenong support group holds weekly informative sessions and catch up on Zoom. There are videos and other resources available on the ABA website.

Breast pump hire is still available (with strict hygiene procedures) from the Breastfeeding Centre in Robinson Street, Dandenong, from Tuesday–Thursday 10am–12pm, phone 9791 4644 to book.

The ABA is a Registered Training Organisation and offers training for volunteers and health professionals.

➔ ABA's website has information about supporting breastfeeding during a health pandemic. Visit breastfeeding.asn.au for more information.

Making a difference in Greater Dandenong

Nominations now open

The logo for the Australia Day Awards is centered in a white circle. The text 'AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS' is written in a stylized, hand-drawn font. 'AUSTRALIA' is in dark blue, 'DAY' is in a smaller font size in the middle, and 'AWARDS' is in a light teal color. The background of the poster is a vibrant yellow with various colorful shapes and patterns, including pink and orange stripes, and teal and orange stripes, all set against a light teal bottom section.

AUSTRALIA
DAY
AWARDS

The Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise individuals or groups whose outstanding work has made a positive contribution to the Greater Dandenong community.

Nominate now on:

greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards

Email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au

or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

Closing date: Monday 31 August 2020