

FEBRUARY 2025

Greater Dandenong Council News

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Our Future**

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 **GREATER
DANDENONG**
City of Opportunity

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

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www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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facebook.com/greaterdandenong



[cityofgreaterdandenong](https://www.instagram.com/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 February edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Happy Lunar New Year and welcome to the year of the Snake. I wish everyone celebrating Lunar New Year a safe and prosperous 2025. All year round we champion sustainability, but we especially focus on our environment each February when we celebrate our annual Sustainability Festival. Read more about this great event on page 3.

Greater Dandenong is home to a vibrant arts community. Read more about the work Council does to support the arts and culture in this month's magazine. The centre pages have been turned into a liftout with a poster that features many of the events happening over the coming months. You can hang this poster on your wall and keep track of all the great arts events coming up.

Throughout 2024 we undertook a series of community engagement activities to help inform our work over the coming four years. Read about the outcomes of the Our City, Our Future activities on page 17.

I hope you have a great month and enjoy all that our city has to offer.

**Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti**



My City

This bird's eye view of Dandenong is our February image in the 2025 Community Calendar. Shot by local resident Daniel Green, this image captures central Dandenong as the sun rises, casting a golden glow over the iconic Drum Theatre and the central business district.

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: Council mascot Lily Litter shops at the Dandenong Market with her reusable bags. Picture: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo

Join us to celebrate Sustainable living

LEARN HOW
TO DO MORE
WITH LESS



 **Our annual Sustainability Festival is back with even more fun-filled activities, stalls and workshops to help us to do more with less.**

Join us for festival fun on Sunday 23 February, from 10am to 3pm at Dandenong Market.

You will learn about making small changes to your routine, to help our planet in a big way.

The festival is a great day out for anyone ready to take the next sustainability step at their home, school or workplace.

Entry to the festival is free and there will be giveaways, live entertainment and free activities for all ages, including:

- ▶ Indigenous plant giveaway
- ▶ Herbs and flowers planted in quirky pots
- ▶ Give-aways (books)
- ▶ Face painting
- ▶ Fish safe, natural painting workshop
- ▶ DIY skincare workshop
- ▶ Mini water beasts stall
- ▶ Native animal show



Keep an eye out for our favourite sustainability crusaders Harry Habitat and Lily Litter who champion our vision to make the City of Greater Dandenong one of the most sustainable cities in Australia by 2030.

We can't wait to see you there.



For more information on the festival, including supporting events and what stalls and activities to expect on the day, visit: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival

**Re-use and Recycle
Drop Off Day**



A FREE drop-off for your unwanted electronic and household goods.

**Saturday 22 February
8am-1pm**

**Greaves Reserve, 2-20 Bennet Street,
Dandenong**

Scan to find out more or visit
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day



Councillor Contacts



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Yarraman Ward

Cr Phillip Danh
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Phillip.Danh@cgd.vic.gov.au

MONDAY

10

FEBRUARY

MONDAY

24

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY

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 10 February**
- ▶ **Monday 24 February.**

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

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

Hear questions from our residents and find out the many ways your Councillors are serving the community.

➔ **To view meetings online or to find out more about Public Question Time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings**



Building More than Just a Hub



At the Keysborough South Community Hub construction site, we're building much more than a new structure. We're creating a space for community connection and bringing our valued services to life.

Local families are at the centre of our plans, with the new facility to offer quality family services including maternal and child health, parenting programs and supported playgroups. The Hub will also be a truly special place for children's early years learning with kinder and childcare on offer.

If this all sounds amazing, you can get a head start by visiting greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/expressions-of-interest and registering your interest in 2026 kinder enrolments.

There's even more to love about Keysborough South. You said you wanted the new Hub to have an

innovative and environmentally sustainable design. With 260 solar panels, 60,000 litres of above ground rainwater storage and 100,000 litres of underground stormwater storage, the Hub is on track to be a five-star Green Star sustainable facility.

The Hub will be fully accessible and include a library space, bookable meeting rooms, a creative area and fantastic kitchen. Outside we're creating a beautifully landscaped, relaxing and peaceful space for everyone, including fun play and learning zones for children.

The Keysborough South Community Hub is on track for completion in the second half of 2025.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysborough-south-community-hub to learn more.

► Springvale Central Ward

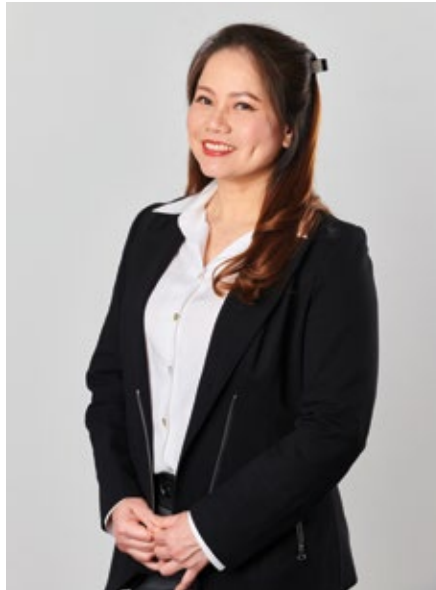


As the new Councillor for Springvale Central Ward I want to say how grateful I am to all the residents who have placed their trust in me. When I arrived in Australia in the late nineties the City of Greater Dandenong welcomed me with open arms and now I am honoured to give back to the community that supported me.

I began my educational and professional career in Architecture and Building Design in this city, and 10 years ago I became a real estate agent, now I am Director of my own office.

I am a volunteer with the South Eastern Melbourne Vietnamese Association Council (SEMVAC), I am also a volunteer and coach with the Waverley Judo Club and am passionate about women's participation in sport.

This month Council will host a Q&A Panel on the subject of 'Empowering Women in Sport'. The session will focus on



supporting and developing women and girls in sport through advice, strategies and personal stories from a panel of guest speakers. The event will be held at Tatterson Pavilion, Keysborough, on

Thursday 13 February. Visit Council's website (greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) and search the What's On section to find out more.

One of my first jobs as a new Councillor was to sit on the Australia Day Community Assessment Awards Panel. Through this panel I discovered just how many people go above and beyond to help make Greater Dandenong a great place to live. The panel assessed applications for the Australia Day Award winners who were announced at a special ceremony last month.

To all those who celebrate the Lunar New Year I wish you all a happy and prosperous 2025.



If you want to contact me about any Council related issues you can reach me via email at AlicePhuong.Le@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0429 059 974.

Cr Phillip Danh

► Yarraman Ward



As we embark on a new year, many households take this chance to do a big clean out.

At Council we're always working to support the safe and responsible disposal of waste. All households are entitled to one free hard rubbish collection each year. Book yours online at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste or phone 9721 1915.

Across the year we also host Re-Use and Recycle Drop Off Days, with the first one scheduled for Saturday 22 February. Visit Council's website (greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) for more information.

Through consultation with people across Greater Dandenong, community safety has been identified as a top priority. We have created a Community Safety Strategic Framework, which will see a range of consultations carried out over the coming months. This is part of the work we have planned in 2025 to help you feel safer.

Within the Yarraman Ward we have already seen considerable investment in safety responses. An Empowering Communities Grant from the State



Department of Justice and Community Safety saw the formation of the Dandenong West Community Action Group. The group has been meeting regularly since 2022. One of their projects is the introduction of a community garden which will open in the next few months.

Council also partnered with the department to deliver \$220,000 in community safety infrastructure, including lighting upgrades within Dandenong West and CCTV cameras at our parks.

School holidays have just ended, and it was great to see so many families making the most of the world class facilities available across our city. In Noble Park the Ross Reserve precinct was very busy with visitors using the skate park, athletics track and the synthetic soccer pitch.



If you would like to talk to me about local issues please contact me via email at Phillip.Danh@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0473 482 153.

Sign up for Clean up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day is back on Sunday 2 March.

Gather your friends, family or community groups and clubs and sign up to host clean up sites across Greater Dandenong.

➔ Visit cleanup.org.au to find out how you can get involved in Clean Up Australia Day.



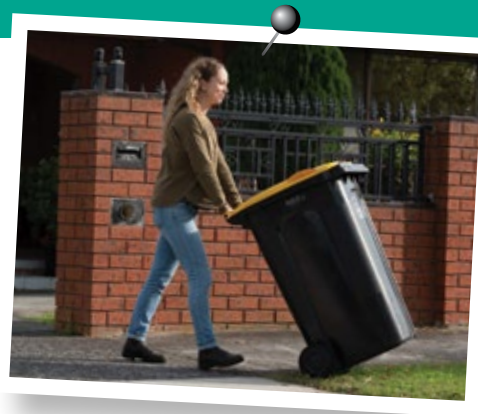
Give unwanted items a new life with Homecycle

Homecycle is a free one-off kerbside collection that will allow you to re-home your unwanted items by using your yellow lid recycling bin.

From 4-15 March, you will be able to donate small, unwanted items using your regular yellow lid recycling bin outside of its normal purpose. Your items will be given to charities for reuse or sent for recycling into new products.

This includes items that can't usually be recycled in your kerbside collection, such as:

- ▶ Textiles (eg. clothing, shoes, handbags, fashion accessories, linen and jewellery)
- ▶ Household items (eg. toys, games, puzzles, cookware, cutlery, craft goods, DVDs, CDs and records)
- ▶ Small electrical items (eg. mobile phones, kitchen appliances or anything else with a cord, plug or battery)



- ▶ Sporting equipment (eg. bats and balls)
- ▶ Printer cartridges (empty or full).

How does it work?

Items need to be grouped in bags, using a different bag for each of the categories above and placed in your yellow top recycle bin.

Your items will then be collected the day after your normal recycling bin is emptied, for instance, if your bin is normally emptied on a Tuesday the Homecycle collection will be on a Wednesday.

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

Let's Bin it!

✓ **It only takes an instant to litter, but it can last a lifetime in our parks and waterways.**

Join us in taking responsibility for the litter in our city. Help protect our wildlife and environment by the simple act of putting rubbish in a rubbish bin or taking it home with you.

Littering pollutes our environment and significantly harms the use, enjoyment and value of our public places.

Did you know?

- ▶ a cigarette butt can last for five years if dropped.
- ▶ a takeaway coffee cup will take up to 30 years to break down
- ▶ a plastic soft drink bottle will take over 450 years to break down



Plastic items never truly break down and rather break into smaller pieces turning into micro-plastics that can be eaten by animals, contaminating our earth, waterways and can even be found in our food.

Help us take care of our city and remember to bin it!



2025 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Award Winners

Community Leadership Award

Sue Doherty: As co-ordinator of the With One Voice Greater Dandenong Choir, Sue is described as the heart and soul of the choir which fosters a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment for all. Her volunteer work encourages a sense of belonging and connection among choir members.

Living Treasure Award

Stewart Taylor: A proud Bunurong man, Stewart uses his work with Victoria Police as the Southern Metro Region Aboriginal Liaison Officer to advocate for the local Aboriginal community. He also volunteers with other organisations and the impacts of his contributions will be felt for generations.

Priscilla Graf: Advocating for local refugee families, Priscilla has helped many families adjust to their new life and make positive connections in the community. Her work includes encouraging children's involvement in sport, tutoring students in maths and supporting families in need.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

Rob Boyle: As owner of Rob's British & Irish Butchery, Rob has become a Dandenong icon. For 33 years he has run the butchery and promoted central Dandenong as a place to shop and visit. He also supports local charities and has employed many local people, including youngsters launching into their first jobs.

Young Leader of the Year

Rowan Barbour: Rowan took part in Council's 2024 Young Leaders Program, growing her confidence in public speaking and leadership skills. She volunteers regularly at the Save the Children Warehouse and the Australian Animal Protection Society Op Shop in Keysborough.



Simran Saroy: Simran shows great commitment to her community through her ongoing volunteer work with headspace (youth mental health organisation) and her passion to reduce stigma around mental health and improving service access for multicultural communities.

Young Leader of the Year Highly Commended

Meantepy 'Tepy' Hoeung: Tepy helps to raise critical awareness of liver health and viral hepatitis in the Khmer and broader Southeast Asia communities through community outreach, including educational sessions and appearances on SBS language programs and podcasts.

Khue Le: A member of Council's 2024 Young Leaders Program, Khue is focused on health policy and health promotion for multicultural communities. She is the Rural Chair of the Australian Medical Students Association, volunteers with the Embrace Education team at Monash University which offers tutoring to disadvantaged students and teaches Vietnamese on weekends.

Volunteer of the Year

Glenn McLaren: Glenn has been an active volunteer for 17 years and is now the Captain of the Springvale CFA. Over the years he has fought on the frontline, attending thousands of call outs as a firefighter, and he also attends community events to share fire safety messaging and education with the wider community.

Community Group of the Year

Afri-Aus Care Inc.: Since 2015 Afri-Aus Care Inc has been a pillar of the African Australian community, supporting people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds through culturally-sensitive counselling, mental health services, employment support and community sport.

Sustainability Award

Kym O'Shannassy – Rethink Recycling: Based in Springvale, Rethink Recycling Community (RRC) is a not-for-profit organisation inspiring change through education and community involvement. RRC creates new products from plastic lids, using the recycling process to educate community members about the circular economy.

Sportsperson of the Year

Giancarlo Artho: Giancarlo's achievements in motorsport serve as an inspiration to other young residents. Starting in go karts at age 7, last year he won a full scholarship to race in the 2024 Indian F4 Championship. Giancarlo is also active in his local community, having spent time on FReeZA and Noble Park Youth committees.

Outstanding Contributor to the Arts Award

Masquerade Youth Productions Inc: Since 2014 Masquerade Youth Productions (MYP) has entertained the Greater Dandenong community through performances at the Drum Theatre. MYP provides access to the arts for children with disabilities, helping them to learn new skills and discover creativity and imagination.

What's On February 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					1 Flash Embroidery Workshop with Safa El Samad Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 12pm-4pm World Fare @ Night Dandenong Market 5pm	2 Lunar New Year – Chinese Community Book Day Springvale Library 1pm 
 During this month: We Built This City Exhibition Open Wednesday and Thursday 10am-2pm till 18 May		5	6 Book Club – Libraries at Dusk Springvale Library 6.30pm-8pm FReeZA Youth Committee begins (runs weekly) 	7 Sensational Springvale Food Tour – Lunar New Year Special 11am-1pm	8 Springvale Urban Harvest Springvale Community Hub 1pm-3pm Springvale Community Hub Clothes Swap Springvale Community Hub 1pm-3pm 	9
10 Council Meeting Council Chambers, Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	11 Scams and Scones – Safer Internet Day Springvale Library 10.30am-11.30am	12	13 Crochet Flower Bookmark – Libraries at Dusk Dandenong Library 6.30pm-8pm Empowering Women In Sport Panel Tatterson Park Pavilion 6.30pm-8.30pm	14 Love your Library Day 	15 Science Lab Fun – Think Tank Dandenong Library 3pm-4pm 9 to 5 Exhibition Opening Event Drum Theatre 3pm-5pm 	16
17 Take a Swing For Charity Golf Day Commonwealth Golf Club, Oakleigh South 	18 	19	20 Body Scrubs and Bath Salts – Libraries at Dusk Dandenong Library 6.30pm-8pm 	21 Olivia Newton-John Aunty O presented by Tottie Goldsmith Drum Theatre 7.30pm 	22 The Unfolding Table: Conversation Circle and Book Launch Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 2pm-5pm Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day Greaves Reserve, Bennet St, Dandenong 8am 	23 Sustainability Festival Dandenong Market 10am-3pm
24 Council Meeting Council Chambers, Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm			27 Fish Safe Paints – Libraries At Dusk Dandenong Library 6.30pm-8pm	28	Finishing this month 28 February Azza Zein: Tashabok Exhibition 	

Arts in Greater Dandenong Season One 2025

As the vibrant heart of Melbourne's southeast, our community is built on diverse stories. Our city is home to people from over 150 birthplaces, each contributing to the tapestry of experiences, traditions, and perspectives that make this place unique.

This year, our first season of Arts in Greater Dandenong celebrates how global stories unfold in local spaces.

Through *Local Spaces, Global Stories* exhibitions, performances and workshops, we invite you to explore how global influences shape our community's identity. From shared migration stories to the creativity that emerges when cultures connect, storytelling and belonging are at the heart of this arts program.

Whether you are uncovering the stories behind local street murals or attending an exhibition on the journeys of those who now call Greater Dandenong home, there's a sense of discovery and connection waiting for everyone.



What's On?

Experience the magic of live performances at the Drum Theatre. From First Nations troupe, Na Djinang Circus, to popular Persian musician, Naser Zeynali, you will be captivated by events that bring the community together.

Celebrate creativity at Walker Street Gallery, home to inspiring exhibitions and programs showcasing local and international works. In 2025, we're expanding our award-winning HOME exhibition with a precinct-wide program.

Step into the past at Heritage Hill, where history comes alive through beautiful gardens, historic homes and engaging programs. Explore the stories of some of Greater Dandenong's favourite heritage sites through the We Built This City project.

Discover a world of stories, learning, and connection at Greater Dandenong Libraries, your hub for books, events, and creativity.

We have every artistic passion covered!

Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to the area, I invite you to join us. Together, let's honour the stories that make Greater Dandenong extraordinary.



Councillor Jim Memeti
Greater Dandenong Mayor

LOCAL SPACES, GLOBAL STORIES

Arts in Greater Dandenong | Season One 2025



Venue Key: Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



The Drum Theatre



Heritage Hill



Greater Dandenong Libraries

On until Friday 28 February



Azza Zein | Tashabok
Explore migration, memory, and unseen stories.



Arts Tour Bus | March



Discover the South East's creative treasures with Arts Tour Bus.



On until Sunday 18 May



We Built this City
Celebrates the stories of some Dandenong's favourite places.



10 February - 2 May



9 by 5 Exhibition
Over 200 Artists. Tiny artworks. Big impact.



Thursday 15 February, 6pm



Cultural Sketch
with Azza Zein
Storytelling and sketching.



Saturday 8 March, 7.30pm



Damien Leith
Up close and Personal



Thursday 20 February, 10.30am



A Morning of Classic Big Band Swing
with B# Big Band.



Thursday 20 March, 10.30am



Women Of The 60s
Sing, dance, and laugh along to timeless hits.



Friday 24 January, 2pm
and Friday 21 March, 6pm



Embrace Kids | Heart warming film, celebrating every body, every story, every child.



Saturday 22 March, 7.30pm



Jimeoin | Pandemonium
New from comedy legend and Edinburgh Fringe fave.



Friday 2 May, 7.30pm



Naser Zenyali
Iranian pop singer and songwriter.



Thursday 17 April, 10.30am



Bach to Broadway
Musical spectacle featuring all time greatest hits.



March - May



Fritz | Rabbit uncovers
magician's disappearance - the show must go on.



Friday 11 April, 11am



Thursday 15 May, 10.30am



★
Frankly Sinatra
Relive the golden era hits and untold stories.

Friday 16 May, 7.30pm



★
Hope I Made You Proud
Hilarious and deeply personal. NZ stand-up comedian Joe Daymond.

Saturday 24 May, 8pm



★
Echoes of Pink Floyd
6 decades of mesmerising music.

Saturday 31 May, 6pm



★
Of The Land On Which We Meet
Walking on stone and cement it can be hard to remember what it feels like to have earth beneath our feet.

Thursday 19 June, 10.30am



★
Around The World on 4 Strings
Encore fave Roy Theaker.

24 June - 29 August



★ ★
HOME 25: Invisible Cities
Through the work of international, national and local artists explore how the concept of 'home' shapes identity, belonging, and dislocation in a precinct wide exhibition experience.

Our Beat



★
Your Beat, Your Stage, Our Community.
By artists for artists.

Public Art in Greater Dandenong



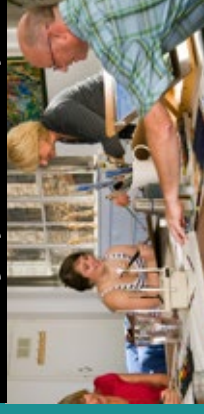
Meander through Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park precincts. Go on a journey of cultural storytelling through Public Art.

Community Art Spaces



Showcasing local artists across Greater Dandenong.

Fortnightly on Wednesdays



★
Art, Craft and Conversation
Libraries' arty gathering.

Saturday 21 June, 6pm



★
Batoor: A Refugee Journey
Story of exile, resilience and displacement.

Learn more about our Season One 2025 Program
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts



Program Partners



Public Record Office Victoria

Greater Dandenong City Council



4th Melbourne International Arts Festival

ARTS

WALKER STREET
Gallery & Arts Centre



Greater Dandenong Heritage



Sector Partner

acmi



Image Credits: Home 25 - Rushdi Anwar, The Patterns of Displacement in Context of Home, 2024, UNHCR tent fabric, Paint, safety pins, wood frame, and HD video one channel, variable size | The Dreaming Project 2022

A WORLD OF LIVE ENTERTAINMENT – ON US!

Do you subscribe to a streaming service like Netflix, Stan, or Binge? Then it's time to stream the world of live arts for FREE.

Bring proof of your subscription invoice to the **Drum Theatre Box Office** and claim your **FREE Drum Membership*** – your golden ticket to incredible benefits, including:

- **Discounted tickets** to breathtaking live performances.
- **Early Bird access** to select events.
- **10% off** at the Drum Theatre Bar.
- A **FREE one-year membership** with ACMI.

... and so much more!

Experience the magic of live performance at the Drum Theatre—a world-class 518-seat performing arts hub in the heart of Dandenong.

Don't miss this exclusive offer.

📍 Visit us at the Drum Theatre Box Office to redeem

☎ Call 8571 1666 for details

Experience the arts like never before – all for the price of your subscription.

* Terms and conditions apply. Please visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/drum-members for details.

Have your Say on Customer Service



Council provides more than 100 services to the Greater Dandenong community to improve the quality of life for all residents.



We want everyone in our community to have a great experience every time they use or interact with these services,

by making it as easy as possible for everyone to engage with us and provide clear resolutions.

Following consultation with the community and Council staff across 2023 and 2024, we have designed a Customer Experience Strategy that is now open for feedback.

All community members are invited to have your say on how we can deliver a great experience every time you interact with Council.



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

Dandenong Community Hub



Help us design a better Dandenong and join us for the third concept design workshop for the Dandenong Community Hub.

The workshop will provide an update on the outcome of the first two workshops held in 2024 and will outline the program and key milestones to help the project to the next stage of detailed design. Key topics for discussion will include options for car parking and open space.

Join us to finalise the concept design for the hub.

Workshops will be held on Tuesday February 18, from 11am–1pm and on Thursday February 20, from 5pm–7pm.

The workshop content will be the same at both sessions.

The community hub is planned for central Dandenong, on a site bounded by Stuart Street, Clow Street and Sleeth Avenue.

In a Council Meeting in August 2024 Council considered a hub project update, noting that \$1.7 million was allocated in the 2024/25 budget for concept planning and detailed design.



Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DandenongCH to register for a workshop or learn more. Registrations close on Tuesday 11 February.



Reminder: Pet registrations coming up

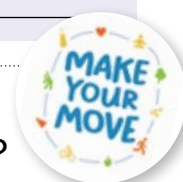
Pet owners in Greater Dandenong are reminded to register their cats and dogs when renewals are due in April.

The law requires you to register cats and dogs aged over three months with council. Registration and up-to-date microchip information ensures your beloved family pet can be returned home if they go missing.

Reduced fees are offered for desexed cats and dogs and those aged over 10 years. Further discounts are offered for pensioners.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pet-registration to find out more.



How do you make your move?

We want to hear about all the ways you get active in Greater Dandenong.

Tell us how you Make Your Move via the 2025 Physical Activity Survey. Physical activities could involve playing sport, going for a walk, running, swimming, dancing or gardening.

The results of this survey will help us understand the needs of our residents, how our facilities are used and how to remove barriers to participation.



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

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Libraries at Dusk

Running every Thursday evening the Libraries at Dusk program provides opportunities to be social while learning creative skills.



Thursday 6 February

Salsa Dancing at Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Book Club at Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 13 February

Crochet Flower Bookmark at Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Salsa Dancing at Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 20 February

Body Scrubs and Bath Salts at Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Fish Safe Paints at Springvale Library, 6.30pm

Thursday 27 February

Fish Safe Paints at Dandenong Library, 6.30pm

Make Your Own Produce Bags at Springvale Library, 6.30pm



Scams and Scones

at Springvale Library
Tuesday 11 February,
10.30am–11.30am

Join us on Safer Internet Day to learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones online.

Enjoy a cuppa and scones at this free session where you can also discover practical tips and tricks to stay safe in the digital world.

Don't miss this opportunity to safeguard your online presence and keep your family secure.



Greek Community Book Day

at Springvale Library
Saturday 22 February

Discover Greek literature and culture at your local library and explore our latest collection of Greek books on display.

Borrow your favourite titles on the day and share your suggestions for books you would love to see in our libraries. Celebrate Greek culture with a vibrant performance by the Manassis School of Greek Dance and Culture.

Think Tank

This month Think Tank explores Science Lab Fun at the libraries. Step into a world of fun, colourful and chaotic science. Mix chemicals to make a colourful, fizzy mess, observe the biggest, foamiest elephant's toothpaste and experience a tasty chemical reaction on your tongue. Ideal for all ages.

at Dandenong Library,
Saturday 15 February 3pm–4pm

at Springvale Library,
Saturday 22 February, 3pm–4pm




Love Your Library Day

This Valentine's Day, lose yourself in a heartfelt story. Celebrate Love Your Library Day on 14 February with our delightful romance collection. From classic tales to contemporary romances, find the perfect book to capture your heart.

Explore titles like:

- ▶ *Love Stories* by Trent Dalton
- ▶ *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks
- ▶ *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon
- ▶ *Red, White and Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston
- ▶ *Just Like You* by Nick Hornby.

 Visit us in-branch or browse our collection online to find your perfect match.

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

The Drum



Big impact in small packages

Experience over 200 captivating artworks at *9 by 5 Exhibition* celebrating diversity and creativity in compact form. From painting to photography, artists of all levels showcase inspiring pieces, each just 9 x 5 inches. Don't miss your chance to view—and own—these small yet impactful treasures.

We invite you to join us for the *9 by 5 Exhibition* opening event at the Drum Theatre on Saturday 15 February, from 3pm–5pm.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5 for more information.

Drum Season One 2025

From comedy to circus, music to magic join us for an inspiring season of performance, film and events at the Drum Theatre.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about-us/encore-program for more information.

Encore – A Morning of Classic Big Band Swing

Thursday 20 February at 10.30am

Get ready for an unforgettable morning as Australia's renowned Big Band brings the magic of the swing era to life. Featuring Jefferson Smith, this show will



transport you straight to the stylish 30s, 40s, and 50s with songs from legends like Frank Sinatra, Bobby Darin, and Dean Martin.

Save the date...

Jimeoin Pandemonium

Saturday 22 March 2025 at 7.30pm

Have you ever wondered what goes on inside Jimeoin's head? By the end of this show you'll know that it's absolute *Pandemonium*.



Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Tashabok

Artist Azza Zein was born to a Syrian mother and a Lebanese father. Zein grew up in Beirut and is now based in Melbourne. With a background in economics, Zein's work comments on the dematerialisation of the economy and invisible labour, through the lens of the migrant experience.

Tashabok has been evolving since 2020, and includes videos, painting and sculptural works. The exhibition will close on Friday 28 February.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/exhibitions/azza-zein-tashabok for more information.



Flash Embroidery Workshop with Safa El Samad

Saturday 1 February, 12pm–4pm

Join us for this hands-on workshop led by Lebanese Australian artist Safa El Samad. Explore themes of the current exhibition, *Tashabok*, through the art of embroidery.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/flash-embroidery-workshop-safa-el-samad for more information.



The Unfolding Table: Conversation Circle and Book Launch

Saturday 22 February, 2pm–5pm

Join us for an intimate afternoon for this conversation circle and book launch.

Artist Azza Zein, participants from the Dandenong-based relational drawing sessions, and contributors to the publication, including artist and academic Andrew Goodman and writer Sherine Al Shallah will lead this session.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/unfolding-table-conversation-circle-and-book-launch for more information.

Award winning Greater Dandenong



The Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre has been awarded the 2024 Victorian Multicultural Award for Excellence in Arts for fostering social cohesion through innovative programs like the HOME exhibition.

As Dandenong's cultural heart, the gallery celebrates the city's vibrant multicultural community through diverse exhibitions, artist talks, and monthly openings. Funded by the City of Greater Dandenong, it showcases contemporary art that reflects Australia's rich cultural tapestry.

HOME, the flagship exhibition program, highlights artists with refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. This year's exhibition featured Naarm-based Ethiopian-Norwegian artist Olana Janfa, whose *Too Much Drama* series explored migration and belonging with bold imagery and Ethiopian iconography.

This award underscores the gallery's commitment to art as a unifying force, enhancing connection and inclusivity in Greater Dandenong.

The popular Springvale Snow Fest was also honoured at the Awards for Excellence, receiving a Highly Commended in the Local Government Award Category.



The annual event was recognised for bringing together 35,000 people to celebrate multiculturalism and fostering social connectedness, local business engagement and tourism.

The event is the biggest winter street food festival in Victoria. The judges said, "The event highlights multicultural communities and provides entertainment, activities and delicious food from around the world – even delivering snow to the centre of Springvale."

The Multicultural Awards for Excellence recognise individuals and organisations who have fostered cross cultural understanding and supported those with migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to fully participate in life.



Don't miss out on your chance to apply for a one-off grant



Are you a not-for-profit community group, an organisation or an individual artist working to benefit the Greater Dandenong community? You could be eligible for a one-off grant worth up to \$10,000.

Our bi-annual Medium Grants Program provides financial support for the delivery of projects, programs, and events in four areas:

- ▶ Community Development Grants
- ▶ Climate Change Action Grants
- ▶ Arts, Festivals and Events Grants
- ▶ Individual Artist Grants

Applications are open from Monday 3 February until 12pm Monday 3 March.

Help us continue to make our community healthy, vibrant and creative by submitting your application now.

Not sure how to apply?

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants for more important information.

We also offer grant application support during office hours, and evenings (by appointment).



Please email commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1432.

Our City, Our Future



Between March and July 2024, we undertook a series of community engagement activities to help inform Council's work over the coming four years.

We asked residents and visitors about the things they love about Greater Dandenong, what current services they consider important, and what Council should focus on over the next four years. Their ideas will help influence our Council Plan 2025-29, Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Plan.

Our community identified seven key areas of focus for Council over the next four years:

- ▶ Affordable housing
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Community safety
- ▶ Council Assets
- ▶ Employment and education
- ▶ Open space and trees
- ▶ Social cohesion and connection

These themes were shared with our Community Panel, a group of 37 community members who came together, to develop recommendations for Council. The panel were asked to think about how we could help make our city a home to all despite some of the challenges we are facing and agreed on the following six recommendations:

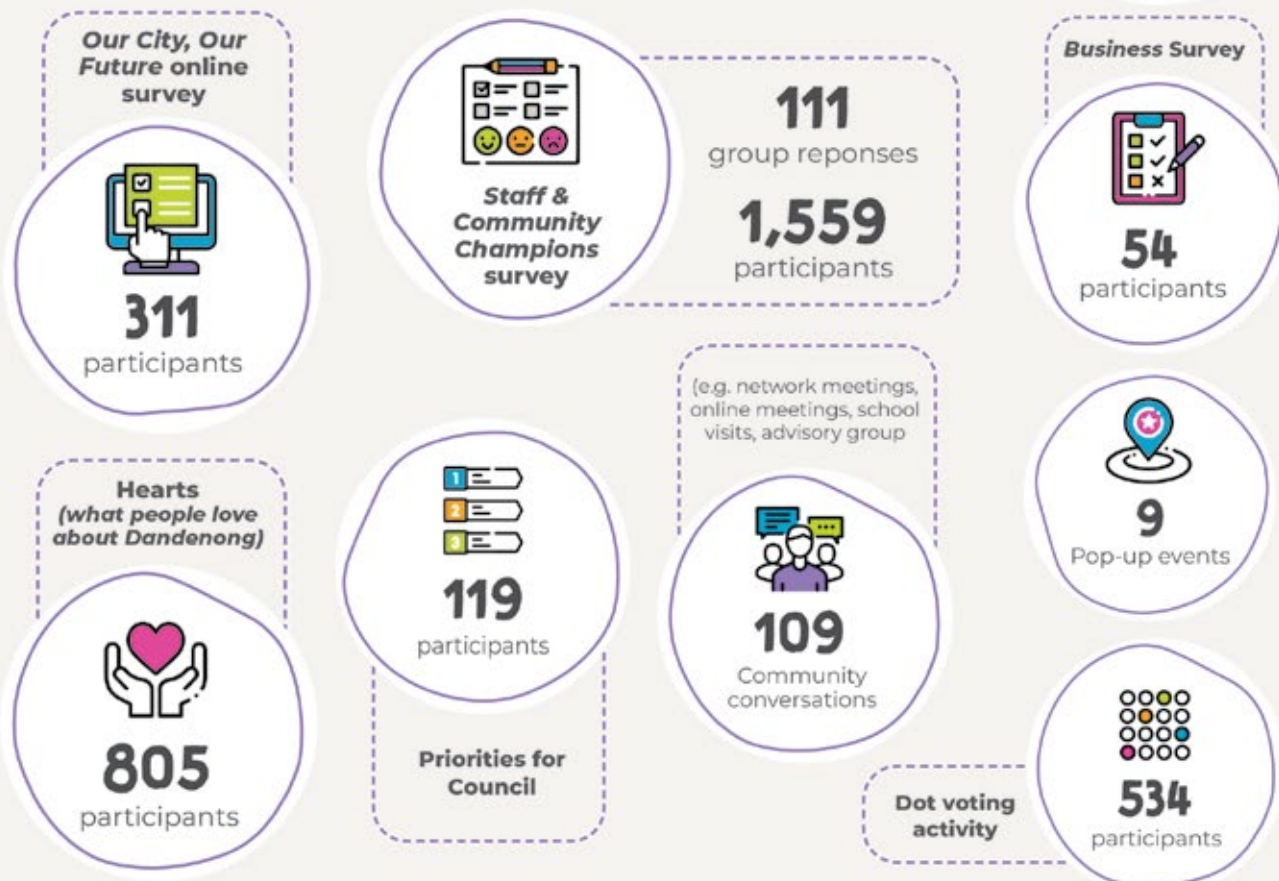
1. **Community Connection** – supporting our communities to run events and provide opportunities for community engagement
2. **Affordable Housing** – advocacy to the state and federal government to provide affordable, fit for purpose housing for those most vulnerable
3. **Service awareness** – increasing our community's awareness of the Council service sand opportunities available to them
4. **Asset Re-evaluation** – maximise the effectiveness of our assets and their utilisation
5. **Community safety** – increase safety measures in public spaces to increase confidence and feelings of safety



6. **Maintenance and preservation of assets** – ensure all Council assets are regularly maintained, fully utilised and safe

These recommendations will now be renewed by Council and help to develop our priorities for the next four years.

To read more about what our community said go to [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-city-our-future](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-city-our-future)





Bojak Brewing – the local for locals

It's the finer details that count for Bojak Brewing owners Sue and Dale.

Becoming the local for locals who in turn, become extended family is the mission for the local Dandenong brewers.

The team has a passion for carefully crafted beers alongside delicious food using locally produced ingredients. They brew all their beers on site which also hosts a tap room with 14 taps within its bar and restaurant, and distribute wholesale stock in keg and can format across Victoria.

Sue and Dale both work full-time in the business with Dale as Brewer and Sue oversees the general running. After six years in business they now also employ four bar staff, a chef and a canning line assistant/delivery driver. Sue said, like many businesses, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the team at Bojak hard.

"We had merely been open for 12 months before we were virtually closed for two years. We did learn a lot in those two years and tried to remain positive," she said.

"We had a lot of loyal customers who continued to support us through the pandemic which was so important to

survival. Things are still tough with living expenses and the uncertainty of our economy and interest rates but, we just continue to ensure we have a delicious consistent product and a great experience when you visit."

Recently, Sue and Dale applied and successfully secured a business grant with American Express through the company's Shop Small Business Grant Program. Sue credits Council's Business and Investment team with helping her discover the grant's availability.

"We signed up to the Council's business e-newsletter, Talking Business, so we could stay up-to-date on the latest happenings," Sue said.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/talking-business to sign-up to Council's business e-newsletter or reach out to one of our team members via business@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1550 for any business related questions and support.

You can find Bojak Brewery at 5 Bennet St, Dandenong or online at bojakebrewing.com.au

www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

New Business Awards Program



In 2025, The Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating the outstanding businesses that drive innovation, excellence, and growth in the Greater Dandenong region. The prestigious Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Business Awards 2024/25 is launching this month.

The awards include:

- ▶ Innovation, Environmental and Sustainability
- ▶ Community Impact
- ▶ Home Business
- ▶ Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Award
- ▶ Transport, Logistics Business
- ▶ Manufacturing
- ▶ Overall Business

Dates to remember:

Registrations open: 3 February

Submissions close: 30 May

Presentation evening: 26 June



Visit greaterdandenongchamber.com.au to learn more.

Business events

Council's Business and Investment Team conducts workshops, activities and events all year round.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business to find out what's coming up.

In the meantime save these dates:

10 Feb	GameChange: Jobseeker reference Group
17 Feb	Take a Swing for Charity golf event
26 Feb	Maximising your Marketing workshop

Noble Park's Nick Kozakis wins 2024 ARIA Award

PROUD
COMMUNITY
MEMBER

"My roots in Noble Park shaped my vision, blending cultural depth with authentic storytelling," he said.



Local resident and director Nick Kozakis has won the 2024 ARIA Award for Best Music Video, alongside co-director Sela Vai, for their work directing the *Dance With Me* by Tones And I, music video.

"I'm incredibly grateful for this ARIA Award—it's a testament to the amazing team that brought this vision to life," Nick Kozakis said.

Nick was born, raised and still lives in the Noble Park area.

"My roots in Noble Park shaped my vision, blending cultural depth with authentic storytelling," he said.

Nick first gained attention with the music video he directed, *Dance Monkey* by Tones and I, which went viral with over two billion views on YouTube.

Now Nick is known across the globe for his innovative approach to directing. But back home he is a proud Greater Dandenong community member.

"Congratulation Nick, it's always fantastic to see local Greater Dandenong community members thrive and show how far expressing yourself through art can take you," Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said.

Nick plans to continue to push the boundaries through his music video direction, blending stunning visuals with compelling stories.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/things-do-and-see/arts-and-culture to explore arts and culture opportunities in Greater Dandenong.



Sweet relief at Wellsprings



When the mercury soared in December, Council staff delivered some sweet relief to staff, volunteers and community members at Wellsprings for Women.

Council's Public Health team worked with our Community Advocacy team to find a deserving home for the 40, 4–7kg melons.

Summer came with a bang with the maximum temperature reaching 37 degrees across Melbourne on Monday 16 December, so staff at Wellspring's in Langhorne Street, Dandenong were thrilled to receive the gift.

Wellspring's put the call out to their community and many grateful families turned up to collect the refreshing fruit treat. The gesture helped people beat the heat and brought a smile to many faces.

Running Festival

Get ready for an exciting day of fitness, fun, and community at the first-ever South East Running Festival.

Happening on Sunday, 13 April 2025 at Dandenong Stadium, this event offers something for everyone. Choose from a 21km half marathon, 10km, 5km, or the 1km Children's Dash. The course takes you through the surrounding Melbourne Water Wetlands, finishing inside the iconic stadium with music, food, and family-friendly activities.

Don't miss out on this unforgettable event – whether you're running, walking, or cheering on loved ones.



Visit dandenongstadium.com.au/serf to register.

9 by 5 exhibition

10 February - 2 May | The Drum Foyer

Tiny artworks, big impact.
See works from over 200 artists.



Join us for the exhibition opening
Saturday 15 February, 3pm.



Scan QR to learn more about
the exhibition and the public
program

The Drum Theatre
Cnr Lonsdale and Walker streets, Dandenong | Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm | 8571 1666 | greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5

Program Partners



Sector Partner

