

JULY 2025

Greater Dandenong Council News

NAIDOC Week

PAGE 3

**Springvale
Snow Fest**

► PAGE 3

**Top
Dogs**

► PAGE 6

**National
Tree Day**

► PAGE 11

 **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



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



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727
relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police / Fire / Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults /

non-operational

United Energy.....13 20 99

Traffic signal faults /

non-operational.....8571 1000

Hoon Hotline.....1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management

Services.....9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society.....9798 8415

RSPCA.....9224 2222

Nurse on Call.....1300 606 024

Non Urgent Police Response

(no sirens).....131 444

Dandenong Police.....9767 7444

Springvale Police.....8558 8600

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

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the July edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

If you are looking to entertain the children these school holidays our libraries have lots of fun planned across the two weeks (5–20 July). Our Youth Team also offer low cost and free events. See What's On on page eight or visit our website for a full list of events.

If you're passionate about pets and animal management turn to pages six and seven to read about top dog names and breeds in Greater Dandenong and find out how to have your say on our Domestic Animal Management Plan.

With the start of the new financial year, Council recently considered the proposed 2025/26 Budget for adoption. The timing of the meeting to adopt the budget means we can't bring you all the details in this edition, but stay tuned for our August magazine where we will share the exciting projects and services we'll be delivering for our community over the coming year.

We are proud to have delivered a budget that delivers key services and infrastructure, while keeping our residential rate increase to a minimum. We hope this will help residents who are doing it tough, but we have many different options available to assist people who are having trouble paying their rates. Get in touch with our Customer Service Centre if you need help.

At the June 23 Council Meeting we also considered a number of plans that will guide our work over the next four years and beyond, including the Council Plan 2025–29, Annual Plan 2025–26 the Long Term Financial Plan 2026–35 and the Asset Plan 2025–35.

We look forward to working together for the best outcomes for the community

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti

My City

Greater Dandenong is full of magnificent birdlife, including this Rainbow Lorikeet spotted in Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North.

This beautiful photo was taken by resident Curt Casequin and appears on the July page of the 2025 Community Calendar.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity to discover our biodiverse city and the best places to explore the natural world.

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



Front cover: Eric Edwards plays the yidaki during a Welcome to Country ceremony held at Springvale Town Hall.
Picture: Hilton Stone.

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FSC
Logo



Celebrate NAIDOC Week

Held across the country from 6–13 July 2025, NAIDOC Week celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Greater Dandenong City Council is partnering with the Bunurong Land Council and Dandenong Market to host a NAIDOC Week celebration on Sunday 6 July, from 10am–2pm.

This year marks a powerful milestone – 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture and resilience.

The 2025 theme is The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy and celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by




the strength of young leaders, the vision of communities and the legacy of ancestors.

The NAIDOC journey began as a movement for recognition and rights, and over the past five decades has grown into a powerful celebration and a testament to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Bunurong Land Council will host a Welcome to Country and Traditional Smoking Ceremony, followed by traditional dance performances and cultural activities.

The event is free and inclusive. Visit dandenongmarket.com.au to find out more.

Celebrate winter at Snow Fest

 The award-winning Springvale Snow Fest returns to Buckingham Avenue this month to celebrate all things winter in the heart of Springvale.

There's fun for the whole family. Play in the snow, join the children's activities, seek some thrills on the amusement rides or explore the market and community stalls lining the street.

There's also live entertainment from roving performers and the Amplify Youth Stage, and don't forget the food trucks, food stalls and restaurants who will provide the most delicious experience for foodies.



If you're visiting Springvale in the lead up to Snow Fest, look out for chances to win free amusement ride tickets for the event. Springvale Snow Fest is always well attended by thousands of people so plan ahead and consider travelling by public transport. Springvale Railway Station is just a two-minute walk to the event.

**Springvale Snow Fest
Buckingham Avenue, Springvale
Sunday 27 July
11am–6pm**

Visit snowfest.com.au for more details about the program of events and activities.

Councillor Contacts



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Yarraman Ward

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MONDAY

14

JULY

MONDAY

28

JULY

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 14 July**
- **Monday 28 July**

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

Only working alarms save lives



Winter is a peak time for fires in the home. You can help protect your family by checking your smoke alarms regularly.

Smoke alarms keep you safe from fires – but only if they work, that is why it is important to test them often. It only takes a few minutes.

Press the test button on each smoke alarm once a month to make sure it beeps. If it doesn't you might need to get new batteries, or it could be time to get a new alarm. Batteries should be changed at least once a year to ensure your smoke alarm is protecting you.

If your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old, it should be replaced.

There are new alarms on the market that are even safer. Called wireless interconnected alarms they signal each other – so if one alarm goes off, all the alarms in the house go off, ensuring everyone is alerted to possible danger.

A qualified electrician must install a hard-wired smoke alarm or interconnected alarms, however, anyone can install wireless, battery-powered alarms.



Visit frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms for more information about staying safe from house fires.

► Springvale Central Ward



As we move into the winter season, Springvale is once again preparing to host one of our most beloved community events – the Springvale Snow Fest. On Sunday 27 July 11am–6pm, this award-winning festival will transform the heart of Springvale into a winter wonderland. With snow play areas, live entertainment, food trucks, community stalls, and amusement rides, it's a day that truly brings our community together.

This month also marks NAIDOC Week, a time to celebrate the rich history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In May, I was honoured to attend a flag-raising ceremony in recognition of Reconciliation Week. These events are important milestones as we continue our work on the Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan, reaffirming our commitment to reconciliation.

Greater Dandenong Libraries continue to serve as inclusive, welcoming spaces for all. They offer extensive multilingual collections in over 18 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, and Vietnamese. For those learning English, they also provide children's resources and adult conversation classes. I encourage everyone to visit our libraries or explore the collections online at libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au.

In addition to these highlights, I'm pleased to share updates on several key projects and initiatives:

- We've completed audit and design work for an upgrade to Multicultural Place, featuring new street furniture, pavement improvements, lighting, green spaces, and recreational areas. While funding for delivery is yet to

be secured, we are actively exploring grant opportunities to support this important project.

- Earlier this year, Springvale's Lunar New Year celebrations were supported by a dedicated tourism campaign, which successfully attracted visitors and showcased our vibrant cultural identity.
- As part of Lunar New Year festivities, students from local schools created artwork reflecting what the celebration means to them. These designs were transformed into illuminated lanterns displayed in Multicultural Place.
- A new park concept is being developed to increase green and public space in the Springvale Activity Centre. This initiative aims to promote more pedestrian-friendly, community-focused environments.

As always, I welcome your feedback and ideas. You can contact me at AlicePhuong.Le@cgd.vic.gov.au or on 0429 059 974.

Cr Phillip Danh

► Yarraman Ward

Winter is upon us, but don't let that stop you from enjoying the open spaces available across Greater Dandenong.

One of the newest parks in Yarraman Ward is the pocket park at 218 Railway Parade. Council bought the site in 2020 with plans to turn it into a green space for the locals to enjoy. In 2023 we undertook community consultation to find out what people wanted, and the park is now an inviting space that is open to all.

You asked for seating and picnic facilities, as well as some equipment to engage with children and families. Some exercise equipment has been installed. We will consider funding in future budgets to install a children's playground. The parks team were able to retain many of the existing trees, which means the park is well shaded with a mature canopy.



Great parklands help to make our city look beautiful, but sometimes dumped rubbish can make our streets look messy and uninviting. It can also be harmful to the environment. Did you know we

offer each household a free hard waste collection each year?

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keep-it-clean to book in a collection and find out what you can put out. If you have good quality items, consider dropping them at our next Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day at Greaves Reserve on Saturday 23 August, from 8am–1pm. Items collected at these events are donated to charity or recycled and made into new items.

If you see dumped rubbish you can report it to Council via our website, the Snap Send Solve app on your smartphone or by phoning our customer service centre on 8571 1000.

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

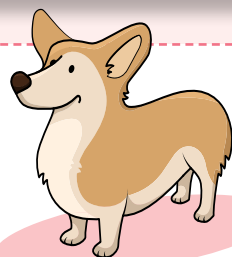
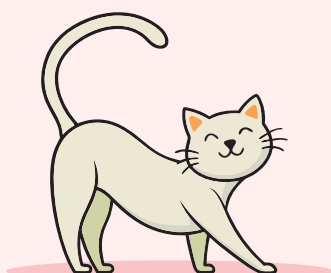
HAVE
YOUR SAYWE WANT
YOUR
FEEDBACK

Let's Talk Pets, Paws, and Plans!



Last year we responded to over 2760 animal requests, including 258 barking complaints, 1166 impounded cats and 54 lost dogs that were successfully returned to their owners. Whether you own a pet or not, responsible pet ownership impacts everyone.

Every four years, under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, we are required to develop a **Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP)**. Think of it as our game plan for all things dogs and cats—covering everything from registrations to reducing dog attacks and improving animal welfare.



Our key focus areas include:

- ▶ Promoting responsible pet ownership
- ▶ Reducing the risk of dangerous and nuisance dog behaviour
- ▶ Addressing animal welfare
- ▶ Encouraging pet registration and identification
- ▶ Ensuring we meet all legal requirements under the Act and related regulations

Our current DAMP is due to expire at the end of this year. We're now reviewing and drafting a new version to guide our approach for the next four years.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said, "Responsible pet ownership and the welfare of dogs and cats is a key focus for us as it plays a vital role in the health and wellbeing of our entire community.

"Now is the perfect time to share your thoughts. We want to hear your feedback on how our local laws are working, your ideas on key topics like reducing dangerous dog behaviour, the cat curfew, and how we can better educate the community about responsible pet ownership. Even if it's just something you would like to see more of—we're listening."



Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DAMP to contribute to a peaceful community for people and pets.

Greater Dandenong's Top Dogs

We are excited to share the top dog names and breeds that have captured the hearts of Greater Dandenong residents.

"If you have a Maltese cross, a Cavoodle or Jack Russell Terrier, you have great taste, or at least local dog owners think so," Greater Dandenong City Council Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti announced.

In Greater Dandenong there are a total of 410 registered Maltese-cross dogs, 342 Cavoodles and 298 Jack Russell Terriers, with German Shepherds coming in a close fourth at 285.

Bella is the most popular name for female dogs, followed by Luna and Coco. For male dogs, Charlie is the favourite, followed by Milo and Max.

"To make sure Bella, Charlie and their mates get all the exercise they need to stay fit and healthy, we have 15 parks where dogs can run and play, free of their lead while still under your control," Cr Memeti said.

Whether you own a Golden Retriever (number 15 on our top breeds list), a Chihuahua (number 11) or a French Bull Dog (number 19), be sure to register your pet with your local council.

"If your pet is registered it makes it much more likely we can return them to you if they get lost," Cr Memeti said.



Don't forget, pet registrations were due in April so if it slipped your mind or if you're the lucky new owner of a pet over three months old be sure to get in touch with us.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals for all the information you need or call 8571 1000.



Most popular dog breeds

Description	Number
Maltese cross	410
Cavoodle	342
Jack Russell Terrier	298
German Shepherd	284
Labrador	229
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	198
Jack Russell Terrier cross	176
American Staffordshire Bull Terrier	167
Toy Poodle	153
Border Collie	141
Chihuahua	139
Poodle cross	135
Staffordshire Bull Terrier cross	134
Siberian Husky	127
Golden Retriever	117
Labrador cross	114
Pomeranian	111
Kelpie	101
French Bull Dog	101

Favourite dog names

Male	Female
Charlie	Bella
Milo	Luna
Max	Coco
Rocky	Ruby
Buddy	Molly
Teddy	Lucy
Toby	Daisy
Ollie	Mia
Oscar	Nala
Bobby	Millie

Favourite cat names

Male	Female
Milo	Luna
Simba	Bella
Leo	Coco
Max	Mia
Charlie	Lucy
Lucky	Missy
Jasper	Mimi
Oscar	Molly
Harry	Cookie
Loki	Daisy

Let's continue to celebrate our beloved pets and the joy they bring to our community.

What's On July 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	 NAIDOC Week 6-13 July		Carers Walking Group Noble Park Community Centre 10am Heritage Hill House and Garden Tours 66 McCrae St, Dandenong 10am		Dandenong Park Run Dandenong Park 8am	NAIDOC Week Celebration Dandenong Market 11am-3pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Simply Fitness Jan Wilson Centre 8.30am	School Holidays Youth Program Ice Skating 12pm-2pm Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au	Hungry Caterpillar Storytime and Art Dandenong Library 10.30am	School Holidays Self Defence 101 Springvale Town Hall 10am-12pm Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au	School Holidays The Maths Show Dandenong Library 10.30am Phone 1300 630 920	Sustainability Saturdays – Turn Plastic Trash into Treasure Springvale Library 2pm	
14	15	16	17			
Dinosaur Discovery Springvale Library 10.30am Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm		School Holidays 4v4 Volleyball Tournament Dandenong Stadium 8.30am-5pm Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au	Chronic Pain Support Group Springvale Library 4pm			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Australian Citizenship Information Session Dandenong Library 11.30am	Strength Training Jan Wilson Centre 8.30am	Silversmithing Workshop Dandenong Market 6.30pm	Baby Bounce Outreach Keysborough Senior Citizen's Hall 10.30am	Community Planting Day Tirhatuan Park, Dandenong North 10am-1pm	National Tree Day Planting Somerfield Reserve, Keysborough 10am-1pm
28	29					
Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm						



A special preview of Keysborough's new community hub

We recently hosted a special tour of our soon-to-be-completed Community Hub in Keysborough for the Victorian Minister for Children, Lizzie Blandthorn and local Member for Mordialloc, Tim Richardson.

The Hub, to officially open later this year, has been carefully designed with and for the local community. The facility will be home to a kindergarten and long day care service, maternal and child health support, a community lounge incorporating a library, multipurpose community spaces and flexible outdoor areas including a basketball ring, amphitheatre and playground.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti, joined the tour with Keysborough South Ward Councillor, Isabella Do. Cr Memeti said the tour was an opportunity to provide a glimpse of what will soon be open to the community.

"This Hub is an example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision," Cr Memeti said.

"It's been thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of a diverse population – now and into the future. I thank the Victorian Government for its support and shared commitment to building stronger, connected communities."

Funding of the \$29.5 million project included a combined \$4 million contribution from the Victorian Government through the Building Blocks Grant (\$3 million) and Living Libraries Infrastructure Program (\$1 million).

Councillor Do said that the Hub was thoughtfully designed to complement and connect with the natural environment, fulfilling community needs while achieving great sustainability outcomes.

"The Hub has something for everyone, no matter what your age or background," Cr Do said.

"I'm very excited to see it come to life and for it to be a welcoming and inclusive space, where everyone can feel at home. I'm also particularly proud of its green and sustainable features such as its rainwater storage, solar panels, and state-of-the-art heating and cooling system. All of which significantly reduce its environmental impact."

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysborough-south-community-hub for more information.

Local libraries stream National Simultaneous Storytime to 2.2 million



Proudly, Springvale Library streamed this year's National Simultaneous Storytime to more than 2.2 million people across Australia and the world.

Readers joined in from as far away as New Zealand, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

"We've taken our love of reading up a level and now we're celebrating our libraries on a global scale," Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti beamed.

National Simultaneous Storytime is an annual children's event where one picture book is chosen, read out loud and streamed so people across Australia can listen in or read along at the same time.

Australia's highest-selling female author, Sally Rippin was MC at the May 21 event while fellow Australian Author Deborah Frenkel read her much-loved children's book, *The Truck Cat*. The story's illustrator, Danny Snell, was on also hand to do drawings with children from Athol Road Primary School and Noble Park English Language School.

"Thanks to everyone who organised this special event, tuned in and to the 180 lucky ones who were at Springvale Library to see all the action live," Cr Memeti said.

"If you didn't catch the live stream, be sure to jump on to our YouTube channel and listen to the story in your own time. There's some other great content up there too."



This year was the 25th anniversary of the popular annual event organised by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA).

This latest literacy achievement follows the news earlier this year that the Greater Dandenong community read the most books during the BIG Summer Read.

You can watch the recording by visiting libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries/events/national-simultaneous-storytime



Donate your unwanted bike for a good cause



Have you been wondering what to do with an unwanted bike? You can bring it down to our Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days held four times a year. We donate the bikes to not-for-profit group, Brainwave Bikes.

Brainwave Bikes is the largest retailer of second-hand bikes in Melbourne. All of the group's profits go towards donating bicycles to families in need as well as the charity Brainwave Australia, which supports families and children with brain illnesses and injuries.

In 2024, 125 bicycles were donated from our four Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days and donated to Brainwave Bikes.

The organisation has three objectives:

- ▶ To reduce the number of bikes ending up in landfill
- ▶ Provide work experience and employment for young people with disabilities
- ▶ Make bikes more affordable for families doing it tough.

Council's next Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day will be held on Saturday 23 August at Greaves Reserve. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day to find out more.



Visit brainwavebikes.org.au to find out more about their work.



Plastic Free July

Plastic Free July started in Australia in 2011 and has become a global movement involving millions of people working to reduce plastic waste.

Every year around 145,000 tonnes of plastic will find its way into the environment.

By choosing to refuse single-use plastics in July you can help reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in landfills, by the sides of roads, as litter in parks or floating in our oceans.

Join the Plastic Free July Challenge and discover ways to live your life without plastic waste.

Over the last six years Plastic Free July participants have avoided around 12.8 billion kilograms of plastic waste. Your small actions can make a big difference.

Here are some helpful tips you can try

- ▶ Bring a reusable coffee cup or dine in at your local café instead of using a takeaway cup
- ▶ Carry your own reusable water bottle and refill from public taps.
- ▶ When buying fruit and vegetables bring your own bags or leave your produce loose.

There are many simple swaps we can make to create a more environmentally sustainable future for all.



Be part of the Plastic Free July challenge at plasticfreejuly.org. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bin-it to find out more.

Community Grants Program

Do you have a project, program, or event that supports the Greater Dandenong community?

You can apply for our Medium Grants Program (round two) our Large Grants Program between Monday 14 July and Monday 11 August 2025.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants to view the program guidelines, register for information sessions and apply online.



For advice on your application, please email commgrants@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone us on 8571 1432.

Behind the Scenes at Council

Meet Carmel Darcy Bushland Crew Leader

Tell us about what you do at Council

I lead the dedicated team who plan and roll out bushland maintenance activities across our most significant bushland reserves. Bushland work focuses on bringing back indigenous vegetation and improving habitat quality for indigenous flora and fauna. My team also supports programs that help the community build a meaningful connection with nature.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job?

One of the best parts of my job is working with a passionate and knowledgeable team that genuinely cares about the environment. Another is seeing the long-term impact of our work transforming spaces back into healthy, thriving ecosystems filled with indigenous vegetation and wildlife. Running Nature Play is also special – seeing preschoolers become confident and excited to explore the natural world is a powerful reminder of how important that connection is, especially in today's tech-driven world.

What does a typical week look like?

My week follows a steady rhythm, but there's always enough variety to keep things interesting. We start each day bright and early with a team briefing. When on site, most of the day is spent doing hands-on ecological restoration work, including weed control, habitat management, planting, identifying native species and monitoring the overall health of the bushland ecosystem. On Tuesdays we run the Nature Play program at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, and I reserve Thursday for planning the following week's work. I also often work on weekends at community planting days and local festivals across Greater Dandenong – giving away free native plants and educating the public on the importance of using indigenous species in their gardens.



Why did you pursue a career in this field?

I pursued a career in bushland management because of my deep love for the environment and a strong desire to protect and ecologically restore habitat. I've always enjoyed being outdoors, and this career allows me to do hands-on, meaningful work where I can see real results.

As a kid, I felt a strong connection to the natural world. But after moving to the suburban environment of Dandenong, that connection faded. During my teenage years and into my 20s I became actively involved in environmental protests. Coming full circle and now working in Dandenong has helped me rediscover and fully appreciate the ecological significance of the local environment. Helping people reconnect with the environment and understand its importance is one of the most fulfilling aspects of what I do.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In my free time, I love going to festivals that celebrate nature, music, community, and holistic living. I also love spending time with my big family – I've got eight siblings and over 20 nieces and nephews, and being an auntie to all of them is something I really treasure. Camping and travelling are big passions of mine, especially exploring Australia's natural wonders. There's so much beauty out there, and I've been lucky enough to see and work in a lot of it while road-tripping in my van.

National Tree Day 2025



Join us in greening our city and celebrate National Tree Day this month.

Created by Planet Ark in 1996, National Tree Day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event.

The day is an opportunity for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to mother earth.

National Tree Days falls on Sunday 27 July, and this year we will host two special community planting days to celebrate.

- Tirhatuan Park, Kriegal Way, Dandenong North on Saturday 26 July, from 10am–1pm
- Somerfield Reserve, Westwood Boulevard, Keysborough, on Sunday 27 July, from 10am–1pm.

We are committed to planting more trees and plants to increase our tree canopy and enhance biodiversity across Greater Dandenong.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/environmental-events to find out more.



love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Adult programs

Greater Dandenong Libraries run adult programs that support the development of literacy, life-long learning and creativity for all. Whether you are looking for a book club, social outlet or want to learn something new – join us for some fun at your local library.

Art Series – Street Photography

**Tuesday 8 July, 6.30pm–8pm
at Dandenong**

**Tuesday 15 July, 6.30pm–8pm
at Springvale**

Discover the art of street photography in this hands-on session. Learn key techniques, explore ethical storytelling and capture compelling moments with photographer Alberto Burgos.



Palimpsests: Altered Book Workshop

**Thursday 3 July, 6.30pm–8pm
at Springvale**

**Thursday 10 July, 6.30pm–8pm
at Dandenong**

Celebrate the themes of *HOME 25*, a Greater Dandenong Arts exhibition, with Dr Natasha Narin as she shows you how to alter books into your own work of art.

Safe Online Surfing

**Thursday 10 July, 10.30am–
11.30am at Dandenong**

Learn how to navigate the digital world safely, including how to protect your personal information, buying and selling online, and social media safety.

Tea Blending

**Thursday 17 July, 6.30pm–8pm
at Springvale**

Join us in Plastic Free July and learn how to blend your own tea, use less plastic and save your money and planet earth at the same time.



Youth programs

Join us over the school holidays to discover a great book adventure, use our computers or gaming consoles, or take part in some entertaining activities. Here are some highlights.

Think Tank – Vulnerable and Endangered Species

**Saturday 19 July, 3pm–4pm
at Dandenong**

**Saturday 26 July, 3pm–4pm
at Springvale**

Encounter rare and endangered animals from around Australia as we learn about conservation efforts and how we can help protect their future. Participants will be able to touch and hold some animals during this session.



Dinosaur Discovery

**Monday 14 July, 10.30am–11.30am at
Springvale**

Calling budding palaeontologists. Museums Victoria will bring real dinosaur fossils to this session to learn more about how palaeontologists come to understand dinosaurs.

Library tech assist

Get free help with phones, computers and other devices from our friendly library staff.

Drop-in sessions run Monday to Friday, from 2pm–4pm at Springvale and Dandenong Libraries.

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

Recording booth

Dandenong Library's state-of-the-art recording booth is available for the community to use for free during opening hours. Record music, create podcasts, do voice overs and so much more.

Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 1300 630 920 for more information.



ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



HOME 25 – Invisible Cities

24 June to 27 September

HOME 25: *Invisible Cities* is now showing across Dandenong, showcasing works of a selection of refugee, asylum seeker, First Nations and migrant artists.

This roving exhibition is uniquely presented across multiple venues spanning several blocks throughout central Dandenong, such as the cultural precinct (Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Drum Theatre and Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens), public spaces and the Dandenong Market. This approach mirrors the aims of HOME – to tell a shared story from a range of perspectives.

HOME featured stories of displacement, belonging and connection to place and Country.

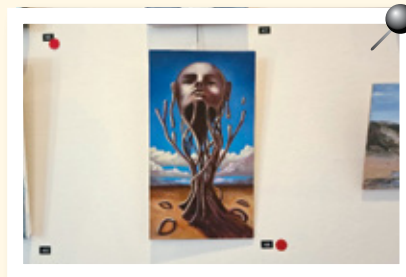
Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/HOME for more information.

Season Two 2025

Arts in Greater Dandenong Season Two, represents more than an artistic program—it reflects who we are. Through connective experiences, 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 through cross-cultural

connections. We invite you to discover all the arts in a new light and celebrate the vibrant culture that makes our Greater Dandenong community unique.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts to explore our upcoming program



9 by 5 People's Choice

Congratulations to the 9 by 5 exhibition People's Choice winner, local artist

Adrian Olguin. This surrealist work is called *Nearing Full Carpophore*. More than 200 pieces were entered into the annual exhibition in 2025.

Want to participate in the 2026 exhibition? Stay tuned early next year for details.

Connect with us

Follow us:

Instagram [@artsgreaterdandy](https://www.instagram.com/artsgreaterdandy)

Facebook [/artsingreaterdandenong](https://www.facebook.com/artsingreaterdandenong)

Drum Theatre

Encore Season Two Launch

Encore Season Two launched in June, kicking off with The Songs of Eva Cassidy. Experience the Magic of Paris, visit with The Great Gershwins and enjoy a special Encore edition of Swan Lake across the second half of the year.

Encore shows start at 10.30am and include complimentary morning tea and a car parking voucher.



Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/encore to learn more and book today.

Coming soon....

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, 7pm

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

Connect with us

Facebook

[/TheDrumTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/TheDrumTheatre)

Sign up for newsletter at

drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

After dark success – Ramadan Night Market

The Dandenong Ramadan Night Market was a raging success in its first year. The first of its kind in Melbourne, it has the potential to outstrip its Western Sydney equivalent in future.

From 25 March–2 April each evening from 7pm to late, over 50 food trucks gathered to offer a tantalizing array of global cuisines, celebrating the rich cultural diversity of the community during Ramadan. This vibrant event attracted families, food lovers, and cultural enthusiasts eager to enjoy a communal feast under the stars.

With its lively atmosphere and diverse offerings, the Ramadan Night Market was a perfect destination for anyone looking to experience the flavours and festivities of Ramadan in a dynamic urban setting in the heart of Dandenong.

The market was founded by The Bright Community Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to “fostering cultural harmony, community engagement and social inclusion”.

President Ahmad Ghowsi was in Sydney during Ramadan in 2023 and felt inspired by the Lakemba market’s success. He worked with Greater Dandenong Council and local sponsors to create a similar event.



Greater Dandenong Mayor Councillor Jim Memeti said, “Ramadan Night Market has been a huge success and I extend my congratulations to the Bright Community Organisation. It was incredible to see Central Dandenong come alive in the evenings across the nine nights”.

While the festival is a destination for Melbourne’s Muslim community, Mr Ghowsi encourages everyone to attend future events.

“It’s not only for Muslims. Visitors are from every background, whatever kind of religious values they have.”

The market was held along Thomas Street and included Harmony Square and there was a 211 per cent increase in foot traffic that week compared to the previous week. This indicates the night time activities brought more people to the area and certainly has the potential to become a loved annual market.

The Bright Community Organisation have already begun thinking about what will be instore for 2026.

➔ Visit brightcommunity.com.au to find out more.

Workshops and Events

Council’s Business Development and Investment team runs regular workshops and events to help local businesses grow their skills and network.

➔ To make your business thrive visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/business-events and discover what’s on offer.

DANDENONG
MARKET
Fresh & Vibrant Since 1866



WINTER FEAST

FOOD TRUCKS, LIVE DJ & FACE PAINTING

SUN 3 AUGUST

10AM - 3PM

1-DAY ONLY

FREE ICE SKATING*

OUTSIDE ON THE TERRACE (SOUTHERN CARPARK)

DANDENONGMARKET.COM.AU
MELBOURNE’S BEST KEPT SECRET

*ICE SKATING RING IS SYNTHETIC AND HAS A MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT

Council program wins Welcoming Cities Award



We have taken out a national award for a program connecting more than 1000 vulnerable individuals and families to essential support services.

The Community Connector Program won the local government category at the 2025 Welcoming Cities Awards for Change.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said the program began as a temporary measure in response to COVID but evolved into a permanent service.

“Through word of mouth this program has become an invaluable tool to help support those most in need,” Cr Memeti said.

The grassroots approach has seen partnerships formed with more than 50 organisations.

“By breaking down language and cultural barriers and raising awareness the program has become a trusted point of contact, improving access to vital services such as material aid, housing support and health.”

A key focus of the program has been helping families from Afghanistan who have arrived since 2021. More than 700 individuals have received support in areas such as education, employment, social connections and navigating complex systems like the NDIS.

The program has inspired others and created a ripple effect of support in our community. The Welcoming Cities Award was presented to Council's Community Connector officer Arif Azizi at an award ceremony in Sydney last week.

Welcoming Cities is a national network of local government bodies who are committed to an Australia where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.



Sunflower program – A symbol for non-visible disabilities

The Sunflower Hidden Disability Program is a global initiative supporting individuals with non-visible disabilities like autism, chronic pain, and anxiety.

The Sunflower Symbol on lanyards, pins or wristbands discreetly indicates the wearer may need extra support. This program promotes empathy and inclusivity.

Greater Dandenong City Council is a proud member of this global initiative, fostering a more inclusive society.

Participants can obtain Sunflower products from various distribution points across the City of Greater Dandenong including Customer Service Centres and Greater Dandenong Libraries.

Hearing loops available at Council

To make our services more accessible, we have installed hearing loops in many public spaces including our customer service centres, Drum Theatre, and Springvale and Dandenong libraries.



Hearing loops, or induction loops, are essential for those who are deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing.

These systems transmit sounds directly to hearing aids, reducing background noise and improving speech clarity.

Benefits to having hearing loops installed include improved communications, inclusivity, accessibility and compliance with national legislation.

The growing adoption of hearing loop technology in and around Greater Dandenong is a significant step towards more inclusive public spaces and improving quality of life.



Contact the Disability Inclusion team at disabilityinclusion@cgd.vic.gov.au for more information about hearing loops.



For further information email disabilityinclusion@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

FREE
ENTRY



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SNOW FEST

SUNDAY 27 JULY
11am - 6pm

BUCKINGHAM AVENUE
SPRINGVALE

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
LIVE PERFORMANCES
AMPLIFY YOUTH STAGE
LION DANCE
AMUSEMENT RIDES

www.snowfest.com.au

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