

OCTOBER 2025

# Greater Dandenong Council News

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 **Greater Dandenong**



## 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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**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 October edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Spring blooms continue to sweeten the air and offer a colourful backdrop to some wonderful programs and events that enrich our community.

The Noble Park Community Centre Art Show celebrates its 20th anniversary from Friday 19 through Sunday 21 October, a milestone exhibition that marks two decades of showcasing local talent, cultural diversity and artistic expression.

Australia celebrates World Teachers' Day on 31 October this year, and it's important to remember how blessed we are to have caring educators who run special programs to support students from all backgrounds and abilities. This includes targeted initiatives that help students who speak languages in addition to English build their skills and succeed alongside their classmates.

The always-popular Seniors Festival returns this month, encouraging older Victorians to engage with each other, discover new interests and celebrate the joys of aging. Events and activities will be held across Victoria, with many being free or low-cost, including the Seniors Festival Afternoon Dance at Springvale Town Hall on Thursday 30 October. Learn more about Seniors Festival activities on page 11.

As you can see from the cover of this issue, I was delighted to be part of the opening celebrations for Keysborough Community Hub. Greater Dandenong has embraced this project from the moment it opened its doors and the excitement is contagious.

May your October be active, healthy and educational!

**Mayor**

**Cr Jim Memeti**



## My City

Rene Dare captured the warmth of the seasonal change as reflected by the glowing, contorted boughs of a Dandenong eucalypt. This image illustrates October in our 2025 Community Calendar.



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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FSC  
Logo

Front cover: Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti stands within the library at the new Keysborough Community Hub

# Community Hub opens



**Keysborough Community Hub was officially opened last month, and visitors are already enjoying the new community space.**

Designed for and with the community, the innovative Hub is a high quality, landmark place creating opportunities to connect for Keysborough residents.

Long Day Care and Kindergarten will be open by January 2026. Following a rigorous selection process Springvale Service for Children was appointed as the early-years provider.

“Springvale Service for Children is a well-established not-for-profit organisation with a strong reputation for community-led inclusive and culturally responsive early years education,” Deputy Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said at the time of the appointment announcement.

“The organisation currently manages four other early-years services within the City of Greater Dandenong including its flagship Springvale facility. It brings



deep local knowledge and experience to this important new service.”

The Hub also features Maternal and Child Health services, parenting programs and community spaces to support connection and wellbeing for families and their children.

The Community Lounge is now open, following the delivery of more than 3000 library items, including colourful junior books, bestselling adult titles and a wide range of materials to relax with. Keep an eye out for programs such as story time and art and craft activities in the makerspace.

The spaces are welcoming and inclusive with sustainability features such as rainwater storage, solar panels and a state-of-the-art heating and cooling system.

To get the most out of the community lounge don't forget to sign up for a Greater Dandenong Libraries membership card.



**You can now visit the Hub at 10 Villiers Road, Keysborough, or visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Keysborough-community-hub](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Keysborough-community-hub) for more information.**

# Harmony Square letters



**The iconic Harmony Square letters have returned, with a new design, fresh materials and a powerful purpose.**

This first activation is part of HOME 25: Invisible Cities, created in partnership with WAYSS, POP Creative Collective and Greater Dandenong City Council. Workshops with WAYSS participants explored themes of home and homelessness, with stories and drawings contributed directly onto the letters.

The final artwork was led by emerging artist and WAYSS participant Brooke Nicholls, and weaves together drawings, words and experiences shared during the workshop sessions.

These letters are now more than a landmark – they're a canvas for



community voices, curated by the City's Public Art and Placemaking team. From this point onward, the Harmony Park letters will host a changing program of exhibitions using various materials and effects.



**To learn more about public art and art opportunities visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/things-do-and-see/arts-and-culture](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/things-do-and-see/arts-and-culture)**



## Councillor Contacts



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MONDAY

13

OCTOBER

MONDAY

27

OCTOBER

## 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 13 October**
- **Monday 27 October**

➔ **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)**

## Behind the Scenes: Mark Daou



Mark started his career with the City of Greater Dandenong in 2019 as a driver operator working with the Roads and Drains team. He's now the Cleansing Foreperson, managing a hardworking team of 30 that keeps our city tidy.

***Your role as Cleansing Foreperson keeps you on your toes at all hours, it seems. Give us an idea of what your work for Council includes.***

I'm not sure where to start because it includes so much—everything you can see, smell, touch, walk past, walk on in our public areas has to stay clean and safe. That's footpath, curb and channel sweeping, residential and industrial sweeping, carpark attending and street litter, dumped-rubbish collection and more. That's where my crew and I do our work. We do it every day and at all hours.

My day starts at 6am, but our crews' shifts are staggered throughout the day and night. We have a daily meeting to discuss what needs to be done, and cleaning crews, who focus

on different parts of cleaning and maintenance make sure all of that work gets done. That includes almost everything you can think of—toilets, barbecues, parks and reserves, benches, streets, footpaths, waste bins, nature strips. Whatever you can name needs someone to keep it clean and working as it should. The community counts on it.

***How does your workday end?***

I make a broad circuit of the municipality to make certain that the job has been completed, and I also keep an eye out for anything that may not be reported, like graffiti or dumped rubbish. Those are always things that take extra effort, but they need to be addressed. People may not think about how they get done, but they certainly notice if they are neglected. People count on us.

***Have any days remained in your memory as unusual?***

An older resident had kept some valuables in his freezer, unbeknownst to his wife, apparently. One day, his wife went on a cleaning spree and tossed out everything, treasure and all. We had to find it for him, and we did. Our contractor's pick-ups are well-enough organised that we were able to limit the search to just one small part of the truck and we found it within half an hour. I was happy we could help him with that. Like I said, people count on us.

## ► Keysborough South Ward



**It's been such a pleasure to see the Keysborough Community Hub open.**

**In our first week, we welcomed over 2200 visitors and residents borrowed more than a quarter of the library's collection. Thank you to everyone who advocated for this resource more than a decade ago. Your efforts made it a reality.**

Even when the Hub is closed, it stays lively. Families often visit on weekends, and the outdoor areas are popular with locals of all ages. I've seen people hanging out, shooting hoops and studying together.

The Hub is more than just a library. It's a space for connection, creativity and learning. We have community rooms, outdoor gathering spaces (including a BBQ!) and play areas. Keep an eye out for upcoming programs including story time, workshops and arts and crafts in the makerspace.

While the Hub offers on-site parking, I encourage residents to walk, ride or take public transport where possible. I understand public transport options are currently limited, but I'll continue advocating for improved public transport across our area.

I'll also be hosting bi-weekly Councillor Catch-Ups at the Hub. These are casual chats where you can share ideas, raise concerns or simply connect over a cuppa. Dates are at [isabellado.com/events](https://isabellado.com/events) or on my socials.

Growing up, I spent countless hours at Springvale Library. It was where I read, studied and connected with friends. These spaces shape who we are and I'm so grateful that Keysborough now has a hub that can do the same for future generations.

A special thank you to Natasha Petkovic, Sarah Hill and the entire team at the Hub for their incredible work in making this launch so successful.

## Cr Isabella Do



**Remember, you can reach me at [Isabella.Do@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Isabella.Do@cgd.vic.gov.au) or call 0427 161 104.**

## Cr Bob Milkovic



**I'm happy to witness the resurfacing of Gladstone Road. Making sure this arterial at the centre of Dandenong North is in top condition makes life more enjoyable and safer for us all.**

There's a lot of interest and excitement in our community about the plans for the new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, which we plan to open in 2027. I hope everyone in our ward can share in that excitement.

This project represents a major transformation of the much-loved Dandenong Oasis, a local landmark that holds special meaning for so many of us in Dandenong North. Some of my earliest memories after arriving in Australia in 1998 are from the Oasis. It was a welcoming place where newcomers like me felt right at home – a space to stay active, meet others and feel like part of the community.

The Oasis has served our community with heart and purpose for many years. Now, we've simply outgrown what it can offer and that's a positive sign of a growing, thriving city.



The new Dandenong Wellbeing Centre will truly reflect the vibrant community it serves. It will be a modern, inclusive space that welcomes people of all ages, cultures and abilities. With swimming pools, fitness areas, rehabilitation

## ► Dandenong North Ward

services, social spaces and programs that support our city's diversity, the centre will promote both physical and mental wellbeing across Greater Dandenong.

It's exciting to think of all the people and groups the new facility will bring together, including our children and their families in the years to come. I look forward to seeing how it helps build a healthier, stronger, and more connected community for us all.

I can't wait to see it open.



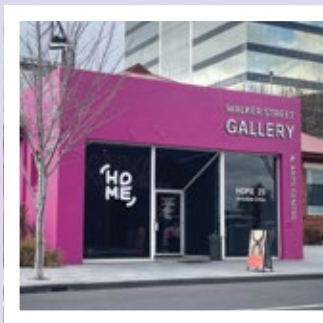
**As always, you can reach me at [Bob.Milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Bob.Milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au) or 0435 237 051.**



# Services we delivered in 2024–25

## Supported seniors

- ▶ **22,581** meals were delivered to eligible older residents and eligible residents with a disability.
- ▶ **3,800** weekly community bus trips for older residents for shopping and medical appointments.
- ▶ **85,706** hours of in-home support services were provided to eligible older residents and eligible residents with a disability.



## Creative enrichment

- ▶ **87,000+** people engaged in creative programs across more than **300** events, including art exhibitions and creative programs.
- ▶ **61** community projects were supported through grant funding.
- ▶ **291** events held at the Drum Theatre, **five** exhibitions held at the Walker Street Gallery, and public art grew with new commissions, digital screens and more accessible infrastructure.
- ▶ **10** major festivals were delivered engaging a total of **69,374** people. Support was also provided on event applications for **348** events within the municipality.

## Engaged community members



- ▶ **3,300** community participants consulted for the development of Council's strategic documents in 2024.
- ▶ **400** residents surveyed yielding the highest overall satisfaction score of all Council's participating in the Metropolis Research Community Satisfaction Survey 2025.
- ▶ **37** students engaged from **14** primary schools continued their participation in the Children's Advisory Group.

## Healthy, active children



- ▶ **7,000+** children enrolled in our Maternal and Child Health service.
- ▶ **2,913** young people were involved in leadership and personal development opportunities.
- ▶ **15,428** hours of youth and family services was provided to **226** vulnerable families with **450** children.

## Nurturing business opportunities

- Nearly **400** people attended the Dandenong Career and Support Expo in March 2025, with **36** stalls and **90** organisation experts, discovering career opportunities and supports for jobseekers.
- **13** free workshops were hosted by our business team for **223** people running small businesses locally.
- **286** jobseekers, ten local employers and two educational organisations participated in the 'Learn from a Local Employer' initiative.



## Library loans and programs

- **821,273** people visited Dandenong and Springvale Libraries and **42,028** people participated in library activities.
- **1,080** activities and partnerships supported **8,457** community adults and young adults to participate in work, entrepreneurship, education, training, social and civic life.
- **651** items were borrowed from the Menzies Avenue Little Library.



## Happy, active lifestyles

- **Seven** one-off events and **seven** multi-week programs were offered to the community as part of the Make Your Move Physical Activity Strategy.
- **818,570** registered visitors to Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and Dandenong Oasis.
- **61** community projects funded to support health and wellbeing.

## Healthier environment

- **2,389** trees and **22,000** indigenous plants were planted in public spaces.
- **220** children planted **3,900** native and indigenous plants across six local reserves in the Adopt-a-Park program.
- **82%** of Council's operational emissions were reduced as it continues to transition away from gas as a fuel source.



## Recycling and waste

- **21,053** households booked their annual, free, hard-waste collection.
- **2.97** million red-lid bins, **1.48** million yellow-lid recycling bins and **1.26** million green-waste bins were collected.
- **46.46%** of kerbside collection waste was diverted from landfill.



# What's On October 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		<b>Deckchair Movies: Tom &amp; Jerry (G)</b> Springvale Hub 6pm–8.30pm 	<b>Digital Skills for Mandarin Speakers</b> Springvale Hub 1pm–3pm	<b>Yoga and meditation</b> Jan Wilson Community Centre 11.15am	<b>Dandenong Parkrun</b> 8am 	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Multicultural Anxiety Support Group</b> Online 6pm–7.30pm	<b>Nature Play at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve</b> 10am	<b>Strength Training</b> Jan Wilson Centre 8.30am 	<b>Adult Exercise at Jan Wilson Centre</b> 9.30am	<b>Zumba Gold at Jan Wilson Centre</b> 10am–11am	<b>Springvale Urban Harvest and Clothes Swap</b> Springvale Hub 1pm 	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>Simply Fitness at Jan Wilson Centre</b> 8.30am–9.30am		<b>Baby Bounce</b> Dandenong Library 10.30am	<b>Encore-Niusia</b> Drum Theatre 10.30am		<b>Dandenong Parkrun</b> 8am	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Mental Health Support</b> Springvale Hub 10am	<b>Nature Play at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve</b> 10am 		<b>Multifaith Meditation</b> Dandenong Hospital 2.30pm–3pm	<b>Library Help for Adults</b> Dandenong Library Drop in 2pm–4pm	<b>Family Fun</b> Springvale Library 3pm–4pm 	
27	28	29	30	31		
<b>Grow Mental Wellbeing</b> Dandenong Living and Learning Centre 10am–12pm		<b>Women's Empowerment Workshops</b> Paddy O'Donoghue Centre 10.30am–12.30pm	<b>Storytime</b> Springvale Library 10.30am–11am 			



## Hello City of Greater Dandenong



**It has been such an awesome experience being Junior Mayor of this amazing community.**

**I hope you've taken advantage of these sunny days and spent time outdoors. I have been enjoying bike rides, going for walks with my grandparents, and kicking the footy with my family.**

As Junior Mayor, I was given the opportunity to deliver a speech at one of our citizenship ceremonies, and it was such a special moment. It was really cool seeing people from so many different countries become new Australians. I met people from Norway, Albania, Myanmar, and many other countries. It just shows how diverse and



welcoming Australia is. Did you know the City of Greater Dandenong is the most diverse community in all of Victoria because of how many different cultures live here together?

One of the things I really love about our city is how well it listens to young people. Every month, all the school captains from

local schools come together to share ideas and talk about how we can make the City of Greater Dandenong better for kids. We have come up with fun ideas, such as holding scavenger hunts at our local parks, a tennis tournament and children's entertainment at the Palm Plaza on the weekends. Every year Council hosts the Greater Dandenong Children's Festival (20 September – 11 October this year) where we celebrate through dance, music, food, movies and other activities. Check the Council website for details at [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

I'm super grateful for the chance to represent this community. Thank you, Greater Dandenong, for supporting young people and for being such a great place to live.

**From your Junior Mayor,  
Aaya**



## Youth Summit 2025: Your Voice, Your Future



**On Wednesday 6 August, Youth and Family Services – alongside the 2025 Young Leaders – hosted Your Voice, Your Future, Council's Youth Summit at Springvale City Hall. The event gathered 140 Year-9 and Year-10 students from eight secondary schools in Greater Dandenong to explore issues that matter most to young people.**

Keynote speaker Tim Wamala inspired students by sharing his journey in the music industry, on the theme of 'finding and using your voice'.

Students reflected on what they believed to be the key issues of concern for

young people. Their top three selections included mental health (anxiety), stress (school/study) and education (motivation). The students brainstormed possible solutions, providing insights as to what support they may need.

The Youth Summit, held every three years, is an opportunity for Council to hear directly from secondary-school students and support their leadership, ideas and active involvement in shaping our community.

Council will prepare a summary report of key findings from students' contributions and feedback and distribute it to schools and the community to view.



**To learn more about youth services visit [youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)**



## Halloween

**Celebrate Halloween with Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services and the Amplify Youth Committee. Come to a free, all-ages event with spooky vibes on Friday 31 October from 4.30pm–7.30pm at the Springvale Community Hub (5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale). Enjoy live performances, food stalls, free activities, costume competition and an airbrush-tattoo stall. Come in costume and bring your friends for an afternoon of thrills, chills and community fun.**

This event has been co-designed with the Amplify Youth Committee. Amplify (formerly known as FReeZA) is a Victorian Government initiative supporting young Victorians aged 12–25 to get involved in their community by planning and running drug, alcohol and smoke-free events.

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

## New Neighbourhood Playground Opens at Barry Powell Reserve



**Noble Park North has a new neighbourhood playground at Barry Powell Reserve.**

Set within the existing parkland, the playground has a strong nature-play theme and was shaped by community feedback gathered in 2023. Locals shared their ideas for renewing the Barry Powell Reserve East neighbourhood playground, and those ideas have helped bring this new space to life.

The playground features a flying fox, a six-way swing, interactive musical instruments, a tree house and a ropes course – offering new fun and adventures for our young people.

More than 2000 new plants and over 50 trees have been added, creating a green setting that will continue to grow and evolve over time.

A new picnic shelter has also been installed next to the existing BBQ,

making it easier for families and friends to enjoy a day out together.

Where possible, equipment has been built using timber, helping the playground blend naturally into its surroundings and supporting a more sustainable design.

Visitors are encouraged to explore the winding paths and gardens that surround the play area and enjoy the changing landscape as the trees and plants mature.

The new playground is a great example of how community input can help shape public spaces that are fun, inclusive and connected to nature.



**For more information about parks and open spaces, visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-spaces](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/open-spaces)**



## Indigenous Student Pathway Program



**Council is pleased to support the new Indigenous Students**

**Pathway Program, which launched on Monday 21 July 2025 at Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve in Springvale South.**

This initiative provides a culturally safe and supportive pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to gain industry exposure and work on Country, under the leadership of Debbie Edwards, Student Services Lead at Hampton Park Secondary College.

Council supports the program by providing access to Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve for weekly classroom sessions and supporting the delivery of practical experience through our Bushland Team.

Eight local Indigenous students are participating in this year's pilot program, with students enrolled from Hampton Park Secondary College, Lyndhurst Secondary College, Cranbourne West Secondary College and Narre Warren P-12. The program is being delivered in partnership with EcoSkills, Hampton Park Secondary College, the Department of Education, SELLEN, Foundational Learning Centre and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Initially running as a VET course in 2025, the program is expected to transition into a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT) in 2026.



## Keep it Clean – book a hard rubbish collection

**Dumped rubbish makes our streets look messy, affects the environment and costs the community to clean up.**

Leaving rubbish on nature strips contributes to pollution, can attract pests and poses health risks. If caught, dumpers also risk big fines.

Booking a hard rubbish collection can help keep on top of unwanted rubbish and save our community the complications and costs associated with the clean-up.

Every household is entitled to one free hard rubbish collection each year.



**Visit [hardrubbishmelbourne.com.au/dandenong](http://hardrubbishmelbourne.com.au/dandenong).**



# Seniors Festival 2025



## Celebrate our Centenarians

We want to hear from residents or family members of people who are aged 100 years or older, so we can celebrate Greater Dandenong residents who have reached this impressive milestone.

Nominate a centenarian and we will celebrate them at a morning tea with the Mayor on Tuesday 21 October.

To make a nomination contact the Positive Ageing Team via email at [positiveageing@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:positiveageing@cgd.vic.gov.au) or phone 8571 5556

## Seniors Festival Afternoon Dance

**Springvale Town Hall,  
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale  
Thursday 30 October, 1pm–4pm**

Featuring live entertainment by Band O' Gold. Cost is \$10, payable at the door and afternoon tea is provided.

Bookings essential on 8571 5556.

## Living Well Expo

**Springvale Town Hall,  
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale  
Friday 10 October, 10am–2.30pm**

Join us for a free, fun-filled event celebrating active, healthy and connected living for seniors!

Discover local services and support from a range of stallholders, enjoy engaging activities and hear from guest speakers.

To register or for more information contact 8571 5556.

## Stronger Together Community Forum

**Supper Room, Springvale Town Hall,  
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale  
Thursday 16 October, 10am–12pm**

Join us to learn about your rights in aged care, how advocates can support you and ways to identify and report elder abuse. Get practical tips on staying safe online and avoiding scams. Hear from Victoria Police and Elder Rights Australia about the help available – from counselling and legal advice to victim support service. Light morning tea provided.

Bookings essential on 8571 5556.



**For more information about the Seniors Festival visit**  
**[greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/seniors-festival)**

# love your libraries

Libraries  
Change Lives

## Libraries at Dusk



### Henna Workshop

**Thursday 9 October 6.30pm  
at Keysborough Community Hub**

Learn about the cultural significance, practice basic design techniques and create your own temporary body art using natural henna paste.

### Rangoli Art Workshop

**Thursday 16 October 6.30pm  
at Dandenong Library**

Celebrate colour and culture in this workshop, you will learn how to create beautiful geometric and floral patterns using coloured powders and stencils.

### Batik Workshop

**Thursday 23 October 6.30pm  
at Springvale Library**

Dive into the world of textile art with this Batik workshop led by multidisciplinary artist Fathiah Raihan.



### Iranian Pomegranate Salad

**Thursday 30 October 6.30pm  
at Dandenong Library**

Join Leila, an Iranian cooking instructor from Free to Feed, for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn to make a vibrant Iranian-style Pomegranate Salad.

## Art Series – Abstract Crochet

**Tuesday 14 October 6.30pm–8.30pm  
at Dandenong Library**

**Tuesday 21 October 6.30pm–8.30pm  
at Springvale Library**

Explore your creativity with local artist Kasia Bourke. Design a unique, fashionable collar or bib using freeform techniques. This intuitive workshop fosters mindfulness, self-expression and creativity, perfect for crafting a one-of-a-kind accessory.

## Seniors Festival (Sunday 5 October)

### Seniors Laughing Yoga

**Sunday 5 October 10.30am–11.30am  
at Dandenong Library**

Boost your mood, relax your body, and share a laugh! Join our gentle Laughing Yoga Workshop designed for seniors. Through playful breathing, light movement, and contagious laughter, you'll leave feeling refreshed and connected.

### Bibliotherapy with Sonia Tsakalakis

**Sunday 5 October 11.30am–12.30pm  
at Dandenong Library**

Join this taster session to facilitated self-reflection using stories and poems read aloud.

“Good books make you reread them. Great books make you re-examine your soul.” – Sonya Tsakalakis



For more information about things to do at your local library visit [libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au)

## School Holiday Activities

School holidays start on Friday 20 September and run until Sunday 5 October. Both Springvale and Dandenong Libraries will run activities throughout. Visit [libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au) for more information.

Here are some highlights:

### Frederico Boogie

**Wednesday 1 October  
2.30pm–3.30pm  
at Dandenong Library**

Dressed to impress and always ready to move, Frederico Boogie brings a burst of colour and circus magic wherever he goes. With juggling tricks, interactive magic and a tango danced on a unicycle, get ready for an interactive experience that is full of surprises. Presented by Fun Arts Creative Entertainment. This performance is suitable for all ages

### Teddy Bear Storytime

**Thursday 2 October  
6.30pm–7.30pm at Springvale Library**

Teddies take over the library at bedtime storytime. Bring your favourite toy or stuffed animal and come along in your pyjamas. We'll read some wonderful stories together and share the magic of reading. This event is suitable for families.

### Think Tank – Forensic Detective

**Saturday 11 October  
3pm–4pm at Dandenong Library**

**Saturday 18 October  
3pm–4pm at Springvale Library**

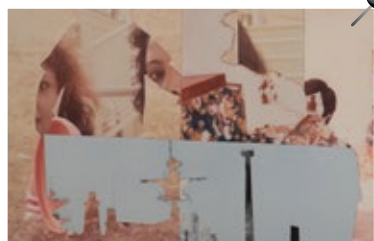
Can you crack the case and catch the thief? Use real forensic science techniques, like pH tests, handwriting analysis, fingerprint dusting and more to pinpoint the culprit. This program is suitable for ages 7–11 years. Presented by Mad About Science.



# ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

## Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

### New exhibitions opening in October



#### Ibrahim Ahmed

**25 October 2025 –  
16 January 2026**

*Amidst the Absence, A Present is Felt* explores absence not as emptiness, but as presence – felt, remembered and embodied. It invites viewers into a conversation about identity, erasure and resilience.

#### Opening event

Register for the opening event on Saturday 25 October at 6pm where you will experience an evening of art, shared food and stories as we gather to explore absence, identity and quiet resistance.

Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ibrahim-ahmed-exhibition](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ibrahim-ahmed-exhibition) to register and to read more about this unique exhibition.

#### The Place to Be – Dandenong Town Hall

**15 October 2025 –  
20 February 2026**

**Benga House (Heritage Hill  
Museum and Historic Garden)  
and Drum Theatre**

Journey through the rich history of the Dandenong Town Hall – exploring photographs, stories, fashion and memories – and celebrate how this remarkable building continues to evolve as Dandenong's home for culture and connection.



Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/exhibitions/place-be-dandenong-town-hall](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/exhibitions/place-be-dandenong-town-hall) to read more about this beautiful exhibition.

#### Connect with us

Follow us:

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

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

## Drum Theatre



#### Encore – Niusia

**Thursday 16 October, 10.30am**

Journey with Beth as she tells the captivating story of her grandmother Niusia, a Holocaust survivor. Reading, interviewing and weaving memories and handed-down stories, Beth sets out to understand her nana's complex legacy and trauma-laden memories, love and familial relationships.

Join Niusia creator Beth Paterson and journalist Nicole Chvastek after the show for a relaxed Q&A exploring the play's themes of memory, identity and complex legacies.

## Coming in November

### Hits from Elton John and the Divas

**Saturday 8 November, 7pm–9.30pm**

This is an electrifying two-act show featuring the critically acclaimed Matthew Hadgraft performing Elton John's greatest hits and X Factor sensation Mary Ann Van Der Horst delivering powerhouse performances of songs by the world's favourite divas.

Their performances will have you singing and dancing to all the well-known tunes.



### Encore – I Got Rhythm – The Great Gershwins

**Thursday 20 November, 10.30am**

I Got Rhythm – The Great Gershwins is a tribute to many of the great hits and stories behind legendary composers George and Ira Gershwin. Featuring concert pianist virtuoso William Schmidt, international soprano Alison Jones and compere Chris McKenna.

#### Connect with us

Facebook

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Sign up for newsletter at

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

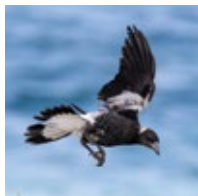
## Shaping our Economy and Place Strategy

**Council is creating an Economy and Place Strategy to help to drive investment, boost jobs and establish meaningful places for people, over the next 5-10 years.**

During August and September, we consulted with businesses, residents and community partners to foster sustainable economic growth, enhance community connection and well-being and strengthen the vibrancy of Greater Dandenong.

Council conducted face-to-face and online facilitated workshops, focus groups, interviews, submissions and Have Your Say surveys. The final strategy will be presented to Council for approval later in the year. We thank all community members who contributed to the process.

## Watch out for swooping birds



**Magpies, mynas, butcherbirds and masked lapwings are birds that swoop during spring, the traditional**

**breeding season, as they defend their territory and protect their young from unsuspecting passers-by.**

Magpies are native, protected birds, and they can get defensive if they think their nests are under threat.

Here are some tips to help you stay safe this swooping season:

- ▶ Try to steer clear of known swooping spots
- ▶ Move calmly and quickly
- ▶ Wear a hat or cover your head
- ▶ Don't harass wildlife or destroy nests

**Learn more and view Victoria's Swooping Bird Map at [wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds](https://wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds)**



## Tamarix eggs

**Tamarix has supplied quality eggs to Melbourne for over six decades, maintaining an outstanding reputation in the industry.**

The business's roots stem back to 1960, when Italian immigrant Agostino Postregna and his wife Alma leased a property in Chapel Road, Keysborough, producing chickens and eggs.

In partnership with extended family, the business continued to grow and eventually relocated to its current site in Bangholme in 1980.

Agostino's son Andrew took over from his late father in 2006, overseeing a capital expansion to two-storey sheds. Tamarix now employs 23 people, including two of Andrew's children, Siena and Sebastian.


Tamarix has about 120,000 birds on site and has plans underway for expansion. They supply eggs to cafes, bakeries and restaurants across Melbourne and have two retail stores at Bangholme and Noble Park.

"We equate to roughly 1-2 per cent of Victoria's egg production, so we're quite small and agile," operations manager Tim Sutton says.

Sustainability is a big focus for the business. Solar panels are fitted on the shed roofs and there are plans to transition to electric delivery vehicles.

Tamarix believes that quality and freshness are what make their eggs popular. They rear their own birds and manufacture the feed. Everything is automated – the egg belts inside the poultry house go directly into the grading pool, where the eggs are immediately sorted and packed, keeping them fresher for the consumer.

"In animal agriculture, it's always quality input, quality output," Tim says. "If you don't look after the animals, they won't look after you."

 [tamarix.com.au](https://tamarix.com.au)





## St Kilda FC Youth Scholarship Program



Four young people from Greater Dandenong have earned the support of the St Kilda Football Club in partnership with Moorabbin Airport (MAP) Scholarship Program. The initiative supports young First Nations and multicultural people to build skills in leadership, resilience and cultural awareness, and encourages personal growth in both sporting and non-sporting contexts.

Harveen Mann, Aarti Goel, Lexi Miklosikova and Jia Bonny were recognised as part of a ceremony at RSEA Park, Moorabbin on 12 May, which featured a keynote address by Australian Olympian Peter Bol.

All four of the young people are eager for the chance to build their skills and confidence. They also support the idea of educating coaches and players to learn more about participants who come from different cultures, to help create equal opportunities for everyone.

## Slowing to 40kph near emergency vehicles



Recent Victorian legislation now requires you to slow your vehicle to 40km/h when passing emergency, incident-response and roadside-assistance vehicles that are stationary or moving slower than 10km/h and have flashing lights or an alarm sounding.

When you see flashing lights (red, blue, magenta or yellow) and the vehicle is stopped or moving slower than 10km/h you must:

- ▶ start to safely slow down to 40km/h (check your rear-view mirror first, especially on high-speed roads)
- ▶ pass the scene at 40km/h speed and be able to stop if directed



- ▶ return to the legal speed limit after you are a safe distance from the scene.

The law applies on all roads, including freeways. You must slow down even if the law enforcement, emergency or special purpose vehicle is in the service lane or on a dividing strip.



For more information, visit the Transport Victoria website at [transport.vic.gov.au](https://transport.vic.gov.au)



## Community Safety Month

Community Safety Month takes place every October as a reminder that everyone has a part to play in keeping our community safe in the City of Greater Dandenong.

To help everyone be informed and learn new ways to stay safe and help build a stronger community together, we have scheduled a collection of free events at various locations throughout Greater Dandenong.

These include:

- ▶ library story times for children
- ▶ the Living Well Expo, with senior-support staff
- ▶ the Stronger Together Forum, hosted by Victoria Police and Elder Rights Australia
- ▶ a self-defence class
- ▶ Coffee with a Cop, where you can chat with local police officers about what concerns you



For information and to register for these events, visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-safety](https://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/community-safety)



# Have your say

Join our online community to participate in shaping our future

 Create an account

 Have your say

 Shape the future

Visit [yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/register](https://yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/register) or scan the QR code to sign up.



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