

Greater Dandenong Council News



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in our libraries

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Customer Service Centres


Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong


Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale


Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,
Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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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 May edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This month we have some big celebrations, including Volunteer Week, Reconciliation Week, Composting Awareness Week, Forever Fest and Library and Information Week.

If you would like to be a volunteer turn to page 3, if looking after our planet is more your thing, then turn to page 8 and find out about composting workshops happening in Greater Dandenong.

Looking for some exciting Reconciliation Week activities, turn to page 4 to find out more.

I wish you all a wonderful month and hope you enjoy the latest copy of this magazine.




**Mayor
Cr Angela Long**

My City



Springvale Community Hub is the new community heart of Springvale. It is a shared space, inspiring social connections and encouraging people of all ages, backgrounds and interests to come together. The importance of heritage and culture is central to who we are in Greater Dandenong. There are many facets of this beautiful space that pay tribute to the history of Springvale, dating back to Australia's first peoples.

Ceremonial Firepit and artwork titled 'Waa and Buln Buln Corroboree' by Fiona Clarke and Ken McKean is an important focal point for this hub.

Front Cover: Space adventures in our libraries at Dandenong Library. Picture: Thomas Barnes.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Celebrating volunteers

AN INTEGRAL
PART OF THE
COMMUNITY



Volunteers are the backbone
of our community...

National Volunteer Week (17–23 May) is an opportunity to celebrate the 6 million Australians who generously give their time.

Council has 200 volunteers working across 15 different programs. Without their valuable contribution many of our programs and services would not be able to run.

Mayor Cr Angela Long said volunteers are an integral part of the Greater Dandenong community, and contribute to the culture, vibrancy, health and wellbeing of our city.

“This year’s Volunteer Week theme is Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine, quite appropriate when you think about a year when many of us have experienced increased loneliness and isolation.” Cr Long said.

“We are the most culturally diverse community in Australia, and this is reflected in the variety of people who volunteer with our services on a regular basis.”

Council’s Meals on Wheels service has many volunteers who help deliver meals every weekday. If you would like to volunteer and help support Council’s Meals on Wheels service, please contact Council. The volunteers come from all walks of life and are an important social contact for isolated residents who get more than just food out of the interaction.

Though 2020 saw most of our volunteering activities suspended due to COVID-19, it is commendable how our volunteers were ready and willing to resume roles, without hesitation, as soon as it was safe to do so. Such loyalty and commitment reflects the compassion and resilience of our volunteer teams and we welcome each and every one of you back with great appreciation. Volunteers are the backbone of our community and that’s why National Volunteer Week is so important – it’s a chance to simply say thank you. If you aren’t already involved in a voluntary organisation maybe now is the time to consider it, because when you give a little you gain a lot.



Contact our local Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service on 9562 0414 to find out more.

Councillor Contacts



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Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
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Yarraman Ward
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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 May meetings will be held:

Monday 10 May

Monday 24 May

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

Reconciliation Week

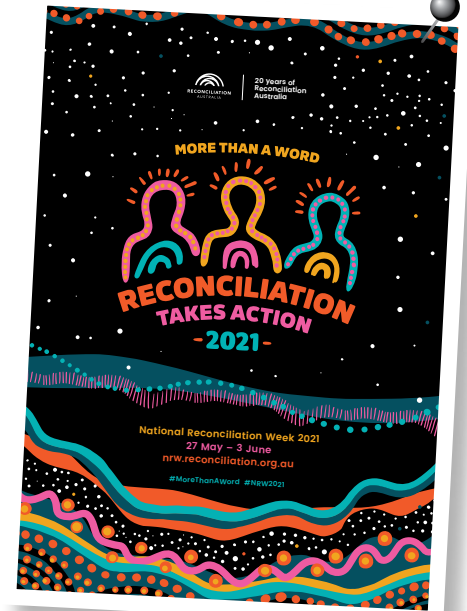
National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to encourage positive relationships between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community.

The week starts on the anniversary of the 1967 referendum (27 May) and runs until the anniversary of the High Court Mabo decision (3 June), and is a time for us all to explore how we can achieve reconciliation in Australia.

The theme for this year's celebration is *More than a word*. Reconciliation takes action and urges the reconciliation movement towards braver and more impactful action.

Council supports the celebration of Reconciliation Week across the municipality.

Free workshops will be available for families with plenty on offer for children.



Event Date: Thursday 27 May 2021
Location: Springvale Community Hub
Time: 11am–3pm

Booking are essential for workshops. Please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week-2021 for more information.

Cr Sophie Tan

► Noble Park Ward



This year will be a recovery year for all of us as COVID-19 restrictions

are gradually easing back to normal and the vaccines continue to rollout.

So, what's news for Noble Park this year?

Thanks to the Victorian Government's suburban revitalisation program, the Noble Park Revitalisation Board has been established and the board is working to provide advice to the State Government on future projects and ways to realise Noble Park's potential.

The Noble Park Revitalisation Board will kick off with upgrades to the All Abilities Playground at Ross Reserve, planned for completion by June 2021 and in this financial year, the State Government also invested another \$310,000 dollars on Douglas Street project in Noble Park, which is fantastic news for the Noble Park Ward.

Council, State Government and other local stakeholders will work together and explore further opportunities for

co-investment in the local area to implement future improvements at the Noble Park Activity Centre.

The draft Noble Park Major Activity Structure Plan will be amended slightly after hearing community/Councillors' feedback. The final draft will be reported back to Council and adopted later this year.

Every year Greater Dandenong City Council spends approximately \$60 million on its capital works program.

Here are some of the major capital improvement programs for Noble Park Ward this financial year 2021-2022:

- \$1.17 million Activity Centres Strategic Plan – Noble Park Douglas Street Streetscape (Stage 4), which includes threshold treatments and functional road changes at Douglas Street and Leonard Avenue to Stuart Street that will improve the appearance of the street and address identified traffic and parking issues
- \$610,000 Noble Park – Revitalisation



- \$500,000 Frank Street – Open Space Improvement.

Lastly, I wanted to say Happy New Year to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Cambodia for celebrating their New Year in April.



If you have any local issues that you would like to discuss please don't hesitate to contact me on 0466 793 727 or email sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au.

► Springvale Central Ward

Cr Richard Lim



My past four months as Councillor of Springvale Central has enabled me

to view our suburb from an entirely different perspective. My role has helped me see where change is needed and my ability to do more for our community.

With my business being in the heart of Springvale Central, residents and business owners have found it easy to come and find me on a daily basis to discuss issues they face. Although I was surprised at first at the amount of visits,

emails and messages received from the public, I found my open door policy to be an enriching and positive way to come in contact with passionate people in our community, and it allows me to remain actively involved in working for a better Springvale.

So far, I have been fighting hard for renovations at the 8 Balmoral Avenue car park, making sure Springvale is kept clean by organising Clean Up Australia Day in March, overseeing the establishment of a community garden, inspecting hygiene levels in stores, streets and public toilets daily, and assisting residents with matters such as noise complaints.

I am also pushing for some exciting changes for Springvale soon such as a multicultural square with additional seating and shelter, pedestrian crossings at dangerous intersections, and a Springvale Museum to honour our suburb's colourful heritage.

These ideas are yet to be considered by Council and if adopted will go hand-

in-hand with an upcoming Springvale Boulevard, transforming Springvale Road to a signature cultural destination with street art, more greenery, seating and lights, as well as our brand new, state-of-the-art Springvale Community Hub, which is now open and offers a world-class library and recreational spaces.

Council has agreed to include funding in the draft 2021-22 Annual Budget to fix the ramps at both the north and south end of the Number 8 Multi-level car park. The Budget was considered by Council at the end of April and will be placed out for community consultation in the coming month.

Thank you for all your support Springvale Central.



If you want to contact me you can reach me at richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 627 164.



Safer roads in Greater Dandenong

Hoon driving is a dangerous and illegal behaviour that endangers the lives of all road users.

Council is working with Victoria Police and Vic Roads to reduce this dangerous behaviour in our city.

Hoon driving includes:

- ▶ Dangerous driving often involving excessive speed
- ▶ Causing the vehicle to make excessive noise or smoke
- ▶ Drag racing.

Residents can report hooning to the police who are responsible for the enforcement of laws relating to illegal driver behaviour.

If you feel like you are in immediate danger phone 000. You can report hoon driving at any time to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Providing details of the time and place of the offending driving, as well as the number plate, make and model of the vehicle will help police track hoon drivers and locate hotspots.

While Council is not responsible for enforcing laws around hoon behaviour, our role is to help educate drivers about safety issues and the effects of road trauma.

Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong

in partnership with Victoria Police

Emergency Assistance:
Call Triple Zero (000) or Mobile (112)

Dandenong Police 9767 7444

Springvale Police 8558 8600

Public forum

Everyone is welcome (Springvale, Noble Park, Keysborough, Bangholme and Dandenong)

Q&A and Information Session with Local Police in attendance

Wednesday 19 May at 7.30pm
Paddy O'Donoghue Centre
18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
(Ample parking available rear of centre off Frank Street)

Community Safety Police and Council Guest Speakers



Senior Sergeant Debra Lay on local police issues

Greater Dandenong City Council
Community Development Coordinator
Peter Johnstone

Composting to save the environment



International Composting Awareness Week (ICAW) is all about raising

awareness of the importance of compost and promoting compost use and knowledge.

Up to half of the waste found in red lid garbage bins in Greater Dandenong contains food scraps and garden waste. Composting garden waste and food waste, such as fruit and vegetable scraps, helps to decrease household waste, as well as reducing Australia's carbon footprint. Diverting organic waste from landfill reduces the amount of waste sent to Australian landfills each year, saving landfill space and reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions.

All Greater Dandenong residents with a green lid garden waste bin can also choose to reduce their food waste going to landfill by recycling all their food scraps in their garden waste bin alongside garden clippings, grass and leaves. By providing residents with the option to put loose food waste into the garden waste bin rather than the red lid garbage bin, residents are playing their part in diverting waste from landfill. This is a brand new service and Council is very excited to be able to offer this to residents with a green lid bin.

Food and garden waste that is put into the green lid bin will be turned into high quality compost that is used by farmers, growing food for Victorians.

There are also a number of ways you can recycle your food and garden waste at home. Some common systems are compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets – all of these systems turn your old food scraps into rich natural fertiliser and compost that you can use on your garden or pot plants. Composting is a great way to get active in the garden and can be fun for the whole family too!

To celebrate International Composting Awareness Week, Council are hosting several free workshops so you can find out more and get started on your own composting or worm farming adventure.

Worm Farming at Home

Join us in this online webinar to learn all about worm farming at home. You will find out how to set up a worm farm, what worms like to eat, how to harvest the worm castings and use the fertiliser on your garden. Common troubleshooting tips will also be provided, giving you the chance to ask all your worm farm questions.

Monday 3 May
7pm–8pm
Webinar link will be sent upon registration.

Composting at Home

Join us in this online webinar to learn all about composting at home. You will learn more about the different types of backyard composting systems, as well as how composting works, what materials can be placed into a compost bin and common troubleshooting tips.

Thursday 6 May
7pm–8pm
Webinar link will be sent upon registration.

Compost, Worm Farm and Bokashi

Come along to this workshop to find out more about compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets. You will have the opportunity to have a look at the composting systems in place at Benga gardens that are used for the Council office's kitchen waste. This workshop will provide you with information about the best system to use for your household and how to set it up and maintain it.

Saturday 8 May
Heritage Hill Museum and Historical Gardens, 66 McCrae Street
Dandenong
10am–12pm




Places are limited and bookings are essential.

To book, please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events

Space adventures in our libraries



 This year **Library and Information Week** runs from **17–23 May** and the theme is **'Adventures in Space and Time'**.

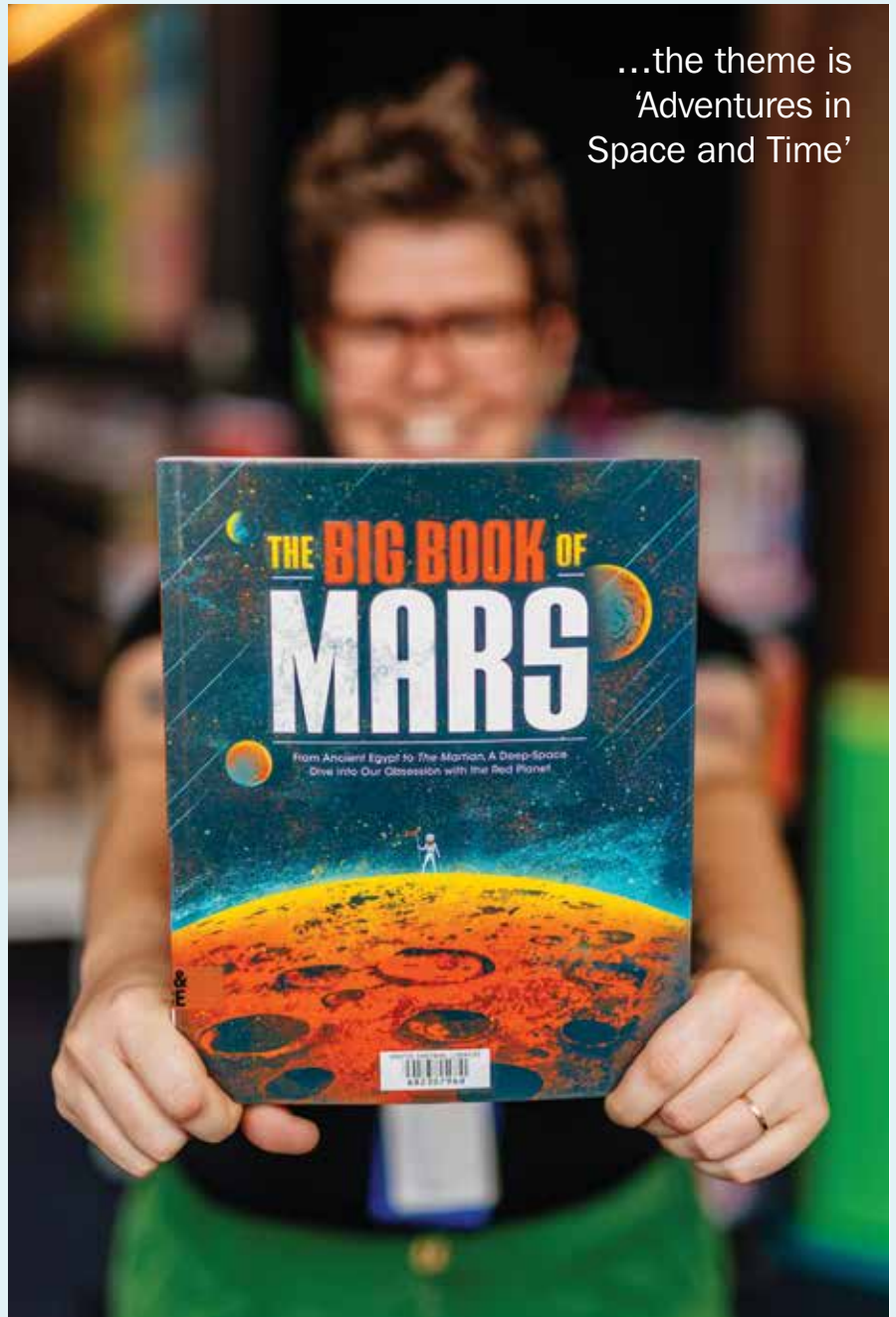
Children's program highlights include:

- ▶ **National Simultaneous Story Time** – Greater Dandenong Libraries will welcome local school groups to the library to participate in the 21st National Simultaneous Storytime. This year's title is 'Give Me Some Space' by Phillip Bunting and will be read by library staff and then read by astronauts and streamed from space LIVE!
- ▶ **Code Club** is back at Greater Dandenong Libraries in May and June and will feature a sample of innovative and engaging robots, coding and engineering with Spheros, LEGO Boost and Scratch.

Wednesday 19 May, Springvale Library and Wednesday 9 June, Dandenong Library. Registrations required.

- ▶ **The Think Tank** is a STEM based program for children aged 7–11 years old. This month join the Robogals for an awesome robotics workshop.

Saturday 22 May, Dandenong Library. Registrations required.



...the theme is
'Adventures in
Space and Time'

For adults the libraries are offering:

- ▶ **Libraries After Dark – Tea with Annie** – Learn about tea reading with Annie and take a trip back in time to hear her cup reading stories.
- ▶ **Libraries After Dark – Sustainable Zines with Ashley Ronning** – Dive into the world of zines and learn how to make a simple 8-page zine out of one piece of paper.

 To find out more about our libraries visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries and for more about **Library and Information Week** visit alla.org.au/llw

Exciting new community service in Springvale South



 **The Bridge Disability Support Service celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2020 and is now expanding its services in Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia in 2021.**

Following the success of their new service in Cardinia Clinic, another brand new location is now open at 69–71 Athol Road Springvale South. A larger and more accessible building than the previous Noble Park facility, Athol Road will enable more participants and families to take advantage of The Bridge’s variety and expertise. This attractive building has accessible facilities, large activity rooms, on-site parking, and fun outdoor areas.

“The Bridge is very keen to respond to community needs, and our eight local locations each do that very well in different ways. We’re thrilled to be opening Athol Road,” Acting CEO Mary-Jane Stolp said.

The Bridge connects adults with a range of disabilities, working in partnerships as they set their own goals and achieve them the way they choose to. Many activities are community-based such as swimming, cooking, gardening, sailing, art, music, dance, carpentry, yoga, theatre, sailing, computers, independent travel and many more. There is also a large employment training arm of The Bridge for those who can pursue paid work. The emphasis is on *ABILITY* at The Bridge. Employers and sponsors are always welcome. Friendships, confidence-building, personal growth – they all happen every day at The Bridge. It is a fun place and also welcomes volunteers as Activity Assistants for 4–6 hours a week if you would like to get involved in helping someone in a new way this year.

 **To find out more about becoming a member of The Bridge, a partner, or to volunteer, go to thebridgeinc.org.au or phone 1800 274 343**

Herbert Street pocket park



Council recently purchased land at 77 Herbert Street, Dandenong to create more open space for local residents.

Funding from the Victorian Government’s Suburban Park’s Program will help turn the land into a pocket park, featuring shade, seating and plantings to help visitors relax outdoors and be close to nature.

The park will be part of a new tree-lined ‘green spine’ creating a green link from Dandenong High School to Robert Booth Reserve. This will include around 60 new trees and landscaping to improve the comfort for residents walking to and from community facilities and help reduce the effects of climate change.



The draft concept plan for the pocket park is currently available for the community to view. To view these concepts online and to have your say via the online survey, visit Council’s website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



Join us at the exhibition opening event on **Saturday 8 May, 2pm** at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.



Book now at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/exhibition-opening-event.

Fantastic, Yes

Gallery one, Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Artists: Exhibition by the Get Out! studio artists. Supported by Arts Access Victoria.

Thursday 6 May – Friday 28 May 2021

18 artists from the Get Out! studio exhibit their chosen highlights from the past two years of studio practice. Experience exciting offerings from a broad range of art forms, including sculpture, painting, performance, sound, and, of course, a little Elvis Presley.

Jîyan bê te nina

Gallery two, Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Artists: Leila Lois and Patrick Rose

Thursday 6 May – Friday 28 May 2021

Jîyan bê te nina is an interdisciplinary and immersive installation expressed through poetry, movement, sound and image. The exhibition invites audiences to fill in gaps of the stories with their own experience. This multi-sensory exhibition brings attention to current global crises such as war trauma, environmental violence and disconnection to nature. Experience the story, music, dance and lore which remind us of our true origins and callings.

What's on at Drum Theatre



Carmen – Opera Australia

Friday 14 May, 7.30pm and Saturday 15 May, 7.30pm

This lavish new production of Bizet's *Carmen* highlights the colour and vibrancy of postcard Spain, with vintage-inspired costumes that evoke an era of bikers and shady police in a post-war setting of teen angst and rebellion.

Caught between her desire for love and a longing for freedom, Carmen faces an impossible choice: Don José or the dashing bullfighter Escamillo. She's enigmatic and elusive: a femme fatale you can't forget.

Some of Australia's finest opera singers assemble with a chamber orchestra and local children's chorus to perform the world's most popular opera. Hear the famous Habanera and the Toreador Song when you join us for the premiere performance of Opera Australia's 25th Anniversary tour of Bizet's *Carmen*.

Note: Sung in French with English surtitles.

Our Beat

Thursday 20 May, 6.30pm

Our Beat is back. A monthly open stage for you, me and everyone.

Our Beat brings together musicians, artists, actors, comedians, dancers and the community. This is more than a gig – it's a change to connect with like-minded people, meet local talent and even take the stage yourself. It's a free event for all people and all art forms.

The Drum is a home for local artists and supports them to create new work and networks and to realise their aspirations. Previous *Our Beat* sessions gave us spoken word, dancehall, DJs, freestyle hip-hop, some stripped back neo-soul and featured works from local graphic artists.

Hosted by Mr. Congo, each monthly installment is a unique experience created by everyone there, whether you're on the stage or vibing out in the audience. *Our Beat* is coming back swinging in 2021 with some huge moves so come down and make something happen.



If you want to be a part of this please email drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au, phone us on 8571 1666 or just come down on the night.

Parallax

Friday 21 May, 8pm

Electrify your senses, strap on your 3D glasses and be transported to different worlds in an exhilarating dance-digital mash up.

Parallax is a totally unique dance/3D digital experience by Megan Beckwith, one of Australia's most innovative performance artists. Inspired by science-fiction and gaming culture, this one-woman show combines 3D imagery that projects out from the screen with live dance performance. The audience feels like they can reach out and touch the animations floating in space. The immersive show takes the audience on a journey to new digital worlds.

This is a show for those who love dance as much as it is for gamers and geeks who love interactive media digital possibilities.

With the advance of technology in all aspects of our lives, how does it change who we are?

This show is highly rated by The Age and will be something new and inspiring like nothing you have seen.

There will be digital foyer activations pre and post the show.

Reviews: "The projections are manifestations of desires and nightmares that leap into the audience," Jordan Beth Vincent, The Age

"The effects are dazzling," Chloe Smethurst, The Age

Change Today, Shape Tomorrow



The development of our new Council Plan has been progressing well with the broad community consultation phase now complete.



We have received some fantastic feedback and had more community input this year than we had in the development of the previous Council Plan. The following activities were conducted from November 2020 until February this year:

- ▶ Community survey – 107 community members completed our online and hard copy survey
- ▶ Online ideas wall – 43 ideas were posted on the social pinpoint project page
- ▶ Pop-Up events – 1,006 unique ideas were received across seven events in Dandenong, Springvale, Noble Park and Keysborough South
- ▶ Children's worksheets – 78 children shared their ideas and priorities for our city through worksheets and drawings
- ▶ Community and stakeholder workshops – Workshops were held with local stakeholder groups on a range of topics including key health priorities, issues affecting asylum seekers and refugees, and the challenges faced by our CALD Disability community.



Fantastic feedback

The next step in the consultation phase is the community panel process which commenced on 15 April.

Greater Dandenong People's Panel

This panel is a group of residents and business owners from Greater Dandenong who are representative of our community in regards to age, gender, country of birth, and household type. They are meeting over three Saturdays to discuss the community vision and how Council can meet the

community's diverse needs into the future. The panel will provide informed recommendations which will influence Council's priorities over the next four years, including public health and wellbeing priorities and services, projects and facilities for the community.

- ▶ To read more about the responses to our community consultation activities and the panel process please visit our project page at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2021-25

Make Your Move in Greater Dandenong



Greater Dandenong City Council is continuing to encourage the community to make their move.

There's many simple ways to include movement in your day, which can boost your mood, fitness and overall health.

One foot in front of the other

Walking is an easy way to improve your physical activity levels and increase your step count. It doesn't have to be long walks or include a treadmill, just get up and make your move.

- ▶ Take your dog for a walk
- ▶ Organise to meet your friends for a walk around the block before you have lunch together.

Make small changes

Small changes can have a big impact. Think about your everyday choices and how they can be changed to increase your physical activity.

- ▶ Take the stairs instead of the lift or escalator
- ▶ Park a bit further away in the carpark at the shopping centre or supermarket.

Make it a family affair

Being active together is a great way for families to bond. It helps social connections and can be an escape from the pressures of everyday life.

- ▶ Walk the kids to school, or park a bit further away and walk part of the way
- ▶ If you can't make it out of the house, put on your favourite songs and have a dance party in the living room.

Enjoy the great outdoors

Greater Dandenong is full of public parks and reserves that are available for all to visit. Head outside and enjoy the sunshine.

- ▶ Visit one of your local parks or reserves
- ▶ Do some gardening.

Get active with technology

There are so many ways we can use technology to improve our physical activity and health. With mobile phones and the internet, we can take our activity with us anywhere.

- ▶ Try an online fitness class from YouTube, or download a fitness app on your phone
- ▶ If you are having a phone catch up with friends or family – walk around the house while chatting.

Work it

We can spend a large amount of time at work each week and for many that includes a lot of sitting. These small changes to your work environment can have a big impact on your physical activity.

- ▶ Take your runners to work – you never know when you might have 10 minutes to do a lap around the block
- ▶ Change to walking meetings – instead of sitting in the workplace staffroom, walk around the local area and talk.

Make the time

It can be hard to find the time to be active. But with planning and commitment, physical activity can become part of your everyday.

- ▶ Book exercise into your calendar
- ▶ Take small movement breaks throughout the day.

The Big Issue Community Street Soccer Program

There's also many activities run by the community that residents can participate in. If soccer is your interest, the Big Issue Community Street Soccer Program is a great option for women looking for an active and supportive community.

The program is free and inclusive, running every Tuesday from 4pm–6pm at JC Mills Reserve in Dandenong. It's a great way to have fun, get fit and make friends.

Open to all backgrounds and skill levels, the program offers a safe and respectful space.

For more information or to register, contact Bess or Danilo by emailing soccerwomensdandenong@bigissue.org.au or phone 0455 910 480.

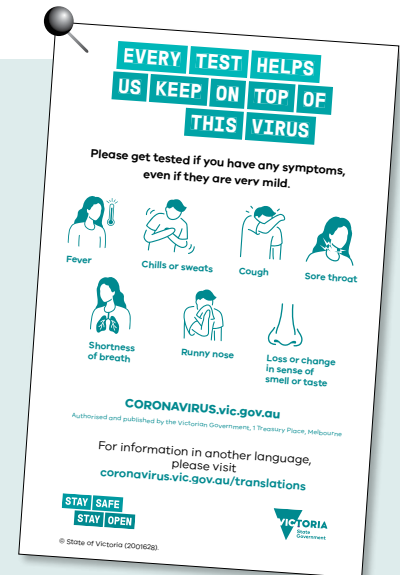


For more information on the Make Your Move Strategy, and tips and resources for how you can Make Your Move visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/make-your-move.

How to stay safe and well

It's important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, particularly as we approach the winter months. Ways you can stay healthy and well include:

- ▶ Practice good hygiene and regularly and thoroughly wash your hands
- ▶ Maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others
- ▶ Carry a face mask when you leave home unless you have a lawful reason not to. It is strongly recommended you wear one whenever you cannot keep 1.5 metres distance from others.
- ▶ If you feel unwell do not go to work, get tested at a nearby testing location and return home immediately
- ▶ If you are worried you will lose pay while you wait for test result or you have tested positive and need to self-isolate, you may be eligible for a worker support payment
- ▶ If your condition worsens contact your GP or a health professional. If you become very unwell and are having trouble breathing contact triple zero, you may need to be admitted to hospital.



➔ For more information and updates on coronavirus, please visit doh.vic.gov.au

Greater Dandenong Library's Social Knitwork



Social groups at Dandenong Library are happy to be back and meeting in person after many months of isolation.

Greater Dandenong Library's Social Knitwork gets together every Wednesday from 10am to 12:30pm to enjoy some quality knitting time, chats and morning tea.

The wonderful ladies have donated their amazing work to Uniting Vic.Tas. Fleur Smolenaers said "The items are gorgeous, thank you very much ladies. This is very generous of you and we really appreciate it."

➔ To find out more about social networks at Greater Dandenong Library, please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries

Photography Competition

Every year Greater Dandenong City Council produces a Community Calendar for residents which features photos taken in our municipality.

We are inviting residents to submit photos to include in our 2022 calendar. It can be a photo of architecture, outdoor space or something different that takes your eye.

Council will select 12 photos to include in the calendar which will be distributed in December.

➔ Submissions are open until 30 September. For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition

Happy Business Stories – Council Grants



Lucia Sofia Malejko – Dandenong South

Local Dandenong South beautician, cosmetic tattoo artist and beauty trainer, Lucia Sofia Malejko, found last year to be one of her most challenging, commenting how she was forced to close her business for six months until restrictions began to ease. Lucia submitted her grant application and was successful in securing funding. Lucia recently wrote to Council to express her gratitude and showcase her product (photo above) she had purchased as part of the grant requirements.

Lucia said, “I would like to say a huge thank you to the Greater Dandenong City Council as I was able to purchase this beautiful Cosmetic Electric bed. I have always had a big issue with my massage table which wasn’t designed for cosmetic tattooing.”

Operating as an individual sole trader, Lucia wasn’t able to access many of the State and Federal Government grants.

“When I realised my local Council were offering a grant program targeted at small business including people like myself, I couldn’t believe it. I cannot say thank you enough for helping my little business,” said Lucia.



The Bubble Express – 3 Buckley St, Noble Park

Director of The Bubble Express, Wayne Hawkins tells us how during the lockdown he was faced with the challenge of needing to desperately update his note to coin machine which had been vandalised numerous times.

Hawkins said, “Not having a change machine put my coin laundry at a significant disadvantage to other similar businesses in the area. I was suffering a 50 per cent income reduction at the height of the COVID lockdown.”

Hawkins credited Council’s business grant program which had enabled him to replace the change machine.

Hawkins added, “I gratefully received a \$2000 grant from Council, and I want to thank them enormously for the grants program to assist in purchasing a note to coin change machine and custom made security cabinet.”

Looking forward, Hawkins is seeking to consolidate his business by providing his customers with the cleanest, most efficient and best value coin laundry.



No Bolt – 29 Union Rd, Dandenong South

To get any job done safely and efficiently, you need the right equipment. Dandenong South manufacturing and engineering business, No Bolt, understands the importance of taking an engineering-led approach to design and manufacture work and access platforms.

Like many, Will Collie Managing Director of No Bolt was faced with new challenges when the pandemic reached Australian shores in 2020.

“Around 40–50 per cent of our revenue came from our work in aviation. We previously designed, manufactured and supplied a range of height safety equipment to airlines Qantas and Jetstar,” Will said.

COVID-19 put a freeze on both domestic travel and international travel and as a result there was (and continues to be) an effective freeze on spending. As such, the business has seen sales drop by 40 per cent and specifically in the aviation sector, almost back to zero.

No Bolt applied for Council’s Business Grant program and was successful providing the business with an opportunity to work on marketing their other product lines.

Will added, “we are using these funds to build a new website to support our new product line, outdoor tables, which is quite different to our core focus of safety and aviation.”

“We view this grant as an opportunity to develop a new business unit outside our typical markets.”

FOREVER FEST



If we want a better world, then the first step is to imagine one...

Greater Dandenong City Council is excited to announce a new look to our annual Sustainability Festival: Forever Fest – 'Sustainable living for now and the future'.

Forever Fest will run over nine days (22 May– 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 and Ecological Emergency in January 2020.

With elements to suit all age groups and interests, Forever Fest has something to suit anyone. Every activity across the nine days is free and accessible through various online platforms.

For those who have access to Facebook, make sure you click 'Going' on our Facebook Event Page at [facebook.com/events/771093677175229](https://www.facebook.com/events/771093677175229)

 **Further information can also be found at [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest)**

Forever Fest Key Speakers



Dianne McGrath (Forever Fest Ambassador)

We are thrilled to announce Dianne McGrath as our Forever Fest Ambassador for 2021. Dianne is one of only 100 remaining candidates world-wide from the initial 202,586 to be heading to Mars, forever. Dianne will be joining us each day of the festival.



Barney Swan (Forever Fest Master of Ceremonies)

Climate Force Founder Barney Swan will be our MC for the nine days of the Forever Fest. Barney is recognised globally as a thought leader in the areas of leadership, innovation and sustainability. Barney is the first person to walk to the South Pole powered only by clean energy. Using cutting edge technology for NASA, Goal Zero and Shell, Barney skied 600 nautical miles and conducted a polar expedition, making history as he did.



Charlotte Connell

Charlotte Connell, founder of 'The Sustainability Collective' will be speaking over several days of the Forever Fest, including topics on:

- ▶ How to talk to kids about climate change
- ▶ Implementing sustainable changes in the workplace
- ▶ AI Gore's 'Climate Reality Project'



Event sponsors



Saturday 22 May –
Sunday 30 May 2021



FOREVER FEST

**Sustainable living for
now and the future**

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/forever-fest

