

MARCH 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



Get active
in Greater
Dandenong

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 **GREATER
DANDENONG**
City of Opportunity


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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Dandenong VIC 3175
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 **Fax: 8571 5196**

 **www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au**


 **[@greaterdandy](https://twitter.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 March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News, and welcome to the season of Autumn.

It's a beautiful time to be out and about, and in this issue we look at some of the local parks that have undergone refurbishments over the past year. Turn to page 12 to read more.

The days are still long, and we encourage you to make the most of the twilight hours and meet family and friends at an Open Air Movie. This year the movies will be screened across two sites. Find out more on the opposite page.

Autumn is known for its brilliant colours as the leaves change hue and drop from their branches. Explore what nature has to offer through our Flora Exhibition, which will be held across several key locations. See pages 8 and 9 for more details.

Next month Council will introduce a new addition to our kerbside waste collection service. Residents will be able to recycle food waste with their garden waste, and it is going to be a game changer. Read more about this service on page 7.

I hope you all find something wonderful to do in our city this month, and I look forward to seeing you all out and about in our vibrant city.



**Mayor
Cr Angela Long**

My City



The Springvale Library has many spaces for enjoying a good book. This outside terrace on the second floor is just one of the nooks and crannies you can find. Library hours have returned to normal and many programs are being delivered in person again. We are open Monday to Friday from 9am-9pm, Saturday from 10am-5pm and on Sunday from 12pm-5pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries for more information.

Front Cover: Having fun at Geoffrey Carson Reserve in Keysborough. Picture: Thomas Barnes.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Open Air Movies



Join us for some balmy Friday night fun and enjoy some free, family-friendly entertainment in the City of Greater Dandenong.

The Greater Dandenong Open Air Movies deliver movie nights across two great locations, Harmony Square and the Springvale Community Hub.

The free sessions alternate between the two sites and will be delivered with a COVID Safe approach, including pre-booked tickets and a QR code check in.

All movies start at 7pm, BYO chairs and movie snacks.

Springvale Hub will host movies on:

5 March Double feature:
7pm Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs [G]

8.35pm The Boxing Girls of Kabul [G]

19 March: Shrek Forever After [PG]

1 April (Thursday night due to Good Friday public holiday): Kung Fu Panda [PG]



Harmony Square will host movies on:

12 March: School of Rock [PG]

26 March: Annie (1982) [G]

9 April: Song of the Sea [PG]



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies) for more information and to book your tickets.

Have your say



Council wants to hear about how visitors use informal recreation

resources across our parks and reserves.

The City of Greater Dandenong has a variety of informal recreation infrastructure, including courts, sporting goals, activity walls, fitness equipment, trails and tracks (including BMX and skate parks).

Council wants to know whether people use these facilities and what you like or dislike about them. The short survey will also ask what you would like to see more of and where.

The results of this survey will help Council understand the needs of residents and how this type of infrastructure can be improved.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to read more and take part in the survey.

Preps prepared for school

Greater Dandenong Libraries supported children at two local primary schools get their prep year off to a great start through the supply of special literacy packs.

With the COVID-19 pandemic preventing kindergarten students from fully participating in the classroom during 2020, Mission Australia have facilitated the Communities for Children COVID-19 Innovative Fund to assist with early years intervention.

Greater Dandenong Libraries secured a grant from the fund and created take home resource packs for children who started at Dandenong West and Wooranna Park primary schools this year.

The libraries will continue to work with the prep students, their teachers and families, to provide literacy support including one on one reading sessions to help create a love of literacy.

The program was supported with generous donations and discounts from a list of national retailers and local businesses.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

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Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually 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 March meetings will be held:

Tuesday 9 March (due to public holiday on the Monday)

Monday 22 March

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.

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

MARCH

Dandenong Creek Art Trail

An art trail with a focus on celebrating the resilience and vast cultural heritage of the Peoples of the Kulin Nations is set to feature alongside the winding Dandenong Creek.

The art trail will feature seven cultural sites in neighbouring municipalities, including Greater Dandenong, Casey, Monash, Whitehorse, Knox and Maroondah.

VicHealth CEO Sandro Demaio recently visited with Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long and CEO John Bennie to hear about the project.

The group visited Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North to inspect existing artwork created by Dandenong-based Aboriginal artist Ian Harrison last year.

Titled *Spreading the Message* the artwork was part of a project to enhance land alongside the creek, with Council's Parks' Team revegetating the land with indigenous plants. The artwork marks the start of the Dandenong Creek Art Trail.



Greater Dandenong CEO John Bennie, VicHealth CEO Sandro Demaio and Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long

The Trail will be created in collaboration with the Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land Councils. Once completed, the trail will help restore access to its traditional custodians. It will also encourage people to visit and explore the creek, supporting physical health and mental wellbeing. The City of Greater Dandenong and Living Links received funding through VicHealth's Everyday Creativity program to create the artworks.

➔ Artists and specific locations for artworks are being decided. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

Cr Jim Memeti

► Dandenong Ward



I hope 2021 has been kind to you all so far. After the restrictions of 2020, I have to say it has been nice to see more families out and about in Greater Dandenong.

It is wonderful to see local businesses being supported to get back on track after the tough year that was, and it is also great to see residents, young and old, exploring the suburbs.

Last year Council continued to deliver services, including upgrades to local parks, reserves and sporting grounds.

Dandenong Park has always been a popular and iconic location in the suburb, but it is now looking better than ever thanks to the realisation of the Dandenong Park Master Plan.

Created in 2007 the plan held a long term vision for this space, which included bringing it into the 21st Century while recognising its history. I am proud to say the finishing touches have now been completed, and this park is truly a gem in the heart of Dandenong.

From the large playground in the riverside precinct, to the multi-sport court, table tennis tables and barbecue/ picnic facilities in the north area precinct, there is something for the whole family. Take a walk around the park on the Tan Track, or get your sweat on at the fitness equipment.

There's plenty of open space for the kids to run around in and landscaping and seating for those quiet, more reflective moments. Enjoy a quiet family picnic, or meet your family and friends for a day in the sun.



After a year filled with lockdowns, restrictions and uncertainty, now is the time to explore the great outdoors and what our city has to offer.



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

► Keysborough South Ward

Cr Rhonda Garad



It has been a great pleasure to finally meet many residents of Keysborough South (KS) in person, as COVID restrictions have been lifted. After a unique local election in which physical contact was not possible, it is wonderful now to meet and talk to residents about issues of interest. Also, to thank those who were so supportive during the election.

One of the things I find most inspiring about KS residents is how much they care about their community. They are so willing to actively participate in discussions and activities happening in the ward, which is why I am forming a Keysborough South residents committee. This committee will not only keep me up to date on issues but allow me to funnel back important information affecting the community. I want to make sure this committee is as representative of all residents as possible.

If you would like to be part of this committee, please let me know.

There is so much to discuss such as; the KS levy, new public transport routes, new walking paths, pedestrian overbridge on Chapel road, traffic congestion and calming devices, industrial zoning, improvements to Westwood blvd park, saving the KS historical Chapel, advocating for a secondary school, protecting and enhancing the environment and so much more.

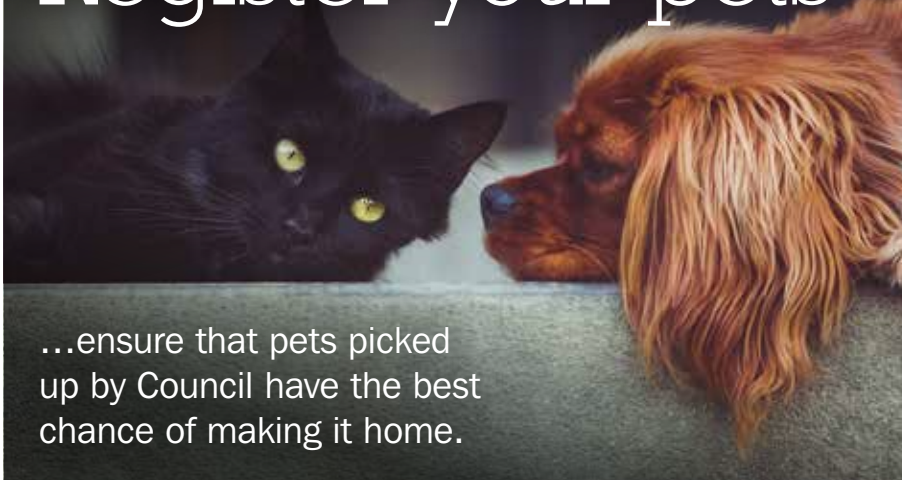
I want to acknowledge the great work of the two KS Facebook groups (Keysborough Community Noticeboard and Sommerfield Community Social Club) in strengthening connections within the ward. Particularly want to thank Dhani Chandra and Rolando Navas for their great efforts here.

It is an enormous privilege to represent the dynamic and engaged community of Keysborough South and I am very excited at the great work we can do together over the next four years.



I am contactable via phone 0435 017 584 or [facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard](https://www.facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard) or email rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au

Register your pets



...ensure that pets picked up by Council have the best chance of making it home.

Out of date information is one of the biggest barriers preventing lost pets from being returned to their homes quickly.

Council Rangers love to return lost pets to their owners, but out of date information can delay happy reunions.


By registering your animal, and then keeping your contact details up to date, you can ensure that pets picked up by Council have the best chance of making it home.

Pet registration fees are used to help deliver Council's Animal Management Services, which includes the investigation of complaints and regular patrols of parks and reserves. A State Government levy added to each

registration fee is also used to fund responsible pet ownership education programs across the state.

The law requires owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with Council, and pet registrations must be renewed by 9 April each year. Heavy penalties can apply if you fail to renew your pet's registration by this date.

Heavily discounted fees are offered for desexed pets and those over 10 years of age. If you pay this month your pet is registered until April 2022.

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

Clean Up



This year marks the 31st anniversary of the first Clean Up Australia Day and since that day in 1990 more than 18.3 million Australians have volunteered more than 36 million hours to clean up.

The Clean Up Australia initiative is about more than one clean up day and aims to educate Australians all year round to take practical action to protect our environment.

While there were definite environmental benefits from the restrictions of 2020, the year also highlighted the amount of waste produced by households.

New COVID safe measures have been introduced for this year's Clean Up

Australia Day on Sunday 7 March, but if you aren't comfortable joining an organised clean up why not take a pledge to make a change?

You could pledge to say no to straws, bring your own water bottle or compost your kitchen waste. Perhaps you could buy recycled materials or refuse to buy plastic wrapped fruit and vegetables. There are many ways to step up and the Clean Up Australia crew are calling on you to share your own pledge via social media. Tag @CleanUpAustralia and use the hashtag #StepUpToCleanUp to share your pledge.

 Visit cleanup.org.au to find a local clean up or create your own event for Clean Up Australia Day.

Translation services




The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia.

Our residents come from 157 different birth places and speak more than 200 languages. Communicating with everyone can be challenging, but Council is working to make information as accessible as possible.

Our website includes a Google translation function, which with the press of a button can change the language across all pages of the website. The function currently translates more than 85 languages, including Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (traditional and simplified), German, Hebrew, Khmer, Urdu and Vietnamese.

Council will trial the placement of a select number of articles from this magazine onto the website to allow for information to be shared in multiple languages.

 Look for the icon attached to stories in this magazine then visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gdcouncilnews and click on the translation icon on the top right corner of the screen to select another language.

Food waste recycling – are you ready?



From next month, food scraps can be added to the green lid garden waste bins across Greater Dandenong.

The move will help residents reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill and will have great benefits for the environment.

The green lid bin will become a food and garden waste bin and collections will start from Monday 5 April.

Residents will be able to add food waste alongside their garden clippings, grass and leaves. The kerbside collection will be taken to a composting facility where the scraps are turned into high grade compost.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long encouraged residents to take advantage of the new service.

“Figures show that up to half of the waste that goes into the red lid waste bins across Greater Dandenong contain food and garden waste,” Cr Long said.

“With the help of the Greater Dandenong community we can support the reduction of waste going to landfill and contribute to creating high-quality compost for use by Victorian farmers.

Food waste means any food that is left over from meal preparation and plate scrapings, even including meat, fish, cheese, rice, pasta and cake.

Food must not be in a bag or other container and must be added to the bin loose.

No food packaging will be accepted, this includes any packaging labelled compostable, degradable or biodegradable.

Common Questions

What can go in my food and garden waste bin?

All food can be placed in your bin, including fruit and vegetable scraps and peelings, noodles, rice, pasta, cereals, grains, nuts, seeds, eggs, eggshells, cheese, meat, seafood, bones, bread, cakes, biscuits and leftovers, including takeaway or spoiled and mouldy food.

Do not include food packaging of any kind, or fruit labels, stickers, rubber bands, tea bags or coffee pods.

What if I don't have a green lid bin?

If you do not currently have a garden waste bin you will need to organise one. There will be a cost associated with adding this bin to your waste services. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to explore your needs.

If you are renting and would like to add this service please speak to your landlord.



What if I am already composting at home?

Excellent. Thank you for doing this – please keep up the great work. However, a food and garden waste bin can actually complement backyard composting. Food scraps that are not suited to home composting can be placed into the food and garden waste bin and turned into high-quality compost.



How do I use the food and garden waste bin?

1. Collect food scraps in a kitchen caddy or a similar container
2. Empty your caddy into the green lid bin
3. Place your food and garden waste bin out on your kerb for collection.

Hints and tips for managing food waste

- ▶ Store your food and garden waste bin in a shaded area
- ▶ Layer your food waste in between garden waste material such as grass clippings and leaves
- ▶ You can wrap your food waste in 1-2 sheets of kitchen paper towel or a single sheet of newspaper before placing into your bin
- ▶ Store food waste in a sealed container (eg an old ice cream container) in your freezer until the night before collection and then empty directly into the bin
- ▶ Rinse out your kitchen caddy and food and garden waste bin regularly.

Get a free kitchen caddy

To assist residents with sorting their food waste, residents with a garden waste service can request a free kitchen caddy.

FREE

Council has a limited number of kitchen caddies available to residents who already have a green lid waste bin.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste to register for your caddy. Successful applicants will be notified before they receive their caddy.



Unwrapped mural



In late 2020 Greater Dandenong celebrated the LGBTIQ+ community through the Unwrapped arts program.

The successful program delivered online exhibitions, performances, events and workshops and created a long-lasting legacy with the completion of a mural in Walker Street, Dandenong.

The mural, titled *The home of earthly delights*, was done by artists David Lee Pereira and Goodie.

David Lee Pereira said the mural was an opportunity to tell “our stories through our work”, and he hoped it encouraged others to tell their own unique stories.

“As a queer kid who grew up in the west of Melbourne in the early 90s, I often did not feel safe in my own neighbourhood and even my home. We talk as a community about pride, but how that starts is with visibility, acceptance and support.

“What I am seeing after 30 years is that the new generation are coming up in a world with much more representation in the media, and the ability to connect with people like themselves and that’s really beautiful.”

Goodie said while there was a lot of work to do, change was happening.

“I’m lucky I’m a bit younger (than David), and am fortunate that the representation and community support I see now is growing. I’ve come out multiple times over the past years, and it has helped me a lot to read, hear and see people living proudly, being their true and complex selves.”



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/unwrapped to find out more.

FLORA

Flora is an immersive art program that explores the importance, beauty and fragility of nature and the plant world.

Through a series of exhibitions, installations and events across the City of Greater Dandenong, *Flora* will offer new perspectives and renew our wonder for the plant world. This city-wide exhibition will run from 25 March to 1 May.

Venues include Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Heritage Hill, Garnar Lane Display Boxes, Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Connection Art Space.

As the main venue for *Flora*, an exhibition at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre will feature works of various styles from multiple artists. Media includes ceramics, photography, painting and living plants, while artists include Ali Choudhry, Baden Croft, Merran Esson, Tashara Roberts, Georgja Szmeling, Katie West and Artists of Ampilatwatja.

Next door to the gallery, at Connection Art Space, the *Community Bouquet* exhibition will encourage everyone to become an artist.

Beginning in 2019 with artist Natalie Artis the exhibition invites community members, through a guided journey, to create a bouquet from their everyday walks. Bouquets can consist of flowers, plants and debris found along the path of each participant. Each bouquet is a “breathing portrait of local suburbs”.

Heritage Hill will have two exhibitions, including an open-entry exhibition featuring works from across the country. A selection of art work from the “Painting on the Hill” art competition held in the 1990s and early 2000s will also be on display as part of the “Inspirations on the Hill” exhibition.



Artist in Residence Dave Thomson

Sound artist Dave Thomson (Lost Few) has been undertaking a residency within Springvale South’s Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve.

Through a series of sound recordings, Dave has created an immersive, sensory experience that uniquely reflects, and captures, the reserve. The recordings are available to listen to at both Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Walker Street Gallery. A smart phone is required to access the recordings at the reserve, and for an optimal experience we recommend bringing a set of headphones.

The Garnar Lane Display Boxes will showcase contemporary floral displays ready to surprise any passers-by, created by four students from Holmesglen College floristry course.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/flora for a full program of events and to find out how you can take part in public programs.

Images:

1 (Top): Baden Croft, *The Elevation of The Cross*, 190x190cm, oil on linen.

(Bottom): Georgja Szmeling, *National Park Wildflower, Manitoba Canada Bay Coast*, 2017, acrylic on paper, 50x70cm, GS17-0006, represented by Arts Project Australia, Melbourne.

1a: Work by Kim Nguyen

2: Lilli Waters, *Tulpenmanie*, Archival pigment print on fibre rag, 2020. Courtesy the artist and Curatorial & Co. Gallery.

3: Arrangement by Haley Cassar.

4: Dave Thomson (Lost Few). Courtesy the artist.



4

**Alex Wilkie
Nature Reserve**
Springvale South



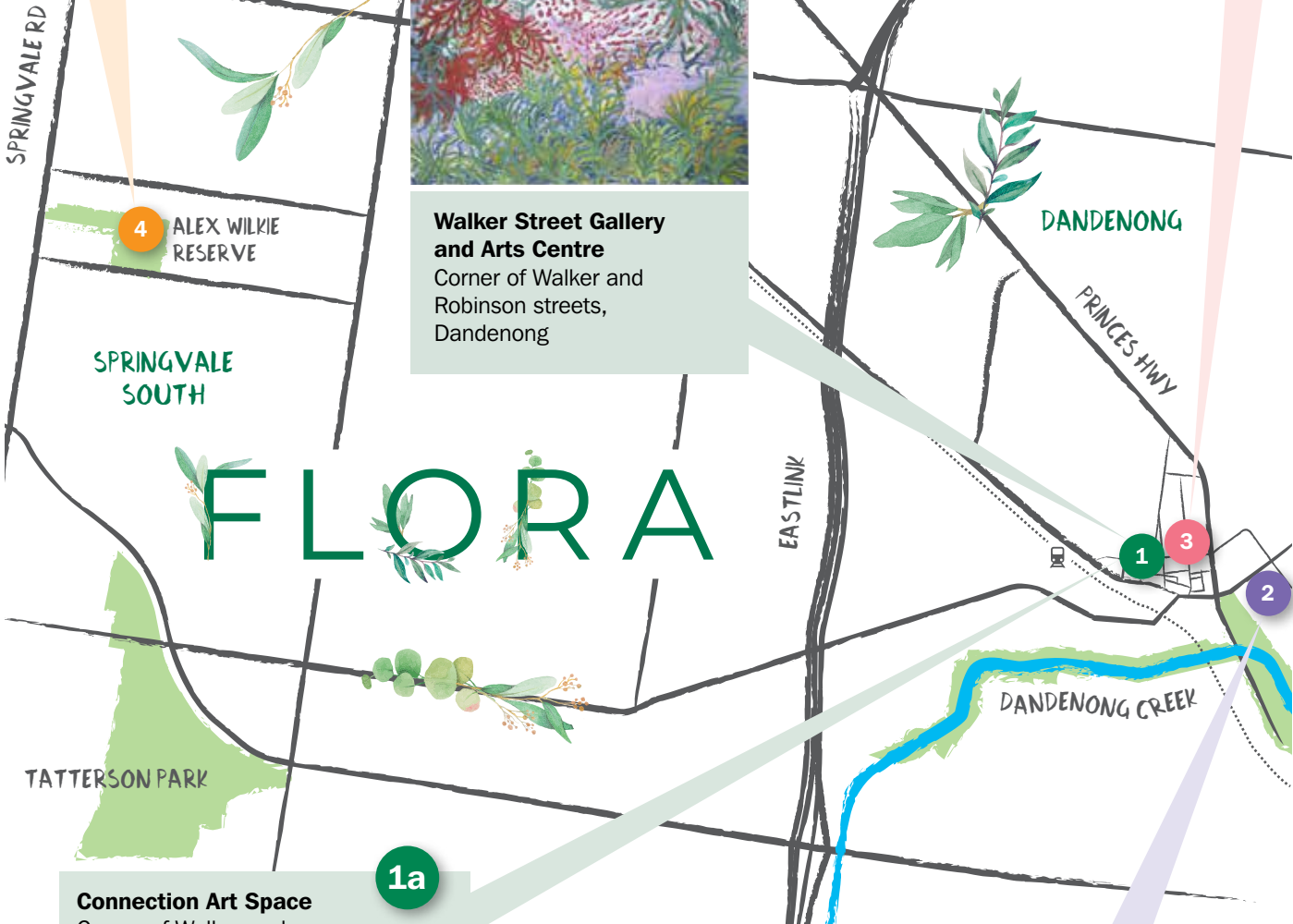
1

**Walker Street Gallery
and Arts Centre**
Corner of Walker and
Robinson streets,
Dandenong



Garnar Lane Display Boxes
Garnar Lane, Dandenong

3



FLORA

4 ALEX WILKIE RESERVE

SPRINGVALE SOUTH

DANDENONG

PRINCES HWY

EASTLINK

DANDENONG CREEK

TATTERSON PARK

1a

Connection Art Space
Corner of Walker and
Robinson streets, Dandenong



**Heritage Hill Museum
and Historic Gardens**
66 McCrae Street,
Dandenong



2

Fishing in local waterways



Fishing in freshwater creeks and wetlands in Greater Dandenong is not illegal.

However, we ask people who choose to fish in local waterways to be aware of other wildlife and to be safe and sensible around water, including with equipment such as fishing hooks.

Our wetlands are home to a range of water birds who use these areas for feeding, breeding and raising their young. We even have migratory birds who visit our wetlands annually from as far afield as Japan and Russia.

Discarded hooks and fishing line pose serious danger to the health and wellbeing of birds and other wildlife. We ask visitors to discard of their hooks and fishing lines safely and never leave them behind in reserves or water areas.

Our wetlands are also full of Eastern long-necked turtles and it is illegal to catch these.

While it is legal to catch fish, Council would like to remind residents that the health of these fish can be affected by the health of local waterways. Our constructed wetlands work as an important habitat for wildlife, but they are also used to filter pollution and control flooding. As such we cannot guarantee the quality of the water.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information about wetlands in our city.



TAKE A SEAT AND OBSERVE NATURE

Observe nature and improve biodiversity

Visitors at two local reserves are encouraged to take a seat and observe nature to help increase biodiversity in Greater Dandenong.

Council has received funding from the Federal Government's Community and Environment program to build pollinator observatories that allow community members to help improve our environment.




Visitors are asked to record population numbers of pollinating insects who visit plants in the designated areas, with figures being recorded for the program which is running in partnership with the University of Melbourne.

Four observatories have been developed at Amersham Reserve in Springvale South with plants that are known food sources for both the Blue-Banded Bee and the Dingy Swallowtail Butterfly and Caterpillar. We will record the population numbers of these two species to see if we can increase biodiversity across Greater Dandenong parks and reserves through our planting choices.

A further six observatories have been developed at the Brady Road Bushland Reserve in Dandenong North. They have been planted with species that research suggests are attractive to pollinators, and we need observers to help record the population.

Records are captured via the popular mobile phone app iNaturalist.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/growing-our-future/birds-and-bees-pollinators-citizen-science-program to get involved.

Big Picnic

Keysborough's Big Picnic will return this year to Frederick Wachter Reserve.

Unfortunately, last year the event and many other events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2021, the much-loved family-friendly event will be one of the first festivals in Greater Dandenong to run under new COVID Safe operations.

Be ready to enjoy a fun day out at the park with the community but not as we have seen before.

Mark your calendars to save the afternoon for this exciting event on Sunday 11 April 2021.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to learn more.

Youth Showcase



Do you know a young person who has overcome adversity to achieve their goals? Nominate them now for the Youth Showcase 2021.

This year we are celebrating the resilience and personal growth of young people throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are looking for stories of young people aged 12–25 years who have persevered and inspired others whether it be at home, at school, in the workplace or in the community.

Nominees will be invited to a special recognition event in June 2021.

➔ **Nominations close on Thursday 1 April. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for more information.**

Young Leaders Program

The Young Leaders program is delivered by Council's Youth and Family Services Team, to give young people the chance to build their skills and make a positive impact in the community.

In 2020, for the first time, the program was run completely online engaging 14 young people over the 20 week program.

Despite facing significant challenges during COVID-19, the Young Leaders persevered to complete the program, successfully planning two community projects to help address local youth issues.

The first project, *Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives*, was a wellbeing workshop designed to equip newly arrived young people with strategies to help them cope with the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

About 90 students from Noble Park English Language School took part in the workshop, which was facilitated remotely by the Young Leaders. The event featured keynote speakers, interactive workshops and a Q&A discussion panel to share messages about good mental health and self-care.

The Young Leaders' remaining project, a localised Youth Leadership Forum, will be held on Tuesday 16 March. Recognising a need to amplify the voices of young people, this event will bring together youth leaders from across Greater Dandenong to discuss important youth issues and generate a set of recommendations to present to government decision-makers. This event will be delivered face to face.

Applications for the 2021 Young Leaders program are now open. Young people aged 16-25 are eligible to apply. Applications close on Sunday 28 March.

➔ Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to view the online application form or contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 for more information.



Active spaces encourage healthy habits



stay
active

A range of upgrades in parks and reserves across the City of Greater Dandenong are inspiring visitors of all ages to make the most of the great outdoors and stay active.

Already a favourite with local families, Burden Park in Springvale South has opened a new active play area based on the Ninja Warrior concept.

The first of its kind in Victoria, the course is designed for 12 years and above and is a fun and challenging way to work on general fitness.

Warner Reserve in Springvale recently installed a fitness station with two pods of activities including aerobic cycle, cross-trainer, sit-up bench, body twist and stretching station.

A number of local playgrounds have also been recently upgraded with new play equipment, including:

- ▶ Geoffrey Carson Reserve in Keysborough
- ▶ Olinda Reserve in Springvale
- ▶ Regent Reserve in Springvale.


Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the new spaces were an important addition to our city.

“It is pleasing to see many local children and families enjoying these new spaces, which are designed for active, challenging, imaginative and social play for both younger and older children.”

Cr Long encouraged residents to use the many public outdoor facilities available in the region.

“Studies have shown that spending just 15 minutes in nature can make you feel happier, and more relaxed, creative and focused. Enjoying some of our green spaces and active areas will give your mood a boost and help your physical health.”

Council is committed to supporting Greater Dandenong residents on the journey to better health and is currently running the Make Your Move campaign, a call to action for the community to be more physically active.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information on Make Your Move, or our parks, playgrounds and improvement projects.

Did you know... there are more than 600 hectares of parks and reserves to explore and enjoy in Greater Dandenong. From bushland reserves to dog off-leash parks, playgrounds and community gardens, there are many wonderful ways to enjoy the great outdoors.

Playgrounds provide opportunities for children of all ages and abilities to engage in physical, cognitive, unstructured and social play. Council groups our playgrounds into three categories:

- ▶ District playgrounds, which are large in size holding a large and diverse range of equipment for children aged 2-14 years
- ▶ Neighbourhood playgrounds, which are medium-sized and cater for children aged 2-12 years
- ▶ Local playgrounds, which are smaller in size and have a limited range of play equipment generally suited to children under 8 years.

Good neighbours



When people love where they live, they often have one thing in common – a good relationship with the neighbours.



Animals, noise, fences and long grass can be common issues that cause bad relationships between neighbours, but there are steps you can take to deal with these issues.

In most cases, the best way to handle a situation is to discuss it with your neighbour and come to an informal agreement. If the situation escalates, there are laws that can help resolve a dispute. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet for more information.

Below is a list of some issues and the rights and responsibilities of residents who want to be 'good' neighbours:

Barking dogs



Dogs bark for a variety of reasons and it is important to find out why and then try to resolve the issue in a friendly manner wherever possible. Residents must ensure that noise from animals owned by them does not 'adversely affect' the comfort, convenience, privacy or health of another person.

At times the owner may not be aware of the barking and so it is important to talk to them about it before reporting the issue to Council.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-an-animals/animal-complaints to find out more.

Unightly premises/ overgrown nature strips



Well-maintained properties add greatly to the beauty and amenity of our municipality. When property is poorly maintained it can lead to perceptions that an area is unsafe, untidy and poorly cared for.

The owner and/or occupier of land must not allow their property to become unsightly, overgrown or dangerous, and nature strips should be regularly maintained by the property residents.

Properties that are found to be unsightly (with overgrown grass/vegetation or a large amount of rubbish) will be issued with a compliance notice from Council. The notice will allow up to 21 days for improvements to be made. If no improvements are made, Council has the option to organise work to be carried out at the cost of the owner.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet for more information.

Fencing



The cost of a fence is divided equally between the adjoining neighbours according to the Victorian Fencing Act 1968. Council will contribute half of the cost of the construction and replacement of a standard fence abutting Council owned properties (including recreation reserves, parks and other buildings).

Property owners and fencing contractors can request the details of property owners for fencing purposes. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/local-laws/neighbours-law-and-you to fill out an application form.

Council will not negotiate fence disputes between neighbours, however the Department of Justice Dispute Settlement Centre can offer advice. Phone 1300 372 888 for information.



Noise complaints



Noise can be defined as any unwanted sound. What may be pleasurable sound to one person can be noise to another. Over time, noise can cause significant impacts on health and wellbeing, especially when it disturbs sleep.

Residents should always try solving noise disputes directly with their neighbours, but if you are unable to resolve the matter yourself you can contact Council on 8571 1000 or the EPA on 1300 372 842 for further advice.

There are strict guidelines covering when residential noise is allowed. This includes motor vehicle sounds, lawnmowers, power tools and heating and cooling systems.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet for more information.

Burning off



Burning off is generally not permitted in Greater Dandenong due to negative environmental impacts. Waste needs to be disposed of by means other than burning, but if there is no other means available a burn off permit may be considered.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbours-booklet or phone 8571 1000 to apply for a permit.

DANDENONG WORLD FARE

The Melbourne Food and Wine Festival's largest free, family-friendly event returns this month to the Dandenong Market.

Celebrate world street food and culture in the heart of Australia's most culturally diverse community at the Dandenong World Fare 2021.

The fare will feature more than 20 street food traders who will be offering many of your favourite hawker-style foods, as well as some of the world's most unique dishes created solely for the festival.

Visit *Kabul Kitchen* to try their take on mantu dumplings, a secret family recipe that has been perfected over many decades.

Vegetarians should stop by *Why Not? Wooden Bakery* for a meat-free take on the traditional za'atar manoush, made with a base of thyme, sesame seeds and olive oil, and topped with ingredients such as feta, capsicum and olives.



Celebrate world street food and culture...

Xian Lim Chen from *San San's Dumpling House* welcomes you into her childhood home as she shares the dish her father created to satisfy his picky eater – treasure pockets are packed with rice, chicken and vegetable.

This year's event will follow a strict COVID Safe plan with increased cleaning, hand sanitation stations and adherence to physical distancing requirements. Roving entertainers will also share a cultural experience from a safe distance.

Seat limits will apply on the day, so get in early to sample the world on a plate.

Dandenong World Fare will be held on the Terrace, at Dandenong Market, corner Clow and Cleeland streets, on Sunday 28 March from 10am–4pm.

➔ Visit dandenongmarket.com.au for more information.

Supporting local business



The Greater Dandenong Business Grants Program offered immediate financial assistance for small to medium sized businesses affected by COVID-19 in 2020.

Over two rounds, a total of 360 grants were awarded, totalling \$600,000 in economic support for Greater Dandenong businesses.

The grants were provided to businesses who could demonstrate how the financial support would assist their business to retain current employees or support business sustainability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Grant submissions included requests to upgrade business software, training to expand digital presence, and furniture and equipment upgrades.

The grants complemented other, non-financial business recovery measures provided by Council including one-on-one business mentoring and support for COVIDSafe practices, including the provision of contactless thermometers.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business for more information.



Feed happiness

Food can impact mental health, with research showing that the right food can help put you in a good mood.

Council is supporting the Feed Happiness social media campaign, which brings together 19 organisations from across Melbourne. The campaign is here to support young people and families to choose healthier foods for good mental health.

We all want to eat delicious food that helps us to manage stress and boost mood, but with so many options it's hard to know what works best.

Feed Happiness will provide support and resources to:

- ▶ Increase your understanding of the link between food and mood
- ▶ Identify which specific foods can support better mood (to make options easy)
- ▶ Build your knowledge and motivation to prepare and eat healthy foods
- ▶ Create a space for connecting within the community and on social media, to encourage sharing and discussions about the connections between mood and food.

Let's Feed Happiness with food that is good for our brain.




➤ Find out more about the Feed Happiness campaign on social media.

Facebook icon [@feedhappiness](#)

Instagram icon [@feedhappiness_](#)



 **Dandenong Oasis marked a very special milestone this year, celebrating the role the pool has played in water safety.**

On 26 January 1991 the public pool facility was opened under the management of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia Victoria Branch, now known as Life Saving Victoria (LSV).

At the same time the Australian Water Safety Education Centre (AWSEC) was established, offering accredited training programs for pool lifeguards and creating industry best practice in Australia for safety at public pool facilities.

Dandenong Oasis recently hosted a small, early morning celebration for many of those involved in the program since its establishment.

LSV President Paul James said the celebrations were a great opportunity to celebrate the progress that has been made in aquatic safety over the past 30 years.

“Today LSV is recognised as a key pillar in the aquatic industry and this has been built on the foundations established by the AWSEC,” Mr James said.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said Council was proud to have been a partner in the venture to improve aquatic safety.

“Many swimmers who visit our pools did not grow up in and around water, but they can feel safe knowing there are expert eyes watching over them,” Cr Long said.

“The City of Greater Dandenong is proud to have been the home of AWSEC and to have worked in partnership with LSV (and their predecessor RLSSA-V) to help make great changes in the field of pool safety.”

Come together
AT OUR TABLE

**DANDENONG
WORLD
FARE**

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