

DECEMBER 2025 / JANUARY 2026

Greater Dandenong Council News

Christmas in the City

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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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www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



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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 December/January edition of Council News.

I feel incredibly privileged to serve as your Mayor and am looking forward to building on the work we did together while I was Deputy Mayor.

I have lived in Greater Dandenong for more than 30 years. Our home is the most diverse community in Australia, an oasis for people from more than 150 countries around the world.

Our differences are our strength, and we are unified by our sense of belonging to this city of opportunity. Our unity was clear to see when we all came together on White Ribbon Day for our 13th Walk Against Family Violence.

The large crowd taking part in the walk from Dandenong Market to Harmony Square heard from inspirational guest speakers dedicated to ending family violence. I was honoured that this important occasion was one of my first Mayoral appearances.

Speaking of crowds, we have a packed calendar of events this summer – check them out on pages eight and nine. If you like to get out and about in Central Dandenong or have a great new idea for bringing people and fun to the town centre, check out our Dandy Vibes grants program on page five.

Last year Greater Dandenong kids were crowned the Victoria's biggest summer readers and I'm hoping we can make it two years in a row! The BIG Summer Read challenge starts again on December 1, so see page 12 for how to get your 4 to 12 year-olds involved.

I wish you and your families peace and harmony in 2026.

Mayor

Cr Sophie Tan



My City

Acacia leprosa represents the holiday season in our 2025 Community Calendar this year. Ha Vo took this picture of the extraordinary plant on Oakwood Avenue in Dandenong.



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: Getting into the Christmas Spirit at Springvale Community Hub.
Picture: Hilton Stone.

FSC
Logo

Meet your new Mayor and Deputy Mayor



...we will work together respectfully and effectively so you can have confidence in your Council

Greater Dandenong's energetic new Mayor and Deputy Mayor started their term strongly, pledging to get the fundamentals right and serve with integrity.

Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Phillip Danh are unified in their belief that the key to strong leadership, is listening to the community.

"As a Councillor Group, and alongside CEO, Jacqui Weatherill, we will work together respectfully and effectively so you can have confidence in your Council," Mayor Tan said.

"We have heard that you want us to get the fundamentals right and we're energised to deliver the infrastructure and services you need," Cr Danh added.

Key priorities for 2026 include progressing major projects like the Dandenong aquatic and wellbeing centre and finalising the Perry Road upgrade. There are also significant improvements planned for McCrae Street and preparing to rollout the State Government mandated purple glass bin service.

Mayor Tan is a resident of more than 30 years and was elected to Councillor for the Noble Park ward in 2019. She

has served as Deputy Mayor twice including in 2021 and during the last Mayoral term.

Cr Tan said this experience had strengthened her understanding of leadership which is further bolstered by her background in business, commerce and financial services.

"This city is not just where I live, it is my home. I have seen our community grow, face challenges and thrive, and I'm committed to giving back to the place that has given me so much."

Deputy Mayor Danh, the Yarraman Ward Councillor, is a law graduate and said he was drawn to public service by a love of the Greater Dandenong community.

"This is the community I grew up in and lived in my entire life. I've seen first-hand how Local Government can make a difference in people's lives, not just through the big projects but through the everyday services people rely on.

"To me leadership is about making tough but effective decisions in the interests of our residents who want us to get the basics right. They want us to maintain local roads, make sure facilities are accessible and local parks are clean. They want us to ensure the local libraries are open and to advocate on their behalf to keep the cost of living down. Our residents don't ask for much but they deserve what's best."

Both newly-elected Councillors thanked outgoing Mayor, Cr Jim Memeti, for his support and dedicated service to the community during his sixth term as Mayor.

"Jim, your wisdom and experience have guided this Council, and I have valued your advice and mentoring throughout my time as Deputy Mayor," Cr Tan said.



For more information about your Councillors visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/councillors

Councillor Contacts



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Springvale South Ward

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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 8 December**
- **Tuesday 27 January**
(due to the public holiday)



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

DECEMBER /
JANUARY

MONDAY

8

DECEMBER

TUESDAY

27

JANUARY



Season's Greetings from your Councillors



We wish every member of the Greater Dandenong community a joyful and safe festive season surrounded by those you cherish. As we farewell 2025, we want to thank our residents and businesses for their resilience and passion for this city. Together, we look forward to achieving even greater things in 2026.

— Your Councillors



Bring on those Dandy Vibes this summer

Dandy Vibes is an exciting new grants program bringing people and fun to central Dandenong this summer.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dandyvibes to check out what's on or look out for our Dandy Vibes zebra popping up around central Dandenong. If you have a wild idea for a new activation, fill in the form. We'll get right back to you on how Dandy Vibes can bring your idea to life.

Creative ideas, big and small are still welcome. Whether your vibe is big night markets, small pop-ups, performances, light shows, food and culture experiences or anything in between, we would love to hear from you.

Grants available until March 2026 or when the grant pool is exhausted.

Seed Activation – up to \$3,000

Smaller, pop-up activity or creative bursts that plant joy in public spaces

Gather Activation – up to \$5,000

Community-led activities that bring people together and celebrate local culture

Fusion Activation – up to \$15,000

Larger and/or multi-day activity that involves close collaboration between traders and community, energising the precinct and generating economic benefits.

Ring in the New Year



Celebrate the end of 2025 and the start of a new year at the spectacular New Year's Eve event in Dandenong.

Join family, friends and neighbours for this family-friendly evening full of fun and community spirit.

Bring a picnic mat, water bottle and your loved ones, and ring in 2026 in style.

Enjoy multicultural performances, food trucks, food and market stalls, and finish the night with a spectacular fireworks display.

Join us on Wednesday 31 December from 6pm–9.30pm at Wilson Oval (enter off Pultney Street), Dandenong.

The fireworks will start at the family-friendly time of 9.25pm. Please note there will not be fireworks at midnight.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/new-years-eve for more information.

Festive season library hours



Dandenong Library, Springvale Community Hub and Keysborough Community Hub will have modified opening hours over the festive season.

- ▶ Wed 24 Dec – 9am to 5pm
- ▶ Thu 25 Dec – CLOSED
- ▶ Fri 26 Dec – CLOSED
- ▶ Sat 27 Dec – CLOSED
- ▶ Sun 28 Dec – CLOSED
- ▶ Mon 29 Dec – 9am to 5pm
- ▶ Tue 30 Dec – 9am to 5pm

- ▶ Wed 31 Dec – 9am to 5pm
- ▶ Thu 1 Jan – CLOSED
- ▶ Fri 2 Jan – 9am to 5pm
- ▶ Mon 26 Jan – Australia Day – CLOSED

Little Library lockers at Menzies Avenue, Dandenong North and Douglas Street, Noble Park will remain open for holds pick up and return of library books.



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

Christmas in the City



Merry Christmas

The festive spirit returns to Greater Dandenong with bright and oversized Christmas decorations across the city.

In Dandenong, a festive mural adorns the steps leading to Harmony Square, where visitors will be welcomed by an 11-metre Christmas tree taking pride of place next to the Civic Centre. 'Reindeer and Tree' returns to the Lonsdale-Clow Street intersection opposite Dandenong Market.

In Noble Park, the eight-metre Christmas tree has a new home in Aubrey Moss Reserve at the Heatherton Road roundabout, and the Waterloo Star returns to Springvale's Multicultural Place. Everyone's favourite, the giant Santa and reindeer lights up Springvale Community Hub.

The large decorations are complemented by a variety of smaller ones in all activity centres, including Christmas-themed pole surrounds and public-seating decals with newly created designs, metal Christmas trees in Springvale, and 'pole and dove' installations in Noble Park.

We wish our community and local businesses a very Merry Christmas.



Summer fun at your leisure facilities



This summer, Council's leisure facilities have everyone covered, from lazy days poolside to more exciting adventures, there's plenty of fun to be had.

One of Australia's biggest indoor playgrounds, Inflatable World is open at Springers Leisure Centre. Visit inflatableworldoz.com.au/stadiums/springers to find out more.

For those hot summer days take a dip at the Dandenong Oasis or Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC).

When the temperature hits 26 degrees Splash Park opens at NPAC, and when it hits 28 degrees the famous water slide is in action – making this the ultimate family day out.

If you want to explore the latest sporting craze, then padel will have you hooked.

South East Leisure is excited to announce that the fast-growing sport combining elements of tennis and



squash, is now available at NPAC. With purpose-built courts and a welcoming environment, NPAC is proud to be part of the padel movement, offering a new way for the community to stay active, social and engaged. Whether you're a seasoned player or trying padel for the first time, NPAC is the perfect place to play, learn and connect.



Visit southeastpadel.com.au to book your game or learn more.

Christmas fun

Pop in to our community hubs to celebrate Christmas with Santa and do some fun crafts.

Visit the Springvale Community Hub, at 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale for:

3D Christmas Tree Ornaments Workshop
Tuesday 9 December,
4.30pm–5.30pm

A storytime with Santa
On Thursday 11 December,
10.45am–12.15pm

Visit the Keysborough Community Hub, at 10 Villiers Road, Keysborough for:

Toddler Time with Santa
Tuesday 9 December,
10.30am–11.30am

Festive Mini Wreaths
On Tuesday 16 December,
6pm–7.30pm



Christmas giving drive



Support those doing it tough this Christmas and leave a gift under one of the Christmas trees at the Springvale or Keysborough Community Hubs.

The hubs are supporting the Christmas Giving Drive and will be accepting donations until Sunday 14 December.

We are seeking donations of new items and food that will be delivered to community organisations supporting our most vulnerable residents this festive season.

If you are donating food items, please ensure they are within their use by dates, and if donating a toy please consider a gift for a child aged 10 years and over.

Don't wrap your donations, just place them under the tree.



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



Manufacturing powerhouse of Australia

Melbourne's south east region is home to 3,801 manufacturing businesses



The Greater Dandenong region has once again affirmed its reputation as the manufacturing heart of Victoria.

A recent report confirmed the Greater South East Melbourne region has more manufacturing jobs and businesses per capita than any other part of Australia.

The report, released by Deloitte Access Economics describes the region as "Australia's manufacturing powerhouse", producing \$89 billion in output. But it isn't just Victoria's manufacturing heart, it's Australia's industrial engine room.

The numbers back it up: the region is home to 3,801 manufacturing businesses, employing more than 75,000 people. One in four Victorian manufacturing jobs are based here, and the sector generates a staggering

\$89 billion in output. That's more than Adelaide's entire manufacturing footprint and it's overtaken Western Sydney too.

From precision-engineered metal parts for defence and healthcare to coconut yoghurt and cold pressed juices, the diversity is impressive.

Greater South East Melbourne (GSEM) is made up of eight local government areas, including Cardinia, Mornington Peninsula, Casey, Frankston, Kingston, Knox, Monash and Greater Dandenong.

With this momentum GSEM leaders are calling for more investment in transport, skills development and industrial land availability to keep the region thriving.

Curious to learn more? Visit gsem.org.au to discover how the south east is building Australia's future – one innovative product at a time.

Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame success



Greater Dandenong was strongly represented at the 2025 Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Awards.

Hosted by the Minister for Industry and Advanced Manufacturing, Colin Brooks, the awards celebrated excellence, innovation and leadership in Victoria's manufacturing sector. This industry contributes billions to the state's economy and employs hundreds of thousands of people.

With finalists in nine categories, local businesses took out four major awards:

Leader in Gender Equality and Inclusion A.W. Bell (Dandenong South)

Leader in Transport and Rail Volgren (Dandenong South)

Large Manufacturer of the Year Alstom (Dandenong South)

Honour Roll, Service to Industry awarded to Dr Jane Opeinheim, Ego Pharmaceuticals.



Other finalists include:

- ▶ Individual nominees, Felipe Pereira Cabral (Uneek Bending) and Rita Palomba (Alstom)
- ▶ Business nominees, Nissan Casting Australia Plant, Timber Building Systems, and Uneek Bending.

Greater Dandenong City Council congratulates all nominees and winners from the night.

What's On December 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Playgroup Jan Wilson Centre 10am</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Carers Walking Group Noble Park Community Centre 9.45am</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Carols in Harmony Square 6pm–9pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Lying Down in Public Places performance Walker Street Gallery 12pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Photos with Santa Dandenong Market 11am</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>Adult Exercise at Jan Wilson Centre 9.30am</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Friendly Carers Group Session Keysborough Hub 11am</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Encore: Tis the Season Drum Theatre 10.30am</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Dandenong Park Run 8am</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Coffee Club Dandenong Library 11.30am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Library Help for Adults Dandenong Library 1pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Australian Nativity Scene St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Bakers Road, Dandenong North Open every day (except public holidays) by appointment only. Ph: 0428 927 110.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Yoga and Meditation Jan Wilson Centre 11.15am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Christmas Sing-along Dandenong Market 11am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Sunday Open Day Alex Wilkie Reserve 10am</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>The Place to Be exhibition Drum Theatre 10am</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>Boxing Day</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve Fireworks Dandenong Park 6pm</p> 			<p>Christmas Giving Tree Donate gifts and food at Springvale and Keysborough Community Hubs until Sunday 14 December to support the community.</p>	

Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards 2026



Each year we recognise individuals and organisations who do outstanding work that makes a positive impact on the Greater Dandenong community.

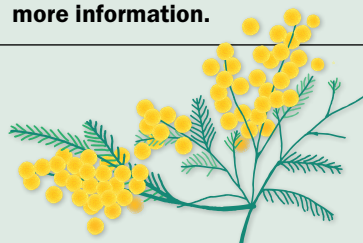
On Monday 26 January 2026, we will host a special award ceremony to recognise the winners of nine award categories.

We will recognise our inspiring community trailblazers, young leaders and volunteers, as well as community groups, sustainability champions, sports stars and top corporate citizens.

The ceremony will be held at Springvale City Hall and will be followed by a special Citizenship Ceremony.

The ceremony will be open to the public, with limited seats available.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Australia-day-awards for more information.



School Holidays



Our Youth Services team have made it easier to keep young people busy these school holidays with a range of activities to suit everyone.

From art and craft sessions, food fun, sporting games and day trips, register now and join in for a heap of fun. If you're competitive, sign up for the Volleyball Tournament at Dandenong Stadium.

The packed calendar of free and low-cost events is available now on our website and bookings are open.



Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information and to register.

Award celebrates cleaner and greener Greater Dandenong

At Greater Dandenong City Council, we've been recognised for our outstanding commitment to sustainability with a prestigious award.

We won the 2025 Cities Litter Award at the 43rd Annual Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria Tidy Towns & Cities Sustainability Awards.

The awards celebrate environmental achievements and strong community spirit across Victoria. They acknowledge initiatives that empower people, change behaviours, protect the environment, reduce waste, engage youth and Indigenous communities, and foster resilience.

Our Waste Services team received this award for the Bin It or Take It Home With You campaign, which educates the

community about proper litter disposal and raises awareness of its harmful impact on the environment.

"This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our Waste Services Team, not just for this project, but for the work they do every day," Greater Dandenong City Council Executive Director City Futures, Sanjay Manivasagasivam said.

"We're proud to lead initiatives that make our city cleaner."

The recognition highlights our efforts in working with the local community towards a cleaner, greener Greater Dandenong, today and for generations to come.



The campaign was supported by Melbourne Water's Liveable Communities Liveable Waterways Program and the Lower Dandenong Creek Litter Collaboration.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bin-it for more information.

Celebrating our centenarians

As part of October's Victorian Seniors Festival Greater Dandenong City Council proudly celebrated our oldest residents.

We hosted a special morning tea honouring the lives of seven remarkable centenarians at the new Keysborough Community Hub.

Offering words of wisdom during the celebration, one of the guests of honour, 104-year-old Jack Rogerson shared his reflections on living in Greater Dandenong.

"It has really changed for the better. I remember Burden Park being nothing but paddocks and now it's a great area for families with a big playground, walking trail and sporting areas."

A favourite memory of Jack's was joining the Noble Park Bowls Club and winning three consecutive finals in 1991, 1992 and 1993.

So what is the secret to a long and happy life? Jack's answer was simple:

"Family. There is nothing better than the love from your family."

The special morning tea, on Tuesday 21 October, brought together centenarians their families, friends and carers to reflect on a century of memories, milestones and community spirit.



Centenarians Doreen Murdock, Jack Rogerson, and Gwynne Kent.

Greater Dandenong Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan welcomed the guests to the event. Cr Tan said it offered a chance to hear the rich and diverse life stories of those who have helped shape the local area across generations, and to recognise the support provided by centenarians' families and carers.

"Behind every centenarian is a team of people who help make each day meaningful, and their care and companionship make all the difference."

Our Christmas and New Year Hours

Customer Service Centres

Wed 24 Dec	8.30am–1pm (Parkmore 9am–1pm)
Thu 25 Dec	CLOSED
Fri 26 Dec	CLOSED
Mon 29 Dec	Normal hours resume (Springvale closed)
Tues 30 Dec	Springvale closed
Wed 31 Dec	Springvale closed
Thu 1 Jan	CLOSED
Fri 2 Jan	Normal hours resume (Springvale closed)

All three Customer Service Centres will close on Friday 12 December between 11.30am–2.30pm so that our team can attend a staff Christmas function. The call centre will remain open during this time.



Waste collection

All rubbish, recycling and green waste bins will be collected as per usual, including on public holidays.



For specific opening hours for any Council venue, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

There are now even more ways to pay for parking in Greater Dandenong

You may have seen new parking meters in Central Dandenong, Dandenong Market and 'Number 8' Balmoral Car Park in Springvale.

You can now pay in new ways – by app and online. We're also upgrading some existing meters so you can still pay with

cash if you prefer and we will provide clear signage to these meters.

No matter how you pay, you no longer need to keep track of a paper ticket – just type your car's registration number into the app or meter and away you go.

Save money and time paying by app or online

- Only pay for what you need – if you head back to your car early, you can cancel the remainder of your parking session and save money.

- Top up your parking without returning to your car (within signed time limits). This is great if you are stuck in a meeting or need a few extra minutes shopping or running errands.
- You can choose which app you use. Our technology supports popular apps EasyPark and Paystay.

We're not making any changes to parking fees this financial year. The fees will be reviewed as usual as part of the 2026/27 Budget process.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Adult programs

Libraries after Dark

Silversmithing I

**Thursday 4 December, 6.30–8pm,
Dandenong Library**

Join Nerea for a hands-on workshop where you'll craft your own dangly metal earrings using basic silversmithing tools and techniques. No experience needed.

Silversmithing II

**Thursday 11 December, 6.30–8pm,
Springvale Library**

Continue or begin your jewellery making journey, with Nerea.

Christmas Clay Ornaments

**Thursday 18 December, 6.30–8pm,
Keysborough Community Hub**

Using air-dry clay, various imprinting tools and paint, create magical Christmas ornaments to adorn your home.

Summer-Themed Watercolour

**Thursday 15 January, 6.30–8pm,
Dandenong Library**

Unwind with a creative watercolour workshop inspired by summer.

African Drumming

**Thursday 22 January, 6.30–8pm,
Springvale Library**

Feel the rhythm and connect through the powerful beats of the African *djembe* in this energetic and welcoming session designed for beginners.

Blooming Water Flower

**Thursday 29 January, 6.30–8pm,
Keysborough Community Hub**

Explore the magic of floating illustrations.

Art Series

Illustrated Ephemera

**Tuesdays 9 and 16 December,
6.30–8pm, Dandenong Library
(9 December), Springvale Library
(16 December)**

Using Japanese and French papers, make a small, hand-bound book with your own printed illustration.

Daytime programs

Sri Lankan Tea and Paint

**Tuesday 13 January 10.30am–12pm,
Springvale Library**

Sip tea, paint, and unwind in this relaxing creative session inspired by Sri Lankan culture. Explore guided painting, perfect for all skill levels.



Portrait Drawing

**Tuesday 20 January, 10.30am–12pm,
Keysborough Community Hub**

Join artist Ariel De Ramos for a hands-on portrait drawing workshop.

Polymer Clay Workshop

**Tuesday 27 January, 10.30am–12pm,
Dandenong Library**

Design your own unique clay creations in this beginner-friendly workshop.

Children and Youth programs

The BIG Summer Read

The BIG Summer Read returns for another season of stories, fun, and fantastic prizes.

Presented by Public Libraries Victoria and Greater Dandenong Libraries, this annual reading challenge is open to children aged 4 to 12 years and runs from 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026.

Children can log their reading activities for a chance to win fantastic prizes.

Prizes include vouchers for Melbourne Cable Park and Bounce Keysborough, a Lego Mindstorm, Labubus, and many more. Prizes will be awarded at a special event at Springvale Library in February.



Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread for more information.

Christmas stories at the libraries

Toddler Time

**Monday 8 December,
Dandenong Library**

**Tuesday 9 December,
Keysborough Community Hub**

10.30–11.30am

Storytime

**Thursday 11 December, Dandenong Library and Springvale Library
10.30–11.30am**

Santa's packing his storybook and heading to Dandenong and Springvale Libraries and Keysborough Community Hub. Join us for a merry Storytime and Toddler Time session filled with festive fun, joyful tunes and a special visit from the jolliest guest of all.



Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/childrens-programs for more information.

ARTS | Arts in Greater Dandenong

Exhibitions



Ibrahim Ahmed

On until 17 of January 2026
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

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.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/ibrahim-ahmed-exhibition to read more about this exhibition.



The Place to Be – Dandenong Town Hall

On until 20 February 2026
Benga House (Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Garden) and Drum Theatre

Discover stories, fashion and memories – and celebrate how this remarkable building continues to evolve as Dandenong's home for culture and connection.

Learn more at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/exhibitions/place-be-dandenong-town-hall

Drum Theatre



Encore: 'Tis the Season

Thursday 11 December, 10.30am

Enjoy classic carols and swinging Christmas hits from Bing Crosby to Michael Bublé, brought to life with dazzling harmonies, cheeky banter, costume magic and sensational dancing. Morning tea included.

Psychic Celebrity Medium – Cael O'Donnell

Friday 19 December, 7pm

Cael O'Donnell is the psychic sensation with over one million followers. Renowned for delivering profoundly moving messages that resonate deeply and uplift the spirit, Cael is more than a medium—he is widely regarded as possessing an extraordinary gift.

Connect with us

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Sign up for e-newsletter at drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

Connect with us

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Facebook

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

Coming in 2026



Tim Freedman's Moonlit Deck

Friday 13 February, 7.30pm



Tofiga Fepulea'i: Shuuush Your Mouf

Friday 20 February, 7.30pm

Seventh Wonder Performs Fleetwood Mac

Friday 12 June, 8pm

Australian Bee Gees Show – 30th Anniversary Tour

Thursday 9 April 2026, 8pm

Australian Eagles Show – 50 Years of Hotel California

Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm

Sign up for our e-news

Arts:

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts

Heritage Hill:

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/cultural-heritage

Drum Theatre:

drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about-us/stay-touch

Dandenong vet marks 100 years of service

FOUNDED
IN 1925



When it comes to success stories, Dandenong Veterinary Hospital stands out. In December 2025, the practice celebrates 100 years in operation.

Founded in 1925 by renowned Scottish veterinarian Dr William Hogarth-Scott, the hospital began at his Hemmings Street residence before later moving to 245 Lonsdale Street, opposite the Town Hall. In 1972, the practice relocated to the purpose-built veterinary hospital at 118 Princes Highway, where it still operates today.

The hospital has passed through five owners over the century, as Dandenong has grown from a farming township with horse yards out the back to a thriving, multicultural hub. The service has evolved from caring primarily for horses and cattle to for companion animals such as dogs and cats. They also treat injured local wildlife at no cost.

“It feels incredibly special to be anchored in this community for such a breadth of time,” Dr Darren Shortt, principal veterinarian and business owner said.

The hospital cares for thousands of pets each year and many clients have been with them for multiple generations.

“One of my most memorable experiences was being there to bring a puppy into the world via caesarean section, and then, over a decade later, being there with the family at the pet’s final moment,” Dr Shortt said.

“It’s an extraordinary privilege to be part of the full circle of life for the animals and families we serve.”

“What hasn’t changed in 100 years is the love people have for their animals and our commitment to caring for them as family,” Dr Shortt said.

“We are also very aware of the legacy we carry. With only five owners in 100 years, each one has had a hand in shaping the hospital we have today. It’s both humbling and inspiring to continue that story.”



Visit dvh.com.au for more information.



Looking after your pets in summer



Soaring summer temperatures can be dangerous for pets but with some extra care we can look after our furry friends.

Tips for keeping your pets safe in summer include:

- ▶ Never leave your pets in hot cars. Even with the window open a parked car can quickly become a furnace. Pets can suffer heat stroke or brain damage which can lead to death in as little as six minutes. If you find a distressed pet left unattended in a car phone 000 immediately.
- ▶ Provide ample shade and access to fresh water. Watch for signs of heatstroke, including excessive panting, lethargy and vomiting.
- ▶ Avoid exercising animals in the hottest part of the day to protect their paws from the hot pavement.

Summer can also be a time for celebration and fireworks. If fireworks are scheduled in your neighbourhood, you can help nervous animals prepare by keeping them indoors in a secure space. Try to block out outside noise and light and provide toys and treats to distract them.

Your new kerbside bin service



Under the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria plan, there are key actions that all councils must take, and some led from the state. Good progress is being made on the key actions:

- ✓ Introduce a Food Organics Garden Organics service (FOGO)
- ✓ Introduce a Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
- ✓ Ban single-use plastics
- ✓ Now the mandatory Kerbside Glass Bin Collection Service is on the way.

Greater Dandenong residents currently have access to three kerbside bin services, including general waste (red lids), mixed recycling (yellow lids) and optional food and garden waste (lime green lids).

The new purple lid glass bin service is part of a mandatory 4-stream waste and recycling service for Victorian households.

The Victorian Government has legislated that a glass service must be provided by all Councils by July 2027. The purple-lid glass bin service is not optional for councils or households.

Separation of household waste and recycling into the four material streams (general waste, mixed recycling, food and garden waste, glass) reduces contamination. It increases the volume and quality of materials we can recover for recycling.

When glass mixes with other recyclables in our yellow-lid bins, it can break which contaminates paper and cardboard, making them unrecyclable. Separating glass means cleaner recycling, more materials are reused, and less waste is sent to landfill. The glass bin will be collected once every four weeks.



New bin coming soon.



There are no proposed changes to the weekly red general rubbish bin and yellow mixed recycling and green food and garden waste bin collection services at this stage. We will provide more information as we work towards introducing this service in 2027.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/glass-bin for more information.

Unexpected days in the life of a Council Ranger

At Council, we're lucky enough to attract talented staff who honed their skills and practised their passions before putting them to use for the Greater Dandenong community. Jennie Jean Pierre is no exception.

Jennie has been a ranger with Greater Dandenong City Council for three years, following a career at the RSPCA.

Jennie said her days might involve responding to community reports about barking dogs or dog attacks, collecting stray animals from vet clinics and reuniting pets with their owners.

"Our work can be challenging – sometimes we're meeting people on one of the hardest days of their lives, but it can also be rewarding and heartwarming."

Council's small team of rangers has learned to expect the unexpected.



"Each day surprises us."

Jennie said the rangers were proud of the way they could find common ground and build relationships with residents.

"We want to work with the community not against them."

"I think sometimes people see us just as enforcement but they may not realise we're here for education and to assist the community as well."

Jennie encouraged residents to give Council a call when they first encounter an animal issue.

"We have lots of programs and options available and can also refer you on to people who can help. For example, people often think they're doing the right thing by feeding a stray cat rather than calling us to report it."

"One hungry cat quickly becomes 100 hungry cats. Cats have a litter of about six kittens and then six to nine months later those six kittens have six kittens of their own."

For the safety of wildlife and pets, we've introduced a cat curfew in Greater Dandenong.

"We hope it helps to reduce the number of cats breeding so that it is a manageable population and everybody who comes to our pound can be rehomed."



To read this story in full visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/news



2026 Community Calendar arriving before New Year

The 2026 Community Calendar will be arriving in your letterbox in time for the new year.

It features photos taken by members of the Greater Dandenong community and shares some of their favourite locations.

The calendars will be hand-delivered to all residents throughout November and December so please be patient while deliveries are underway.



If you haven't received your calendar by January 1, please contact our friendly Customer Service team for assistance on 8571 1000.

You're entitled to one free hard rubbish collection each year



As the festive season approaches many of us find ourselves cleaning up around the home. These clean ups can produce extra rubbish so it is important to dispose of this properly.

We run a free hard rubbish collection service all year round, with residents eligible for one free pick up annually. To book your free collection phone 9721 1915.

As well as being unsightly, illegally dumped furniture and unwanted items cause environmental harm, are expensive for ratepayers and property owners to remove and can lead to heavy fines.

Explore ways to waste less this Christmas

The festive season is all about joy, generosity and celebration—and with a few simple choices, it can be kinder to the planet, too. Whether you're wrapping gifts or planning a feast, there are plenty of easy ways to waste less while still enjoying the magic of Christmas and the New Year.



Give low-waste gifts from the heart

Make your presents meaningful and memorable:

- ▶ Cook a special meal or gift homemade treats like pickled veggies, jams or sweets
- ▶ Give experiences instead of things—concert tickets, workshops or a day out
- ▶ Shop with fairtrade businesses or support local artisans
- ▶ Donate to a charity on behalf of a loved one
- ▶ Plant a tree as a living gift.

Wrap it right

- ▶ Not all wrapping paper is recyclable. Avoid glitter, foil and plastic.
- ▶ Choose recyclable or reusable wrapping paper
- ▶ Reuse gift bags and wrapping from previous years
- ▶ Get creative with maps, newspapers, or hand-decorated paper
- ▶ Use scarves or tea towels as both wrapping and part of the gift.

Eco-friendly decorations

- ▶ Make decorations from leftover paper or natural items like pinecones and gumtree branches
- ▶ Swap decorations with friends or family
- ▶ Store decorations carefully to avoid damage



- ▶ Use an indoor plant as your Christmas tree.

Reduce festive-food waste

- ▶ Shop locally and support small businesses or farmers' markets
- ▶ Skip disposable plates and cutlery—washing up is a great time to connect
- ▶ Make room for leftovers and send guests home with extra food
- ▶ Donate unopened, unused food to a food bank
- ▶ Put leftover food waste in your green lid food and garden organics bin.

Recycle right and cut down on waste

Make the most of your recycling efforts this festive season with these simple tips:

- ▶ Keep your recycling loose—never bag it. Use a tub or container to collect items before tipping them into your recycling bin
- ▶ Save and reuse wrapping paper, gift bags, and ribbons for next year
- ▶ Recycle paper gift wrap and cards – remember to remove any plastic bows or ribbons first
- ▶ Rehome or responsibly recycle electronics and batteries – they don't belong in household bins.

Which does it go in?

Use the Recycle Mate search tool to find out which bin to use or locate your nearest drop-off point for tricky items.

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/which-bin

Reminder: Holiday bin collections

Your bins will still be collected as usual over the Christmas and New Year period. Even if your collection day falls on a public holiday, there are no changes to the schedule – just put your bins out as usual.

Federal Government funding win for sport and recreation

We successfully advocated for Federal Government Funding to upgrade sport and recreation infrastructure in Greater Dandenong.

Following our engagement with the community in November, we are reviewing your feedback on the proposed projects below, with a plan to start work in 2026.

- ✓ Accessibility improvements and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning installation at the Dandenong Police Paddocks Reserve Baseball and Softball Precinct
- ✓ Lighting upgrade at the Fotheringham Reserve sport field
- ✓ Shade structures and change room upgrade at Ross Reserve

Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read more about these projects and keep up to date with their progress.

The funding for these projects will come from the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program (MLCIP) and was secured through our advocacy for local commitments in the lead up to the last Federal Election.

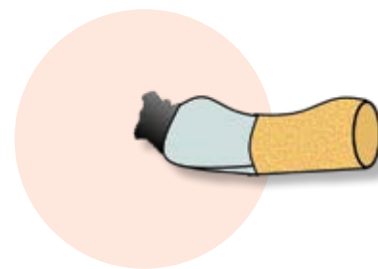
We welcome this support which will allow us to improve accessibility, lighting, shade and comfort at key local sport and recreation locations.



What is the Major and Local Community Infrastructure Program?

It's a Federal Government program that gives funding to local councils to build and improve community and sports facilities.

To stay up-to-date visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sport-improvements



Stub it. Bin it: Cleaning up Springvale's most littered item



Cigarette butts are the most littered item in Greater Dandenong so we're stepping up efforts to reduce this litter.

A recent audit conducted as part of the *Tangaroa Blue Let's Strain the Drains* program found over 3,803 cigarette butts in litter traps throughout the city. This makes up more than 80 per cent of the items trapped.

Although small, cigarette butts have a big impact on the environment. They contain plastic and toxic chemicals that pollute, harm wildlife and contaminate waterways. They wash out to sea and don't break down easily, making proper disposal essential.

Here's how you can help:

- ▶ Always **stub out your cigarette** before placing it in a bin to avoid starting a fire
- ▶ Use the **ashtray top bins** provided.

To reinforce these messages and as part of our commitment to revitalising Springvale and creating a cleaner, more welcoming environment for everyone, we've installed:

- ▶ Bin signs
- ▶ Decals on council-provided bins with ashtray tops
- ▶ Ground decals pointing to the nearest ashtray top bin.

Together, we can protect our environment and take pride in our public spaces.

Fun Run, Walk and Roll 2026



Join us for the Fun Run, Walk and Roll on Saturday 24 January as we celebrate the Australia Day long weekend.

Get your body moving and run, walk, roll, dance or skate your way through the 5km scenic Dandenong Creek loop at Dandenong Park.

Bring family and friends for a day of active fun, with briefing starting at 7.30am and fun run commencing at 8am.



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

Christmas at Dandenong Market

Dandenong Market is a one stop shop for the festive season.



Whether you're after unique gifts for your loved ones, inexpensive presents for the office gift swap, or the most delicious food for a Christmas feast, the Market is the place to go.

Fun activities for the whole family include craft workshops, photos with Santa and a Christmas singalong. Join for some fun activities over the 12 Days of Christmas:

Tuesday 2 December

Wooden tree ornaments

Friday 5 December

Pinecone trees

Saturday 6 December

Santa Letter mailbox

Sunday 7 December

Photos with Santa

Tuesday 9 December

Make finger puppets

Friday 12 December

Decorate a cookie

Saturday 13 December

DIY deli wreath

Sunday 14 December

Face Painting

Tuesday 16 December

Colourful hair braiding

Friday 19 December

Festive Music Circle

Saturday 20 December

Christmas sing-along

Sunday 21 December

DIY mini fruit Santa



Visit dandenongmarket.com for more information or follow @dandenongmarket on socials.

Business Support

The Business Support Team offers a variety of services to support our local business community.

- Business communication, support, education, events, workshops
- Employment assistance
- Economic research and analysis
- Business permit support
 - a service to help navigate the permit process

✉ Business@cgd.vic.gov.au

☎ 8571 1550



Scan the QR code to go to website





FESTIVE SEASON

2025 TRADING HOURS

FRI 19 DEC	7AM-4PM
SAT 20 DEC	7AM-4PM
SUN 21 DEC	7AM-4PM
MON 22 DEC	CLOSED
TUE 23 DEC	7AM-4PM
WED 24 DEC	6AM-4PM
THU 25 DEC	CLOSED
FRI 26 DEC	CLOSED

REGULAR TRADING HOURS RESUME SAT 27 DEC

Are you prepared for an emergency?

Emergencies can come in many forms and can happen at any time, affecting you in ways you don't expect.

Having a plan in place can save you and your loved ones a lot of stress and help you to recover quickly.

Visit emergencyprepare.com.au to learn more.



Heatwave

Heat kills more Australians than any other natural disaster. Extreme temperatures can affect everybody and heat-related illnesses can range from mild conditions to life-threatening heatstroke.

- ▶ Plan ahead and avoid activities during the hottest part of the day
- ▶ Check in on those most at risk
- ▶ Drink plenty of water even if you don't feel thirsty
- ▶ Keep cool by staying home or finding a cool place to be (libraries and shopping centres are air conditioned and open to all).



Storm

Stay up to date with weather warnings and avoid going out during stormy weather. Tips to prepare your property:

- ▶ Maintain your roof and keep your gutter, spouting and downpipes clean
- ▶ Trim or remove tree branches overhanging your home
- ▶ Inspect and fix fences regularly
- ▶ Secure loose items in your yard
- ▶ Ensure all household members know where, how and when to turn off the mains power, water and gas supply in case of an emergency.



Fires

Most fires in the home are preventable if you take steps to reduce the risks. Everybody should have working smoke alarms installed, prepare an escape plan and regularly check your house for fire risks.

- ▶ Always keep at least one metre of clear space around a heater
- ▶ Turn heating sources off and put out open fires before going to bed or leaving the house
- ▶ Clean the lint filter in your clothes dryer after every use
- ▶ Never leave a lit candle unattended
- ▶ Never leave cooking unattended
- ▶ Never overload power boards
- ▶ Replace damaged equipment.

Bushfires and grass fires don't only impact those living in rural areas. Fires can occur in urban areas where houses have grass, bushland or parkland around them. Stay alert for danger – monitor the Fire Danger Rating system and know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.



Power outage

Power outages can occur at any time and can be caused by heatwaves, bushfires or storms. Be prepared for an outage by packing an emergency kit, including torches, spare batteries, a mobile phone and charger, battery-powered or wind-up radio and fresh water.

If using candles never leave them unattended and ensure placement is way from flammable materials and unstable surfaces.

Food safety can become an issue if outages last for several hours or more. Try to keep cold and frozen foods cold by moving food from fridge to freezer and only open fridges and freezers when absolutely necessary.

Important contacts

In an emergency phone **police, fire** or **ambulance** on **000**.

For flood and storm emergencies and support after damaging events phone the **SES** on **132 500**.

During an emergency you can get timely information by phoning the **Vic Emergency Hotline** on **1800 226 226**.

Download the **VicEmergency app** for the latest information of emergencies and warnings.



**VIC
EMERGENCY**
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

**Carols sing along • Free face painting
Family activities**



This is a no smoking/vaping, no drugs and no alcohol event.



 (03) 8571 1000



 council@cgd.vic.gov.au



 greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

Online: relayservice.gov.au



TIS:13 14 50

 Acknowledging
Bunurong Country

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