

OCTOBER 2021

# Greater Dandenong Council News

## Springvale Transformation

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Composting**

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Expansion**

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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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 **TTY: 133 677**  
**Speak and listen: 1300 555 727**  
**[relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)**

 **TIS: 131 450**

 **[council@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 October edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

With longer days and a little more sunshine I hope everyone's spirits have lifted.

I acknowledge how challenging the past few months have been with lockdowns and changing restrictions, but I am so proud of the way Council and our community has responded.

We continue to deliver essential services and we are continuing to adapt to ensure we are moving forward, despite the challenges.

I am excited to announce that construction on the Springvale Boulevard Project is underway. This project will enhance Springvale's shopping and dining experiences, enhance the streetscape with wider footpaths, more trees and seating, and see improved street lighting installed.

When complete later next year, this project will reinforce Sensational Springvale as one of Melbourne's leading cultural destinations. Read more about this exciting project on Page 3.

Council has a long and proud history of supporting and providing opportunities for children and their families. Council's new Children's Plan 2021–26 is aimed at ensuring all children in our community are celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential. Read more on Page 6.

With all of us spending more time at home, learn more about what simple changes you can make in your own garden to reduce the carbon footprint. We have a great article on home composting on Page 9.

I will definitely be spending more time in my garden over the coming weeks and will be putting the tips learnt in this article to the test.

Until the next edition take care, keep well and stay safe.



**Mayor**  
**Cr Angela Long**

## My City



The Chocolate Lily is a member of the asparagus family and its colour and rich sweet scent is a magnet for native bees, moths and butterflies. You'll see it growing in native grasslands and open areas in woodlands where there is full sunlight or dappled shade. It complements and enriches the ground habitat and is found with other lilies, native grasses and orchids. Chocolate Lilies are widespread throughout Greater Dandenong and their flowers appear from September through to January.

Front Cover: Springvale Community Hub is the new jewel in Springvale's crown. Photo Credit: John Gollings.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.





## Springvale Hub receives architectural award

**Springvale Community Hub is living up to its promise of becoming the new community heart of Springvale**

The new building has been welcomed by the community and is also attracting the attention of industry leaders in design, public architecture and sustainability.

Springvale Community Hub recently received the William Wardell Award for Public Architecture and Award for Urban Design in the 2021 Victorian Architectural Awards.

The hub was also nominated for the Sustainability Architecture Award and the Melbourne Prize.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Angela Long said it was pleasing to see the site being recognised for its state-of-the-art and eye-catching design.

### **Hospital Remembered**

Do you know that Springvale's first hospital has evolved into a unique community health service? Now, new interpretive signage helps passersby share in the experience. Greater Dandenong City Council unveiled a new interpretive sign to mark the location of Springvale's first hospital. Standing at

3-metres high, the towering Community Hospital Interpretive Sign shares the story of Springvale's unique community health services.

Located along Buckingham Ave, in front of Monash Health Springvale, the sign acknowledges the significant contribution the hospital and health centre have made in delivering innovative health care and services for Springvale.

The Springvale Community Hospital Interpretive Sign is the latest interpretive sign for the City of Greater Dandenong's activity centres and forms part of an ongoing place making program across Springvale, Noble Park and central Dandenong which aims to share local narratives and stories of key locations across these areas.

The project is funded through the Business and Revitalisation team of Greater Dandenong City Council.

Mayor Angela Long said the sign aims to share the story of Springvale's first hospital and its evolution into a unique community health service. "It is a striking design featuring a brief story, historic image and hero words laser cut into the top of the sign making it unique and identifiable from a distance. It's a brilliant structure which pays homage to the history of the site." said Cr Long.



A concept drawing of what Springvale Boulevard will look like when works are complete.

## Springvale transformed

**Springvale's much anticipated Springvale Boulevard project is now underway.**

The project is expected to take just over 12 months to complete.

It will result in improved shopping and dining experiences, streetscape beautification and enhancement, as well as improved pedestrian movement and safety.

The final design was informed by feedback received from residents, traders and visitors who shared their hopes and aspirations for the area.

The boulevard, which will run between Windsor and Balmoral avenues, will feature widened footpaths, new garden beds and more trees providing year-round shade, more seating, improved street lighting, and high-quality, thought-provoking design elements that reflect the diverse cultures of Springvale.

During the construction phase, some parking bays along Springvale Road and at the Warwick Avenue car park will be temporarily removed. These parking bays will be reinstated once the project is complete.

Together with the recently completed Springvale Hub project, Springvale Boulevard will enhance the vibrancy and commercial sustainability of the Springvale Activity Centre.



**For regular project updates go to [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)**

## 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 broadcast live via Council's webcast service.

The October meetings will be held:

**Monday 11 October**

**Monday 25 October**

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.

**To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time simply go to [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)**

## ► Noble Park Ward



**I'm pleased to announce that works at Ross Reserve All Abilities Playground are now complete.**

**This new district playground looks fabulous and provides an exciting and diverse offer of play to the community, including a tower, cable rides, slides, sand play, nature play and a range of swings that all provide various levels of access to cater to all abilities.**

In addition to the playground, the construction of the main toilet and the changing places toilet is well advanced. This is a critical piece of infrastructure requested by the community to enable those who require a higher level of care to be able to stay and play at the playground.

Additionally, stage one of Douglas Street Streetscape works is complete and stage two is underway. Related planting and seating works for both stages are planned for spring.

Noble Park has fewer open spaces compared to other areas in Greater Dandenong. Since 2019, Council purchased four sites for open space.

### 89 Douglas Street

This has been converted into a small pocket park and the implementation and landscape design are completed.

### 114 Hanna Street

Council saved 26 Red Gum trees for residents at Yarraman Village and new fences have been installed.

## Cr Sophie Tan



### 218 Railway Parade

A pocket park landscape design will be prepared in late 2022.

### 2A Frank Street

Open space improvement of this site is still in the planning stage.

In other exciting news the State Government has confirmed funding for the Frank Street Open Space Redevelopment. This redevelopment will provide a pocket park and green corridor connection between Ross Reserve, Aubrey Moss Memorial Gardens and Copas Park.

**Please contact me on 0466 793 727 or email [sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au)**



## Cr Bob Milkovic

► Dandenong North Ward



**As councillors, we do our best to listen and act on the concerns of our community members and traders. Recently, I have been consulting with traders regarding a public toilet installation at the busy and thriving Brady Road shopping centre.**

Funding was made available this financial year and we are looking to begin works early next year after we've gone through the procurement processes.

The design proposed was well received with overall support from traders.

The bathrooms will feature two fully compliant toilets, including a unisex accessible and unisex ambulant toilet.

I would also like to update you on the Tirhatuan Park basketball court project which went out to tender in August. I anticipate we will commence preliminary

works later this month and have the court completed by Christmas. The progression of these works is dependent on rainfall and how suitable the ground is to allow for access by heavy machinery.

Finally, throughout the month of September we called for comments on many consultations including the Biodiversity Action Plan and the Domestic Animal Management Plan. Council officers are currently reviewing the feedback and an evaluation report will be presented to Council in the near future.



**If you would like to talk to me about any Council matters you can reach me at [bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 0435 237 051.**



► Springvale Central Ward

## Cr Richard Lim



**Residents, business owners and patrons of Springvale Central can look forward to some exciting changes.**

Along with the Springvale Boulevard project, you can look forward to a new community garden, improved parking, outdoor dining experiences and so much more.

Guidelines for the Victoria Avenue Community Garden have now been drafted, meaning works are underway to establish a spectacular green space where residents can gather. This community garden provides a greener future in Springvale for generations to come.

The number 8 car park upgrades have been approved by Council and the funds are allocated in the 2021–22 financial year Budget. The upgrade consists of dedicated up and down ramps, allowing cars to move seamlessly within the parking lot and utilise all 540 parking spaces, greatly easing the traffic challenges throughout Springvale.

Council is also working to establish outdoor dining spaces on footpaths and will provide restaurant owners with the necessary equipment such as shelter, tables and chairs.

Our brand new Springvale Community Hub provides world-class facilities and is a perfect example of Council's dedication to Springvale Central.

Currently, I am working closely with Council to continue the removal of litter, create additional pedestrian crossings in high-traffic areas and help businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I encourage all of Melbourne to watch this space, as the future of Springvale Central is a sight that can't be missed.

As always, thank you Springvale Central for your support and for continuing to make our suburb great.



**If you want to contact me, you can reach me at [richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone me on 0435 627 164.**

# City's Vision for Children



**Greater Dandenong City Council is committed to supporting and providing opportunities for children and their families.**

Council's vision developed in the Children's Plan 2021–26 is for children and their families to be valued, celebrated, respected and supported to reach their full potential.

The plan outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children aged up to 13 years. It acknowledges the important role of parents, carers and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing.

The strategic objectives of the Children's Plan align with the Council Plan in supporting children and their families through:

- ▶ Providing leadership and advocacy in planning
- ▶ Strengthening health and wellbeing outcomes through evidenced based practice
- ▶ Supporting engagement in learning, skill development and vocational pathways
- ▶ Improving safety and accessibility for


children and families to participate in the community

- ▶ Valuing active participation and engagement of children and families in planning and activities in their local community.

In striving for continuous improvement, Council will undertake key actions each year which respond to community needs and expectations.

First year actions include:

- ▶ Increase awareness of mental health and supports available for children and families
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of parents and carers to support children's learning and development
- ▶ Develop pathways for newly arrived and refugee families to access English language education to support children's literacy and learning
- ▶ Promote activities that encourage gender, race and disability equity for children
- ▶ Provide opportunities for children to be involved in civic engagement and leadership.

 **For more information and to review the Children's Plan visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)**



## Enrol for kindergarten now

**Kindergarten is now being offered for two years prior to formal schooling in early childhood settings.**

It gives children important opportunities to learn, make friends and develop skills through a play-based curriculum, and helps prepare them for the transition to primary school.

Children must turn four on or before 30 April 2022 to be eligible to attend for 15 hours at a funded kindergarten program.

Kindergarten is offered in a range of settings including community kindergartens, childcare centres, children's centres and schools. Eligible children can attend a sessional program which offers 15 hours of kindergarten per week, or an integrated program which combines kindergarten with childcare.

The Central Enrolment Scheme supports families to identify their three local kindergartens of choice and ensures access to kindergarten is fair and equitable for all.

 **To view a list of all kindergartens participating in the City of Greater Dandenong Central Enrolment Scheme or to find out more about kindergartens visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/kindergarten)**

# Support for seniors

## Seniors Festival 2021



Each year in October we celebrate the positive contribution seniors make to our community as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival.

This year we will be providing an exciting online offering as part of Seniors Festival 2021.

This will include video broadcasts and radio programs, opportunities to connect with others in the digital space through a range of fun activities including games and quizzes and some great education content specifically tailored to the interests and needs of older people.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to find out more.

The State Government will also deliver its 2021 Seniors Festival direct to your home, via a reimagined program including online performances, recorded interviews and storytelling.

Visit [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au](http://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au) for more.

## Staying Connected

If the past 18 months have taught us anything it is the importance and value of social connections.

With lockdowns and changing restrictions many in our community, particularly older people and people who live alone, have been experiencing long periods of isolation. Not being able to see friends and family or participate in their regular activities has taken its toll on their mental and physical health.

Last year, Council introduced a new program to help improve social connections. This joint initiative between Council's Community Care and Library teams not only helped address issues of isolation but also helped improve the digital literacy of older people living in Greater Dandenong.

The Tech Savvy Project exposed older residents to the digital world and opened up new avenues to connect, learn and socialise. Council provided tablets, smart devices and internet access, as well as the training to use the equipment.



## Living Well in Greater Dandenong

Council is set to launch a new bimonthly newsletter next month.

*Living well – Positive Ageing in Greater Dandenong* will showcase the many senior citizens, ethnic and cultural groups that provide social activities and educational programs for older residents.

The aim of the newsletter is to promote wellbeing and lifestyle tips and a positive approach to ageing.

A hard copy version will also be available at Council's Customer Service Centres and libraries.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) to find out more and to sign up to receive the newsletter.

## Staying healthy

Keeping active and moving is really important even when restrictions are in place.

Did you know that our Community Care workers can help you maintain your strength and mobility by supporting and encouraging you to go on walks locally?

Our care workers are also still allowed to visit clients in their homes, even when restrictions are in place.

Council is still providing personal care, unescorted shopping, meals and home maintenance, restrictions or not. All are classified as an essential service.



**For more information about the support Council is continuing to provide for older people living in the City of Greater Dandenong call 8571 5503**

# Immunisation Sessions – October 2021

**Even during the COVID-19 restrictions, Greater Dandenong City Council is still holding several immunisation sessions every month for residents.**

The sessions are free and provide important vaccinations to prevent diseases such as Whooping Cough, Hepatitis, Tetanus, Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Measles and Meningococcal disease. Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from 6 months up to 5 years of age.

Date	Location
Monday 4 October	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 7 October	Dandenong Civic Centre, Cnr of Walker & Thomas Streets (enter via Harmony Square), Dandenong
Saturday 23 October	Dandenong Civic Centre, Cnr of Walker & Thomas Streets (enter via Harmony Square), Dandenong
Tuesday 26 October	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Thursday 28 October	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale



**Bookings are required for your child's immunisations. To make a booking please go to [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation)**

**If you need assistance to make a booking, please call Council on 8571 1000**



# Pets at the park



**Let's be honest, our pets are probably the only ones who have enjoyed the past 18 months of lockdowns and changing restrictions.**

Our off-leash parks have certainly never been busier.


Council recognises the health and social benefits of owning a pet and encourages responsible dog ownership.

There are currently 15 off-leash parks in Greater Dandenong, and we love nothing more than seeing them well used.

Anyone using the dog off-leash parks are reminded to follow the rules in place. This is not only for your safety and your pets but also to ensure our parks remain a place that can be enjoyed by everyone.

## Rules

- ▶ Dogs must only be off-leash in areas designated by Council
- ▶ Dogs must be put back on leash when they leave the sign posted area
- ▶ Dogs must be no more than 50m from the person walking them and under effective control by voice command or hand signal at all times
- ▶ Dogs must not be allowed within 20m of a designated cycling path or track, unless they are separated from the track by a fence of at least 1.2m height
- ▶ Dogs must not be allowed to chase people or other animals
- ▶ Any droppings left by a dog must be cleaned up and disposed of properly.

 Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dogoffleash](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dogoffleash) and use the mapping tool to find out which off-leash park is in your neighbourhood.



## Making roads out of tyres

**Greater Dandenong is committed to responding to the climate emergency and doing its bit to reduce the carbon footprint.**

Council is currently trialling using recycled tyres to resurface roads that do not carry large volumes of traffic.

The joint venture between the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB) and Greater Dandenong City Council has seen a 250m section of Church Road, Keysborough, laid with crumb rubber bitumen.

A small percentage of crumb rubber is added to the asphalt, creating a more durable road, better recycling outcomes, and less use of brand-new materials in road construction and maintenance.

The Church Road resurfacing used 128 recycled tyres.

The performance of the road will be monitored over the next five years and all data collected will be used to evaluate the durability and long-term benefits of using recycled materials on Greater Dandenong roads and footpaths in the future.

## Remington Drive



**Remington Drive in Dandenong South is about to undergo a major upgrade which will lead to improved safety, enhanced traffic flow and reduced congestion.**

Preliminary works have already commenced, with major construction earmarked to start before the end of the year.

Preliminary works will include:

- ▶ Permanent removal of informal parking and reduced speed limits along Remington Drive
- ▶ Temporary line marking and barrier installation
- ▶ Installation of no-go zone fencing for vegetation to be protected
- ▶ Tree and vegetation removal and weed spraying
- ▶ Surveying to confirm the location of underground services

- ▶ Temporary driveway widening works for traders on Remington Drive to ensure vehicles have safe entry and access to businesses during construction.

These works will ensure the road continues to meet the current and future traffic demands of Remington Drive and create better accessibility for people travelling in and out of Dandenong South's busy manufacturing areas.



# Let's stop wasting food



**Each month the average Victorian household throws away uneaten food to the value of \$150.**

It's time to change the trend and help reduce food waste.

In addition to using your green lid food and garden waste bin, there are several other ways you can recycle your food waste at home.

Have you ever thought about building your own worm farm or making your own compost bin.

Composting household waste, such as garden waste and fruit and vegetable scraps, can decrease household waste by up to 50 per cent and reduce Australia's carbon footprint.



For those items that cannot be home composted such as meat, cheese, bread and pasta they can simply be placed into the green lid food and garden waste bin, mixed with an adequate amount of garden waste.

## What can you compost?

Fruit and vegetable peelings, newspapers, grass clippings, weeds, tea leaves, coffee grounds, eggshells, old potting mix and dead flowers. Avoid placing meat or dairy products in your compost until you are confident and experienced in making compost.



## Handy hints

- ▶ Keep a bucket with a well-sealed lid in the kitchen to collect food scraps
- ▶ Sprinkling soil or finished compost on top of food scraps will make a richer compost and help reduce odours
- ▶ Add air to the compost so it doesn't smell by turning it with a garden fork weekly or by placing garden stakes or pipes through the heap to allow air in.

To encourage residents to take up composting to feed their home gardens, Council is hosting a free workshop.

## Online Workshop

Home Composting, Worm Farming and Bokashi Workshop

Saturday 23 October

Bookings are required at [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste)

*Keep an eye on Council's website when we will soon release details on how residents can purchase subsidised compost bins online.*

# Libraries get creative with online offering

**Greater Dandenong Libraries have found creative and innovative ways to engage with the local community during lockdowns and changing restrictions.**

From live-streaming some of their popular children's programs, The Think Tank, Baby Bounce, Toddler Time and Story Time, as well as running online book clubs, the library is providing a flexible service for times when its branches can't physically open.

Community members have been taking advantage of the Click and Collect service, with an average of more than 250 collections each week.

Council's free Library Home Delivery Service has also been averaging around 20 deliveries per week.

Other ways the libraries have been keeping in touch with the community include:

- ▶ Online 'outreach visits' to first time parents' groups, book clubs at schools, playgroups and kindergartens.
- ▶ Over the phone support to improve digital access including Library Tech Assist.
- ▶ Language and literacy services, citizenship information, consular enquiries and employment assistance.

The library also provides free access to online resources for members including:

- ▶ movie and documentary screening website *Kanopy*
- ▶ study assistance with *Studiosity*
- ▶ family history resource *Ancestry.com*
- ▶ literacy support programs.

The website is also home to the library catalogue and thousands of eBooks, magazines and audiobooks.



**To find out how you can continue to get your library fix online visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries).**

# Young people in Greater Dandenong

## Youth Showcase

**Congratulations to all young people recognised in the 2021 City of Greater Dandenong Youth Showcase.**

Council received 60 nominations, sharing stories of how young people have demonstrated resilience and tenacity throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nominations canvassed stories of young people who had been persistent in overcoming challenges related to their study or work; as well as young people who took on caring responsibilities in their family unit or who gave their time to support other vulnerable people in the community during the pandemic.

What was common across all nominees was their ability to maintain a positive attitude and persevere in the face of adversity.

**All nominee profiles and a selection of short videos can be viewed at [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)**



### Mary (21 years)

Mary is currently completing her community services traineeship, with her placement put on hold indefinitely twice in 2020. Mary had to find other employment during this time and maintain her studies online. On her third attempt, Mary was finally able to secure a work placement for her traineeship and is now recognised by her employer as an integral part of the team.



### Manjinder (20 years)

Manjinder arrived in Australia in early 2019 to commence studies in the Bachelor of Community Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs. Manjinder maintained a positive outlook despite the challenges of trying to participate in remote learning from shared housing, as well as working long shifts at the Dandenong Market to financially support himself.



### Ibrahim (20 years)

Ibrahim has started two businesses in the aged care and disability sector, now employing over 100 people. Despite the challenges of working in this sector during the pandemic, Ibrahim was able to adapt his businesses to meet the demand and go above and beyond in supporting clients.



### Natalie (22 years)

Natalie is an international student who has completed a Bachelor of Engineering Technology. As Vice-President of the Student Committee she has raised awareness of the issues facing international students during the pandemic, including isolation, financial hardship and separation from family. She maintained outstanding academic results whilst working two jobs to financially support herself.



## Hemmings Street public art

**A display of bold public artworks has transformed the Hemmings Street shopping strip into a funky London style high street.**

Well-known illustrator Beci Orpin, developed a co-design process to transform the artworks of local students from Dandenong West Primary School into world-quality public art. The bright, bold colours scream fun and community from a distance. The totems welcome visitors as they drive, walk or ride towards the shops. The combined effect of the artworks giving a strong sense of community pride and sense of place for passersby.



## Mental Health Week



**Mental Health Week from 9–16 October serves as an important reminder to pay attention to ourselves.**

A sense of wellbeing and good mental health help us to get the most out of life; through our families, friends, work and ourselves. All the things most meaningful to us. And it's relevant to everyone across all ages, cultures and diversities.

Take the time to mentally pause and consciously engage in those things that bring you enjoyment. Perhaps a walk, run, ride or some other physical activity is a good circuit breaker and stress release. For others, connecting with someone, having a better night's sleep or eating a healthier meal may help achieve this. Whether it's doing something you appreciate or challenging yourself with learning something new there are many different ways we can take care of our mental health and wellbeing.

There are many strategies and resources available to sustain self-care; and support good mental health.

**Visit Council's website for further information**  
[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/mental-health](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/mental-health)

## Anti-Poverty Strategy feedback

**COVID-19 has exacerbated the challenges faced by communities worldwide, especially for people and communities challenged by poverty.**

Greater Dandenong has a higher than average rate of poverty with the average of 27.14 per cent of households having a gross income of less than \$300 per week, with many of our community living on the edge of poverty and being only a few weeks away from needing help. Even in good times, community members may not be able to afford to participate fully in community life and children may miss opportunities at school, particularly extracurricular activities.

Council is currently in the process of developing an Anti-Poverty Strategy to assist people in its local community and help get them back on their feet.

Council understands that poverty is not always caused by individual circumstances it can also be caused by structural inequalities. Some of the main causes of inequalities and poverty are access to work and income, education, housing, health and services.



The strategy is being co-designed with key community stakeholders and support agencies who are also working to address the poverty issue. Council is wanting to hear from community members who have or are experiencing poverty and learn more about their individual stories. Council is committed to creating a future where everyone in our community has the opportunity to thrive.

To align with Anti-Poverty Week which begins on 17 October, Council is conducting a survey to gain an understanding of what people think about poverty in Greater Dandenong and what the community thinks could be done to help those in the poverty cycle.

**To have your say visit**  
[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement)

## Smoke alarms save lives

**Did you know it is illegal not to have working smoke alarms in your home?**

By law all residential properties must have working smoke alarms that comply with Australian Standards.

Without a smoke alarm, a fire is more likely to damage or destroy your property and is also more likely to cause serious injury or sometimes death.

A working smoke alarm is your first line of defence in the event of a fire.

**To find out more visit**  
[fr.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms](https://fr.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms)





# Drum Theatre fast facts

## **Drum Theatre can't wait to welcome audiences back when theatres are given the green light to reopen.**

While we are busily working behind the scenes on an exciting new program of shows and performances we thought we would share some interesting facts about Dandenong's Drum Theatre.

## **When did Drum Theatre first open its doors?**

The first performance at Drum Theatre was in February 2006.

## **How many shows does the theatre host each year?**

The Drum hosts more than 150 performances for over 60,000 patrons each year.

## **How many people does Drum Theatre seat?**

At capacity the theatre can hold an audience of 518 people.

## **When was the theatre last refurbished?**

New seats were installed at Drum Theatre in 2020.

## **How old is the original building the Drum Theatre is housed in?**

Drum Theatre is located on the site of the former Dandenong Town Hall. The building has maintained its original façade which is now 131 years old.

## **Does the Drum have an orchestra pit?**

Yes, it can be brought up to stage level to extend the stage, lowered slightly and fitted with seats to form the first two rows, or lowered completely to form the orchestra pit.

## **What type of piano does the Drum Theatre have?**

The Drum Theatre has two pianos which can be used by performers and production companies. One is a Steinway Grand piano and the other is a Yamaha Upright piano.

## **What are the benefits of being a Drum Member?**

When you join the Drum Theatre family you receive a \$20 gift voucher which you can put towards the ticket price of any show or performance at the theatre. You also get access to discount tickets, complimentary access to the Drum Theatre Digital programs, exclusive offers and pre-sale booking opportunities and discounts at selected local restaurants, cafes and hotels.

## **What types of shows can you see at the Drum?**

The Drum Theatre offers a diverse and vibrant program which includes everything from drama, comedy, opera, puppetry, dance, musical theatre, circus art, music and kids entertainment.

## **Who are some well-known faces who have performed at the Drum Theatre over the years?**

The Wiggles, Rhonda Burchmore, Rachael Beck, Michael Cormick, Guy Sebastian. Bangarra Dance Theatre, James Morrison, Sylvie Paladino, Normie Rowe, David Strassman, Arj Barker, Ross Noble, Ian Moss, Opera Australia, Archie Roach and Dave Hughes.





## When I visit a gallery...




We can't wait to welcome you back to Greater Dandenong's gallery spaces. But for now we are wanting to learn more about what a gallery means to you.

We invite you to share your thoughts and experiences on visiting galleries.

As part of the Past, Present and Future exhibition we invite you to share your thoughts and experiences on visiting galleries. With responses and reflections to be included on the walls of Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

Artist Kenny Pittock will then draw inspiration from these thoughts and reflections to create a new work as part of the opening exhibition at the new contemporary art gallery opening in central Dandenong.

You can choose how you want to respond – words, images, it's up to you!

 For more information visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-opportunities](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/arts-opportunities)

## Q&A with artist Zakiria Tahirian | Invisibility



Join us online for a recorded Q&A with artist Zakiria Tahirian and find out more about his recent exhibition 'Invisibility' held at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre earlier this year.

Held in Gallery One this series of work used both coloured and invisible ink to uncover the feelings that many refugees grapple with but are often unable to express in words.

Listen to Zak speak about his process, hidden themes and the journey he took to bring this beautiful exhibition to life.

 [facebook.com/artsingreaterdandenong/](https://facebook.com/artsingreaterdandenong/)

## Arts in Greater Dandenong gone digital



**Loaded with fun and inspiration, there is something for everyone as we continue to bring arts and culture to your screen.**

Explore a diverse program of exhibition tours, behind the scenes arts talks and workshops with much on offer for different age groups and interests.

Enjoy an array of new and existing content, delivered by the arts community, and stay connected with Arts in Greater Dandenong from the comfort of your home.

 Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online)



## Wetland Expansion at Frederick Wachter Reserve



The wetland area at Frederick Wachter Reserve in Keysborough

is being expanded as part of a plan to improve water management, water quality and biodiversity outcomes.


The works form part of the reserve's master plan, aimed at maximising the potential of the reserve, both as a recreational and community facility and from an environmental perspective.

The enhanced wetlands will also provide enhanced habitat for native wildlife and will see the return of bird species including the eurasian coot and purple swamp hen.

One of the key objectives of the masterplan is to increase the tree canopy coverage across the park.

Council is currently growing 22,000 trees and plants in nurseries which will be planted in the coming weeks.

Works are also due to commence shortly on a new boardwalk, walking path network and a new playground.

 For more information visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/frederick-wachter-reserve](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/frederick-wachter-reserve)



Will, Sam and Constance Vavasis

## Perfect Coffee, Sam's Spice and Grocery and Peanut Market

**Meet the man behind three successful Dandenong Market small businesses, Sam Vavasis.**

Managing Perfect Coffee, Sam's Spice and Grocery and Peanut Market, Sam's story began almost 50 years ago.

Sam and his family emigrated to Australia from Greece in 1956 and instantly fell in love with the country.

Eventually settling in Melbourne, Sam's parents established the first nut stall at Dandenong Market in 1974. The very humble business consisted of six sacks of nut shells set up on the curb next to a donut van. As a young boy, Sam worked in the stall to help his parents who spoke little English and eventually joined the family business full-time.

The six sacks of nut shells eventually became Peanut Market, a stall which currently stocks over 400 nut varieties.

In 1996, Sam capitalised on his love for coffee opening café Perfect Coffee. Almost 15 years later, Sam established his third business Sam's Spice and Grocery. All three businesses are owned by Sam who now receives help from his two children, Will and Constance.

Will has big dreams for the business. Further exploring an online space, considering further retail stores and increasing the focus on customer experience are all on the to-do list.

All three businesses are open 7am until 4pm every Market day.

[www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)



Dennis and his daughter, Jess Schwarze. Photo credit: Norm Orloff, News Limited

## Schwarze Seafoods



**Schwarze Seafoods has provided fresh, high quality Australian and New Zealand seafood to the Dandenong Market community for more than 85 years.**

The business was most recently passed down to current owner, Dennis Schwarze, who is the third generation to own the popular market stall.

Dennis came to own Schwarze Seafoods following the passing of his father Merv who inherited the business from Dennis' grandmother Alice. Originally operated as a fish and chippery, Schwarze Seafoods has solely provided fresh seafood since the early 1990s.

Dennis, who spent much of his childhood at Dandenong Market, created fond memories helping at his family's shop in his youth.

**"Dandenong Market has been my home practically all my life. I am so lucky to be a part of it,"** said Dennis.



Now in his 60s, Dennis remains eager to continue operating his business and hand picks his product fresh each Market day in the early hours of the morning, a task he has done since joining the business when he was just 16.

These days it is fourth generation Schwarze, Dennis' daughter Jess, who operates much of the business.

Jess has worked for her dad for almost 20 years and admires his dedication to his business.

"He is the hardest working person I know," she said.

Schwarze Seafoods is located in the Meat, Fish and Deli Hall and is open every Market day from 7am-4pm.



[dandenongmarket.com.au](http://dandenongmarket.com.au)



# 40th anniversary celebration



Mayor Cr Angela Long, Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan and Cr Richard Lim help the club celebrate its 40th anniversary.

**The Springvale Italian Seniors Club recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. The club is Greater Dandenong's most recognisable and longstanding Italian club.**

Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Angela Long congratulated the club and said "it is a milestone for any club to be active in a community for 40 years."

"The club is an excellent example of the successful integration of Italian culture, language and customs into the multicultural diversity of Greater Dandenong," Cr Long said.

The club aims to provide social support and a sense of belonging and companionship for its members. While it is called an Italian Club, the group welcomes all nationalities and currently also has members from Maltese, Australian, Mauritian, Polish, Spanish, and Argentinian backgrounds.

The club has about 155 members and when COVID-19 restrictions allow meets every Wednesday at the Springvale Learning and Activities Centre in Osborne Avenue. Over its long history the club has organised special events to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day and has also hosted dances, excursions and lunches.

**For more information  
phone 9547 2703.**

## University of the third age



**U3A is a University in the original sense of the word, a community of people**

**devoted to learning. It is a volunteer organisation of retired and older people who share a desire to continue to learn new skills while socialising with other like-minded people. U3A is a member of the wider U3A Network Victoria.**

Being in your third age is the only qualification needed to participate in the many varying courses on offer in the Dandenong U3A. There are no prerequisites and no exams. It is a great way to make new connections and develop new interests.

Some examples of courses available are languages, arts, exercise and health.

There is a small annual fee which allows members to attend any number of classes.

**If you would like to join or find out more go to [dandenongu3a.org.au](http://dandenongu3a.org.au).**



Making a difference in Greater Dandenong

# Nominations now open

Do you know  
someone who  
is making a  
difference and  
deserves to be  
celebrated?

AUSTRALIA  
DAY  
AWARDS

The Greater Dandenong  
Australia Day Awards  
recognise individuals or  
groups whose outstanding  
work has made a positive  
contribution to the Greater  
Dandenong community.

**Nominate now on:**

[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards)

Email [austday@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:austday@cgd.vic.gov.au)

or phone 8571 1000 to find out more.

**Closing date:** Sunday 24 October 2021