

Greater Dandenong Council News



Safety First

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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

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 September edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Spring is here and it's a great time to rediscover the outdoors as the warmer weather approaches.

September is Biodiversity Month. Join our annual Biodiversity Blitz which involves using the iNaturalist app to collect data on plants and animals in Greater Dandenong. If you are available, come along to the Alex Wilkie Reserve Spring Thing to discover all things nature at this special event on Sunday 1 September. See page 3 to find out more.

Our annual Children's Festival is jam-packed with fun for the whole family. A variety of activities and events will be on offer throughout the city from Saturday 21 September to Sunday 6 October. Discover Noble Park at the popular Little Day Out on Sunday 22 September. Find out more on page 9.

We are very proud of all our School Crossing Supervisors who play such a valuable part in the school community. Read about Kerry Wadeson who has been ensuring the safety of children and families at Dandenong North Primary School since 2006. Her story is on page 11.

Nominations are now open for the 2025 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards. This is a chance for you to recognise individuals, groups, or organisations that have made a positive difference in our community. Read more about these awards on page 13.

Finally, best wishes to those celebrating Father's Day on Sunday 1 September and I hope you enjoy the start of the new season.

Mayor
Cr Lana Formoso



My City

Wander along the Dandenong Creek Trail this spring and see if you can spot any of our new residents. Recently 15 nest boxes were installed high up in the trees along the trail between Tirhatuan Park and Brady Road, Dandenong North. They will be homes for local wildlife including, ringtail and brushtail possums, parrots, ducks and Kreff's gliders.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-nature-and-wildlife for more information.

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.



Front cover: School Crossing Supervisor Kerry Wadeson ensuring the safety at Dandenong North Primary School since 2006. Picture: Hilton Stone.

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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

Biodiversity Month



September is National Biodiversity Month and we are celebrating with a range of free community events and our annual Biodiversity Blitz.

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth, including plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems that are their homes.

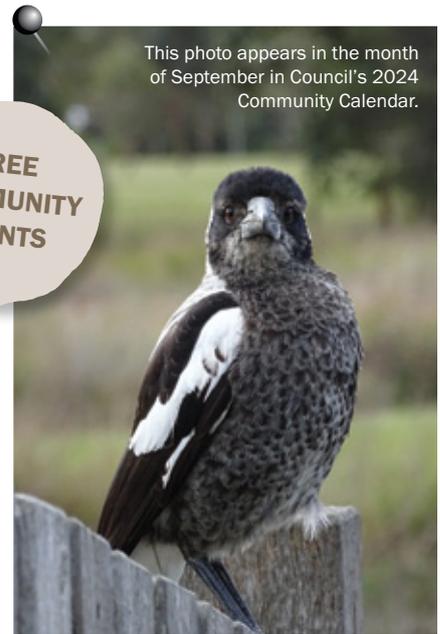
Australia is one of a group of only 17 'mega-diverse' countries that cover less than 10 per cent of the world's area but have more than 70 per cent of its biodiversity. Many of our plants, animals and places are unique and are not found anywhere else in the world.

Greater Dandenong is home to a huge variety of plants, animals and ecosystems and we are encouraging community members to get outdoors and support Biodiversity Month.

There are many ways you can celebrate:

- ▶ Participate in our Biodiversity Blitz
- ▶ Spend time in nature
- ▶ Come along to the Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Spring Thing and join a planting activity.

FREE
COMMUNITY
EVENTS



Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve Spring Thing



Join us on Sunday 1 September as we welcome spring and celebrate the reopening of "Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve.

There will be plenty to do for the whole family with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony by Traditional Custodians from the Bunurong Land Council, planting activities, guided walks, native plant giveaways, a wildlife presentation, a free barbecue and more.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/spring-thing for more information.



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Biodiversity Blitz



Celebrate the great outdoors while helping Council to learn more about our biodiverse environment during the Biodiversity Blitz.

Get outside during the month of September and take photographs of local flora and fauna for the iNaturalist app or website.

You'll be competing against other councils in Victoria while contributing to important citizen science research that helps us plan for a future that better protects our environment.

How to join:

Step 1 – Download the iNaturalist app from your favourite app store

Step 2 – Register online to participate

Step 3 – Start recording your observations.



Visit greaterdandenong.com/biodiversityblitz for more information.

Councillor Contacts



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● **Yarraman Ward**
Cr Phillip Danh
0473 482 153
phillip.danh@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY

9

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

23

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY

14

OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER
& OCTOBER

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 9 September**
- ▶ **Monday 23 September**
- ▶ **Monday 14 October.**

➤ To learn more about Council meetings during the election period, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-elections-2024

Cr Phillip Danh

▶ Yarraman Ward



It's hard to believe that I have served as a Greater Dandenong Councillor for six months.

I am so proud of my Yarraman Ward and continue to work hard to improve the area.

Council continues to make improvements and upgrades all throughout our city through the Capital Works program.

Last year, some major upgrades in this ward included the Railway Parade Streetscape upgrades, enhancements to the Noble Park activity centre with several public art projects and activations, further upgrades to the lan Street precinct and a new Pocket Park at 218 Railway Parade offering more green open space to the community.

I am pleased that Council has committed in the 2024–25 budget to the following Yarraman projects:

- ▶ Parkfield Reserve – Tennis Courts Redevelopment (Northern court construction)
- ▶ Fotheringham Reserve – Renewal of the sub-surface oval drainage
- ▶ Fifth Avenue Childcare – Replacement of ceilings including fixed plaster

I ask that you all be patient with some of these works as you travel around the city. The improvements may affect local



areas, but will deliver beautiful suburbs that will make us more efficient and will be there for the whole community to enjoy now and in the future.

New statistics have shown that Dandenong has the highest level of homelessness in Victoria. For that reason, Council has a partnership response to homelessness with Launch Housing through the Dandenong Zero Project. The project aims to end rough sleeping homelessness as a first step toward ending all homelessness in the City of Greater Dandenong. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more about this project.

➤ **I want the people of Yarraman to know I am here for you and ready to represent you in my role as Councillor. Contact me via email at phillip.danh@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0473 482 153.**

► Springvale Central Ward

Cr Richard Lim OAM



I am so proud of the wonderful place Springvale is to live and visit.

Every year, Council celebrates our vibrant and diverse community through a range of festivals and events. One of our biggest community events happens right here in Springvale. The end of July saw 35,000 people attend the annual Springvale Snow Fest. The day celebrates everything Springvale with performances, rides, stalls, real snow and wonderful fireworks to end the celebrations. If you didn't attend this year, make sure you look out for information on our website in July 2025.

The Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan is a 10-year plan which will deliver a range of exciting initiatives to the Springvale Activity Centre. This includes new infrastructure growth for the activity centre, streetscape improvements, better and safer pedestrian access and more green spaces. Short term projects happening over the next 1-5 years will include upgrades to Buckingham Avenue

and Multicultural Place. Council will also investigate upgrades to parking signage to include real time advice on availability of spaces.

I am excited about some specific Springvale works and projects coming out of the 2024-25 Budget, these include:

- Burden Park Tennis – Building upgrades
- Springvale Services for Children – Bathroom floor upgrade
- Olinda Kindergarten – Staff toilet upgrades and internal blind replacement
- New Pocket Park – at 49 View Road

A Community Conversations – Community Safety event will be held on Tuesday 3 September from 1pm-3pm. Join me at Springvale Community Hub for an informal chat together with representatives from Victoria Police and Council's Community Safety Team.



If you would like to talk to me about any Council-related issues please email me at richard.lim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0435 627 164.

Resilient Springvale



A national research institute has looked at the response of Springvale residents during the COVID pandemic, revealing a community that has built strength and resilience over many decades.

The Scanlon Foundation Research Institute recently released its latest study "Strong Communities Don't Just Happen: Springvale's Story".

The research report takes a deep dive into the suburb's history and how that influenced the community's ability to stay connected throughout the pandemic.

The report praises the relationship between Council, social services, and cultural and faith groups as having a strong impact on keeping Springvale strong. It said trusted relationships and a strong sense of belonging led to individuals and organisations using their (sometimes limited) resources to support the community throughout the pandemic.



Authors Professor Andrew Markus and Trish Prentice drew on 31 interviews with local residents and community leaders to share Springvale's story.

Case studies look at community members' efforts to support one another during long lockdowns and how public health information was communicated in a variety of languages.

"Springvale embodies the resilience and tenacity of its predominantly migrant community," the report states.

"Individuals stepped outside their usual social circles, reached out to others and provided kindness or support. They did what they could to help, despite their own limited means."



Visit scanloninstitute.org.au to read the full report.

Council Elections



The Council Elections for the Greater Dandenong Council will be held on Saturday 26

October via postal votes.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducts the Elections on behalf of Council. In early October, they will send ballot packs with instruction on how to vote to all enrolled voters in the City of Greater Dandenong. The packs will be delivered by Australia Post.



You can only vote once in the City of Greater Dandenong, no matter how many properties you own or occupy.

Is Voting Compulsory?

Voting at the election is compulsory for everyone who is enrolled to vote as at 4pm on Wednesday 7 August 2024 otherwise fines will apply.



Check if you are enrolled on the VEC website at www.vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment

Electoral Structure



A new electoral structure and new ward boundaries will take effect from the October 2024 local government election.

The new ward map will be available on the website after the election.

There will be no issue of Greater Dandenong Council News magazine in October due to the Council Elections. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to keep up to date with the latest Council news.

Election Timeline

| | |
|---|--|
| Monday 9 September 2024 | Candidate nominations open at 9am |
| Tuesday 17 September 2024 | Nominations, candidate statements, photographs, and questionnaires close at 12pm |
| Wednesday 18 September 2024 | Ballot draw at 10am |
| Monday 7 October 2024 | Ballot (Voters) pack mail out begins |
| Friday 25 October 2024 | Ballot cards must be posted by 6pm, when voting closes |
| Friday 15 November 2024 | Election results declared |
| Date to be determined by Council | Swearing in of elected officials and Election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor |



Supporting Diverse Communities

The Victorian Electoral Commission has released new resources to support people from diverse backgrounds:

- ▶ Visit www.vec.vic.gov.au/information-in-your-language to read translated information about the election
- ▶ For easy English guides on voting visit www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote/easy-english-guides-on-voting
- ▶ Book free information sessions at www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/learn-to-vote/book-an-information-session



Telephone the VEC on 131 832 with any enquiries about the Council elections.

Candidate Information Sessions

Anyone who may be interested in representing our diverse community can attend the following Candidate Information Sessions which are conducted by the VEC.

These sessions are open to anyone interested in nominating:

- ▶ Wednesday 4 September 2024 at 6.30pm at Election Office, 273 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
- ▶ Thursday 5 September 2024 at 6.30pm at Dandenong Civic Centre Chamber, Level 2, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Election (Caretaker) Period

The Election Period (commonly known as Caretaker Period) begins on 17 September 2024 and ends at 6pm on 26 October 2024.

During this period, Council business is conducted in accordance with the Election Period Policy (available on Council's website). This helps avoid the use of public resources in a way that may unduly affect the election result, and to minimise Council making certain types of decisions that may unreasonably limit the decision-making ability of the incoming Council. In turn, ensuring fair and equitable participation for all candidates in the Greater Dandenong City Council Elections.



Community Satisfaction Survey Results 2024

 **Greater Dandenong City Council has performed higher than the metropolitan and state averages in six out of eight categories in the state-wide annual community satisfaction survey.**

For the 12th year in a row Council participated in the Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey. It asks for community perceptions and compares us with 62 other Victorian Councils across a range of service areas.

This year Council achieved an overall Council direction score of 55 which was six points higher than the metropolitan average and 10 points higher than the state-wide average.

The survey results also found that:

- ▶ Council scored highest in waste management with a score of 75, which compares to the metropolitan average of 70 and the state-wide average of 67.
- ▶ residents identified library services and facilities as the best thing about Council, closely followed by diversity, waste management, parks and gardens, and customer service.
- ▶ areas for improvement included sealed road maintenance, general maintenance of public areas, parking availability and public safety.
- ▶ the areas identified as being most important to our community were waste management, sealed local roads, local streets and footpaths, and elderly support services.
- ▶ 63 per cent of residents surveyed are concerned about climate change and 70 per cent believe that it is important for Council to respond to its impacts.

| Performance Measure | Council | Metropolitan average | State-wide average |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Overall performance | 62 | 63 | 54 |
| Value for money | 61 | 57 | 48 |
| Overall Council direction | 55 | 49 | 45 |
| Customer Service | 66 | 71 | 67 |
| Waste management | 75 | 70 | 67 |
| Sealed local roads | 61 | 61 | 45 |
| Community decisions | 59 | 57 | 50 |
| Consultation and engagement | 58 | 56 | 51 |

A copy of the full report is available on Council's website at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-satisfaction-survey

National Field Services called a sample of residents on behalf of Council every 3 months over the past year to seek feedback for the annual Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

CEO Jacqui Weatherill said, "It's encouraging to see that Greater Dandenong City Council performed higher than the state and metro average in most areas. We're not complacent. We're carefully analysing the results for areas of improvement and supplementing this with our own detailed survey on customer experience. We're committed to continuously improving as a more customer-centric organisation, focused on the things that matter to our community."



Up, up, up – Keysborough South Community Hub is progressing well

We're in an exciting new phase in the construction of the Keysborough South Community Hub (KSCCH.) Throughout winter, stormwater was connected and underground services were installed for the car park. Our structural steel was installed and inspected and internal downpipes were added.

Throughout July, the roof was installed. These are major milestones. Our internal framing is underway, and our internal round windows are taking shape.

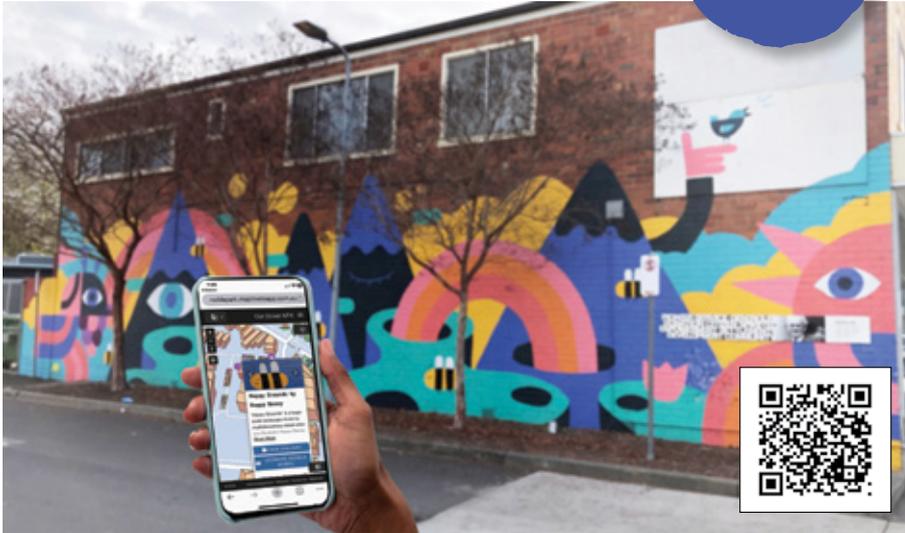
In coming weeks, internal framing will continue along with programming the build of the car park.

We've undertaken considerable community consultation on how we will activate the Keysborough South Community Hub once completed and what uses and users we will welcome to the facility.

 **Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more updates.**

Discover Our Street NPK

DISCOVER
NOBLE
PARK



A digital map of Noble Park is helping visitors discover the magic around every corner.

Council has partnered with the team at Maptivate and artist Sasha Heath to create an interactive guided walk through the Noble Park activity centre.

Hit the road with your smart phone or tablet and discover public artworks. Over coming months we will add additional layers sharing stories from the past and some fascinating landmarks.

Navigate your way around the streets of Noble Park, while you follow the illustrated map online. Or take a virtual tour from home and see information, videos and links that take you to the streets of Noble Park.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-street for more information or scan the QR Code to go directly to the map.

Back Your Neighbour



The Mayoral Taskforce's Back Your Neighbour team held a morning tea to raise awareness at the 2024 Australian Local Government Association conference in Canberra.

Council successfully recruited support from across the country to join our call for certainty for residents seeking refugee protection.

Mayor, Cr Lana Formoso, met with Ministers and Members of Parliament to advocate for work rights and better support for community members seeking refugee protection.



Join the cause at backyourneighbour.com.au/petition



Wildflower Meadow

*Bright beautiful flowers,
As tiny seeds, they start.
The garden constantly changes,
Like a living work of art.*

A wildflower meadow in central Dandenong is creating a natural habitat for insects and birds, while giving human visitors an interactive experience.

The wildflower meadow in Settlers Square will soon be in bloom, and some added artistic touches will help passers-by understand the value it brings to our environment.

Surrounded by the wildflower meadow garden bed, visitors can see magnificent over-head translucent insects that attract attention from a distance. Wander closer and enjoy the playful poem which reveals how the garden is constantly changing and is home to many valuable species of birds and insects.

Five hidden illustrations turn the garden into an eye-spy style challenge, encouraging visitors to move around and learn fun facts about the creatures that call this garden home. The new playful signs tell the story of how our wildflower meadow supports biodiversity in Greater Dandenong.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/wildflower-garden to find out more.



Children's Festival

 **The Greater Dandenong Children's Festival is returning these school holidays with a calendar of events for the whole family.**

The annual festival celebrates children aged up to 12 and runs from Saturday 21 September to Sunday 6 October.

This year's theme is *The Great Outdoors* and the festival includes a range of fun activities, workshops, and events held at various locations across Greater Dandenong.

We invite our youngest residents to unleash their creativity and imagination through the Children's Festival Drawing Competition.

Whether you prefer crayons, markers, or paintbrushes, this is your chance to shine and show off your artistic talents.

To enter, draw how you enjoy spending time in *The Great Outdoors*. You can collect the entry form at our customer service centres, libraries or at our Children's Festival main event, the Little Day Out. Digital drawing sheets are also available on our website.

This competition is open to children aged 2–12 years and some great prizes are up for grabs. Submit your art piece at the customer service centres, libraries, on our Little Day Out drawing space or by email through events@cgd.vic.gov.au. Winners will be contacted by Friday 18 October.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/childrens-festival for a detailed program of events and for more information about the Drawing Competition.

Celebrate *The Great Outdoors* at Little Day Out

 **Get ready for an epic adventure in the great outdoors at the main event on our Children's Festival calendar – the Little Day Out.**

Join us on Sunday 22 September at Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive Noble Park, from 11am-4pm for the most spectacular day of fun and festivities.

Jump into a playground of endless fun and activities including friendly animal farm, rides and amusements, and live and roving performances.

Explore our Make Your Move Zone and try a range of sports, or engage in high energy games and activities that will keep you on your toes and get your heart racing.

There will also be a range of food, market and community stalls to check out.

This free event is suitable for the whole family.

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

Deckchair Movies

 **The free outdoor cinema series Deckchair Movies is returning to Springvale and Dandenong this month.**

Join us for a cozy, relaxing evening under the stars. Bring your picnics, warm blankets, friends and family. All movies start at 6pm.



Harmony Square, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong.

- ▶ Monday 23 September – Shrek 2 (PG)
- ▶ Wednesday 25 September – Spy Kids (PG)
- ▶ Wednesday 9 October – Migration (G)

Springvale Community Hub, 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale.

- ▶ Monday 30 September – Space Jam (G)
- ▶ Wednesday 2 October – Howl's Moving Castle (PG)
- ▶ Friday 4 October – Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (PG)
- ▶ Monday 7 October – Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG)
- ▶ Friday 11 October – Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem (PG)



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



What's On

Friendly reminders

Sunday 1 September

Spring Thing @ Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, 11am-3pm

Tuesday 3 September

Cultural Sketch @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 6pm-8pm



Thursday 5 September

Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 9.30am-10.30am

Carers Walking Group @ Noble Park Community Centre, 10am



Friday 6 September

Market Day @ Lexington Gardens Retirement Village, 10am-1pm

Five Elements @ Drum Theatre, 7.30pm-8.25pm

Saturday 7 September

Walking Football 4 Health Victoria Weekly Program @ Dandenong Soccer 5s Dandenong South, 1pm-2pm

Nazeem Hussain - Totally Normal @ Drum Theatre, 7.30pm

Monday 9 September

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

Tuesday 10 September

The Tap Pack @ Drum Theatre, 7.30pm-8.50pm

Wednesday 11 September

Zumba Gold @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 10am

Saturday 14 September

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

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

Sustainability Saturdays at The Hub - Fresh Botanicals Posy Jar @ Springvale Community Hub, 2pm-4pm



Tuesday 17 September

Adult Exercise @ Jan Wilson Community Centre, 9.30am-10.30am

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 September

Business Plan Accelerator Workshop @ Springvale Community Hub, 9am-4pm

Friday 20 September

Simeon and the Solid Snakes - 10th Anniversary @ Drum Theatre, 8pm-9.30pm

Sunday 22 September

The Glow Squad @ Drum Theatre, 1pm

Monday 23 September

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

Wednesday

25 September

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Workshop @ Online training, 11am-12pm

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

Thursday 26 September

The Quizzical Mr Jeff @ Drum Theatre, 10.30am

School Holiday Activities

Looking for something to keep the kids entertained these holidays?

Council has your school holidays sorted with a variety of events, workshops and activities across all of Council's facilities. From Monday 23 September to Friday 4 October events will be held at various days and times.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/school-holiday-activities



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.

Celebrate our heritage

We Built this City is a project that celebrates the stories of some of Greater Dandenong's favourite heritage sites as chosen by our community.

With funding from the Public Records Office Victoria's Local History Grant Program, Council worked in collaboration with Dandenong and District Historical Society and Springvale and District Historical Society to celebrate the diversity of our region's heritage and the lesser-known histories behind sites.

This project shares the many fascinating stories behind a variety of sites and the people connected with them – including how different waves of migration have shaped the places we enjoy today.



Sites include Benga House, Dandenong Civic Centre and Harmony Square, General Motors Holden, Keysborough Church of Resurrection, Springvale City Hall and St James Church.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/we-built-this-city to find out more.

School crossing supervisor is giving back



School Crossing Supervisors are a valuable part of the school community, and this year one of Greater Dandenong's own was recognised at a national awards night.

Kerry Wadeson has been ensuring the safety of children and families at Dandenong North Primary School since 2006.

That same year she was offered a job as an education support staff member before moving into the reading room, and for the past 18 years she has combined her work at the school crossing with work inside the classroom.

Kerry attended Dandenong North Primary School as a student in the 1960s and is proud to be able to give back to her school community.

Each year Kerry helps the new prep students understand the importance of safety when travelling to and from school. She also supports the training of new staff members at Greater Dandenong City Council.

Kerry was recently nominated for School Crossings Victoria's School Crossing Supervisor of the Year Award. Just seven other people were nominated, and while Kerry did not take home the gong she was proud to be a finalist.



"I love what I do and it's an honour just to be nominated. A lot of people thank me for my work, but to be recognised in this way is so special," Kerry said.

"Rain, hail or shine, school crossing supervisors are there making sure everyone is safe. I'm so grateful to Dandenong North Primary School and to Council for their commitment to road safety."

Across Greater Dandenong there are 78 school crossings. Council encourages motorists to remain vigilant around schools, and for pedestrians and motorists to follow the directions of school crossing supervisors at all times.



School crossing supervisors work one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon during school terms. If you would like to become a school crossing supervisor email regservadmin@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

Youth and Family Services

Spring School Holiday Activities

- ▶ Activities begin on Monday 23 September through to Friday 4 October. All activities are free or low cost for 12–25 year olds.

Dandy's Got Talent:

- ▶ Join us for a talent show specifically for young people aged 12–25 on Wednesday 25 September from 3pm–7pm. Event will be held at The Castle, 61 Princes Hwy, Dandenong.

Intro to coffee making:

- ▶ Learn how to use a commercial coffee machine to make a range of coffees. Specifically for 16–25 year olds. Event will be held on Tuesday September 24 from 9.30am–3.30pm.



Bookings are required for all activities. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

Paying Your Rates

Residents should have received their rates notices for 2024–25.

Council collects rates to deliver services to the community and offers a number of payment options.

Your rates notice will include a scannable QR code, allowing you to schedule and control your repayments in a way that suits you.

Spread your rates payments out across the year. We offer flexible payment options by direct debit from a bank account, credit or debit card.

Pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly or by four instalments and change at any time. Get an SMS reminder before every payment so there are never any surprises.

Pay over the phone on **8571 1000** or visit pay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to pay online.

You can prepay your instalments before 30 September 2024, or pay in four equal instalments across the coming year. To qualify for instalments the first payment must be made before 30 September 2024.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/paying-your-rates to find out more.

Financial Assistance

If you are experiencing difficulty in paying your rates Council can create a plan to support you.

We understand that circumstances can arise that may make it difficult to pay your balance on time, but if you reach out early we can put measures in place to support you.

In some circumstances ratepayers may qualify for assistance under Council's Hardship Policy. This could include payment deferral arrangements, or in extreme cases part rates waivers.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/rates-assistance for more information or phone customer service on **8571 1000** to discuss your options.



Seniors Festival

The annual Victorian Seniors Festival celebrates and acknowledges the contribution of older people within the community.

The statewide festival for people aged over 60 focuses on providing fun and good times with opportunities to participate in events and activities for free or low cost throughout October.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival to find out more about the 2024 Seniors Festival.



In the meantime subscribe to our Living Well Newsletter to find out about day trips, how to get involved and information on Council services. Visit Council's website or phone the Positive Ageing Team on **8571 5556 for more information.**

Celebrate our centenarians

Council wants to celebrate residents who have celebrated their 100th birthday.

We want to hear from residents or family members of people who are aged 100 years or older, so we can celebrate Greater Dandenong residents who have reached the impressive milestone.

Nominate a centenarian and we will celebrate them at a morning tea with the Mayor on Thursday 28 November.



To make a nomination contact the Positive Ageing Team via email at positiveageing@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone **8571 5556.**

Seniors Festival Afternoon Dance

At Springvale City Hall, 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

On Wednesday 2 October, from 1pm–4pm

Featuring live entertainment by Band O'Gold

Cost is \$10, payable at the door, and afternoon tea is provided



Bookings essential on **8571 5556.**

Community Group of the Year: Garage 35 Arts Studio



Garage 35 Arts Studio is a creative hub for local artists to develop their arts practice in their community.

The studio hosts a collective of 10 resident artists, predominately from refugee and migrant backgrounds, under the age of 35. Located in Noble Park, the studio space connects resident artists, fellow artists and the community to foster opportunities for creativity.

Established in early 2021, the studio was started by five local artists who were volunteering with Connection Arts Space in Dandenong. Since then it has grown to become a local attraction, often visited by dozens of other creatives and artists.

“People are often surprised when they hear there is a studio in Noble Park. Lots of local artists and creatives are very keen to see more studio spaces like this open up in the community,” said Gen Townsend, resident artist.

Resident artists describe the layout as “homey” without too many walls or separations between each space.

“People who visit the studio tend to comment on the welcoming, relaxing, and inspiring atmosphere. It offers local communities a culturally safe place to gather and connect, especially when artists from the southeast tend to be under-represented in Melbourne’s wider art scene,” said resident, Andrew Duong, on behalf of the artists.

The studio has created a collaborative mural on Ian Street in Noble Park with more than 40 people, and participated in the annual *Music.Art.Dance (MAD)* Festival twice, offering an ‘Eat, Meet, Create’ event with delicious local food, opportunities to meet artists and engage in art making workshops.

“Our hope is to be accessible to the community and inspire even more artist-led studios in the southeast to emerge and sustain into the future.”



For more information about the studio, visit g35artstudio.wordpress.com follow on Instagram at [@garage35artstudio](https://www.instagram.com/garage35artstudio) or email g35artstudio@gmail.com.



Nominations are now open for the 2025 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

Do you know someone who is making a difference and deserves to be celebrated?

Council’s annual Australia Day Awards are a chance to recognise individuals, groups, or organisations that have made a positive difference for our community.

Nominations are open across the following categories:

- ▶ Community Leadership Award
- ▶ Young Leader of the Year
- ▶ Volunteer of the Year
- ▶ Sportsperson of the Year
- ▶ Corporate Citizen of the Year
- ▶ Community Group of the Year
- ▶ Sustainability Award
- ▶ Living Treasure Award
- ▶ Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award

Nominations close on Monday 16 September.



For more information or to make a nomination visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards email austday@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.



love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Greater Dandenong Libraries offer a fantastic variety of free programs and activities across our two branches. Join us at our Springvale or Dandenong branches for these exciting events.



EMERGING WRITERS' FESTIVAL



Greater Dandenong Libraries are thrilled to be partnering with the Emerging Writers' Festival to deliver a series of writing workshops at Dandenong Library and The Drum Theatre.

The Greater Dandenong Libraries sessions will run from Friday 6 September until Saturday 14 September.

Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for event details.

School Holiday Fun

Get into the libraries these September/October school holidays to enjoy interactive programs for primary school children and young adults.

From Monday 23 September – Friday 4 October take part in a range of fun activities, including escape room, family fun, miniboss Olympics, a First Aid workshop and more. There is something for everyone.

Visit the libraries website to register for the school holiday events.



Coming in October

There are lots of exciting activities planned this October in celebration of the 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival.

Join us for some fun programs, including the return of the popular Tech Tricks Series, a fantastic comedy show, some fun dance sessions and more.

Visit the libraries website libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to register for these events.

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Josephine Mead: Matrimony



Installation view: *Twenty Four paintings of my Bridal Bouquet, 2024, Josephine Mead, dimensions variable. Installed in the Engine Room, Bendigo. Image courtesy of the artist.*

**Tuesday 24 September to
Friday 15 November**

In *Matrimony*, multi-disciplinary artist Josephine Mead explores the meaning of ritual, union and love ceremonies from a queer perspective.

Showcasing paintings of the artist's bridal bouquet, installed as "spectators" in the gallery, accompanied by a digital sound score evoking anticipation akin to wedding preparations.

The exhibition invites diverse cultural dialogues through challenging traditional notions of love and commitment.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-and-culture/exhibitions for more information.

Cultural Sketch @ Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

**Tuesday 3 September
from 6pm–8pm**

Join our featured presenter as they share their story and creative world, all while striking a pose for you to draw.

The Drum

Five Elements

Friday 6 September at 7.30pm

Dancebourne Arts is proud to present their highly acclaimed and internationally performed classical ballet, contemporary and aerial dance production *Five Elements*.



Nazeem Hussein

Saturday 7 September at 7.30pm

Comedian Nazeem Hussein is back with a brand new show *Totally Normal*. Get ready for a full dose of Nazeem, live and up close. For ages 15+.



The Tap Pack

**Tuesday 10 September at
7.30pm**

Following sold out shows and rave reviews on London's West End, at Sydney Opera House and around the world, Australia's hottest tap dance sensation is coming to the Drum. The *Tap Pack* mix slick humour, high energy entertainment and world-class tap dance.

Simeon and the Solid Snakes – 10th Anniversary

Friday 20 September at 8pm

This retrospective concert honours the music of beloved classic rock artists such as Yes, Toto, Pink Floyd, David Bowie, Mike Stern, Robert Palmer. Steely Dan and Boz Scaggs, as well as showcasing a few originals.

The Glow Squad

Sunday 22 September at 1pm

Step into a world where imagination meets reality, where friendship and adventure collide, and where every moment is packed with excitement and wonder. This immersive glow concert experience combines storytelling, music, dance and dazzling special effects to create an unforgettable adventure.



The Quizzical Mr Jeff

**Thursday 26 September at
10.30am**

With years of experience on international stages and in the circus ring, Mr Jeff hones his skills in this show to transport audiences to a state of wonder and play.

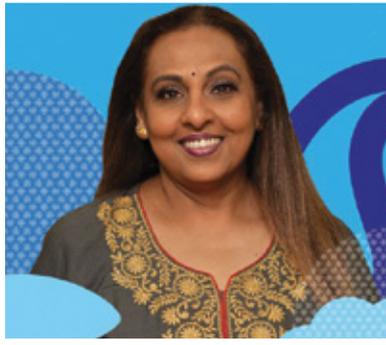
➔ Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to secure your tickets.

Little India Trader Stories



Sudesh Singh worked full-time as a software engineer in the 1990s and spent her weekends designing and making garments. Chasing her interest in fashion, she travelled solo to India to learn more and make connections.

Leaving her corporate career behind in 2004, she leapt at the chance to make her dreams a reality, opening businesses in Dandenong, Footscray, Brisbane and Fiji.



Singhs Big Bazaar and Saree Sansaar is a one-stop-shop for elegant and traditional outfits, from sarees and salwar kameez, to shoes, headwear, jewellery and bags – customers are catered for from top to toe.

“I love working with my customers to create the perfect fit. We offer a professional, personalised service, with exceptional eye for detail and high-quality cuts and stitching for all garments.”

Visit *Singhs Big Bazaar and Saree Sansaar* in the Little India Cultural Precinct in Foster Street, Dandenong. The precinct boasts 32 shops of specialised themed Indian retailers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Fiji and Sri Lanka.

➔ **Read more stories from our India Traders at [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/little-indian-cultural-precinct](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/little-indian-cultural-precinct).**

Showcasing Claire Harrison



South East Business Network's (SEBN) June Women In Business Showcasing event was a huge success. Presenter Claire Harrison engaged the audience at the Dandenong Holiday Inn and encouraged them to reflect on their lives and discover tools to live a happier, content and fulfilling life.

Claire is a former media executive turned advocate for conscious living. She shared her compelling story and the transformative outcomes she achieved. Claire recounted her experiences of burnout in high-paced executive positions and the gradual process of recognising the changes needed for her wellbeing. Today, Claire is an executive coach and teaches meditation, yoga and mindfulness.

Claire helped the audience to understand how to identify what fulfills them, feel more in control, and determine the best way to live their own lives. It is important to take time for oneself, let go of the idea of ‘having it all’, finding oneself and redefining what success means for each of us.



To read more about SEBN's Women In Business visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/South-East-Business-Network](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/South-East-Business-Network).

Boosting the Local Economy

Buy Local Business Grants were designed to encourage the establishment and growth of businesses within Greater Dandenong by using services from another local business. The grant program was open from November 2023 and closed in May 2024. To aid business owners in understanding the application process and the types of services they could apply for, information sessions were organised.

Graham at Reliance Business Insurance, who serves a variety of commercial businesses, from manufacturers to business service providers, became aware of the grant through Council's enewsletter. He applied online with the idea of hiring a local videographer to create short videos for promoting his business on social media. The process was straightforward, and Graham appreciated the opportunity to collaborate with another local business. The videos centred on his marketing and contributed to an increase in business throughout May and June.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business) to read more about how Council can support your business.

Become a Meals On Wheels Volunteer



 **Current volunteers provide incredible support to the Meals On Wheels (Food Service) program and Council is urgently seeking more volunteers.**

Becoming a Meals On Wheels volunteer will benefit your wellbeing and that of the community.

Volunteers will initially be required for 2 ½ hours once a week. You will be required to use your own vehicles, have a current drivers' licence and car insurance. Council will reimburse you for

petrol expenses. The distribution centre for meal pickups is located at Five Ways Business Park, Keysborough. Deliveries occur each weekday morning from 9am.

 **Contact the Council Wide Volunteer Program on 85715335 or visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/volunteering to read the role description and complete the application form.**

Public Safety Forum



Join Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong for their next Public Forum this month.

Hear from Springvale Police Senior Sergeant Chris Savage and take part in a Q&A session with the 24-year career policeman.

The forum will be held on Wednesday 25 September at 7.30pm, at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18-34 Buckley Street, Noble Park.

Come along and hear what is happening in your community.



TAKE PART THIS MONTH

 **For more information contact Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong President at nhwgreaterdandenongpresidents@gmail.com or on 0407 325 030.**

#Filtered: The Body Image Project

Council's Youth and Family Services team collaborated with Year 8 students from Killester College to co-design an awareness campaign addressing the negative impact social media can have on young people's identity and sense of self.

In partnership with subject matter experts, the Butterfly Foundation, the students presented their #Filtered, Body Image Project 'design brief' to Year 11 and 12 VCE, Vocational Major (VM) design students from Chisholm Institute.

Chisholm students will now create the visual designs to put together a final social media awareness campaign. The campaign will be launched in October in line with Mental Health Week and will be circulated to all secondary schools in Greater Dandenong.



New Dog Off-Leash Area

Council's newest dog off-leash area has now opened in Keneally Street Reserve, Dandenong (entrance Steven Street).

The new dog off-leash area has improved accessibility for residents and provides a great opportunity for dogs (and their owners) to get regular exercise and socialisation.

The dog off-leash area includes fencing around the perimeter, a picnic table, park seating, new trees and a drinking fountain with dog bowl.

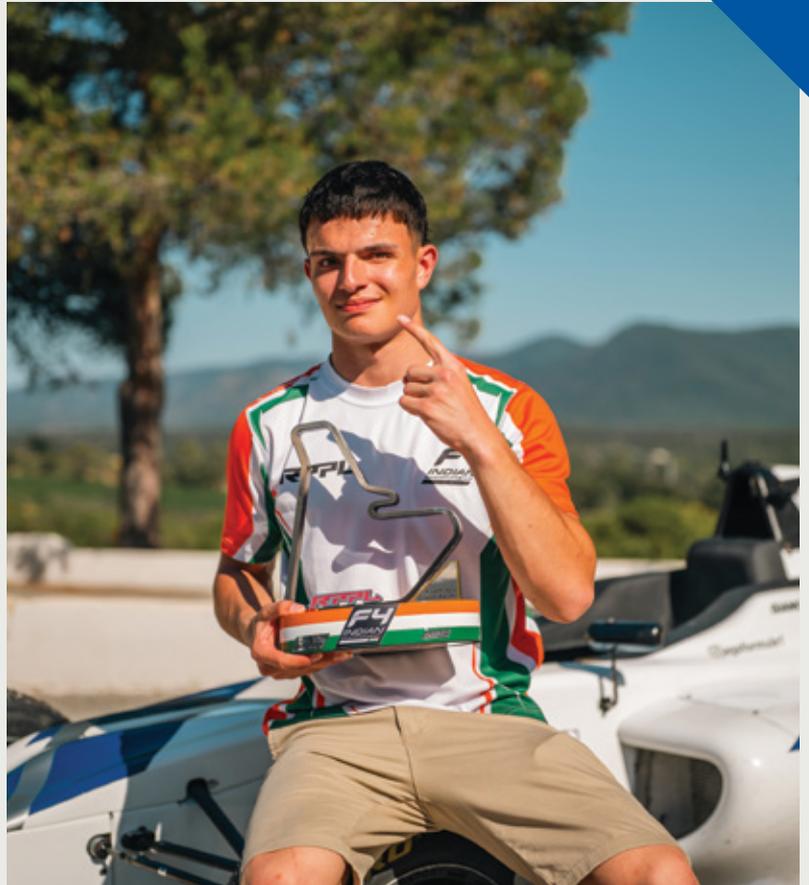
 **Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/off-leash-parks for more information.**

Celebrating Local Legends

Council would like to recognise two inspiring young local legends.



Wundarra Thomas



Giancarlo Artho

Wundarra Thomas and Giancarlo Artho have dedicated time and energy in their chosen sports, receiving international recognition and acknowledgment in recent months. Here are their stories.

Our very own, Wundarra Thomas a proud Yorta Yorta, Wiradjuri and Gunai Kurnai young man, is inspiring us to keep trying and reaching for the stars.

Wundarra (Wundy), as known by many, was invited for a lifetime opportunity to fly to Paris for the Jordan Global Basketball One on One Tournament "The One". Only 20 young people (ten women and ten men) from across the globe have this opportunity. After qualifying in the "Our Turn" Jordan global tournament, Wundarra was one of them. Wundarra has earned the opportunity to showcase his skills, to learn and to fly the Aboriginal flag colours across the globe. Congratulations Wundarra for this incredible achievement, Greater Dandenong is proud of you.

In 2020, as a 12 year old, local Giancarlo Artho, dedicated his time to several different programs and events through Council's Youth and Family Services.

Throughout that time, he worked diligently in his go-karting skills and racing techniques and mental and physical preparation to advance to the status of F4 racing.

Giancarlo recently won the F4 Indian Global Selection Shootout Program in France in July. He was selected as one of 10 drivers for the event held at Circuit du Var in France which showcased his remarkable skills and determination and ultimately secured him a full scholarship for the 2024 Indian F4 Championship season, which commenced in August and runs through to the end of November. Congratulations Giancarlo.



Life-saving donor hits 500

Noble Park resident, Trevor Bergman has reached an outstanding milestone of 500 donations to Lifeblood.

Trevor celebrated the achievement with his family, including his 95-year-old dad, Don, who was an inspiration to his efforts alongside Trevor's late-mother, Audrey.

"Mum and dad always encouraged their six kids to help others by volunteering, which we all continue to do," said Trevor.

Trevor has regularly attended the Mount Waverley Donor Centre since 1985 to give blood, plasma and platelets.

"I was inspired by my parents' example of volunteering and helping others. My siblings have also donated. I keep going to help people in the community who rely on the generosity of donors for treatment with blood products."

"Australia would be a much poorer place to live in without people who donate their time to not only Lifeblood, but to so many other organisations."

To find a blood donation centre near you and save lives, visit lifeblood.com.au



Award Winning Arts Show

2024 Australia Day Awards Outstanding Contribution To The Arts Award: Noble Park Community Centre Arts Show

Noble Park Community Centre's Arts show is an annual community event, fostering artistic expression within the community and displaying some of the best work the local community has to offer.

Since its inception in 2006, the show has provided opportunities for local artists of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to exhibit their work.

Awarded for its outstanding contribution to the arts, the show is organised by a dedicated committee of local artists, volunteers and Noble Park Community Centre staff. Many of the volunteers come from a group of artists known as the "Noble Arts Group" that once painted together at Noble Park Community Centre.

"We are thrilled to be recognised for our spirit of community collaboration, unwavering commitment to enhancing community involvement and promotion of social inclusivity," said Grissel Walmaggia, Noble Park Community Centre Manager.

"This award serves as a legacy celebration, honouring the many volunteers, sponsors and artists who have made this event such a lasting success."

Now in its 19th year, the show is a highlight on the Greater Dandenong calendar. This year's free exhibition will run from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 October.

Nominations are now open for the 2024 art show, with an inclusive range of categories to suit anyone who wishes to get involved.

Prizes are awarded to an open category for those aged over 18, two junior categories (individuals aged 3-11 years and 12-17 years) and a category for local schools to submit group artworks.

Recipients of the 2024 art show awards will be announced at the opening night on Friday 18 October.

For more information or to nominate work for the 2024 art show, visit npccartshow.org or call 9547 5801.

Dandenong VIEW Club

VIEW is a leading women's national volunteer organisation supporting the work of the Smith Family.

If you are looking to expand your horizons and make new friends while giving back to the community then consider joining the Dandenong VIEW Club.

Recently the club held a fundraising dinner at St John's Regional College, including a mid-year Christmas feast,

games and raffles. All money raised went towards two students involved in the Smith Family program supporting the education of children experiencing disadvantage.

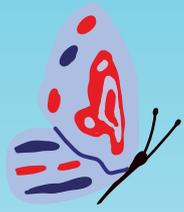
Dandenong VIEW Club meets at Dandenong RSL on the first Tuesday of the month. For information phone Rose on 0430 443 065 or text message Anne on 0411 368 494.



Free Entry

Greater Dandenong

Little Day Out



Sunday 22 September
11am - 4pm

Ross Reserve, Noble Park

Rides, animal farm,
art and crafts, live entertainment,
sports, fun workshops
and much more!



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