# Greater Dandenong Council News

# Welcoming our Junior Mayor and Deputy

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National Reconciliation Week Memories of Dandenong Oasis PAGE 11



#### **Customer Service Centres**

**Dandenong Civic Centre** 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

**Springvale Community Hub** 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

**Keysborough Customer Service** Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre, Keysborough

#### All correspondence to:

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voutube.com/citygreaterdandenong

TTY: 133 677 Speak and listen: 1300 555 727 relayservice.gov.au

iii TIS: 131 450

council@cgd.vic.gov.au

#### **Important Numbers**

Emergency calls Police / Fire / Ambulance	
Street lighting faults / non-operational United Energy	
Traffic signal faults / non-operational	
Hoon Hotline	1800 333 000
Hard Waste Collection WM Waste Management Services	0721 1015
Australian Animal	
Protection Society	
RSPCA	
Nurse on Call	1300 606 024
Non Urgent Police Response (no sirens)	
Dandenong Police	
Springvale Police	

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

# Mayor's Message

#### Welcome to the May edition of Greater Dandenong Council News. The year is flying by.

Every May we celebrate our volunteers through National Volunteer Week. Local volunteers make an incredibly positive difference to our community. Turn to page 9 to find out more about National Volunteer Week (19-25 May) and read about our Volunteer of the Year.



At Greater Dandenong City Council, we continue to support

major projects in our community. You can find an update on the Keysborough South Community Hub on page 11, alongside a call out for shared memories of Dandenong Oasis as we prepare for the construction of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre.

Another exciting addition to Dandenong will be the \$280 million 'Dandenong Works' warehousing development at the former IVECO site. The Victorian Planning Minister's recent permit approval for 7 Princes Highway paves the way for the prominent 12.2 hectare site to be transformed by a thoughtful development that offers a nod to the location's significant history.

To ensure we're delivering for you, this month we're seeking your feedback on key documents including the Proposed Budget 2025–26. Read more on page 3 and find out how to have your say.

Last month celebrations were held across our community, including religious festivals and New Year festivities for many different cultural groups. Central Dandenong hosted the inaugural Ramadan Night Market for nine nights from late March into early April and it was a beautiful success. The market was embraced by our community, who proudly came together to honour the occasion and show off the cultural diversity that makes Greater Dandenong so special.

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

Mayor Cr Jim Memeti

### My City

Dandenong Market is one of Melbourne's oldest markets and has been operating since 1866.

Visit the market every Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday to see, taste and discover delights from all over the world

Pictured: Chan Lee captures this local icon.



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.



FSC

Logo

*Front cover*: Our new Junior Mayor, Aaya, meets Greater Dandenong Mayor Cr Jim Memeti. Picture: Hilton Stone. 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.

### New Junior Mayor and Deputy elected



#### Greater Dandenong students have come together to vote in their Junior Mayor for 2025.

At a recent meeting of Council's Children's Advisory Group, student leaders from 13 local primary schools ran an election to find their Junior Mayor and for the first time ever, a Deputy Junior Mayor.

Ten students spoke passionately about their ideas for the future as part of their election campaigns.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti congratulated the newly elected Junior Mayor Aaya, who spoke with great enthusiasm about children's wellbeing, advocating for more outdoor opportunities to keep children active and connected.

"I am looking forward to working alongside Aaya to represent the community at key events, including citizenship ceremonies, community festivals and other Council functions," Cr Memeti said. "The Children's Advisory Group and the Junior Mayor program are helping us shape the next generation of leaders by empowering children to actively participate in their community. I look forward to seeing these young leaders make a difference in 2025 and for years to come."

Deputy Junior Mayor Haroon will also support Aaya and the 35 other student leaders who sit on the Advisory Group.

The group provides a platform for children to share their ideas and contribute to Council's planning and decisionmaking, reinforcing our commitment to being a Child Friendly City.



Congratulations Aaya and Haroon.

# Final chance to have your say on the documents that guide our work and spending

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the strategic documents which will guide our work for the next four years and beyond.

We heard from more than 3000 community members on what's important to them through various engagements from May to July 2024 and a deliberative panel held between October and November 2024.

These engagements helped identify what's important to our community:

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

This is the final stage of engagement and we would love to hear what you think of the documents below before Council considers adopting them on Monday 23 June.

- Proposed Budget 2025–26
- Proposed Long Term Financial Plan 2026-35
- Draft Revenue and Rating Plan
- Draft Asset Plan 2025-35
- Annual Plan 2025–26 and Draft Council Plan 2025–29



### To have your say

#### Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.

**vic.gov.au** between 14 May 2025 and 11 June 2025. You can provide written feedback to our Customer Service team at Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. To request a printed version of any of the documents please call 8571 1000.

### **Councillor Contacts**



**Dandenong Ward Mayor** Cr Jim Memeti

0434 560 239 Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au



Noble Park Ward Deputy Mayor Cr Sophie Tan 0466 793 727 Sophie.Tan@cgd.vic.gov.au



Cleeland Ward Cr Rhonda Garad 0435 107 584 Rhonda.Garad@cgd.vic.gov.au



Dandenong North Ward Cr Bob Milkovic 0435 237 051 Bob.Milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au



Keysborough Ward Cr Melinda Yim 0428 331 557 Melinda.Yim@cgd.vic.gov.au



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Springvale Central Ward Cr Alice Phuong Le 0429 059 974 AlicePhuong.Le@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale North Ward Cr Sean O'Reilly 0422 523 258 Sean.OReilly@cgd.vic.gov.au



Springvale South Ward Cr Loi Truong 0466 004 618 Loi.Truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



Yarraman Ward Cr Phillip Danh 0473 482 153 Phillip.Danh@cgd.vic.gov.au



### Council Meetings

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

#### Upcoming meetings will be held on:

- Monday 12 May
- Monday 26 May

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

### **Cr Sophie Tan**



Noble Park is a busy ward, with many projects underway or recently completed.

We have finished several road rehabilitation projects that will make our local road network safer, including works on two sections of Buckley Street, a section on Nithsdale Road and another section on Arnold Street.

Road resurfacing works were also completed on Knox Street, and are scheduled to begin shortly on David Street and Bloomfield Road.

Work has also been completed on Railway Parade to improve the safety for all road users. Almost \$1 million in Black Spot Funding addressed safety issues on the roadway.

As part of the 2024–25 Capital Improvement Program I requested funding for several projects which have now been completed or are due to be completed shortly. These include:

- Upgrade at Greenglade Reserve (play equipment has been ordered and is due to be installed very soon)
- Pop-up seasonal greetings in open spaces (Flower artwork is being created and is due to be installed in the coming months)
- CARDIAC Connect monitored AED Cabinet has been provided to the Noble Park CFA for installation on their premises.

### Noble Park Ward



In news that is great for local families, works are underway to upgrade the kindergarten and childcare area at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre.

I also look forward to spring, when 15 street trees will be planted around the Noble Park Activity Centre to help increase the tree canopy.

As Deputy Mayor of Greater Dandenong I have been proud to represent our Council at a number of community celebrations and special events, and I look forward to attending more across my term.

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

### Dandenong North Ward



Winter is on the way, but there are still some lovely autumn days to enjoy.

Across Greater Dandenong we have more than 600ha of parks and reserves to enjoy. Every year we carry out work across our city to ensure residents get the most out of this open space.

Over the past 18 months Dandenong North's Thornton Reserve has transformed into a welcoming space for locals to gather. New fencing around the edges of the reserve have made it a safer space, while a shelter, park furniture and a barbecue make it inviting for get-togethers. Paths, a water fountain and tree plantings also add to the amenity.

I advocated for the park improvements and it is rewarding to see my work as a councillor benefit the Dandenong North community.



We are always looking for ways to help our community be active and provide beautiful open spaces to help increase opportunities to Make Your Move. Whether you play informal games of soccer, football or cricket at the local park, or just chase the kids around a playground, it's fun to get moving.

Road safety is an issue that is always a hot topic. This month three sections of Gladstone Rd are due to be resurfaced. The works are due to happen between Fillmore Road and Police Road, from Princes Highway to Gerard Street, and from Nordic Road to Park Road.

Cr Bob Milkovic

Thanks for your patience while these works are completed. They will ensure a safer experience for all road users.

In the meantime if you would like to talk to me about any local issues you can reach me on email at <u>bob.milkovic@cgd.vic.</u> <u>gov.au</u> or phone 0435 237 051.

### Cr Isabella Do



It's an incredibly exciting time for our community. After years of hard-fought advocacy, we are on the brink of a significant milestone: the opening of the Keysborough South Community Hub later this year. This long-awaited project, achieved through the persistence of our community, is nearing completion.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to have their say in the most recent community consultation in April for the naming of the Hub and feedback towards the Community Hub Strategic Framework and draft Terms of Reference for the combined Hubs Advisory Committee. We've taken a bold step towards a greener future with the recent installation of a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system at our Hub. The Hub will feature cutting-edge climate control technology that significantly reduces its environmental impact; this pioneering system is believed to be among the first of its kind in Australia and is a gamechanger for our city.

Additionally, the new shade sails at Pencil Park are finally here, providing much-needed shelter from the unpredictable Melbourne weather.

Finishing works are taking place at Perry Road and are on track to be completed

### Keysborough South Ward

by June. Keys Road will remain open to through traffic but the remaining works should have a low traffic impact.

I'm working hard to improve safety for children traveling to and from schools in our area.

I have met with State Member for Mordialloc, Tim Richardson, to discuss securing State Government support for crossing supervisors for Keysborough Garden Primary School and Sirius. I'm hopeful for a positive discussion with Mr. Richardson.

I have also continued to advocate for transparency on the Keysborough South Levy and look forward to ensuring Council explains and demonstrates value for your rates in the upcoming budget.

If you would like to discuss any local issues please reach out via email at <u>Isabella.do@cgd.vic.gov.au</u> or phone me on 0427 161 104.

### Sustainability starts with compost

**Compost Awareness** Week (4-10 May) provides a perfect opportunity to discover the benefits of composting food and garden waste.

This year's theme is 'Sustainable Communities Begin with Compost'. This highlights the simple steps that can improve soil and plant quality, which helps to regenerate the earth.

If you don't have a compost bin at home, you can still make a difference by collecting food scraps and garden waste in your green lid garden waste bin.

Unlike a compost bin you can put all types of food into the green lid bin, including cooked or raw meat, fish, bones, cheese, rice and pasta, as well as fruit and vegetables.

By putting food scraps into the correct bin you ensure they are kept out of landfill where they create harmful greenhouse gases. Food scraps are turned into compost for use by farmers here in Victoria to grow healthy food for everyone.

> Visit greaterdandenong.vic. gov.au/food-waste to find out more.



### **Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day**



Take advantage of our regular Reuse and Recycle **Drop Off Days to clear out** unwanted items and keep on top of household clutter.

The next drop off event will be held at Greaves Reserve, 20 Bennet St. Dandenong on Saturday 24 May, from 8am-1pm.

Good quality items will be donated to charities, this includes clothing, furniture, bicycles and baby seats.

Items like mattresses. electronic waste and white goods will be recycled, keeping valuable materials out of landfill.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic. gov.au/recycle-day for more

### Open space celebration



#### Join us to celebrate the launch of the Frank Street Open Space in Noble Park.

Come and enjoy a fun-filled morning and see the space's transformation as an inviting place for the whole community.

The launch event will include live music performances, craft activities, roving children's performers and giveaways. Meet the artists behind public artworks in Noble Park and enjoy a free hot drink from the Noble Brew - a mobile coffee cart run by Noble Park Community Centre supported by a grant from Council's Our Street program.

**Come along to Frank Street Open Space, 2A Frank Street,** Noble Park, on Thursday 15 May from 10.30am-11.30am, to explore this welcoming community space.



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## Journey to Reconciliation

National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to learn about shared histories, cultures and achievements of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It is also a time to explore how we can all contribute to achieving reconciliation.

This year's theme is Bridging Now to Next, which reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future. The theme calls on all Australians to step forward together.

National Reconciliation Week is celebrated on the same days each year. It starts on 27 May, which is the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum to recognise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian Constitution.

The week finishes on 3 June, which is Mabo Day and celebrates the 1992 High Court Decision recognising the existence of native title rights and rejecting the claim that Australia belonged to no one prior to British occupation.

This Reconciliation Week, Greater Dandenong City Council invites all communities to come together to learn about First Nations shared histories, cultures and achievements.

Visit <u>greaterdandenong.vic.gov.</u> <u>au/reconciliation-week-2025</u> to find out about events happening across our community.





### Highlights

#### **Flag Raising Event**

Tuesday 27 May, 10am at Harmony Square, Dandenong

Featuring a community-based art event for all to join in, a Traditional Smoking Ceremony and ceremonial dance.

#### **Utopia Film Screening**

Wednesday 28 May, 12.30pm at Drum Theatre, Dandenong

One of the most extraordinary films about Australia by awardwinning filmmaker and journalist John Pilger.

#### Reconciliation Week themed Our Beat

Thursday 29 May, 6pm

Celebrate our creative community and share your own artistic talents across music, dance, film, spoken word and more.

### Of the Land on Which we Meet

Saturday 31 May, 6pm

This theatre performance follows the journey of three contemporary Australian circus artists with distinct relationships with Country; an Indigenous Australian, a descendant of migrants and a descendant of colonial settlers.



## What's On May 2025

MONDAY	•	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			0	1	2	3	4
	eritag 6 Mc(	nth It This City Exhibition ge Hill, Crae Street, Danden imes: Wednesdays a lays from 10am-2p	and	Day Trips for Seniors to Phillip Island 9am	Naser Zeynali in Concert Drum Theatre 8pm–11pm	(COMPOST) AV	ompost vareness Week -10 May
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	1	Nature Play Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve 10am-11am Manufactur May 6-9	Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation Dandenong Hospital Sacred Space 2.30pm-3pm (every Thursday)	Project	Community Clothes Swap Springvale Community Hub 1pm-3pm	Er
1	2	13	14	15	Walker Stree Arts Centre		18
Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	1	<b>Library Help</b> for Adults Springvale Library 2pm	"WE" - Women's Empowerment Workshops Paddy O'Donoghue Centre 10.30am- 12.30pm (every Wednesday this month)	Encore – Frankly Sinatra (Ol' Blue Eyes and Friends) Drum Theatre 10.30am	Open times: from 12pm-	Tuesday-Friday 4pm	
Australian Citizenship Information Session Dandenong Library 11.30am	9	20	21 Kevin Bloody Wilson - Aussie Icon Tour Drum Theatre 7.30pm	22 National Volunte 19-25 May	23 Ber Week	24 Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day Greaves Reserve, Bennet Street, Dandenong 8am-1pm	25
20	6	27	28	29	30	31	
Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	\$		Utopia by John Pilger (film screening) Drum Theatre 12.30pm		al Reconciliation Wee		

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### National 19-25 MAY 2025 Volunteer Connecting Communities Week

### Volunteering in Greater Dandenong

National Volunteer Week (19-25 May) is a great opportunity to celebrate the power of volunteering to bring people together.

At Greater Dandenong City Council we are fortunate to engage more than 100 volunteers across 12 service areas. Many more volunteer through various organisations and services across our city and beyond.

The theme for this year's celebrations is Connecting Communities and calls on people who are not currently volunteering to give it a go.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti said volunteering has positive impacts for the giver and the receiver.

"Volunteers are a wonderful asset for any organisation, and we are particularly grateful for those who support Council programs and services," Cr Memeti said.

"Studies have proven time and again the value of volunteering in building and sustaining a healthy, resilient community. Volunteering creates lasting relationships that enrich lives and strengthen our society."

#### Visit <u>greaterdandenong.vic.</u> <u>gov.au/volunteering</u> to find out more about volunteering with Council.

Contact the Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service to find out about other volunteering opportunities in our community. Email **<u>info@gdvrs.org</u>** or phone **5962 0414**.

### Greater Dandenong Volunteer of the Year

Glenn McIaren has been an active volunteer with the Springvale Fire Brigade for 17 years and currently serves as the Captain.

In January he was recognised as Volunteer of the Year at the 2025 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

Glenn serves as a leader and mentor to other volunteers in the fire brigade and is constantly working to improve community safety and connection. Fellow volunteers said his commitment to the community was a key reason for his Australia Day Award nomination.

For many years Glenn has supported a CFA presence at community events, including Springvale Snow Fest and Lunar New Year celebrations, and has supported education programs in local schools.

For his service Glenn has been awarded numerous certificates and campaign medals, and received the National Emergency Medal in 2009.

Glenn has attended thousands of emergency calls during his time as a firefighter, both big and small and continues to answer the calls.

LEADER AND MENTOR



He was honoured by his nomination for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

"Obviously when you start out as a volunteer you never actually envision that you're going to be recognised or win an award like that," Glenn said.

"It's a big team effort at the fire brigade, it's not just one person putting the fire out. To receive this award is quite an honour not just for me but for all of Springvale Fire Brigade."

### Reading Buddies

#### Volunteer Judy Dixon (pictured) enjoys being a reading buddy to children across Greater Dandenong.

Her involvement with the Reading Buddies program helps to support vulnerable children to improve their reading abilities through one-on-one sessions.

Judy and her fellow reading buddies visit primary schools across our city to build positive relationships and improve the literacy of students who need a little extra support.

The program is supported by Mission Australia and Greater Dandenong City Council. Visit <u>libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.</u> <u>gov.au</u> for more information.



### Behind the Scenes at Council

### Meet Lisa Beck.

#### Tell us about what you do at Council.

My role as the Immunisation Coordinator is to lead a team that delivers immunisation services to our community. We provide over 10,000 vaccinations each year to infants, children and adolescents, including vital catch-up services for newly-arrived children from refugee backgrounds. We also offer outreach services to other priority groups that have faced barriers to vaccine access.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

I enjoy working with a team that is passionate about public health and positive outcomes for families in our community. Working within a multicultural community with many newly-arrived families means that we need to provide additional support often in other languages.



#### What challenges have you faced in your career?

By far one of my biggest challenges was leading our team to continue to provide essential immunisation services through the COVID pandemic and Victoria's strict lockdowns. We needed to adapt quickly to the many changes and communicate effectively with our community in a time of great uncertainty. Our service was considered best practice by the Victorian Department of Health and replicated across Victoria. We also won a National Award for Immunisation Excellence from the Public Health Association of Australia for how we managed during that time.

### Why did you pursue a career in this field?

Nursing has been a really rewarding career for me. In my earlier days I enjoyed the challenges of working in various areas of the hospital system such as surgical, paediatric and emergency, including seven years working overseas. I joined another local government's immunisation team as a casual nurse while on parental leave and came to Greater Dandenong in 2011.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

I love travelling and have been lucky to have seen a lot of our beautiful country with my family in a caravan, as well as some amazing places overseas. I love going with my family to watch my AFL team, the mighty Saints play. I believe that 2025 is their year for a premiership.

### Saints in Greater Dandenong

The St Kilda Football Club will continue to work in partnership with Council, to provide sporting opportunities across Greater Dandenong.

Since 2022 the AFL club has been working with us to deliver school engagement programs, modified Auskick programs and development opportunities for local clubs.

St Kilda Football Club Education Lead Hannah Priest said the partnership supported "our shared goals to increase the health and wellbeing of the community".

"This partnership is something that we as a club are really proud of and we look forward to deepening our ties to the Greater Dandenong community in the years to come."

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti, said he was proud the



club had decided to continue working in our community.

"The health and social benefits of participation in sport make a real difference, especially in the lives of young people. Partnerships like this open up more opportunities for leadership and community connections and we look forward to strengthening this relationship even further," Cr Memeti said.



### Green future takes root at Keysborough South Community Hub

Landscaping works have started at the Keysborough South Community Hub, marking another milestone in the development of this vibrant community space.

The Hub is set to flourish into a beautiful and sustainable gathering place for residents, blending nature, culture and community in one dynamic space.

More than 12,000 native plants – including trees, shrubs, and smaller plants – have been chosen to enhance the Hub's natural environment ahead of its opening later this year.

Around 90 trees are being planted across the site, complementing the existing mature River Red Gums.

Local species will feature edible and sensory plants in the play and childcare areas.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti, welcomed the landscaping works, saying, "The Keysborough South Community Hub is an important space for our residents and we are committed to making it a place where people can connect with nature



and each other. This thoughtfully designed landscape will provide shade, biodiversity, and a wonderful setting for community activities."

An advanced irrigation system, fed by underground rainwater tanks, will ensure efficient water use, supporting the Hub's goal of achieving a '5 star' Green Star rating. The landscape design also reflects the area's cultural and natural heritage, incorporating native themes in artwork, feature walls, and public spaces.

"With edible plants, sensory gardens and a mix of indigenous and exotic species, the Hub's landscaping will be as diverse as the community it serves," Cr Memeti said. "It's wonderful to see this vision coming to life."

Visit <u>greaterdandenong.vic.</u> <u>gov.au/keysborough-south-</u> <u>community-hub</u> for more updates.

### Memories of Dandenong Oasis

#### For nearly half a century, Dandenong Oasis has been more than just a swimming pool.

The Dandenong public pool first opened its doors in 1976, and has been a place were families gathered, children took their first nervous strokes in swimming lessons, and where lifelong friendships were formed in the warmth of the spa and hustle of the gym.

Generations of locals have splashed through the Oasis' waters and now we prepare for an exciting new chapter with the construction of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre. We want to celebrate the memories made at Dandenong Oasis and are calling on our residents to share your stories and photos.

Visit our social media pages to share your stories or email <u>news@cgd.vic.gov.au</u>

### Springvale Reserve upgrades

WORK HAS BEGUN

Work has begun on a major upgrade to Springvale Reserve Pavilion's kitchen and social spaces.

The refurbishment includes a complete kitchen upgrade and transformation of the bar into an extension of the Social Room, creating a more functional and welcoming space.

The works will benefit tenant clubs, including the Springvale Cricket Club, the Springvale Districts Football and Netball Club and the wider community.

Further works will also improve access and safety, ensuring the pavilion continues to meet the needs of the growing community.

These upgrades form part of a \$2.1 million masterplan for Springvale Reserve.

Works already completed include a major lighting upgrade of the netball courts to competitionstandard lighting, 100 lux LED lighting for the oval and two new coaches' boxes.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti, said Springvale Reserve is a much-loved and well-used space in our community.

"The Springvale Reserve Pavilion is a vital community asset with a fully equipped commercial kitchen that plays a key role in supporting both summer and winter sport activities," Cr Memeti said.

"The upgraded pavilion will offer modern, accessible and functional facilities that will benefit the community for years to come."

The works are joint funded by the State Government and Greater Dandenong City Council.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic. gov.au/Springvale-reservemasterplan for more information.



### National Simultaneous Storytime



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STORYTIME

#### Join fellow bookworms across the nation to share in a fun tale, when Springvale Library hosts National Simultaneous Storytime.

The special storytime will take place at 12pm on Wednesday 21 May, when we will read *The Truck Cat* by Deborah Frenkel and illustrated by Danny Snell.

Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian is selected to be read simultaneously in libraries, schools, preschools and many other public places around the country.

National Simultaneous Storytime will be livestreamed across Australia, so you can join from wherever you are. The session will also be available to view on the Australian Library and Information (ALIA) YouTube channel following the event.

Join us at Springvale Library, or visit <u>www.alia.org.au/nss</u> for more information and to register.

### National Reconciliation Week

Help us celebrate our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community during National Reconciliation Week (27 May–3 June).

We invite all community members to help us create a piece of art that embodies the spirit of our community and reconciliation. This project will be led by a talented First Nations' artist and sessions will be held across Dandenong and Springvale Libraries during National Reconciliation Week.

Listen to a special storytime as an Elder shares their deep connection to country through stories. This is a unique opportunity to celebrate our shared histories, cultures and achievements. Join us at 11.30pm on Tuesday 3 June.



### The Think Tank Workshop

Children aged 7–11 are invited to explore the magic of science in this Mad Science Think Tank session.

Explore an awesome combination of crazy chemical reactions and mad science fun.

At Dandenong Library on Saturday 17 May, from 3pm–4pm.

At Springvale Library on Saturday 24 May, from 3pm–4pm.

### Libraries at Dusk

Running every Thursday evening (from 6.30pm-8pm) the Libraries at Dusk program provides opportunities to be social while learning creative skills.

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Libraries Change Lives



Thursday 15 May at Dandenong Library

**Origami** – learn the art of paper folding in a relaxed environment that is perfect for beginners and anyone looking to unwind with creativity.

#### Thursday 22 May at Springvale Library

**Drag Trivia** – celebrate IDAHOBIT and join glamorous and fabulous Valerie Hex for an evening of entertainment and laughter.



Thursday 29 May at Dandenong Library

**Movie Night** – celebrate National Reconciliation Week with the classis Australian Film *Storm Boy*.

### Arts in Greater Dandenong

### Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

### Confluence

Running until Friday 30 May this thought-provoking exhibition transforms the gallery into a dynamic space where storytelling, art and community collaboration converge.

This installation explores the shared experiences and cultural commonalities that connect people across the world, and is inspired by the Dandenong Creek – an essential lifeline for the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples as well as the diverse communities who now call the area home.

Walker Street Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday, from 12pm-4pm.



Connect with us Instagram <u>@artsgreaterdandy</u> Facebook <u>/artsingreaterdandenong</u> enewsletter <u>drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au</u>

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### **Drum Theatre**

### 9 by 5 Exhibition

This annual exhibition once again brought together an impressive collection of small-scale artworks that made a big impact. Artists from across Australia embraced the challenge, presenting diverse works ranging from bold abstracts to finely detailed realism.

The exhibition encourages community engagement, with visitors casting their votes for the People's Choice Award.

This year's People's Choice Award will be announced in the June edition of *Council News*.

### Utopia (film screening) by John Pilger

#### Wednesday 28 May, at 12.30pm

Celebrate National Reconciliation Week with this free screening of one of the most extraordinary films about Australia.



### Of the Land on Which We Meet

#### Saturday 31 May at 6pm

Follow the journey of three contemporary Australian circus artists with distinct relationships with country; an indigenous Australia, a descendant of migrants and a descendant of colonial settlers.



### Encore – Frankly Sinatra (Ol' Blue Eyes and Friends)

#### Thursday 15 May at 10.30am

Enter the glitz and glamour of old Hollywood celebrating Frank Sinatra's legendary career and his close friendships with icons Judy Garland and Liza Minelli.

### Joe Daymond – Hope I Made you Proud

### Thursday 15 May at 7pm

A hilarious and deeply personal stand up show from New Zealand comedy sensation Joe Daymond tracking his journey from rags to recognition.



### Echoes of Pink Floyd Saturday 24 May at 8pm

Mark the diamond anniversary of iconic British rock band Pink Floyd's inception with this concert production by Australia's own Echoes of Pink Floyd.

### Local business rolls over 40 years





In 1990 Brad and Kay Taylor purchased the five-year-old business. With a manufacturing background, Brad wanted a business that he could run himself and provide opportunities for his young family down the track.

Enter Ben Taylor, Brad and Kay's eldest son, who joined the business in 2003 and is now proudly the Director and General Manager.

"Working with family has its moments," Ben says with a laugh.

"We've had good working relationships and we've tried to maintain a balance between work and home life. (Although) Dad does get a bit frustrated if he can't find things or doesn't know how the systems work anymore as the business has grown so much."

Ben said the family business was excited to celebrate four decades and offered this advice to those wanting to last the distance – operate with integrity.

"If you tell someone you're going to do it, make sure you do it. It's not always about the bottom line; it's about providing the best solutions for your customer base to keep them on track. Our culture is built around good oldfashioned service."



SEEKING

NOMINATIONS

### Nominate for Business Awards

#### Are you a local Greater Dandenong business, or do you know of one, that deserves to be recognised?

The Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the annual Greater Dandenong Business Awards.

Categories include:

- Small Business
- Manufacturing Business

- Community Impact
- Innovation, Environmental and Sustainability
- ► Transport/Logistics
- Hospitality, Tourism and Wellbeing.

Nominations close 30 May and winners will be announced at the Awards Gala on 26 June.

Visit <u>greaterdandenong</u> <u>chamber.com.au/awards</u> to find out more.

### **Have Your Say**

Council's Business Development and Investment team are creating a strategy to set a clear direction for the future of our city and we want your input.



The Economy and Place Strategy will aim to:

- Foster sustainable economic growth
- Enhance community connection and wellbeing
- Strengthen the vibrancy of Greater Dandenong.

The strategy will serve as a framework over the next 10 years to help Council work with businesses, residents and community partners to drive investment as well as create jobs and meaningful places for people.

Help us form this strategy and build a greater community for all.

Visit <u>voursay.greater</u> <u>dandenong.vic.gov.au</u> for more information.

### Contact us for business support

If you're looking for business support - whether you have plans to establish or expand a business, or you're considering a major development, Council's Business Development and Investment Department is the best place to start. Get in touch today.

Email: <u>business@cgd.vic.gov.au</u> Ph: 8571 1550

Web: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ business

## Neighbourhood House Week

### neighbourhood HOUSE WEEK MAY 25



We have seven houses in Greater Dandenong that offer a variety of social, educational and welfare programs and foster lifelong learning and community connection.

This year's Neighbourhood House Week theme is 'Ripples of Change'. From 12–18 May each Neighbourhood House Week will help promote the ripple effect the houses create to support our local community and encourage all community members to get involved.

Help us celebrate, come along and have a chat, lend a hand, try a new class or share an act of kindness.

Through inclusive programs and shared spaces our Neighbourhood Houses build an environment where every voice is heard, every story is valued and every member contributes to the ripple of vibrancy in our community. Contact your local Neighbourhood House to find out more.

Noble Park Community Centre nobleparkcommunitycentre.com.au 9547 5801

Wellsprings for Women wellspringsforwomen.com 9701 3740

Dandenong Community and Learning Centre dandenongclc.org.au 9792 5298

Springvale Neighbourhood House snh.org.au 9548 3972

North Dandenong Neighbourhood House Search Facebook 0448 658 354

Keysborough Learning Centre klckeys.com.au 9798 7005

Springvale Learning and Activities Centre springvalelac.org.au 9547 2647

# Call for creative youth



Musicians Making a Difference (MMAD) is a program aiming to use music to transform

MMAD uses the healing power of music, dance and mentoring to inspire young people to make their lives remarkable.

Applications are now open for the Sony and MMAD Star Program, a once in a lifetime opportunity to support young creatives to unlock their full potential.

The program is seeking people aged 16–24 who have overcome personal hardships and are seeking a positive outlet for their creativity in the music or the arts.

Participants will have the unique opportunity to be mentored by music professionals and artists.

Visit <u>mmadfrontline.org/</u> <u>star-application</u> to nominate yourself or someone you know.

# LGBTIQA+ Support in Greater Dandenong

The newly-formed Greater Dandenong LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee is assisting Council to achieve better outcomes for our rainbow communities.

### International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)

We will be marking IDAHOBIT with the raising of the Pride Flag and illumination of the Drum Theatre in rainbow colours.

We continue to stand in solidarity with our LGBTIQA+ community and to shine a light on the worth that is still ahead of us in securing full equality.

#### A day of pride and support

On 31 March we celebrated Trans Day of Visibility which is an annual international celebration that shines a light on trans pride and awareness and recognises the experiences and achievements of



transgender, gender diverse and nonbinary individuals.

We recognised the day by lighting up the Drum Theatre and raising the Transgender flag in Harmony Square. We also partnered with local organisations to deliver an event offering free legal advice on name changes and identity updates, trans and gender diverse specific employment support, connections with local LGBTIQA+ mental health peer workers and doctors, sexual health advice and a collage workshop by a local trans artist.

#### Partners

South-east Monash Legal Service's Justice Q team Website: www.smls.com.au/justice-g/

Email: info\_justiceq@smls.com.au Phone: 9594 7000

#### headspace Dandenong

Website: www.headspace.org.au/ headspace-centres/dandenong/ Email: enquiries@headspace dandenong.com.au Phone: 1800 367 968

#### **Fitted for Work**

Website: www.fittedforwork.org/ Email: info@fittedforwork.org Phone: 1800 418 532

#### Mental Health and Wellbeing Local – Thorne Harbour Health

Website: www.mindaustralia.org.au/ services/mental-health-and-wellbeing -local-greater-dandenong Phone: 8908 1800





National 19-25 MAY 2025 Volunteer Connecting Communities Week



## Judy volunteers at Springvale Library

"You get more than you put in when you volunteer. You meet new people and build friendships, while helping others."

Find out more about volunteering in Greater Dandenong at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/volunteering





National Volunteer Week Sponsor





