

AUGUST 2025

Greater Dandenong Council News

Council Plan

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**Community
Satisfied**

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**Our Budget
2025–26**

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HOME 25

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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:

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Dandenong VIC 3175

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Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

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



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police / Fire / Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults /
non-operational

United Energy..... 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults /

non-operational..... 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline..... 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management
Services..... 9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society..... 9798 8415

RSPCA..... 9224 2222

Nurse on Call..... 1300 606 024

Non Urgent Police Response

(no sirens)..... 131 444

Dandenong Police..... 9767 7444

Springvale Police..... 8558 8600

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

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the August edition of *Greater Dandenong Council News*.

Our community is always at the heart of what we do and so it was great to receive such positive results from our annual Community Satisfaction Survey. Our overall satisfaction rating was higher than any other council that took part in the survey. Find out more on page three.

You can also read about our new Council Plan 2025-29 on page three. We heard from more than 3300 community members who shared their priorities for the next four years. We used their feedback to create this key document and others, including the Long Term Financial Plan 2026-35, Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-26 and the Asset Plan 2025-35.

Council also recently adopted the 2025-26 Budget, which was guided by the goals and directions of the Council Plan. You can read more about where your rates will be spent on pages six and seven. One of our key projects is the development of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre. As work commences on the new centre we are calling for the community to share memories of the 50-year-old Oasis. Turn to page 11 to find out how.

In June Councillors attended a local government conference in Canberra and used the opportunity to speak to their colleagues from across Australia and to Federal MPs to advocate for greater rights for people seeking asylum. Read about our advocacy on page nine.

As winter comes to an end I'm looking forward to the days getting longer and a little bit more sunshine. I hope you all stay warm this month and enjoy reading this issue.

Mayor
Cr Jim Memeti



My City

Noble Park is inviting at all times of the day, but this photo was taken as the sun set over Ross Reserve and NPAC last year.

Snapped by 13-year-old Gabriel Highland, this picture was entered into the 2025 Community Calendar Photo Competition and appears in August.



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



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely.

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

Front cover: Members of our Community Panel Linda, Vaheesan, Randa and Neha helped create our Council Plan 2025-29.

FSC
Logo

Council Plan 2025–29

Following extensive work with our community we have created the Council Plan 2025–29.

The plan sets our direction and the key activities, projects and services we will deliver over the next four years. It reflects our community's vision that Greater Dandenong is a home for all.

Across 2024 more than 3300 people took part in engagement activities, including a deliberative panel of community members. The panellists represented our diverse community and took part in more intensive workshops to provide recommendations to Council.

The plan outlines our city's six key objectives:

- ▶ A socially connected, safe and healthy city
- ▶ A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts
- ▶ A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places
- ▶ A green city committed to a sustainable future

- ▶ A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes
- ▶ A Council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources and a commitment to investing in the community.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said the community's priorities had helped guide the creation of the plan.

"We look forward to working with you, our community to deliver initiatives which support you all to live safe, healthy and active lives," Cr Memeti said.

"We are proud of our city and all it has to offer and are committed to ensuring it is a sustainable and liveable city of opportunity well into the future."

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to view the Council Plan 2025–29 in full.

Vision for 2040

The City of Greater Dandenong is a home to all. It's a city where you can enjoy and embrace life through celebration and equal opportunity!

We harmonise the community by valuing multiculturalism and the individual. Our community is healthy, vibrant, innovative and creative.

Our growing city is committed to environmental sustainability.

Welcome to our exciting and peaceful community.



Community Satisfaction Survey



Greater Dandenong City Council has achieved a record performance rating in this year's annual community satisfaction survey.

Residents have rated Council's overall performance at 7.5 (out of 10), 13 per cent higher than our 2024 score, and 4 per cent higher than the average for metropolitan councils.

This year's survey was undertaken by Metropolis Research, and was carried out through 400 door-to-door in-person interviews across April and May this year.

Metropolis Research found the overall performance rating was the highest satisfaction score recorded across metropolitan Melbourne councils they surveyed in 2025.

The survey results found that:

- ▶ Residents rated customer service as 'excellent' – scoring 8.3
- ▶ Springvale and Springvale South residents were most satisfied with Council's overall performance (7.8)
- ▶ Satisfaction with Council's community consultation and engagement scored 7.7, up 19 percent from 2024



The following services were recognised as scoring higher satisfaction ratings than other metropolitan councils:

- ▶ Services for older people (+9 per cent)
- ▶ Arts, cultural events, programs, activities (+8 per cent)
- ▶ Services for children (+7 per cent)
- ▶ Council festival and events (+5 per cent)
- ▶ Council's website (+5 per cent).

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read the full report.

**RECORD
RATING**

Councillor Contacts



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Springvale North Ward

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Springvale South Ward

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Yarraman Ward

Cr Phillip Danh
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MONDAY

11

AUGUST

MONDAY

25

AUGUST

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 11 August**
- **Monday 25 August**

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

► Springvale North Ward



I was proud to attend the recent official opening of the upgraded facilities at Springvale Reserve.

The \$2.3 million upgrade project was recently completed and includes:

- 150 LUX LED lighting and two coaches' boxes for the oval.
- Two new acrylic-surface netball courts with 200 LUX lighting, four player shelters, two scorer shelters, goalposts, and fencing, significantly improving local female-friendly access to sport.
- A new playground featuring a play tower, swings, rocker, spinner, and cubby house.
- Upgrades to the pavilion kitchen and canteen, including the installation of a new servery window.

These improved facilities will greatly benefit the Springvale Districts Football and Netball Club and the Silverton Cricket Club, providing enhanced spaces for sport, recreation, and community gatherings. Entire families now enjoy playing sports simultaneously at Springvale Reserve.

Looking forward, our 2025–26 Budget includes additional funding of \$453,000 to further upgrade the Springvale Reserve Pavilion Social Room. This project will make the pavilion more welcoming and accessible for all users.

Cr Sean O'Reilly



Additionally, there is \$146,000 allocated for a new synthetic cricket wicket at Warner Reserve.

These upgrades provide our residents with more opportunities to remain active and healthy throughout the year.

I recommend residents check out the new Customer Request dashboard on our website. It shows our performance and the number of customer requests actioned each month. You can read more about this on page 14.



I always welcome hearing from residents about issues or concerns. Please feel free to contact me by email at Sean.OReilly@cgd.vic.gov.au or by phone on 0422 523 258.

► Noble Park Ward



After more than a decade of determined advocacy, the long-awaited Stud Road pedestrian crossing is finally becoming a reality. This vital safety project, which will protect pedestrians along one of the area's busiest roads, has now received full funding from both the state and federal governments and is set for completion this year.

The crossing is the result of tireless advocacy by local residents, alongside the dedicated efforts of Council, leaders and community who have long championed this essential upgrade to improve safety and accessibility for students, families and the wider community. This is something I'm incredibly proud of and one of the main reasons I ran for council.

In addition to this success, all residents are set to benefit from exciting developments in community health and recreation. The Dandenong Wellbeing Centre – currently under construction – will offer state-of-the-art facilities aimed



at supporting the health, fitness and wellbeing of residents across Greater Dandenong. Through my role at Council and as Councillor representative on the South East Leisure Board, I have been

Cr Lana Formoso

privileged in helping shape the vision for this transformational project, which is part of the council's broader strategy to build healthier, more connected communities.

Further supporting active lifestyles, new lighting at WJ Turner Reserve will soon be installed, thanks to a successful funding partnership between the Council and the State Government. These lighting upgrades will extend access to local sporting facilities, encouraging greater community participation in sport and recreation throughout the year.

Projects like these reflect the ongoing commitment to improving safety, promoting health and wellbeing and creating vibrant spaces for all residents to enjoy.



If you want to get in touch with me you can email me at lane.formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone on 0435 530 536.

Cr Jim Memeti



As a Council, we recently adopted the Council Plan 2025-29, which guides our services and planning over the next four years. One of our key objectives is to create a "socially connected, safe and healthy city".

Recently I was invited to a site where local people are helping us to achieve this objective. I visited the Vespertine Gardens – a newly created community garden in Dandenong.

The project was created by West Alchemy Collective, a mix of local residents, business owners and creatives who are working together to benefit Dandenong West and surrounding areas. The project is being funded by the State Government's Empowering Communities program and is supported by Council.

The garden is creating a beautiful green space at 6 Cadle Street, Dandenong, and will give members a place to explore their creativity and connect with nature.

The Collective is also working on plans for a street music festival in Dandenong West later this year, celebrating what makes this part of our community unique.

If you would like to find out more about Vespertine Gardens or sign up to be a member you can find them on social media including Facebook and Instagram.

In further community safety news, there are several roadwork projects happening across the Dandenong Ward in the coming year. These projects will help make our roads safer for all users.

Under the Federal Government's Blackspot Program major upgrades will take place at McCrae Street, Dandenong (\$1.375 million) and Clow Street, Dandenong (\$725,000).

We have also set aside \$1.39 million in the 2025-26 Budget to complete upgrade works at the intersection of Clow and Cleeland streets in Dandenong.

► Dandenong Ward



If you would like to discuss any Council related issues please contact me via email at Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Budget 2025–26

\$ This Budget sets a clear direction for the future and takes a responsible approach while balancing our community's aspirations and priorities.

We recognise the rising cost of living is affecting many in our community and as a Council we are not immune to those pressures. This Budget reflects our commitment to delivering high quality services while addressing the need to renew aging infrastructure and invest in new community projects.

The average rate increase for residential properties will be just 0.11 per cent. For the average household, this means a rate rise of \$12.13 this year. We have many different options available to assist people who are having trouble paying their rates. You can read more about these options on page 10.

We have committed a significant investment over the coming two years for the replacement of the much loved but outdated Dandenong Oasis with the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre. This is an exciting and significant investment in our community's health and wellbeing.

Our capital investment for 2025–26 is \$118.68 million in community facilities and infrastructure. Over \$40 million is committed to various renewal programs and projects, including roads, drainage, bridges, footpaths, buildings, CCTV and library resources. We also continue to invest in active reserves, passive open space, signage, lighting and fencing.

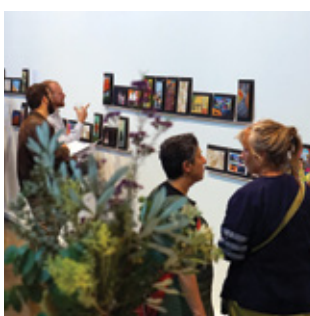
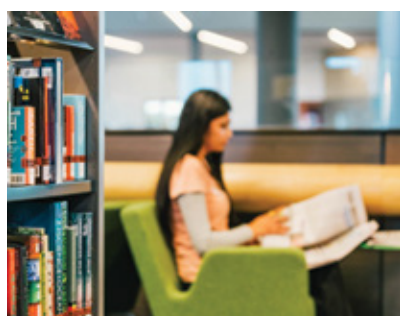
While our financial position remains stable for 2025–26, we will face ongoing challenges due to rate capping and challenging economic conditions.



This is a responsible and balanced budget that will invest today to shape a future that is sustainable, liveable and full of opportunities.

A socially connected, safe and healthy city

- ▶ \$65.16m Dandenong Wellbeing Centre
- ▶ \$1.83m CCTV renewal
- ▶ \$31,000 Heritage Kindergarten works
- ▶ \$25,000 Dandenong West Primary Kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health centre works
- ▶ \$197,000 equipment upgrade at Maternal and Child Health offices
- ▶ \$31,000 Heritage Kindergarten works
- ▶ \$72,000 Greaves Reserve synthetic cricket wicket
- ▶ \$95,000 JC Mills Reserve hockey field surface and fence
- ▶ \$24,000 JC Mills hockey field lighting
- ▶ \$314,000 WJ Turner Reserve oval lighting
- ▶ \$453,000 Springvale reserve social room upgrade
- ▶ \$137,000 Lois Twohig Reserve female friendly amenities
- ▶ \$64,000 Ross Reserve Athletics Pavilion female friendly amenities
- ▶ \$146,000 Fotheringham Reserve synthetic cricket wicket
- ▶ \$146,000 Warner Reserve synthetic cricket wicket
- ▶ \$302,000 Rowley Allen Pavilion exterior drainage
- ▶ \$47,000 Rowley Allan coaches' box



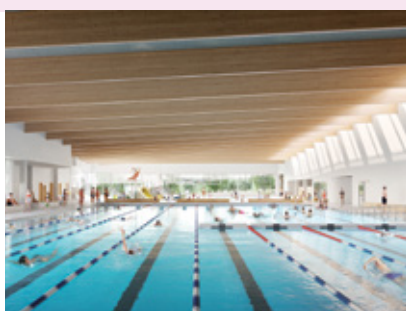
A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts

- ▶ \$4.26m Dandenong New Art Gallery
- ▶ \$866,000 Library collection resources
- ▶ \$472,000 Dandenong Library multi-faith and breastfeeding room



A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places

- ▶ \$9.51m Road resurfacing, rehabilitation and reconstruction program
- ▶ \$6.72m Perry Road Upgrade (final stage)
- ▶ \$4m building renewal program
- ▶ \$3.88m Three Federal Blackspot Programs – McCrae Street, Dandenong (\$1.375m), Gladstone Road, Dandenong North (\$1.776m) and Clow Street, Dandenong (\$725,000)
- ▶ \$2.25m Safer Local Roads and Streets Program – construction
- ▶ \$1.83m Roads to Recovery Program
- ▶ \$1.39m Clow Street and Cleeland Street upgrade works
- ▶ \$100,000 Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan
- ▶ \$1.09m Spring Valley Reserve rehabilitation works
- ▶ \$2.04 South East Leisure Building Renewal Program
- ▶ \$1.6m Active and Passive Reserves Renewal Programs (including playground ground coverings, irrigation, scoreboards, goals, open space furniture, public lighting and fencing)



A green city committed to a sustainable future

- ▶ \$1.8m Drainage works program
- ▶ \$1.19 Water main renewal program
- ▶ \$86,000 Doris Reserve furniture and landscape upgrade
- ▶ \$110,000 View Road Reserve landscaping and infrastructure



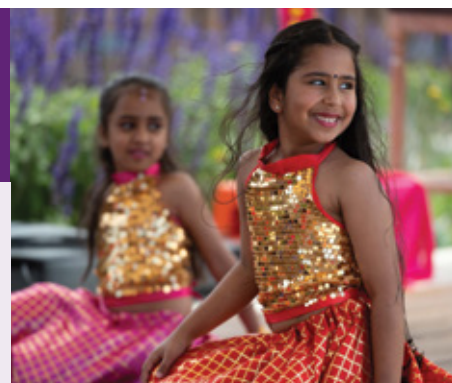
A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes

- ▶ \$500,000 Dandenong Market Structural rectification works
- ▶ \$224,000 Parking meter renewal



A council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community

- ▶ \$2.46m Community Grants program
- ▶ \$537,000 Footpath renewal program
- ▶ \$239,000 Palm Plaza renewal



What's On August 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
	<div>Visit Oasis Dandenong and share your stories on the memory board.</div>	<div></div>		<div>Tommy Little – I'm Not Proud Drum Theatre 6.30pm</div>	<div>The Think Tank – Biodiversity and Sustainability Dandenong Library 3pm</div> <div></div>	<div>Winter Feast at Dandenong Market 10am–3pm</div> <div></div>
	<div></div>	6	7	8	9	10
		<div>Carers Walking Group Noble Park Community Centre 9.45am</div> <div></div>	<div>Carers Walking Group Noble Park Community Centre 9.45am</div>	<div>Sports Club at the Hub Springvale Library 4.30pm</div>	<div>Springvale Clothes Swap Springvale Community Hub 1pm</div>	<div>Victorian State Ballet's Swan Lake Drum Theatre 2pm</div>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<div>Council meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm</div>	<div>Nature Play Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve, Springvale South 10am</div> <div></div>	<div>Art, Craft and Conversation Springvale Library 6.30pm</div>	<div>Free Women's Wellbeing Circle Springvale Community Hub 5pm</div> <div></div>		<div>Community Planting Day Dandenong Wetlands 10am–1pm</div> <div></div>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	<div>Adult Exercise Jan Wilson Community Centre 9.30am</div>	<div>Library Help for Adults Springvale Library 2pm</div>	<div>Cultural Sketch at The Castle – HOME 2025 61 Princes Highway, Dandenong 6pm</div> <div></div>	<div>Zumba Gold Jan Wilson Community Centre 10am</div>	<div>Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day Greaves Reserve, Dandenong 8am–1pm</div> <div></div>	
25	<div></div>	27	28	29	30	<div></div>
<div>Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm</div> <div></div>			<div>Libraries at Dusk – Learn to Sew Springvale Library 6.30pm</div>	<div>The Grandparents Club 2 Drum Theatre 7pm</div>	<div>Dandenong Parkrun Dandenong Park 8am</div>	

Advocacy in Canberra

Greater Dandenong City Councillors, including Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti, attended the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly recently to advocate for our community on issues important to local government.

The Greater Dandenong-led Mayoral and Councillor Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum hosted a morning tea and exhibition stand at the Canberra event, to raise awareness of the Back Your Neighbour campaign.


More than 1300 mayors and councillors from across Australia attended the event and all were invited to get behind the campaign, which is calling for improved rights for people seeking asylum.

The campaign calls on the Federal Government to provide a pathway to permanency for people seeking protection who have been living in Australia for more than 10 years. The taskforce also advocates for expanded healthcare, safe accommodation and crisis services for those in need.

The Mayor also met with Federal Member for Canberra, Alicia Payne, and Federal Member for Bruce, Julian Hill, to discuss the campaign details.

You can lend your voice and support this campaign by:

- ▶ Sending an email to your local MP (the online tool at backyourneighbour.com.au takes just two minutes to complete)
- ▶ Following the campaign on social media [@BackYourNeighbour](https://twitter.com/BackYourNeighbour)
- ▶ Becoming a Back Your Neighbour supporter – community organisations and groups are invited to join for free.

 **Visit backyourneighbour.com.au to find out more.**

BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Awards for excellence



You may have noticed more free community events in Greater Dandenong over the past year, thanks to a streamlined event permit process.

The new look process has made it so much easier for people to apply for event permits that the Council team behind it, has been recognised with a major local government award.

In June Greater Dandenong City Council's Festivals and Events Team received the LGPro Customer Experience Award for making the permit process "easier, faster, and more inclusive for all stakeholders".

The award recognised "innovation and leadership in the provision of customer experiences".

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti congratulated the team for making a once complicated process more accessible to a diverse community.

"This award recognises the amazing work of our staff in making a challenging process more simple. By removing red tape they have created a system that is easier to navigate resulting in more event permits being issued and more community events being held.

"Greater Dandenong is a vibrant and diverse community, we love a good celebration and this award means we can look forward to even more."

Greater Dandenong Council's Youth and Family Services team was also a finalist in the Community Partnerships category at the LGPro Awards for Excellence.

#Filtered, The Body Image Project was a youth led social media campaign co-designed with Year 8 Killester College students and supported by the Butterfly Foundation and Chisholm Institute.

The project reached thousands of people with messages designed to help normalise conversations around body image and empower youth to challenge unrealistic body standards.

The judges said of the program: "#Filtered exemplifies best practice in youth engagement and demonstrates the council's commitment to supporting youth-led initiatives that address complex social issues with creativity, empathy and impact".

More trees for Noble Park



Noble Park locals are set to see 180 extra street trees spring up in their suburb by the end of winter.

The new street trees are 1.5 to 2 metres tall and are in addition to 400 street and park trees scheduled for planting across Noble Park by the end of August as part of Council's commitment to increasing canopy cover.

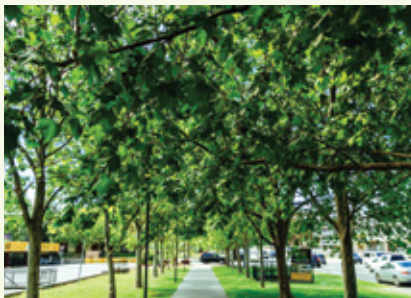
"We're going to plant a tree in every vacant street tree location in central Noble Park and then start planting trees in the surrounding streets," Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Jim Memeti said.

The extra 180 trees are funded by a \$155,000 developer payment. Council negotiated the payment to offset the removal of a River Red Gum at the 51A Douglas Street affordable housing project site.

"We've also collected 400 seeds from the River Red Gum and taken them to a local nursery to be prepared for planting. We're safely storing remaining viable seeds and the wood from the felled tree for future use."

The offset payment covers planting, as well as maintenance and seed propagation for the next two years.

"This is a fantastic outcome for our community and environment," Cr Memeti said.



Greening Our City

- ▶ 2389 trees were planted during the 2024-25 financial year as part of Council's 15-year Street Tree Planting Plan. This is on top of 2795 trees planted during 2023-24.
- ▶ A further 20,000 indigenous seedlings were planted to assist with increasing canopy, and to strengthen and increase biodiversity.
- ▶ 11 community planting days were held in 2024-25 including Adopt-A-Park program, National Tree Day events and Alex Wilkie Spring Thing.



Visit www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity-nature-and-wildlife/trees to find out more.

Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day

Getting rid of unwanted household rubbish has been made easy through our regular Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days.

Broken household appliances, unwanted mattresses and old bicycles are among the items accepted at the drop off days, which are held four times a year.

E-waste can't be put into kerbside bins for collection, but you can dispose of it for free at the drop off events.

E-waste includes any product that has a plug, cord or battery, and includes things such as kettles, toasters, toys, televisions, computers and whitegoods (like washing machines and fridges).

Many of these items contain valuable materials that can be recycled and made into new products. Some of them also contain hazardous materials that can be harmful to the environment if disposed of in the wrong way.

Join us for the next Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day.

At Greaves Reserve, 20 Bennet Street, Dandenong, on Saturday 23 August from 8am-1pm.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/recycle-day to find out more and register to receive SMS reminders about upcoming drop off days.

Paying your rates

If you own a property in Greater Dandenong, you will shortly receive your rates notice for 2025-26.

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

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

We offer flexible options that help you spread the payments across the year, including by direct debit from a bank account, credit or debit card.

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

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

This year's notice will include a payment for the Emergency Services Volunteers Fund. Councils across Victoria have been tasked with collecting this fee on behalf of the State Government.

Councils previously collected the Fire Services Levy through rates notices,

however the new levy will collect funding for other emergency services, making the charge higher than in previous years.

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



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

Memories of Dandenong Oasis



As work begins on the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, we are inviting our community to share their memories of Dandenong Oasis since it opened in 1976.

A special memory board has been installed at Dandenong Oasis where guests can tell us what they've loved about Dandenong Oasis and what they're looking forward to with the new centre opening in 2027.

Memories, stories and photos are also being captured through our website.

We would love to hear your stories too. We look forward to sharing some of your memories in the months ahead.



Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/memories-dandenong-oasis to share your memories.

Staying safe online

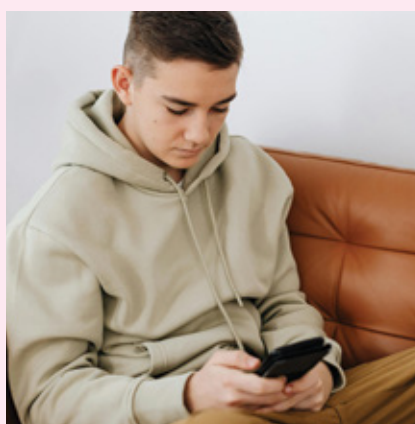


Earlier this year, the Netflix series *Adolescence* shone a spotlight on the challenges young people face online.

The show sparked important conversations about online safety, especially for young men navigating social media, gaming and relationships.

Responding to this our Youth and Family Services team unpacked how young people use social media in a recent Greater Dandenong Youth Network meeting.

Engaging subject matter experts Project Rockit and the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, the meeting upskilled local youth workers, professionals and service providers on how the community can proactively support young people's safety online.



For local families seeking support, the eSafety Commissioner offers trusted resources, including a dedicated section for young men online (esafety.gov.au/research/young-men-online).



Visit esafety.gov.au for practical advice on staying safe and respectful online.



Nominations are now open for the 2026 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

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

Our annual Australia Day Awards are a chance to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that have made a positive difference in our community.

Nominations are open across the following categories:

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

Nominations close on Monday 15 September.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Australia-day-awards or phone 8571 1000 for more information or to make a nomination.



love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Celebrating libraries

Library and Information Week is an annual celebration that highlights the vital role libraries and information services play in our communities.

This year, the week ran from Monday 28 July to Sunday 3 August with the theme "To Read or Not to Read", and promoted how libraries support learning, creativity and access to information, enriching our personal, professional and community lives.

STEAM Festival

STEAM Festival is held every August and celebrates everything Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths.

Enjoy some fantastic special events, workshops and programs for adults and children. Here are some highlights:

Stars and Planets

Tuesday 5 August
4.30pm–5.30pm at
Dandenong Library

Investigate our universe in this hands-on workshop with plenty of out of this world experiments. For ages 7–11 years.



eSafety Escape Room

Tuesday 26 August
4pm–5.30pm at
Springvale Library

Solve puzzles in our cyber security themed escape room. Can you and your friends escape before time runs out? Suited for ages 12 and above.

Children's Book Week

Get ready for dress-up storytime sessions and creative programs for children that celebrate the Children's Book Week theme for 2025 *Book an Adventure*.

Pirate Puffy Pants

Saturday 23 August
2.30pm–3.30pm at
Springvale Library

Join us for a magical adventure with Pirate Puffy Pants. For ages 3–11 years.



Adult Programs

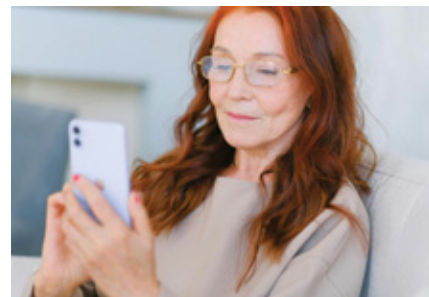
Our libraries have adult programs that support the development of literacy, life-long learning and creativity for all ages.

Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out what's on. Here are some highlights:

Digitising Memorable Moments – Tech Tricks

Friday 8 August
2.30pm–3.30pm at
Springvale Library

Save your precious memories and learn how to use a digital film scanner to digitise film negatives.



Social Media – Safe Online Surfing

Thursday 14 August
10.30am–11.30am at
Springvale Library

Covers essential topics such as protecting your personal information, buying and selling online and using social media safely.

Introduction to Canva – Tech Tricks

Friday 15 August
2.30pm–3.30pm at
Dandenong Library

Find out how to use this online program to give your photos a new life and turn them into something fun.



Author Talk

Wednesday 20 August
2.30pm at Springvale Library

Join us for an engaging talk with Christian White as he discusses his latest thriller *The Ledge*.

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre



HOME 25 – Invisible Cities

Closes 27 September

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

Invisible Cities is a roving exhibition presented across multiple venues spanning several blocks throughout central Dandenong, including locations such as Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Drum Theatre, Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens and the Dandenong Market. The exhibition, like HOME, tells a shared story – of displacement, belonging, connection to place and Country – through many different perspectives.

Re-worlding with RMIT Play Lab

**Every Saturday throughout August,
10am–1pm**

**Walker Street Gallery and
Arts Centre**

So, you want to imagine a different world? Reworlding embraces actions for change, do-it-together skills and speculative design to answer the question: when one world collapses, how do we build the next? The game was designed using research provided by Aboriginal Elders, urbanists, designers, artists, policymakers and game makers.

Market Memoirs

**Saturdays until September 20,
10am to 2pm**

**Dandenong Market – Look for our
cart in the food court**

Every stall has a story. Wander through Dandenong Market each Saturday until September 20 and discover *Market Memoirs* – a series of intimate interviews with vendors sharing their journeys of finding home. Part oral history, part love letter to place, these lived stories are tucked between fresh produce and handmade goods, waiting to be read, remembered and felt.

Do you want to immerse yourself into the *HOME 25 – Invisible Cities* but can only visit on weekends? We have you sorted with extended weekend opening hours from 24 June to 27 September.

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre –

Wednesday–Saturday, 11am to 3pm. Walker Street Gallery will continue opening on Saturdays until the end of December.

Drum Theatre –

Monday–Friday, 10am to 4pm,
Saturdays, 11am to 3pm

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Garden –

Wednesday–Thursday, 10am to 2pm, Saturdays, 11am to 3pm



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

Connect with us

Follow us:

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

Facebook

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

Drum Theatre

Victorian State Ballet's Swan Lake

**Thursday 7 August, Encore
performance at 10.30am**

Saturday 9 August at 7.30pm

Sunday 10 August at 2pm

This is a timeless, world famous, classical ballet by Russian composer Tchaikovsky.

The Grandparents Club 2

Friday 29 August, 7pm

We're on the SS Grand Times and our heroes are all grandparents, "not old, just old-er" and ready to cut loose.

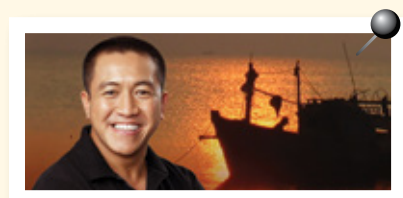


Coming in September...

Anh Do – The Happiest Refugee Live!

Tuesday 2 September, 7.30pm

Anh's stage show combines stand-up comedy with real life stories, photos and filmed pieces to retell his amazing story.



Connect with us

Facebook

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

Sign up for newsletter at

drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



Tracking our responses in real time

To help our community understand how we respond to local needs, Council has created a Customer Request Dashboard on our website.

The easy-to-read dashboard provides information about how well we are responding to several of our most popular customer requests, including dumped rubbish, illegally parked vehicles, graffiti, tree branches and blocked drains.

These categories represent a high volume of requests we receive from residents and businesses. The dashboard records how many requests we receive each month, along with how quickly we respond to them.

This tool is designed to keep our community informed and give you confidence in how we are responding to requests.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/customer-request-dashboard to see how we're working to make Greater Dandenong a cleaner, safer and more connected city.

Have your say

Engagement to help shape our draft Economy and Place Strategy will commence this month.

To keep up to date with opportunities to inform the draft strategy visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/economy-and-place-strategy



For more information or any questions regarding the project, email the Greater Dandenong Business Development and Investment team at business@cgd.vic.gov.au

The pack is keeping it local



A pet food company has grown astronomically since opening its advanced manufacturing site in Dandenong South in December 2023.

Lyka Wellness started by running a single shift producing eight batches a day, the facility now operates three shifts pumping out 45 batches every day.

"It's been an incredible journey – very rewarding, but challenging as well," said Lee Williams, Lyka's Manufacturing Director, Victoria.

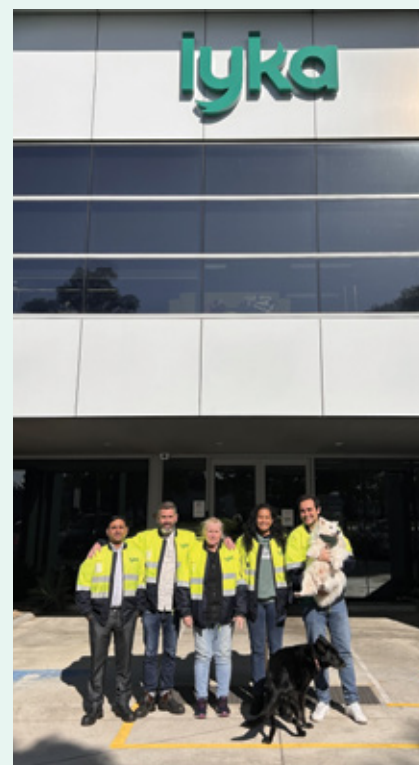
Founded in 2018 by Anna Podolsky and vet Dr Matthew Muir, Lyka Wellness was born after Anna went on a mission to improve her dog Lyka's health through home-cooked meals. The results spoke for themselves – Lyka had more energy, a healthier coat and less tooth decay.

Today Lyka delivers over 70 million meals across Australia.

The Dandenong South site produces kangaroo, beef and chicken recipes, while the NSW pack (as Lyka refer to their staff) handles lamb, fish and turkey.

When Greater Dandenong Council's Business Development and Investment team first shared the Lyka story in 2023, they spoke of hoping to employ 100 staff by 2025. Today the Dandenong South site employs more than 100 staff from diverse backgrounds.

"We love being in Dandenong South. I love the diversity in the team because you get to work with people from different backgrounds from countries around the world that you have not had the opportunity to meet and work with before," Lee said.



"There's a lot of smiles, a lot of laughs, a lot of collaboration working together to overcome our challenges, but it is a real fun and happy business to work for," Lee said.

Lyka also supports dog rescue organisations, donating tens of thousands of meals to Victorian-based groups like Forever Friends Animal Rescue, Victorian Dog Rescue and Resource Group Inc, Greyt Greys Rescue, and local organisation the Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS).

"As a rescue organisation, we rely heavily on the generosity of community and business donations to help us care for the animals before they find their forever home," AAPS CEO Megan Benton said.

"We often find ourselves caring for over 200 animals each month until they find their new home. Lyka's contribution of pet food has set many tails wagging in our shelter and we are grateful for that."

Despite the challenges of its rapid expansion, Lyka continues to grow and thrive and is installing a second production line.



Visit lyka.com.au to learn more.

Behind the Scenes at Council

Meet Stephen Hart, a Youth Development Officer in the Engagement and Participation team within the Youth and Family Services team.

Tell us about what you do at Council?

I plan, lead and deliver programs and events for young people aged 12–25 who have a strong connection to Greater Dandenong. I work alongside various teams across Council, community organisations and with young people directly to create meaningful opportunities for engagement and growth.

What is the most rewarding thing about your job?

I'm going to cheat and squeeze in two. Firstly, the young people I work alongside, whether it's through a one-off activity or a program like Amplify Youth Committee or IMPACT Volunteering. Watching them grow in confidence and ability is awesome. Secondly, the team I work with

are some of the most passionate, hardworking professionals in the youth sector. Plus, they all know how to have a good laugh.

What does a typical week look like?

No two weeks are the same, which is part of the appeal of being a Youth Worker. Regular parts of my week include delivering programs at schools and after school, internal meetings and project check-ins. We are also always planning for upcoming events and programs, whether that's during the term or school holidays. I also co-facilitate the Amplify Youth Committee alongside two phenomenal colleagues, meeting weekly to plan and deliver events and to support young people in the development of event-management skills.

Why did you pursue a career in this field?

I initially worked in Health Promotion, doing my placement at a neighbouring council creating community resources. During this time, I networked with a Team Leader for Greater Dandenong's Youth Services and was offered an opportunity to apply for a position.



I've always been drawn to supporting people of all ages, but since working with young people I know I've found my passion.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to spend time with my partner, family, friends and cat, Narla. I love cozy nights at home and getting in early nights where possible. I might work with young people but I feel like an aging soul who needs my rest.

Empowering young voices in Greater Dandenong

Young people have spoken about wanting more opportunities to shape their community and we have invited them to do just that.

At the 2024 Youth Leadership Forum a clear theme emerged among participating youth leaders from across Greater Dandenong. They want more opportunities for young people to learn, lead, participate, and shape their community—especially those from culturally diverse backgrounds.

In response, Greater Dandenong Youth Services have teamed up with local youth and community organisations to develop a Youth Leadership Action Plan.

This plan is all about creating meaningful opportunities and pathways for young people to step into leadership roles, have their voices heard and make a real impact in the community. We are delivering on this action plan with a project called the Youth Leadership Collective (YLC).

The YLC project is supported by a group of 10 youth leaders, known as 'The Collective.' This group will play a key role in guiding Council and partners to determine our priorities as we deliver on the 'action plan'.

Activities will include boosting 'leadership' learning, increasing youth representation and amplifying young voices. By supporting youth leadership, we're helping build a community that reflects the voices and values of its young people.



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

What our community loves

As part of our community consultation for the Council Plan 2025–2029 we asked our community what they love most about our city. Here are some of the things we heard.

"That it has lots of dog parks, that I take my dog to. Lots of local shops that I like to shop in. I like that I live in it and my school is there with lots of friends"

"I **love** how the air here is fresh. I **love** how people have bright smiles on their face. I **love** how thoughtful and kind the people are. I **love** how many cultures it has!!"

"I **love** the way everyone is caring and I feel safe here"

"What I **love** most about Greater Dandenong are the community events at the library. They bring the community together and they are completely free"

"I **love** all the places here. Also I like it here because I was born here. This is my home and I **love** my place"

"Beautiful parks and green spaces provide perfect spots for relaxation and recreation. Public transport is efficient, making it easy to explore the region and beyond"

"Friendly people, multiculturalism, good food and shops, amazing produce"

"CGD is welcoming of all people of all sizes, colours, languages and skill set. These people come here because they know they can grow together. Thank you."

"Location, location, location. Access to hospital, doctors, specialists, market. Easy access to freeways"