

Greater Dandenong Council News

Christmas in Greater Dandenong

PAGE 6



**Introducing
the Mayor**

▶ PAGE 3

**Child-friendly
City**

▶ PAGE 5

**Big Summer
Read**

▶ PAGE 12

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 December 2021 – January 2022 edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

It is an honour to have been recently elected as your Mayor for the next 12 months.

With summer now here, there is renewed energy and hope for better times ahead.

I am excited that we are again open for business and can look forward to all the fantastic community events, festivals, activities, and programs our Council offers our culturally diverse community.

In this edition we celebrate the festive season and all the joy, magic and excitement it brings. You will see our activity centres come to life in vibrant Christmas colours.

As stated in our Council Plan, in the year ahead we will work towards achieving:

- ▶ a socially connected, safe and healthy city
- ▶ a city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- ▶ a city of accessible, vibrant centres and neighbourhoods

▶ a green city committed to a sustainable future

▶ a city that supports entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes

▶ a Council that demonstrates leadership and a commitment to investing in our community.

Our Council is committed to empowering and listening to our community so we can best serve you.

Our focus is now on supporting and rejuvenating our great municipality in a COVID safe environment. There is so much to plan for, create together and celebrate in 2022.

I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for a wonderful, happy and safe new year.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti



Let's remain open and COVID safe

Our Council facilities are again open for business and we are so pleased to welcome you back!

When visiting our sites people over the age of 12 years need to be fully vaccinated, unless you have a medical exemption, and must check in via the QR codes displayed.

Please stay home if you are unwell, and please get tested if you have any cold or flu symptoms. Practicing physical distancing and good hand hygiene at all times is so important.

Thank you to our residents who have been fully vaccinated to keep you, your loved ones, and our community safe.

We encourage all eligible members of our community to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Please be kind to one another as we all ease our way back to enjoying the things we love in Greater Dandenong and living safely with COVID-19.

Introducing our new Mayor



Dandenong Ward Councillor Jim Memeti has been elected Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong for the fifth time, having previously served in the role in 2010, 2014, 2017 and 2020.

Having lived in Greater Dandenong for over 40 years, Mayor Memeti shares a similar background to many of our residents having migrated to Australia at a young age.

A local Councillor since 2005, Mayor Memeti will be supported by Cr Eden Foster who has been elected as Deputy Mayor for the next 12 months.

Although COVID has significantly impacted our great city, the Mayor said there are exciting times ahead.

“I am committed to working with my fellow Councillors to achieve our community’s vision for Greater Dandenong and the objectives of our Council Plan.

“We will focus on reactivating our great municipality as we all transition to a new COVID normal. Soon we will again host vibrant community events and festivals so we can celebrate our cultural diversity and provide opportunities for social connection and understanding.

“We will continue to respect and honour our past and embrace all the incredible possibilities for our future,” said the Mayor.



He remains steadfast in his desire to change the perceptions of the municipality.

“We are proud to be Australia’s most culturally diverse community and maintain our status as the business activity centre of the south east.

“Our strong partnerships with our local and state partners ensure we continue to thrive through innovative investment and deliberate community engagement, generating positive outcomes for our community,” the Mayor said.

He is looking forward to working with his colleagues to realise several major projects underway including: the new, innovative Dandenong Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre; the Keysborough and

Dandenong Community Hubs, offering a range of shared multi-purpose facilities for the community; the continued revitalisation of central Dandenong, beginning with the Little India precinct near Dandenong Railway Station in partnership with Development Victoria; and ongoing upgrades to the Springvale and Noble Park activity centres, with improved streetscapes, green open spaces and innovative public amenities.

Mayor Memeti is a proud family man, with four generations of his family now living in Dandenong. He has three children, five grandchildren, and another grandchild on the way next year.



2022 Community Calendar

Greater Dandenong is a vibrant and stunning municipality and we have captured some of its most photogenic sights for the 2022 Community Calendar. The calendar will be delivered free to your letterbox and features the kerbside waste collection schedule and handy waste and recycling tips.



If you do not receive a copy of the calendar, or if you would like an extra copy, you can collect one from Council’s customer service centres or phone 8571 1000.

Councillor Contacts



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



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



Cleeland Ward
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



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



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



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



Noble Park North Ward
Cr Lana Formoso
0435 530 536
lane.formoso@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

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Council Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ **Monday 13 December 2021**
- ▶ **Monday 24 January 2022.**

You can ask questions during Public Question Time. You can also watch our Council meetings live via our webcast service.

Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made. Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

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

DECEMBER
JANUARY

Our Christmas / New Year Hours

Customer Service Centres

Friday 24 December

Centres to close at 12.30pm
Call Centre to close at 2pm

**Saturday 25 –
Tuesday 28 December**
CLOSED

**Wednesday 29 –
Friday 31 December**
Normal hours resume

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 January
CLOSED

Monday 3 January
CLOSED

Tuesday 4 January
Normal hours resume

Libraries and Springvale Community Hub

**Saturday 25 –
Tuesday 28 December**
CLOSED

**Wednesday 29 –
Friday 31 December**
Reduced hours – check website for details

Saturday 1 – Sunday 2 January
CLOSED

Monday 3 January
CLOSED

Tuesday 4 January

Check website for details

DRUM Theatre

The Drum Theatre will reopen on Monday 24 January, the box office is open for online and phone bookings via drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or 8571 1666.

Aquatic Centres

If you're planning a visit to the Noble Park Aquatic Centre or Dandenong Oasis, please contact the centres directly before you visit to check hours and any limits that will apply, via nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au or dandenongoasis.com.au.

Waste Collection

All rubbish, recycling and green waste bins will be collected as per usual, even on public holidays.

For specific opening hours visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.



Reflections and Seasons Greetings from your Councillors

Despite the obstacles we have all faced this last year, there are plenty of achievements to celebrate and be proud of in 2021.

It's a privilege for us all to work alongside our dedicated and passionate community to implement initiatives that bring great community outcomes for future generations.

We are proud of how strong and resilient our community has been during such unprecedented times. We have looked after each other and found innovative ways to serve, connect and engage.

Highlights from our work over the last 12 months include:

- ▶ the development of our first Community Vision for our Council Plan 2021–2025
- ▶ the Springvale Boulevard revitalisation project
- ▶ the Noble Park revitalisation project



- ▶ the design phase of the new Dandenong Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre
- ▶ the new All Abilities Playground
- ▶ our commitment to being a child-friendly city via our Children's Plan 2021–26
- ▶ our commitment to sustainability, delivering on our renewable energy targets and implementing innovative technology
- ▶ our Make Your Move campaign
- ▶ the Dandenong New Art Gallery, which will be housed in the former Masonic Hall
- ▶ planning for a new Dandenong Community Hub
- ▶ our work with our Indigenous community, promoting understanding, tolerance, and acceptance across all sectors of our community – the Springvale Community Hub's ceremonial firepit is a stunning example of how we can respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of our land.

May you and your loved ones have a safe and joyous festive season, and all the very best for the new year.

From your Councillors

Junior Mayor shines in our child-friendly city

The City of Greater Dandenong is committed to supporting children and their families and providing opportunities for them to engage within the community.

Our vision for children and their families is to be valued, celebrated, respected, and supported to reach their full potential.

Our Children's Plan outlines an integrated approach in working together with and for children 0–13 years, acknowledging the important role of parents, carers, and their extended families in supporting each child's development in education, health and wellbeing.

As school captain, Murray Congues was the successful nominee for the role of junior Mayor for Greater Dandenong in 2021 and is a voice

for greater inclusion and safety for younger people in the city.

Council engaged Murray to help inform our work. He is a representative on the Children's Advisory Group and played an MC role in this year's Children's Forum on 18 November.

"My role means a lot to me because the Children's Advisory Group and I can help the Council make decisions that are more child-oriented.

"What I am interested in is for the children of Greater Dandenong to live in a child safe city that promotes safe parks and walkways and gives families support when needed.

"Children have many ideas to improve the city for children and even adults; children can have an input on what park designs they want or different features around the city. A child-friendly city looks like a city where children's opinions are valued and are taken into perspective, it also is a safe




place for children to play and hang around," Murray said.

Murray's vision for the future of young people within Greater Dandenong is a shared one, bridging the age differences throughout our community, and creating a place where all voices are heard, valued, and treated respectfully.

With a strong communal focus that helps us all to live well and harmoniously, Murray has been an outstanding junior Mayor this year and provides incredible value to our city.

Photo: Our 2021 Junior Mayor Murray Congues.

Grant recipient giving back this Christmas

 **Community grant recipient, the City of Greater Dandenong Band, will perform at this year's online Christmas Carols "Bringing Christmas Home" event on Friday 10 December.**

The band is one of Dandenong's premier performing arts organisations, with a long, proud history of community service.

The band was awarded a Sponsorship Grant to contribute to local cultural activities and to promote the city via performances nationally. The pandemic meant the band could not perform live, so they pivoted to record *Zero Gravity*, an online musical collaboration with Glenferrie Brass, Skunkworks Productions and Australian singer Danielle Matthews. *Zero Gravity* was made famous by Kate Miller-Heidke at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest.

Cassi de Lacy-Vawdon, City of Greater Dandenong Band Treasurer said Council's funding support helped the band to continue its operations and give back to the community.

"We aim to make music, and music tutoring, as accessible as possible in our community. For the *Zero Gravity* project we relied heavily on the skills, equipment, and expertise of our band members. This project has inspired us



City of Greater Dandenong Band captures their online performance with Danielle Matthews.

to look at upskilling in areas of music production and recording," Cassi said.

The grant supports the city's only community band in their aim to provide music at a diverse range of civic and community events for low or no performance fee, and to offer accessible, low-cost music tuition, instrument hire, rehearsal and performance opportunities to everyone who connects with their organisation.

Recent COVID restrictions made rehearsing for the band incredibly challenging, however with the help of Council's grant, the band continued to share their love and passion for music and promote our great city

through performances and competitions across Victoria, and internationally via social media.

Council's annual grants program provides funding opportunities to benefit and work in partnership with community.

 **For more information on Council's grants program visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants. For more information on the City of Greater Dandenong Band visit dandenongband.org.au**

The magic of Christmas delights

The festive spirit has returned to Greater Dandenong with bright and oversized vibrant Christmas decorations installed across the city.

In Dandenong, a festive mural adorns the steps leading up to Harmony Square, where visitors are delighted with the much-loved giant 7-metre Santa and reindeer by the Civic Centre. The reindeer and tree display appears opposite Dandenong Market and the Waterloo Star is at Langhorne Place.

Huge Christmas trees, 6-9 metres tall, are at Springvale Community Hub, Multicultural Place and Noble Park.


Dandenong Library's window display showcases a life-size nativity scene and decorative designs.

The large decorations complement a range of smaller ones in all activity centres, including Christmas-themed tree and pole surrounds, decorations on public seating, metal Christmas trees in Springvale, pole and dove installations in Noble Park and holly and present decorations in Palm Plaza's flower beds.

The easing of COVID restrictions allow the return of roving performer appearances in each of the activity centres in the week leading up to Christmas; and the annual Christmas Carols event is online on Friday 10 December from 7.30-8.30pm via Zoom.



Council is excited to bring back the magic of Christmas to our great city, with plenty of lights and decorations for everyone to marvel at and enjoy with family and friends.

 **For more information on the upcoming Christmas festivities visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events**



Minister Pakula joins Cr Angela Long and Cr Richard Lim OAM at the Springvale Community Hub.

Minister tours Springvale Community Hub

Cr Angela Long and Cr Richard Lim OAM welcomed Minister Martin Pakula MP on a tour of the Springvale Community Hub.

The Hub is a shared space that inspires social connections, honours the area's proud past, and respectfully celebrates our community's cultural diversity and future aspirations.

Together they unveiled a plaque in recognition of the State Government's

funding support to develop this leading-edge, fit for purpose precinct.

Expected to attract 600,000 visits annually, the Hub has been designed with holistic sustainability principles in mind and is targeting net zero emissions and 6-Star Green Rating.

Have you visited the new community heart of Springvale yet?



For more information on what's on offer at the Hub, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-community-hub

Traffic improvements in Springvale

The Victorian Government is investing \$3.9 million to improve safety and traffic flow at the Springvale Road, Virginia Street and Newcomen Road intersection in Springvale.

The local community will benefit from new traffic lights and pedestrian crossings being installed, and greater public transport reliability with bus priority lights.

Changes will also be made at Rosalie Street to make it left turn only on to Springvale Road. A safer speed limit of 40km/h will be in place along Springvale Road from the Springvale shopping precinct to Watt Street.

Road users will also benefit with a new smoother and safer road surface as significant road renewal works are taking place along Springvale Road.

The works will start in early 2022 for completion mid-year. As a result of the upgrade, there will be some changes to car parking in the area.



For more information visit vicroads.vic.gov.au and search 'Springvale Road and Virginia Street intersection upgrade'.

Australia Day Summer Festival 2022



Join us to celebrate our city on Wednesday 26 January for an inclusive and diverse family-friendly event.

We will pay our respects to the traditional owners and custodians of the land, the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, while hosting free, fun and exciting activities at different locations around Greater Dandenong.

Australia Day Summer Festival 2022 is a positive, healthy and active multi-faceted event that will revitalise our existing spaces and activate new places. Featuring: WalkFest partnering with Park Run in Dandenong Park, family entertainment and sporting activities for all ages and abilities.



To find out more and to register go to greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australiaday



Our immunisation nurse travels to help Fijians in need



City of Greater Dandenong immunisation nurse, Priscilla Singh was honoured to have spent three weeks in Fiji assisting in the country's COVID-19 recovery.

The Fijian born Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) nurse was one of nine medical professionals deployed in Fiji during September.

"I had never done something like this before.

"With Victoria in lockdown, kids home-schooling, and our family retail shop closed...I thought if I was ever going to assist overseas, it would be now," said Priscilla.

She educated Fijian medical staff from the Colonial War Memorial Hospital about the importance of IPC, basic hygiene and vaccination.

In October 2021, Fiji reported that 80% of adults were fully vaccinated, and in November 2021, reached 1.9 million vaccinations nation-wide.



Priscilla Singh, Council's immunisation nurse volunteers to support the Fijian community during the pandemic.

"I am so incredibly proud of my fellow Fijians, they really are amazing in how they got through with very limited resources," said Priscilla.

More than 90% of residents in Greater Dandenong have received their first COVID-19 vaccination and more than 80% have received both doses.



More information on local vaccination clinics can be found at sephu.org/covid-vaccination/finding-vaccination-clinic/

Get outside and Make Your Move



Summer is a great time to get out and soak up some vitamin D, which

will help you sleep better, improve your concentration, raise your energy levels, improve your confidence, and more!

You don't have to run a marathon every day, getting active is about how you Make Your Move to best suit you.

There are lots of free summer activities available in Greater Dandenong.

You can also Make Your Move in the kitchen this summer by searching for healthy, delicious, summer recipe treats to make courtesy of the Heart Foundation heartfoundation.org.au.

Discover a better you by committing to your health and wellbeing this summer.

Immunisation sessions – December 2021–January 2022



Immunisation sessions are held every month for residents in a COVID safe environment.

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 to 5 years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations.



To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation

If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

Date	Location
Thursday 2 December 2021	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Monday 6 December 2021	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Tuesday 7 December 2021	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Monday 13 December 2021	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 18 December 2021	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Tuesday 21 December 2021	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Thursday 6 January 2022	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Thursday 13 January 2022	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Wednesday 19 January 2022	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 22 January 2022	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Monday 31 January 2022	Springvale City Hall, Supper Room, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

Ross Reserve – a regional destination



Cr Angela Long welcomed the Premier of Victoria and Member for Mulgrave, the Honourable Daniel Andrews MP and the Minister for Community Sport, Minister for Youth, the Honourable Ros Spence MP to Noble Park to officially unveil the innovative All Abilities Playground and to 'turn the sod' for a new synthetic pitch at Ross Reserve.

The Mayor thanked the State Government for their funding support through Sport and Recreation Victoria and the Community Sport Infrastructure Stimulus Program.

Ross Reserve has transformed over the last few years, with both the level crossing removal project and Council's investment in the facilities at the reserve, making it a regional destination.

The All Abilities Playground has been so well received by the community and will bring long-term benefits for years to come as an important inclusive play



and social playground that meets the diverse needs of children of all ages and abilities.

The new synthetic pitch at Ross Reserve will be utilised by the Springvale City Soccer Club and Sandown Lions Football Club for training and matches.

The Noble Park Junior Football Club will also utilise the pitch for training and community-based activations.

New coaches' boxes, effective lighting, fencing and landscaping will also be developed to complement the new synthetic pitch and Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion currently being constructed.

This new pitch will provide further ways people can connect and enjoy this great public space.

Ongoing investment in our sport and recreational facilities positively enhances the health and wellbeing of our community.

Council acknowledges the dedication of our community, design and building partners, the Noble Park Revitalisation Board, Noble Park Community Centre, Sandown Lions Football Club, Springvale City Soccer Club, Noble Park Football Club Juniors, Land Design Partnership, Ethos Urban and Warrandale.

Design released for Dandenong's new Aquatic and Wellbeing Centre



An artist's impression of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre's main pool hall.



Have your say on the draft design of the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre – a new 'oasis' for south east Melbourne.

The new aquatic centre will be located at JC Mills Reserve, Cleeland Street, Dandenong and will replace the existing Dandenong Oasis, which is now over 40 years old.

The centre's design builds on the results of previous planning and consultation and aims to create welcoming spaces for people of all ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.

Mayor Jim Memeti said the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre has been specifically designed to enhance the health and wellbeing of our culturally diverse community.

"The centre aims to minimise barriers and maximise opportunities for residents to be active, socially connect and enjoy numerous health and wellness experiences under one roof.

"The unique world-class aquatic centre will become a popular destination within a regional health and education precinct and will be complemented by expansive outdoor spaces at JC Mills Reserve," said the Mayor.



Residents are invited to view the draft plans and provide feedback by Wednesday 15 December at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/new-dandenong-oasis-consultation

Preparing for climate change and greening our city

After extensive community consultation, Council has adopted the Urban Forest Strategy 2021–28 and the Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy 2021–28.

Both strategies received strong support from the community with key recommendations endorsed to holistically tackle climate change and to increase the tree canopy coverage in Greater Dandenong.

The *Urban Forest Strategy* and *Greening Our Neighbourhoods Strategy* complement the existing *Greening Our City: Urban Tree Strategy 2018–2028* to provide the strategic framework for delivery of Council's



vision for a healthy, green and resilient urban forest that is well managed, protected and provides benefits to the community.

Increasing the number of shade trees in the city will help cool our neighbourhoods, make our outdoor spaces more enjoyable and will have a positive impact on climate change.

Benefits of planting more trees include shade provision, improved streetscape amenity, a reduction in air pollution and increased habitat for wildlife.

Council declared a *Climate and Ecological Emergency* in January 2020.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-engagement/draft-urban-forest-strategy-and-greening-our-neighbourhoods-strategy

Working towards our sustainable future



Our Council's vision is to become one of Australia's most sustainable cities by 2030. A target has been set to achieve net zero carbon emissions from our operation's energy use by 2025, with a broader municipal target of net zero carbon emissions by 2040.

Achieving our sustainability targets require joint actions by both Council and the community. Some of the ways that Council is playing its role can be seen through the following initiatives.

Renewable power purchasing agreement

We are one step closer to green and clean energy due to our participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO). Council collaborated with other local governments to use our combined purchasing power to source 100% of our electricity needs from Victorian wind farms. These clean renewable electricity sources are good for the environment and lower our energy bills.



Photo credit: VECO

This renewable wind energy will from 1 January 2022 be powering Council's buildings, libraries, sporting facilities and streetlights. For more information visit veco.org.au.

Sustainable new buildings

Council's *Sustainable Buildings Policy* ensures we deliver sustainable buildings that are comfortable to work in, have lower operating costs and help reduce carbon emissions, both during construction and operation. The Springvale Community Hub was recently accredited a 6 Star

GreenStar Building rating, representing 'world leadership' in environmentally sustainable building practices.

Solar energy powering our buildings

Council has solar panels installed across our buildings, with solar power capacity of more than 600kw. Solar panels have been installed at the Dandenong Civic Centre, Springvale Town Hall, Springvale Community Hub, Council's Dandenong Operations Centre, and the Dandenong Market.

Greening Greater Dandenong

Increasing the tree canopy cover of Greater Dandenong, while helping to reduce the impacts of higher urban temperatures, is one of the best and cheapest ways to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Council is working to enhance the local urban forest to create a cooler, greener city that benefits our community's health and wellbeing.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/sustainability





Waste Wise Christmas

On average at Christmas time, waste ending up in landfill increases by 30 per cent.

Here are some fun ideas to help you have your most sustainable festive season yet.


 Try your hand at some home-made decorations. You could collect and decorate pine cones, gumtree branches, or adorn your space with edible decorations like strings of popcorn, candy canes and cookies. Indoor plants can be turned into a Christmas tree, with a few decorations or fairy lights. Instead of buying new decorations, swap them with your family or friends.

 Each year, three out of 10 Australians expect to receive a gift that they will never wear or use. When giving gifts, consider buying second-hand ones from an opportunity shop or charity store.

 You can also donate to a charity as a gift for your loved one. There's plenty of unique ideas, like buying schoolbooks for disadvantaged kids, sponsoring a koala or planting a tree. You can also give an experience gift, such as a cooking class or Drum Theatre voucher. You can also make a home cooked meal. Kids paintings and drawings make for excellent wrapping paper or cards, or try wrapping gifts in a scarf or tea towel. Wrapping paper can go into your yellow lid recycling bin.



 To make your festive food more sustainable, shop at local small businesses or head to your closest market. Try to avoid disposable cutlery and plates where you can. Any leftover food waste can go into your green lid food and garden waste bin. Fruit and vegetable scraps can also be home composted, along with napkins and paper towel. Food scraps must be placed loosely into your food and garden waste bin, so remove any packaging. Food and garden waste is collected from your green lid bin and taken to a local composting facility, turning your waste into nutrient rich compost that is used by our Victorian farmers.

 You can place all rigid plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, steel cans, aluminium cans, foil and trays, and paper and cardboard into your yellow lid recycling bin.

All recycling must be placed loosely into your recycling bin – no plastic bags of any kind are allowed.

 **For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste**



Home compost rebate scheme

Would you like to create your own compost for your garden?

To support residents wanting to home compost, Council will be providing discounted compost bins and worm farms to residents.


From mid-January residents will be able to buy discounted compost bins, worm farms or Bokashi bins and other composting equipment through a Council rebate scheme.

One rebate will be available per Greater Dandenong household per financial year.

Home composting is another option to help reduce food waste going to landfill and to complement the existing green lid food and garden waste bin service Council provides.

Approximately 50 per cent of the average garbage bin in Greater Dandenong is made up of food and garden waste.

Composting is easy to do, prevents the wasteful transport of food scraps to landfill and creates great soil for your garden.

 **For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options/compost-bins-and-worm-farms**

Enjoy your library this summer



Our Seed Library

The beginning of summer will see more seasonal seed varieties added to the Greater Dandenong Seed Library. Members can collect, plant and enjoy rainbow carrots, cherry tomatoes, chives, coriander and green beans.

The Seed Library is free to join and members can collect four free seed packets a season from the Springvale Community Hub. At the end of the season, members are encouraged to collect and return seeds from their garden to be enjoyed by other members.

To register for the Seed Library, and to find lots of resources to help you grow your own edible garden visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seedlibrary

Libraries After Dark Summer Series

Libraries After Dark continues across Dandenong and Springvale libraries this summer with both branches open until 10pm. Join in on jewellery making using recycled materials, flower crafting, arts and crafts sessions, games nights, or just pop in for free cuppa or a snack and make some new friends.

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



BIG Summer Read

Your favourite summer reading program, the Summer Reading Club, is returning in 2021–2022 rebranded as a Victorian state-wide initiative, the BIG Summer Read.

Join the challenge again this summer and take part in fun competitions and activities for your chance to win some amazing prizes!

The program encourages young readers to discover stories as they explore and connect with a range of interactive activities available in our libraries and online.

The BIG Summer Read is part of our Libraries Change Lives Campaign which aims to raise awareness of the ways in which libraries have a positive effect on the community.



Summer School Holiday Program

An exciting new range of free school holiday workshops and activities are available for primary aged children and our youth this summer.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries-whatson

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/big-summer-read

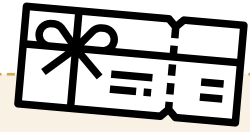
What's on at Drum Theatre

I'll Be Home for Christmas with Rhonda Burchmore

Thursday 9 December, 10.30am

Australia's leading lady of musical theatre, Rhonda Burchmore will bring you a Christmas show full of favourite tunes. Rhonda loves the Drum and can't wait to bring you her season's greetings, accompanied by her Musical Director, Mr Jack Earle. This performance is part of the Drum's Encore Program, all tickets include a complimentary morning tea and parking voucher.

Rhonda Burchmore



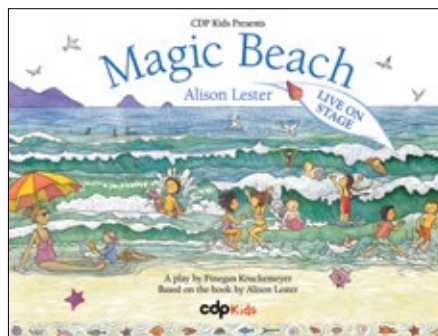
Give the experience of theatre at the Drum – purchase a **Christmas gift voucher!** Visit drumtheatre@cgd.vic.gov.au or call 8571 1666.



Magic Beach

Thursday 27 January, 12pm and 2.30pm

Every year, an everyday family go on a beach holiday. This isn't just any beach – it's *Magic Beach*, where everything you can imagine becomes real. Alison Lester's classic book comes to life on stage for children aged 3–8 years and their adults. This new Australian adaptation from multi-award winning playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer is a celebration of the power of the imagination and the differences that make every child special.



Love In the Time of Corona

Saturday 26 February, 2pm and 7pm

Panic buying, remote learning and love during the pandemic. *Love in the Time of Corona* is heart-warming and hilarious. Written locally and performed by a local youth cast, this innovative performance is produced in partnership with the Drum Theatre and highlights the clash of cultures and identities, while reflecting on the fragility of human emotion and our inter-connectedness through social media and technology.

Isaiah Firebrace – Spirit and Beyond Tour

Saturday 19 March, 8pm

Enjoy the incredible voice, songs, story and spirit of Isaiah Firebrace and his band. Share in the wonder of Isaiah's dream-fulfilling journey from rural small town to X-Factor winner to representing Australia in Eurovision 2017. Isaiah will also be conducting a workshop at the Drum Theatre to encourage children to follow their creative path with confidence.

Isaiah Firebrace



Book your tickets today at [drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum/events](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum/events)



All COVID safe guidelines will be followed to ensure public safety for all events.



New QuickArts video series launched

Arts in Greater Dandenong has launched a new online programming series, QuickArts.

The video series connects viewers with artists from across Australia via recorded tutorials, igniting imaginations and encouraging people to take part in creative arts any time from home.

For more information visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-online)

Shop local and dine outdoors this summer



If people are the soul of any great local community, then small businesses are the heart.

Our small businesses have always made a difference in the City of Greater Dandenong by creating jobs, generating business for local suppliers, and providing donations to beloved charities, schools, events, and sporting clubs.

These uncertain times over the last 18 months have challenged our hospitality industry and impacted our local small businesses. It's important now more than ever before to shop and dine locally to support our resilient traders and help our community continue to flourish.

With restrictions easing, you will see local restaurants and cafes taking up the offer to create a vibrant outdoor dining space. As the delectable scents of restaurant cooking again start to fill the air throughout our municipality, you can now experience the joy of COVID safe outdoor dining across Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale.

Numerous locations throughout the city have outdoor dining options now available as Council received a State Government grant to support local businesses thrive again this summer.

We look forward to welcoming you back to enjoy our wonderful city and hope to see you out and about again soon.

Visit Dandenong Market

Dandenong Market is the best place to pick up the perfect gift these holidays. Why? Because you can find everything in one shop.

Check out the Market's Bazaar and browse the expansive treasures and trinkets at amazing prices. Every parent will love a thoughtful plant or flowers from one of the five thriving florists.

With postal services backlogged and overseas orders delayed, buying in store is the best way to ensure there'll be presents under the tree ready for Christmas day.

Dandenong Market's General Manager, Jennifer Hibbs said after a tough 18 months, the traders are excited to serve the community once again.

"There's a real buzz in the air. We know from our loyal customers how much they've been missed; our non-food traders really deserve a win this year and this is the perfect time to support them. Many of these businesses make 60% of the year's sales in the last three months of the year," said Jennifer.

Gift giving isn't the only reason to shop at Dandenong Market this Christmas. The Meat, Fish and Deli Hall is a one stop shop for Christmas day cooking. Pick up fresh seafood, pre-order the perfect roast chicken or treat the family to a traditional fruit cake from Melina's Bakery and Larder. Or, pop by one of the Market's many fresh fruit and vegetable stalls to stock up on the best tasting seasonal produce to share with loved ones.

Visit Dandenong Market this year for all your needs this festive season.

Special trading days and times are Tuesday 21, Wednesday 22, Thursday 23 and Friday 24 December 7am-4pm. The Market will be closed on Christmas Day Saturday 25 and Boxing Day Sunday 26 December.

 **For more information visit dandenongmarket.com.au**



Photo credit: Dandenong Market

Support for local entrepreneurs

Fifteen local entrepreneurs have been supported by the Ignite Program to help kickstart their new businesses.

Relaunched in June 2021, the Ignite Program offered a range of workshops, masterclasses and mentoring opportunities for participants.

A supportive environment was created for connection, learning and interaction with other aspiring entrepreneurs.

Jeff Crosbie, the founder of Crosby & Marr Music Performance said “the program was a perfect opportunity for me to really focus on my business idea and to explore if I could turn my hobby (playing Irish music) into a viable business”.

As an active Ignite participant, Jeff said he found the weekly workshops provided him with valuable new ideas for his business.

“The program facilitators and mentors, Marcus Barber and Nicolas Bolto, were very knowledgeable. The guest speakers were also inspiring as they reflected on their own start-up journeys and offered Ignite participants great tips and advice,” said Jeff.



Ignite was supported by Nic Bolto's Entrepreneurship Facilitators Program and the Digital Solutions Program, facilitated by the Melbourne Innovation Centre.

Council congratulates the local entrepreneurs for completing their Ignite journey.

Sign up for the Talking Business e-newsletter to learn more about future Ignite Program opportunities at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/talking-business or contact the Economic Development Team at business@cgd.vic.gov.au or on 8571 1550.

Need help with public speaking? Join Toastmasters

Are you horrified by the thought of public speaking?

Do you lack the confidence to create a strong and convincing argument?

Maybe you need this skill for your career or you want to give an entertaining speech at a party? Toastmasters can help you improve your public speaking ability in a supportive environment. At Dandenong-Mulgrave Toastmasters people from all walks of life and backgrounds come together fortnightly to develop public speaking, communication, and leadership skills to enhance your professional and personal life.

Contact Asad on 0424 727 185 to join our next meeting.

For more information visit facebook.com/DandenongMulgraveToastmasters or dandenongmulgrave.toastmastersclubs.org

Supporting our LGBTIQ+ community

Council is working towards improving the inclusion, recognition and community understanding of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, intersex, queer, asexual and questioning (LGBTIQ+) residents and visitors.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/LGBTIQplus

Here is a list of further resources to support the LGBTIQ+ community, their families and allies.

Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council at agmc.org.au

Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives at alga.org.au

National LGBTI Health Alliance at lgbthealth.org.au

QLife at qlife.org.au

Rainbow Families Victoria at pridecentre.org.au/resources/rainbow-families-victoria

Rainbow Health Victoria at rainbowhealthvic.org.au

Rainbow Network at rainbownetwork.com.au

Switchboard Victoria at switchboard.org.au

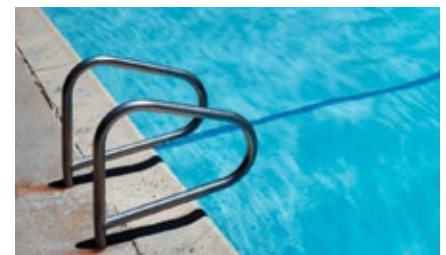
Thorne Harbour Health at thorneharbour.org

Transgender Victoria at transgendervictoria.com

Unite Alliance at youth.greaterdandenong.com

Victoria Police LGBTI Liaison Officers at police.vic.gov.au

Pool and spa registrations



New laws have come into effect to improve swimming pool and spa safety in Victoria.

All property owners need to register their pool and spa with Council as new registration, inspection and certification requirements have been introduced.

For more information visit the Victorian Building Authority website at vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/safety-guides/swimming-pools

GREATER DANDENONG CAROLS

Bringing Christmas Home



**FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2021
7.30PM TO 8.30PM**

A virtual Carols concert
Register at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/carols