

Greater Dandenong Council News



National Volunteer Week

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Budget**

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**Compost for
a Sustainable
Future**

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**We Celebrate
our Rainbow
Community**

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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:

Greater Dandenong Council News

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Dandenong VIC 3175

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Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



@greaterdandy



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls	
Police / Fire / Ambulance.....	000
Street lighting faults / non-operational	
United Energy.....	13 20 99
Traffic signal faults / non-operational.....	8571 1000
Hoon Hotline.....	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection	
WM Waste Management Services.....	9721 1915
Australian Animal Protection Society.....	9798 8415
RSPCA.....	9224 2222
Nurse on Call.....	1300 606 024
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 May edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

We welcomed the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Daniel Andrews, recently to officially open the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) gym. We also hosted Victoria Police to hold only one of two Community Safety Forums in the state. Read more on both events on page 3.

Our community vision drives the priorities in our 2023-24 Budget, find out more on how to have your say on page 3.

National Volunteer Week begins on 15 May. We thank our Greater Dandenong volunteers for their tireless and selfless work and honour our Volunteer of the Year Julie Klok, read more on page 7.

International Compost Awareness Week begins on 7 May. We encourage you to turn your food scraps and garden waste into compost to help us create a sustainable future, more information is on page 8.

Join millions of people around the world and go rainbow on 17 May to build a world free from discrimination as we celebrate the International Day Against LGBTIQ+ Discrimination, read more about how we honour our rainbow community on page 11.

Best wishes to those celebrating Mother's Day on Sunday 14 May and have a wonderful month ahead.

Mayor
Cr Eden Foster

My City

'Wominjeka' means welcome and is a shared word of the languages of the people of the Kulin Nation.

This welcome and new Acknowledgement of Country plaques now greet you as you enter all key council facilities, paying respects to Traditional Owners the Bunurong People and their Elders past, present and emerging. This initiative is a deliverable in Council's Innovate *Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)*.

From 27 May-3 June it is National Reconciliation Week. This year's theme is *Be a Voice for Generations*. The theme encourages all Australians to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all.

Council is holding several activities during National Reconciliation Week, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week-2023 for more information.

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.

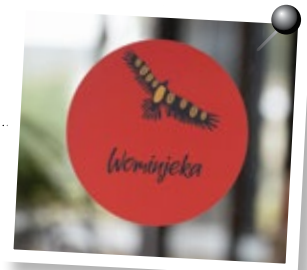


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FSC
Logo

Front cover: Meals on Wheels volunteers Hitch Kajim, Heather Hanratty and Bill Radford.



Community vision guides 2023–24 Budget



From 14 October to 14 November 2022 Council undertook a consultation

process to better understand our community's priorities and how they would like to see us spend our annual budget.

Community members who participated in this process wanted to see more shared paths, playgrounds, parks and sportsgrounds, and thought Council should be spending more money on roads, buildings and traffic management.

These ideas were considered by Council in the development of the draft Budget and Annual Plan for 2023–24. These documents are now available for our community to review and provide feedback on.

Key areas of focus for the budget will be improving Council's community facilities with the construction of the Keysborough Community Hub, Dandenong New Art Gallery and the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre.

A new walking track is planned at Springvalley Park, fitness equipment at Glendale Reserve and many landscape and furniture upgrade projects across reserves in the municipality. Capital funding will also be allocated to road projects and a drainage project in Noble Park will continue into the new year.

The Annual Plan highlights Council's key activities for the 2023–24 financial year to help us achieve our community vision of a home to all which is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.

Health and wellbeing will continue to be a high priority and key strategies will continue to be delivered addressing priorities in arts and cultural heritage, biodiversity, climate change, waste and litter and physical activity.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/budget-2023-24-consultation](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/budget-2023-24-consultation) to read the 2023–24 Budget and Annual Plan and have your say. This consultation will close on 24 May at 5pm.



(L–R): Cr Rhonda Garad, Cr Jim Memeti, Cr Bob Milkovic, Mayor Cr Eden Foster, Victorian Premier The Hon. Daniel Andrews, Deputy Mayor Cr Lana Formoso, Cr Sean O'Reilly, The Hon. Gabrielle Williams MP, Mr Lee Tarlamis OAM MLC and Cr Richard Lim OAM

NPAC gym official opening

Victorian Premier, the Honourable Daniel Andrews, joined Mayor, Cr Eden Foster and other distinguished guests to officially open the NPAC new gym, managed by South East Leisure.

Made possible with grant funding of \$3.3 million from the Victorian Government's Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program,

the \$6.9 million project has created the addition of innovative health and fitness spaces at NPAC to allow more people to get more active more often.

Council's ongoing investment in quality sport and recreation infrastructure is essential to enhance the health and wellbeing of our residents.



For more information visit nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au



(L–R): Jody Bosman Director City Planning, Design and Amenity, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Mayor Cr Eden Foster, Chief Commissioner of Police Shane Patton, Cr Angela Long and CEO Jacqui Weatherill.

Keeping our community safe

Victoria Police hosted their CommSafe Forum at Tatterson Park Pavilion in Keysborough recently to discuss community safety concerns and to identify shared areas for action.

The forum explored a range of topics including current crime trends and crime prevention, young people, family violence, road policing, drugs and drug related crime.

Top recorded crimes in the area currently include theft from a motor vehicle, theft from a retail store, breach of family violence orders, criminal damage, drug possession, breach of bail conditions and family violence assault.

Council places great value in its long-term and strong partnership with Victoria Police and our joint commitment to creating a safe and inclusive Greater Dandenong.

Councillor Contacts



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Council Meetings

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

Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- ▶ **Monday 8 May**
- ▶ **Monday 22 May.**

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

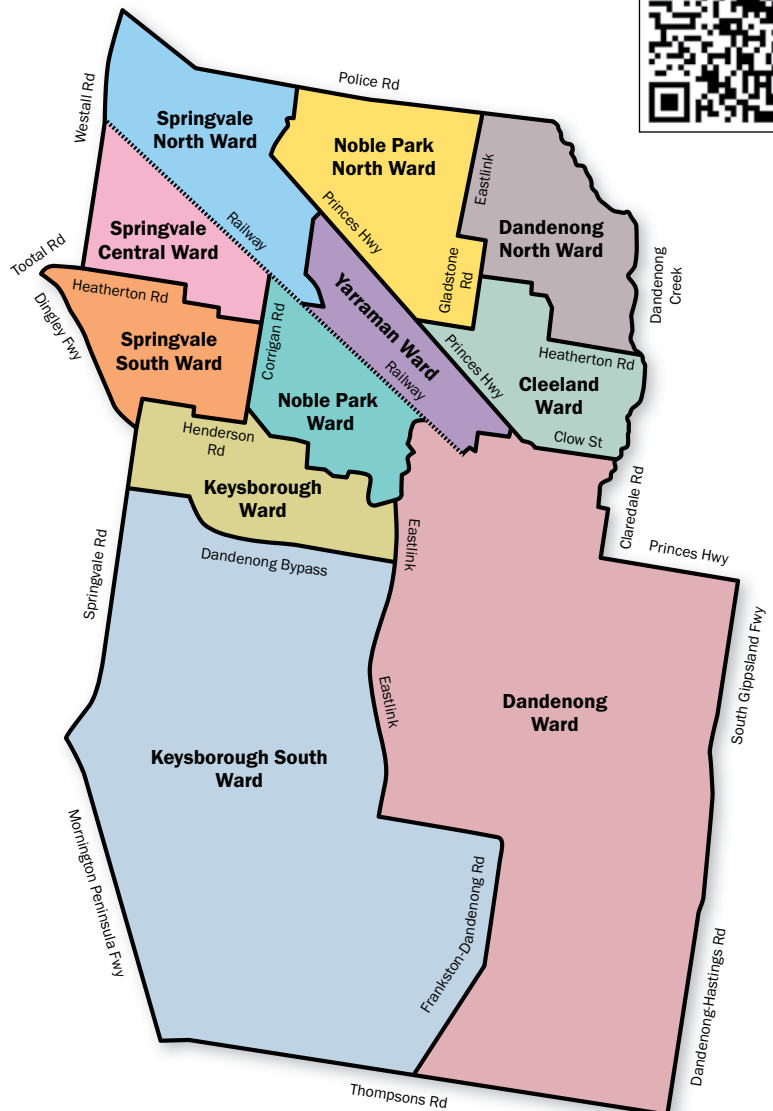
Connect with us to learn about community consultation opportunities and the latest decisions made.

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**

MAY

Greater Dandenong Ward Map



Cr Eden Foster

► Yarraman Ward



Stage 1 works at the Railway Parade shopping strip recently began.

Community feedback helped create a plan to upgrade the shopping strip, starting with new pedestrian paving and kerbside works, the planting of new shade trees and garden beds, new seating and bicycle hoops. A public art project is also being planned as part of the revitalisation of this neighbourhood shopping strip.

Works are also continuing at Parkfield Reserve following the moving of cricket nets to the southeast corner of the reserve. The construction of a new playground was recently completed, and (at the time of publication) the installation of an electronic scoreboard was due to be finished. Detailed designs have also been completed for the redevelopment of the northern tennis courts.

Vital drainage works continue along Callander Road, addressing the overflow of rainwater which occurred during

heavy rain events last year. I want to thank residents who have been patient with these works and have put up with road closures and detours. Once completed the drainage system should help properties and residents stay safer during heavy storms.

Late last year residents took part in a consultation to help guide Council's Budget and Annual Plan. The community's vision was taken into account when planning for the 2023-24 Budget, and the documents are now on display to the public. I encourage everyone to take a look and have your say via Council's website or visit one of our customer service centres.

Earlier this year we opened the new gym at NPAC to support the health and wellbeing of our residents. Built with funding from the Victorian Government, we held an official opening recently and welcomed Victorian Premier, The Honourable Daniel Andrews to officially open and tour the beautiful new facility.



► Please feel free to contact me at any time on 0435 202 645 or eden.foster@cgd.vic.gov.au

► Springvale Central Ward

Cr Richard Lim oAM



Council is working on a Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan and we have been out and about in the community asking what your vision is for the future of our suburb.

The first stage of the Shape Springvale consultation closed on 30 April, and Council will consider all the feedback before presenting a draft action plan for further review.

I am so proud to share all that Springvale has to offer and I look forward to seeing it become a top tourism hub and a place that locals are proud of.

Recently we have seen the improvements to the Number 8 Balmoral Ave multi-deck car park and many more people are now parking there. It is a very convenient car park that has 550 spaces, and I want to remind people that recent works there have improved the access and traffic flow.

Council has also invested in supporting food businesses to set up for outdoor dining. Over the warmer months it was great to see people returning to Springvale and dining at the many restaurants on offer. Seeing people eating outside adds to the vibrancy of the suburb particularly on evenings and weekends. We have seen so many more great restaurants open in recent months, and it is so good to see.

I speak to people about this suburb every day and I get many compliments about the cleanliness and the improved footpaths.

Council recently undertook landscaping works along Buckingham Avenue to improve the tree coverage. Five Chinese Elm trees were planted alongside rosemary shrubs. The elms are expected to reach a height of 12m when they are fully grown, helping to create a greener environment and more shade, which in turn should help lower temperatures in the hotter months.

I have a strong vision for the future of Springvale, and I am working hard to have our suburb recognised on the world stage.

► You can contact me at richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 627 164.

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 May.

Date	Location
Monday 1 May	Springvale City Hall, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale
Thursday 4 May	Jan Wilson Community Centre, BJ Powell Reserve, Halton Road, Noble Park North
Thursday 11 May	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Tuesday 16 May	Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park
Saturday 20 May	Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street (enter via Harmony Square, Dandenong)
Wednesday 24 May	Springvale City Hall, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale

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



Pocket park creates connection



The redevelopment of vacant land in the Noble Park Activity Centre has created a new valuable green space for the community to enjoy.

The 2A Frank Street open space redevelopment was completed late last year with funding from the Victorian Government through the Noble Park Revitalisation Board. The land was previously the site of two disused tennis courts.

More than 230 members of the community took part in an online survey,

a series of workshops, a children's workshop and weekend on-street surveys. People freely shared their thoughts and ideas for the future of the park.

The flexible space includes landscaping with colourful trees and garden beds, a paved area, seating and a timber stage.

The space is designed to be used by the whole community giving pedestrians a clear connection between Ross Reserve, Aubrey Moss Memorial Gardens and Copas Park in Noble Park.

Rooms for hire

The Springvale Community Hub has a range of affordable meeting and community rooms for hire.

Rooms are suitable for small groups of two up to 50 people and are available during the Hub's opening hours.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-community-hub-hire to find out about rates and availability.



Sustainability mascot Lily Litterbug gets active

Make Your Move this Autumn



Enjoy the many wonderful outdoor spaces, parks, reserves and playgrounds throughout Greater Dandenong this Autumn.

There is so much to explore in your own backyard.



Visit Council's website for a list of outdoor spaces near you at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

National Volunteer Week

MAKING
A POSITIVE
DIFFERENCE

Volunteering makes a positive difference in the community. It can also improve life for those who share their time, talents and abilities.

National Volunteer Week (15–21 May) is a great opportunity to recognise the role volunteering plays in our own community, and this year's theme *The Change Makers* celebrates the impact volunteers have.

Greater Dandenong City Council relies on volunteers to support programs and services across our city and offers a range of interesting roles to prospective volunteers.

Mayor, Cr Eden Foster said some people had been volunteering with Council for almost 30 years.

"We want to acknowledge the challenges of the past few years and express gratitude for our wonderful volunteers who have returned to support our services following the disruption with the pandemic," the Mayor said.

She said there is a range of volunteer roles to choose from.

"You can support our Meals on Wheels program, or our home library services, you can also support children, the elderly, and our environment.

"You can teach English to new arrivals, help children learn to read or spend time in nature through our Gardens for Wildlife program. The possibilities are endless," the Mayor said.

Council is committed to supporting volunteering in our community and is currently working on a strategy to guide volunteering in Greater Dandenong for years to come.

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



Mayor, Cr Eden Foster with local seniors and day trip volunteer Sandra who provides valuable support

Celebrating our 100th day trip for seniors

Mayor, Cr Eden Foster helped celebrate our 100th day trip for local seniors, hosted by Council's Positive Ageing Team.

The group went on the community bus to visit Puffing Billy and were thrilled to have the Mayor wish them farewell.

The program began in January 2020 and more than 1300 seats have been booked on Council's buses. These outings foster social connection and friendships for seniors who enjoy day trips throughout Victoria.

If you would like to book your place on the community bus phone 8571 5556 or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/connection-seniors



Mayor, Cr Eden Foster with Volunteer of the Year, Julie Klok

Volunteer of the Year

Noble Park resident Julie Klok was named Greater Dandenong's Volunteer of the Year at our 2023 Australia Day Awards.

Mrs Klok said she proudly accepted the honour as recognition for all the volunteers in Greater Dandenong.

"There's an element of self-satisfaction, while feeling like I am making a difference in the community," she said.

Mrs Klok has lived and worked in Greater Dandenong for more than 35 years. She started volunteering with Council in 2006 and has chaired the Positive Ageing Committee since 2016.

She has volunteered with the Friends of Refugees, the Office of the Public Advocate and is currently a tourism ambassador with the City of Melbourne and a volunteer stylist with *Groomed to Go* in Frankston.

An avid cyclist who has explored bike paths in and around Greater Dandenong since the start of the pandemic, Mrs Klok was named a Make Your Move Ambassador last year to encourage senior residents to get more active.

She also spent 2020 and 2021 supporting Council programs to reduce isolation among residents most affected by the pandemic.

Mrs Klok called on all residents to consider volunteering.

"It's about finding something that you enjoy. It doesn't have to be all consuming, but when you find that connection with the community and you feel like you are contributing it is a great feeling," she said.



Last year, more than 775 tonnes of rubbish was illegally dumped in Greater Dandenong.

The cost to ratepayers for Council to manage rubbish annually is \$2.9 million.

Do the right thing and dispose of your rubbish responsibly.

You can book a free **hard rubbish collection** or take advantage of the **Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days** that occur several times a Year. **Homecycle** is also available, Council's free collection of smaller items that can be reused and recycled.

Getting your rubbish collected is free and easy.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/campaign-to-keep-greater-dandenong-clean or phone 8571 1000 for more information.



We value the ideas and opinions of our community so 'have your say' on our current consultations by visiting our website at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/have-your-say

Better soil for a better future



International Compost Awareness Week (7–13 May) is a chance to talk about the importance of composting to create a sustainable future.

Composting turns food scraps and garden waste into rich natural fertiliser. Compost can then be used to improve the health of your soil and plants.

Greater Dandenong residents can add their food scraps to their green lid garden waste bin. The kerbside collection delivers to a facility that turns this waste into high quality compost that is used on our local parks and reserves, and by farmers across Victoria.

There are several ways you can compost at home, including through the use of compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi buckets.

To celebrate International Compost Awareness Week, Council is hosting two free **Composting and Worm Farming at Home** workshops to help you reduce household waste and reduce your carbon footprint.



Join us to learn more about:

- ▶ how to set up and maintain a compost bin and worm farm
- ▶ what materials are suitable for each system
- ▶ common troubleshooting tips
- ▶ which system is best for you.

The workshops will be held at Dandenong Library on Tuesday 9 May from 12pm–1.30pm, and at Springvale Library on Tuesday 9 May from 5.30pm–7pm.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1702 to register.

Friends of Refugees Community Pop-Up Market



Friends of Refugees were successful in receiving a Victorian Government grant to run a pop-up community food relief market over six weeks at the Springvale Community Hub.

Awarded **Community Group of the Year** in Council's 2023 Australia Day Awards, Friends of Refugees worked with Council to ensure the pop-up market helped provide healthy and culturally

appropriate food to locals through farmer's market style stalls.

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.

➔ More for information visit friendsofrefugees.org.au



Sri Samy from Friends of Refugees, Mayor Cr Eden Foster, Cr Richard Lim OAM, Former Councillor Roz Blades AM and Rob Koch from Monash Health.

Something for everyone in Greater Dandenong

Reminders

- ▶ **Monday 8 May**
Council meeting
- ▶ **Sunday 14 May**
Mother's Day
- ▶ **Monday 22 May**
Council meeting
- ▶ **Friday 26 May**
National Sorry Day
- ▶ **Saturday 27 May**
National Reconciliation Week

Parkrun @ Dandenong Park, Every Saturday, 7.45am

Carers Walking Group @ Burden Park, first Thursday of the month, 10am

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

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

Nature Play @ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Tuesdays during school term, 10am

Springvale Urban Harvest @ Springvale Community Hub, second Saturday of the month, 1pm

Dad's Group @ Dandenong Library, every second Friday and @ Springvale Library every second Tuesday, various times

Jan Wilson Community Centre hosts a range of fun activities for all ages and abilities, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-venues/jan-wilson-community-centre

Day trips throughout Victoria for local seniors on our community bus, to book your place visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 to be connected to our Positive Ageing Team

"Unlucky in the Lucky Country – Connecting Everyone to Abundance" Think Tank @ Supper Room, Springvale Town Hall, Friday 5 May, 10am

Springvale Community Hub Clothes Swap, 13 May, 1pm

Afghan Bazaar Cultural Tour, Saturday 13 May, 6pm, to book visit drumticketing.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Material Metaphor @ Harmony Square Windows, Dandenong, explore the reimagined landscapes of artist Rachael Wellisch, until Tuesday 16 May

Community Safety Forum in Springvale with Victoria Police, Tuesday 16 May

Magical Getaway Foundation Market @ Menzies Hall Dandenong North, Sunday 21 May, 10am

Off the Menu Tour, Monday 22 May, 12pm, to book visit drumticketing.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Volunteer Expo by Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service @ Springvale Town Hall, Tuesday 23 May, 10am

Council's National Reconciliation Week event @ Springvale Community Hub, Tuesday 30 May, 9.30am

'Optimism, Opportunities and Achievement': a reflection on the Centenary of Local Government in Dandenong in 1973 Exhibition @ Benga House, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, until 31 May, Wednesdays-Fridays, 10am-2pm

creative RISE – Cultural Sketch @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, for the arts community to gain skills, pass on knowledge and share experiences, Tuesday 9 May, 6pm

Transforming Old Treasures @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Tuesday 2 May, 10am

9 by 5 Exhibition @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, view artistic works from around Australia as they present their work on nine by five-inch panels, until Friday 7 July, Tuesdays-Fridays, 12-4pm

Art Club

Term 2, every Tuesday except ANZAC Day

Springvale Community Hub

Free after-school program run by qualified teacher and artist, Monica Muresan

Book via greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

IntroSwim – Term 2

3 May-21 June (8-week program)

Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC)
9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park

Visit nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au

Young Leaders Program 2023

2 May-15 August (15-week program)

Youth and Family Services
39 Clow Street, Dandenong

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

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

To submit your event for our website and Council news visit:

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event

NPAC Gym Now Open
9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park

Activate your 7 day FREE trial NOW!

Springvale Urban Harvest



Join us for a food swap event that supports sustainability in Greater Dandenong.

The Springvale Urban Harvest operates out of the Springvale Community Hub on the second Saturday of each month.

You can swap excess homegrown produce and gardening extras while meeting like-minded growers in the area.

You can swap:

- ▶ home-grown fruit and vegetables
- ▶ seeds you've saved and seedlings and cuttings you've raised (edible only)
- ▶ gardening goodies (coffee grounds, worm juice, etc)
- ▶ copies of your favourite seasonal recipes
- ▶ second-hand gardening magazines and books
- ▶ your gardening skills, tips and stories.

Join us for the next Springvale Urban Harvest on Saturday 13 May, from 1pm–3pm.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/springvale-urban-harvest or phone 8571 1000 for more information.



Staff at Springvale Neighbourhood House, home to 46 cultural groups.

Visit your Neighbourhood House



Across Australia Neighbourhood House Week is being celebrated from 8–14 May. This year's theme is *Locals connecting Locals*.

Council supports eight Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres throughout Greater Dandenong.

These community facilities provide a safe and caring place for people of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and interests.

Greater Dandenong's cluster of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres work together to provide community connections, quality programs and activities, and lifelong learning.

They also offer low-cost meeting rooms and facilities for hire.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more.

Refugee Week celebration in June

As a Refugee Welcome Zone, Greater Dandenong City Council will celebrate Refugee Week (18–24 June) with a community event for all ages.

Council is seeking expressions of interest from food and market stall holders and community organisations who would like to be involved in the event on Friday 23 June from 12pm–4pm.

The event will be held at Springvale City Hall and Springvale Community Hub, and will include live performances,

cultural experiences, activities, food and market stalls.

The theme for Refugee Week 2023 is *Finding Freedom*. We encourage all those considering taking part in this event to explore what it means to be free, to live without the fear of war, to have basic human rights upheld, to live with equality and without the fear of persecution.

This event highlights support for our refugee communities in Greater Dandenong and will engage and

connect our community with local services.

Expressions of interest close on Friday 19 May and participation is free.



Apply at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/greater-dandenong-council/events/refugee-week-2023 or phone 8571 1000 for more information.

CELEBRATING
REFUGEE
WEEK

Proud 2 Be Me

A group of passionate young leaders in Greater Dandenong have created a campaign to show support for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Participants in Council's 2022 Young Leaders program identified the need to promote culturally appropriate, positive messaging for young people and created the *Proud 2 Be Me* campaign to celebrate LGBTIQ+ community members of all backgrounds and identities.

Proud 2 Be Me aims to educate the wider community about diverse sexual and gender identities, while shining a light on the many similarities we share. The campaign hopes to spread the message that there is so much more to a person than their sexuality and gender identity.

Junior Melo stars as an ally in the campaign, and says it is important to be inclusive and to love and respect people for who they are.

Manager of Youth Engagement for South East Community Links, Junior works with young people from diverse backgrounds every day.

He said in a diverse community like Greater Dandenong, there are people from many different backgrounds, and for some communities talking about sexuality and gender issues remained taboo.

"In Greater Dandenong young people face so many barriers including youth disadvantage and racism, as well as identity. You can't isolate this issue (of identity). We all have a role to play.



Council staff at Pride March in St Kilda in celebration of our rainbow community



Junior Melo with the rainbow flag is an ally of the LGBTIQ+ community and took part in Council's Youth and Family Services *Proud 2 Be Me* campaign.

"It comes down to respect. We can't just have one viewpoint, we need to understand where other people are coming from and create places where everybody feels safe and welcome," Junior said.

He also encourages allies to be vocal about their support for people in the LGBTIQ+ community.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/projects/proud-2-be-me to discover the campaign and the stories of Emily, Pierce, Andy, Rosanna and Junior.

Wednesday 17 May is **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)**, a significant day that celebrates LGBTIQ+ people globally, and raises awareness for the work still needed to combat discrimination.



Council is working towards improving the inclusion, recognition and community understanding of our LGBTIQ+ residents and visitors.

The Drum Theatre will also be lit up in celebration of IDAHOBIT on 17 May.

For local resources and support services visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/LGBTIQplus



Mayor Cr Eden Foster with Matthew Crozier from the St Kilda Football Club

St Kilda Football Club partnership

Mayor, Cr Eden Foster recently joined Matthew Crozier, St Kilda Football Club Community Football Lead – Pathways, Partnerships and Diversity AFLW Recruiting Officer, at the All Nations Diversity Squad training session at Tatterson Park.

The All Nations Diversity Squad consists of talented young male and female footballers of multicultural backgrounds.

Council and the St Kilda Football Club have established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based on shared goals to increase the health and wellbeing of our community through participation in Australian Rules Football.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Greater Dandenong Libraries offer a fantastic variety of free programs and activities across our Dandenong and Springvale branches for early years, youth and adults.

Events to engage and enjoy

Wednesday 3 May

Art Journal Workshop for people with a disability who love creating
Springvale Library
9.30am

Thursday 4 May

Libraries At Dusk – Dungeons and Dragons
Dandenong Library
6.30pm

Tuesday 9 May

Composting and worm farming
Dandenong Library
12pm and 5.30pm

Thursday 11 May

Libraries At Dusk – Dungeons and Dragons
Dandenong Library
6.30pm

Thursday 11 May

Libraries At Dusk – Drag Trivia Night
Springvale Library
6.30pm

Saturday 13 May

Think Tank
Dandenong Library
3pm

Thursday 18 May

Chronic Pain Peer Support Group
Springvale Library
4.30pm

Thursday 18 May

Libraries At Dusk – Drag Trivia Night
Dandenong Library
6.30pm

Thursday 18 May

Libraries At Dusk – Painting with Water Colours
Springvale Library
6.30pm

Saturday 20 May

Think Tank
Springvale Library
3pm

Tuesday 23 May

Adult Aboriginal Cultural Workshop with Bunurong artist
Dandenong Library
Time TBC

Thursday 25 May

Libraries At Dusk – Painting with Water Colours
Dandenong Library
6.30pm

Thursday 25 May

Libraries At Dusk – Special Effects Make-up Skills
Springvale Library
6.30pm



Tuesday 30 May

Adult Aboriginal Cultural Workshop with Bunurong artist
Dandenong Library
Time TBC

Did you know that Windows PCs, Apple iMacs, WiFi, printing, scanning, photocopying and games consoles are available at Greater Dandenong Libraries?

All you need is your library card to use these services. The use of library computers is **free** for all members.

Our team at the Dandenong Library can also help you fill out government forms, like the Victorian Government \$250 Power Saving Bonus. Drop in sessions are held Tuesdays 1pm–3pm, Thursdays 2pm–5pm and Fridays 2pm–4pm during school terms only.

Victorian public libraries change lives by offering communities a place to learn, create and belong.

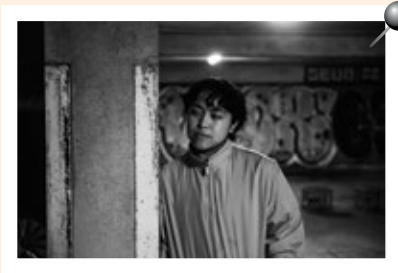
Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries/events to find out what's on at your libraries.

What's on at The Drum



Hosting more than 170 performances in front of over 60,000 people each year, there's bound to be a show for you at your local Drum Theatre.

With Mother's Day around the corner consider purchasing a gift voucher to one of the Drum's superb shows to give an experience she'll remember.



And Then There Was Night

And Then There Was Night

Thursday 4 May – 7pm and 8.15pm
Friday 5 May – 7pm and 8.15pm
Saturday 6 May – 7pm and 8.15pm

A tour and site-specific performance held in vacant buildings brought to life by Dandenong's youth. Award winning theatre company Pony Cam will create a night time adventure for locals.

Clue: On Stage

Thursday 18 May, 7.30pm
Friday 19 May, 7.30pm
Saturday 20 May, 2pm and 7.30pm

Escapees Theatre Company presents this popular play based on the cult classic film and the popular board game. Clue is a comedy that will keep you guessing until the final twist.



Clue: On Stage

Special Encore Performance of Clue

Thursday 18 May, 10.30am

Join us for the abridged version of Clue: On Stage. This performance is part of the Drum's Encore Program. All Encore tickets include complimentary morning tea and a parking voucher.

Common Dissonance

Na Djinang Circus
Saturday 27 May, 5pm

First Nations-led Na Djinang Circus presents this moving performance to mark the beginning of National Reconciliation Week. Featuring two contemporary circus performers with shared and distinctly individual experiences, it seeks balance, community, exchange, unity and diversity.



Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman

Saturday 3 June, 3pm

Hearth Theatre presents 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.

A theatrical event not to be missed, starring one of Australia's finest theatre actors, Paul English as Willy Loman, "a salesman with his feet on the subway stairs, and his head in the stars".

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

Business engagement survey results



Council's Business Support Team offers a variety of different initiatives to support the local business community, including small and home-based businesses.

Council is always looking to improve our service delivery and so we recently conducted a business engagement survey.

The aim of the survey was to identify what business services Council provides that are currently being used by local businesses and identify any gaps where further support may be needed.

We received 238 responses and discovered that future concerns for businesses include increased costs, energy shortages and supply chain challenges.

The top responses to the question about what services Council could provide to better support businesses in 2023 included:



- ▶ introductions to key businesses and government bodies
- ▶ business expansion or relocation support (within Greater Dandenong)
- ▶ business marketing and communication support (such as buy local campaigns)
- ▶ business permit support.

A high percentage of respondents said they found Council's business magazine *Talking Business* a helpful communication tool. If you run a business and would like to learn more about how Council can better support you, then sign up to receive the magazine digitally via our website.

Support for new and expanding businesses

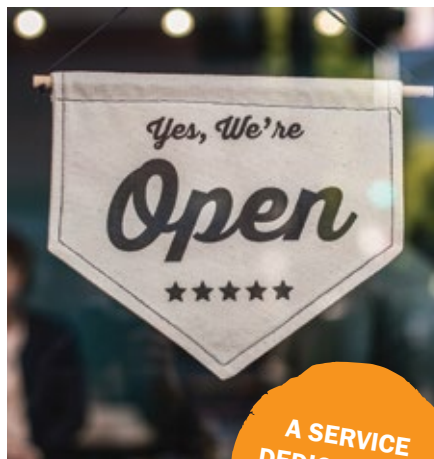
If you are looking to start, expand or buy a business Council has a service dedicated to supporting you.

The Business Permit Support Service helps walk you through the permits and registrations needed before you open a business in Greater Dandenong.

A simple to follow Business Permit Checklist found on Council's website can identify what permits are needed including Council, government agency and private consultancy requirements.

Following completion of the checklist a member of Council's Business Support Team will phone you to talk through the requirements in more detail.

Depending on your business and its activities you may need permits for planning, building, public health, local laws or civic works.



Some permits can take a few weeks, while others could take up to a year.

A SERVICE DEDICATED TO HELPING YOU

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business/business-permit-support-service, email business@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000 for more information.

SCAN THE QR CODE



Looking to develop, relocate, invest or start a business in Greater Dandenong?

Contact Council's business team to learn how they can support you and your business.

For more information:

✉ business@cgd.vic.gov.au

☎ 8571 1550

🌐 greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business

Business grants

The City of Greater Dandenong is home to more than 17,500 businesses, including many small family-owned businesses.

Whether you are looking to grow your business or need support to navigate challenging times, there are a number of programs and initiatives offering support.

From business development and employment incentives to wellbeing assistance there are many programs available.

Current grants to assist businesses in Victoria include:

- ▶ business growth
- ▶ employment assistance
- ▶ energy rebates
- ▶ disaster relief
- ▶ wellbeing
- ▶ First Nations
- ▶ tax incentives.

You can look up current opportunities through Business Victoria.

Visit business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs to find out more.

COVID-19 protection



Help reduce the spread of COVID-19 for the protection of yourself and others.

Free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) and N95 face masks 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 are part of a community organisation that would like to order RATs or N95 masks in bulk, please contact our Emergency Management Team at emergency.management@cgd.vic.gov.au

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



Need help applying for the \$250 power saving bonus?

With the cost of living pressures rising, the Victorian Government has launched another round of its \$250 Power Saving Bonus to help provide your household with some much-needed relief on your energy bills.

To be eligible you need to have a residential energy account and be the electricity account holder on the bill.

The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and partners Uniting Vic.Tas. and GV Community Energy can help you apply for free, phone 9956 8850 or 1800 830 029. An interpreter service is also available.



▶ For more information visit bsl.org.au/power-saving-bonus or to apply yourself visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au

Protect yourself this flu season

Annual vaccination against influenza (flu) is the best defence to protect against disease.

The flu vaccine is available via pharmacies and your local doctor.

The vaccine is safe and recommended for all people in Australia aged 6 months and older.

You can get your 2023 COVID-19 booster at the same time if eligible and aged 18 years or over.

Fighting flu starts with you.

Lions Club of Noble Park/Keysborough Trivia Night Saturday 27 May @ 7pm

Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre
31b Marcus Road, Dingley Village

\$20 per person, tables of 10 people

Light refreshments provided, BYO drinks and nibbles. Cash prizes, silent auction, games and raffles

Raising funds for the Lions Medical Alert Dog program

▶ For more information phone **Thomas Out on 0432 025 825**

Health and wellbeing corner



Did you know that one in five people experience mental illness?

For more information and to connect with local support services visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/mental-health

When looking after your mental health Beyond Blue suggests that staying well is about finding a balance that works for you.

Things that can help include:

- ▶ reducing and managing your stress levels
- ▶ maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- ▶ cutting back on alcohol and drugs
- ▶ taking action early if you are feeling unsettled or struggling.

Visit beyondblue.org.au/mental-health for more information.

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

Join us in celebrating Reconciliation Week

Tuesday 30 May, 9.30am – 1pm
Springvale Community Hub
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Community program includes:

- Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by a local Bunurong Elder
- Hip Hop dance performance by the Indigenous Youth Outreach Project
- Storytime in the Library presented by a Bunurong Elder, along with Reconciliation hotdog book workshop from Kids Own Publishing.

There are other Council activities happening throughout Reconciliation Week, scan the QR code to find out more or visit

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week-2023



Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

