

JUNE 2025

# Greater Dandenong Council News

## City of Celebration

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**Refugee Week**

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**Returning locally extinct gliders**

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## Customer Service Centres

### Dandenong Civic Centre

225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

### Springvale Community Hub

5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

### Keysborough Customer Service

Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,  
Keysborough

### All correspondence to:

Greater Dandenong Council News

PO Box 200

Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: [news@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:news@cgd.vic.gov.au)



**Phone: 8571 1000**



**[www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)**



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**[cityofgreaterdandenong](https://cityofgreaterdandenong)**



**[youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong](https://youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong)**



**TTY: 133 677**

**Speak and listen: 1300 555 727**  
**[relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)**



**TIS: 131 450**



**[council@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 June edition of *Greater Dandenong Council News*.

The late arrival of colder weather meant beautiful sunny days spent celebrating Keysborough's Big Picnic and the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North. Did you know James Clow's homestead along Dandenong Creek was named 'Tirhatuan' after the name the local Aboriginal people gave sugar glider possums?



Krefft's Gliders have been locally extinct and never formally recorded here but I'm so proud to announce that in huge news for the Tirhatuan and the local environment overall, they have returned to Dandenong North. This is all thanks to a revegetation and nesting box program at Brady Reserve. What a great way to bring in World Environment Day on 5 June. Read more about the gliders on page seven and see pictures from recent celebrations on page 11.

Speaking of celebrations, a big happy birthday to School Crossing Supervisor Austin who turned 90 at the end of May. Hear about Austin's incredible 90 years on page six.

To mark the beginning of Refugee Week, we're hosting a family-friendly community celebration at Springvale Town Hall on Sunday 15 June. Read more about this on page three. This Refugee Week you can show your support for people seeking asylum. Visit the Back Your Neighbour website where we've launched our new online tool for supporters to email the Minister for Immigration and local MPs asking them to provide basic support for people seeking protection in Australia.

Finally, you will have an opportunity to have your say on our draft Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan shortly. See page seven for more information on how to get involved.

**Mayor**  
**Cr Jim Memeti**

## My City

Greater Dandenong is full of beauty and the Springvale Botanical Cemetery creates a welcoming atmosphere for all. This photo was taken by local resident Abhijit Pal and appears on the June page of the 2025 Community Calendar.

The cemetery was established in 1901 and features 422 acres of beautiful gardens where memories of loved ones are honoured. It provides a range of spaces that recognise our city's cultural diversity.



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.



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It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

Front cover: A young family enjoys a spot of fishing at the Tirhatuan Park Discover Dandenong Creek Festival.  
Picture: Hilton Stone

FSC  
Logo



# Supporting people seeking asylum



Zia escaped the Taliban. Now he helps disadvantaged young people in Dandenong find their voice.



Nayran fled Syria with her family during the civil war. Now she cooks meals for people sleeping rough and older people.



Ramzi was separated from his family as a child fleeing war. Now he saves lives on Victoria's beaches.

## BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR

**In December 2018 we launched the Back Your Neighbour Campaign to support people seeking asylum across Australia. We are proud that today, the taskforce includes more than 40 local governments, community organisations and peak refugee bodies across the nation and has advocated to the State and Federal governments for the rights of thousands of men, women and children seeking asylum.**

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said, "We can all help support our neighbours, friends and community members who urgently need certainty and support to rebuild their lives safely."

"This Refugee Week please visit the Back Your Neighbour website to watch video interviews with Zia, Nayran and Ramzi and learn how you can support the taskforce's important work by signing our petition and reaching out to your MP."

The campaign calls for the Federal Government to:



Provide everyone with a valid visa with work, travel and study rights.



Expand the Status Resolution Support Services Program so that people can access basic healthcare, employment and crisis support.



Ensure timely and fair application and merits review process for all humanitarian applications.



Provide people who have received a negative refugee determination under the 'Fast Track' system with a fair review.



Continue to invest resources to clear the backlog of applications and appeals.



Abolish temporary visas and replace them with pathways to citizenship for all humanitarian arrivals.



**Visit [backyourneighbour.com.au](http://backyourneighbour.com.au) to stay up to date on this advocacy campaign.**

## Refugee Week 2025

**As a Refugee Welcome Zone since 2002, we invite the whole community to celebrate Refugee Week from 15-21 June.**

The national week gives us the chance to promote awareness of refugees, the issues they face and the contributions refugees make to our community.

This year the theme for Refugee Week is "Finding Freedom: Diversity in Community" and encourages participants to explore what it means to be free: to live without the fear of war, to have basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution.

**Join us at the Springvale Town Hall on Sunday 15 June, from 10am-3pm, for a family-friendly community celebration.**

The event will feature live performances, cultural experiences, food vendors, market stalls and community organisation stalls, helping refugees living in Greater Dandenong to connect with local services.



**Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/refugee-week](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/refugee-week) for more information.**

## Councillor Contacts



### Dandenong Ward Mayor

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### Springvale North Ward

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### Springvale South Ward

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Loi.Truong@cgd.vic.gov.au



### Yarraman Ward

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



TUESDAY

10  
JUNE

MONDAY

23  
JUNE

## 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:

- **Tuesday 10 June** (due to King's Birthday public holiday)
- **Monday 23 June**

➔ **To view meetings or to find out more about Public Question Time visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings)**

## Meet the Junior Mayor



**As the newly elected Junior Mayor of the City of Greater Dandenong, I am thrilled to bring fresh ideas to this amazing city.**

My name is Aaya and I'm a passionate, determined and courageous 12-year-old girl.

I'm a young Australian with a Lebanese and Palestinian heritage and I practice Brazilian Jiu Jitsu three days a week, which has taught me discipline, resilience and the importance of working hard to achieve my goals.

As a school captain, I saw the opportunity to run for Junior Mayor and decided to take it, believing I could truly make a difference.

In my speech at the Junior Mayor Election, I shared my vision for a more active city, one where young people spend less time on devices and more time outdoors, playing sport and engaging in physical activity. I believe that increasing access to sporting and educational facilities will create a healthier, more active community.

Although I'm only 12, I know that my age doesn't limit my ability to make a change. Young voices matter and we can inspire others to live healthier lives and be more connected to our community.



I'm excited to work toward making Greater Dandenong a more active, safe and fun place for everyone.

*Being part of the Junior Mayor program fosters a sense of responsibility and encourages children to give their voice to issues that matter to them and make a positive impact in our community. It also helps children develop a better understanding of local government; it's role and function within the community.*



**[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/child-friendly-cities/junior-mayor](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/child-friendly-cities/junior-mayor)**



## ► Cleeland Ward



**It's been a truly enjoyable experience working closely with many of you during my first few months as your councillor. I'm thrilled to be addressing long-standing issues, such as parking around the market and cleaning up our Ward. Tackling dumped rubbish has been a primary focus, and I'm pleased to report we're continuing with the existing hot spots trial program where dumped rubbish hotspots are monitored daily or weekly depending on the location. This ensures our neighbourhoods remain clean and welcoming.**

If you see any rubbish, please don't hesitate to use the Snap Send Solve app to report it. If you don't have access to the app, please call 8571 1000 or visit our customer services centres in Dandenong, Springvale or Keysborough.

I'm excited to be contributing to the Dandenong Community Hub plans. I'm also contributing, along with the Dandenong Market, to Council's Market Precinct Plan. It should be out later



in the year for public comment and I encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas. Your input is invaluable, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to

## Cr Rhonda Garad

the co-design of the Hub. Together, we are making significant progress, but it's crucial that we continue to prioritise the needs of our community.

Additionally, I have noticed a concerning lack of community spaces in Cleeland, and I am advocating for better access to existing facilities to enable more community gatherings. I will keep you updated on this initiative.

Also, I am eager to explore future funding opportunities to enhance Apex Park and will keep you up-to-date on that. Lastly, I have news about the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre project — the contract has been signed, and construction will start in the upcoming months. Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DWC](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DWC) for ongoing updates.



**For any concerns or issues, please don't hesitate to contact me at 0435 107 584, message me on Facebook, or via email [Rhonda.Garad@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Rhonda.Garad@cgd.vic.gov.au)**

## Cr Loi Truong

## ► Springvale South Ward



**Council loves to seek ideas and feedback from the community when it comes to developing our open space.**

In 2024 we went out to the community to help us create a Draft Master Plan for Spring Valley Reserve. The 32ha reserve started life as a landfill site (1993-1998) and Council has been rehabilitating it for community use since 2018.

Spring Valley Reserve currently includes extensive open space, as well as walking paths, a picnic and barbecue area, half-size basketball court, dog off-leash area, two playgrounds, a public toilet, fitness equipment and a beach volleyball court. Consultation revealed our residents have a strong connection to the park and want to see it further developed.

We are working with environmental consultants who monitor the reserve and will also talk with other local councils involved in the ongoing maintenance of the site. This will take some time, and I thank you all for your patience as we work through this process. To stay



updated you can follow the project on our Have Your Say page on Council's website.

More recently we sought feedback on a draft concept plan for Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve and Sense Trail.

The plan included upgrades to car parking, seating along the trail, improvements to wayfinding signage and the addition of nature play elements. The upgrades will improve accessibility, promote biodiversity in our city and construct an ecological watering system.

Council officers are now reviewing the feedback and will finalise the concept plan before sharing it with the community. Upgrade works are expected to begin in the coming months.

Alex Wilkie is a valuable resource for our community and will reopen to the public in spring.

During Refugee Week this month I will be reflecting on the great opportunities I have had in Australia and Greater Dandenong, to make a new life and contribute back to our community.



**If you want to contact me you can reach me at [Loi.Truong@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Loi.Truong@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone me on 0466 004 618.**

## Little Library in Noble Park



**Borrowing items from the library is about to get easier for Noble Park residents.**

The introduction of a Little Library outside Noble Park Train Station will allow library members to pick up holds and return items at their convenience, giving them around the clock access to our libraries.

A Little Library has been operating with great success at Menzies Avenue, Dandenong North, since late 2023.

Noble Park Ward Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan welcomed the new addition coming to Noble Park in mid-2025.

“All you will need is a library card and access to the library website to put items on hold,” Cr Tan said.

“The Little Library Lockers will be available 24/7. This is a new level of convenience for Noble Park locals, and with 40,000 pedestrians passing through the train station precinct every day, more people than ever can borrow items from our libraries.”



**Visit [libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about/little-libraries](https://libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about/little-libraries) for more information.**



Austin with students from Dandenong Primary School

## 90 years young and no sign of stopping

**There's no stopping Greater Dandenong Crossing Supervisor, Austin who turned 90 on May 29.**

Austin has been working for Council as a crossing supervisor since 2008 and led an incredible life prior to arriving in Australia.

Born in Sri Lanka, at the age of 16 Austin was selected to train with the Royal Air Force in England for Aircraft Servicing and Maintenance.

He went on to have successful careers with the Royal Ceylon Air Force and British Airways, before taking up management roles, including in the automotive industry. His mechanical expertise led to an opportunity in Saudi Arabia before returning to England and eventually retiring in 2003.

“I was invited to Australia and initially applied for a six-month visa, though I was not permitted to work, I was allowed to volunteer, which led me to AMES (Australian Multicultural Education Services) where I taught English to refugees,” Austin said.

“I found Australia warm and welcoming, with blue skies even in autumn and winter, and thriving Sri Lankan community, whose weekend parties I thoroughly enjoy throughout the year. I applied for permanent residency, which I was granted after two years.”

Austin said he is fortunate to visit his family including four daughters, 11 grandchildren and eight (and counting) great grandchildren each year in England and Scotland.

“I am aiming for that special birthday card from the King... hopefully still as a crossing Supervisor!”

Happy birthday Austin and thanks for your contribution to our great city.

**Would you like to become a school crossing supervisor?**

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/jobs/school-crossing-supervisors](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/jobs/school-crossing-supervisors) or **phone 8571 1701** to express your interest.





## Have your say on our draft Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)



**At Greater Dandenong City Council our Reconciliation Action**

**Plan (RAP) details our commitment to Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**

It builds on our understanding, commitment, and respect for the oldest living Culture in the world, to support a deeper relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders based in sharing, listening, care, trust, and truth telling and understanding.

We have been developing our draft Third Innovate RAP in close consultation with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Traditional Custodians the Bunurong people who are represented by the Bunurong Land Council, local gathering places, and Aboriginal health and community organisations.

We'll keep you posted and in due course, we'll be seeking your feedback on the draft and how we can best support the strengthening of relationships, show respect and improve opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our new RAP.



**To have your say visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/RAP](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/RAP)**



## Gliders return to restored habitat

**A conservation project to rebuild native habitats has seen the return of the Krefft's Gliders (formerly known as sugar gliders) to Greater Dandenong.**

Previously thought locally extinct, the gliders have been recorded in our city for the first time ever.

"I am so proud that for the first time ever, Krefft's Gliders have been recorded in the City of Greater Dandenong," Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said.

"This is a huge win for local conservation and a sign that our long-term efforts to restore habitat are working."

A group of students from EcoSkills TAFE made the discovery on a recent field trip to monitor nesting boxes in Brady Road Reserve, Dandenong North.

The nesting boxes were installed in early 2024 as part of landscape restoration efforts along Lower Dandenong Creek.

Krefft's gliders are more than cute – they help pollinate native plants and control insect populations, making them vital to healthy ecosystems.

Over recent years we have been working to revegetate vital habitat corridors across our city. These corridors are not just for gliders – they are also helping to restore conditions for echidnas, native pollinators and other native wildlife we want to be back to Greater Dandenong.



**WIN  
FOR LOCAL  
CONSERVATION**

Everybody in the community can support these conservation efforts by signing up to our Gardens for Wildlife Program, or joining a community tree planting day.

### Fun glider facts

- ▶ They can glide up to 50 metres in one leap!
- ▶ Gliders usually have one or two joeys at a time and can live up to 9 years in the wild.
- ▶ They are nocturnal, social, and live in small family groups – so if you spot one, there are probably more nearby.
- ▶ Each nest box is made from reclaimed redgum and are big and sturdy – weighing around 60kg and measuring 50cm tall with a 30cm diameter, designed to mimic large tree hollows.
- ▶ James Clow's homestead along Dandenong Creek was named 'Tirhatuan' after the name the local Aboriginal people gave sugar glider possums.



**Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity) to find out more.**

# What's On June 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30	 <b>National Reconciliation Week</b> 27 May–3 June					1
2 <b>Toddler Time</b> Dandenong Library and Springvale Library 10.30am	3 <b>Reconciliation Week Event</b> Springvale Community Hub 10am	4 	5	6 <b>Baby Bounce Outreach</b> Paddy O'Donoghue Centre 10.30am 	7 <b>Dandenong Park Run</b> Dandenong Park 8am <b>Street Feast: Sweet Edition</b> Dandenong Market 10am–3pm	8 
9 <b>King's Birthday public holiday</b>	10 <b>Council Meeting</b> Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm 	11 <b>Social Knitwork</b> Dandenong Library 10.00am	12	13 <b>Sports Club at the Hub</b> Springvale Community Hub 4.30pm	14 <b>Urban Harvest</b> Springvale Community Hub 1pm	15 <b>Refugee Week Event</b> Springvale City Hall 10am–3pm
16 	17	18 <b>Art, Craft and Conversation</b> Springvale Library 6.30pm 	19 <b>Songs of Eva Cassidy</b> Drum Theatre 10.30am 	20	21 <b>Film Screening Batoor: A Refugee Journey</b> Drum Theatre 6pm 	22
23 <b>Council Meeting</b> Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm 	24 <b>Nature Play</b> Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve 10am	25 <b>Library Help for Adults</b> Springvale Library 2pm	26 	27	28 <b>Family Fun</b> Springvale Library 3pm	29



## Community Hub swinging into action

**Exciting progress has been made at the Community Hub in Keysborough with the new neighbourhood playground nearing completion ahead of the Hub's much-anticipated opening later this year.**


Designed with and for the community the playground will offer something for everyone.

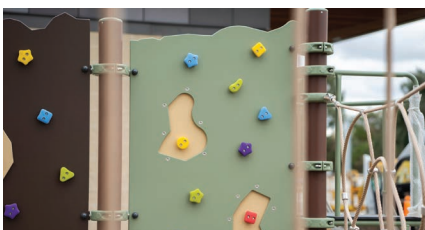
Young visitors will soon enjoy a water sensory play area, a sandpit with imaginative play elements, swings and an in-ground trampoline. A new half-court will feature a fusion soccer and basketball goal catering to a variety of ball games and encouraging active play.

Families and visitors can look forward to new picnic and barbecue areas along with shaded spaces and seating throughout the playground providing a comfortable, welcoming environment for people of all ages.

Once complete, the playground and Hub will form a vibrant new community landmark – a unique and special place for connection, celebration and shared experiences.

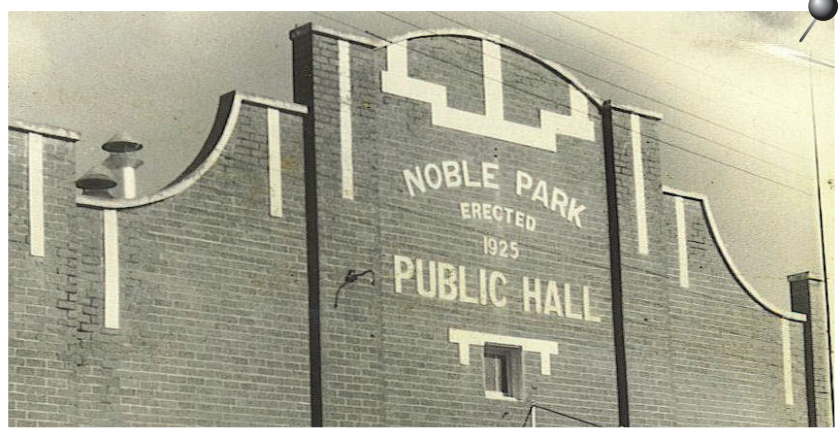
A big thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts during the 2021 community consultation – your ideas helped create a playground that's welcoming, fun and made for everyone.

 **Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysborough-south-community-hub](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysborough-south-community-hub) for more information.**



A sneak peek of the KSCH playground

## The people's hall turns 100



**Noble Park residents came together to celebrate a major milestone for the Noble Park Public Hall on April 5.**

They marked 100 years of community spirit, dedication and shared memories.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti attended the celebration and shared in the memories of several generations of locals who had used the hall.

Cr Memeti said the hall was always the centre of community life in Noble Park.

**“Built on land generously donated by the Buckley family, this hall has been the cornerstone of the Noble Park community since its inception,” Cr Memeti said.**

“In 1917 a trust was formed, decreeing that the land should be owned by the residents. This is still the case 100 years on.”

A board of trustees continues to manage the hall, ensuring the community connection stays in place.

“Although the residents of Noble Park still own the property, the buildings are leased to Council and this partnership allows us to maintain this essential community hub.”

Over its history the hall has hosted everything from public meetings to community dances, sports club meetings, a museum and dance classes, and now hosts a childcare centre, kindergarten, maternal and child health services and Council's customer service centre.

### Timeline

**1913** – Residents raised money to build the original timber hall

**1925** – a new and improved public hall was built and became central to community life

**1980** – an annexe was added to the building and named after long-time trustee AJ Paddy O'Donoghue. Disaster struck later when a fire tore through the brick hall

**2006** – the community celebrates the opening of the newly constructed Paddy O'Donoghue Centre

**2025** – Noble Park gathers to share memories for the centenary of the hall.

WHO DO  
YOU CALL?

## How to report noise complaints

At Greater Dandenong City Council, we work with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to regulate noise issues in your neighbourhood, but who do you call when you have a complaint?

In the first instance you should approach your neighbour and share your concerns in a friendly manner. If that fails you can report your issue to the relevant authority.

Visit [epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/noise-pollution](http://epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/noise-pollution) for more information.



To report a noise complaint to Council, fill out an online form at [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/report](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/report) or phone our customer service centre on 8571 1000.

Type of noise	Example	Who to report to
<b>Residential noise and residential building noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Air conditioners</li> <li>▶ Pool pumps</li> <li>▶ House parties</li> <li>▶ Stereo systems</li> <li>▶ Residential construction sites and demolition activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Council</li> <li>▶ After hours complaints should be directed to Victoria Police</li> </ul>
<b>Commercial or industrial noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Restaurants</li> <li>▶ Gyms</li> <li>▶ Supermarkets</li> <li>▶ Manufacturing premises</li> <li>▶ Utilities (gas, electricity, water)</li> <li>▶ Commercial construction sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Council</li> <li>▶ EPA</li> </ul>
<b>Major projects or State Government activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Major road projects</li> <li>▶ Public schools</li> <li>▶ Railway projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Council</li> <li>▶ EPA</li> </ul>

## Batteries don't belong in bins



When batteries are put in household bins they can cause fires, in both the bins and the trucks that collect them.

This includes AA and button batteries, as well as car batteries, and those from laptops, mobile phones, power tools, cameras and toys. All batteries contain toxic substances that can pollute the environment when disposed of in landfill.

The good news is they can be recycled through special collection points.

Here are some simple suggestions to store your batteries safely at home before taking them to a drop-off point:

- ▶ Cover the ends of used batteries with tape to prevent sparking and reduce the risk of fire
- ▶ Store them in a glass container and make sure the container is not airtight
- ▶ Don't store them in metal containers or with other metal objects
- ▶ Store them in a cool, dry place away from heat sources
- ▶ Keep them away from children and pets.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/which-bin](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/which-bin) to find your nearest drop-off point, or get the Recycle Mate app on your smart phone.



## Behind the Scenes at Council

### Meet Hayley Jones.

#### How did you come to work at Council?

Born and raised in Noble Park, I finished school in Springvale and bought my first home in Greater Dandenong. I'm very proud to have grown up here and it was always important to feel connected to my community. I worked at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre and Dandenong Oasis, until three years ago when I applied for a job with Council.

#### What do you do at Council?

I work in the Communications and Engagement team as a Digital and Social Media Advisor. I started my career at Council as a Customer Service Officer which was the perfect introduction to our services and gave me a great overview of what is most important to our community.



#### What does a typical work day look like for you?

A typical day includes scheduling and monitoring social media, website development and supporting internal teams with promoting services and events. However, my days aren't always the same. I put my hand up to do just about anything, even dressing up as Lily Litter at the Dandenong Market to promote the 2025 Sustainability Festival. Recently I worked at Keysborough's Big Picnic, helping with set up, supporting the Easter Egg Hunt and even judging the pet competition. It was a fun day!

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

During my time in Customer Service it was challenging helping residents through tough situations. Our Customer Service team members do an amazing job. They truly care about our residents and will always try their best to resolve issues as quickly as possible.

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

Seeing the community come together at events that I have helped promote or attended is the most rewarding part of my job. We are so lucky to live in such a diverse city where everyone is welcomed and celebrated.

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

In my free time I love to spend time with my family, friends and my one-year-old Cocker Spaniel Bobby. I like to eat out at my favourite local restaurants (Bun Bo Hue Chu Le in Springvale is great).

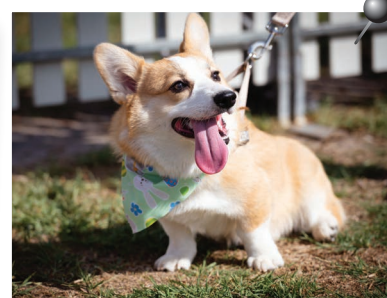
## City of celebration

### ANNUAL EVENTS

#### April proved a month of celebration with two big annual events attracting crowds.

On Thursday 10 April families gathered in Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North, for our Discover Dandenong Creek Festival. The event celebrates the natural beauty of our city and champions the health of our city's main waterway – Dandenong Creek.

On Sunday 13 April, a day of sunshine welcomed thousands to Keysborough's Big Picnic. The day featured an Easter Egg Hunt, pet competition and plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events) to discover what's on in Greater Dandenong.

# love your libraries

Libraries  
Change Lives

Across the month of June Greater Dandenong Libraries will be holding a series of workshops designed to get you up and moving.

## Greek Dance

**Tuesday 3 June,  
10.30am–11.30am at  
Springvale Library**

Come and learn traditional dance with Manasis Greek Dance School.

## Yoga

**Tuesday 10 June,  
10.30am–11.30am at  
Dandenong Library**

Meet Karolina and learn some basic yoga moves.



## Cultural Drumming

**Tuesday 17 June, 10.30am–12pm  
at Dandenong Library**

Using a variety of instruments, including tambourines and drums, this workshop allows participants to embrace the vibrant and diverse world of music.

## Line Dance

**Tuesday 24 June, 10.30am–12pm  
at Springvale Library**

Bring your boot scooting boots to the library and learn to line dance with instructor Carmel Fox.



## Think Tank

States of Matter – Presented by PrimeSci this Think Tank you will learn about what goes on inside different molecules. Gain knowledge from explosions, modelling molecules, dancing colours, links to the water cycle and the peculiar substance oobleck – it's solid, liquid and gas, plus so much more.

Join the fun:

**At Dandenong Library on  
Saturday 14 June, from 3pm–4pm**

**At Springvale Library on  
Saturday 21 June, from 3pm–4pm**



**Bookings essential. Visit  
[libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) or phone 1300 630 920.**



## Social Knitwork

Every week, rain, hail or shine, this knitting circle can be found in Dandenong Library knitting up a storm. Whether you've been knitting forever or just starting out this group is sew much fun for everyone.

**Join in every Wednesday from  
10am–12.30pm.**



## Justice of the Peace

Justices of the Peace (JPs) are available at both the Dandenong and Springvale libraries at various times across the week. The service is free and staffed by volunteers and can help with witnessing official documents, certifying copies of original documents and certifying someone's identity.

Hours of operation

**Springvale Community Hub  
Monday to Friday, 10am–1pm  
and 4pm–6pm**

**Dandenong Library  
Monday to Thursday, 10am–3pm  
and 6pm–8pm**



**Visit [libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/justices-peace](http://libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/services/justices-peace) for more information.**

## JP volunteers needed

The Justice of the Peace service is powered by volunteers who want to support our community. If you are a qualified JP and are interested in giving some time, please let Roger or Bill know.

To volunteer at Dandenong email Roger at [rlgalway1@gmail.com](mailto:rlgalway1@gmail.com)

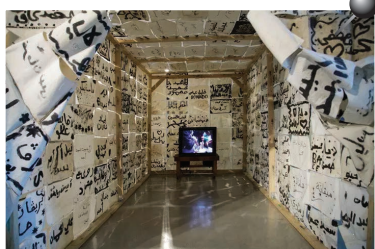
To volunteer at Springvale email Bill at [whe95396@bigpond.net.au](mailto:whe95396@bigpond.net.au)



# ARTS

## Arts in Greater Dandenong

### Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



#### HOME 25 – Invisible Cities

This exhibition invites audiences to explore how the concept of 'home' shapes, identity, belonging and how dislocation affects us differently.

Set across iconic locations in Greater Dandenong, including The Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Drum Theatre and Heritage Hill Museum, *HOME 25* opens Tuesday 24 June and will remain on display until 27 September.

➔ Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/home-25](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/home-25) for more information about locations and special events throughout the exhibition.



#### Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens

The Heritage Hill precinct is an oasis in the centre of bustling Dandenong. A link to our city's history, Laurel Lodge (1869), Benga House (1936) and St James' Anglican Church (1864) offer a glimpse into the past.

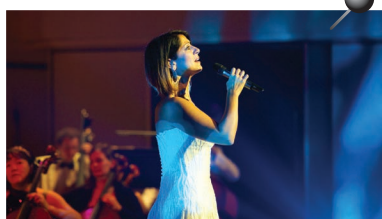
Visit to explore the everyday lives of a group of prominent locals who lived in the region during the late nineteenth and early-to-mid twentieth centuries.

Laurel Lodge and Benga House also offer opportunities to explore creative outlets, including tours, classes and exhibitions, and regularly welcome artists for short term residencies.

Heritage Hill is located in central Dandenong and is open 10am to 2pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

➔ Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/heritage-hill](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/heritage-hill) to read more and find out what's on.

### Drum Theatre



#### Encore – The Songs of Eva Cassidy starring Silvie Paladino

Thursday 19 June at 10.30am

The Songs of Eva Cassidy is a celebration of one of the great voices of the 20th Century featuring re-imaginings of such classic tunes as Over the Rainbow, Time After Time, Ain't No Sunshine, Songbird and more.

#### Batoor: A Refugee Journey (film screening)

Saturday 21 June at 6pm

This inspiring film delves into the extraordinary journey of Barat Ali Batoor, a multi-award-winning documentary photographer and filmmaker, and takes an unfiltered look at resilience, exile and the human cost of displacement.

### Coming in August....

#### Victorian State Ballet's Swan Lake



Saturday 9 August at 7.30pm

Sunday 10 August at 2pm

Swan Lake Ballet is a timeless, world famous, classical ballet by Russian composer Tchaikovsky. Book now for this powerful ballet.

#### Cruising with The Grandparents Club – A Musical Comedy

Friday 29 August at 7pm

Follow the journey of grandparents, "not old, just old-er" and are ready to cut loose. Sure, they'll miss their grandkids and there are onshore family issues yet to be sorted out, but for now the cruising life truly is grand.

#### Connect with us

Instagram @artsgreaterdandy

Facebook

/artsingreaterdandenong

enewsletter

[drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](mailto:drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

## Tech connecting job seekers to careers



**Tech connecting job seekers to careers Local service providers and community organisations can use cutting edge technology to help job seekers explore new careers.**

A collaboration between the GameChange initiative and South East Local Learning and Employment Network (SELLEN) will see Virtual Reality (VR) headsets shared with organisations to give job seekers a fully immersive experience.

The program is an extension of the Victorian Virtual Industry Careers Experience (VIC VICE), designed to help students explore career opportunities in an immersive and interactive way.

It is a shining example of how technology can bridge the gap between education and employment, empowering job seekers to make informed decisions about their futures.

It is a shining example of how technology can bridge the gap between education and employment, empowering job seekers to make informed decisions about their futures.

Participants can perform simulated tasks that mirror real-life roles. This hands-on approach helps individuals gain a better understanding of job roles, build confidence and identify career paths that align with their skills and interests.

Key features include:

- ▶ Explore workplaces in industries like health, manufacturing, logistics and more through immersive video experiences
- ▶ Hands-on activities that simulate real workplace tasks, helping to build work readiness skills
- ▶ Real people in real jobs providing an authentic glimpse into various career paths.

Greater Dandenong Libraries will be equipped with an in-house set for use by the general public.



**Visit [sellen.org.au/vicvice](https://sellen.org.au/vicvice) for more information.**



## Supporting local artists

**Over summer, the Busk Stop program entertained visitors across Dandenong with live street performances.**

Events were held every Friday and Saturday in Palm Plaza and Harmony Square.

The initiative saw local musicians, singers and dancers perform at designated 'Busk Stops'.

The pilot program was used to identify which busk stops work best and how busking contributes to life in our community. The program was a great opportunity for local performers and helped make public spaces more welcoming and enjoyable.

Performing artists were invited through social media and a partnership was

formed with Council's Youth Services Team targeting young people through the FReeZA committee.

One participant said of the program: "We have played open mic, gigs and festivals and we have run workshops and sing-alongs with large groups, but we have never done street-level busking before. In fact, we weren't really sure we were a 'busking' act. After our Busk Stop experience we are very keen to participate in that program again."

The successful pilot program has seen the introduction of a busking permit for local performers, with the aim to encourage and support a busking culture in our activity centres.

Email [placemaking@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:placemaking@cgd.vic.gov.au) to find out more about busking locations.

If you are ready to busk visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/local-laws/trading-greater-dandenong](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/local-laws/trading-greater-dandenong) to find out about a permit.

## Business Workshops

### Save the date

*Starting a business:* Wednesday 4 June

*AI essentials for business:*  
Wednesday 18 June

*Claiming small business tax deductions:*  
Friday 20 June



**[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business-events](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business-events)**

## 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:** [business@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@cgd.vic.gov.au)

**Ph:** 8571 1550

**Website:** [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business)



# Noble Park wakes up to entertainment royalty

On Friday 14 March, the Noble Park Community Centre welcomed hundreds of locals to a live radio broadcast and performance by The Wiggles.


The event was supported by a grant from Council's Small Grants Program.

The program allows individuals and non-profit community organisations to apply for small grants to achieve personal goals and to deliver community activities and programs.

The Noble Park Community Centre welcomed FOX FM's Fifi, Fev & Nick show, who broadcast their morning show from 6am. The Wiggles provided a live performance to entertain crowds, while free coffee and breakfast was handed out.

The event attracted many young families and brought the community of Noble Park together in a spirit of community connection.



 **Small Grant applications are open across the year. Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/small-grants](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/small-grants) for more information.**

## State Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy is not a Council charge



**The State Government plans to replace the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL) with a larger Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), effective from 1 July 2025.**

If this passes through parliament, councils will be asked to collect the fee for the State Government through rates notices although it is not a Local Government charge. This is the same arrangement that is in place for the Fire Services Levy but it will be more expensive as it will support funding to additional emergency services.

Council will be expected to pass this on directly to the State Government. We will update you through Council News and our website. Our Annual Rate Notice also sets out what are Council rates and charges, and which are state government levies and charges.



We're trialling something new at the Ross Reserve Athletics Track. Until Monday 30 June the lights at the track will be on until 10pm on weekdays. We know it can be tricky keeping active in the darker winter months, so we want to make sure that there are safe and accessible ways to do so. Please note that due to bookings there will be limited access on Tuesdays from 6pm–7.30pm and Wednesdays from 6pm–9pm.



**Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/leisure-and-recreational-facilities/ross-reserve-athletics-facility](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/leisure-and-recreational-facilities/ross-reserve-athletics-facility) for more information**





# HOME 25: Invisible Cities | 24 JUNE - 27 SEPTEMBER

Experience the sites, sounds and stories of Invisible Cities

A new roving exhibition showcasing artworks by 16 refugee, asylum seeker, First Nations and migrant artists. Visit an exhibition featuring stories of displacement, belonging, connection to place and Country.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/HOME](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/HOME) to learn more.

Image: Atong Atem, *Three Women*, 2019, Ilford smooth pearl print. Image courtesy of MARS and the artist.

