

Greater Dandenong Council News

Inclusive sports for all

PAGE 7

Australia Day Award Winners

▶ PAGE 3

Active Travel

▶ PAGE 7

International Women's Day

▶ PAGE 11

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

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Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au



Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



@greaterdandy



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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

Non Urgent Police Response

(no sirens)..... 131 444

Dandenong Police..... 9767 7444

Springvale Police..... 8558 8600

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 March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Council is committed to implementing the actions in our Council Plan that bring great community benefits to all. A recent achievement we are proud of is endorsing further investment to enhance the Ross Reserve Athletics Track in Noble Park.

In this issue you can read about the winners of our Australia Day Awards on page 3 who do so much for our community.

This year Greater Dandenong City Council celebrates International Women's Day with a female-led leadership team, turn to page 11 to find out more.

Greater Dandenong is proudly the most culturally diverse community in Australia. Data from the 2021 census backs up our claims. Read more about our diversity on page 11.

There is always so much happening in Greater Dandenong. Check out page 9 for a list of events, and then turn to pages 12 and 13 to see what's on across our arts facilities and in our libraries.

I hope you enjoy getting out and about in our city, and if you see me at any community events please come up and say hello.

Mayor
Cr Eden Foster

My City

Council is developing a strategy to change behaviour and reduce dumped rubbish and littering throughout Greater Dandenong.

We particularly want to reduce kerbside dumping from households in residential areas, reduce rubbish dumping in shopping strips and reduce pre-meditated and illegal rubbish dumping in industrial lots and spaces.

Please help us to keep our streets clean.



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



Front cover: Young local takes part in wheelchair tennis at Council's All Abilities 'Come and Try' Sports Day at Springers Leisure Centre, Keysborough. For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sport-and-recreation

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It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

FSC
Logo

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award Winners

Citizen of the Year

Joe de Souza JP

Joe de Souza has dedicated his life to the community, including years of service to the Springvale Youth Club (now the Springvale Leisure and Activity Centre), and The Bridge adult disability service. He is also the co-ordinator of the Justice of the Peace document signing service at the Springvale Library.

Young Leader of the Year

Danya Daoud

Danya Daoud volunteers with Greater Dandenong Youth Services and with the Centre for Multicultural Youth. She took part in the 2022 State Youth Parliament. At her school she founded a newsroom and podcast, is a community engagement ambassador, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Committee member and School Captain for 2023.

Volunteer of the Year

Julie Klok

Julie Klok has volunteered with Council since 2006 and she is also a community visitor with the Office of the Public Advocate. She has also chaired the Positive Ageing Committee since 2016, and during the pandemic helped address social isolation with involvement in several Council programs.

Community Group of the Year

Friends of Refugees

Friends of Refugees is a volunteer-led grassroots community organisation which advocates and takes action to support refugees and vulnerable new arrivals in Greater Dandenong. Every year the group distributes 120 tonnes of donated food and operates a fresh food kitchen six days a week for refugees and people seeking asylum.



Corporate Citizen of the Year

Peter Angelico

Peter Angelico is the founder and Managing Director of the ABECK Group which employs about 20 people. He also volunteers for several organisations and is President of South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance, which is also a voluntary position.

Sportsperson of the Year Award (joint winners)

Sean Francis and David Swierzbiolek

Sean Francis is the President, Operations Manager and Life Member of the Springvale Districts Football Netball Club and works tirelessly to promote not only the club, but also participation in sport for multicultural communities, women, children and people of all abilities.

David Swierzbiolek is President of the Parkfield Cricket Club and has helped adopt a strong family-friendly culture at the club, engaging with multicultural communities and junior players. He is assistant coach of the women's team and was influential in supporting the Parkfield Master Plan.

Sustainability Award

Zoe Mohl

Zoe Mohl initiated the Friends of Victoria Avenue Reserve Group to plant a native garden and create habitats. She also hosts regular gatherings to recycle and trade items among community members and has initiated monthly clothing swaps at the Springvale Community Hub.

Living Treasure Award (joint winners)

Colin Huth, Agnes Kean, Jenny Mackay and Jack Ma

Colin Huth grew up in Noble Park and joined Victoria Police at 18 years old. He has worked in Springvale and Dandenong since 1994 and is an active member of Council's Community Safety Advisory Committee.

Agnes Kean is a key foundation member of the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong, which started in 1989. She still plays a proactive role in its various activities and is a previous Volunteer of the Year.

Jenny Mackay has been a teacher for more than 45 years. As Assistant Principal at Dandenong North Primary School she implemented a ground-breaking English language program for students and a support group for Afghan mothers across Dandenong.

Jack Ma arrived in Australia from Vietnam in 1978 and has committed to giving back to the community ever since. He spearheaded construction of Springvale's Quan Thanh Temple in 1990 and supports overseas communities. He is a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal.



For further details and photos visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/2023-australia-day-awards

Councillor Contacts



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Council Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ **Tuesday 14 March** (due to a public holiday on Monday 13 March)
- ▶ **Monday 27 March.**

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

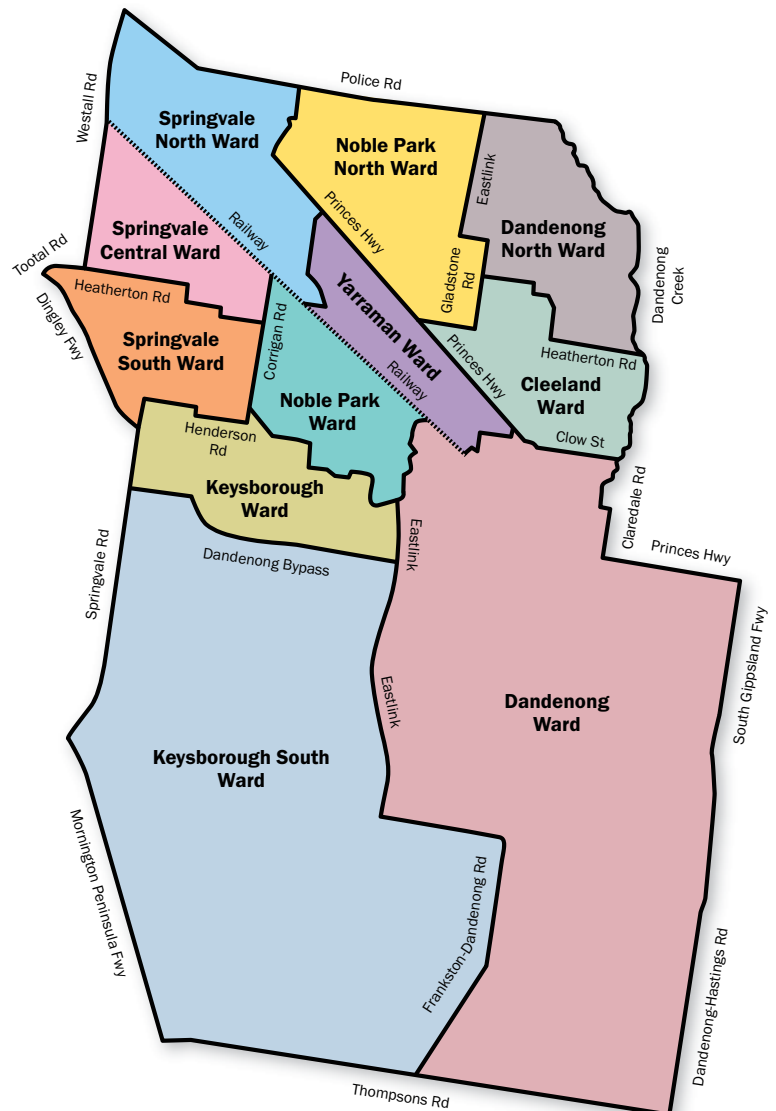
Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

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**

MARCH

Greater Dandenong Ward Map



Cr Rhonda Garad

► Keysborough South Ward



It is wonderful to see so many residents in Keysborough South out enjoying the parks. Many people have told me how great the new public toilets in Westwood Boulevard and Pencil Park have been.

We are starting to get the benefits of sun and wind protection from the extensive tree plantings in Westwood, Pencil Park and the dog parks in Villiers Road. There will soon be the addition of a wet water play area added to Westwood Boulevard Park, surrounded by beautiful landscaping. Many people have asked for more shading over the play areas in the parks, so I am pushing for this in the next budget round.

Big congratulations to the volunteers who put on the extremely successful second Keysie Market. Many people contributed to this wonderful event held in the Springers car park, but I wanted to name a few that really contributed greatly. Big thanks to Shirlene Allison,

Dhani Chandra, Jacqui Caruso, Kerri Manias, Simone Black, Graham Don Paul and Kenan Kurudžija. Thank you for your efforts.

The dog parks are being well used and I want to send a shout out to the residents who are doing a great job in caring for these parks and creating a very welcoming space for everyone. Thank you to Scott Emmi and Rob Barci who have gone above and beyond in caring for the trees, ensuring there is water for the dogs, and being all round great citizens.

Stage three of the Insect Park development continues.

Also, you may be aware that extensive road works will commence in Perry Road near the industrial area. After consultation, and in order to stop traffic redirecting to Keys Road, we will put a temporary roadblock in as this was not designed to carry large volumes of traffic previously.



► **Please feel free to contact me on email at rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au, via my Facebook page [facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard/](https://www.facebook.com/RhondaGarad4KeysboroughSouthWard/) or phone 0435 107 584.**

► Dandenong North Ward



Longer days and warmer weather have seen people out and about across Dandenong North. I have particularly enjoyed seeing players taking advantage of the new basketball court at Tirhatuan Park.

Wet weather in late 2022 put a hold on the completion of works at the site, but stage two additional works including landscaping will be completed soon.

If you haven't visited this park recently, March is a great time to see why it is so popular with locals and visitors.

Across 2022 residents around the Brady Road shops would have noticed some work happening. New outdoor eating areas were introduced in front of two food businesses, and work began on a public toilet block in the car park. The toilets are now completed for residents, traders and visitors to use.

Late last year Council completed construction of a three-lane batting cage at the Police Paddocks softball and baseball precinct. The \$247,300 project includes a weatherproof roof and lighting

Cr Bob Milkovic

for use in all conditions, and local clubs are already making the most of these new facilities.

If you are looking to get rid of some unwanted household items, I urge you to take advantage of our Homecycle program. Running for the past few years the program allows residents to recycle smaller unwanted household items via the one-off kerbside collection. Items including clothes, linen, homewares, toys, games, sporting equipment and electrical items can be added to your kerbside yellow lid bin the day after your normal collection day.

Homecycle runs from Tuesday 7 March to Saturday 18 March and will help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle) for more information.

► **In the meantime, if you want to talk to me about a Council issue you can email me at bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 237 051.**

Cr Sophie Tan

► Noble Park Ward



Our whole community is celebrating with a brand new facility at Noble Park. The Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) has undergone a major development with the completion of a \$6.9 million health and wellbeing gymnasium.

The new gym has been well received by locals since it opened for business and is expected to have a positive impact on community health.

While the new look NPAC is exciting for the community, there is so much more happening in Noble Park.

The \$9 million Ross Reserve Sports Pavilion is soon due for completion. The sports clubs who call this reserve home will be looking forward to using this top-class pavilion for years to come.

The creation of a pocket park in Frank Street, Noble Park has been completed, giving locals more open green space to relax in and enjoy. While the plantings are still young, once they mature the space will look even more spectacular.

This park will create a great place for residents to visit and will also contribute to a green wildlife corridor through the suburb.

Our youngest residents and their parents are celebrating the completion of a playground with shade sail coverings recently completed at Noble Park Reserve.

Two local road projects are also in the design phase and will hopefully be completed and make our roads safer by the middle of this year.

The first will see a raised intersection and raised platforms along Bloomfield Road, Keysborough, where there is a history of speeding drivers and accidents involving parked cars. This project will be funded under the Federal Blackspot Program.

The second project will implement road treatments designed to slow traffic and improve pedestrian and motorist safety in Joy Parade.



If you have any local issues that you would like to discuss, please contact me via email at sophie.tan@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0466 793 727.

Greater Dandenong Citizen of the Year



The annual Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise the outstanding contribution made by people within our community who work tirelessly to enrich the lives of others.

Keysborough resident Joe de Souza JP has been recognised as the Greater Dandenong Citizen of the Year for 2023.

Mr de Souza is a familiar face for many in the Springvale community as he can regularly be found witnessing documents at Springvale Community Hub's Document Signing Station.

He has been a Justice of the Peace (JP) for 46 years, and leads a team of 15 people at Springvale, which is the busiest signing station in Victoria.

At 93 years of age, Mr de Souza has spent much of his life helping the community, including supporting the Springvale Youth Club, now Springvale

...I always knew I wanted to put back into the community...



Citizen of the Year,
Joe de Souza JP

ENRICHING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Leisure and Activities Centre (SLAC) and The Bridge adult disability service.

"When I came to Australia I had nothing but the promise of a better life and I always knew I wanted to put back into the community that supported me," Mr de Souza said.

Born in Burma and living in India before he came to Australia, Mr de Souza said his background helped him support people who were confused by the paperwork they need signed by a JP.

"Greater Dandenong is such a multicultural mix with people of all nationalities and it can be difficult for some of them to understand what is happening. With my background I can speak their language and help them understand," Mr de Souza said.

As a father to six, grandfather to eight and great-grandfather to eight, Mr de Souza encourages everyone to 'love thy neighbour' and take care of your fellow man.



Making sport more inclusive

 Council has signed up to a ground-breaking national program to make sport more accessible and inclusive.

Taking part in the Sport4All program, Council is recruiting an Inclusion Coach to work with local sports clubs and schools to ensure people with disability have more choice and control over where and how they participate in sport.

The program has been commissioned and funded by the Australian Government, in collaboration with Sports Australia, and is delivered by Get Skilled Access, a disability inclusion consulting organisation founded by 2022 Australian of the Year Dylan Alcott.

The Inclusion Coach (Disability Inclusion Program Coordinator) will be a part-time role with Council for six months and will be filled by a person with lived experience of disability.

The 2021 Census revealed that 7.7 per cent of people in Greater Dandenong live with a disability requiring them to seek daily assistance with mobility, communication or self-care.

Mayor, Cr Eden Foster said the position will help build a more inclusive Greater Dandenong.

“As a Council we are committed to creating opportunities for people of all abilities to participate fully in community life.

“We pride ourselves in creating a community where people feel included, valued and respected. Taking part in the Sports4All program ensures we offer everyone the opportunity to be more active,” said the Mayor.

In late 2022 Council ran an All Abilities Come and Try Sports Day at Springers Leisure Centre, Keysborough. The day featured wheelchair basketball, wheelchair AFL, para-badminton and tennis.


The day was facilitated by Council's 2022 Make Your Move ambassador Peter Ogunyemi who is an aspiring Paralympian and has competed in wheelchair AFL, rugby and badminton.

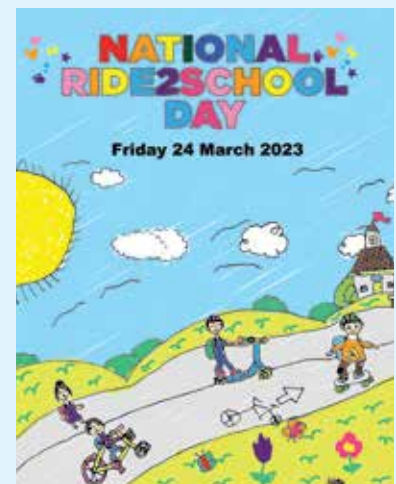
 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

Save the date


Keysborough's Big Picnic 2023
Sunday 2 April
11am – 4pm
Frederick Wachter Reserve,
Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough

Free activities, BYO picnic rug and chairs, annual easter egg hunt, sports and games, live performances and fun for pets too.

 For further information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysboroughsbigpicnic



Get Active Get Moving in March

 Encouraging active travel for children in the City of Greater Dandenong

Getting to and from school is a fun time to be more active.


During the month of March, primary aged students are encouraged to walk, ride or scoot to and from school by joining the *Get Active Get Moving* campaign.

When schools register, they will be invited to join a competition which will reward the most active school or class to go in the running to win great prizes.

The first five schools to register will also win a \$100 Rebel Sport voucher.

The *Get Active Get Moving* campaign was developed in consultation with the students from the Children's Advisory Group and the Children's Forum in 2022. These students helped with the design of the logo and slogan.

The competition coincides with National Ride2School Day on Friday 24 March.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/active-travel for more information on how to enter.

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. Please note the influenza vaccine is not available in March.

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

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

To make an appointment visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/immunisation or phone 8571 1000.

Clean Up Australia Day



Any day is a good day for a clean up, but Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 5

March is a great day to get together with family and friends and clean up your neighbourhood.

Schools can register their own event on Friday 3 March or Council will provide support to run a clean up event any other day of the year.

Visit cleanup.org.au and register your own event or search your postcode to find out where you can join a local clean up.

Council's event will be held at Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong on Sunday 5 March from 10am. The event will conclude with a thank you barbecue for volunteers.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events to register.



Sustainability mascot
Lily Litterbug



Homecycle



Recycle smaller unwanted household items via Council's Homecycle kerbside collection.

Homecycle will run from Tuesday 7 March to Saturday 18 March and will help find a new home for good quality used items.

Clothes, linen, homewares, toys, games, sporting equipment and small electrical items can be added to your yellow lid recycling bin the day after your normal collection. The bin will be collected and items will be passed on to charities.



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



What's On March 2023

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

Libraries at Dusk
Thursday evenings @ Springvale and
Dandenong Libraries, 6.30pm

SHE of Mind and Body Exhibition
@ Walker Street Gallery and Arts
Centre, until Friday 31 March,
12pm-4pm

Wednesday 1 March

Social Media and Content Marketing
@ Springvale Library, 6pm

Thursday 2 March

Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

Friday 3 March

World Wildlife Day
Open Air Movie *Spirited Away* (PG)
@ Springvale Community Hub, 7pm

Saturday 4 March

Noble Park Community Fun Day @
Noble Park Skate Park, 11am
Family Fun @ Springvale Library, 3pm

Sunday 5 March

Clean Up Australia Day @ Greaves
Reserve, 10am

Monday 6 March

Toddler Time @ Springvale and
Dandenong Libraries, 10.30am

Tuesday 7 March

Homecycle begins
Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 9.30am

Wednesday 8 March

International Women's Day
International Women's Day Breakfast,
Springvale Town Hall, 7am

Thursday 9 March

International Women's Day Lunch
@ Drum Theatre, 12.30pm

Friday 10 March

Open Air Movie *Hidden Figures* (PG)
@ Springvale Community Hub, 7pm

Saturday 11 March

Cultural Diversity Week begins
Springvale Urban Harvest and Clothes
Swap @ Springvale Community Hub, 1pm
Electrical Buzz – The Think Tank
@ Dandenong Library, 3pm

Monday 13 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 14 March

Council Meeting @ Council Chambers,
Dandenong Civic Centre, 7pm
Tabletop Games Night @ The Drum,
6.30pm

Wednesday 15 March

Social Knitwork @ Dandenong Library,
10am

Thursday 16 March

National Close the Gap Day
From Figaro To Phantom, Encore
Program @ The Drum, 10.30am
Thoughts on Women in the Art Game
with Dr Rebecca Coates, Walker Street
Gallery, 6pm

Friday 17 March

St Patrick's Day
Open Air Movie *Shrek* (PG) @ Springvale
Community Hub, 7pm

Saturday 18 March

Homecycle ends
Electrical Buzz – The Think Tank
@ Springvale Library, 3pm

Sunday 19 March

Magical Getaway Foundation Market,
Menzies Hall, Dandenong North, 10am

Monday 20 March

Simply Fitness @ Jan Wilson Community
Centre, 8.30am

Tuesday 21 March

Harmony Day
Cultural Diversity Week ends
SHE Reads: Storytime with artist
Tai Snaith @ Walker Street Gallery, 10am

Wednesday 22 March

World Water Day
Library Help for Adults @ Springvale
Library, 2pm

Thursday 23 March

Storytime @ Springvale and Dandenong
Libraries, 10.30am

Friday 24 March

Ride2School Day
Get Active Get Moving in March, register
to win great prizes at [greaterdandenong.
vic.gov.au/active-travel](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/active-travel)

Saturday 25 March

The Shuffle Club @ The Drum, 5pm
Earth Hour, 8.30pm-9.30pm

Monday 27 March

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

Tuesday 28 March

Nature Play @ Alex Wilkie Nature
Reserve, 10am

Wednesday 29 March

Neighbourhood Watch Greater
Dandenong @ Paddy O'Donoghue
Centre, 7.30pm

Thursday 30 March

Our Beat @ Crump Lane, presented by
The Drum 6.30pm

Friday 31 March

Yoga and Meditation @ Jan Wilson
Community Centre, 11am

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.

The big three: industry changes the landscape in Dandenong



General Motors Holden (GMH), Dandenong
(The Rose Series P.14050 copyright)

Courtesy of the State Library Victoria, www.slv.vic.gov.au



After World War II the post-war boom in Australia saw Dandenong shift from a rural market town to the centre of a new industrial region.

The most notable of the enterprises to arrive in the area were the 'big three' industrial giants: International Harvester, Heinz and General Motors Holden.

The 'big three' led to great economic and social changes in the district. In the 10 years following their arrival, more than 200 other factories joined them. The skyline became dotted with new factories and more than 30 houses were built each month to cater for the rapid population growth.

Between 1948 and 1959 Dandenong's population increased from 6,000 to nearly 30,000. Many were recent arrivals from Europe who had heard of the abundance of work in the region. This was the start of multicultural Dandenong.

International Harvester

A major American industrial corporation known for manufacturing and distributing motor trucks, tractors, farm machinery and construction equipment, International Harvester came to Dandenong in 1949.

The new plant employed more than 500 workers and was closely associated with the nearby Doveton Housing Estate, where many of the migrant workers lived.

While some name changes took place 'International Trucks' are distributed by IVECO Australia.

Heinz

In the early 1950s the company purchased a 70-acre site in Dandenong to replace their Richmond plant. The site was a former dairy farm and was chosen for its location near the International Harvester complex and proximity to vegetable growing areas and transport routes.

The building was opened on 7 November 1955 by the Prime Minister Robert Menzies and closed in 2000.

Heinz was known for employing large numbers of part-time workers, particularly migrant women.

General Motors Holden (GMH)

The post-war years saw the development and expansion of the automotive industry. GMH answered the call and created the first Australian motor car, designed and built specifically for Australia.

GMH opened in Dandenong in 1956, and during the 1960s Holden became a market leader. The Dandenong plant attracted many migrant workers, and it is said that post World War II GMH had an employment officer riding on migrant ships to sign up employees on their way to Australia.

Holden's fortunes changed in the 1980s and 90s and in 1991 General Motors closed its Dandenong plant.

Have Your Say

Council values the ideas and opinions of residents, ratepayers and businesses and encourages you to be a part of our planning and decision-making.

Local Council services are improved when the community shares what they think; we need to hear your ideas and aspirations.

The latest projects and consultations are widely promoted, including via this magazine, Council's website, social media platforms and via electronic newsletters.

We are currently seeking your feedback on these projects:

- ▶ Older People and Social Connection consultation
- ▶ Proposed Tree Protection Local Law
- ▶ Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say to find out more, or follow us online for regular updates and invitations to have your say.

International Women's Day



A global day to celebrate the achievements of women and push for gender equality,

International Women's Day on 8 March will take on a special meaning for Greater Dandenong City Council this year.

For the first time in history Council is led by a female CEO, Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and almost half of our elected Councillors are female.

CEO Jacqui Weatherill started in the position in December 2022, just weeks after Cr Eden Foster was elected by her fellow Councillors as Mayor, and Cr Lana Formoso elected as Deputy Mayor. The trio are joined by Councillors Rhonda Garad, Angela Long and Sophie Tan.

The Mayor said International Women's Day was about celebrating women's strengths.

"It is also a time to challenge gender stereotypes and encourage others to call out discrimination and gender bias," the Mayor said.

Ms Weatherill said Greater Dandenong City Council was leading by example when it came to gender equality.



Deputy Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso and Mayor, Cr Eden Foster with Greater Dandenong Young Leader of the Year, Danya Daoud

"We celebrate women every day, including some amazing community members who are working hard to build a better society for all.

"Greater Dandenong Young Leader of the Year Award winner Danya Daoud is also advocating for her peers at just 16 years old.

"She demonstrates great leadership qualities and will inspire many to achieve great things to benefit our community," the CEO said.

International Women's Day Event



**Thursday 9 March
12.30pm–2pm
Drum Theatre, Dandenong**

Join us for a light lunch and a glass of champagne and enjoy a presentation by communications expert and social media strategist Jordana Borensztajn.

**To register email
sebn@cgd.vic.gov.au**

Who we are

The results from the 2021 Census are in and they reveal a lot about the Greater Dandenong community.

As a vibrant and diverse city, we have always celebrated our multiculturalism. Figures collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics again confirmed our city is the most culturally diverse in Australia.

With residents from more than 154 different birthplaces, 63 per cent were born overseas, and 88 per cent said at least one of their parents was born outside of Australia.

Nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of residents speak languages other than English at home. This compares to a Victorian level of 32 per cent. After English, our most common languages include Vietnamese, Khmer, Mandarin,

Punjabi, Cantonese, Hazaraghi, Greek and Sinhalese.



Emerging communities include residents from Malaysia, Indonesia and South Korea, with these communities growing by 50 per cent or more in the five years to 2021.

Mayor Cr Eden Foster said she was proud to be part of such a diverse community.

"Our residents speak more than 130 different languages and follow more than 80 different faiths, our city is truly global. This diversity is our strength and makes our community so unique," the Mayor said.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-services/our-diverse-community to find out more.

Apply for a community grant

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.

A number of grants are available to suit different community needs.

To find out more visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants or email commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1432.

Learn more at your Greater Dandenong Libraries



Community language collection

Experience a different perspective with translated fiction and non-fiction books available for all ages. You are a part of an amazing world and our library can help you read all about it.

Libraries at Dusk

Put aside your Thursday evenings during school terms to enjoy this fantastic new series, *Libraries at Dusk*. Visit us for a free cuppa or a snack and make some new friends.

Thursday 2 March

Reading Circle @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Still Life Painting Masterclass @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 9 March

Jewellery Workshop @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Landscapes Painting Masterclass @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 16 March

Music Making @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Board Games Night @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 23 March

Collage Creations @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm


Board Games Night @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm



Thursday 30 March

Movie Magic @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Make Your Mark – Bookmark Craft @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

 For more information visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/lad



Make Your Mark – Bookmark Craft

Family Fun

Families are invited to come and play together every Saturday between 3-4pm at the Springvale Library. There are lots of great activities to enjoy.

Celebrate Harmony Day

On Tuesday 21 March, visit Springvale and Dandenong Libraries to celebrate Harmony Day.

Springvale Library

11.30am – Japanese Calligraphy*
3.30pm – Roving Henna Artist
6.30pm – Lion Dance Workshop for Kids*

*Registration required.

Dandenong Library

6.30pm – Arabic Community Book Day and Belly Dancing.



 Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries/events to find out what's on at your libraries.

#LibrariesChangeLives
#ReturnYourselfToTheLibrary

Welcome to a new season at the Drum

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



Looking for a top-notch theatre experience in your own backyard? Look no further than the Drum Theatre.

If you haven't visited for a while there are many reasons to come back, starting with this season's range of wonderful live performances. From swingin' jazz to opera greats, and music legends to new stories, you can see the familiar, the challenging, the nostalgic and the brand new all in the comfort of your own backyard.

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival will present Neighbourhood Sessions with a hand-picked line-up of festival favourites and some of the country's best new comedic talents ahead of their performances at the 2023 festival. The always hilarious Stephen K Amos and Jimeoin will bring their hit shows *Before & Laughter* and *The Craic* to you.



Stephen K Amos

Rediscover one of the greatest plays of the 20th Century, Arthur Miller's masterpiece *Death of a Salesman*, brought to life by an extraordinary ensemble of actors from Hearth Theatre. Don't miss *From Figaro to Phantom* by Pot Pourri, the cool jazz of *The Shuffle Club*, and the class and elegance of *The Dancin' Man*.

Circus and puppetry will entertain the whole family in the April school holidays, including First Nations-led Na Djinang Circus who will explore complex themes of Australian culture with their brand of contemporary circus.



The experiences aren't just limited to the theatre. Melbourne performance collective Pony Cam returns to work with local teenagers on a new performance piece in vacant buildings, while *Our Beat* showcases the best of the south east in quarterly performances in different locations. Support local dancers, singers, hip hop artists and poets in a unique experience you won't find anywhere else.



Also, don't miss the monthly tabletop games nights for lovers of Pokemon, Dungeons and Dragons, boardgames and more.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to see a full list of shows.

The Arts



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

SHE of Mind and Body

For over 20 years, the SHE exhibition has been held at the Walker Street Gallery to celebrate women artists.

In *SHE of Mind and Body*, textile artists Dans Bain, Anna Farago, Neroli Henderson, Georgia MacGuire, Chaco Kato, Vonda Keji, Caroline Phillips, Nusra Qureshi, Ema Shin and Kate V M Sylvester explore the complicated aspects of being a woman today.

This exhibition showcases the depth of textiles as a medium and its ability to speak without words.

You can join us to celebrate International Women's Day with the artists and special performances on Wednesday 8 March from 5.30pm-7.30pm.

The exhibition is on display until Friday 31 March.

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

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 9 by 5-inch panels.

Applications close at 9am on Friday 10 March (or sooner if boards are sold out prior).

Register to take part via our website at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5

GameChange

 **The GameChange initiative is a collaborative effort between Council, the Victorian Government, local businesses, job seekers and service providers to reshape the local employment landscape.**

A roundtable forum held last year gathered industry representatives and job seekers to find local solutions for businesses and people seeking employment.

Open discussions highlighted several priorities to help strengthen employment in the region, including the need for

a central employment hub, targeted training and workplace flexibility.

Cultural Cuisines, a Wellsprings for Women social enterprise, catered for the forum and offers a formal qualification to those taking part, and exposes the wider community to cultural cuisine. Every catering order gives women the opportunity to learn new skills on the job.

Following on from the roundtable several networking and reference groups have been formed, and positive connections have made a difference for local employers and job seekers.

 **To find out more visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/game-change, or email gamechange@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.**




GameChange
SHAPING A LOCAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

Contact Council's business team

Looking to develop, relocate, invest or start a business in Greater Dandenong? Then contact Council's business team as they support local business owners.


 **For a free discussion on how Council can help you email business@cgd.vic.gov.au, phone 8571 1550 or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business**

Community Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Program

 **Free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are now available for all community members at the following locations:**

- ▶ Dandenong Customer Service Centre
- ▶ Dandenong Library
- ▶ Jan Wilson Community Centre
- ▶ Springvale Community Hub
- ▶ Parkmore Council Customer Service Centre
- ▶ Drum Theatre
- ▶ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre.

If you have symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, please do not collect RATs until you are well. If you can't get to a location, a guardian or carer can collect your free RATs for you.

 **For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/covid-19**

GREATER DANDENONG FOOD AND CULTURAL TOURS





BOOK YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE TODAY




Want a chance to experience delicious food, while learning about the culture behind the food? We offer an authentic food and cultural experience in either Dandenong or Springvale.



TOUR TYPES:

- Afghan bazaar
- Little India
- Springvale Fresh
- Off the Menu



DID YOU KNOW

we can organise group bookings for 8-16 people available upon request.

For more information and bookings visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/tours or phone 8571 1550



Community Calendar Photography Competition

Council annually produces a community calendar for residents which features photos taken in our municipality.

We love seeing our city through your eyes and last year launched a competition calling for residents to submit photos taken in Greater Dandenong.

The competition was a huge success with more than 370 entries, and we have decided to run another competition for the 2024 Community Calendar.

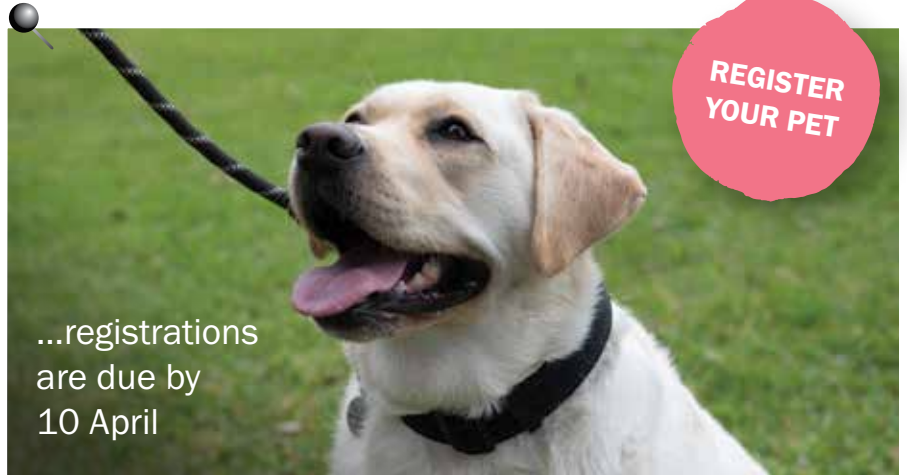
A judging panel, including the Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre curator, will select 12 finalists for inclusion in the calendar.

The panel will also select one winner each from four categories to take home cash prizes. The categories include:

- ▶ nature
- ▶ the built environment
- ▶ children and young people (aged 4–16 years old)
- ▶ open category, an extra winner will be chosen from across the previous three categories.

Submissions will close on Friday 28 July 2023.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/photography-competition to read the full terms and conditions and to enter your photographs.



...registrations
are due by
10 April

Register your pet



Out of date information can prevent pets from being reunited with their owners.

Pet registrations are due by 10 April each year, so now is the time to register your pet for the year ahead and confirm their microchip details are up to date.

Council Rangers love to reunite lost pets with their owners, but wrong information can slow down that process.

Pet registration fees are used to help deliver Council's animal management services, which include the investigation of complaints and regular patrols of parks and reserves. A State Government levy added to each registration fee

is also used to fund responsible pet ownership education programs across the state.

The law requires owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with Council. Heavy penalties can apply if you fail to renew your registrations.

Heavily discounted fees are offered for desexed pets and those over 10 years of age.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pet-registration for more information.

Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong

Public forum and safety information session



Wednesday 29 March
Paddy O'Donoghue
Centre, 18–34 Buckley
Street, Noble Park

7pm arrival for 7.30pm start

Guest Speaker is Sergeant Andrew Nisbet, Ballistics Unit, Victoria Police Forensic Services Centre, McLeod.



For more information email Dawn at president@nhwgreaterdandenong.org or phone 0407 325 030.

Dandenong Evening VIEW Club



The Dandenong Evening VIEW club meets from 7pm–9pm for dinner every first Tuesday of the month (excluding November where they meet on the 2nd Tuesday).

VIEW stands for Voice Interests and Education for Women and the club supports the Smith Family's learning for life program and is actively involved in fundraising activities to raise donations for The Smith Family programs.

New members and guests are always welcome. Bookings are essential.



For more information contact Brigitte Billimoria on 0491 626 527 or email brigitte@billimoria.net



Homecycle



Tuesday 7 March to Saturday 18 March
Tuesday 13 June to Saturday 24 June

Give your smaller unwanted goods a second chance with this **FREE** kerbside collection. Your collection will be the day after your normal recycling bin is emptied.

For more information visit

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/homecycle