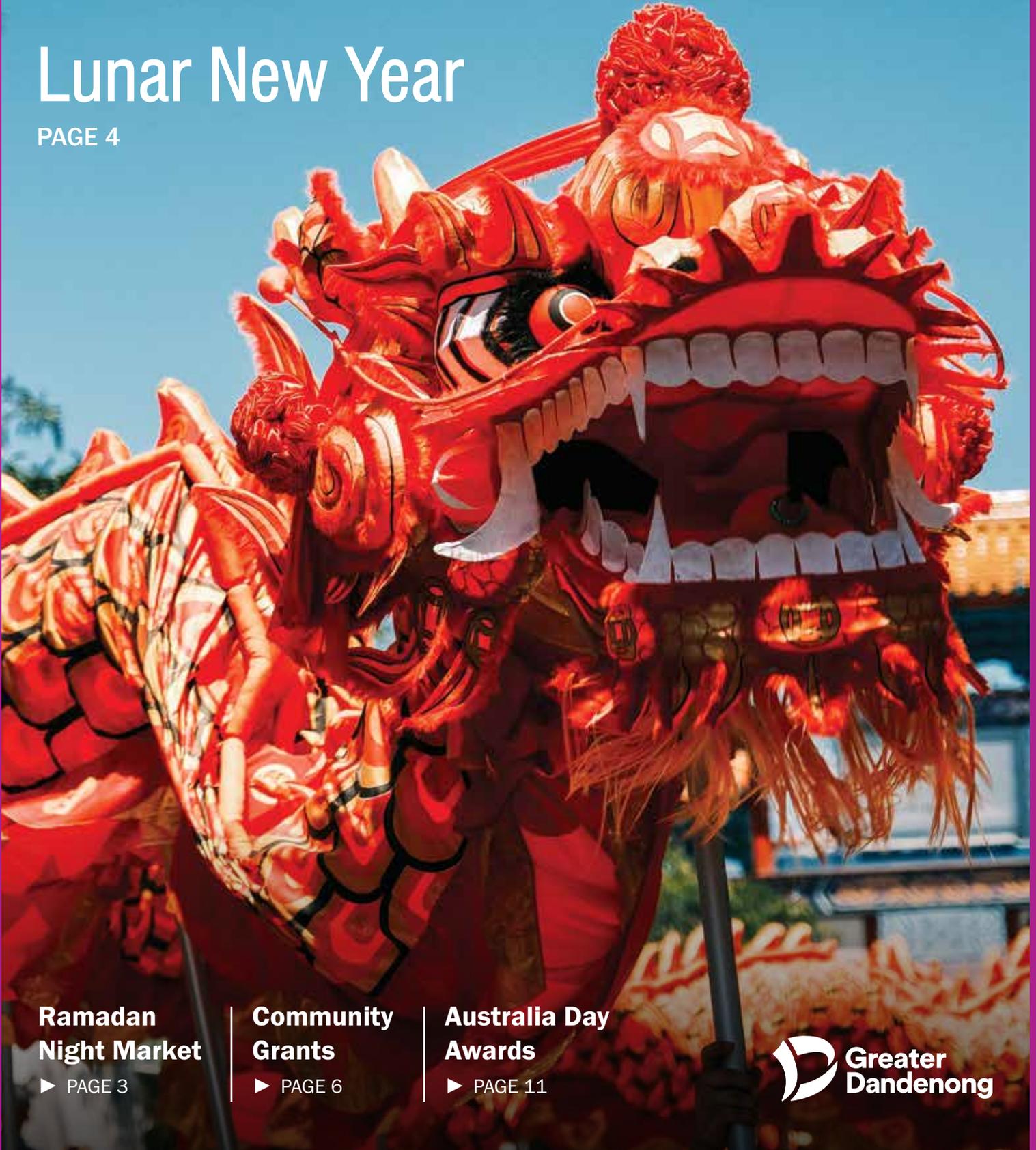


Greater Dandenong Council News

Lunar New Year

PAGE 4



**Ramadan
Night Market**

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Grants**

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**Australia Day
Awards**

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Customer Service Centres

Dandenong Civic Centre

225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Community Hub

5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale

Keysborough Customer Service

Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,
Keysborough

All correspondence to:

Greater Dandenong Council News

PO Box 200

Dandenong VIC 3175

Email: news@cgd.vic.gov.au



Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



@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 February edition of Council News.

Happy Lunar New Year, as we welcome the Year of the Horse I want to wish everyone celebrating Lunar New Year a safe and prosperous 2026.

I also want to say Ramadan Mubarak to our Muslim community and all who participate. Ramadan is a time that truly encompasses the values we all share – togetherness, generosity and reflection.

Our city is home to one of the most diverse and welcoming communities in Australia and we are all invited to share in these traditions. I encourage you to get involved in the spirit of creating a more connected and peaceful community.

A great opportunity to do this is the Ramadan Night Market, read all about it on page 3.

Last month our Tamil community marked Tamil Heritage Month and Tamil Thai Pongal. I want to wish everyone who celebrated a happy Thai Pongal.

Our arts team have contributed the centre pages of this month's magazine, to bring you a wrap up of the diverse cultural offerings across Greater Dandenong over the coming months. There's something for everyone.

We recently celebrated our Australia Day Awards. Go to page 11 to read more about these inspiring residents and community groups.

I hope you enjoy the last month of summer and all our great city has to offer.

Mayor
Cr Sophie Tan

My City

Harry Habitat is a well-loved mascot that makes special appearances at Council events. Harry represents the River Red Gum trees that are iconic to our landscape, and he shares the message of looking after our environment. Harry describes himself as a 300-year-old gum tree who loves nothing more than to keep our residents cool and shaded when they visit local parks. You can meet Harry at many of our outdoor Council events, including the Sustainability Festival at Dandenong Market next month.



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: Curt Casequin's photo of local Lunar New Year celebrations features on the February page of our 2026 Community Calendar.

FSC
Logo

The Dandenong Ramadan Night Market is back even bigger and better



...Council would like to wish everyone a Happy Ramadan.



The Ramadan Night Market took Thomas Street by storm last year and is back, bigger and better in 2026.

Bright Community Organisation are putting on the event which was made possible with funding from the Federal Government and Greater Dandenong City Council.

They've lined up hundreds of vendors showcasing the very best food and cultural delights on offer to deliver a spectacular for the senses.

Last year the Ramadan Night Market tripled the number of visitors to Thomas Street and this year is sure to draw a crowd from beyond Greater Dandenong. We're encouraging everyone to catch public transport as Dandenong Station is only five minutes from all the action.

We can't wait to see you there.

Check out the Dandenong Ramadan Night Market's expanded location and dates by visiting greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/news



Why is Ramadan so special?

Ramadan is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset in a time of spiritual reflection and growth. Ramadan is a time that truly encompasses the values we all share – togetherness, generosity and reflection.

This year Ramadan is expected to start on Tuesday 17 February and to end on or around Thursday 19 March, but this depends on the sighting of the moon.

In Greater Dandenong more than 15 per cent of our residents identify as Muslims, in Dandenong alone that figure soars to more than 37 per cent.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan is proud that our city is home to one of the most diverse, welcoming communities in Australia.

"We celebrate the cultures and traditions of all our residents. This is a very special time of year for our Muslim residents and Council would like to wish everyone a Happy Ramadan. May you be blessed with peace, faith and happiness."



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Springvale South Ward
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Loi.Truong@cgd.vic.gov.au

Council Meetings

Council meetings are held in the city chambers at the Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, commencing at 7pm.

The next meeting will be held on:

► **Monday 16 February**

➔ To view meetings or to find out more about public question time visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

FEBRUARY

MONDAY

16

FEBRUARY



YEAR
OF THE
HORSE

Lunar New Year Festival

 **The Lunar New Year is celebrated across the world, and here in Greater Dandenong it is one of the biggest community festivals of the year.**

The Springvale Lunar New Year Festival, hosted by the Springvale Asian Business Association (SABA), will take place on Sunday 15 February, from 10am to 10pm.

Welcome the Year of the Horse in central Springvale at the spectacular event which promises to be a showcase of colour, movement and amazing food. It will feature lion dances, market stalls, live performances and amusement rides.

Springvale Library invites the community to celebrate the Lunar New Year on Sunday 1 March. Explore our language-specific collections at the Chinese and Vietnamese Community Book Day, from 1pm–2pm, then join us for a free traditional lion dance performance and children's craft activities from 2.30pm.

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

► Dandenong Ward



Late last year I attended the upgrade of lights at two local sporting grounds, giving more residents the opportunity to be more active.

We invest in local sporting facilities to give everybody the chance to get moving and connect in safe and top-class surrounds. Many local sporting clubs have benefited from upgrades to ovals, pavilions, scoreboards and light towers.

In November we celebrated the upgrade of lights at George Andrews Reserve. The \$812,000 project was completed with a \$200,000 grant from the Victorian Government and saw the main pitch lighting upgraded to 500 lux. The upgrade brings the soccer ground up to professional competition and broadcast standard.

On the same day we celebrated the upgrade of lighting on Oval 4 at Greaves Reserve. Oval 4 is home to the South East Titans Rugby Club and these new lights will allow them to train longer,



getting the most out of their tenancy at this ground. This project cost \$535,000 and was completed with a \$250,000 grant from the Victorian Government.

Cr Jim Memeti

I am proud of the investment we make in our sporting grounds and grassroots sporting clubs across Greater Dandenong. Each club creates a place for connection and gives local families a chance to participate in something they love.

Another way to connect is through community events and festivals. Dandenong West hosted the Hidden Gems Festival and Market on November 22–23 last year. The weekend event drew large crowds to the Hemmings Street precinct, giving us the chance to show off what a unique and vibrant community we are. Local artists and musicians featured alongside nationally acclaimed talent, and crowds loved it. I hope it returns again in the future.



If you would like to talk to me about local issues please contact me via email at Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0434 560 239.

Cr Phillip Danh



I want to start this month by wishing a Happy Lunar New Year to everyone who celebrates. SABA's Lunar New Year Festival is one of the biggest community celebrations held annually in Greater Dandenong and it always draws a crowd to Springvale. As we usher in the Year of the Horse, I wish happiness and prosperity to our community for the year ahead.

Recently I visited the pocket park at 218 Railway Parade. Following community consultation we designed a space that would be welcoming and useful. There is seating, a picnic table, a water fountain and shade from the mature trees our team were able to retain. There is a grassed area for casual play and fitness equipment for those looking to get active.

We are so lucky to have such a beautiful park in Yarraman Ward and I love seeing local families using this space every day.

Speaking of families, the start of the school year is upon us and I want to remind motorists to be more careful on

our roads during school hours. School crossing supervisors are a valuable part of our community and they work hard to keep families safe on their walk to and from school. Please obey speed limits and follow the instructions of the supervisors.

While we all value safety in our streets, we also want them to look neat and tidy. Council offers one free annual hard rubbish collection for every household. Phone 9721 1915 to organise your collection.

In the meantime, if you notice rubbish has been dumped in your neighbourhood then I encourage you to report it via our website, the Snap Send Solve app or by phoning our Customer Service Centre on 8571 1000.



I'm always available to talk about any local issues. You can email me at Phillip.Danh@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0473 482 153.

► Yarraman Ward



Hidden Gem Festival



The inaugural Hidden Gem Festival & Market transformed Dandenong West into a vibrant hub of music, culture and community spirit. Over one weekend in November about 1,500 visitors gathered to celebrate creativity and connection in a truly unforgettable event.

From the rhythmic beats of African fusion to the soulful sounds of jazz, indie rock, and hip-hop, the music was incredible.

There were performances by One Spirit Africa, Ruby & the Clumsy Dollies and Delsinki & The Quiet Coachmen, while an open mic gave emerging local artists their chance to shine.

Visitors explored a bustling market filled with local makers, hunted for treasures at the record sale and went on a world tour with their tastebuds.



Dandenong West has truly uncovered a gem worth sharing.

The Hidden Gem Festival & Market was delivered by the West Alchemy Collective in partnership with Greater Dandenong City Council and the Department of Justice and Community Safety as part of the Empowering Communities Grant.

Fireworks



This is a beautiful time of year packed with celebrations. If you would like fireworks to be part of your special event, be sure to understand your responsibilities. Did you know fireworks can only be discharged by a licensed pyrotechnician who is required to notify authorities including Council, WorkSafe, Victoria Police and the CFA?

This is to keep everyone safe from injuries and fires sometimes caused by illegal fireworks, and to ensure you're being considerate by telling your neighbours. Being aware of upcoming fireworks gives people with pets, children or poor health time to prepare.

🚫 If you see illegal fireworks in use, phone 000. For more information visit [worksafe.vic.gov.au/using-fireworks](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/using-fireworks)

Community Grants now open

We run a community grants program to help strengthen our community.

Small Grants are open all year round and fund individuals to achieve sporting and artistic goals, and support not-for-profit community organisations to deliver local activities and projects. The grants range from \$250 to \$1,500.

Medium Grants open twice a year and offer up to \$10,000 to not-for-profit community groups, organisations and individual artists to deliver projects, programs and events that benefit our community.

Applications for Medium Grants open this month for projects taking place from 1 July 2026.



For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/grants or phone the Community Funding team on 8571 1432.



Small Grant Case Study

The Dandenong and District Orchid Club received a \$1,000 grant to cover costs associated with their Annual Orchid Show held at Paddy O'Donoghue Centre over the weekend of 27-28 September 2025.

The club has been running for more than 33 years and holds monthly meetings for more than 70 members as well an annual show that attracts hundreds of people to share in their love of orchids in bloom. Feedback from visitors to the 2025 Annual Show said it was the best display that had seen all year and many committed to returning for future shows.

GRANTS PROGRAM



Medium Grant Case Study

The Cantonese Art Association received a grant of \$2,488 to host a festival in celebration of Lunar New Year 2025 and the Year of the Snake.

Hosted in Springvale, the gala dinner featured live performances of Chinese instrumental music, folk dance, a choir and other acts.

It attracted 230 visitors, some of whom expressed that this was their first time at the festival and it helped them understand Cantonese traditions more deeply. There were 26 volunteers involved in the event, which event organisers said "fostered joy and togetherness". Attendees praised the inclusive atmosphere and said they were "grateful for a space to celebrate heritage and meet new people".

Knitting the future of football



Thousands of local sports fans flock to Police Paddocks Reserve each

week to cheer on their favourite teams, rarely sparing a thought for the grass beneath their feet. Yet, the playing surface can make all the difference to the quality of the game – and now that surface is getting a high-tech upgrade.

Police Paddocks Reserve, home of the Dandenong City Soccer Club, has just unveiled a hybrid playing surface. It blends natural turf with high-quality synthetic fibres to deliver a competition-standard pitch that supports community sport, talent development and local participation.

“The principle is simple, but the impact is huge,” Mayor Sophie Tan said. “By stitching synthetic turf into natural grass, we’re creating a stronger, more durable surface that recovers faster, has greater wear capacity and can handle more games. This is about giving our players the best possible conditions to shine.”

“Knitting” the couch grass surface with synthetic fibres in high-use areas ensures the pitch meets National Premier League (NPL) standards. We have also invested in replacing sprinkler heads across the pitch.



“This is a great sustainability story,” Mayor Tan said.

“Instead of replacing turf every year, we’re investing in a long-term solution that saves money and resources, and reduces fertiliser while delivering a professional-quality surface. It’s smart, it’s sustainable and it’s fantastic for our sporting community.”

With responsible pitch management and collaboration from club stakeholders, Pitch 1 is expected to become one of the leading playing surfaces in the NPL competition.

“This pitch upgrade means local footballers now have access to top-grade facilities at the Police Paddocks, bringing it in line with other premier venues such as George Andrews Reserve, Shepley Reserve and Ross Reserve,” Mayor Tan said.

“It’s a win for players, a win for fans and a win for the future of sport in Greater Dandenong.”

Road safety at Dandenong Market



We are making improvements to pedestrian safety at Dandenong Market by replacing the existing pedestrian crossings at Cleeland Street and Clow Street with raised crossings and speed cushions.

Work on the new crossings has commenced and is expected to be completed by Easter. The changes will:

- ▶ Slow down vehicle traffic, making it safer for pedestrians to cross
- ▶ Improve visibility between drivers and pedestrians
- ▶ Enhance accessibility for people of all ages and abilities

- ▶ Support a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

There will be temporary changes to traffic flow, parking availability, and access points during the upgrade period.

At Greater Dandenong City Council, we’re working to minimise inconvenience and ensure the works are completed as efficiently as possible.

Clear signage and alternative access routes will be in place to help everyone navigate the area safely.

We thank traders, visitors and the community for their patience and understanding during this time. Your support is helping us build a safer, more accessible Dandenong Market for the future.



Small pocket park makes a big difference



Springvale residents now have a fresh new space to relax and connect, with the completion of a vibrant pocket park at 49 View Road. This addition transforms a previously under-used area into a welcoming green retreat for the community.

It features a bench seat and a picnic table setting, shade trees and lush garden beds, new turf and pedestrian pathways.

Designed with community feedback in mind, the pocket park offers a simple yet beautiful environment for everyone to enjoy. Whether you’re looking for a peaceful spot to read, a place for a casual lunch, or just a stroll through greenery, this park delivers.

At Greater Dandenong City Council, we are proud to deliver projects that enhance liveability and create more opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The pocket park at 49 View Road is a great example of how small spaces can make a big difference.

ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

WHERE CULTURE COMES ALIVE

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS



THE MAZE

SATURDAY 7 MARCH – SATURDAY 16 MAY

Opening event 7 March, 2pm

Born from migrant and refugee voices in 1991, now reimagined for today. The Maze exhibition is back transformed by artists Fayen d'Evie and Jon Tjhia. Explore culture, dreams, and the power of art to connect across time.

The Maze: Reimagined (Contemporary exhibition)
Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Wednesday to Saturday, 11am–3pm

The Maze: Past, Present and Legacy
(Museum collection exhibition)
Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens
Wednesday and Thursday, 10am–2pm

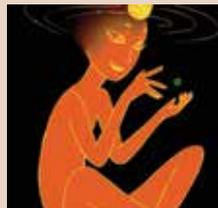
Explore the full program of events at:
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/themaze

Jump Cut Creativity in Motion

Short films. Loops. Animation vibes.
Meet makers, mingle with pros,
and dive into the world of moving art.

Saturday 28 March, 2pm
Harmony Square, Dandenong

A digital display of works will run in empty shopfronts at 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, daily from 7am–11pm until April.



SOLA, Asem Güldali, 2015.



**ENTRIES
CLOSE
22 FEB**

TINY ARTWORKS, BIG IMPACT

Register now for the 18th edition of the 9 by 5 Exhibition returning to the Drum Theatre foyer in March.

Inspired by the original 1889 Melbourne display, this open-entry program invites artists of all backgrounds from across Australia to create works measuring 9 x 5 inches.

16 MARCH – 1 MAY

Drum Theatre (open Monday to Friday 10am–4pm)

Opening event Saturday 21 March at 3pm

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5 to find out how to enter.

Discover Heritage Hill Guided Tours Through Time



Discover the stories of Heritage Hill's homes, the lives of the families who lived there, and experience seasonal exhibitions. 1st Thursday of the month.

\$5, bookings essential

Explore the full program of events
at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts





FAMILY FUN

Trash with a Porpoise

THURSDAY 9 APRIL, 11AM

Drum Theatre, Ages 4-12

Laugh, cheer, and make a splash! A fun, interactive show for families who care about our oceans. Cost \$10-\$16.

ARTS OPPORTUNITIES

Exhibitions. Grants. Growth. Your next arts opportunity starts here—sign up to our newsletter and join the conversation.

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/arts-opportunities



GET CREATIVE AT THE LIBRARIES

ART SERIES

Springvale and Dandenong Libraries, every second and third Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm

Theme changes monthly.

DANDY CON

Three epic locations. All things pop culture. Saturday 11 April from 11am.



Discover more at libraries.greaterdandenong@cgd.vic.gov.au

WHAT'S ON AT THE DRUM

13 FEB

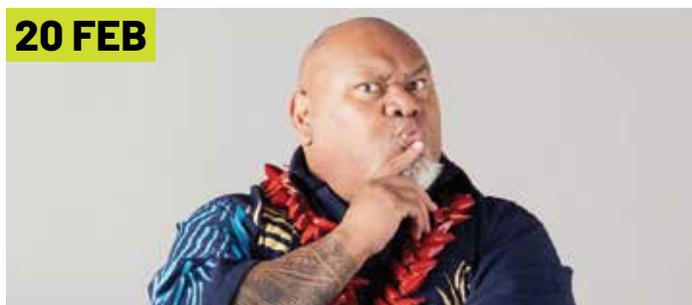


TIM FREEDMAN'S MOONLIT DECK

FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM

Australia's Favourite piano man blends songs and stories in this solo outing.

20 FEB



TOFIGA FEPULEA'I: SHUUUSH YOUR MOUF

FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM

Comedy royalty Tofiga Fepulea'i brings a hilarious take on life, family and crossing the big five-oh.

Drum Encore shows

Inspiring theatre, lasting memories.

Explore the Season One program today. Every show starts at 10.30am.

A Morning of Classic Big Band Swing
Thursday 19 February

The Australian Barbara Streisand Show
Thursday 19 March

Music Through the Decades Thursday 16 April

Dance from Dusk to Dawn Thursday 21 May

Seventh Wonder performs Fleetwood Mac
Thursday 11 June

Explore what's on at The Drum at drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au





Clean Up Australia Day

Over the past 35 years, more than 23 million Australians have registered as volunteers for Clean Up Australia Day activities.

Now it's your turn to help support the cause. Sign up to join a clean up on Sunday 1 March and help keep our public spaces free from litter.

Visit www.cleanup.org.au to register.

In the meantime you can practice these simple steps to help keep our parks and streets litter free:

- ▶ **Bin It.** Always put your rubbish in a bin. If the bin is full take rubbish home with you.
- ▶ **Butts belong in bins.** Dispose of cigarette butts in bins provided or carry a butt container. Remember to stub it out before you bin it, to prevent fires.
- ▶ **Pick it up.** Grab a piece of litter when you're out walking in the park, down your street, or near waterways.

Every little bit helps to keep our city clean all year round.

Save the date for Sustainability

Join us at the annual Sustainability Festival on Sunday 22 March at the Dandenong Market.

This free, family-friendly event celebrates practical ways to protect our planet, with activities, giveaways and expert advice on sustainable living.

The 2026 theme Change Starts at Home focuses on simple swaps to make a difference and home improvements with impact. Think draft-proofing, electrifying, reducing waste and planting greenery – all small changes that can help you stay safe, cut costs and be better prepared for any weather.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival for more information.



80 years of community service

Since opening its doors in 1945, the Springvale Learning and Activity Centre (SLAC) has been a hub for connection and inclusion.

Late last year the centre celebrated 80 years of operation, starting out as the Springvale Youth Club before becoming the Springvale Community Centre, and finally SLAC.

SLAC President Leah Douglas reflected on the importance of the centre in a video to celebrate their milestone.

“One of the great things about the organisation is that it really reflects the multicultural aspects of our community. We all come together with one aim, which is to improve the lives of people who are there,” Leah said.

The centre is one of seven Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres based in Greater Dandenong. Each house services their local community with care and compassion, helping to respond to the needs of the people living in their community.

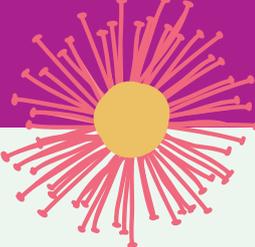
From learning English to learning job ready skills, education opens up opportunities for all. The centres also offer food parcels and support to access relevant services and are a hub for newly arrived migrants to help find their feet.

At Greater Dandenong City Council, we're proud to work with centres like SLAC to promote learning, inclusion and wellbeing – the foundations of a caring and connected community.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-houses-and-learning-centres to find out more about our Neighbourhood Houses and Community Centres.



Visit springvalelac.org.au to find out more about SLAC.



Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards

Community Leadership Award

Nika Suwarsih

Since arriving in Australia in 2007, Nika has dedicated her time to supporting women and children through volunteer programs. She works as a training program manager for SisterWorks and continues to volunteer in the Greater Dandenong community, supporting migrant women, people seeking asylum and refugees.

Living Treasure Award

Christine Keys

As President of the Dandenong and District Historical Society, Christine has devoted many years to preserving, sharing and celebrating local history, including the waves of migration to our city. In 2020 she was named Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards Citizen of the Year in recognition of her outstanding work.

Trish Marson

Trish has been the heart and soul of the Noble Park Junior Football Club for over 20 years. She has overseen the club's Auskick program, introduced a multicultural officer and removed fees to help make the club more inclusive. Her values of inclusion, compassion, community and opportunity are widely recognised across the Noble Park community.

Corporate Citizen of the Year

Le Mans Entertainment

Le Mans has created a fully accessible entertainment experience for people of all ages and abilities. Operating since 2004, the business hosts an annual community day, offers employment opportunities and supports other local small businesses as suppliers for hospitality and events.

Young Leaders of the Year (joint winners)

Mohammed Nawed

Nawed participated in Council's Young Leader Program in 2023 and continues to mentor and support young people through Council program The Collective. He volunteers with the Centre for Multicultural Youth and works with YLab, drawing on his own lived experience as a migrant to create positive change.

Atifa Ahmed

Atifa has been involved with Council's Youth Services programs since 2019, including time in the Young Leader's program in 2024. She also volunteers with Our Village, which assists social workers and maternal and child health workers to support babies and children from disadvantaged families. She studies engineering and science at university and works as an education aid at Mt Hira College.

Volunteer of the Year

Heather Hanratty

For more than 30 years Heather has volunteered with Council, including in the Meals on Wheels and Planned Activity Group programs. Through her volunteer work she has touched countless lives, strengthened community ties and ensured some of our most vulnerable residents receive care, respect and support.

Volunteer of the Year (highly commended)

Mohammad Akram Yusofi

Since arriving in Australia as a refugee from Afghanistan in 2012, Akram has been volunteering in the Greater Dandenong community. He hosts classes to help people prepare for citizenship tests and supports English language studies. He led a team of 50 volunteers to support bushfire affected farmers in NSW and distributed equipment and aid to vulnerable families during COVID-19 lockdowns.

Community Group of the Year

SisterWorks

SisterWorks believes that work empowers women, and over the past 10 years they have supported more than 2,500 women from 105 different countries to build a better life in Australia through skills training and employment opportunities. Their programs engage vulnerable and marginalised community members to improve their confidence, mental wellbeing, sense of belonging and economic outlook.

Sustainability Award

Suraj Loomba

As a researcher at RMIT University, Suraj focuses on advancing renewable energy solutions. He won first prize in a national Youth Energy Competition, positioning our city as a hub for young innovators tackling climate change. He works closely with schools, universities and local groups to share his knowledge, inspire young people and promote pathways into science and engineering.

Sportsperson of the Year

Adam Treloar

As a current AFL player, Adam continues to support the Noble Park Junior Football Club, where his football journey began. Adam provides hands-on guidance, leadership and encouragement for junior players and their families and has taken on coaching roles. He instils values of teamwork, respect and healthy living to reinforce a positive culture at the club.

Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award

Khelaiya Productions

Khelaiya Productions has been running for eight years and now boasts more than 125 volunteers. They present work in Hindu, Urdu and English and are dedicated to creating and sharing high-quality theatre and musical productions that celebrate culture, storytelling and community connection. In addition to live performances, they have produced three short films, giving local artists valuable opportunities to gain real experience in filmmaking.



Senior's day trips roll on

Council's Positive Ageing Team celebrated its 300th day trip last November with a special visit from Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan.

The bus trips started in 2019, and although they were temporarily slowed by COVID restrictions, they soon returned to an enthusiastic audience.

There are an average of nine trips each month to a variety of locations across Melbourne and regional areas, including tourist attractions and food venues. The 300th trip was to the retired racehorse farm Living Legends in Greenvale.

Residents of Greater Dandenong aged over 60 are eligible to join the trips.

 Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/living-well-greater-dandenong](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/living-well-greater-dandenong) for more information.

Behind the Scenes

Diony Penketh – Positive Ageing Engagement Officer

As a Positive Ageing Engagement Officer my role is to help older people remain active, engaged and connected in our community. This includes working with seniors and social groups/clubs, neighbourhood houses and community centres, as well as with individuals. I help residents link in with these organisations and I also help clubs develop, grow and network with each other.

Last October I worked with my team to organise events for the Seniors Festival, including the Seniors Expo, Centenarian Celebration and the Seniors Afternoon Dance.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

My job is a good mix of working with CGD residents, coupled with the creative and administrative aspect of planning and organising events and activities. It is rewarding to work with my team to create something that didn't previously exist, and to see the joy and engagement of our participants.

What does a typical week look like?

I started in this role last September and I'm yet to find a week that looks like any other. My week might include planning an event, booking a venue and catering, organising speakers or stallholders and



creating promotional material. I might be out and about visiting seniors' groups to get to know their committees and activities. I might also take phone bookings and work with facilitators to support regular activities and there's plenty of admin work.

Why did you pursue a career in this field?

I love the work local government can do to enable health and wellbeing outcomes that benefit all layers of our community. Day to day, we bring joy and connection to our clients and residents and in the longer term we are helping to reduce government spending on medical needs. Social isolation and loneliness are now recognised as major health concerns in Australia and the health effects can be serious. I like being able to make a difference in people's lives.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to run, walk and do other outdoor activities. I play music and help run a program of weekly music session workshops. I also have a weird hobby of renovating my house and garden.

Play it Forward

Access to sport has become more affordable for Greater Dandenong families who attended the Play it Forward event held late last year.

The event included a free raffle, come and try sport activities and an equipment swap for good quality second hand sports equipment.

Run in collaboration with ReLink Australia and Team Sports 4 All the event offered families the chance to donate their old equipment or pick up new equipment to save on costs. More than 50 people attended the event with 153 items being redistributed to new homes.



Greater Dandenong Deputy Mayor, Cr Phillip Dahn opened the event at Ross Reserve Pavilion in Noble Park and acknowledged the barriers to sports participation.

"We know that affordability is one of the biggest challenges preventing so many people from taking part and hopefully this is the first step for many families to get active," Cr Dahn said.

"Sport is for everyone and we are working together to make sure it is accessible to anyone who wants to participate."

The event included a free sausage sizzle provided by the Dandenong Saints Basketball Club.

The event was so successful a follow-up one is in the works and we will keep the community updated on that.

What's On February 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Heritage Hill House and Garden Tour 10am 		The Maze exhibition launch Walker Street Gallery 6pm	Sustainability Session – Beeswax Wraps Keysborough Community Hub 1pm 
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
				Dandenong and District Orchid Club Meeting Dandenong Showgrounds Committee Room, Greaves Reserve, Dandenong 7pm	Kwabo Dance Workshop Keysborough Community Hub 10am	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Council Meeting 7pm 	Keeping Kids Safe program South East Community Links 6pm	Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	Dried Flower Resin Art Keysborough Community Hub 10.30am	Tofiga Fepulea'i Shuuush your Mouf Drum Theatre 7.30pm	Think Tank: Earthquakes and Volcanoes Springvale Library 2.30pm 	
23	24	25	26	27	28	
	Keeping Kids Safe program South East Community Links 6pm 		Multifaith Mindfulness Meditation Dandenong Hospital Sacred Space 2.30pm	Baby Bounce Springvale Library 10.30am 	Kutumb Kirtan Drum Theatre 11am	

Find Your Next Job in Greater Dandenong



Looking for work close to home? Greater Dandenong is one of Melbourne's most vibrant employment regions, offering thousands of opportunities in manufacturing, transport and logistics, health care and construction. With over 114,000 jobs locally, there's a role for every skill set.

To make your job search easier Council has created *Greater Dandenong Jobs* – a free online platform connecting job seekers with local employers.

Visit greaterdandenongjobs.com.au to browse vacancies, create a profile, and apply for jobs directly.

Why use *Greater Dandenong Jobs*?

- ▶ **Free and easy:** Register and apply at no cost.
- ▶ **Local opportunities:** Find jobs close to home.
- ▶ **Helpful tools:** Build your resume and set up job alerts.

Top Tips for Job Seekers:

1. **Tailor your resume** to match the job description.
2. **Highlight local knowledge** – employers value community connection.
3. **Set up alerts** on *Greater Dandenong Jobs* for new roles.
4. **Network locally** through community events and LinkedIn.
5. **Prepare for interviews** by researching the company and role.

Explore the job opportunities today and find an employer who values local talent.

Greater Dandenong Career and Support Expo

The annual Career and Support Expo is coming to Springvale. This event provides the chance to explore training and employment pathways, meet potential employers and speak with support services.



When

Wednesday 4 March



Time

10am to 1.30pm



Where

Springvale City Hall
18 Grace Park Avenue
Springvale



Tickets

Free to attend, bookings essential.
greaterdandenong.com/careerandsupportexpo2026

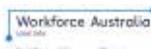


Scan the QR Code to register



Contact

business@cgd.vic.gov.au
8571 1550



Workforce Australia Local Jobs is funded by the Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.



International Women's Day

Every March the South East Business Network celebrates International Women's Day with a special networking event.

Marked annually on 8 March, International Women's Day is a global day that celebrates the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women. The day also offers the opportunity to examine gender equity across society.

Join us this year at Drum Theatre on Thursday 12 March, from 12pm–2pm, to hear from our guest speaker Sarah Davidson. The Matcha Maiden founder,

lawyer, television presenter, author and podcaster will share her story of turning passion into purpose.



Save the date

4 March Career and Support Expo

12 March International Women's Day SEBN Event

18 March Circular Economy workshop presented by ASPIRE

22 March Greater Dandenong Sustainability Festival

24–25 March Business Accelerator Workshop (2 days)



Keeping Kids Safe



A leading health service will deliver the Keeping Kids Safe program for parents and carers in Dandenong this month.

Women's Health in the South East (WHISE) will present the free, interactive four-session course to help build confidence in talking to children about body safety, consent and respectful relationships to prevent sexual violence.

Developed in partnership with Sexual Health Victoria, Talking the Talk Healthy Sexuality Education and South East Community Links, and designed to empower families, the program provides practical tools to help keep young people safe and healthy.

Join us to learn:

- ▶ What consent really means, including changes to the law and the importance of clear, enthusiastic agreement in relationships
- ▶ How to talk about consent and sex in a positive, healthy, and age-appropriate way
- ▶ How to respond if a young person shares that something has happened to them, using trauma-aware approaches

- ▶ How to have comfortable, ongoing conversations with your children about relationships, consent, and sex, including how to navigate tricky questions
- ▶ How to model respect, equality, and healthy relationship behaviours at home
- ▶ How to break down harmful stereotypes about gender and sexuality so that young people can grow up feeling safe, respected, and valued.

The program will run in Dandenong weekly from Tuesday 17 February, from 6pm–8.30pm.



Places are limited and bookings are essential. Visit [wise.org.au/keeping-kids-safe/](https://www.whise.org.au/keeping-kids-safe/) for more information.

Together, we can help create communities where every child feels safe, valued and heard.

Volunteers needed



Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong is looking for volunteers to support their work in keeping our community safe.

The small, community-based group is run by volunteers who produce a bi-monthly newsletter, run four safety forums each year, on the last Wednesday of the month in March, May, September and November, and share community concerns with police and Council on a regular basis.

The group is looking for volunteers from the wider Greater Dandenong community to help distribute newsletters, run events or join the committee. They are also calling for new members to sign up to their mailing list to stay in touch with events and other discussions.

The group will hold their first forum for 2026 on Wednesday 25 March at the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park. Doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start. The event will feature Victorian Police and a different guest speaker each meeting, along with Q&A plus a light supper.



To get the latest news find the group on Facebook (search [neighbourhoodwatchgreaterdandenong](#)), or email them at info.nhwgd@gmail.com and register for their mailing list.

Learn to swim

Cooling down in summer often involves a visit to the beach, lake or pool. Visit one of our pools to learn how to swim and stay safe.

Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC) and Dandenong Oasis provide swimming lessons designed to be fun, supportive and structured for all ages and abilities.

Each class is led by a qualified instructor who focuses on developing swimming skills and water safety in small group settings.

What's Included:

- ▶ **Weekly Lesson:** One 30-minute session tailored to build confidence and technique.



- ▶ **Family Pool Access:** Free entry to the 50m and kids' pools for the whole family on lesson days.
- ▶ **Unlimited Practise:** Students enjoy free, unlimited access to both centres on non-lesson days; perfect for extra practise and skill development.



Visit [nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au/swimming-lessons](https://www.nobleparkaquaticcentre.com.au/swimming-lessons) or [dandenongoasis.com.au/swimming-lessons](https://www.dandenongoasis.com.au/swimming-lessons) for more information.



Swimming Lessons Term 1 Filling Fast!

Enquire today to secure your child's place at Dandenong Oasis or Noble Park Aquatic Centre. Our swimming lessons offer a fun, supportive and structured learning experience for all ages and abilities.



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