

Greater Dandenong Council News



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Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,
Keysborough

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-  **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 February edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

As the holiday period draws to a close, our children are returning to school and many of us are returning to work. After the events of 2020, I hope that this year brings you all a sense of routine and something that resembles 'normal' life.

Many of our programs and services are resuming for the year, and we are busy making plans for the future. We have a few consultations on at the moment and would love to hear from our community on these. Turn to page 6 to find out how to have your say on the Disability, Access and Equity Policy. On page 7 we invite feedback on our Urban Forest Strategy, while page 8 talks about your chance to contribute to our Council Plan 2021–25.

Just before Christmas Council opened its latest open space to the community in the heart of Dandenong. Read more about it on page 7.

We also welcomed the announcement of one of Melbourne's top soccer clubs moving to the south east. Read about the Melbourne City Football Club's big shift on page 14.

I wish you all the best for the coming year and hope you enjoy the latest copy of this magazine.



**Mayor
Cr Angela Long**

My City



The view over Burden Park in Springvale South. The fort-style playground and extensive park including a walking and cycling track has something for everyone. The City of Greater Dandenong is home to more than 100 parks, sports reserves and playgrounds. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-environment/open-spaces to find out more about local parks and reserves and start exploring today.

Front Cover: Michael lifts his daughter Zara in the 50m pool at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre.
Picture: Hilton Stone.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Greater Dandenong

Citizen of the Year



Selba Luka established Afri-Aus Care Inc in 2015 to care for youth at risk and their families who are primarily of African background, and especially those who suffer from unresolved trauma or the challenges of adapting to Australian society. She has also worked tirelessly to improve life outcomes for the community.

Young Leader of the Year (joint winners)



Amy Chu is a volunteer with Red Cross and has been volunteering with the City of Greater Dandenong for almost four years. She has been a participant and mentor in a number of programs with Youth and Family Services, and never misses an opportunity to contribute to the development of the community.

From a young age **Asmaa Mannasaheb** established herself as a dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer who is always willing to work towards the improvement of her community and supporting those around her. She has volunteered with Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services as well as other organisations, including initiatives to support the Muslim community, and was recently selected to deliver an inspirational speech to VCE students.

Corporate Citizen of the Year



Nirad Shah is a catalyst and driver of the annual charity event Take a Swing for Charity Golf day run in partnership with Council and local industry. His family-owned business, KPJ Australia has supported the event as a sponsor since its inception 11 years ago, and Nirad has also raised an additional several hundred thousand dollars in that time.

Community Group of the Year



Founded in 1952, the **2nd Springvale Scout Group** has a long and proud history of serving the community. Over the past few years participation has increased substantially and today the group has more than 100 youth members aged 5-25. During COVID-19 restrictions the various groups continued to meet virtually on a weekly basis.

Volunteer of the Year



Scout Leader **Sue Glenn** has been an active volunteer in the movement for 36 years. She has been a leader across many levels and often held multiple positions at the same time. She has also assisted with many camps, hosting children locally and at a regional, state and national level.

A special commendation was also given to young student **Raena Umeza** who donated more than 130 handmade masks to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Dandenong for distribution to students of refugee families.

Sportsperson of the Year



Cheryl Chambers was appointed coach of the Southside Flyers basketball team in July 2019 and in their first year in the WNBL she led them to the top of the table and into the grand final series. Cheryl is also assistant coach of the Opals, the Australian women's basketball team, who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

Sustainability Award



Karina James' leadership at the Dandenong Day Service helped ensure the continuation of programs supporting vulnerable residents with intellectual and physical disabilities. Along with her team, she has been able to reduce isolation and continue to build skills and confidence for her clients.

Living Treasures



Roz Blades has been a long serving Councillor and several time Mayor for the City of Greater Dandenong (and the former City of Springvale). Since arriving in Australia in the 1970s she has been a strong community advocate and has worked as a volunteer for many organisations, fighting for human rights for all.

Teresa Rechichi has an exceptional ability to bring people together. She is a tireless advocate for the underprivileged and displays a strong determination in her goal to assist people less fortunate.

Philip Faulks is an internationally-renowned artist and the former chair of the City of Greater Dandenong's Public Art Advisory Committee. He has worked as a TAFE teacher for almost three decades and has forged meaningful cultural benefits throughout the south east metropolitan region.

Youhorn Chea created history as the first Cambodian-born Councillor to be elected in Australia and in 2001 he was sworn in as Greater Dandenong's first Asian mayor. Youhorn has acted as a champion for diversity, helping to deliver better outcomes for all, and played a key role in the development of Council's People Seeking Asylum and Refugee Action Plan.

Councillor Contacts



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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.

The February meetings will be held:

Monday 8 February

Monday 22 February

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions, the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their questions in person during Public Question Time, but did you know you can watch Council meetings live via our webcast service?

You can keep up with all the latest decisions, hear questions from residents and find out the many ways your local councillors are serving the community.

➤ The view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

FEBRUARY

Summer fun at our pools



Greater Dandenong's two public pool facilities are open for business, but will continue to closely monitor the latest health advice to keep visitors and staff members safe.

At the time of publication the Dandenong Oasis and Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) had reverted back to their full pre-COVID-19 operation hours, but limits still remain on the number of visitors.

Pool users will no longer need to pre-book sessions online, but if the centres reach capacity patrons may have to wait for people to leave before they are admitted.

In line with COVID-safe practices masks are required to be worn indoors, except when exercising or swimming, and physical distancing requirements will need to be practiced wherever possible. All patrons will also be required to sign in upon entry.

Group fitness and aquatic exercise classes are also running with reduced capacity at both centres.

For more information visit their individual websites or phone the centres for assistance.



NPAC

Open Monday–Friday 5.30am–8pm
Saturday–Sunday 8am–6pm
nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au
or 9546 7955.

Dandenong Oasis

Monday–Thursday 5.30am–9.30pm
Friday 5.30am–8.30pm
Saturday–Sunday 8am–7pm
dandenongoasis.com.au or
9767 3100.

Cr Angela Long

► Cleeland Ward

It was a privilege and a great honour to be part of the selection panel for the Aboriginal artwork that is on the lawn outside the new Springvale Community Hub.

The artists Fiona Clarke and Kenneth McKean have done a wonderful job with the Fire Pit and Rock Art. The log seating that surrounds the fire pit was made from gum trees that had to be removed from Noble Park for the construction on the overhead rail lines. Council works with many First Nation's artists on a number of projects across Greater Dandenong, and this work is a real highlight amongst the many pieces featured in the region. A quote from Fiona and Kenneth's submission is: "As First Nations people of Australia are one of the oldest living cultures on earth, rock is one of the best representatives of the earth and Aboriginal people are so strongly connected to the earth and use stone for many of their tools. It is fitting that we connect the Kulin Nation's Wurundjeri and Bunurong people as the Traditional Owners of this land in this sculpture."



If you have not yet visited the Springvale Community Hub I encourage you to do so. Other attractions at Springvale Community Hub are a brand new library and meeting rooms, Springvale Historical Society, customer service, a new playground and surrounding gardens.

We all have been through a very challenging year in 2020, and we look forward to being able to reconnect with family and friends this year.

➤ **If you need to contact me on any Council related issues please do so on 8571 5230 or 0466 004 616.**

► Noble Park North Ward

When I was first elected to Council, I promised we'd do things differently. Like so many others across our municipality, I love our community – but I know we can do better; we must do better.

In addition to advocating for community support whilst we work to recover from the negative repercussions brought on by Covid-19, I am making sure to always prioritise the feedback I am getting from locals about what's most important to them.

Parks. Open space. Community safety. Traffic management. Supporting local sporting clubs and community groups. Working with our youth in a positive way.

These are the issues which drove me to put my hand up to represent our community. As a local mum with two boys, an SES volunteer, and a teacher at our local school, I know that Noble Park North residents want authentic representation from someone who is responsive, passionate and driven.

In the short time since being sworn in to Council I've met with residents, listened to the concerns of local sporting groups and businesses and endeavoured to act on their behalf. Being a Councillor has to always be about putting our community first - and that's what I intend on doing consistently.

There is much more to do but there are promising signs already. We're getting traffic management up to speed across the municipality, working to get upgrades to local parks and reserves that our residents and sporting clubs so direly need, putting community safety first and advocating for a Dandenong Stadium in the wake of Melbourne City FC relocating to the south-east. This is only a snippet of the king list of goals we hope to achieve in our suburbs in the coming years.

As always, thank you to the community of Noble Park North for placing your trust in our positive vision. Together, let's keep working to change our community for the better.



➤ **If you want to get in touch with me you can email me at lane.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 530 536.**

Call to reduce pokie hours



Greater Dandenong City Council is calling on the Victorian Government to lower maximum opening hours at gambling venues from 20 hours per day to 14 hours.


Council is a strong supporter of the campaign launched by the Alliance for Gambling Reform after gambling venues reopened following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in Victoria late last year.

Statistics show \$119 million was lost to gaming machines or 'pokies' in the City of Greater Dandenong in 2018-19. The annual figure dropped by \$32 million since lockdowns began in March 2020.

The Alliance is seeking new rules forcing pokie venues to shut between midnight and 10am, and a two-hour limit on the time patrons can use gambling machines.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said problem gambling losses harm so many in the Greater Dandenong community.

"This is an opportunity to protect residents from incurring the level of gambling losses they experienced before restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic."

 **Visit pokiesplayyou.org.au for more information about the Alliance for Gambling Reform.**

A diverse Greater Dandenong – have your say



Council is calling for community feedback on a policy that supports a diverse Greater Dandenong.

Diversity makes us all unique, and can include differences in gender, ability, health, birthplace, language, culture, faith, sexual orientation, income and education levels. Respect for diversity includes acknowledging differences among people and providing services to meet individual needs.

The *Diversity, Access and Equity Policy* recognises the diversity of our community and outlines principles to help Council ensure our programs, services and facilities meet the needs of everyone.

Council has recently revised its policy and has put together two more documents that support this policy. We are now seeking public feedback on all three documents.

The extra documents open for review include:

- ▶ The revised Community Development Framework, which guides Council's engagement with the community to enable the fair and equitable distribution of resources
- ▶ The Community Hubs Framework, which has been created to establish a shared understanding of Community Hubs in the City of Greater Dandenong.

All three documents will be available for public comment from 1–28 February. You can view the documents via the Have Your Say section on Council's website, or in person at one of Council's customer service centres or libraries.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information, or phone Community Advocacy Officer Hayden Brown on 8571 1000.



ATTENTION DRIVERS – PARKING RESTRICTIONS BACK TO NORMAL FOLLOWING COVID-19 CHANGES

As businesses reopen, people return to work and roads fill up, it is important for Council to ensure parking is available for those who need it. Council would like to remind drivers to be aware of parking restrictions, including the time limits posted on parking signs, and, of course, all other road rules. Council officers will be monitoring parking areas around shopping precincts, hospitals and medical clinics and we encourage residents and visitors to adhere to the limits.



Urban Forest Strategy

Council recognises that we all have a role to play in preparing for climate change and greening our city.

Greater Dandenong's very low canopy cover makes the municipality the seventh hottest in metropolitan Melbourne. Canopy cover is a measure of how much tree coverage can be seen from above.

Vulnerable people such as the elderly, children, people with pre-existing conditions and disabilities, and those from low socio-economic backgrounds are at an even greater risk of negative impacts from extreme heat events and a changing climate.

To respond to this issue, Council has prepared two new strategies which build on the existing Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018-28.

- ▶ The Urban Forest Strategy provides a framework for how Council and the community can manage Greater Dandenong's urban forest.

- ▶ The Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy considers the community's role in planting trees where they are most needed – close to where people live and work.

Council is seeking feedback on the draft strategies until Friday 26 February.

An online survey is available on Council's website and hard copy surveys will be available from Council's Dandenong Customer Service Centre and the Dandenong and Springvale libraries.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/urban-tree-strategy-consultation or phone 8571 1000 for more information.



The term urban forest includes all the vegetation growing on private and public land, including trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses. As well as providing a greener, cooler city, urban forests also help to provide habitat for our local biodiversity.

Family fun in the open air

Outdoor movies will return to Greater Dandenong this month with a new name and an additional location.

Previously known as Cinema in the Square, Greater Dandenong Open Air Movies will now be shown at two great locations, Harmony Square in Dandenong and the new Springvale Community Hub.

Bring your own movie snacks and chairs or blankets and enjoy some family favourites on the big screens in the great outdoors from 7pm every Friday night from 12 February to 9 April.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies for a full list of movies for both locations.

New open space for community to enjoy

NOW OPEN



A previously private oasis has opened to the public after Council purchased a private garden in central Dandenong.

The significant block of land at 86-88 Clow St Dandenong was purchased by Council last year and is now a space for the whole community to enjoy.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the opportunity to snap up the site was too good to miss.

"The value and health benefits of public open space is vital for our community, so when this particular site came onto the market it was a great opportunity to purchase an additional, high-quality open space in an established neighbourhood – something that does not come along very often these days," Mayor Long said.

The semi-secluded parkland is reminiscent of a typical mid-1940s landscape setting, with large established European trees providing a tranquil garden space within walking distance of the Dandenong CBD.

Council officers are developing a concept plan for the site to retain the mature trees and add a walking path and seating for better accessibility.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

What to do with unwanted household goods



While Christmas feels like a distant memory, the new furniture, toys and household items received as gifts can clutter up your home.

If you are thinking about clearing out some space consider recycling, reusing or donating those unwanted items and in the process you can look after the environment and save money.

Council is committed to working with residents to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

While every household is entitled to one free hard waste collection each year, Council offers other opportunities to make sure unwanted items are recycled or reused where possible.

Homecycle

Residents have the opportunity to offer household goods to charity that are too good to throw out and end up in landfill.

Simply place items such as clothes, games, sporting goods and small electrical items in your recycling bin immediately after it is emptied of recyclables and those valued items from your home will be collected the following day after your regular recycling collection. The service will be delivered between 9–20 February.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle for more information.

Re-use and Recycle Drop-off Day

Following the popularity and success of previous collections, Council will be running three drop-off events for larger items this year.

Some items will be donated to charity while others will be recycled to create new products.

The Re-use and Recycle Drop-off Days will be held at Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong, from 8am–1pm on the following dates:

- ▶ Saturday 6 February
- ▶ Saturday 26 June
- ▶ Saturday 27 November

Items that can be accepted include:

- ▶ Televisions and computers
- ▶ Electrical appliances
- ▶ Whitegoods (fridges, washing machines, dryers and microwaves)
- ▶ Household furniture (chairs, tables, couches and desks)
- ▶ Mattresses (maximum of two)
- ▶ Bicycles
- ▶ Homewares (toys, cookware, sporting items and baby equipment)
- ▶ Clothes and linen.

Council will continue to monitor the latest health advice in regards to COVID-19 and public events. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day for the latest information.

Change Today, Shape Tomorrow



Over the past three months Council has been reaching out to our community to get involved and have their say on the new Council Plan.

We have already had fantastic feedback through a range of consultation activities, including a community survey, online ideas wall, children's worksheets and targeted conversations.

Tree planting, parks and open spaces continue to feature as key priorities and the development of community spaces and hubs are seen as important projects to bring people together.

The feedback received so far will be used to influence the development of key priorities and commitments and will also be used to provide input into the community panel process which begins in April.

This panel meets the deliberative engagement requirements of the new Local Government Act 2020 and consists of a randomly selected group of residents and business stakeholders who are representative of our community and its diverse qualities.

The panel will meet to discuss the community's vision as created in 2009 and the priorities which have emerged from our broad consultation. They will provide recommendations to Council on how these ideas can be achieved and the Council Plan will then be drafted using the outcomes of the panel and broader consultation to be adopted by October 2021.

To read more about the consultation outcomes and what has been happening go to Council's website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/plan2025 or keep an eye out for future articles in this magazine.

Old playgrounds recycled

Greater Dandenong City Council has partnered with Rotary to harvest playgrounds for disadvantaged overseas communities.

Rotary Overseas Recycled Playgrounds (RORP) is a state-wide project collecting unwanted playgrounds from council parks and schoolgrounds by gently dismantling and rejuvenating equipment for children to enjoy.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the project was a prime example of community spirit and sustainability in action.

“We have 120 playgrounds in the City of Greater Dandenong, and we are thrilled to see that the equipment we replace can find a happy home for children in other countries,” Mayor Long said.



Late last year Rotary Club members dismantled the playground at Ross Reserve in Noble Park and prepared it to be shipped to Sri Lanka, where the local Rotary Club will re-assemble the equipment.

In January 2020 Council declared a ‘Climate and Ecological Emergency’, committing us to emergency action on climate change. Mayor Long said this was one of many initiatives that helped Council work towards a sustainable future.

“We recognise that everyone has a role to play in reducing our impact on the environment and preparing for climate change. It’s great to see our vision put into action with projects like this.”

The playground at Ross Reserve will be replaced with an All Abilities Playground, which is now under construction.

A joint project between Council and the Victorian Government, the playground is due to be completed by June 2021.

The All Abilities Playground will offer an inclusive and diverse range of play for all ages and all abilities and has been designed around the Red Gum environment.

“This project has so many benefits, with children overseas set to enjoy the harvested equipment, and children here able to look forward to a new, accessible playground,” said Mayor Long.

Take the pledge and Make Your Move

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long is inviting residents to make a pledge to be more physically active in 2021.

Cr Long is supporting Make Your Move – a campaign to promote ways the community can get more active and enjoy recreational facilities across Greater Dandenong.

“Being active can lead to a healthier community, physically, mentally, socially and economically, so we are encouraging everyone to get on board and make their move,” Cr Long said.

VicHealth figures show less than half of Greater Dandenong residents meet the recommended guidelines for 30 minutes of moderate physical activity per day.

“We also have higher rates of diabetes and obesity compared to other areas of Victoria, and our mental health wellbeing levels are lower compared to the rest of the state. We can change this by making small changes to our daily routines and enjoying all this great city has to offer, including a great range of public parks, open spaces and recreational facilities.”

Here are some small changes you can make today:

- ▶ Take your dog for a walk
- ▶ If you are meeting friends for a meal, organise to take a walk around the block first
- ▶ Take the stairs instead of the lift
- ▶ Walk your kids to school, or if you live too far away drive part of the way and walk the rest
- ▶ Do some gardening.

get more active



Think about what changes you can make and take the pledge to be more active today.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move) for more great tips.

Art sparks joy for residents in lockdown



Residents from five aged care facilities channelled their inner artists during lockdown in 2020 with art packs gifted from the City of Greater Dandenong's 9 by 5 Exhibition.

The packs included videos of art workshops and boards for residents to create their own artwork.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said Council was thrilled to bring the exhibition, now in its 15th year, to the residents.

"Feedback received from the services indicated the gesture put a bit of a spark in the lives of residents who hadn't been able to go out or have visitors," Cr Long said.

The Exhibition, held annually at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, has become a nationally recognised event and celebrates diversity within the arts community. This year more than 270 artworks went on display. The exhibition was the first one held in the gallery since COVID-19 restrictions closed the space in early 2020.

"What is so special about this exhibition is that many people who just like to make art but wouldn't necessarily call themselves artists can participate," Cr Long said.

This exhibition commemorates the first 9 by 5 Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1889 featuring work from renowned artists such as Tom Roberts, Charles Conder, Arthur Streeton and Frederick McCubbin.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more about art exhibitions in the City of Greater Dandenong.

Lifetime of work recognised



LASTING TRIBUTE

A weeping elm tree donated by Greater Dandenong Living Treasure, Merle Mitchell AM and her late husband Eric was unveiled with a commemorative plaque at Springvale Community Hub in December.

Mayor Angela Long said the tree will be a lasting tribute to the lifetime of work of the Mitchells.

"Since moving to the area in 1961, both Merle and Eric worked towards a better community for all. Anyone who visits this site will find many reasons to celebrate their contribution," Cr Long said.

The tree was originally planted in the front garden of Merle and Eric's home, and relocated to Springvale City Hall in 2017.

Eric was principal of Westall Primary School in the 1980s and was president of the Noble Park English Language School for more than 20 years. He also served as a Councillor and Mayor of the City of Springvale, just before amalgamation in 1994.

Merle was an active lobbyist for families in the area, helping plan kindergarten facilities and pushing for the establishment of Sandown Park Primary School.

Merle was also a member of the steering committee which set up the Springvale Community Aid and Advice

Bureau, and played a major role in setting up other local support services and facilities, including Springvale Neighbourhood House.

Her work with the Victorian Council of Social Service and the Australian Council of Social Service has also seen the advancement of state and federal social welfare policies.

In 2008 Merle became involved in the Spirit of Enterprise Project, helping to celebrate the history of the Enterprise Migrant Hostel in Springvale. The hostel provided accommodation and settlement services to more than 30,000 migrants and refugees from all over the world between 1970 and 1992.

The tree is a lasting symbol of their lifelong connection to the City of Greater Dandenong and the people who live here.

Save the date

The official community opening of Springvale Community Hub will be held on Saturday 27 February. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more details.



Lunar festival at the library

Springvale Library and Community Hub will host a Lunar New Year celebration on Sunday 7 February, from 2pm.

Welcome in the Year of the Ox with an afternoon of fun, including a traditional Lion Dance, performances from members of the Chinese Cambodian Friendship Association of Victoria and craft activities for the whole family.

The Lunar New Year for 2021 officially begins on Friday 12 February and while celebrations across the world may be somewhat subdued this year, families throughout Greater Dandenong will welcome the new year with enthusiasm.



...inspiring and heartfelt advice



special
online
event

Tame your inner critic

Join us online for a chat with Australian musician, actor, author and mother Clare Bowditch.

Greater Dandenong Libraries is partnering with Casey Cardinia Libraries and West Gippsland Libraries to present this special online event.

Hear from Clare as she shares inspiring and heartfelt advice taken from her new audiobook *How to Tame Your Inner Critic* and her best-selling memoir *Your Own Kind of Girl*. This free, one-hour session is a candid and insightful lesson for anyone who has fought their inner critic and would like to develop their self-leadership skills.

The online event will be held on Wednesday 24 February from 7.30pm-8.30pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/clare-bowditch to register.

What's on at Drum Theatre



Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre is back in 2021. Tickets to two special shows this month are now on sale and you can enjoy both live in the theatre. Both of these shows were cancelled in 2020, but are the first of many live shows returning to our theatre.

You and I

Two of Australia's best loved musical theatre stars join forces for this magical night. Rachael Beck and Michael Cormick get together for an evening of stories, fun, laughter and perhaps even a few tears as the audience is transported to the magic of the world's most popular musicals.

Join Rachael and Michael on Tuesday 16 February at 7.30pm.

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons vs The Beach Boys

The audience can decide who is the best vocal group of all time as these musical rivals go head to head, trading classics like *Surfin' USA* and *Walk Like a Man*. While the bands really fostered an East Coast vs West Coast musical rivalry, the music fans were the real winners. This show brings together the fabulous harmonies and melodies both bands were famous for, including a string of number one hits. When the curtain goes down, who do you think will emerge as your favourite?

Join the fun on Thursday 25 February, at 10.30am.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666.

Celebrating our wetlands

Council this month celebrates World Wetlands Day (2 February) with a reminder to look after the wildlife that call our wetlands home.

Wetlands are very important habitat for birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, but they also play an important role in helping to filter pollutants out of water and are a natural way to control flooding and drainage.

New signage has been installed at the following wetlands:

- ▶ Hidden Grove Reserve, Hidden Grove Boulevard, Keysborough
- ▶ Lakeview Boulevard Reserve, Lakeview Boulevard, Keysborough
- ▶ Somerfield Reserve, Somerfield Drive, Keysborough

The signage contains interesting information about local species who call our wetlands home. Take a self-guided tour to find out more and keep an eye out for more signage being erected at the following wetlands this year:

- ▶ Dandenong Wetlands, Stud Road, Dandenong North

- ▶ Tirhatuan Park, Kriegal Way, Dandenong North
- ▶ Tatterson Park, Cheltenham Road, Keysborough

Don't Feed the ducks

An important warning on the new signage is to discourage people from feeding ducks and other birdlife.

Wild ducks naturally feed on plants and insects they find in their own habitat, adding bread and other human food to the mix is bad for their health.

Taking handouts from humans can affect the birdlife in many ways, including:

- ▶ Duckling malnutrition, which can slow growth and development in young birds.
- ▶ Diseases can spread via the excessive duck poo produced by a carbohydrate-rich diet. Mouldy bread left by waterways can also cause dangerous lung disease in birds.
- ▶ Pollution from rotting bread can cause algae blooms that block waterways affecting all plant, fish, insect and animal life. Leftover



crumbs can also attract pests such as rats, mice and invasive bird species such as Indian mynas and seagulls.

When birds become accustomed to handouts they lose their natural behaviour. When they lose their fear of humans they can become more aggressive in order to get more food. They can also do more dangerous things, such as cross busy roads, to get to another food source.

With all this in mind, please reconsider a trip to the park to feed the birds, and perhaps just watch the animals enjoying their native habitats instead.



Working for Victoria

More than 100 new workers employed under a State Government scheme to get the Victorian economy moving are making a difference in Greater Dandenong.

The 102 workers, who may have been impacted by either job loss during the COVID-19 pandemic, or unemployed longer-term, have now been employed under the Working for Victoria program.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the scheme was a once in a lifetime opportunity to turn the misfortunes of 2020 around and make a positive impact.

“This program has so many lasting benefits. It’s getting people back into work after they’ve lost their jobs or suffered long-term unemployment, and the work they are doing will have lasting benefits for our city and those who live here,” Cr Long said.

Parks maintenance crews and supervisors have been busy mowing, mulching, planting, pruning and collecting litter, enhancing Greater Dandenong’s environment.

Cleansing and conservation crews are also playing a large role in keeping the city clean and improving the environment, while data capture and analysis staff will assist council in the management of its assets and support the planning for Council’s support of business recovery.

Making a positive impact



Whether it be cleaning staff keeping us safe from COVID-19, conservation staff contributing to sustainability, biodiversity and climate change, or administration support to help businesses in need – these diverse roles are really making a difference in a range of important areas.

Looking after pets in summer



While many humans love the summer heat, our pets often need extra care to stay safe and comfortable on days of extreme heat.

Avoid taking your pets out in the heat of the day. This includes car trips, with legislation making it illegal to leave animals inside cars on hot days.

Exercise pets in the cooler early morning or evening hours, and on extreme heat days avoid walking your dog on concrete or asphalt surfaces. Hard surfaces can give off extra heat and dog and cat paws can easily burn.

While pets are at home make sure they have plenty of shade and access to cool, clean water.

Small animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs can become distressed by heat when temperatures rise above 21 degrees, so even on cooler summer days you should take extra care.



Avoid taking your pets out in the heat of the day



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets for more information about being a responsible pet owner.

Online pet registration renewal

It's coming up to that time of year again, when pet owners need to renew their pet registrations.

This year the process is moving online for those who have access to technology. If you have an email address attached to your registration records, an invitation to register for eNotices will be sent to you electronically.

eNotices will allow you to register for electronic delivery of your animal registration notices, and will allow you to update your own details online.

If you want to continue to receive a reminder in the mail you don't need to do anything, but if you want to add your email address to your records phone Council on 8571 1000 or email council@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Go to greaterdandenong.enotices.com.au to register and have your registration email with your eNotices reference number handy.



The law requires all owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with their local council. Cats and dogs must be microchipped. Costs apply to all registrations, but desexed pets qualify for heavily discounted fees. The registration period lasts from 10 April to 9 April each year.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals for more information.

Immunisation booking system

Council's immunisation services continued to run throughout the restrictions of 2020, helping to keep our community vaccination rates high.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council's immunisation service was run on a walk-in basis, but the introduction of physical distancing saw the system change to an appointment only service.

Greater Dandenong families were quick to adapt to the new service and Council figures showed an overall increase in the number of children attending for routine childhood vaccinations.

While 2021 sees restrictions ease further, Council will continue to take bookings for all sessions to maintain the health and safety of residents and immunisation staff.

Each month Council runs a number of public immunisation sessions offering free childhood vaccinations to City of Greater Dandenong residents under the National Immunisation Program.

Council also offers an immunisation catch-up service for newly-arrived families where children have had some immunisations overseas. Phone 8571 1000 for catch-up advice before booking an appointment.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/parenting-support/immunisation for details on session times and how to book. For more information phone 8571 1000.





Take a Swing for Charity

Greater Dandenong businesses will return to the golf course this year for the 12th annual Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day.

Since its inception, the event has raised nearly \$500,000 for local charities, supporting some of Greater Dandenong's most vulnerable community members.

This year will be no different, with every dollar raised directed to organisations who support locals doing it tough.

This year's event will return to the Victoria Golf Club, Park Road, Cheltenham, on Wednesday 24 February. Email sebn@cgd.vic.gov.au to register your interest as a sponsor or player.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sebn to find out more about the golf day and event organisers South East Business Networks (SEBN).

Melbourne City Football Club moves to south east



After a four-year campaign to bring an A-League and W-League franchise to

South East Melbourne, the City of Greater Dandenong has something to celebrate.

Late last year Melbourne City Football Club signed a Heads of Agreement with Greater Dandenong and the City of Casey and announced its relocation to the south east.

The club's new training and administration base will be constructed at Casey Fields in Cranbourne East, while Greater Dandenong will continue to advocate for the development of a boutique rectangular sports and events centre next to Dandenong Train Station.

"Our previous South East Melbourne A-League bid set out to foster grassroots football development with professional pathways, to connect with and grow our



burgeoning business community, to market the region to national and international audiences and to provide a platform for community outreach programs," Cr Long said.

Melbourne City CEO Brad Rowse said football (soccer) was the number one participation sport in South East Melbourne, with 115 grassroots clubs and 23,000 registered players across the wider region.

"This move creates a fresh street-to-stadium pathway for all the boys and girls who have been desperate for a professional team on their doorstep," Mr Rowse said.



Visit melbournecityfc.com.au to find out more.

Justice of the Peace



The Springvale Justice of the Peace signing centre has reopened at a new location.

The signing centre is now located at the Springvale Neighbourhood House, 46–50 Queens Avenue, Springvale.

Opening times are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 3pm–6pm.

Justices of the Peace are volunteers who are trained to act as independent and objective witnesses to official or legally binding documents.

You may wish to check if your document can be witnessed by a JP or if you have a large number of documents you may need to make an appointment. For more information contact Joe De Souza JP on 0425 727 349.



Springvale Italian Senior Citizens Club

The Springvale Italian Senior Citizens Club wants to help more residents reconnect in 2021.

Established almost 40 years ago, the club aims to offer social support and a sense of belonging while promoting the Italian culture. Despite the name, the club is open to people of all nationalities.

The club meets every Wednesday for lunch, and to play card games or bocce, or just to spend time with each other for companionship. The club also hosts a lunch and dance once a month on a Friday.

The club meets at the Springvale Learning and Activities Centre, 1 Osborne Avenue, Springvale. For more information or to join phone club secretary Teresa Rechichi on 9547 2703.

Chisholm's gold standard



Chisholm Institute has taken gold on a world stage thanks to a vocational program it runs in conjunction with the Government of Vietnam.

Chisholm won the Access to Learning and Employment category at the 2020 World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics Awards of Excellence.

Chisholm CEO Stephen Varty was proud the tertiary learning institute was recognised on a global stage.

"The Australian TAFE sector can provide enormous training support to other countries worldwide," Mr Varty said.

Chisholm supported the development of 25 vocational colleges across Vietnam, all with the capacity to deliver internationally recognised qualifications including those that meet the Australian regulatory standards up to an Advanced Diploma level.

Chisholm has eight campuses in Victoria, including one in Dandenong, and offers more than 300 nationally recognised vocational education programs. Visit chisholm.edu.au to find out more.

GREATER DANDENONG

OPEN AIR MOVIES

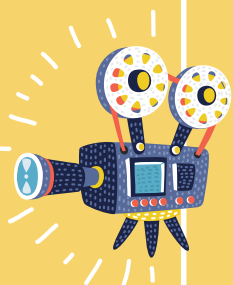
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