

Greater Dandenong Council News



NPAC New Gym Opens

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Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,
Keysborough

All correspondence to:
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-  **Phone: 8571 1000**
-  www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au
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-  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

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's message

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

I hope the start to the year is going well for you and your family.

I had the pleasure of viewing the new state of the art gym at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC). The facilities are impressive, and I encourage you to sign up as a gym member so you can keep active and Make Your Move, read more on page 3.



You'll also see on page 3 that we are proud to host our annual Sustainability Festival, back at the Dandenong Market, on Sunday 26 February.

Council has several ways to support you to declutter your home. One way is to attend the Reuse and Recycle Day on Saturday 25 February at Greaves Reserve in Dandenong, read more on page 6.

In this last month of summer, enjoy the various events and festivals on offer. You'll see on page 7 that Open Air Movie screenings will again be held in Harmony Square, Dandenong and at the Springvale Community Hub.

Our young leaders are inspiring, read all about their recent achievements throughout Greater Dandenong on page 10.

Explore your own backyard this month and appreciate the cultural diversity we are fortunate to have throughout Greater Dandenong.

Eden Foster

**Mayor
Cr Eden Foster**

My City

New neon lighting has been installed in shop windows to bring the popular cultural destination Little India in Dandenong to life.



Traders selected lighting designs by Electric Confetti to celebrate their Indian culture and motifs associated with flora, fauna and special occasions.

The new lighting enhances the night-time shopping experience in the area.

The project was delivered with funding from the Victorian Government's Community Infrastructure and Cultural Precincts Program.

Greater Dandenong City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture and Country.



Front cover: Mayor, Cr Eden Foster with South East Leisure Chief Executive Officer, John Clark and Michael Zeman, Venue Manager (Aquatics) in front of the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) gym. Visit southeastleisure.com.au for more information.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely. It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.



NPAC's new state of the art gym now open



Council acknowledges the \$3.3 million contribution from the Victorian Government towards this construction.

SCAN THE QR CODE



South East Leisure is thrilled to have opened the doors to the new Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) state-of-the-art gym.

The new facility includes a dedicated reformer pilates studio, functional training space, cycling studio and multiple group fitness rooms.

The new gym is fitted out with the latest Life Fitness weights and cardio equipment, providing the best user experience from beginners all the way through to advanced gym users.

MyZone Heart Rate Training is also available throughout the entire facility, along with the latest AV technology delivering on-demand virtual group fitness with great audio and high-quality displays across multiple plasma TVs. The venue is looking to operate extended hours in 2023, based on user demand.

Sign up for your new gym membership today by scanning this QR code to redeem a special offer. Use the code word 'GDCN Discount' to remove the joining fee, saving up to \$99.



South East Leisure



Visit southeastleisure.com.au for more information and follow South East Leisure's social media platforms for updates.

Sustainability Festival



The Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival returns this year to the iconic Dandenong Market.

On Sunday 26 February the Market's outdoor terrace will transform into a sustainability haven jam-packed with exciting environmentally friendly activities.

The festival will be split into zones including the Garden Kids Eco Zone, Waste Way, Transport Town, Power Place and the Talk Tent. Within these zones you will find:

- ▶ help accessing the State Government's \$250 Power Saving Bonus, which is money to help you save on your energy bills
- ▶ energy saving advice for both renters and homeowners
- ▶ free veggie and herb seedlings and advice on how to plant and look after them in places from big backyards to small apartments

- ▶ free kombucha from our festival supporters and local business Remedy
- ▶ everything you need to know about the single use plastic ban, reducing food waste and recycling
- ▶ inspiring talks from local climate activists who are working to make our city greener.

Children will be able to get earthy with nature play, get crafty with recycled materials and meet our favourite sustainability crusaders Harry Habitat and Lily Litterbug.

For those who need some space away from the festival, 39 Clow Street (next door to the Market) will be open as a quiet space. Come in, take a seat and watch environmental films for as long as you need.

We are encouraging everyone to bring their own reusable drink bottle to the event as well as any unused second-hand clothes for donation to a clothing collection. Save clothes from going to landfill and help them find a new home with people in need. You will also receive a free Boomerang Bag in exchange for your donation.



As part of the National Sustainable Living Festival 2023, the Sustainability Festival will be held at Dandenong Market on Sunday 26 February, from 10am–3pm.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival for more information.

Councillor Contacts



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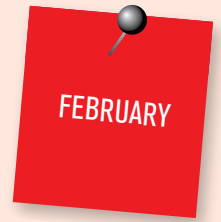
Council Meetings

Council meetings are usually held in the city chambers of the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ Monday 13 February
- ▶ Monday 27 February.

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**



Join the Springvale Community Hub Committee



Council is seeking community representatives to join the Springvale Community Hub Committee.

Candidates are invited to apply who have interests in community development and engagement, arts, sustainability, business, education, health and wellbeing and placemaking.

The purpose of the Springvale Community Hub Committee is to provide strategic advice to Council on a range of matters that also align to the Hub's action plan.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-hub-nominations for more information.

Applications close on Sunday 19 February.

Join the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

Do you have a passion for local history and heritage?

Council is seeking expressions of interest for membership to the Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

Council is committed to the protection, management and celebration of the region's cultural heritage, including the development and management of Council's Civic and Cultural Heritage Collection and support for local historical societies.

The Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee provides high level support, specialised independent knowledge and advocacy for the implementation of Greater Dandenong's vision for heritage as outlined in the *Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy 2022–26*.

Applications are being considered for community members as well as independent professional members.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or email culturalheritage@cgd.vic.gov.au

Applications close on Tuesday 28 February.

Cr Angela Long

► Cleeland Ward



I want to use my column this month to promote the Dandenong North Senior Citizens Club, which is located at 41A Latham Crescent, Dandenong North.

The club meets three times a week for social activities.

Membership fees are \$5 per year and \$1 per visit for your cup of tea or coffee plus an individual packet of a couple of biscuits.

Mondays and Thursdays we have a friendly game of bingo, the club opens at 11am and bingo starts at 1pm and finishes about 2.30pm.

Fridays we have carpet bowls starting at 1pm to 4.30pm and snooker starting at 12pm to 2.30pm.

If you do not drive, we can arrange for the community bus to pick you up and take you back home again on Mondays and Thursdays.

During COVID-19 we were locked down for a lot of the two years and many of



our outings were put on hold. Now that we have more freedom the club will be going on more outings.

We are a very friendly bunch of people and we are looking for more members, so if you are looking for some activities during the week please contact myself, the President on 0466 004 616 or the Secretary/Treasurer Maria Kreuzer on 0466 634 616.



If you have any Council-related inquiries please contact me on 0466 004 616, or email angela.long@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Springvale South Ward



The Burden Park precinct has undergone a lot of work over the years and continues to be a popular place for locals and visitors.

Late last year Council completed works to upgrade the Burden Park Tennis Club. All six tennis courts were converted from clay to synthetic grass. The \$1.17 million project was jointly funded by the State Government, Council and the tennis club.

I want to offer an update on the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Harold and Corrigan Roads in Noble Park. Statistics taken from previous years showed the intersection was dangerous, but traffic lights will help make conditions safer for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Council is working with the Department of Transport to resolve some issues at the site. A contractor was appointed late last year, and at the time of writing my column Council was waiting to get

Cr Loi Truong

the all clear from the Department. Once we have a green light construction will commence, which we expect will be completed by mid-2023.

Finally, many residents will have noticed major works at Springvalley Reserve. Part of the reserve was closed to the public for a long time while Council added a clay cap to the site which was once used as a landfill for rubbish.

Topsoil has been laid and once grass covers the site it will be reopened to the public. Walking paths and picnic tables will also be re-established on the site so people can make use of this valuable open space. Once physical works are completed Council will create a master plan to identify future improvements to the reserve.



In the meantime, if you would like to get in touch with me I can be reached via email at loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone on 0466 004 618.

Declutter your home




With the holiday season over, now is a great time to declutter your home and consider giving a new life to unwanted items.

Reduce your waste to landfill by donating reusable items or seek a second life for recyclable material at the Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day at Greaves Reserve, 2–20 Bennet Street, Dandenong, on Saturday 25 February.

Drop off larger unwanted electronic and household goods, including televisions, computers, whitegoods, furniture, mattresses and bicycles for free. Good quality items will be donated to charity, while other items will be recycled.

The November 2022 Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day saw many good quality bicycles donated to local charity Brainwave Bikes. The bikes will be given a new life and sold through a charity shop, which raises money for families and children with brain injuries and illnesses. Brainwave Bikes will be collecting unwanted bikes again on 25 February.


Residents attending the Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day may bring up to 15 items by car or small trailer, these items will be removed for you with no need to get out of your vehicle.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day for more information.

Recycle smaller unwanted household items from the comfort of home via the one-off kerbside collection Homecycle.

Items including clothes, linen, homewares, toys, games, sporting equipment and small electrical items can be added to your kerbside yellow lid bin the day after your normal collection day for pick up. Homecycle will run from Tuesday 7 March to Saturday 18 March.

Items will be passed onto charities once collected.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle for more information.



Council saves \$50K on energy bill



Council is celebrating slashing our energy bills and reducing our carbon emissions during the first year of a collaboration with 51 other Victorian councils.

The Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO) has signed a long-term renewable energy contract under Australia's largest ever emissions reduction project by local government.

During the 2021/22 financial year VECO has saved Council more than \$50,000 on our electricity bills and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 3278 tonnes.

A long-term contract with Red Energy will continue to protect us from record high wholesale prices in the coming years and help to increase the stability of the state's energy system.

Greater Dandenong City Council Mayor, Cr Eden Foster said the savings would help Council realise its vision to become one of Australia's most sustainable cities by 2030.

"Climate change impacts our environment, society and economy. The VECO program is helping our council to lead the way in reducing our emissions and tackling the threat of climate change.

"This program also shows the value of collaboration in local government. The first year of VECO has delivered fantastic savings, which means the money we would have spent powering our buildings and facilities can now be spent on vital programs and services for our community.

"Effective collaboration has enabled us to deliver stronger climate action, while supporting the Victorian economy, the renewable energy transition and allowing our ratepayers' dollars to go further," the Mayor said.

The renewable energy is being provided by two wind farms in Victoria – Dundonnell Wind Farm near Mortlake and Murra Warra II Wind Farm near Horsham.

 Visit veco.org.au for more information.



Reduce your waste to landfill by donating reusable items...

Noble Park Community Fun Day – 4 March



Enjoy a day of free entertainment and celebrate what makes Noble Park special at the Noble Park Community Fun Day on 4 March.

Join us for a variety of fun, free activities for the whole family, including live music and cultural performances, a rock-climbing wall, petting zoo, sports activities, and art and craft workshops.

Organised in collaboration with the Noble Park Youth Committee, the day will celebrate the local area and Noble Park's rich diversity.

Jan Wilson Community Centre



An action-packed activities calendar is available at the Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North.

This facility provides a safe and caring environment for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and interests, and offers a great range of adult health and fitness classes and playgroups to the local community.

Join in on adult exercise and fitness classes, yoga and meditation sessions and Zumba classes. Lots of fun to be had, see you soon.



FREE

Join us on Saturday 4 March, from 11am–3pm, at the Noble Park Skate Park and surrounds (Memorial Drive, Noble Park).

Funded through the Noble Park Revitalisation Project, the Community Fun Day ran in 2022 as the Noble Park Big Day Out.

Access to Memorial Drive will be blocked from Heatherton Road on the day.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/noble-park-community-day for more information.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-venues/jan-wilson-community-centre or phone 8571 1436.

Open Air Movies in Greater Dandenong

Enjoy a family favourite movie under the stars when the Open Air Movies program returns to Greater Dandenong.

A diverse range of films will feature every Friday night in February and for the first three weeks in March, from 7pm.



Join us at Harmony Square, Dandenong for screenings:

3 February – Lion (PG)

10 February – The Wizard of Oz (G)

17 February – He Named me Malala (PG).

Join us at Springvale Community Hub for screenings:

24 February – The Lorax (G)

3 March – Spirited Away (PG)

10 March – Hidden Figures (PG)

17 March – Shrek (PG).

The 24 February screening of The Lorax will include a pre-show gardening workshop to promote the annual Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival.

Bring along a picnic rug or chair and enjoy some of these family favourites.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-air-movies to see the program and discover any other activities happening before the movies.

Upcoming immunisation sessions



Immunisation sessions are held 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. The Influenza vaccination is also recommended and available for all children from six months to five years of age.

Bookings are required for your child's immunisations, here are the sessions for February.

Date	Location
Thursday 2 February	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Monday 6 February	Springvale City Hall, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 9 February	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Tuesday 14 February	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Wednesday 22 February	Springvale City Hall, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Saturday 25 February	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)



To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation. If you need further assistance, please phone Council on 8571 1000.

Community Grants



Council's Community Grants Program offers the opportunity for community groups, non-profit organisations and individuals to apply for funding to support projects and activities that benefit the Greater Dandenong community.

Community Support Grants

The Community Support Grants are offered twice-yearly and offer community groups and organisations the opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000 to support the delivery of projects, programs and events.

The next round opens on Wednesday 8 February and closes on Monday 27 March. Successful applicants will be notified in July 2023.

This program has three categories:

- ▶ Community Development
- ▶ Arts, Festivals and Events
- ▶ Individual Artists.

Community Response Grants

The Community Response Grants Program allows individuals and non-profit community organisations to apply for small responsive grants to help them achieve their goals and ambitions.

Celebrating sustainability

February is sustainability month and Council is promoting sustainable living practices throughout our community.

Council supported the Dolphin Research Institute and Lyndale Greens Primary School to deliver the Marine Ambassador Program.

The program helps teach students the importance of sustainability and environmental conservation, including the link between wetlands and marine ecosystems.

Marine Ambassadors Shivaani, Jasmine, Roshan and David were able to utilise knowledge from the program to implement sustainable measures in their school, including composting, plastic free 'nude' lunches and new recycling measures.

Applications can be made at any time of the year and can take up to four weeks to finalise once all paperwork has been submitted and approved.

Community Support Grant recipients

Community Development Grants

Dandenong Community and Learning Centre

Launch Housing – Viv's Place

Lions Club of Dandenong

Friends of Refugees

Arts, Festivals and Events Grants

Afri-Aus Care Inc.

Association of Ukrainians in Victoria – Noble Park Branch

Cambodian Association of Victoria

Fijian Community Association Victoria



If you or your organisation would like advice or assistance regarding our funding program email commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1432.



World Wetlands Day is on Thursday 2 February.

Wetlands help treat and filter stormwater from urban areas and roads and catch floodwaters. Wetlands are also home to an abundant variety of indigenous plants, water bugs, reptiles, birds, fish, frogs and mammals.

Locally we are fortunate to have a stunning series of wetlands at Tirhatuan Park and Dandenong Wetlands.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-environment/open-spaces

What's On February 2023

It is Sustainability Month

Every Saturday, **Parkrun** @
Dandenong Park, 7.45am

Weekly Friendship Seat, visit
[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/
friendship-seat](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/friendship-seat)

All Abilities Badminton @
Springers Leisure Centre, every
Wednesday, 6pm

Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation
@ Dandenong Hospital, every
Thursday, 2.30pm

SHE of Mind and Body Exhibition
@ Walker Street Gallery and
Arts Centre, opens 7 February, 12pm

Wednesday 1 February

Strength training @ Jan Wilson
Community Centre, 8.30am

Thursday 2 February

World Wetlands Day

Carers Walking Group @ Burden Park,
Springvale South, 10am

Libraries @ Dusk – Jewellery Workshop
@ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Libraries @ Dusk – Reading Circle @
Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Friday 3 February

Open Air Movie *Lion* (PG) @ Harmony
Square, Dandenong, 7pm

Yoga and meditation @ Jan Wilson
Community Centre, 11am

Saturday 4 February

Interfaith Network Breakfast @
Springvale Town Hall, 7am

BIG Summer Read – Finale Party @
Springvale Library, 2.30pm

Monday 6 February

Playgroup @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 10am

Zumba @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 6pm

Tuesday 7 February

Adult exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

SHE of Mind and Body creative writing
workshop @ Dandenong Library,
6.30pm

Wednesday 8 February

Strength training @ Jan Wilson
Community Centre, 8.30am

Zumba @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 5.30pm

Thursday 9 February

Always Love the Music @ Drum Theatre,
10.30am

Libraries @ Dusk – Music Making @
Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Libraries @ Dusk – Painting Masterclass
(Still Life) @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Friday 10 February

Open Air Movie *The Wizard of Oz* (G)
@ Harmony Square, Dandenong, 7pm

Saturday 11 February

Think Tank – Fizzics Education – Forensic
Science @ Dandenong Library, 3pm

Monday 13 February

Council Meeting @ Council Chambers,
Dandenong Civic Centre, 7pm

Tuesday 14 February

Valentine's Day

Adult exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

Wednesday 15 February

Strength training @ Jan Wilson
Community Centre, 8.30am

Safer Streets Forum for Afghan
Businesses @ Thomas Street,
Dandenong, 3pm

Thursday 16 February

Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

Libraries @ Dusk – Painting Masterclass
(Conceptual) @ Springvale Library,
6.30pm

Friday 17 February

Strength training @ Jan Wilson
Community Centre, 8.30am

Open Air Movie *He Named me Malala*
(PG) @ Harmony Square, Dandenong,
7pm

Saturday 18 February

Think Tank – Fizzics Education – Forensic
Science @ Springvale Library, 3pm

Sunday 19 February

Keysborough Sunday Market @ Wachter
Reserve, 9am

Monday 20 February

Simply fitness @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 8.30am

Tuesday 21 February

Adult exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

Wednesday 22 February

Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day @
Victoria Golf Club

Upcycling Workshop – decorations for
your home @ Dandenong Library, 7pm

Thursday 23 February

Libraries @ Dusk – Movie Magic @
Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Libraries @ Dusk – Fish Safe Painting
Workshop @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Friday 24 February

Zumba Gold @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 10am

Open Air Movie *The Lorax* (G) @
Springvale Community Hub, 7pm

Saturday 25 February

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day @
Greaves Reserve, Dandenong

Sunday 26 February

Sustainability Festival @ Dandenong
Market, 10am–3pm

Monday 27 February

Council Meeting @ Council Chambers,
Dandenong Civic Centre, 7pm

Tuesday 28 February

Adult exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

To submit your event for our website
and Council news visit: [greater
dandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-
your-event](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event)

Please visit our website and social
media platforms for updates, as
event details may change or be
offered virtually.



Celebrating our young leaders



Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services had the great pleasure of celebrating young people's active civic participation and contributions to our community, hosting the annual Youth Leadership Celebration recently.

Bringing together young people and their close family and friends, the celebration recognised their efforts as young change makers who make a positive impact by volunteering in the community.

Young people received awards for participating in committees and programs that tackled youth disengagement and isolation, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, alcohol and drug awareness, disability inclusion, and mental health and wellbeing.

Young people credited the programs for boosting their confidence, creating safe spaces to build friendships and strengthening their leadership skills.

FReeZA Committee member, Oummi Salama (17 years) said: "I learnt the skills to plan and deliver an event, whilst also giving back to the local community".

Sharna Trinh (18 years) said: "The Young Leaders program really helped strengthen and develop my leadership skills".

Looking to make an impact in 2023? Young people aged 12–25 years are invited to join Youth and Family Services' exciting range of programs.



For more information phone 9793 2155 or visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Community safety outcomes

Deputy Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso recently hosted a Coffee with a Cop and Councillor session at Nessy's Café in Dandenong North, along with Victoria Police Sergeant Kerrie Johansson.

Fifteen community members attended the event and shared their views on issues such as local hooning, bus shelters, homelessness, graffiti, tree damage and anti-social behaviour.

Council has reviewed the community's feedback and introduced a CCTV camera trailer in the area last year. Council will also advocate to reduce speed limits and work with Victoria Police to address behavioural issues and local incidents of crime.



Vapedemic workshop

Council's Youth and Family Services team is working with the community to prevent harm from vaping.

The team has been educating young people particularly about the harms of e-cigarettes through the popular *Vapedemic Workshop*.

The aim of the workshop is to provide key information and increase awareness of the negative health impacts of vaping and smoking; as well as building young people's confidence to decline e-cigarettes and other tobacco products.

FAST FACTS:

- ▶ 45 minutes of shisha equals 100 cigarettes
- ▶ the nicotine in one vape can equal 50 cigarettes
- ▶ if you vape you are three times more likely to take up smoking cigarettes
- ▶ cigarette smoke contains over 7,000 chemicals
- ▶ tobacco kills more than eight million people each year.



For further information and helpful resources visit:

Youth Drugs + Alcohol advice (YoDAA) at yodaa.org.au

Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) at adf.org.au

Quitline at quit.org.au





Safer Streets

Council has partnered with Victoria Police to improve community safety in Greater Dandenong.

Twenty-six Afghan business owners from Thomas Street, Dandenong and surrounding areas attended a Safer Streets Forum last year and are invited to attend a further session on 15 February from 3pm.

Dandenong Council aims through the Safer Streets program to support local businesses to thrive.

So far, key safety issues raised by local business owners that are being addressed through the program include:

- ▶ parking – time, space, costs, infringements and loading zone
- ▶ property damage – vandalism and theft
- ▶ anti-social behaviour
- ▶ police/security presence in the street
- ▶ homelessness
- ▶ traffic – speeding and poor driving/parking after 5pm
- ▶ CCTV cameras.

School Breakfast Resource Kit



St Joseph's Primary School recently hosted the launch of Council's School Breakfast Resource Kit.

This resource provides all the information schools need to start a breakfast program at their school.

Starting a breakfast program can help ensure children start the day with a healthy and nutritious breakfast, which can benefit them in a range of ways by:

- ▶ increasing a child's ability to concentrate in class
- ▶ improving punctuality
- ▶ increasing a child's social skills
- ▶ improving overall health and wellbeing
- ▶ providing a child with the right tools to make informed decisions around food
- ▶ giving older children extra responsibility to assist with the running of the program
- ▶ strengthening the school's strong sense of community.

Student Linara Demel (Year 6) said: "I like coming to breakfast club because there's fresh fruit and healthy food which helps us learn".

Belinda Nowakowski, Healthy Kids Advisor – City of Greater Dandenong from the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation said school principals told her how more students were coming to school hungry.

"They didn't know how to set up a breakfast program or even where to start.



"So I began compiling a list of simple and healthy breakfast recipes for the schools, tips on how to source food donations and volunteers, and even a guide to emergency food relief organisations for families in need.

"It's so satisfying to see how initial conversations with my Council partners led to developing the fantastic resource we have launched," said Belinda.

Belinda offers free one-on-one support to local schools, outside hours school care, sports clubs and community/council facilities to help boost access to fresh, delicious food and drink. For more information visit kitchengardenfoundation.org.au/healthy-kids-advisors



To view a copy of the School Breakfast Resource Kit visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/school-breakfast-resource-kit

Host a play street

Council has launched the 1000 Play Streets campaign locally, designed and pioneered by Play Australia.

To create stronger and healthier communities, the campaign aims to turn quiet residential streets throughout Greater Dandenong into places for neighbours of all ages to meet each other, connect and play freely and safely in their street.

Would you like to hold a fun get together for you and your neighbours?

Register your desire to host a play street with Council via our website. Once your application has been accepted, we'll work with you to produce invites for your neighbours to join in, organise the permit so we can close your quiet residential street to traffic and provide sporting equipment so you can enjoy your play street.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/1000-play-streets



REGISTER



Connect with your local library



Greater Dandenong Libraries offers a fantastic variety of free programs and activities at Springvale and Dandenong branches.

Check out Libraries at Dusk events, engaging early years programs for bubs, toddlers and pre-school aged children and a variety of adult programs.

On Mondays enjoy Toddler Time from 10.30am–11am at both Springvale and Dandenong Libraries and Peer 2 Peer Study from 4pm–6pm at Dandenong Library.

Tuesdays bring you Possum Family Fun Playgroup at Dandenong Library from 1pm–2pm.

On Wednesdays there is Baby Bounce from 10.30am–11am at Dandenong Library and Library Help for Adults at Springvale Library from 2pm–5pm.

Every Thursday join the Conversation Circle at the Dandenong Library from 6pm–7.30pm to practice your English in an informal group discussion.

On Fridays join Language Playgroup from 11am–1pm at Dandenong Library.



For more great activities and events, visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Think Tank

Fizzics Education – Forensic Science

Dandenong Library, Saturday 11 February, 3pm–4pm

Springvale Library, Saturday 18 February, 3pm–4pm



Designed to intrigue budding super sleuths who enjoy their science mixed with a bit of drama, junior detectives will learn fingerprinting, blood typing, facial reconstruction and much more.

Mad About Science – Electrical Buzz

Dandenong Library, Saturday 11 March, 3pm–4pm

Springvale Library, Saturday 18 March, 3pm–4pm



Lights, noise and airborne propellers. Build exciting circuits using a variety of electrical components including switches, LEDs, resistors and integrated sound circuits.



SHE of Mind and Body – creative writing workshop

Dandenong Library, Tuesday 7 February, 6.30pm–7.30pm

Meet celebrated children’s author and architect Bic Walker for a creative writing workshop where you will learn techniques to improve your writing.

Walker escaped war torn Vietnam at the age of four and her experience as a refugee was the catalyst for her first book *A Safe Place to Live*.



Register to attend via libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries/events



SHE of Mind and Body Exhibition is also now open at the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, **Tuesday 7 February – Friday 31 March, 12pm–4pm.**

Drum delights in 2023

There is a show for everyone this season at the Drum Theatre.



Always Love the Music

Thursday 9 February, 10.30am

A former concertmaster of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Roy Theaker's playing is loved from Sydney to London and he has shared the big stage with the likes of Hugh Jackman. Appealing to all ages and musical tastes – prepare to be charmed, entertained and enthralled.



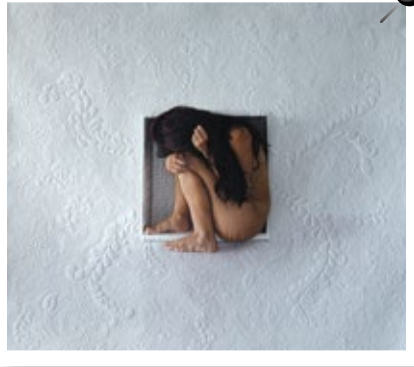
Stephen K Amos: Before and Laughter

Sunday 23 April, 7.30pm

Stephen K Amos returns to Australia due to overwhelming popular demand. Fresh from treading the boards in London's West End, Stephen is back doing what he does best: stand-up comedy.

To book your tickets visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

The Arts



Neroli Henderson, Confinement, 2019, quilting and giclée print on silk habotai, 105 x 100 cm.

SHE of Mind and Body – Writing Competition

With a legacy of over 20 years at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, the SHE exhibition (7 February–31 March) is back celebrating women artists.

Challenging and exploring historical views of women, SHE of mind and body depicts body image, women's empowerment, mental and emotional health. It reclaims traditional perceptions of textiles and celebrates art by and for women.

As part of the exhibition, we invite you to submit an original piece of writing of up to 500 words based on (and including) one of the titles used in previous SHE exhibition titles:

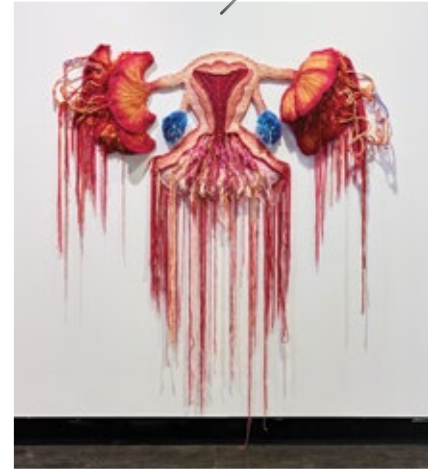
- ▶ SHE who can
- ▶ SHE who discovers
- ▶ SHE who explores
- ▶ SHE who dreams
- ▶ SHE who must be obeyed
- ▶ SHE of mind and body.

Any style/genre of writing can be submitted.

Prizes will be awarded for the following categories:

- ▶ Open Category (all ages) – \$1,000
- ▶ Under 18 Category – \$500
- ▶ Highly Commended category – book prize.

All winning entries will be published in the SHE of Mind and Body exhibition catalogue.



Soft Alchemy (Womb for everyone), 2022, 190 x 156 x 7.5 cm, Aema Shin, woven tapestry, cotton, wool, wire, acrylic.

Submit your entry online at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-opportunities/she-mind-and-body-writing-competition

Entries close 5pm, Friday 10 February.

For more information contact the Curator by phone on 8571 5208 or email arts@cgd.vic.gov.au

9 by 5 Exhibition

The well-loved 9 by 5 Exhibition is back and celebrating its 16th year in 2023.

View artistic works from around Australia as they present their work on nine by five-inch panels.

Applications close at 9am on Friday 10 March. Register to take part via our website at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5

Arts online – workshop videos

Watch a range of recorded workshops online and take part all from the comfort of your own home.

View the available workshops online at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/workshop-videos

Explore the menu in Greater Dandenong



Authentic cultural experiences, including delicious food offerings can be found everywhere in Greater Dandenong.

We are officially recognised as the most culturally diverse community in Australia, with residents coming from 154 different birthplaces. Greater Dandenong City Council has capitalised on these strengths with a range of acclaimed food and cultural tours.

Experience the wonderful smells, colourful sights and tantalising flavours of Victoria's first Little India Precinct located in Dandenong. Learn about Indian history, culture and art before enjoying a meal in a local restaurant.

Just a short walk away is Dandenong's famed Afghan Bazaar, where you can explore Afghan culture and food through the gracious hospitality of a wide variety of traders.

'Sensational Springvale' is a mecca for flavours of Asia and is known all over Melbourne as the place to go to purchase fresh ingredients for home cooking, or the place to share an authentic Asian meal.

Our newest guided tour is already causing a stir after being featured on Melbourne's Nine News. The *Off the Menu Tour* is a walking discovery tour for adventurous eaters, featuring Vietnamese and Cambodian foods you'll never find on an English menu.



Join Springvale's cultural ambassador for this two-hour tour and try off-the-menu delicacies like salted duck eggs, exotic fruits and super-tender and slow-cooked winter stews made with all manner of offal.

This tour offers an insider's guide to Springvale's food culture, where traditional cooks leave nothing to waste.

Council runs tours all year for those who are interested, but groups of 8–12 can book tours at a date and time that suits them.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-tours or phone 8571 1550 for more information.

Melbourne Cable Park does it again



Popular local tourism destination Melbourne Cable Park was inducted into the prestigious Victorian Tourism Awards Hall of Fame recently after winning gold in the Excellence in Accessible Tourism category for three consecutive years.

Melbourne Cable Park is a world-class outdoor adventure centre, located in tranquil parklands at Bangholme. Open all year round, the Park is an activity hub for the energetic, with



spectacular panoramic views of Melbourne. A choice of exciting and challenging water and non-water-based activities are available, suitable for all ages and abilities (including an accessible wakeboard program).

For more information visit melbournecablepark.com

Make an impact

A charitable program donating laptops to school students is making an impact in local schools, but more donors are needed.

In the 2021–22 financial year *This is IT Schools (TIIS)* program donated 595 computers to 19 local government schools. A further 62 desktop computers were donated to local community organisations for access hubs.

As demand continues to grow, the program is seeking more donors and is calling on businesses who are replacing their computers to consider donating their old technology to TIIS.

Visit thisisitschools.com.au for more information.

Take a Swing for Charity



Preparations are underway for the annual Take a Swing for Charity event.

Now in its 14th year the day is hosted by Council's business networking unit South East Business Networks (SEBN) in conjunction with local industry and supports local charities to make a difference.

Tee off will be at the Victoria Golf Club on Wednesday 22 February, followed by a charity dinner and auction. Non-golfers can sign up for a short golf lesson at the end of the day before they attend the charity dinner.

Last year, for the first time in the history of the event, a golfer landed a hole in one to take home a new car. The event raised \$35,000 for Wellsprings for Women and brought the lifetime total raised by the event to more than \$550,000.

Players are now invited to sign up and sponsors can still support the charity auction.

Email sandra.george@ggd.vic.gov.au or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

Single use plastics ban

The State Government has put in place a single use plastic ban to reduce the amount of plastic waste that pollutes our environment.

From 1 February the following single use plastics are banned for sale in Victoria:

- ▶ straws and stirrers
- ▶ cutlery
- ▶ plates
- ▶ expanded polystyrene food containers and cups
- ▶ cotton buds.

In addition to these state-wide bans, Council has introduced a Plastics Use Policy which covers sports clubs, community groups, event organisers, stallholders and Council staff operating on Council land or in Council buildings.

The Policy encourages groups to further avoid using the following items:

- ▶ plastic bags
- ▶ balloons
- ▶ bottled water
- ▶ plastic bowls
- ▶ takeaway food containers.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability for more information on the State Government's plastics ban and Council's Plastics Use Policy.



Single-use plastics ban

From 1 February 2023
these single-use plastics are banned in Victoria

Single-use plastic straws & stirrers

Single-use plastic cutlery

Single-use plastic plates

Expanded polystyrene foodware & cups

Single-use plastic cotton buds

Some exemptions apply to specific items.
* People who need single-use plastic straws due to a disability or for a medical need can still buy and use them.

VICTORIA State Government www.vic.gov.au/plastics

Seeking diverse care workers

 **Diverse Care is the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre's (SMRC) multicultural labour hire service for approved providers of aged care and disability services across southern and eastern Melbourne.**

SMRC matches clients with bilingual staff who can provide culturally-specific home and community care.

Karen's eyes light up at the mention of the work she does as a personal carer.

"I love what I do, and I do what I love," says Karen of the in-home support she provides as a diverse care worker for SMRC's Diverse Care Social Enterprise.


Karen is one of more than 80 diverse care workers delivering in-home support.

Originally from Chile, Karen says the matching of culture and language between worker and client is an important value add to the service.




"It's the cultural experience, right? This cultural experience you can already see ahead of time. How someone may want something or what they might want because that's familiar to you," Karen said.

Despite high retention rates and worker satisfaction, more workers are needed to meet an increasing demand for personal care, respite, domestic help and personal transport.

 **If you are interested in becoming a diverse care worker visit smrc.org.au**

Inclusive emergency planning

 **Research shows people living with a disability are four times more likely to die or be injured in a disaster. With 18 per cent of Greater Dandenong residents having live experience of disability and 6.8 per cent of those experiencing a severe and profound disability, Council recognises the importance of including these residents in our emergency planning.**



Over the past two years, Council's Sustainability, Disability and Inclusion and Community Advocacy Teams have worked closely with Jesuit Social Services' Centre for Just Places to build an understanding of climate vulnerability in Greater Dandenong. The collaborative approach aims to build our capacity to include the voices of those with lived experience in shaping programs and policies across Council.

In May 2022, Council hosted a Disability and Climate Change Workshop. This was followed by a Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning Workshop in September 2022.

The most recent workshop was delivered in partnership with University of Sydney's Centre for Disability Research and Policy and the City of Casey. It included people with disabilities and carers, as well as disability service providers, Council and emergency management personnel, and created a series of recommendations to improve inclusive municipal emergency management planning.

Under Australia's new *Disability Strategy 2021-31* all governments, community organisations and businesses are required to include people with disability in their emergency management and disaster response and recovery planning.

Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival

Sunday 26 February

**10am-3pm, Dandenong Market,
Corner Clow and Cleeland Streets,
Dandenong**

STALLS, ACTIVITIES AND MUSIC

**FREE
ENTRY**



greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival



DANDENONG
MARKET
Fresh & Vibrant Since 1866

