

Greater Dandenong Council News

Dandy-Con

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Protect our Trees

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Young Leader of the Year

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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

PO Box 200

Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au



Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



[@greaterdandy](https://twitter.com/greaterdandy)



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police / Fire / Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults /
non-operational

United Energy..... 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults /

non-operational..... 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline..... 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management

Services..... 9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society..... 9798 8415

RSPCA..... 9224 2222

Nurse on Call..... 1300 606 024

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 April edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Councillors recently discussed the future role Council will play in the delivery of aged care and disability services. You can read more about our discussions and what it means for residents on page 3.

More than 3538 cats are registered in the City of Greater Dandenong. While we love our furry family members we must recognise the environmental harm they can cause. Council has introduced a cat curfew and will begin enforcing it this month. Read more on page 6.

We have another new local law designed to protect our environment. This law means you need a permit to cut down trees on private property if they're over a certain size. Find out about the new permit and why mature trees are so important on page 10.

With school holidays upon us, Council has plenty of activities to entertain the kids. Turn to page 8 to find out What's On in Greater Dandenong across the whole month of April.

I look forward to seeing everyone out and about and having fun in our city this month.

Mayor

Cr Lana Formoso



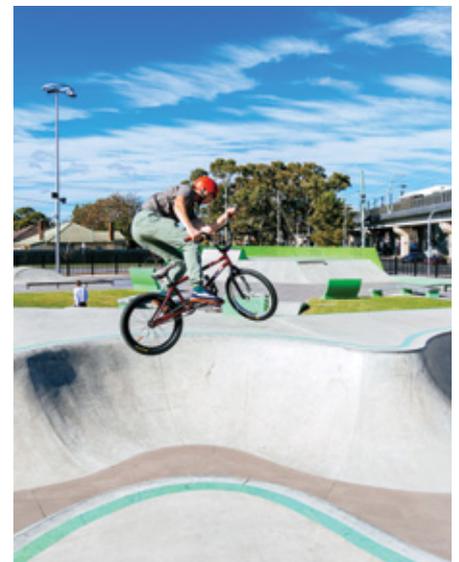
My City

Noble Park Skate Park is a world class skate park with a unique design that features a plaza, snake-run and bowl.

Located within Ross Reserve the park was designed by professional skater and Noble Park local Jon McGrath. It is open from 5.30am-10pm, with lights switching on at dusk.



The park is popular with skaters from near and far and hosts regular activities. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to search for upcoming events and activations



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Bunurong People, and pay respect to their Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, Culture, Country and waters.



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.

Front cover: A cast of characters prepare for the Dandy-Con Festival at Dandenong Library this month. Picture: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo



Our City, Our Future



Over the coming months residents will be invited to have their say on the future direction of Council.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, following each Council election, we must complete a new Council Plan.

The Council Plan, which will include our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, helps guide our organisation over the next four years and it is important to include our community in putting this plan together.

We want to hear what is most important to our residents, how we can achieve your community vision and what key activities and projects you want us to focus on.

Support for new parents



Are you a new parent who needs support to better understand your baby's sleep needs?

Greater Dandenong City Council runs sleep and settling programs to help support parents of children aged up to two years.

Learn more about age-appropriate sleep strategies, how to settle your baby or toddler, and support your baby/child to develop a positive connection with sleep.

Council runs in person sessions and personalised support via Telehealth or in your own home.

Council would love to hear from individuals and community groups who would like to have input into the next Council Plan. There will be many opportunities to have your say ahead of the October Council Elections and we will be popping up in locations across the city and at major events.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2025-29 for more information or email ourfuture@cgd.vic.gov.au to register your interest in being part of this project and keep up to date with the activities we have planned.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sleep-and-settling-sessions to find out more.

One-stop online shop



Council has an online customer portal for residents and property owners to manage all Council-related tasks and services in one place.

You can:

- ▶ View your rates balance and set up flexible payments
- ▶ Check your bin day and see which bins to put out
- ▶ View your customer service requests
- ▶ View planning applications
- ▶ Register pets and pay registration fees
- ▶ Quickly access information about your local Councillor
- ▶ See upcoming community events
- ▶ Have your say on community consultations.

The portal can be accessed anywhere and is designed to be used on a PC or a mobile device. It is accessible in up to 133 languages when you click on the Google Translate button on the site. It can also be customised to view multiple properties from the same account.



Visit portal.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to register.

Council's Review into Aged and Disability Services

In the last edition we wrote about a Council decision regarding our future role in providing aged care and disability services.

In the article we wrote we would report back about the discussion that was due to be held at the Council meeting on Monday 26 February. The discussion was postponed until a later Council meeting.

This edition of Council News went to print before that meeting took place.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/aged-care-reforms to keep up to date on our review and all discussions.

Councillor Contacts



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● **Springvale North Ward**
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● **Springvale South Ward**
Cr Loi Truong
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loi.truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

● **Yarraman Ward**
Currently vacant due to Eden Foster being elected as State Parliament representative for the seat of Mulgrave.

MONDAY

8

APRIL

MONDAY

22

APRIL

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:

- ▶ **Monday 8 April**
- ▶ **Monday 22 April.**

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**

APRIL

Cr Sean O'Reilly

▶ Springvale North Ward



Work has begun on implementing the Springvale Reserve Masterplan.

Council carried out extensive consultation with the community, including a number of local schools, to create a masterplan that ensures the space meets the community's needs for years to come.

A \$2 million grant from the State Government is helping to fund several projects at the reserve, including the recent completion of new coaches' boxes and perimeter fencing on the oval, for the benefit of players and volunteers.

A project to build two netball courts including lighting, fencing, and player boxes is underway. These courts should be complete and match-ready by June.

The construction of oval floodlighting has also begun and due to be completed next month. The upgrade to 150 lux lights has been supported with extra funding from AFL Victoria.

Work will begin in the coming months to build a new playground that has been created with input from the youngest members of our community. Across May and June Council visited local primary schools to seek their input, and even took a group of students on a tour around Springvale Reserve to stimulate ideas.



In June last year Springvale Library hosted a group of young people with a significant connection to Springvale for a workshop to help create a youth-friendly park and enhance the whole masterplan.

Council is working hard to better engage with our community on all matters, and these opportunities to hear firsthand from park users helped us design something the community can be proud of.



I am always open to hearing from residents about their issues in Springvale North Ward and across our city. You can contact me via email at sean.oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0422 523 258.

► Dandenong Ward



There has been a lot of work happening at the George Andrews Reserve to make it a great place for the Dandenong community.

Late last year Council announced a lighting upgrade to increase the 200 lux towers to a higher quality 500 lux set up at George Andrews Reserve. The change will allow players to train and play matches later in the day, helping to accommodate more people on the oval. Importantly it also brings this ground up to professional competition and broadcast standards. The \$700,000 project has been jointly funded by Council and the State Government, which contributed \$200,000, and is expected to be completed by June.

A veranda is also being added to the pavilion, allowing for more undercover area to protect community gatherings and spectators from the elements. This project is due for completion this month.

A new mural celebrating Dandenong's links to the Macedonian village of Keshava is being painted on the outside of the Whittle Pavilion. More than 500 local families have direct links to Keshava, with many families travelling

Cr Jim Memeti

from there to settle in Dandenong South in the 1960s. They were attracted by the promise of work and created a strong community here that continues to this day.

The reserve's playground will be upgraded this year following consultation late last year, including input from local families and children on what equipment they want to see.

Council is about to begin community consultation for the next Council Plan 2025–29. We want to hear from as many community members and organisations as possible. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-plan-2025-29 to find out how you can get involved.

In the meantime if you want to contact me about any Council-related matters you can email me at jim.memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Cr Lana Formoso, Mayor

► Noble Park North Ward

Since 2009 Council has organised the Take a Swing for Charity Golf Day.

Supported by corporate sponsors the event raises money for local charities and has directly helped thousands of local residents through 17 different organisations. This year the day set a target of \$50,000 (to reach \$700,000 over the lifetime of the event).

One of the greatest parts of my role as Mayor of this city is to be able to work alongside council and charities doing incredible work for our community. One such charity is Cornerstone who have been serving our community for over 30 years. They are the recipients of this year's fundraising and will use the money to build a new multi-purpose space. This space will enable Cornerstone to increase their weekly operations and support more people. Cornerstone Centre operates at Unit 1, 31 James St, Dandenong, offering meals and food parcels to anyone in need. Phone 0481 186 323 or email admin@cornerstonecentre.com.au.

The storm events that ripped through Greater Dandenong in mid-February

caused some catastrophic damage, leaving residents and businesses without power. Volunteers at Greater Dandenong State Emergency Service, which I'm a proud member of, responded to over 365 requests for assistance from residents with trees on roads, cars and buildings. With support from the CFA all requests were attended to within three days. I'm excited to work with the State Government and others to build a fit for purpose emergency management building in Keysborough to house volunteers from CFA and SES under one roof.

Council and I have been tirelessly advocating with the Department of Transport and Planning to produce a well-advanced design for traffic signals and much needed pedestrian crossing facilities at the intersection of Stud and McFees roads. We've been calling for a safer pedestrian crossing here for many years, and I want to reassure the community I will continue having this very important conversation with our Federal and State governments to resolve the serious safety issues along this notorious stretch of road.



Cornerstone CEO Naomi Paterson with Mayor Cr Lana Formoso.

You can contact me via email at lane.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 530 536.

Cat Curfew



Cats of Greater Dandenong are now subject to a curfew and need to be confined to your property from dusk to dawn.

The night-time curfew was introduced following extensive community consultation, and was designed to reduce cat overpopulation and better protect local wildlife.

One of the most significant risks of cat overpopulation is the impact it has on our environment. Greater Dandenong has many sensitive ecological wetlands and conservation areas. These areas are home to birds, including water birds, reptiles, mammals, frogs and other important species, which are under threat from predatory cats.

Each year Greater Dandenong City Council impounds an average of 700 cats, at a significant cost to ratepayers. Only about seven per cent of cats are reclaimed by owners.

What happens if my cat is caught off my property during curfew hours?

If a cat is caught wandering off your property during curfew it will be taken to a pound and the owner will have to pay fees to have their cat released.

In the first instance the owner will receive a warning, but subsequent impoundments will face enforcement actions including a fine. From 10 April, Council will begin issuing warnings and fines to owners who do not observe the curfew.

Pet registrations due

The law requires all owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with Council.

More importantly, keeping pet registration and microchip details up to date means we can return lost and wandering pets to owners as quickly and safely as possible.

Registrations are due by Wednesday 10 April and heavily discounted fees are offered for desexed pets and those over 10 years of age.



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

Cats need to be confined to your property from dusk to dawn



How do you Bin It?

Keeping Greater Dandenong clean is a high priority for Council, and litter is one of our biggest problems.

We are asking residents to keep our city beautiful and Bin It!

From food packaging and drink containers to cigarette butts, litter dirties our streets, clogs our stormwater drains and has a negative impact on the environment.

Mayor Lana Formoso recently promoted the campaign and encouraged residents to bin their rubbish.

"I do it to keep our waterways clean and ensure Greater Dandenong is a beautiful place to live, work and play."

How and why do you Bin It?



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bin-it



Adopt a Park

Registrations are now open to kindergartens and community groups to be part of Council's Adopt a Park program for 2024.

There are many benefits to the kindergartens and community groups that participate in our Adopt a Park program including:

- ▶ children spending time in a natural learning environment where they learn about caring for our plants and wildlife
- ▶ a free education session as well as a planting activity with members of Council's Parks team
- ▶ an increased sense of pride for the space, leading to less vandalism, litter and dumped rubbish.

➔ Register your kindergarten or community group for the program visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/adopt-park

Discover Dandenong Creek Festival



Celebrate one of our city's most important habitats at a fun filled event for the whole family.



Dandenong Creek is an important waterway that winds its way from the Dandenong Ranges (Wurundjeri Country), through Greater Dandenong (Bunurong Country) then into the Patterson River and Port Phillip Bay. It is an important habitat for many plants, animals, and insects.

The Discover Dandenong Creek Festival is held annually at Tirhatuan Park and is an opportunity to celebrate and appreciate this vital body of water and the habitat corridor it provides to our local flora and fauna. This free, low-waste, fun day out is enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Come along and take part in wildlife demonstrations, craft and science activities, and chat to representatives

from organisations working to protect the Dandenong Creek and surrounding areas.



This year the festival will be held on Thursday 11 April, from 11am–2pm and will feature a Welcome to Country by Traditional Custodians, roving performers, craft activities, a plant giveaway, wildlife show and display, a free sausage sizzle and more.

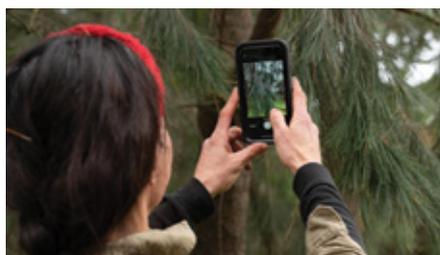
➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/discover-dandenong-creek-festival-2024 to find out more.

City Nature Challenge



Over one long weekend in April, councils across metropolitan Melbourne will take part in the City Nature Challenge 2024.

From Friday 26 April to Monday 29 April join eager citizen scientists from councils in the Greater Melbourne area to compete with cities from around the world by taking pictures of wild plants and animals and uploading them to iNaturalist.



Joining is easy. Simply download the iNaturalist app to your smartphone, create a free account, then during the four day challenge snap a photo of a

plant or animal, or record a call, and upload it to iNaturalist making sure to include the location.

Your observations will automatically be sent to the project, helping Melbourne compete with cities all over the world.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/city-nature-challenge for more information.

What's On

Friendly reminders

Monday 1 April

Easter Monday Public Holiday

Tuesday 2 April

Dads' Group @ Dandenong Library, 10am–11.30am

Wednesday 3 April

Trees: A Canopy Extraordinaire Exhibition @ Benga, Heritage Hill, 10am–2pm

Social Knitwork @ Dandenong Library, 10am–12.30pm

Reading Circle @ Dandenong Library, 11am–12pm



Thursday 4 April

Carers Walking Group meet at Noble Park Community Care, 10am

The Mik Maks – Songs to Help us Grow @ Drum Theatre, 11am

Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation @ Dandenong Hospital, 2.30pm

Sunday 7 April

Sibil 2024 Australian Tour @ Drum Theatre, 7pm

Monday 8 April

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

Tuesday 9 April

Art Series @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm–8pm

Wednesday 10 April

Strength Training @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 8.30am

Art, Craft and Conversation @ Springvale Library, 6.30pm–8pm

Thursday 11 April

Discover Dandenong Creek Festival 2024, 11am–2pm



Saturday 13 April

Springvale Urban Harvest @ Springvale Community Hub, 1pm–3pm

Springvale Community Hub Clothes Swap @ Springvale Community Hub, 1pm–3pm

Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 April

Business Plan Accelerator Workshop @ Dandenong Civic Centre, 8.30am–3.30pm

Thursday 18 April

Spirit of the ANZAC (Encore Program) @ Drum Theatre, 10.30am



Talk and Walk: Dandenong Park and Heritage Hill Gardens @ Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, 1.30pm–4pm

Sinhalese Community Book Day @ Dandenong Library, 6.30pm–8pm

Monday 22 April

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

Tuesday 23 April

Possum Playgroup @ Dandenong Library, 12.30pm–2pm

Wednesday 24 April

Library Help for Adults @ Springvale Library, 2pm–5pm



Thursday 25 April

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

Friday 26 April

City Nature Challenge 2024 (online challenge running till 29 April)

Saturday 27 April

Dandy-Con @ Dandenong Library, 11am–4pm

Monday 29 April

Toddler Time @ Springvale Library, 10.30am–11am

Tuesday 30 April

Dad's Playgroup @ Dandenong Library, 10am–11.30am

To submit your event for our website and Council News visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/promote-your-event

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

Living Well in Greater Dandenong

 **Council's Positive Ageing team works hard to ensure older people feel supported, valued and encouraged to remain active members of the community.**

The team offers shopping services, day trips and lunches throughout the year. Day trips are offered to residents who are registered users of Council's Community Transport Service and include visits to historical properties, tourist attractions and markets.

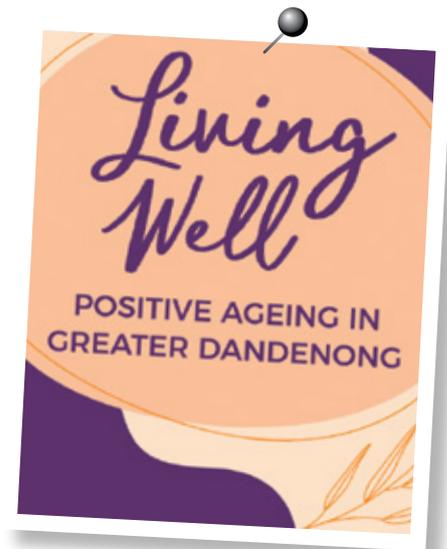
The day trips depart from and return to the Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC), 9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park.

The team also produces a bi-monthly newsletter that includes important

information about Council services, health topics and lists all day trips and activities coming up.

You can collect a hard copy of the newsletter from any Greater Dandenong City Council customer service centre or public library, or you can register to receive a digital version via email.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/living-well-greater-dandenong to subscribe electronically. Email positiveageing@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone the Positive Ageing team on 8571 5556 for more information.



Calling all primary schools

 **Council and environmental education centre CERES are delivering an exciting one-day summit for all primary schools in Greater Dandenong.**

Schools are invited to bring a small number of students from grades 5 and/or 6 to the Student Environment Leadership Summit which is returning to Springvale City Hall in Week 4 of Term 2 2024.

The summit is a no-cost, full day event that allows students' inner leadership qualities to shine and helps students develop and deliver sustainability projects.

 Find out more at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/student-environment-leadership-summit or email your interest to sustainability@cgd.vic.gov.au.

Batteries risk bin fires



Batteries, gas bottles and other hazardous waste items can cause fires and must never be placed in your household bins.

The flammable items can cause fires in our waste trucks, posing significant health and safety risks to your property, and the people who empty your bins and process your waste and recycling.

Council would like to remind residents not to dispose of these items in any bins:

- ▶ Household chemicals
- ▶ Batteries, including car batteries
- ▶ Gas bottles.



 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/other-waste-and-recycling-options to see an A-Z guide of disposal tips and the nearest drop off point for these items.

Business workshops

The Greater Dandenong Business team runs workshops all year round. Whether you're starting a business, growing your business or just keen to learn something new, there's a workshop for everyone.

Join us for these workshops in April:

Business Plan Accelerator Two Day Workshop

Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 April, 8.30am-3.30pm
Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale St, Dandenong

Worksafe Manual Handling Basics

Tuesday 16 April and Monday 22 April, 9am-12.30pm
Online Webinar

ATO Online Masterclass

Monday 22 April, 12pm-1pm
Online Webinar

Build Your Business Online

Wednesday 24 April, 12pm-2pm
Online Webinar

 Phone 8571 1550 or email business@cgd.vic.gov.au for more information.

Protect our trees, protect our city



Following an extensive consultation process, Council's Tree Protection on Private Land

Local Law is now in effect.

The new law, which was passed by Council in December 2023, is designed to safeguard the city's tree canopy by protecting significant trees on private land and means residents will need to apply for a permit to cut down a tree over a certain size.

Protected trees have a diameter of 40cm when the trunk is measured at 1.4m above the ground. Trees declared noxious weeds or deemed an immediate hazard by a qualified arborist can be removed without a permit.

Council will charge for permits from 1 July 2024. Permits will cost \$113. If found to be in breach of the local law you may be fined up to \$3700.

The new law supports the work of *Council's Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28* which aims to improve our tree canopy for the benefit of the whole community.

In Greater Dandenong our current tree canopy level of nine percent is one of the lowest in metropolitan Melbourne. Recent research confirms our tree canopy coverage is decreasing at a high rate due to land development, property maintenance, climate change, and pests and diseases.

What is tree canopy and why is it important?

Tree canopy cover is the measure of the area covered by trees when viewed from above and is recorded as a percentage of total land area.

Greater Dandenong's figure on nine per cent includes all trees across the municipality, including on private and public land, along waterways and road reserves, in carparks, etc.

Trees are important for our future and offer many benefits for the community, from providing shade to making our streets beautiful. Trees also help reduce pollution and create habitat for wildlife.

What else is Council doing to increase tree canopy?

Council has committed to planting more trees in public spaces and encouraging developers to support equally high standards.

The largest issue facing Council is that there are currently not enough street or park trees to provide the shade and other benefits needed by our community.

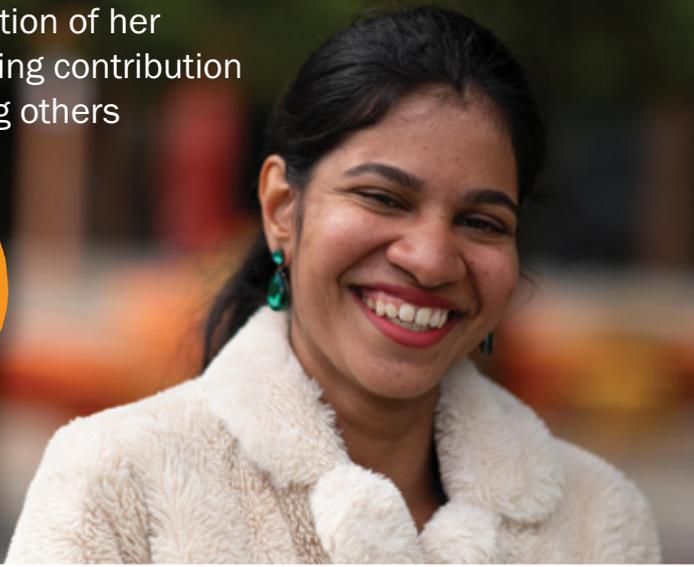
Planting more trees is not as simple as digging a hole and planting a tree. Careful planning must ensure that a location will provide the right environment including space provisions for a tree to grow to maturity. The right species must be considered in light of the location, ongoing maintenance needs, and risk management.

Council aims to increase canopy cover to 15 per cent by 2028, and reduce vacant street tree sites to zero by 2033.



...recognition of her
outstanding contribution
to helping others

ANGELINE
KARVINKOP



Young Leader of The Year



Angeline Karvinkop has been honoured with Greater Dandenong City Council's Young Leader of the Year (2024), in recognition of her outstanding contribution to helping others through her volunteer work.

Angeline participated in Council's Young Leaders Program in 2023 and has volunteered for a range of organisations supporting some of the most marginalised people in our community. Her work has supported newly arrived migrants, school students, young carers, and homeless people.

This work includes volunteering with the Centre for Multicultural Youth's *U Can 2* program, which provides additional support for young people aged 16–25 who are newly arrived in Australia, and from a refugee or migrant background.

Angeline also volunteers with yLead, a program that creates unique learning experiences that empower young people to be their best and make a positive difference in their world.

She also dedicates her time to working with the homeless, volunteering with the charitable organisation Christmas on the Streets, a grassroots movement which offers companionship, food, clothing, sanitary products, gifts and essential items to individuals and communities in need.



Angeline played an instrumental role in the Young Leaders 2023 Racism and Discrimination Project, culminating in the Diversity Rise Youth Forum and a survey focussing on improving reporting pathways for young people who experience racism and discrimination.

This year marks 15 years of the Greater Dandenong City Council's Young Leaders program. Applications for the 2024 program close on 14 April.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program to find out more.



School Holiday program

Looking for ways to entertain students these school holidays? There's something for everyone.

Have a look at what our Youth and Family Services team has organised for young people aged 12–25 years who have a significant connection to the City of Greater Dandenong.

Tuesday 2 April Skateboarding Workshop

Wednesday 3 April Soccer Clinic with Melbourne City FC

Thursday 4 April Chess Workshop and Tournament

Friday 5 April Treetops Adventure

Tuesday 9 April Archery Workshop

Wednesday 10 April Japanese Taiko Drumming

Friday 10 April Taco Time

For more information or to book your spot, visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/holiday-activities

Check out these activities at our Libraries.

Tuesday 2 April Easter Treasure Hunt @ Springvale Library 2.30pm–4pm

Wednesday 3 April Giggle Workshop @ Springvale Library 2.30pm–3.30pm

Friday 5 April Cedric's Tail @ Dandenong Library 2.30pm–3.30pm

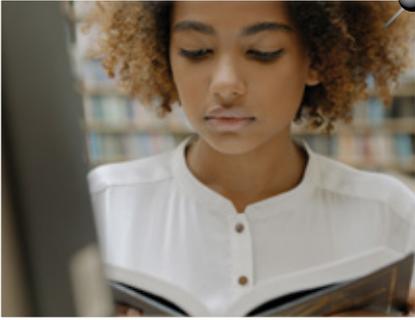
Monday 8 April Where the Wild Things Are @ Dandenong Library 2.30pm–3.30pm

Tuesday 9 April Family Fun @ Dandenong Library 2pm–4pm

Friday 12 April The Plastic Throne @ Springvale Library 2.30pm–3.30pm

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Sinhalese Community Book Day



Libraries are inclusive spaces that celebrate and support our diverse community.

They offer a range of resources such as books, magazines and DVDs in community languages.

Celebrate our Sinhalese language resources and see the newest additions to this collection at a special celebration on Thursday 18 April, from 6.30pm–8pm.

Borrow on the day and tell us what resources you would like to see added to this collection. Also enjoy a dance performance by Vishver Rangayathanaya.



Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/collections/community-languages to find out more about our community language collection.

Celebrate pop culture at Dandy-Con



Dandy-Con is back and promises to be bigger and better than before.

Come along to Dandenong Library and experience the Dandy-Con Comic Festival on Saturday 27 April, from 11am–4pm.

Dandy-Con is a free event – so put on your best costume and explore a world full of imagination, from anime to superheroes, gaming, pop culture and much more.

Brought to you by Greater Dandenong Libraries the day will be jam packed with workshops, market stalls and performers, celebrating everything our community loves about pop culture.

Among the free entertainment you can shop at anime stalls, comic book sellers and food stalls.

This is a fully supervised, drug, alcohol and smoke free event. Bring your friends and family and don't miss out on the fun.



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

Drum Theatre



The Drum Theatre offers a great season of entertainment for everyone. Consider purchasing a Drum Membership to take advantage of some great offers.

For a limited time, for just \$5 you can receive discounted tickets for select performances, exclusive offers and pre-sale booking opportunities and special offers at participating businesses.

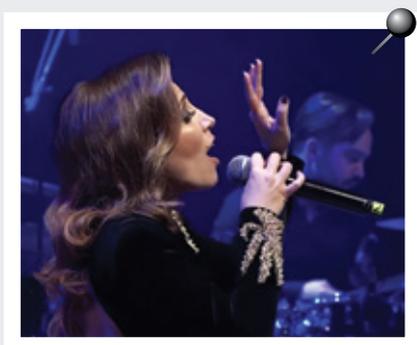
Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum-members to find out more.



The Mik Maks – Songs to Help us Grow

Thursday 4 April, 11am

The Mik Maks specialise in entertaining children aged 2–8 years old but there's something for both the young and the young at heart at a Mik Mak show.



Sibil 2024 Australian Tour

Sunday 7 April, 7pm

Prepare for an unforgettable night of musical enchantment as the award-winning Armenian singer, Sibil, takes centre stage in Melbourne for a one-night-only concert performance.



Spirit of the ANZAC

Thursday 18 April, 10.30am

Reminisce the music from World War II and Vietnam War eras in the lead up to Anzac Day 2024.



Paris in Love – An International French Variety Concert

Thursday 16 May, 10.30am

Travel to the City of Lights with Corinne and Milko along the Avenues and Boulevards of Paris to the romantic sounds of all times.

Just Announced.... Nazeem Hussain in Totally Normal

**Coming Saturday 7 September,
7.30pm**

Nazeem Hussain is back after a two-year hiatus with a brand-new show, Totally Normal. Strap in for a full dose of Nazeem, live and up-close at the Drum Theatre.

The Arts



A Tra\$hy Dreamland

Take part in this fun and immersive installation and let your creativity shine. Engage with the community through self-reflection, mass production and ethical ways of reusing broken and unwanted objects.

Explore the reflective space which will foster important conversations about the environment and cultural diversity. *A Tra\$hy Dreamland* by artist Moon Girlie will be on display at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre until 8 June.



Cultural Sketch

Join us at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre on the first Tuesday of the month to hear from, and sketch, a member of our creative community.

Presenting their creative story and arts practice to the sounds of a curated playlist, the presenter/model will hold short poses throughout the evening for your artistic exploration.

You don't need to be a visual artist to enjoy an evening of Cultural Sketch, just bring your enthusiasm, interest and willingness to have a go.

The next session will be held on Tuesday 9 April from 6pm to 8pm.



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

EPIC program a game changer



 **When Iyasu Enoro arrived in Australia as an asylum seeker in 2017, he struggled to find a professional job.**

In his home country of Ethiopia, Iyasu had completed a Bachelor of Construction Engineering and worked in the industry for more than 10 years.

Iyasu worked at a petrol station while he continued to apply for professional engineering roles. He eventually scored an internship through CareerSeekers with Rail Projects Victoria – it proved to be a game changer.

“In Australia, the most challenging thing is to find a professional job without local experience,” the 46-year-old Dandenong resident said.

“Every company requires local experience, so if you come from overseas, it’s very hard. I didn’t want to be dependent on the government.”

Iyasu successfully applied for the Victorian Government’s Engineering Pathway Industry Cadetship (EPIC), an 18-month program for refugee and asylum seeker engineers working on major transport infrastructure projects.

The program aims to help new Australians match their international qualifications to local workforce requirements. Cadets receive on-the-job training, support and mentoring. They also complete a Graduate Certificate in Infrastructure Engineering Management through Swinburne University.

Iyasu now works as a graduate engineer with Fulton Hogan. He loves his job and feels supported.

When Iyasu walks into work at Fulton Hogan’s Richmond office, he often glances at the diversity map on the wall which showcases all the different backgrounds and ethnicities of the staff.

There’s only one headshot on Ethiopia – his. Even so, Iyasu has felt culturally included in the workplace.

As for Iyasu’s future, things are looking bright. His wife and three children are in the process of migrating to Australia and Iyasu is halfway through completing a Master of Construction Management Practice through Swinburne.

“My dream is to continue my career here. I’m eager to serve this company because when I was in trouble, they helped me.”



Save the Date

GameChange – Future of Employment – Friday 19 April

Want to know what the future of employment in greater Dandenong could look like? Meet the community already creating shifts in our local area and find out how you can be a force for positive change.

 **Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/gamechange to find out more.**



Check your smoke alarms



With daylight saving ending, now is the perfect time to check your smoke alarms are in working order.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) warns smoke alarms that don't work risk lives. With 72 per cent of housefires starting in the bedroom while the occupant is asleep, having a working alarm increase your chance of being woken up in an emergency.

By law, all homes are required to have working smoke alarms in living areas, but the CFA also recommends having them installed in bedrooms.

The CFA is offering to install free smoke alarms in the homes of people who cannot purchase, install or maintain their alarm themselves.



To find out more about the program contact your local CFA brigade or email firesafetyoutreach@cfa.vic.gov.au.



Daylight Saving

Daylight Saving time ends on Sunday 7 April 2024. Don't forget to turn your clocks backward one hour at 3am.



Community Safety – Report hooning

Hoon driving is intentional dangerous and illegal behaviour in a vehicle. It endangers the lives of drivers, their passengers and other road users.

Greater Dandenong City Council works with Victoria Police, Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and VicRoads to reduce hoon driving.

Hoon activities include:

- ▶ Driving at dangerous speeds
- ▶ Illegal drag racing or speed trials
- ▶ Intentional loss of traction or drifting
- ▶ Inciting, encouraging or organising any of the above.

Council is unable to enforce laws around hoon behaviour, and relies on actions undertaken by police. If you see drivers putting the safety of themselves or others at risk you should report the behaviour to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.



If you feel you are in immediate danger phone 000 for help.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day (April 25) is Australia's national day of commemoration and marks the Gallipoli landings in WWI in 1915.



It is the day on which our nation commemorates all Australian soldiers who have served and died in military operations.

This photo, which features in Council's Community Calendar in the month of April features the War Memorial at Springvale Community Hub. The memorial was unveiled by the Governor of Victoria in 1950, and has been used as a location for Anzac Day services ever since.



This photo was taken by 14-year-old student Lachlan Thai who entered several photos into the 2024 Community Calendar Photographic Competition.

Find out more about Anzac Day services by contacting your local RSL.

Springvale RSL 9548 4155

Noble Park RSL 9548 3750

Dandenong RSL 9792 1535

DISCOVER Dandenong Creek Festival

Join us for an afternoon of discovery and fun
all-ages activities, set along the beautiful Dandenong Creek.

Thursday 11 April, 11am-2pm
Tirhatuan Park
4 Kriegel Way, Dandenong North



Activities include:

Roving performers • Craft activities • Plant giveaway
Traditional Custodians Cultural Welcome
Wildlife show and display • Live music • Sausage sizzle

For more information visit
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/discover-dandy-creek-festival

