


# Talking Business

March 2022

- 
- ▶ **Central Dandenong's Big Build**  
Pages 8–9
  - ▶ **Wara Paring Civil recognised as industry leader**  
Page 11
  - ▶ **Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce 2021 award winners**  
Page 14



## Paul's Corner

Welcome to the first edition of Talking Business 2022.

The first quarter of this year has not been what we had hoped for, with the Omicron strain of COVID-19 presenting us with yet another new set of challenges. Supply chain interruptions, staff shortages and rapid antigen tests have dominated our news headlines, whilst all businesses are coping with the reality of these issues.

We all have a responsibility to remain mindful of the effects these challenges have, not only on our businesses, but on our entire community. Please be patient with each other and support your family, friends, colleagues and where you can, your local business.

In this edition, we'd like to communicate some good news stories and share the success of some of our local businesses. Keysborough civil engineering company Wara Paring Civil has been recognised as a Social and Economic Justice Industry Leader in the 2021 Victorian Sustainability Awards. Read their enriching story on page 11.

On page 5 you can also read about a new local bakery, Country Cob Bakery who opened their doors in Springvale only six months ago and have won multiple medals at the national 2021 Official Great Aussie Pie Competition. Chan Khun who immigrated from Cambodia has built this successful business from the ground up.

We also extend our congratulations to the 2021 Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Business Award winners. To find out who took top honours, read the story on page 14 and find out how your business can take part in this year's awards.

Please enjoy the stories we have for you in this edition of Talking Business and we wish you a productive next quarter. If you're seeking business support don't hesitate to contact our Greater Dandenong Business team via [business@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@cgd.vic.gov.au) or 8571 1550.

**Paul Kearsley**  
**Director Business, Engineering and Major Projects**

## FEATURES



**Country Cob Bakery**

5



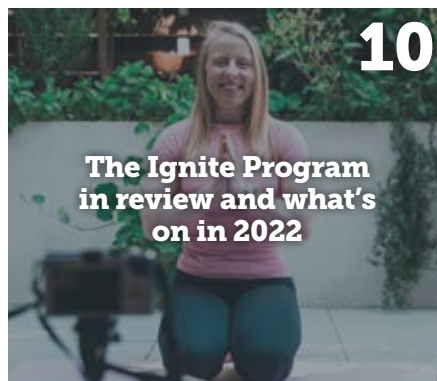
**Small Business Energy Saver Program**

7



**Central Dandenong's Big Build**

8



**The Ignite Program in review and what's on in 2022**

10



**Wara Paring Civil**

11



12



**Energy innovations boosting resilience**

15

**Cover:** "Together" by artist Hayden Dewar. Photography by Hilton Stone

Information was correct at time of publishing. Please check our website for up to date information.

# Take a seat and dine outdoors



Comfortable and inviting outdoor spaces are shaping the way we interact now, so remain supportive of our local businesses and continue to dine and socialise with each other outdoors.

New bench seats, tables and umbrellas have been installed in Palm Plaza – Dandenong’s most occupied public space. The new bench seats, tables and umbrellas improve the comfort of the space and support social connectedness. They are perfect for eating takeaway, meeting informally, or just watching the world go by.

The added comfort of an overhead umbrella enables people to stay longer by reducing the impact of hotter days.

The area has long been a popular place for children who love climbing the synthetic grass cubes. The new furniture is permanently fixed and gives parents and adults a more structured place for respite between the seasonal floral displays.



The furniture was selected for its durability and is made in Australia. The umbrellas are cyclone rated to withstand the wind and are proudly manufactured in Dandenong by family owned and operated business Awnet.

Place based measures are undertaken in Palm Plaza on a regular basis and these insights were used to support

the development of this new space. Results from the 2020 PlaceScore revealed Palm Plaza is valued for having free and comfortable places to sit where people can gather in groups or sit alone.

Palm Plaza is always well populated due to its prime location between the Dandenong Plaza Shopping Centre and Dandenong Market.

## Transforming through art



Art in public spaces influences how we understand and

experience our environment. An uplifting encounter with art on our way between destinations can contribute positively to feelings of attachment, safety and pride.

Artists are energetically embracing the opportunity to bring their work into highly visible public spaces, after enduring a period of reduced workloads in 2021. It’s a ‘win, win’ to have artists working in our activity centres - the arts industry is supported and our public spaces come to life with stories and colour.

New artworks such as Hayden Dewar’s 20-metre long mural entitled *Together* is a welcome sight for residents, visitors and returning office workers in Greater Dandenong. The design acknowledges and celebrates the First Nations people of the area,

its flora and fauna, and the culturally diverse backgrounds of Greater Dandenong residents.

*Together* features two large creatures, the Ringtail Possum and Crow, painted on gum tree branch with a mythical creature called a ‘Solarquin’ sitting at the centre of the work.

The ‘Solarquin’ represents the search for a harmonious existence with nature and each other, a reoccurring thread in many of Hayden’s murals.

Hayden Dewar is an accomplished muralist and painter, with over 17 years’ experience. In 2020 he created, *Roots* in Noble Park which can be seen from the street and train.

Greater Dandenong Council has a program of temporary public art projects which has been implemented over many years, complimenting Councils’ collection of permanent artworks.



*Transformed* is a temporary public art program that applies to Greater Dandenong’s Activity Centres.

# A snapshot of our Greater Dandenong tourism sector

Tourism offerings continue to strengthen across the City of Greater Dandenong, and we are pleased to share these great stories through this magazine.

**If you're a local tourism operator and have a story you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you, or if you have a tourism question, send an email to our Food Enterprise and Tourism Officer, Helen Beekmans via [helen.beekmans@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:helen.beekmans@cgd.vic.gov.au).**

## Victorian Tourism Award Winner

For their leadership in tourism excellence, Melbourne Cable Park was awarded the *Excellence in Accessible Tourism* and came runner's up in the *Adventure Tourism* category at the Victorian Tourism Awards.

Melbourne Cable Park is a world-class outdoor adventure centre, located right here in Bangholme. The

Park is open all year round and offers a choice of exciting and challenging water and non-water based activities suitable for all ages and abilities.

The company will now progress as a national finalist to the Australian Tourism Awards later this year.

**Learn more:**  
[melbournecablepark.com.au](http://melbournecablepark.com.au)



## Did you know?

21

years Afghan Bazaar has traded as a cultural precinct

2011

Multicultural Place in Springvale opened

1962

Springvale-Noble Park and District Memorial Swimming Pool opened

2018

new Noble Park Station opened



## My City of Greater Dandenong

Channel 9's popular travel and lifestyle TV show Postcards filmed a segment in Springvale recently to feature the suburb as one of the state's best food destinations.

Postcards presenter and chef Shane Delia was hosted by the City of Greater Dandenong's Food and Cultural Ambassador Karl Lim as they visited the popular Springvale

Market Square, Bun Bun Bakery and Golden Lake Cake and Roast.

Fresh and unique produce, cheap prices and friendly traders were presented by Karl as Shane and the Postcards crew enjoyed the vibrancy and cultural richness of Springvale.

Book a food and cultural tour to travel the world without your

passport. Various tours are on offer throughout the year, including individual and group tours.

▶ Springvale Fresh Tour  
Monday 11 April, 11:00am

**To book visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-tours](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-tours)**



Chan Khun with his award-winning pies



# Country Cob Bakery



Multiple-award winning bakery, Country Cob opened their third branch in Springvale.

Country Cob Bakery owner Chan Khun migrated to Australia from Cambodia in 2004 and found his passion for baking when he completed a patisserie course at TAFE.

Chan started Country Cob Bakery with his brother Ryan in 2016 and opened his Springvale store on Princes Highway in June last year

after successfully running two other stores in Kyneton and Boronia.

After being open for only six months, the Springvale bakery has taken out top honours in one of the nation's largest bakery competitions.

Their pastry perfection and innovative flavour combination earned them a total of 17 medals, 14 of which were gold at the Official Great Aussie Pie Competition last year.

Being awarded these prestigious titles is a highly anticipated achievement.

"We work very hard on creating our products. Our ultimate goal is for our customers to enjoy every bite of our pies and pastries and of course come back for more," said Chan.

The popularity of Country Cob's pies and pastries has seen them expand the business and is helping create and grow job opportunities for locals.

When asked why they chose Springvale as the location of their new store, Chan said: "Springvale is

an Asian community and food hub, and we would like to be part of the food trend in Springvale".

***"Our ultimate goal is for our customers to enjoy every bite of our pies and pastries and of course come back for more."***

Hundreds of pies are handmade every day and you can buy them warm or cold, and by the box. They are also affordable, with most well under \$10.

This outstanding business has demonstrated that passion and persistence does pay off.

**Where: 890-892 Springvale Road, Springvale.**



Business operating conditions are subject to current COVID-19 restrictions.



# International day of forests

Forests play an essential role in sustaining life on earth. They keep the air we breathe clean, provide drinking water for over a third of the world's cities and are responsible for 50 per cent of the fruit, nuts and spices that we eat.

International Day of Forests on 21 March is an opportunity to reflect on how important these ecosystems are and what we can do to protect them.

Our forests absorb approximately two billion tonnes of carbon dioxide each year, fighting climate change and keeping the air that we breathe clean. Unfortunately, deforestation is growing and accounts for nearly 20 per cent of all greenhouse gas

emissions – greater than the entire transport sector worldwide.

Greater Dandenong City Council recently adopted the *Urban Forest Strategy* with a vision of a healthy, green, and resilient urban forest that is well managed, protected and provides benefits to the community.

**What can your business do to help? The answer starts in your bathroom. Did you know 27,000 trees are cut down every day just to make regular toilet paper? Simply swap out toilet paper made from virgin trees for a recycled paper alternative.**

With your support we can help reduce Greater Dandenong's carbon emissions and grow our urban forest.

**Learn more: [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy-2021-28](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/urban-forest-strategy-2021-28).**



## Better support for our local businesses

Greater Dandenong City Council, in partnership with Small Business Victoria has implemented the Better Approvals Project.

In the last 12 months, the Better Approvals Team at Greater Dandenong has engaged with and assisted over 70 businesses to

understand and navigate the Council permit process.

Ranging from start-ups to large manufacturers, the service has been a welcomed initiative for businesses.

Approximately 80 per cent of business enquiries were received from businesses or people starting up in the food industry, with cafes and food manufacturers the highest type of enquiries received.

Health and beauty businesses and home-based businesses were also prevalent in 2021.

The ongoing effects of the pandemic has led to a lot of business start-up enquiries and businesses being launched.

If you are thinking of starting a business, please contact the Economic Development Team to assist you in your journey so you can obtain the right permits from Council.

**To learn more about the services or to speak to the team, contact us via email [business@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 8571 1550.**

# Small Business Energy Saver Program

The Small Business Energy Saver Program is an initiative that has run since July 2021 by Sustainability Victoria to help reduce carbon emissions and energy use in Victoria.

South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) has been contracted to perform the engagement for this program, speaking to and helping small business owners understand the process and start their journey towards new equipment upgrades.

The program focuses on upgrading current equipment to more energy efficient equipment, such as hot water systems, air conditioning, fridges and more.

To date, SECCCA has engaged with 448 small businesses, with 74 businesses within the City of Greater Dandenong. There are currently 32 Dandenong businesses that have started the process.

“Victoria provided great customer service and the entire process was extremely easy. We are very happy with our new upright fridge and the discount we received. I would recommend the Small Business Energy Saver Program to other businesses, especially with the help that SECCCA can provide. The process was very streamlined with expert assistance from start to finish,” said Sam, Business Operations Consultant from the Overland Group.

The benefits to businesses have included a mixture of cost savings, being environmentally friendly and receiving help when they need it most.

**For more information on business energy efficiency, please contact Victoria on 0493 200 719 or [vgerrard@secca.org.au](mailto:vgerrard@secca.org.au).**

**Giving small businesses the power to take charge of their energy bills**

Make the switch now

[sustainability.vic.gov.au/small-business-energy-saver](https://sustainability.vic.gov.au/small-business-energy-saver)

## Springvale Boulevard update



The Springvale Boulevard project is well underway, with footpath and road upgrades on Springvale Road between Balmoral Avenue and Windsor Avenue.

Springvale’s community and visitors will soon have an improved pedestrian experience with new garden beds, paving, furniture and lighting to enhance local safety.

During construction, parking bays along Springvale Road will be temporarily unavailable and will be reinstated when safe to do so. In the meantime, parking will be available at ‘Number 8’ Balmoral multi-deck car park and the Warwick Avenue car parks.

While works progress in the area, it is more important than ever to support traders who line the Springvale Boulevard with stores still open during normal trading hours.

Council thanks traders for their understanding during this period of construction and the community for continuing to shop locally despite disruptions.

**Please contact the MACA Infrastructure team on 1300 348 040 or 8373 4040 for more information.**

**For any general enquiries about the project, please email [SpringvaleBoulevard@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:SpringvaleBoulevard@cgd.vic.gov.au).**



## Start 2022 with a bang

Successful businesses plan ahead. Spend your time wisely and concentrate on areas that will help your business succeed. The ATO has a range of information, tools, and services to help you form the habits that will keep your small business on track. It’s part of their commitment to improve your tax and super experience and to support you and your small business.

**Learn more at [ato.gov.au/sbhabits](https://ato.gov.au/sbhabits).**

# Central Dandenong's **BIG BUILD**

The Revitalising Central Dandenong (RCD) initiative is intended to transform central Dandenong into a vibrant and thriving economic hub.

The project is expected to attract more than \$1 billion in private sector investment, create 5,000 jobs, and enhance Dandenong's appeal as a place to live, work and visit. Around \$700 million has been invested to date to rejuvenate and re-establish Dandenong's city centre as the capital of Melbourne's growing south east region.

Development Victoria is working in partnership with the City of Greater Dandenong, state government agencies, and the private sector to achieve the goals of the RCD initiative, encouraging new development and job-creating economic activity.

With Dandenong as its heart, Melbourne's south east region produces almost half of Victoria's manufacturing output and is home to more than one million people.

Several significant projects are currently under construction in central Dandenong. Planning is underway for a number of new projects including the recent appointment by Development Victoria of Melbourne-based developer Capital Alliance who has been selected for the next phase of the RCD project to develop the Foster Street precinct near the Dandenong Railway station.







### Salvation Army Dandenong Hub Project

16 George Street, Dandenong

Building is underway on a new \$13.5 million hub for the Salvation Army in Dandenong. It is anticipated that the new mission centre will open in mid-2022.

Located on the corner of George and Cadle Streets in Dandenong, the building will enable the Salvation Army to bring together activities and services that are located across multiple sites. The Dandenong Corps faith community, thrift shop and community services will come together in the new building to enable the Salvation Army to improve services and explore new opportunities to serve the community of Greater Dandenong.

Designed by Antartica architects, the building is being constructed by Johns Lyng commercial builders.



### Launch Families Supportive Housing Project

1 Allan Street, Dandenong

Construction is well underway on \$31 million Families Supportive Housing initiative in Dandenong. The project by Launch Housing will contain 60 apartments and is being built in partnership with Uniting Care Australia to house and support women and children, including those impacted by family violence.

Designed by ARM Architecture, the building is being constructed by Camillo Builders, part of the Crema Group.



### Children's Court of Victoria

153 Foster Street, Dandenong

This prime site in the heart of Dandenong will provide a five-level commercial building with the Children's Court of Victoria being the major tenant. The modern and striking building is a welcome addition to the local area.

Developed by DealCorp and designed by CHT Architects, the building is being constructed by Hamilton Marino Builders.



### Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery

5 Mason Street, Dandenong

The Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery redevelopment proposal for the existing 1920s Masonic Hall at 5 Mason Street is an exciting new initiative celebrating art and culture in Greater Dandenong.

Refurbishments and extensions will create the Dandenong New Art (DNA) Gallery – a new centre with facilities for Australian touring art exhibitions, curation space for emerging and professional artists, and community spaces for creative activities and community gatherings.

As the Masonic Hall is a significant heritage building, the designs for the art gallery respect the importance of the Masonic Hall while introducing a new contemporary art space.

*"The RCD initiative is expected to attract more than \$1 billion in private sector investment, create 5,000 jobs, and enhance Dandenong's appeal as a place to live, work and visit."*



### The Lonsdale Apartments

27 Scott Street, Dandenong

The \$25 million residential apartment development has been designed in careful response to its corner site. The tower is articulated with open views to the west and the polychromatic brickwork of the church to the north. Lower car parking levels are screened by a perforated "supergraphic" skin cladding with stylised tree form motifs. Articulation of the upper tower provides a recognisable silhouette, while a sticking panel enhances the dominant northern facade.

Developed by Philidor Property Group, designed by Doig Architects and constructed by Wolf Group, the 14-level mixed use apartment building will contain over 100 apartments and offer ground level retail space.



## Business recovery and resilience mentoring program

Kickstart your business in 2022 with free business mentoring to help you navigate the economic challenges of the past two years.

Through the Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring Program you'll receive four two-hour sessions with an industry professional for advice on business recovery, market transformation, digital engagement and more, tailored specifically to your business.

**Apply now at [business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-recovery-and-resilience-mentoring](https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-recovery-and-resilience-mentoring).**

## Right of entry for support animals

For many people with a disability an assistance animal can be of physical and emotional support, vital for daily living. Blind people, ex-service people with post-traumatic stress disorder, people with autism and those with physical disabilities are taxpayers, ratepayers and customers. When welcomed with the support of their animals they make up a growing and considerable portion of our community.

You cannot discriminate, refuse entry or service to someone legally accompanied by a working guide, hearing or assistance dog. Even if you generally don't allow customers to bring animals into the premises, working dog guides are assistance animals and by law are allowed access to any public areas accessed by customers.

All assistance animals are kept clean, are well trained and can navigate public places. If for some reason you are unsure about an assistance animal, you can sensitively ask the person accompanying the animal for some form of identification. Handlers are happy to provide you with documentation.

# The Ignite Program in review and what's on in 2022



Cat Lane from Virtual Movement Studio

***"For anyone seeking to start or grow their business I couldn't recommend this program more highly..."***



The Ignite Program 2021 concluded with a successful Graduation

Food Tour in central Dandenong. The graduates were delighted to network and enjoy the great food from the local Afghan restaurant.

Previous participant Cat Lane, the founder of Virtual Movement Studio said: "Participating in the Ignite Program with Greater Dandenong Council has been a real highlight of my 2021. Through the Ignite Program I have had the opportunity to regularly meet with other small business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as be mentored by successful business professionals. A combination of pragmatic business support and a high level of accountability have helped me to gain new clarity on the best direction for my business moving forward".

Given the success of last years' Ignite Program, Council will be facilitating the program again this year which

is scheduled to begin in March. If you are looking to start a business or need help with your start-up, this program may just be for you. The Ignite Program offers free workshops and one-on-one mentoring for people who are looking to start a new business.

"Since completing the Ignite Program I have taken action to shift my business from a yoga teacher operating as a sole trader (and on the verge of burnout) to successfully launching an online teaching platform and running my own Virtual Movement Studio. For anyone seeking to start or grow their business I couldn't recommend this program more highly and now look forward to reconnecting with new friends and colleagues in the future," Cat said.

**Please register your interest at [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ignite-program](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ignite-program) or email [business@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@cgd.vic.gov.au) to participate.**



# Wara Paring Civil recognised as 'industry leader' in under one year



An Indigenous-owned, Keysborough construction company has won multiple accolades for its organisational excellence, including at the recent Premier's Sustainability Awards.

Director Leon Egan established Wara Paring Civil in 2021 with three other Aboriginal business partners, supported by Melbourne Water and Aqua Metro Services, which inspired the organisation's name.

"Wara Paring means 'come walk the path together'," says Mr Egan who has worked as an Indigenous Engagement and Education Manager, including for the AFL Players' Association.

"Back in 2016 I first worked with Aqua Metro Services as the company was putting in an EOI (expression of interest) for Melbourne Water and they asked me for advice regarding the Indigenous component. This led to a cultural

awareness training workshop and in 2018 I was invited back again.

"Melbourne Water and Aqua Metro Services recognised an opportunity to challenge what they were doing in the Indigenous space. I could see they were authentic to support an Indigenous business start-up that had a real opportunity for young Aboriginal people to work on Country.

"This was the catalyst to get Wara Paring Civil up and running but first we had to create and participate in an 18-month training program with Aqua Metro Services, which we finished in March 2021," recalls Mr Egan.

The group then won a two-year contract with Melbourne Water, which Wara Paring Civil began on 1 April 2021 with a commitment to look after and care for the waterways and land.

"It's our responsibility and it's how we grew up. We do that hand in hand with Melbourne Water and we're the only

Indigenous business offering non-destructive digging," Mr Egan says.

"We work in collaboration with local company Evergreen Environmental to recycle an increasing amount of waste materials and by-products, including topsoil.

"We dig without having to put excavators and backhoes in the ground, so we're not digging 'blindly'. We use high-pressure water and vacuum loading to find what we need under the ground."

Wara Paring Civil's sustainable practices led to its win of *Social and Economic Justice Industry Leader* in the 2021 Victorian Sustainability Awards and has taken out three other major awards over the past year.

The company aims to acquire more trucks this year to create jobs for local Indigenous youth.

**Learn more:** [waraparingcivil.com.au](http://waraparingcivil.com.au).

## Manufacturing Boost for Circular Economy

Victoria's recycling will receive a major boost with a \$36.5 million investment provided by the state government, together with the Australian Government.

Numerous projects across the state are receiving funding to upgrade and establish new recycling facilities, including Garden City Plastics Pty Ltd located in Dandenong.

Garden City Plastics Pty Ltd will expand its Dandenong facility, with the installation of new equipment

which will increase the use of recycled plastic in their production of plant pots. The project will also create 30 full-time local ongoing jobs for the community.

Funding will help support Victoria to meet growing infrastructure requirements resulting from the national waste export ban on certain categories of paper and cardboard, plastics, glass and tyres.

**Learn more:** [sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://sustainability.vic.gov.au)

## Reach out to the ATO if you need help

There are times when a business can experience difficulties and have trouble lodging or paying by the due date. Whatever your situation, talk to the ATO or your registered tax professional, and they can work out a solution that is right for you. If you've fallen behind with your lodgements and payments, start the new year by working with the ATO to help you get back on track.

**For more information visit** [www.ato.gov.au/supportlodgeandpay](http://www.ato.gov.au/supportlodgeandpay)

## SEBN Network Groups

Our networks/common interest groups are designed specifically for manufacturers and women in business. The suite of networks, which are free of charge, offer a forum in which participants can learn from each other, share experiences and expertise, keep abreast of emerging trends and issues of impact through specialist presenters - and use the power within the networks to find practical solutions to everyday problems. An overview of three regular networks on offer include the following, with the remainder to feature in the June edition of Talking Business.

**Mfg Leadership** - targeting CEOs and senior staff, the focus is on leadership and management perspectives. The group looks at current issues impacting the manufacturing sector and those issues set to impact the sector in the future. Through a combination of discussion and presentation, issues raised in this group are frequently a catalyst for further activities and workshops.

**Mfg Xcellence** - a common interest network for companies looking to adopt or improve lean principles across the shop floor, operations and administration. Facilitating interaction and collaboration between participants, the network provides practitioners with the opportunity to explore new ideas, technologies and tools. Incorporates visits to 'best practice' companies and provides exposure to global trends, new technologies and management principles.

**Developing Young Leaders** - with a focus on young and emerging leaders across various business sectors, this network provides an opportunity to connect with and learn from peers, expert facilitators and industry leaders as you navigate the changes and challenges faced as a leader. Join us to develop your skills in leading self and others, deepen your impact and unlock your leadership potential.

SEBN's theme for 2022 is *shifting mindsets*, something for us all to consider in today's world - including SEBN.

We are also keen to highlight our own achievers during 2022 - those who attend network meetings and events, those we know and admire or those we would like to know more about. Local knowledge is invaluable - sharing it with others is at the heart of everything SEBN does. If you would like to speak or know someone with a particular expertise/interesting experience to share, please email [SEBN@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:SEBN@cgd.vic.gov.au). Site visits are also welcomed.

In addition to regular network meetings, SEBN offers ad hoc workshops to explore solutions on often complicated issues that arise, together with regular events open to all businesses throughout the year.

**If you're not yet part of the SEBN suite of networks and would like to meet and learn with fellow manufacturers or women in business, simply contact us via email at [SEBN@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:SEBN@cgd.vic.gov.au).**

SEBN works closely with valued alliance partner, SEMMA - the leading advocate for local manufacturers that works to bring manufacturing opportunities to the region. SEBN's role is to ensure when those opportunities arise, local manufacturers are well-equipped and capable to take advantage of those opportunities.



## International Women's Day

At the time of going to press, we were looking forward to this year's International Women's Day event on 10 March with special guest, the dynamic and talented Felicity Furey and local member and Minister for Women, The Hon Gabrielle Williams. Always an enjoyable way to catch up with friends and colleagues, this popular event is held in partnership with the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce.

## Take a Swing for Charity

Scheduled for the fabulous Victoria Golf Club on 23 February, a fun day of competition and friendly rivalry in idyllic weather was being highly anticipated at time of writing. With a target of raising more than \$40k for local charity Wellsprings for Women this year, this event has raised more than \$500,000 over the past 12 years - changing many lives forever.

Thanks to all participants, supporters, and sponsors.



macpherson kelley.



City of Greater Dandenong

INDUSTRY GOLF DAY

TAKE A Swing FOR CHARITY



Wednesday 23 February 2022

## Building a bright future

Many in our business community have participated in community revitalisation projects in recent years, as we continue to test different approaches to support both employers and jobseekers, creating a better match for both parties. This work will continue as we implement a new strategic direction designed to improve the way our local employment system functions.

We have a framework co-designed with a range of stakeholders during 2021 and will gather input to build the implementation plan during the first half of 2022.



For this bold initiative to succeed, we need your involvement as we map out the next steps in this longer-term endeavour.

**Keep an eye on your inbox for updates and invitations and/or email [onepercentproject@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:onepercentproject@cgd.vic.gov.au) to register your interest.**



Haar's wholesale nursery

## Employer Insights

No-one knows a business better than those who work in it. This has been the approach of the Employer Insights project implemented by SEBN's community revitalisation project with businesses in the south east. Prompted by the pandemic conditions that saw so much activity move online, this project sends a film crew into participating businesses to capture 'behind the scenes' activity, testimonials from employees and an overview from the business owner/manager.

The videos are being showcased on the SEBN website, with

additional sectors being added as videos are completed. Students, jobseekers and employees looking for a new workplace now have a birds-eye view into local manufacturing, food production, electronics, pharmaceutical and confectionary businesses.

Haar's Nursery (pictured) is one of Australia's leading wholesale production nurseries that is profiled in the video series.

**If you would like to showcase your business and the career opportunities it offers, email [Jennifer.Ebdon@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jennifer.Ebdon@cgd.vic.gov.au).**

## Making: Our Future

Watch out for the street flags being installed across the municipality to celebrate and highlight Manufacturing Week. Co-designed with young people, the images on the flags underpin an ongoing marketing campaign promoting careers in the manufacturing sector to young people and their influencers – teachers, family members and peers.

Supporting our own thriving manufacturing base ensures our future security and attracting new entrants to the sector will help fuel its growth. *Making: Our Future* is all about promoting the myriad career opportunities manufacturing offers to young workers to ensure a talent pipeline for existing and future businesses.

A range of activities are planned for 2022 to promote careers in manufacturing and we welcome your participation and support as we spread the message, *Making: Our Future*.

# FUTURE MADE



**MANUFACTURING**  
where anything is possible

[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/future-made](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/future-made)



In this issue of *Talking Business* we hear from the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce on how they continue to support local businesses and help them stay connected.

Following the easing of government restrictions, the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce held their much-anticipated Business Awards Presentation Dinner at Palmyra Hall on Thursday 2 December 2021.

Hosting over 100 people, the night was buzzing with people coming together to celebrate local businesses, network with like-minded people and enjoy the reintroduction of face-to-face events after a long year of restrictions.

The big winner of the night was Dandenong-based business KLM Spatial, who took out not only the *Innovation and Sustainability Award*, but also the overall *Business of the Year Award*. KLM Spatial offers land development consulting services and has recently adopted virtual reality (VR) technology to create a realistic rendering of their building designs.

“You can walk through the house design with VR and understand the product that will be built. It’s not just an artistic render,” said Damian Rivalland from KLM Spatial.

Winner of the *Young Enterprise Award* was inspiring engineer Natalie D’Rozario who recently graduated from Chisholm Institute with a Bachelor Degree in Engineering Technology. Natalie was just one of three females in her class studying to be in an industry still dominated by males.



Aaron Goodall, Damian Rivalland and Ryan Flack from KLM Spatial.

“I want to inspire girls as well as anyone who wants to pursue a career in this field. I want to show them that there is this opportunity,” said Natalie after her award win.

Other winners included Classic Grillz (*New Business Award*), The Footcare Clinic (*Small Business Award*), ABU Engineering (*Manufacturing & Construction Award*), Dandenong Club (*Hospitality & Tourism Award*) and Sandown Greyhound Racing Club (*Corporate Social Responsibility Award*).

Nominations for the 2022 Greater Dandenong Chamber Business Awards are now open and this year will be bigger and better with more award categories than ever before. The business awards program is

free to enter and aims to provide businesses with recognition for outstanding business achievements and contributions to the Greater Dandenong area.

The awards give businesses the unique opportunity to promote their brand and engage with the local business community like never before.

“As a Chamber awards finalist, your business is supported and promoted through new platforms to generate opportunities to share your success story and to influence stakeholders, including other businesses,” said Lisa Moore, the Chamber’s President.

**Learn more at**  
[greaterdandenongchamber.com.au/awards/awards-information](https://greaterdandenongchamber.com.au/awards/awards-information).

## Halal butcher “meats” demand at Dandenong Market

A new butcher at Dandenong Market has filled the community need for quality halal meat.

JJ’s Halal Meats opened earlier this month, run by Tony Memeti who has been involved in the butcher and poultry industry for the past 12 years.

Coming from an Albanian background, Tony says that the Market, being the most multicultural city in Australia, is the perfect location for providing quality halal

lamb and beef products to the culture-rich community.

“I look forward to building long-lasting relations with new customers and our experienced butchers Graham and Matt really enjoy educating them about our range,” Tony said.

Selling quality fresh Australian halal lamb and beef at an affordable price, JJ’s Halal Meats is sure to become a destination to visit on your next shopping day to the Market.



Graham and Matt from JJ’s Halal Meats.  
The copyright of photo belongs to Dandenong Market.



# Energy innovations boosting resilience

For manufacturers, interruptions to power supply can cost tens of thousands of dollars. Extreme weather events and their resulting disruptions are impacting the bottom lines of companies Australia-wide.

Renewable energy generation and battery storage systems are putting manufacturers back in charge of how they use power to grow their business.

REDEI Enterprises located in Dandenong South are Clean Energy Council (CEC) accredited designers and installers who regularly provide their customers with bespoke, renewables-based systems to mitigate the financial challenges posed by energy uncertainty for manufacturers. This includes manufacturing their own lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries to support their energy storage systems under the 'Australian Made' banner.

REDEI Managing Director Max Coulthard, said: "Just over two years ago, we threw out everything we knew about batteries and started over; we wanted to make the best batteries in the world".

"Although some of our engineers have been manufacturing LFP batteries for over 10 years, our contemporary models are light years ahead of earlier iterations."

Cost, safety and performance advantages are driving *manufacturers* towards *LFP batteries* for both electric vehicle (EV) and energy storage applications. As solar generated power is increasingly adopted by the manufacturing sector, so too is the use of battery storage systems for reliable power distribution.

During the 2020 bushfires, essential supply and monitoring of regional sewage and water supply systems were subject to numerous blackouts. However, the renewable energy system REDEI installed stood out as the only local system which maintained uninterrupted power supply and continuous performance reporting.

"We never lost communication with that system, but all others did at some point during the fire period.

"Resilience in the key mantra of government and industry, and we love solving problems as a complete solutions provider," said Max.

REDEI Enterprises are now eyeing off providing energy and storage solutions for customers' needs on a global scale, where businesses with unreliable or limited power such as in cases where single wire earth return power supplies exist.

Max recognises that change is difficult when businesses often see energy supply as a necessary burden, rather than an opportunity to increase performance, build resilience and significantly reduce their energy costs to gain a competitive advantage.

"The fundamental issue is businesses have the capacity to control their power now.

"I encourage businesses to consider the whole-life cost of a renewables-based system as opposed to just the up-front costs," said Max.

Renewable-based systems are becoming more efficient. This, combined with flexible finance options such as rent, lease or buy your renewable energy system, means tenants not just owner-occupier manufacturers, now see attractive whole of life returns achievable when incorporating renewables into their power strategy.

**This story was supplied by SEMMA. SEMMA is the peak industry association representing over 200 leading manufacturing companies located in south east Melbourne, Australia's most dynamic manufacturing region.**

**Learn more at [semma.com.au](http://semma.com.au).**

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