

NOVEMBER 2021

Greater Dandenong Council News

Discover your
backyard

PAGE 2

**New
Kinder**

▶ PAGE 3

**Gardens
for Wildlife**

▶ PAGE 9

**Detox
Your Home**

▶ PAGE 11

 **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

All correspondence to:
Greater Dandenong Council News
PO Box 200
Dandenong VIC 3175
Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au

 **Phone: 8571 1000**

 **Fax: 8571 5196**

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


 **[@greaterdandy](https://twitter.com/greaterdandy)**


 **facebook.com/greaterdandenong**

 **cityofgreaterdandenong**

 **youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong**

 **TTY: 133 677**
Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au

 **TIS: 131 450**

 **council@cgd.vic.gov.au**

Important Numbers

Emergency calls
Police / Fire / Ambulance 000

Street lighting faults/
non-operational
United Energy 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults/
non-operational 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection
WM Waste Management
Services 9721 1915

Australian Animal
Protection Society 9798 8415

RSPCA 9224 2222

Nurse on Call 1300 606 024

Mayor's message

Welcome to the November edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

As we get closer to our vaccine targets and things start to reopen, Council will be ready to welcome you back to our venues and events. Hopefully there will be more to share with you in the December/January edition as we welcome the summer months.



An exciting announcement for this month is the new kindergarten for Dandenong North, on the Rosewood Downs Primary School site. Integrating kindergarten with existing schools is a great way to ensure they are more accessible for local families and ensures a smooth transition from one to the next. Read more about it on page 3.

It's also wonderful to see the brand new All Abilities Playground open in Ross Reserve Noble Park. While we haven't been able to officially open it due to COVID-19 restrictions, we thought it was important to make the playground available to the community as soon as it was ready. You can see a photo below and we hope to see lots of families enjoying this space.

This month we launch our digital literacy program, which aims to help residents improve their skills in all things digital. See page 7 for details and sign up to be part of this exciting initiative.

On Saturday 27 November we will be holding another of our popular Re-use and Recycle drop off days at Greaves Reserve. See the back cover for details and be sure to have your unwanted household goods ready to give away.

On November 11 my fellow Councillors and I will elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the coming 12 months. While it's been a challenging year for everyone, it's been my absolute honour and privilege to serve you. Council has worked hard to ensure that our essential services continue, major projects get underway and our planning for the future carries on.

I would like to thank everyone for working together and continuing to make Greater Dandenong such a wonderful place to live, visit and do business.

**Mayor
Cr Angela Long**



My City

The All Abilities Playground is now open. Located at Ross Reserve between the Noble Park Community Centre and Noble Park Aquatic Centre, it offers an inclusive experience for all. It provides a play environment for a diverse range of children, youth and adults of all ages, sizes and abilities. Everyone is welcome at this great new facility.

Front Cover: Discover the beautiful Dandenong Creek, right in your backyard. Photo: Hilton Stone.



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

Boost for Noble Park



Noble Park has been selected as one of six new suburban revitalisation initiatives in metropolitan Melbourne.

The revitalisation project will provide a needed boost to the Noble Park activity centre as part of the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation Program.

The Suburban Revitalisation Program established by the Victorian Government, recognises that regional and local stakeholders are best placed to identify and respond to community needs and aspirations.

The project aims to complement business activity and visitor attraction in Noble Park, while building on the centre's sense of community spirit and much-loved village character.

The project will include the enhancement of multigenerational community facilities, streetscape upgrades, promotion of sporting and recreational pursuits and see improvements to the general amenity of the retail centre.

The project is overseen by a newly appointed Board convened by the Victorian Government and represented by key community stakeholders.

New Kinder for Dandenong North

**OPENING
IN 2023**



A new kindergarten will be built in Dandenong North thanks to a State Government initiative to build kindergartens on existing school sites.

The new Rosewood Downs Primary School Kindergarten will open in 2023 and will provide 66 kindergarten places.

Mayor Cr Angela Long welcomed the investment saying it would ensure kindergarten was more accessible for children and their families living in Dandenong North.

The new kindergarten will include two rooms, administrative facilities and outdoor play spaces.

“Council has been a strong advocate for early childhood policy reforms, planning and provision for many years now,” Cr Long said.

“For a community like ours it is vital kindergartens are easily accessible, particularly given the number of migrant and newly arrived families in Greater Dandenong.”

“We see kindergartens as an important first step in a child's education journey. Partnering with local primary schools supports a smooth transition from



kindergarten to school. It also promotes social connections for community members.”

Council and the Victorian Government have jointly developed a Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) to estimate the growth in demand for kindergarten within Greater Dandenong over the next ten years. The Rosewood Downs Primary School 'Kindergarten on School Sites Development' will support timely infrastructure to meet the growing demand for three and four year old kindergarten places in the Dandenong North area by 2023.

Councillor Contacts



Cleeland Ward – Mayor
Cr Angela Long
Ph/Fax: 9795 6574
0466 004 616
angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward
Cr Bob Milkovic
0435 237 051
bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong Ward
Cr Jim Memeti
0434 560 239
jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough South Ward
Cr Rhonda Garad
0435 107 584
rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward
Cr Tim Dark
0466 403 914
tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
0435 530 536
lane.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward – Deputy Mayor
Cr Sophie Tan
0466 793 727
sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale Central Ward
Cr Richard Lim OAM
0435 627 164
richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward
Cr Sean O'Reilly
0422 523 258
sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward
Cr Loi Truong
0466 004 618
loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward
Cr Eden Foster
0435 202 645
eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held at the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm, or online during COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

The November meetings will be held:

- ▶ **Thursday 11 November**
(Council meeting commencing at 6pm for election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor).
- ▶ **Monday 15 November**
- ▶ **Monday 29 November**

Subject to COVID-19 restrictions the general public is welcome to attend meetings and can now ask their

THURSDAY

11

NOVEMBER

MONDAY

15

NOVEMBER

MONDAY

29

NOVEMBER

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**

▶ Keysborough Ward



Council's City Improvement Projects are at the core of enhancing our sport and recreation facilities. In Keysborough we have a number of these projects coming to fruition.

As part of rolling out the Frederick Wachter Reserve Masterplan, the much loved wetland area is being expanded to improve its water quality and biodiversity. Council is planting thousands of new trees and smaller plants, which will create a more enjoyable place for local residents and improve habitat for native wildlife. We can also look forward to a new boardwalk and walking path network.

Following community consultation in 2020, the final design of the Frederick Wachter Reserve Playground has been completed. There was strong support for both the 'Market Garden' and the 'Wetland' theme to be integrated into the final design. The playground will include junior and senior play zones as well as water and sand play facilities. Kids will have access to swings, trampolines, monkey bars, a rope course, climbing wall and more, complemented by more shade.

Construction of Stage 1 of the playground works is scheduled to commence in early 2022. The existing playground will be retained until future stages of the new playground are funded.



Cr Tim Dark

Not far from Frederick Wachter Reserve is Rowley Allan Reserve, which is also undergoing improvements. The long term vision is to make the reserve a high standard multi-purpose sporting space for cricket, Australian Rules football, lawn bowls and netball.

Following community input, an initial focus for improvement will be the upgrade of the netball court area. Also in the concept plan are improvements to cricket nets, a new pavilion and car park, new playground, half basketball court, fitness equipment and creating a path around the oval's perimeter for exercise.

As a Keysborough resident since childhood, I am committed to the ongoing development of services and facilities for our rapidly growing community.



Please contact me anytime on 0466 403 914 or email tim.dark@cgd.vic.gov.au

Cr Eden Foster

► Yarraman Ward



We have all been on a challenging journey since our first COVID-19 lockdown last year and the repeated lockdowns since. I feel especially for young people who have missed the social connection that schooling offers, parents balancing work and home commitments, those who have lost income and the small business operators who rely on people being out and about for their livelihoods.

This can take a toll on a person's mental wellbeing, outlook on life and confidence in the face of uncertainty. We must look after each other.

Many areas of Council are actively providing social and material support to our communities, and a wide range of online initiatives. The Children's Festival is a great example with record numbers participating in online events last school holidays.

Council plays an important role connecting people with mental health services. Our website has a

comprehensive list of agencies and helplines to do this. Go to the website and search "Mental Health Services" where you can also access information in 18 community languages.

Recent events in Afghanistan are a reminder that, while living in relative safety here, migrant and refugee communities are affected by what happens in their places of origin. I am proud that Greater Dandenong and Casey Councils joined hands in August to issue our joint Statement of Solidarity with the Afghan Community.

Despite these challenging times, Council's work on the ground improving infrastructure and community assets doesn't slow down. City Improvement Projects are in full swing upgrading facilities and creating new places to enjoy.

In Yarraman Ward, planning is underway to improve Parkfield Reserve's function as a hub for community sport and general community recreation. This is likely to see new cricket nets, a



local playground, new park furniture and fencing renewal. For Joan B Sheen Reserve, concept plans have been completed for a playground, park furniture and new fencing. Undergrounding power in the Ian Street shopping strip will commence this year, followed by significant streetscaping in 2022.



Please contact me anytime on 0435 202 645 or email eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Springvale North Ward



Initial design work has been completed to improve the streetscape at Nullawil Street Neighbourhood Shopping Centre adjacent to Police Road.

After community feedback on the initial design, Council expects works and completion of improvements by early next year.

Council will improve the shopping strip's appearance and amenity, increase shade cover with new street trees along

the footpath, a new garden bed with trees and groundcover plantings, and widening a section of the footpath to accommodate new bench seats and more space for outdoor dining.

Small shopping strips are a much-loved feature of our local landscape, providing commuters and residents convenient shopping for daily needs in our "own backyard". Improvements to Nullawil Street are an example of Council's commitment to supporting neighbourhood shopping strips as a focus for local activity.

Sports clubs and facilities are also an essential part of our community's life.

Construction of the new football pavilion at Ross Reserve is proceeding as planned, with the installation of a concrete floor and steel frame completed. The block walls are being installed, with the roof, windows and doors scheduled next. With installation of a new power substation to meet the precinct's requirements, the overall

project will be completed by mid 2022. Other minor works at Ross Reserve include a new path and landscaping.

Council has engaged an architect to design the refurbishment of two changerooms at Springvale Reserve for both home and away teams. This will bring these up to modern standards, including disability access, and players will enjoy top-notch facilities on match and training days.



I look forward to keeping you updated on these and other improvements in our neighbourhood. Feel free to contact me anytime on 0422 523 258 or email sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETING

Mayoral election

The City of Greater Dandenong is divided into 11 wards.

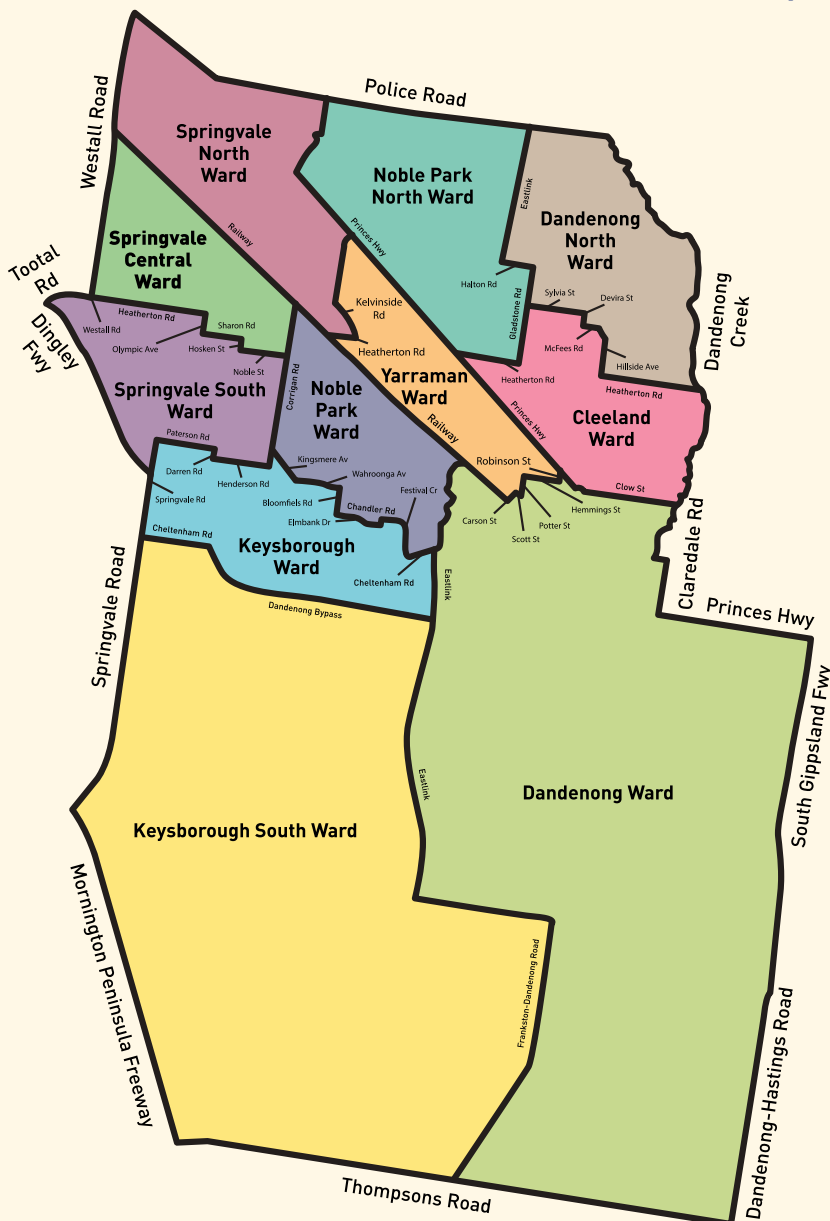
Each ward has a single Councillor who is elected every four years by the community. A Councillor's role is to represent the interests of residents and ratepayers.

A Council meeting will be held on Thursday 11 November for Councillors to elect a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

The Mayor is a spokesperson for Council, helps fellow Councillors make fair and good decisions, chairs Council meetings and carries out ceremonial duties. The Deputy Mayor undertakes these duties if the Mayor is incapable of doing so.

We will introduce the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the next edition of this magazine.

Ward Map



Immunisation sessions – November 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
Wednesday 3 November	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 16 November	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Thursday 25 November	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 27 November	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square), Dandenong
Tuesday 30 November	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park



Bookings are required for your child's immunisations. To make a booking please go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation

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



Getting digitally literate

Council is committed to enhancing the digital literacy of the Greater Dandenong community.

To help people understand more about technology and how to use it, Council has launched a Digital Literacy Upskilling Program.

Digital literacy is a collection of skills and a level of knowledge and understanding needed to access and use technology.

Without these skills it is becoming more difficult to live, work and exist in a digital world.

Aside from the practical skills required to use devices such as phones, tablets and computers, there are other digital literacy skills such as communication, critical thinking, creativity and e-safety.

The good news is that you can learn digital literacy skills, just like you can learn to read and write.



For more information about the Digital Literacy Upskilling Program, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/digital-literacy-upskilling-program

Information in your language

The City of Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse city in Australia. Our residents come from more than 160 different birth places and speak more than 200 languages.

Communicating with everyone can be challenging, but Council is working to make information as accessible as possible. Our website includes a Google translation function, which can change the language across all pages of the website.

The function currently translates more than 85 languages, including Punjabi, Arabic, Chinese, German, Hebrew, Khmer, Urdu and Vietnamese.



Council also places a select number of articles from this magazine on the website each month to improve accessibility and allow information to be shared in multiple languages.

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

Capturing our history

A time capsule has been created to preserve the story of the former Masonic Hall in Dandenong for future generations.

The Masonic Hall, which is owned by Greater Dandenong City Council and being redeveloped as a contemporary art gallery, has a long and fascinating history.

Mayor Cr Angela Long notes the building's importance. "The Hall is recorded in the City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Study as having local historical and architectural significance.

The building was used by the Freemasons from the 1920s up until 1991, and for a time it was leased by the Spanish Christian Church.

The time capsule documents an important part of Dandenong's history, and we thank Dandenong and District Historical Society and Freemasons Victoria for their input and support for this project", she said.

The time capsule includes items related to the former and proposed future uses of the site, such as land selection papers and historic titles, Freemasons memorabilia including 1938 and 1976 Jubilee souvenirs, local artist Hung Lin's drawings of the site, along with photographic documentation of the redevelopment.

The time capsule will be documented as part of Council's Civic and Cultural Heritage Collection and unearthed to mark the 50-year anniversary of the opening of the new gallery.



Mayor Angela Long and husband Barry will contribute to the time capsule.

A sign of great places



Council's Interpretive Signage Program aims to create meaningful connections between people and places in Greater Dandenong.

The signage features in Greater Dandenong's three activity centres of Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park.

Stories of significant people, buildings and landscape are told through text and images.

The signs are designed to create a point of interest and enhance the experience and connection people have with the place.

The interpretive signs are part of an ongoing place making program to make our places great. The signs influence the way public spaces are understood by residents and visitors. By sharing local narratives and stories of the place they contribute to the cultural landscape and foster a sense of identity, place and pride in the community.

The Interpretive Signage Program was first rolled out in 2012, with the bold signage first installed in Dandenong's Halpin Way and Settlers Square.

Recently a new interpretive sign was unveiled in Springvale.

Three new signs are currently in production for central Dandenong.



These will reference the 100 years of pharmacy practice at 275 Lonsdale Street.

Fast Facts

- ▶ Ten signs in Dandenong, with a further three in development
- ▶ Nine signs in Springvale
- ▶ One sign in Noble Park with another three in development



Mayor Angela Long and Cr Richard Lim OAM at the installation of the Springvale hospital sign.

Springvale's first hospital

Greater Dandenong City Council has unveiled new interpretive signage 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.



Gardens for wildlife

Caught sight of a native bee in your garden lately? What about a skink or wattle bird? If you haven't but you'd like to, Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) might be just what you're after.

Greater Dandenong City Council has joined the statewide initiative to connect local people and local fauna through their own gardens. Best of all, size doesn't matter. So, if you've got a balcony or a yard, either can contribute in its own unique way to providing sustainable habitats.

Residents can help displaced or endangered wildlife through shelter, food and water in their own gardens. If you love the environment and want to help play a part, you can! Council staff are available to train you with the relevant information.

Request a garden visit

G4W is free and open to private residents, schools, businesses and community groups. Just register your interest at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gardens-for-wildlife.

You'll receive a \$20 voucher from Greenlink Sandbelt Indigenous Nursery, a written report offering suggestions for your wildlife garden, the opportunity for a follow up consultation and connection to the statewide G4W Victoria network.

COVID-19 Update

Gardens for Wildlife Greater Dandenong is still operating under COVID-19 restrictions. Our Garden Guides can provide advice based on photos, videos and virtual conversations. Engagement with nature and community is essential for wellbeing during this time, and we look forward to resuming face-to-face visits in the future under COVIDSafe practices.

Nesting boxes

As part of our growing biodiversity initiatives Council staff are installing a series of nesting boxes painted by local Aboriginal artist Ian Harrison.

These boxes will be installed around the city but can currently be seen at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Springvale South and JB Sheen Reserve, Bowmore Road, Noble Park.



Justice of the Peace at your Libraries

Justices of the Peace (JP) can now be found at both the Dandenong Library and Springvale Community Hub.

The service is free and staffed by volunteers. JPs can assist residents with the following:

- ▶ Attesting the execution of a document
- ▶ Witnessing a statutory declaration

- ▶ Witnessing an affidavit for use in court
- ▶ Certifying true copies of an original document
- ▶ Certifying a person's identity.

No appointments are needed but availability is best confirmed by contacting library branches directly. When the libraries are fully open, session times are as follows:

Dandenong Library

Monday to Thursday
10am–3pm and 6pm–8pm

Springvale Community Hub

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

COVID-19 restrictions mean that JPs are currently unable to attend to their normal duties but will return as soon as libraries reopen.

For urgent matters, find your nearest JP at justice.vic.gov.au/justices



Know your recycling

This month we celebrate National Recycling Week from 8–14 November and remind residents what can and can't go into their yellow lid recycling bin.

Spending more time at home can create more waste. From cooking more to receiving more mail and online shopping parcels, many of us are generating more waste than usual.

While we can't control everything right now, we can make sure the contents of our recycle bins are being put to good use and don't end up in landfill.

Here are some tips to help save you time and sort the most common items into the appropriate bins.

- ▶ Always remember to keep your recycling out of plastic bags. All items can be placed in the yellow lid bin loose.
- ▶ Soft plastics like bread and pasta bags go into the red lid bin. To recycle these items, take them to your local supermarket where there is a recycling bin dedicated to soft plastics recycling.
- ▶ Polystyrene packaging is not recyclable and should be placed in your red lid bin.



- ▶ Clothing and shoes do not go into your recycling bin.
- ▶ Food waste goes into the green lid garden waste bin.

If you do not currently have a garden waste bin and would like one visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bin-options-and-charges

Follow these simple rules to help make the most of Council's recycling services.

Visit recycling.vic.gov.au to search for specific items and find out which bin they belong in.

Join us for a range of informative waste and recycling events in November. Visit the website for all the details greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste

Declutter this November

Do you ever look around your home and feel overwhelmed by the clutter surrounding you?

In addition to your free hard waste collection, the Drop Off Day provides residents with a further opportunity to declutter your unwanted goods and have them recycled or repurposed to a new home.

To help inspire you, here are some handy tips to get you started:

- ▶ Don't try to tackle everything at once.
- ▶ Work one area at a time. Start off

small, even if it is just a drawer or a shelf, or one cupboard or room at a time.

- ▶ Complete a section before moving onto the next project.

- ▶ Sort your items into categories such as – rubbish, stay, donate, return, recycle.

Pop-up Drive Thru Recycle Day returns

Council will offer residents another chance to reduce waste in the return of the popular Pop-up Drive Thru Recycling Day.

The free collection will be held at Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street Dandenong on Saturday 27 November.

There will be a limit of 15 items per drop off, and they must be brought in a car or trailer.



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

What you can bring:

- ▶ TVs and computers
- ▶ Electrical appliances
- ▶ Whitegoods (fridges, freezers, washing machines)
- ▶ Furniture (chairs, tables, couches, desks)
- ▶ Mattresses
- ▶ Bicycles
- ▶ Homewares (children's items, prams, pushers, baby car seats).



In June 2021 Council held a collection day, which was popular among residents with 70 per cent of the items able to be recovered by charity groups and given a new home.

Items unsuitable for charities were taken to recycling facilities to be shredded and sorted, ready for recycling into new products.

To meet COVIDSafe requirements, please be aware that this event may be cancelled. Please check Council's website for updates.

All COVIDSafe guidelines will be fully met to ensure public safety for this event. All attendees must be checked in.




FREE

Free kitchen caddies still available

Council has a limited number of free kitchen caddies available for residents who would like to participate in the food waste recycling service.

**CONTACTLESS
DROP OFF
SERVICE**



Detox your Home

Register now to safely dispose of your toxic household chemicals

sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

Detox Your Home Day

Sustainability Victoria will help you dispose of household chemicals through a contactless drop off service open to all Greater Dandenong residents this month.

Detox Your Home Day is scheduled to run on Saturday 6 November.

To take part in the day you will need to register with Sustainability Victoria, who will then confirm the drop off site and time with you.

Find out more information and register for free at sustainability.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 363 744.

Council and Sustainability Victoria will monitor the latest advice from health authorities and will update residents if these events are cancelled.

Caddies assist with sorting food waste, by providing a convenient collection point to keep on your benchtop or close to your kitchen.

Residents must have an existing garden waste service to be eligible.

To register visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste

Funding boost for reusable nappies study



Greater Dandenong is one of 12 Councils working together to research and understand how to implement a reusable nappy program to reduce waste to landfill.

The study has received \$80,000 from Sustainability Victoria, through the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria Councils Fund.

Disposable nappies are becoming one of the most significant waste issues, comprising between 5-15 per cent of waste in household bins. Approximately two billion disposable nappies end up in landfill each year in Australia and it can take up to 500 years for nappies to break down.

The feasibility study will engage with parents to understand current barriers to using reusable nappies and will evaluate the effectiveness of programs to reduce waste and change behaviour.

Mayor Cr Angela Long said the study would offer valuable insights into how Councils can better support their residents to make more environmentally friendly choices.

"We know Greater Dandenong residents want to do all they can to reduce their waste to landfill and this work will help us to understand how we can better support them to do so," Mayor Long said.



The story of Drum Theatre

Drum Theatre first opened its doors in 2006.

The state-of-the-art theatre was the talk of the town at the time, lauded for its architectural design and generous rehearsal spaces, as well as its focus on enhanced audience experience.

Drum Theatre’s modern interior was built behind the original heritage façade of Dandenong Town Hall.

The original town hall building operated from 1890 and was essentially the heart of Dandenong, serving many vital functions for the Council and community. Not only did it house the Council offices and council chambers, it also held adult learning classes, as well as a library, a courthouse and Magistrate’s offices.

Today Drum Theatre is the perfect blend of old and new; and is a symbol of Dandenong’s historical transition

from a thriving market town to one of Australia’s most diverse and vibrant communities.

Each year, since its opening, Drum Theatre has hosted over 150 performances for over 60,000 patrons.

Drum Theatre is a popular venue for some of Australia’s most loved and renowned performers. Here is what they have said about performing at Drum Theatre in Dandenong.

“The Drum Theatre has a rare intimacy that makes the performer feel like the audience is on stage with them. Acoustically it is superb...”
– James Morrison

“Opera Australia loves coming to The Drum. The facilities on stage and off are world class and ... the crew are always happy to assist in any way we need. Whenever our touring company see The Drum on our schedule they are thrilled as we know it will be a fantastic week.”
– Opera Australia

“The Drum Theatre is a really fantastic venue – Dandenong’s hidden gem. Staff are experienced and very helpful. Great range of colour in the rig and the show looked and sounded amazing. Audiences got into the groove quickly and were particularly responsive to the crowd work by the MC. Top night!”
– Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

“I’ve always loved visiting the Drum Theatre stage, it’s a beautiful building in the heart of a diverse and multicultural community. Stepping through stage door has always been a joy; from its staff, to its stage and its audiences.”
– Nicholas Starte from the cast of The Midnight Gang

*“I felt at home the moment I walked through Stage Door. The Drum Theatre will always stick with me for your warm hospitality and *divine* Green Room.”*
– Rebecca Rolle from the cast of The 91-Storey Treehouse

Have your say on Arts, Culture and Heritage

Council is preparing to develop the next Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022–26.

The strategy will set the direction for the next four years, guiding Council’s efforts to promote, support and grow arts and cultural heritage in the City of Greater Dandenong.

We invite you to provide input and share your aspirations and ideas.

➔ To find out more and have your say visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-culture-and-heritage-strategy

Arts and Culture Education Program

As part of the new Arts and Culture Education Program, schools in Greater Dandenong are being offered the opportunity to host virtual incursions with artists.

If you are interested in hosting a virtual incursion, please visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture-education-program and email arts@cgd.vic.gov.au to register your interest.



Take a stand against family violence



Residents throughout Greater Dandenong are again preparing to take a stand against family violence on White Ribbon Day, Friday 19 November.

On past White Ribbon Days hundreds of people joined walks hosted by the Greater Dandenong City Council.

According to White Ribbon Australia on average one woman a week is murdered by her current or former partner. In 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions have exacerbated the problem with police responding to more calls for help than ever.

According to the Victorian Crime Statistics Agency, there were 92,999 family violence incidents in the year ending March 2021. This represents an 8.2 per cent rise on the year before. In the City of Greater Dandenong police responded to 2,834 incidents of family violence in the same 12-month period.

Mayor Cr Angela Long, who sits on Council’s Family Violence Advisory Committee, says Greater Dandenong City Council has been a leading voice in the prevention of violence against women. She encouraged all residents to mark White Ribbon Day by doing what they can to call out and stop violence in their own families, social networks and communities.

“Promoting equality and respect in our communities benefits us all. It strengthens our communities if everyone feels safe and respected,” said Mayor Long.

“We can all play our part in making sure the women in our lives are protected and safe.”

Greater Dandenong City Council is an accredited White Ribbon workplace and has been recognised for its pioneering role in contributing to national cultural change to prevent and respond to violence against women.

The Council is also proudly at the forefront of promoting gender equality, with a commitment to implementing the State Government’s *Gender Equality Act 2020*. Under the Act Council is required to develop and implement a Gender Equality Action Plan which will include strategies for achieving workplace gender equality.

Council has pledged to promote gender equality in its policies, programs and services and publicly report on its progress.



Mayor Long said it was vital that people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities including men, women, trans and the gender diverse.

“Everyone is affected by gender inequality and it impacts people of all ages and backgrounds,” she said.

“My fellow Councillors and Council staff take pride in making our city a safe and inclusive place for people of all backgrounds to live and thrive, free of violence and discrimination.

“Please take some time this White Ribbon Day to play your part as well.”

Anyone experiencing family violence can get help by contacting:

- ▶ 1800 Respect on 1800 737 732
- ▶ Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre on 1800 015 188
- ▶ InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence on 1800 755 988
- ▶ Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA) 9635 3610
- ▶ 000.

Business community rallies around Kindness project



Hollywood may be a world away from Bangholme, but one of its movies has inspired a Greater Dandenong attraction to give back to the community in a creative way.

Ian Clark, owner of Melbourne Cable Park, has set up a 'Pay it Forward' system to support registered charity, Kindness Community.

Mr Clark says it was during lockdown four in May 2021, when the Park began selling take-away meals to keep its on-site chef engaged, that they identified a need to reallocate leftover food.

"We approached the Council, which gave us the name of some suitable organisations, and that's how we connected with Danielle Ashley from the Kindness Community.

"The first week we had 30 meals to donate, and Danielle asked if they could heat them up in our

kitchen. At the time, Kindness Community was serving meals in the park under shelter, so I helped to organise a Council building nearby to relaunch the meal centre indoors," Mr Clark explains.

Melbourne Cable Park now has incorporated the initiative into its online sales so when customers purchase tickets to the aqua fun park, they can also purchase a \$5 hot meal for a disadvantaged person or contribute financially to the Kindness Community.

Greater Dandenong businesses showing heart

Danielle Ashley grew up in Dandenong and is the founder of Kindness Community, which began in March 2020 to assist with the issue of food security.

"Through Ian's and our own contacts, we receive support from many amazing local businesses," Ms Ashley says,



whose background is in natural health.

Far-reaching effects

Kindness Community now serves dinner to over 100 people a week, which includes a 6pm service each Tuesday night at Memorial Hall in Dandenong, and the delivery of meals to homeless shelters in Dandenong with the leftover meals.

Businesses interested in supporting Kindness Community can visit [kindnesscommunity.org.au](https://www.kindnesscommunity.org.au) for contact details or to donate.

All the ingredients for success

Nasrat Hashemi describes himself as a 'happy' refugee who has embraced the opportunities that Australia has offered him to build a successful grocery business at the Dandenong Market.

Nasrat, 32, arrived in Australia from Afghanistan in 2012 as an asylum seeker.

Fluent in six languages – English, Dari, Pashto, Urdu, Persian and Arabic – Nasrat initially found work as a truck driver before deciding he wanted to run his own business. He became the owner of Spice Inn Groceries five and a half years ago.

The business specialises in South Asian groceries including Indian, Pakistani, Afghani, Sri Lankan and Fijian ingredients.

"This country gives people empowerment. I became a businessman



in a short amount of time because of the kindness, support and help of others," said Nasrat.

Like all business owners, Nasrat has had to face the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said it was important as a business owner that he play his part in keeping his business and customers safe.

He is thankful for the support he has received from Greater Dandenong Council's COVID Support Officers who helped him draw up his COVIDSafe Plan, which includes floor markings, QR codes, signage, practicing physical distancing and keeping doors open

to enhance airflow, among other measures.

"Dandenong Market management, Council, and Victoria Government have been helping us, counselling us, standing with us shoulder to shoulder. It gives you big hope," said Nasrat.

"Everyone, regardless of background, have been affected by the virus. When you are lockdown 5km from your house, it is hard for everyone. We need to show support for one another.

Some customers I see five days a week. I share stories to customers. They are just like good friends or family members.

His advice for others is to 'stay strong and committed'."

"There is sunshine after every darkness. When you're good and healthy, you can run your business and move forward with your life. And only then can you help your friends and family."

Spice Inn Groceries is at Cleeland Street, Dandenong, and is open every day.



LET THE
LIBRARY
INSPIRE
YOU

Looking for something to read?



If what to read next is proving elusive, let the library inspire you with its **Read and Relax Blog** and **The Open Book Podcast**.

It's where library staff review their favourite books, movies and lots more. The perfect place to find out all that's new in the collection, read about the latest award-winning titles and find encouragement for your next read.

Regardless of age or taste the choices are extensive. From picture books to thrillers, health and wellbeing to humour, reviews cover over 30 subject areas. A featured review and monthly new and forthcoming titles list may also help to fill the gap.

Read and Relax is updated weekly with written reviews.



The Open Book Podcast is also there to help you decide. Every month you can listen to lively 'book chats' on feature titles with staff or reviews on books, films and other formats.

Conveniently, titles mentioned in each episode are linked to the library catalogue in 'Episode Show Notes'. This way, if you hear or read about something you like, you can find it easily through the library.

Both the Read and Relax Blog Review and The Open Book Podcast are accessible through Council's website or sign up for our newsletter, greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries

To have your say on what you want Library Services to look like in the future visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement during November.

Orange Door Opening

Opening mid November, The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children.

The Orange Door brings together workers from specialist family violence services. They can work with you on your own, or together with family members depending on your situation. This can be done in person or over the phone, with no referral needed.

Workers at The Orange Door are highly trained and experienced in responding to family violence and supporting children, young people, parents and families who need extra support with their care and wellbeing.



The Orange Door welcomes everyone. Access the service at orangedoor.vic.gov.au

Become a Freemason

Freemasonry is a worldwide community of men who believe in the principles of equality and charity. The organisation is proud to honour and respect religious, cultural and political diversity.

It offers men an opportunity to contribute to their local communities, join a network of like-minded individuals, and improve themselves in the process.



If you're interested and want to know more, contact your local Keysborough Freemasons group by calling Steve on 0457 283 877, Ken on 0408 317 671, email joinfreemasons@outlook.com or visit the website at freemasonsvic.net.au

Re-use and Recycle

Drop Off Day



TVs and computers



Mattresses
Limit of two



Electrical appliances
Printers, rice cookers,
anything with a cord or battery



Bicycles



Whitegoods
Fridges, washing machines,
dryers, microwaves



Homewares
Toys, cookware, sporting items,
baby equipment



Furniture
Chairs, tables, couches, desks



Clothes and linen
Clothing, shoes, fashion
accessories, towels, sheets



A **FREE** drop-off for your unwanted
electronic and household goods

NOV

27

Saturday 27 November,
8am–1pm

Greaves Reserve,
2–20 Bennet Street, Dandenong

Find out more and register for
an SMS or email reminder at
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day

