

NOVEMBER 2020

Greater Dandenong Council News

Summer
gardens

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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
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



Report issues to Council

Reporting an issue to Council can be done in just three simple steps. Snap. Send. Solve.

The Snap Send Solve phone app uses your smart phone camera to capture a photo of the issue, and GPS to precisely pinpoint your location. All you have to do is add some notes detailing the issue and hit send. A report is then sent back to Council so we can take action.

You can use the app to report any issue including dumped rubbish, broken playground equipment or graffiti.

Snap Send Solve is available to download for free via the App Store and Google Play.

Council continues to take reports via online forms, email or phone. Visit greaterdandenong.com/report or phone 8571 1000 for more information.

My City



The 50m outdoor pool at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre reopened last month to eager swimmers. At the time of publication, COVID-19 restrictions had eased to allow outdoor pools to open to the public. The centre had introduced some changes to how it operates to ensure the safety of staff and visitors. Pool sessions need to be booked 48 hours in advance, and there are limits on visitors to the centre. Visit nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au for the latest information.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.



Upgrades undertaken during closures

Council has taken advantage of the closure of leisure facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic to carry out upgrades.

Works undertaken at Dandenong Oasis, Springers Leisure Centre, and the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) include cosmetic improvements.

At the time of publication only the outdoor pool at NPAC had reopened to the public. Council will follow expert health advice for all sporting facilities,

but when these centres reopen visitors will notice some changes.

At NPAC, the rubber ground surface of the outdoor splash park has been replaced, and indoor users will see improvements to the surface around the indoor pool.

At Springers Leisure Centre the closure has given us the chance to replace net dividers between the courts.

The Dandenong Oasis has seen a number of improvements, including an upgrade of change rooms and the replacement of some tiles in the 50m pool. Bench seating around the pool has been repainted and a new pool

hoist has been installed improving accessibility.

In February 2021 Council will begin the first stage of a redevelopment at NPAC, after receiving \$3.3 million from the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

A two-storey extension to the existing building will include a large gymnasium, three program/group fitness rooms and change rooms. The building will also include provisions for 24/7 access.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/npacdevelopment to find out more.

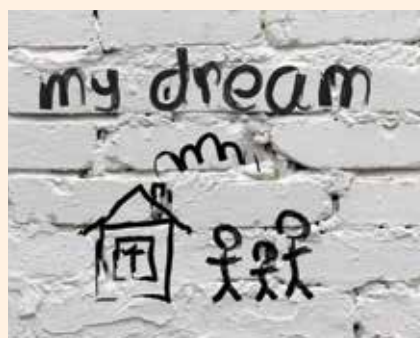
A unified voice to tackle homelessness



Greater Dandenong Council has joined with 12 other councils in Melbourne's east and south east to call for urgent action to end homelessness.

The campaign, initiated in November 2019 by Monash Council, is calling for more social housing as a first step to address the often complex social and health needs of some of our most vulnerable community members.

The alliance of councils has adopted a charter to guide the campaign. The Regional Local Government



Homelessness and Social Housing Charter 2020 prioritises commitments which Greater Dandenong and other councils will act on. These include working in partnership with federal and state government, public and private sector stakeholders to increase the provision of social housing. Each local government area will also identify land that has the potential to be re-purposed to meet adaptable

housing needs, and advocate for inclusive housing growth.

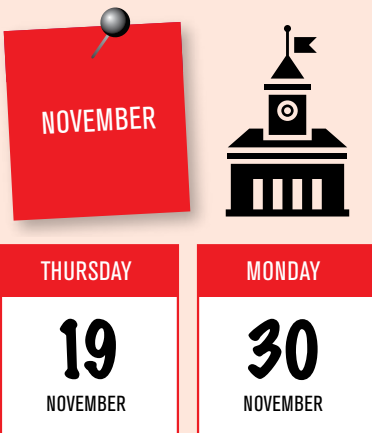
Councils are often the first responders to people experiencing homelessness in local communities and see first-hand the issues it can cause. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic many of our most vulnerable people have been pushed to crisis point.

Key to this campaign is the belief that a safe home is a fundamental human right.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/homelessness to read more about the campaign.

call for urgent action



Council Meetings

Council meetings are running virtually for the time being. You can view the meetings via Council's live webcast.

The scheduled November meetings have changed from what was previously advertised and will be held:

Thursday 19 November, 6pm

(Annual Statutory Meeting of Council for swearing in new councillors and Election of the Mayor, commencing at 6pm)

Monday 30 November, 7pm

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

Visit [greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings](https://www.greaterdandenong.com/councilmeetings) to view meetings online, find out more about Public Question Time or to see updates about how current restrictions affect Council meetings.

Council Elections were held on October 24 and at the time of publication we were awaiting the results from the Victorian Electoral Commission.

We look forward to introducing our newly elected Councillors and Mayor to you in the next edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

www.greaterdandenong.com

Change today, shape tomorrow



Council is putting together a new four year plan for our city and we want to hear from you.

Every four years, when a new Council is elected, the City of Greater Dandenong is required to set a strategic direction and develop a new Council Plan.

This plan outlines key priorities, what we hope to achieve, how we expect to achieve it and what our success will look like.

We want to ensure our new Council Plan 2021–25 reflects what matters most to our community and we need your help to make this happen.

We have great strengths in our community to build on, including the diversity of our cultural groups, our growing business sector, and a thriving scene of cultural events, festivals, theatre and performance.

We understand we also have important challenges to face including recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the pre-existing vulnerabilities in our community that have been made worse by the crisis.

We want to hear your vision for our future, the key areas you think we should be focusing on over the next four years, and how we can make Greater Dandenong an even greater place to be.

There will be a range of activities conducted over the next six months which will provide opportunities for individuals, businesses, community groups, schools and many of our key stakeholders to provide input.

Our current priorities are:

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Community participation
- ▶ Improved health and wellbeing
- ▶ Respecting and embracing diversity
- ▶ Healthy, clean and sustainable environments
- ▶ Future planning and quality open space
- ▶ Business and community partnerships
- ▶ Employment and tourism
- ▶ Transparency and accountability in decision making.

For the first time our Council Plan will incorporate the Community Wellbeing Plan, which reflects both the priorities of our local community and those of the State Government. Council is focused on improving the health and wellbeing of our city in the following areas:

- ▶ Community infrastructure, transport and environment
- ▶ Learning and employment
- ▶ Mental and physical health
- ▶ Engagement, social cohesion and safety.

▶ We want to hear from as many people as possible. Visit [greaterdandenong.com/plan2025](https://www.greaterdandenong.com/plan2025) to get involved and share your vision for our community.



Springvale Community Hub

In one of their last official acts as Greater Dandenong councillors, our outgoing Council celebrated the official opening of the Springvale Community Hub.

Councillors filmed a welcome video under strict COVID-19 restrictions, and the Mayor of the day unveiled a plaque celebrating an opening date of 20 September 2020.

At the time of publication, Council was still waiting for an easing of restrictions to open the doors of this brand new facility to the public, however the outdoor areas including the great lawn and the children's playground were in use.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has stopped our community from making the most of the state-of-the-art library, community rooms, customer service area and cafe, Council looks forward to welcoming people to enjoy the full range of indoor services as soon as we are able.

Last month Council sought nominations for the Springvale Community Hub Committee. This committee will provide strategic advice to the Greater Dandenong Council on matters related to the hub.

The vision for this hub is to "encourage active participation in cultural exchange, creative celebrations and life-long learning, through a welcoming community hub that inspires learning and creative living". Council hopes the committee's nine members will help achieve this vision.

The committee will soon be appointed and will sit for a period of two years.

Visit [greaterdandenong.com](https://www.greaterdandenong.com) to keep up to date on restrictions and when the hub is open to the public.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Council has extended the deadline for nominations in three categories of the 2021 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

Due to the Council Elections held recently, Council opened up the nominations process earlier than usual, but would like to give more opportunity for our community to consider worthy recipients in the categories of Citizen of the Year, Sustainability Award and the Living Treasure Award.

The Citizen of the Year Award recognises a person who has demonstrated long-term commitment to voluntary or philanthropic work in the community and made positive contributions to enrich the lives of others.

The Sustainability Award recognises an individual or group whose initiatives contribute to make Greater Dandenong a more sustainable place to live, work and play.

The Living Treasure Award recognises a person who has had a lasting impact on the quality of life for the community.

Nominations for these awards will now close on Monday 30 November.

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

Visit [greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards](https://www.greaterdandenong.com/australiadayawards) for more information and to submit an online nomination form.

Off-leash park to be upgraded



...even more inviting for families and their dogs



Dandenong North dog lovers and their furry friends will be happy to hear about further improvements at Tirhatuan Park following funding from a State Government stimulus program.

A \$153,500 grant will fund improvements at the off-leash dog park, including extra shelter, seating, rubbish bins, picnic table, gravel paving and a drinking fountain. Dog play equipment will also be added to the (all dog) fenced off-leash area.

The park has recently undergone some changes, with a new fenced off area dedicated to small dogs only, and the upcoming improvements will make it even more inviting for families and their dogs.

Dog off-leash parks in Greater Dandenong are very popular, and we remind residents to continue to practice COVID-19 safe precautions when they visit these parks. This includes wearing a mask and observing social distancing at all times.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/animals to read more about off-leash areas.

Springvale Boulevard



Work will soon begin to transform Springvale Road into a signature boulevard befitting of one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations.

With more than 20,000 local residents and 100,000 visitors from outside Greater Dandenong arriving in the Springvale Activity Centre each year, Council is working to make the area more welcoming for all.

Works will be carried out on Springvale Road, between Lightwood Road and Windsor Avenue, making the streetscape more inviting and safer for pedestrians.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken with local residents, business owners and schools, guiding the design process. Key comments from participants have led to the inclusion of wider footpaths for street trading, new seating, improved street lighting, more shade trees and safety enhancements including CCTV.

Council will now work with local businesses to ensure disruptions to trading and access will be minimised throughout the construction process.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/springvaleboulevard for more information including project timelines.

Swimming pool and spa registrations

New laws introduced by the State Government require all pools and spas to be registered and regularly inspected.

The cut off date for registration with Council is 1 November 2020. If you have not yet registered your pool or spa you need to contact Council.

In December 2019 the regulations were introduced to improve safety around pools and spas. The new laws require your safety barrier to be inspected and certified every four years.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/swimmingpools for more information. To discuss how the regulations apply to your property phone the Building Department on 8571 1000.



Parking for the future



On-street parking sensors are being installed in the Dandenong Activity Centre preparing Greater Dandenong for city-wide 'smart' technology.

The sensors will allow Council to capture occupancy data, which will provide important information to ensure parking spaces suit the needs of customers and traders now and into the future.

Eventually, the data captured by the sensors will enable Council to provide real time occupancy information via apps and digital signage, which will make it easier for drivers to find available parking spaces in the area. It will also enable the development of apps for customers to manage their parking fees and time limits from their own phone.

The installation of more than 1100 sensors is set to be complete by early December 2020, with the works being scheduled to minimise disruption wherever possible.



Once activated, customers can continue to use the parking spaces in the same way they have previously, by adhering to the relevant parking restrictions and time limits.

Enforcement for parking restrictions will not change, however customers should be aware the time a vehicle enters the car space is the time the sensor will begin.

Sensors will be installed in all on-street bays throughout central Dandenong including along Lonsdale Street service roads, and Thomas, Clow, Foster, Walker and Robinson streets.

Visit greaterdandenong.com for more information and project updates.

Hemmings Street Precinct Action Plan

Council is consulting with the community on a Hemmings Street Precinct Action Plan, for the area bound by Robinson Street, Princes Highway, Jones Road and Railway Parade. The Action Plan and a survey is being mailed out to all residents in the precinct. The key aim of the Action Plan is for the community, Council, State Government, local services and Victoria Police to partner together and improve safety in the precinct.

Key priorities of the draft plan include:

- ▶ Build participation and promoting crime prevention through Neighbourhood Watch
- ▶ Create a sense of precinct ownership by holding arts and cultural events
- ▶ Improve security by obtaining funding to install mobile CCTV
- ▶ Advocating to and partnering with State Government to improve safety, amenity and wellbeing in the precinct



For more information, to request a copy of the Action Plan or the Survey, please email community.advocacy@cgd.vic.gov.au

Greater Dandenong job blitz

A State Government campaign to boost Victoria's economy includes funding to support 102 new job vacancies at Council.

Under the Working for Victoria fund Council will provide jobs for unemployed people – whether they have lost their jobs due to the impact of COVID-19 or have been without work for a longer period of time.

Recruitment to fill the positions started last month and will continue until all 102 positions are filled. It is hoped all roles will be filled and staff working on the ground by January 2021.

Council will offer roles on six-month terms within certain parts of the organisation, including:



- ▶ Conservation and land management crews, to help enhance the environment and beautify natural settings within Greater Dandenong
- ▶ Cleansing, including teams cleaning high touch surfaces to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community
- ▶ Data capture, supporting business strategy and planning activities to support local businesses.

Greater Dandenong CEO John Bennie said more than 10,000 jobs had been created through the \$500 million initiative since it launched in April.

“Greater Dandenong City Council is really pleased to be taking part in Working for Victoria and we are looking forward to welcoming our new employees on board,” Mr Bennie said.

“If you're looking for a job, we want to hear from you.”



Visit vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria for more information or to register your interest in applying for one of the jobs at Council.


Know your recycling




Join us for the Recycle Right in Greater Dandenong online webinar on Tuesday 10 November, from 6.30pm–7.30pm.

Come along to this free online waste and recycling workshop to hear about how your household can reduce waste to landfill and recycle right.

This session covers issues with waste, what items can go into your garbage, recycling and garden bins, the recycling process, how to reduce your waste at home and how to dispose of other items.

 Visit [greaterdandenong.com](https://www.greaterdandenong.com) for more information and to register.

 This month we celebrate **National Recycling Week (9–15 November)** by reminding residents what can and can't go into their yellow lid recycling bin.

Spending more time at home can create more waste. From cooking more to receiving more mail and online shopping parcels, many of us are generating more waste than usual.


While we can't control everything right now, we can make sure the contents of our recycle bins are being put to good use and don't end up in landfill.

Here are some tips to help save you time and sort the most common items into the appropriate bins.

- ▶ Always remember to keep your recycling out of plastic bags. All items can be placed in the yellow lid bin loose.
- ▶ Soft plastics like bread and pasta bags go into the red lid bin. To recycle these items, take them to your local supermarket where there is a recycling bin dedicated to soft plastics recycling.
- ▶ Polystyrene packaging is not recyclable and should be placed in your red lid bin.
- ▶ Clothing and shoes do not go into your recycling bin.
- ▶ Food waste goes into the red lid garbage bin. You could set up a composting bin for this waste and use it to feed your own garden.

Follow these simple rules to help make the most of Council's recycling services



 Visit [recycling.vic.gov.au](https://www.recycling.vic.gov.au) to search for specific items and find out which bin they belong in.

Get it right on bin night



Contamination in your garden waste and recycling bins can prevent Council from processing your waste effectively.

If a bin is heavily contaminated it simply cannot be emptied, but a team of bin monitors will help residents to 'get it right on bin night'.

Inspections of garden waste and recycling bins will help Council determine how much waste is being recycled correctly. If your bin is contaminated bin monitors will offer feedback via a sticker on your bin or a note in your letterbox.

Diverting waste from landfill is important to Council and recyclables from households can be used to manufacture new products. When a bin is contaminated it can sometimes prevent whole truck loads of material from being recycled.

Do your bit for the environment and make sure only recyclable materials go into your yellow lid bin, and appropriate garden waste goes into your green lid bin.

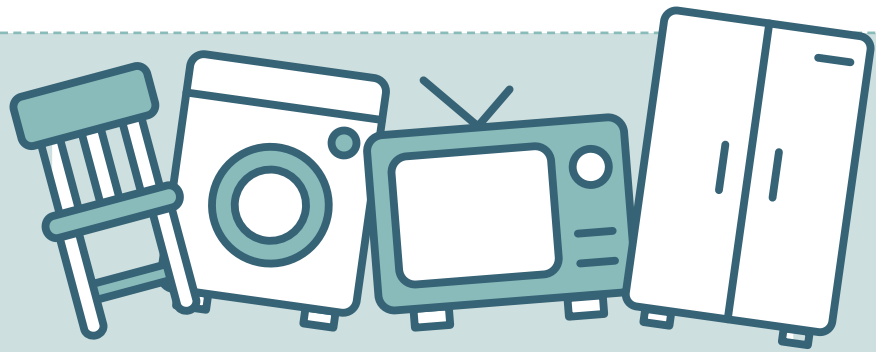
Visit greaterdandenong.com/waste for details on what can and can't go into your bins.

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day postponed



Due to ongoing restrictions the Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day scheduled for Saturday 28 November has been postponed.

Council will reschedule this event when circumstances change. In the meantime you can consider booking a free, kerbside hard waste collection to dispose of unwanted items.



Hard waste

Ever wondered what happens to hard waste after your booked collection has been taken away?

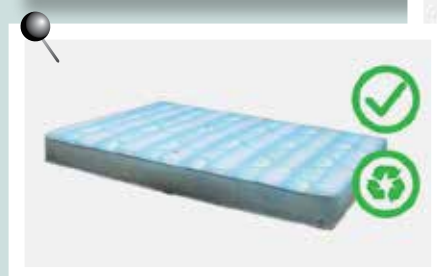
Many items are collected and placed into the compactor truck, but this does not mean they are destined for landfill. These items are taken away and sorted for recycling.

Items such as scrap metals, timber, white goods and mattresses are suitable for re-use and recycling. Items that are not able to be recycled are sent to landfill.

Electronic waste (E-waste) is banned from being disposed at landfill. Anything with a plug or cord and batteries is collected separately and is recycled, re-used or recovered.

Once hard waste is collected it is taken to Knox Transfer Station (KTS), where it will be recovered, reused or recycled. Items that can be reused are sold through the KTS second hand shop. All other items are unloaded from the compactor trucks for processing and sorting.

Payment of the Residential Garbage Levy entitles you to book in one free hard waste collection each year. Extra collections can be booked on a user pays basis. Book online at hardrubbishmelbourne.com.au/dandenong or phone WM Waste Management Services on 9721 1915.



What's in a Name?

Have you ever wondered where certain street names come from?

Many local streets have been named after the early European settlers of the district – the people who arrived in Dandenong from the mid-1800s when it was surrounded by trees and had just one dirt track as a main road.

These settlers had interesting journeys and played a role in public life once they settled here.

Join the City of Greater Dandenong's Heritage Team for the online exhibition *What's in a Street Name? Dandenong's Early History* and find out more.

This exhibition delves into the history of some street and laneway names, and reveals some surprising facts about our early settlers.

 **This online video is now available to watch via Council's YouTube page. Visit greaterdandenong.com/events and search 'history' for more information.**

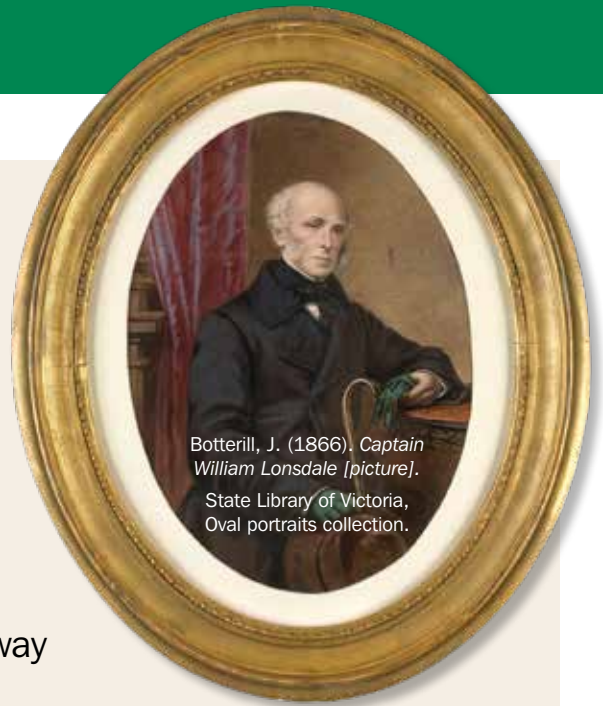
Lonsdale Street

In the mid-1800s arrivals to Dandenong found themselves in a small town with just one dirt track taking travellers in and out.

This dirt track is now known as Lonsdale Street and bears no resemblance to the way it once looked.

Lonsdale Street is named after Captain William Lonsdale, who was in the British Army and arrived in Australia in 1831. He took on a lease in the Greater Dandenong area about 1838 and placed his nephew, Alfred Langhorne (another familiar local street name) in charge as overseer.

In 1854 the census records the population of the township of Dandenong as 48. By 1857 this number had grown to 59 and Lonsdale Street was at the geographical heart of this growth.

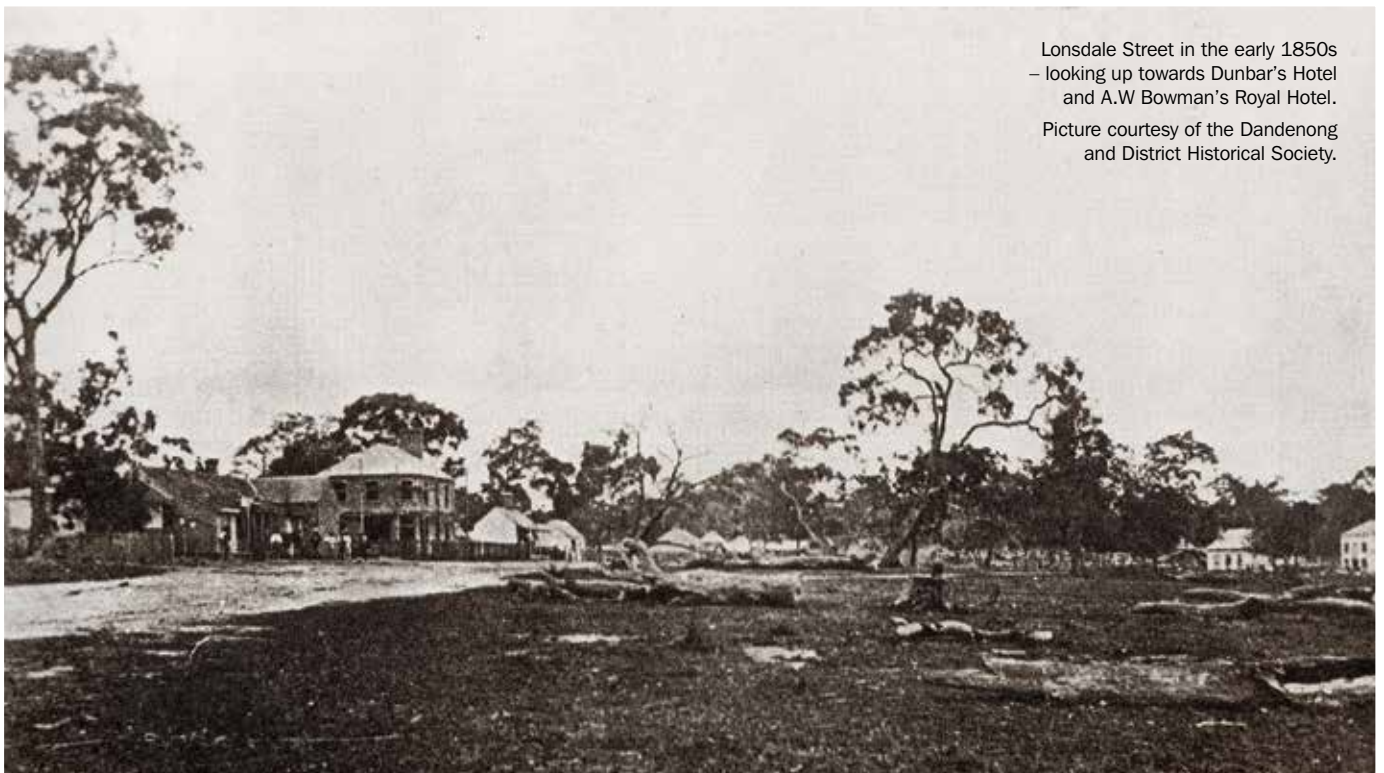


Botterill, J. (1866). *Captain William Lonsdale* [picture].

State Library of Victoria, Oval portraits collection.

Most of the shops and hotels were located along Lonsdale Street, and from 1866 the Dandenong Market was located there as well.

Lonsdale Street was home to one of the most important early buildings in Dandenong – George Dunbar's Hotel (established around the late 1840s) and its successor Dunbar's Royal Hotel. The hotel became the central meeting point for the town – the Dandenong District Roads Board held their meetings there, alongside early court hearings and church services.



Lonsdale Street in the early 1850s – looking up towards Dunbar's Hotel and A.W Bowman's Royal Hotel. Picture courtesy of the Dandenong and District Historical Society.

seeking
entries

Supporting artists



Greater Dandenong has always been home to a vibrant arts scene, but the events of 2020 have seen challenging times for creatives and arts venues.

While the Drum Theatre, and galleries at Walker Street and Heritage Hill are closed, Council's Arts Team have been looking for ways to support artists in the virtual realm.

The Arts Online platform was created to share free workshop videos, arts talks, exhibitions and behind the scenes content to encourage our community to remain creative, while the workshops have given artists the chance to continue to make an income from their craft.

Artist call out

Share your creativity and be a part of Greater Dandenong's iconic 9 by 5 Exhibition.

The annual Walker Street Gallery and Art Centre exhibition has become a nationally recognised event that celebrates diversity within the arts community. It also proves that good things come in small packages.

Artists from around Australia present their creativity on panels measuring nine inches by five inches in a wide variety of styles. The exhibition commemorates the original 9 by 5 Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1889 featuring the work of Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, Arthur Streeton and Frederick McCubbin who painted on cigar box lids.

Several new remote residency programs were introduced during Melbourne-wide restrictions, including:

- ▶ A remote artist in residency callout in April. Three artists were engaged to share their practices with audiences virtually.
- ▶ A sound-based artist in residency callout in July, named Atmospherics. One artist received financial and technical support to explore the intrinsic link between nature and sound.
- ▶ A writer in residency callout in August. A writer has received financial and mentoring support to develop their writing skills. Their final work will be shared soon.

Council is now seeking entries for the Flora Exhibition, which was scheduled to run this year but has been postponed until March 2021.

Flora will explore and capture the importance, fragility and beauty of plants and nature, particularly native flora. A community exhibition will be held at Heritage Hill and all artists are encouraged to submit their work. Entries close on Monday 22 February.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/arts to find out more.



Now in its 15th year this exhibition is calling for entries for the 2020 display.

Work needs to arrive at Walker Street Gallery no later than Friday 20 November. Visit greaterdandenong.com/9by5 to find out how to get your art board and submit your work.

UNWRAPPED

Greater Dandenong will celebrate the LGBTIQ+ community through a new arts program launching this month.

Unwrapped will feature a program of diverse events and activities that supports local LGBTIQ+ artists and LGBTIQ+ communities, including online exhibitions, performances, events and workshops.

Unwrapped will also host satellite events as part of its programming from community and education bodies such as Connections Gallery, Chisholm Tafe and Headspace.

Greater Dandenong City Council supports diversity in all its forms, and programs like Unwrapped provide inclusive, safe spaces for self-expression and celebration.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Online Exhibition by James Hale, Ryan Pola and Taga Barrio

Working on and with paper, these artists are shredding, scrunching and unwrapping their worlds. Their works cover a range of themes from the mundane to the epic.

Spoken with Pride

Wednesdays 18 and 25 November

Two part workshop facilitated by Headspace Dandenong and queer identified spoken work artist Annie Solah. Join other LGBTIQ+ youth in the south east and learn how to develop your own piece, from writing to editing and performing.

Artistically Queer

Tuesday 24 November

Facilitated by non-binary writer, activist and public speaker Nevo Zisin, this panel discussion will feature a range of creative voices examining representation, identity and authenticity within the arts.

Visit greaterdandenong.com/unwrapped for a full program of events and to find out more about participating artists and organisations.



Edible gardens help the vulnerable



Plantings in public places across Greater Dandenong are used to help inspire local green thumbs and support organisations feeding the hungry.

Summer is the perfect time to harvest the bounty from Council’s tropical edible garden in Clow Street, Dandenong. This garden was introduced as a trial at a different location several years ago in partnership with the University of Melbourne.

It proved that even in Melbourne’s unpredictable climate, tropical plants, including sweet potato and taro, could flourish. Many residents (particularly those with an Islander background) commented to parks staff that the garden reminded them of home, and encouraged them to grow their own tropical gardens.

Garden beds across the city are often filled with edible plants, including herbs and vegetables, inspiring people to plant food in their own backyards. This seasonal planting is undertaken as part of regular garden maintenance.

A more recent project at Dandenong South’s Keshava Park, has seen the establishment of a community orchard and vegetable gardens.

All produce harvested from these public gardens is shared with local charities helping to feed our most vulnerable community members.

The gardens at Heritage Hill not only provide an earthy oasis in the centre of Dandenong, but they also help inspire a new generation of gardeners. Regular school tours (held in non-COVID times) show students how a home vegetable garden looks and also feature a compost patch which helps nourish the on site gardens.

What to plant



If you want to brighten your garden, now is the time to plant sunflowers for blooming during summer.

However, if you like cooking with fresh ingredients consider growing these edible plants in your own backyard for summer harvest.

- ▶ Capsicum
- ▶ Chilli
- ▶ Beetroot
- ▶ Carrot
- ▶ Cucumber
- ▶ Eggplant
- ▶ Lettuce
- ▶ Potato
- ▶ Pumpkin
- ▶ Leek
- ▶ Silverbeet
- ▶ Squash
- ▶ Sweetcorn
- ▶ Zucchini.

Or try some healthy herbs, including dill, chamomile, parsley, oregano, rosemary, thyme and sage.

Top up mulch on garden beds to help keep in moisture as the temperature heats up, and consider constructing some mobile shade tents (made from shade cloth) to put over garden beds with sun sensitive plants.



When you are ready to harvest your bounty visit dandenongmarket.com.au to find some great seasonal recipes.

A warm gesture of kindness

Despite a temporary suspension of face-to-face volunteering activities, Council established a new project to provide volunteers with an opportunity to keep engaged and give back to the community from the safety of their own homes.

The Karma Knitters consists of 17 volunteers who have collectively knitted and crocheted for more than 1600 hours to produce more than 160 woollen items, including beanies, knee rugs, scarves and accessories.

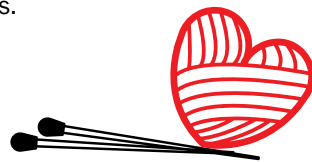
“We’re living in different times right now. It’s a really great gift in life to help people, so I feel very honoured that I can help,” volunteer Shenali said.

Early in winter the items were delivered to vulnerable and older residents, people seeking asylum and refugees in Greater Dandenong. They were distributed by local agencies including Cornerstone Contact Centre and CoCO’s Community Creating Opportunities, as well as Council’s Meals on Wheels service.

A Meals on Wheels client grateful for a rug and beanie offered this feedback.

“Your kindness warms my heart as much as these two things warm my body. Such acts bring a bright light in this troubled old world.”

Council would like to thank Amazon for donating the wool, and the Karma Knitters themselves: Annette, Heather, Ingeborg, Josephine D, Josephine P, Julie, Marianne, Ellie, June, Lauris, Nona, Rebecca, Sabine and Mercy Place knitters, Sandra, Shenali, Sue and Tess.



Volunteers in Greater Dandenong



Despite restrictions, volunteers keen to pursue work during the COVID-19 pandemic are still raising their hands.

The Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service (GDVRS) has suspended face to face services, but they continue to offer phone or online interviews and training to people wishing to donate their time.

GDVRS also continues to support organisations who engage volunteers to keep their services running.

Established in 2015, the service is a joint initiative of Greater Dandenong Council and South East Volunteers. Each year the service places more than 1800 volunteers in more than 450 community service organisations.

Operating five days per week the service can assist to:


- ▶ Connect locals with volunteering opportunities
- ▶ Help community organisations recruit volunteers
- ▶ Provide regular training sessions for volunteers
- ▶ Provide information, training, support and resources to volunteer co-ordinators and groups involving volunteers
- ▶ Increase the profile of volunteering across the community
- ▶ Acknowledge the efforts of volunteers through recognition events.

🚀 The opportunities to volunteer are endless and are available to people of all ages and backgrounds. Volunteer interviews are being held by phone or online and are by appointment only. To make an appointment phone 9562 0414.



Lucky Chobani recipients Abigail, Noah and Isaiah.

Yogurt manufacturer paying it forward

 In these hard times, we all have a role to play in making people smile. When Council encourages the community to Find the Kind, we also see many businesses sharing the joy.

Including Dandenong South-based yogurt manufacturer, Chobani, who responded to the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic by starting a campaign to give away 100,000 free pots of yogurt to Aussies who needed it most.

The campaign was based on a public nomination system and was so successful that the company did it all over again, receiving more than 20,000 nominations in just over three weeks during the second stage.

Chobani Australia Managing Director Lyn Radford said one of the company's key values was 'giving back'.

"Given the enormous challenges facing our communities, our country and our world as a result of COVID-19, now, more than ever it's important that we give back in any way we can," she said.

One of the recipients, Winsome Yu, was so thrilled to receive a delivery they posted this expression of gratitude on Facebook.

"...Today was the day! With a knock at the door and two fine young gentlemen armed with four boxes of Chobani Flips, we are so touched to learn that Super S1 (one of Noah's carers) nominated our family and that our family's story was worthy of being selected to be one of the many to be receiving some love and kindness in the form of delicious yoghurt that we LOVE..."

Chobani have also taken steps to support the health and wellbeing of their 273 staff during recent times, organising virtual comedy shows, inter-team trivia challenges, and delivering care packages to all employees.

Support for businesses in Greater Dandenong



Council recently launched several new initiatives to help local businesses doing it tough while following pandemic restrictions.

The free parking offer in Lonsdale Street, Dandenong has been extended for a further 12 months, while applications for outdoor dining permits across Greater Dandenong will be free. Businesses wishing to introduce or increase tables and chairs for on street dining will be able to apply for the annual permits free of charge for the next two years.

The Victorian Government has launched a grants program to help hospitality businesses prepare for COVID Normal. Under the Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package, eligible businesses can apply for a grant of \$5,000 to pay for training and marketing for outdoor dining, as well as practical things like umbrellas, outdoor furniture, screens and other equipment. Visit business.vic.gov.au for more information.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/business to find out more about how Council is continuing to support local businesses.



Free breast screens at Palm Plaza



Women's health will be on the agenda when the BreastScreen Victoria van visits Palm Plaza this month.

For women over 50, breast screens every two years can be life-saving. Breast screens are the best way to detect cancer early, before there are symptoms and when treatment is likely to be most successful.

The BreastScreen mobile van will be right in the heart of Palm Plaza, from Monday 2 to Friday 13 November, providing free breast screens to those who are eligible.

There are more than 9,900 women in the City of Greater Dandenong that are due to have a breast screen and have not yet booked an appointment.

The van provides an opportunity to have a breast screen in a convenient location with friendly staff.

You don't need a GP referral or a Medicare card to have a screen. It's with a female radiographer and it only takes 10 minutes. The BreastScreen mobile van has introduced new safety measures to protect against the risk of COVID-19.

Put your health first and book a free screen today. Tell the women in your life over 50 to get screened too.

For bookings visit breastscreen.org.au or phone 132 050.

The Placement Circle



A pilot program offering educational opportunities and peer support to help women gain meaningful employment is being implemented in Dandenong.

Research shows that women are increasingly at risk of homelessness and financial hardship as they get older. Education and employment offset this risk.

Women from diverse backgrounds are often excluded from the workforce due to caring responsibilities, time out of the workforce and being unable to find suitable work for their existing skills. This pilot program aims to assist women from diverse backgrounds to access education and employment with a community of supportive peers.

The program, designed and run by WomenCAN through its Placement Circle and delivered by Chisholm Institute, offers the opportunity to undertake a Certificate III in Aged Care. Victoria University is monitoring the program to evaluate the influence of this peer support on successful outcomes.

Once a participant graduates from the program it is hoped they will be able to support new participants and continue the circle of support.

Visit theplacementcircle.org to see eligibility criteria and to register interest in the program, or phone 9114 7826 for more information.



New building for animal shelter

The Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) continues to help the community throughout the tough COVID-19 restrictions and will continue to do so during the construction of their new Keysborough home.

Established in 1972 the animal welfare organisation aimed to address the need for an animal shelter in Melbourne's south east. For almost five decades the shelter has continued to care for animals with the aim of returning them to their owners or finding them new 'fur-ever' homes.

The service is currently working out of a temporary site on Bangholme Road, Dandenong South, while building works take place for a permanent home in Aegean Court, Keysborough.

The AAPS operates with the mission to never turn an animal away and it is hoped this new facility will allow the shelter to continue its open door policy for the community and the animals who need help.

Stage one of the new shelter is expected to be completed around April 2021 and will be able to house more animals. It will include a facility for dog/cat/pocket pet adoptions, a veterinary clinic (for shelter animals and the public), reception and office space, a dog grooming facility plus an opportunity shop.

Visit aaps.org.au for more information about the shelter, including how to support the charity, how they can support you or your animals, and to see updates on the building project.



18-30 November

 **UNWRAPPED**

Celebration of LGBTIQ+ Arts and Culture

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hosted by the City of Greater Dandenong
greaterdandenong.com/unwrapped

