

APRIL 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News



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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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PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
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 **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 April edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This month Council introduces its new food waste recycling service. We hope all residents take advantage of this new way to dispose of food waste and reduce the amount of waste we send to landfill via our kerbside collection. Find out more about the service on the opposite page.

If you are looking to entertain your children over the school holidays we have plenty on offer. Turn to pages 10 and 11 to see what is happening across our city including events at our libraries and some live shows at Drum Theatre.

We look forward to the return of the Big Picnic at Wachter Reserve in Keysborough. Cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been working hard to make this year's event safe for everyone. Read more on page 7.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to everyone celebrating special events this month. While many are celebrating Easter, others mark their new year in April. Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse city in Australia, and I love seeing the vibrant ways our community celebrates their various traditions.

I hope this is a great month for everyone.




**Mayor
Cr Angela Long**

My City



Have you visited the new Springvale Library yet? There is so much to see in this beautiful state-of-the-art facility, including this engaging children's reading area. Share a book with your little one or take part in one of the many programs aimed at encouraging a love of literacy in our youngest residents, including weekly Baby Bounce and Storytime sessions. The library is at 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries for more information.

Front Cover: Zoe and her daughter Lennan are ready to recycle their food waste. Picture: Hilton Stone.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Food waste recycling is here

From Monday 5 April food scraps can be added to your green lid garden waste bin for recycling.

Studies have shown that up to half of all waste placed in the red lid waste bins is made up of food and garden waste. By adding the scraps to your green bin you can reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

The green lid bin will continue to be collected on a fortnightly basis and will be taken to a local composting facility where it will be turned into nutrient-rich compost for Victorian farmers. Your red lid bin and yellow lid bin will continue to be collected on the same cycle.

The best way to deal with food waste is to not produce it in the first place. According to Sustainability Victoria the average Victorian household wastes more than \$2000 worth of food every year.

By planning meals ahead of time, shopping with a list and eating leftovers you can reduce food wastage, but for those unavoidable food scraps you now have the option to recycle them with your garden waste, including lawn clippings and leaves.

This service will only be available to residents who already pay for a green lid garden waste bin.



Households that have registered for a free kitchen caddy will have their caddies delivered along with a fridge magnet and information booklet. Residents can still apply for a kitchen caddy via the online registration form.

If you would like a fridge magnet and booklet you can collect one from any Greater Dandenong customer service centre. The booklet is also available to download from Council's website.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste for more information.

Residents who don't currently have a garden waste service can add one to their kerbside collection. Visit Council's website or phone customer service on 8571 1000 for more information.



Making Springvale even more sensational



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

The Springvale Boulevard Project will improve the visitor experience to Springvale, improving pedestrian access, adding trees, street lighting, public artwork and space for footpath trading.

Planning for construction is well underway and Stage 1 and 2 works along Springvale Road, between Windsor Avenue and Lightwood Road, are scheduled to commence in mid-2021.

The final designs are based on feedback from more than 1100 people, with the improvements expected to create a vibrant place to shop and connect while giving visitors a happy place to celebrate our community.

Council will directly contact affected businesses to help keep disruptions to a minimum for traders and their customers.

Thanks to the generosity of locals who shared their vision for this project we are working to create this community space together.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-boulevard-project to keep up with the latest on this project.

Councillor Contacts



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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 April meetings will be held:

Monday 12 April

Monday 26 April

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

APRIL

Sustainability Awards 2021



The Greater Dandenong Sustainability Awards are now open.

The awards recognise the community's efforts to make our city and environment a more sustainable place to live, work and play. These awards identify champions in our community whose achievements can be seen and adopted by others.

This year's awards will look a bit different, with submissions taking the form of a short video, artwork or invention.

Submissions close on Friday 30 April and can be made across one of the following four categories:

- ▶ Resident or tertiary student
- ▶ Primary student
- ▶ Secondary student
- ▶ Employee or business in Greater Dandenong.

Entries can be made by individuals or team groups and must be themed around climate change and/or



sustainability and what our future will look like as a carbon-neutral city.

Submissions will be judged by our external Sustainability Advisory Committee, and a people's choice award will be open to a public vote during the Forever Fest (22–30 May).

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-awards-2021 for more information and details on how to enter.

Cr Bob Milkovic

► Dandenong North Ward



This month sees some big changes to the way residents can dispose of waste – with the introduction of food waste recycling. This will help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from our kerbside collections, by allowing all food waste to be disposed of in the green waste (green lid) bin.

The food and garden waste will be turned into high quality compost and used on farms across the state, making this a win-win program for all.

Speaking of winning, Council recently had success at the state's peak planning tribunal VCAT when they supported calls by Council and community members to knock back a proposal for 20 dwellings at Cardinia Close, Dandenong North.

More than 100 objections were received from the public when the application was first made in November 2018 and Council initially refused the plans. Late last year VCAT upheld our decision

and I am pleased they agreed with our viewpoint that this development did not fit in this neighbourhood.

Council does its best to listen to the concerns of our community, and another issue we recently consulted about was two strategies that look at trees in our city.

Throughout the month of February we called for comments on the Urban Forest Strategy and the Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy. This consultation also asked for feedback on plans to introduce a local law covering trees on private residential property. Officers are going through the many responses we received and will soon report to Council on the outcome. I will make sure to keep residents up to date on any changes to our local laws.

Finally, I want to update you on some works at Tirhatuan Park, where new drinking fountains were recently installed and the off-leash dog park upgrade has been completed. This area now has a designated space for small dogs and some fun agility equipment.



If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters you can reach me at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.

► Springvale South Ward

Cr Loi Truong



An opportunity has opened for Council to secure State Government funding to improve tennis facilities at Burden Park in Springvale South.

Plans include replacing the playing surface, fences and lights to create a more modern facility for the community to enjoy for years to come. While the plans are detailed in the Burden Park

Master Plan, Council has an opportunity to fast track these works with State Government funding.

We recently consulted with residents living in the vicinity of the park and we hope to have some news on that project very soon.

Speaking of Burden Park, it has been lovely to see how popular it has become. While many residents have known for a long time what a great asset this park is, it has become a magnet for families from across Melbourne because of the new Ninja Warrior park.

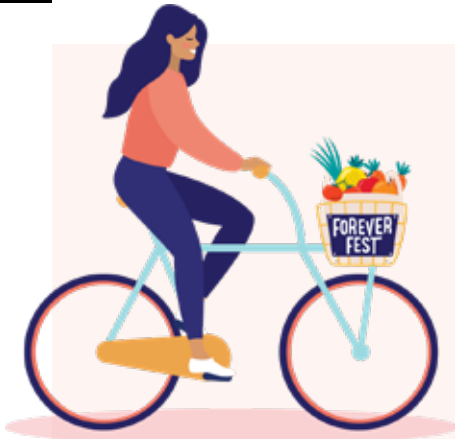
Council has received funding from the Federal Government Blackspot Program and will be installing traffic signals at the intersection of Harold Road and Corrigan Road in Noble Park. Construction of the lights is due to commence in mid-2021 and will help improve safety for all road users.

This month is a time of great celebration in our culturally diverse

community. While many celebrate Easter, there are also many new year celebrations happening for various Asian communities, including the Cambodian and Sri Lankan New Year Festivals.

While these holidays look a bit different in 2021, we know how important it is for our residents to continue to mark traditional celebrations and days of significance. Our community is the most culturally diverse in all of Australia, and barely a week goes by without an important date being marked on the calendar. I encourage all our residents to continue to celebrate their traditions and hopefully soon we will all be able to gather again to share in each other's special moments. In the meantime I encourage you all to follow the latest health advice to protect yourself and your loved ones.

If you want to contact me you can reach me at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 004 618.



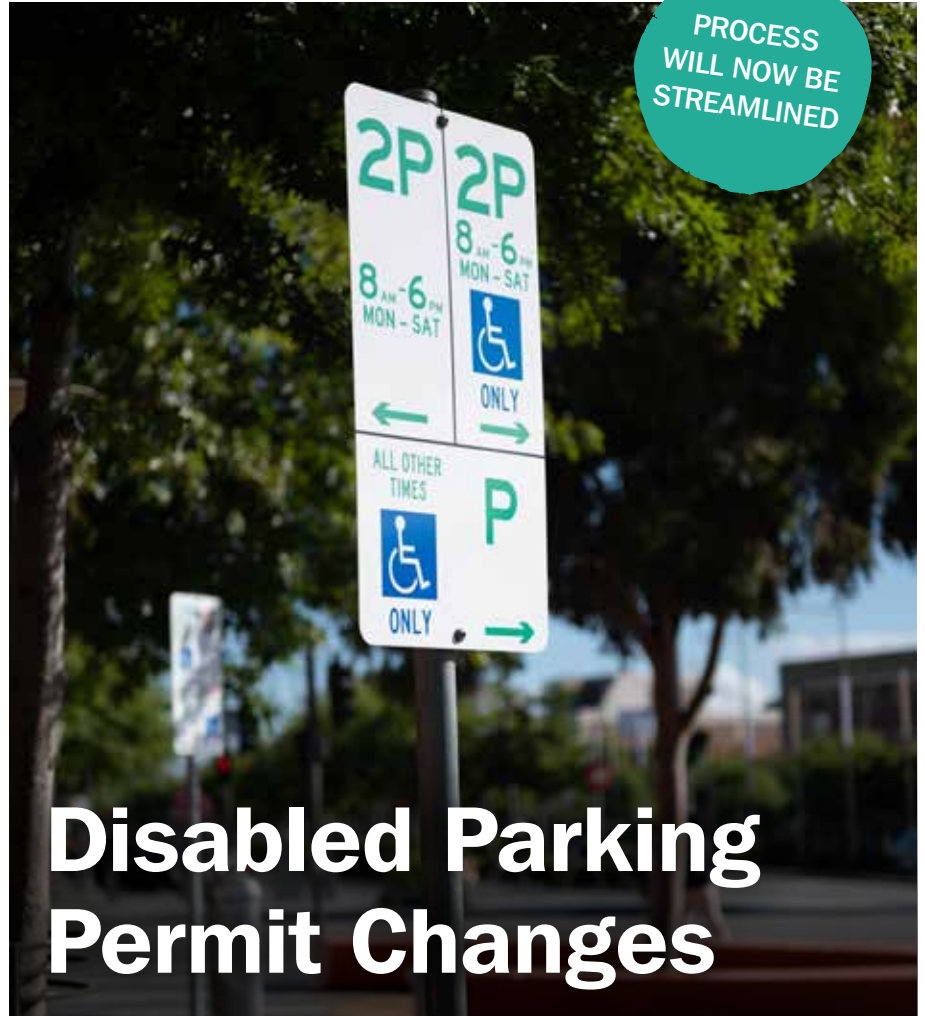
FOREVER FEST

Greater Dandenong City Council is excited to announce a new look to our annual Sustainability Festival.


Renamed *Forever Fest* 'Sustainable living for now and the future' the festival will run over nine days (22–30 May) with each day focusing on the eight themes of our Climate Emergency Strategy, which was prepared in response to Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency in January 2020.

With elements to suit all age groups and interests, Forever Fest has something for everyone. Every activity across the nine days is free and accessible through various online platforms. Stay tuned as we unveil the exciting program and share how you can get involved.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest to find out more.



Disabled Parking Permit Changes

 **The process for issuing disabled parking permits will now be streamlined, with the State Government taking responsibility for issuing permits via VicRoads. The permits have also been renamed Accessibility Parking Permits.**


For some time now VicRoads has been working with Victorian councils to develop a new online service to manage the application process, permit printing and assist with enforcement.

As part of the changes, eligibility criteria will be simplified and streamlined to ensure permit applications are assessed consistently across the state. The move to a centralised system will also help reduce the misuse of permits, freeing up parking bays for people who really need them.

Other anticipated improvements to the Scheme include:

- ▶ introduction of temporary permits for 6, 12 or 24 months
- ▶ increased permit length from three years to five years for individuals
- ▶ introduction of a permanent disability classification, so reassessments are not required for future permit renewals
- ▶ the inclusion of occupational therapists as assessors, in addition to GPs.

All applicants will need to apply for a permit online via the portal, and while decisions can no longer be appealed a second application can be made with extra information or a second opinion added.

 Visit vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/disability-parking for more information.

THE BIG PICNIC

activities for all ages...



Greater Dandenong City Council invites you to the biggest, fun and free community picnic in town.



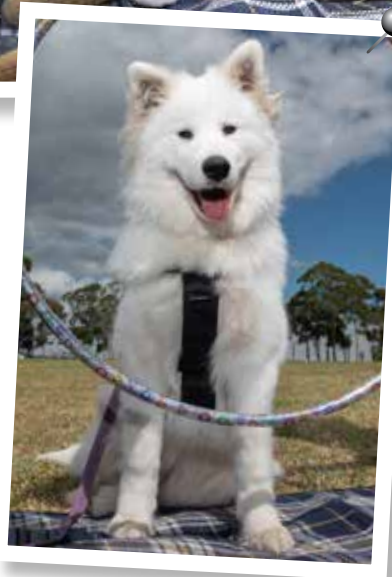
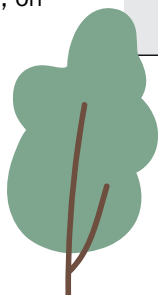
Keysborough's Big Picnic is back this year with activities for all ages, including live dance performances and circus acts, build and fly your own kite workshop, and a chance to hunt for Easter Eggs with Parkmore Shopping Centre's annual egg hunt.

There will also be a dog-friendly egg hunt and other fun activities for your furry friends.

The Make Your Move Zone will also return to challenge you to get up and move with the help and encouragement of local sporting clubs.

Bring your picnic blankets and chairs for a great and safe day out with the community at Wachter Reserve, Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough, on Sunday 11 April.

The day will be split into two sessions, and attendees can pre-register for either of the sessions beginning at 11am or 1.30pm. Registrations will close one hour before each session is due to open.



Attendees will be asked to stay COVID safe on the day, maintaining physical distancing and carrying a mask. They will also be asked to register their attendance via a QR code on arrival.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysie-big-picnic](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysie-big-picnic) for more information and to pre-register.

Dog park complete



Upgrades at the Tirhatuan Park dog off-leash area have been completed, giving dogs and their human companions a great new space to play.



In mid-2020 a separate small dog play area was opened next to the existing fenced off-leash park, giving smaller dogs respite from their larger playmates.

Funding for further upgrades was announced in 2020 by the Victorian Government under their Local Parks Program.

The works included new entrance gates, improved path networks and signage. Two feature areas were designed within the park, including agility play equipment for people to train their dogs and a rock mound/dry creek bed area for textural and sensory exploration.

Shelters have also been added to give more shade and drinking fountains with dog drinking bowls to give thirsty pets and people a chance to rehydrate.

The park has always been popular with visitors and Council looks forward to more people taking advantage of the new look space.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-spaces/dog-leash-parks](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-spaces/dog-leash-parks) for more information about dog off-leash parks across Greater Dandenong.

River red gums to stay



Following months of discussions, Council has negotiated to save public space including 26 river red gums at Yarraman Village, Noble Park.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said Council had agreed to purchase the land.

“This is a win for the developer, the community and for Council. It is importantly also a win for the environment. It is a positive result that can be attributed to the hard work and commitment of all parties involved,” Cr Long said.

“As a result of the recent VCAT decision to allow eight townhouses to be built on the land originally identified for open space, Council has been in discussions with the current owner to purchase this land and retain it as open space to protect the 26 river red gums approved for removal,” Cr Long said.

“These discussions have been held in good faith by all parties and have been productive, with a contract now entered into for Council to purchase this land.”

With strong community interest and support over a period of time for the trees to be protected, Council has spent time exploring all options.

“With more open space for people to enjoy and the significant River Redgums protected, this is an excellent result for the health and wellbeing of our community,” Cr Long said.



Ceremonial Firepit



A key feature of the new Springvale Community Hub pays tribute to the First Peoples of our nation.

The Ceremonial Firepit was designed by Aboriginal artist and Kirrae Whurrong woman Fiona Clarke and her collaborator Ken McKean, and is a focal point of the outdoor space at the hub.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said the firepit was designed in collaboration with the Bunurong and Wurundjeri land councils.

“Named ‘Waa and Buln Buln Corroboree’ this firepit is an important focal point for the hub, and will be used for permitted events and ceremonies,” Cr Long said.

The artwork includes a symbolic sculpture comprising of two large bluestones. The lyre bird (Buln Buln) and crow (Waa) have been hand carved into the stone symbolising the two local aboriginal clans, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong of the Kulin nation.

As night falls, the carvings glow and reflect the night sky above.

“This sculpture depicts the coming together of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples as well as the broader enduring and continuous legacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connection to country.

“The elements of fire, stone, water and flora come together in harmony as a place of gathering, yarning and connection. I look forward to seeing this space used for generations to come.”

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-hub for more information.

FLORA



The immersive Flora Exhibition continues throughout April, with a series of workshops and activities to complement the exhibitions.

Flora offers new perspectives and will renew your wonder for the plant world.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/flora for a full program of events, in the meantime here are some highlights:

Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Dawn Walk Join multisensory artist Dave Thomson (Lost Few) for a one hour walk to explore the beautiful, unique and tranquil surrounds of this nature reserve, and hear about Dave's work as an Artist in Residence at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve in 2020.

Sunday 11 April, 6.15am, at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Mackay Street, Springvale South

The Flora Loved by Madcap Birds Writer Craig Dent and artist Lauren Habarow will host this creative workshop for students aged 6–11 who will create their own book inspired by Flora.

Tuesday 13 April, 2pm–4pm, at Walker Street Gallery, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong.

Flora tour with curator Take this walking tour of the two main exhibition sites at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre and Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens. Join curator Esther Gyorki for insights into the development of the exhibition and its themes and gain a greater understanding of the artists' works.

Tuesday 27 April, 2pm, starting at Walker Street Gallery, corner Walker and Robinson streets, Dandenong.

Other activities include Art Series Workshops at Springvale and Dandenong libraries and a garden tour at Heritage Hill.

The Flora Exhibition can be viewed across various locations including Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Heritage Hill, Garnar Lane Display Boxes, Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Connection Art Space.



All workshops and activities will be subject to COVIDSafe plans, including a limit on participant numbers, and require bookings. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to book.

Hemmings Street art

Artwork designed with the help of local school children will brighten the landscape in Hemmings Street, Dandenong.

Following a period of public consultation in early 2020, Council engaged illustrator Beci Orpin to work with students from Dandenong West Primary School on a public art project to complement streetscape works.

The crafty kids made creatures out of rocks giving each creation its own quirky personality. The artworks were then adapted into a mural design which will appear in Woodward Lane, and installation pieces that will pop up along the shopping strip. Dynamic totems will also be installed giving visitors a chance to interact with the artwork.

The artwork is part of the second stage of upgrade works in the Hemmings Street precinct. The first stage was finished in July 2020 and included new footpaths and an improved pedestrian crossing at Wilma Avenue.

Stage two works include more footpaths, new street furniture, plantings and artwork.

Future planned works include relocation of the toilet block and the installation of a new pocket park.



Design by Beci Orpin and Whistle Design.

Autumn Adventure 2021



Bust school holiday boredom this April with Greater Dandenong's Youth and Family Services.

Join the Autumn Adventures Youth Holiday Activities program and explore two weeks of action-packed fun for young people in the community.

Activities include painting with water colour, busting some Tik Tok moves, tree planting, digital content creation and making your own short videos, and so much more.

These activities are for young people aged 12–25 who live, study, work or have a significant connection to the City of Greater Dandenong.

Contact Youth and Family Services on 9793 2155 or visit our website at youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information or to book into an activity.

Greater Dandenong Libraries holiday program



HOP! Into our libraries during Easter break for the April School Holiday Program (April 6–16).

There will be programs for primary school age children and young adults at both Springvale and Dandenong libraries. All sessions will be delivered safely, with limits on attendees and bookings required.

Keep the kids entertained with a live comedy show, dance workshop, LEGO robotics class or getting up close and personal with reptiles.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Bubblemania with TwistED Science

Make your own simple bubble mix and explore the simple, messy and fun science of bubbles.

For ages 5–12
At Springvale Library
Wednesday 7 April at 2.30pm

Manga Drawing with Kenny Chan

Learn how to draw characters in the Manga style and master important facial features and expressions to create engaging, original characters.

For ages 12–25
At Springvale Library
Friday 9 April at 2.30pm

Cosplay Makeup with Frankie Starrson

Build your creativity and learn how to make yourself up as the Cheshire Cat with face paint and brushes.

For ages 12–25
At Dandenong Library
Tuesday 13 April, at 2.30pm

Hip-hop and Breakin' with BBoy Scroll

Learn the basics of this high energy dance style and put together your own freestyle performance.

For ages 5–12
At Springvale Library
Thursday 15 April at 2.30pm

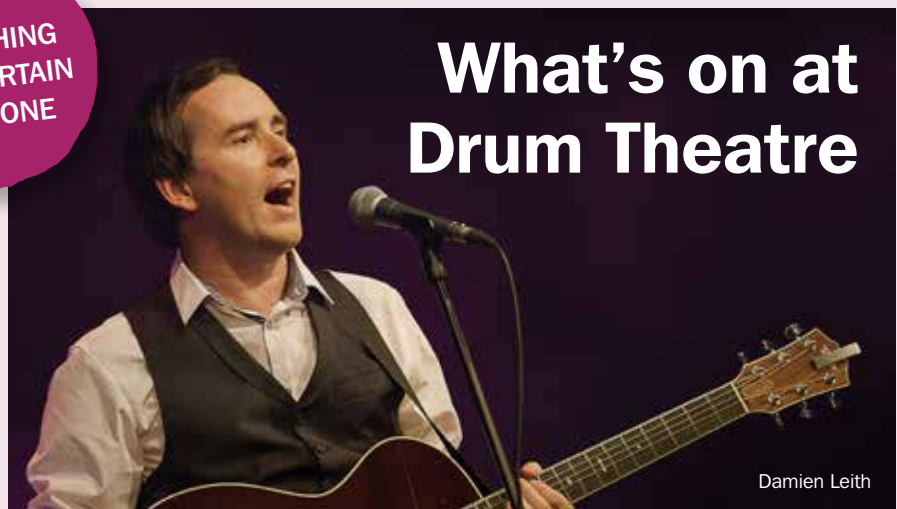
Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson for a full program of events and to make a booking, or phone 1300 630 920.





Archie Roach

**SOMETHING
TO ENTERTAIN
EVERYONE**



Damien Leith

What's on at Drum Theatre

No matter what your interests, Dandenong's Drum Theatre offers something to entertain everyone.

If you love music then visit the Drum to hear one of Australia's finest voices pay tribute to one of the world's most celebrated singers.

Rescheduled from 2020, singer Damien Leith celebrates the golden anniversary of the legendary Roy Orbison and Joe Melson's classic hit *Only the Lonely* with his stage show *Roy – a Tribute to Roy Orbison with Strings*.

Performed in an intimate setting with a string quartet, Leith will cover Orbison classics such as *Pretty Woman*, *Only the Lonely*, *You Got It* and *Crying*.

See Leith at his finest on Saturday 10 April at 7.30pm.

If you're looking for laughs then see some of the world's brightest comedians as the 2021 Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow rolls into town.

This show will be an all killer, no filler line-up of Australian stars and talented newcomers fresh from their festival shows.

Tickets start at just \$18. Grab your friends for this hilarious show on Friday 23 April at 8pm.

Join iconic Australian storyteller and singer Archie Roach as he shares highlights from his memoir and companion album both titled *Tell Me Why*.

His memoir, released in 2020, is an intimate, moving and often confronting account of his resilience and strength of spirit. It's an extraordinary odyssey of love and heartbreak, family and community, survival and renewal – and the healing power of music.

See Archie on Friday 7 May at 8pm.

Drum Theatre treats the health and safety of visitors and performers as a top priority, with all theatre goers asked to follow COVID safe requirements including checking in on arrival and carrying a mask.

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

School holidays at Drum Theatre

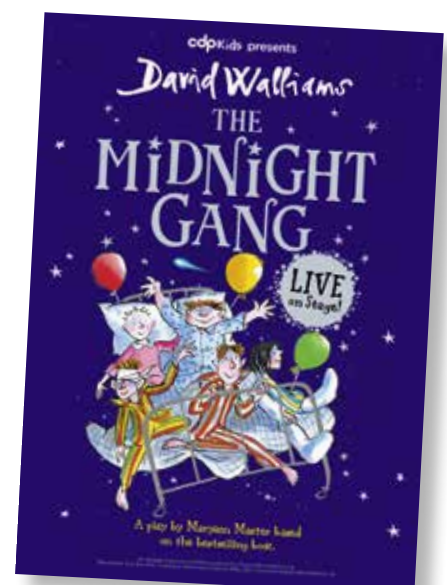
Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre is ready to welcome audiences for two book-inspired, family friendly shows these school holidays.

The *Midnight Gang* brings to life British comedian David Walliams' bestselling book. A story of friendship, love and the power of the imagination this show is perfect for children aged 6+ and their families. Join us for three shows on Wednesday 7 April at 6pm, or Thursday 8 April, at 10am and 12pm.

Australian favourite The 91-Storey Treehouse joins Andy and Terry as their treehouse reaches amazing new heights. It's now more fantastically dangerous than ever, with a deserted desert island, a whirlpool and a giant spider. A wild adventure for children aged 6–12 and their adults. Join the fun on Thursday 15 April at 6pm, or on Friday 16 April at 11am.

Both shows are presented by CDP Kids Production and offer a special price for family and school bookings.

➔ Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone the Box Office on 8571 1666 to secure your tickets.





Signage wins top honours



Interpretive signs at Keysborough Wetlands have been awarded a gold medal at the annual International Design Awards.

The wetlands provide a home for birds, fish and turtles, but feeding the wildlife has a detrimental effect on the health of the ecosystem. For this reason Council engaged designers Heine Jones to create signage that helps visitors appreciate the unique wetlands environment.

The innovative signage challenges the traditional “do not feed the birds” message by giving visitors a ‘guide book’ to the wetlands, including an understanding of the wildlife present and the impact human behaviour can have on the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

The signage can be seen around the Keysborough Wetlands, including in locations at Hidden Grove Reserve, Lakeview Boulevard Reserve and Somerfield Reserve. New installations are planned for Dandenong Wetlands, Tatterson Park and Tirhatuan Park in 2021.

Heine Jones also won a bronze medal for their work on signage at Dandenong’s Fotheringham Reserve.

Reclaimed ironbark timber posts were used as a base for signage throughout the park, blending in seamlessly with the natural surrounds. Council now uses posts that are milled from our Urban Forest Tree Repurposing program. Tree repurposing enables opportunities to use logs for habitat, or milling them into lengths of timber for furniture making, or mulching them to return nutrients to the soil and create habitat.

Fotheringham Reserve contains one of the largest intact remnant River Red Gum woodlands in Greater Dandenong and is a beautiful natural resource open to the whole community. The popular reserve is located on Alexander Reserve, Dandenong and includes a playground, picnic area, barbecue, sporting facilities and walking/cycling tracks. It is also popular with bird watchers.

Biodiversity Action Plan



Greater Dandenong Council mascot Harry Habitat with Mayor Angela Long.

With more than 700 hectares of open space, the City of Greater Dandenong is home to some unique environments and a high number of rare or threatened plants and animals.

As part of our commitment to increase the protection and enhancement of biodiversity across the city, Council is drafting a Biodiversity Action Plan which will soon be available for community review.

The draft plan will outline key objectives that work towards a greener city that places a value on its natural assets, protects existing levels of biodiversity and works hard to enhance biodiversity levels for the future.

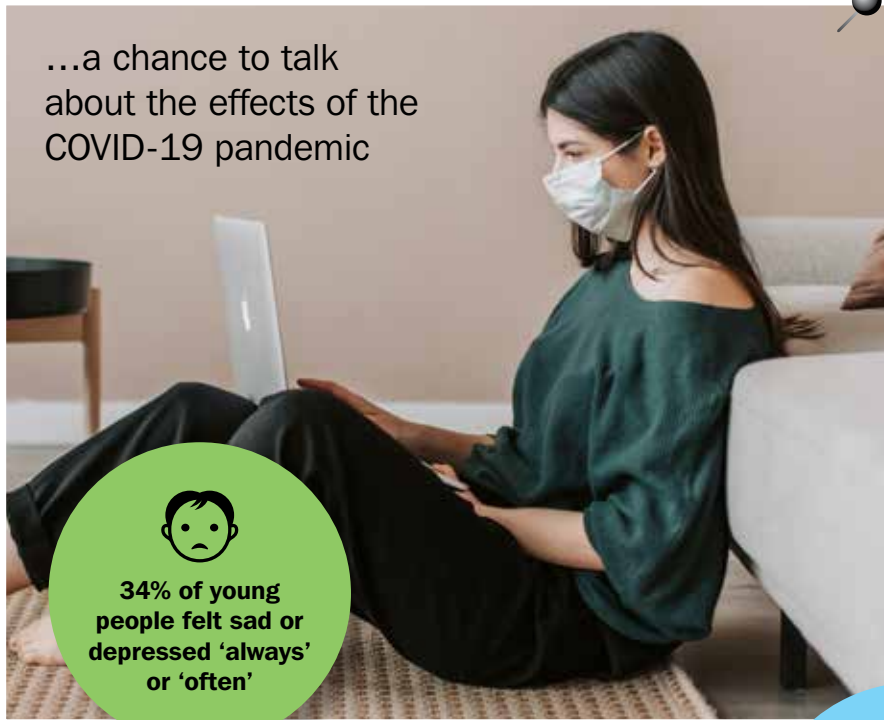
More than 300 community members engaged in the initial consultation for the plan through a range of workshops and surveys.

Having a biodiverse environment is important to help create a healthy community. The healthier and more diverse each ecosystem or environment is, the more it can withstand the pressures of climate change and pollution.

Biodiversity can be achieved not only through action on public parklands and native bushland reserves, but also on suburban nature strips and in private back yards.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to find out more about biodiversity.

How did COVID affect our community?



...a chance to talk about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

34% of young people felt sad or depressed 'always' or 'often'

Young people's top concerns during COVID-19 pandemic ✓

1. Health of family and friends
2. Own health
3. Education

Parents/carers top concerns during COVID-19 pandemic ✓

1. Educational outcomes for children
2. Health of family and friends
3. Money – ability to afford basic needs



The City of Greater Dandenong's Youth and Family Services team consulted with young people and their families during the height of the COVID restrictions in 2020.

Online discussion groups, surveys and phone interviews gave everyone a chance to talk about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how they see the future as we return to regular life.

Four young people were employed as peer research assistants to help support the program which continued to consult with community members during Melbourne's strictest lockdown period.

Employment was the number one priority identified by young people in Greater Dandenong.

One quarter of young people consulted said they lost their job or were temporarily stood down as a result of the pandemic. More than half said they felt less likely to achieve their future plans and goals.

Some respondents reported feeling like they were letting down their families due to lost income, while others reported having to pick up extra work to make up for other family members losing their jobs.

Of the parents who took part in the consultation, 43 per cent reported a decrease in household income, and 20 per cent reported being unable to pay essential costs, such as mortgage, rent or utility bills.

When asked to nominate areas needing the most support, the young people of Greater Dandenong identified employment support as their top priority.

Council's Youth and Family Services team will use the findings from this consultation to create support services and programs to help young people recover from the effects of the pandemic.

If you have experienced hardship due to COVID-19 and need support please visit the COVID Corner – Community Information Centre page on council's website.



Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.

53% of young people felt less likely to achieve their future plans and goals

52% of young people said COVID had negatively impacted their studies

36% of parents lost their job or were tentatively stood down

21% of parents were unable to afford essential household needs

44% of parents felt sad or depressed 'always' or 'often'

Young people's top priorities for recovery ✓

1. Youth employment
2. Building social connections
3. Mental health support

Foster Street redevelopment



In late 2020 Development Victoria announced the Foster Street Redevelopment as the next phase of the Revitalising Central Dandenong project.

The redevelopment area covers both sides of Foster Street from Settler's Square to Thomas Street/Cheltenham Road and includes the Little India precinct.

The proposed redevelopment is expected to:

- ▶ Deliver a new Little India precinct
- ▶ Inject \$600 million into the Dandenong economy during its development and construction phase
- ▶ Create 2,600 construction jobs
- ▶ Create around 5,000 ongoing jobs when it is operational
- ▶ Deliver 470 new dwellings and 2,500 square metres of community space
- ▶ Deliver new commercial and retail spaces, including a new supermarket and food market hall
- ▶ Further contribute to transforming central Dandenong into a vibrant and thriving destination
- ▶ Deliver social enterprise initiatives
- ▶ Improve public safety and amenity.

Construction of the first stage is expected to begin in 2023 following community and stakeholder consultation on the proposed master plan in 2021.

This redevelopment will complement Council's nearby redevelopment of the former Masonic Hall and former Precinct Energy Plant.

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



Chandi Kulasinghe



Natasha Shields

Dandenong Market – trading through COVID-19

market
traders

Known as the world market, Dandenong Market is one of the oldest markets in Melbourne. For 154 years the market has continued to deliver fresh produce and bargains to visitors.

In 2020 market traders were heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, but they have continued to trade through the difficult times. Here are stories from two traders.

Café Marketto

Husband and wife duo Naresh De Silva and Chandi Kulasinghe took over Café Marketto in March last year, days before Victoria's first lockdown.

With food establishments only permitted to serve takeaway the pair tried to work with the new limitations, but found it difficult.

"I watched the dream I worked so hard for disappear in front of my eyes. We tried offering takeaway options, but it didn't work," Chandi said.

The café is now up and running and 2021 promises to be a new chapter for the business. The café serves breakfast and lunch dishes sourced from local ingredients, with some coming from the market itself. The updated menu also features vegetarian and gluten free options.

Customers can dine in or takeaway every market day (Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays), from 8am until 4pm.

Peninsula Organic Farmgate

Natasha Shields opened Peninsula Organic Farmgate at Dandenong Market amid Victoria's second COVID-19 lockdown in July 2020.


The stall is the market's only fully Certified Organic stalls stocking Australia sourced fruit and vegetables, meat, bread, grocery items and everything in between. The team grow their own fresh produce at their farm in Baxter on the Mornington Peninsula.

Natasha said the stall's first few months at the market were not as busy as they had hoped, with up to half of all market traders shutting down due to the travel limits placed on shoppers. But the team adapted to the new circumstances and began home delivery.

This year presents the business a great opportunity to finally grow within Dandenong.

"I'm looking forward to meeting more people who are interested in shopping organically," she said.

Peninsula Organic Farmgate can be found in the Meat, Fish and Deli Hall and is open from 7am–4pm every market day.

 Visit dandenongmarket.com.au to find out more.

EVERY TEST HELPS US KEEP ON TOP OF THIS VIRUS

Please get tested if you have any symptoms, even if they are very mild.



Fever



Chills or sweats



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath



Runny nose



Loss or change in sense of smell or taste

CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

For information in another language, please visit
coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations

STAY SAFE
STAY OPEN



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STAY COVID SAFE – GET TESTED



Council encourages all residents to get tested if they have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, no matter how mild.

People with no symptoms can also get tested for several specific reasons, including if they have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, if they have visited a high-risk interstate location or if they are a returned overseas traveller.

Diagnosing coronavirus early helps to slow the spread of the disease and helps us track the virus in our community. It is one clear way we can all take action to help keep our families and communities safe.



Visit coronavirus.vic.gov.au to find out more about testing, including where you can get tested and what happens before, during and after a test.

Justice of the Peace

The Justice of the Peace (JP) Service is now available at Dandenong Library and Springvale Community Hub (previously held at Springvale Neighbourhood House).

Subject to COVID regulations, JPs will be available at the following times:

Dandenong Library

Monday: 10am–3pm

Tuesday: 10am–3pm

Wednesday: 10am–3pm and 6pm–8pm

Thursday: 10am–3pm

Springvale Community Hub

Monday to Friday: 10am–1pm and 4pm–7pm

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

SERVICE
NOW
AVAILABLE



The service usually does not need an appointment, however before arrival you may wish to check if your document can be witnessed by a JP. 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.

Work at wetlands

Melbourne Water is undertaking work at the Somerfield Estate Wetlands in Keysborough.

The works will remove sediment that has built up at the site over time, helping to keep the water levels low and reduce the risk of flooding at the site.

Works are scheduled to begin this month and will take up to four weeks. They may cause a low level of disturbance to park visitors and surrounding households, with an increase in truck movements which may increase noise disturbance.

Once removed from the waterway, the sediment will be left on site for a period of up to three months to dry out before it is removed and disposed of.



Visit melbournewater.com or phone 131 722 for more information.

Keysborough's BIG PICNIC

2021



#keysiebigpicnic

- Live music and performances
- Easter egg hunts
- Fun for pets
- BYO picnic mat and chairs
- Kite flying
- Make Your Move Zone



SESSION 1: 11AM – 1PM 
SESSION 2: 1.30PM – 3.30PM

**SUNDAY
11 APRIL**

**FREE
EVENT**

**WACHTER
RESERVE**
Kingsclere Ave, Keysborough
(opposite Parkmore Shopping Centre)

8571 1000 | Register at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysie-big-picnic