OCTOBER 2026

Greater Dandenong Council News



Junior mayors celebrate 20 years of Drum Theatre

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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
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TTY: 133 677
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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 October edition of *Greater Dandenong Council News*.

October is a busy month across our city, with opportunities to celebrate, connect and learn. This year marks the Drum Theatre's 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of bringing arts, culture and entertainment to Greater Dandenong.

As part of the celebrations, our Junior Mayor, Fariha, and Deputy Junior Mayor, Omar, visited the theatre and met the cast of The Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition, a production proudly supported through Council's Community Grants Program. Read more on page 3.

This month also marks the Victorian Seniors Festival. We are celebrating the valuable contribution older residents make to our community through a range of events and activities, including the Living Well Expo, centenarian celebrations and the Seniors Festival Afternoon Dance. Find out more on page 7.

Community safety remains one of our key priorities. On page 6, you can read about our advocacy for greater investment in community-led crime prevention initiatives and safer public spaces. I also encourage you to join us at the Community Safety Family Fun Day on Saturday 10 October where residents can connect with emergency services and learn practical safety tips in a fun and welcoming environment.

On page 6, you can also read about our Poverty is Everyone's Business campaign. We're continuing to work alongside local organisations to advocate for investment in services that support people experiencing financial hardship, homelessness and social exclusion.

We're making strong progress on community infrastructure projects. Turn to page 13 for the latest update on Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing and page 14 for details on the significant improvements taking place at Dandenong Stadium.

I hope to see many of you at the Noble Park Family Fun Day on 25 October. It promises to be a wonderful celebration of our diverse and vibrant community.

Mayor
Councillor Sophie Tan

My City



This striking sculpture at Springvale Botanical Cemetery is an example of the visual impact art has when it complements the environment in community spaces.

Community photographer, Cheryl Lambert, photographed the sculpture and her work appears as our Community Calendar feature picture for October.

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

Front cover: The Junior Mayor and Junior Deputy Mayor met the cast from The Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition.

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FSC Logo



Greater Dandenong's Junior Mayor and Junior Deputy Mayor, Fariha and Omar, started the Drum's 20th anniversary celebrations early when they visited to meet The Wizard of Oz cast.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Drum Theatre

There is no place like the Drum Theatre this spring as the iconic venue celebrates its 20th anniversary and welcomes a new generation of performers to the stage in *The Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition*, supported by Greater Dandenong City Council's Community Grants Program.

Masquerade Youth Productions (MYP), a volunteer-led, not-for-profit organisation, received a $10,000 Medium Community Grant from Council to help cover venue costs for the production. The grant supports opportunities for local young people to develop their skills, confidence and creativity through live theatre.

The production features a cast of 35 young performers and follows Dorothy, Toto and their friends on their journey to the Emerald City. Through the experience, participants gain practical theatre skills while performing in a professional venue before a live audience.

Mayor Councillor Sophie Tan said:

"The Drum Theatre has long been at the heart of our arts community, creating memorable experiences and providing a stage for local talent to shine."

Junior Mayor Fariha said:

"Council is proud to support opportunities that help young people build confidence, develop new skills and express their creativity."

Deputy Junior Mayor Omar said:

"The Drum Theatre has played an important role in our community for 20 years. It's great to see young performers continue to be part of its story."

The production continues MYP's long-standing relationship with the Drum Theatre, where the group has been performing for more than 10 years. In 2025, MYP was recognised with the Greater Dandenong Outstanding Contributor to the Arts Award. Nominations for this year's Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards close on Monday 5 October.

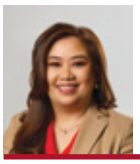
Visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards** for more information.

The *Wizard of Oz – Youth Edition* will be performed at the Drum Theatre on 2 and 3 October, including an Auslan-interpreted performance on Saturday afternoon.

One Stage. 20 Years. on Saturday 7 November.

For more details visit: drumtheatre.com.au/20years

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October Council Meetings

OCTOBER

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 19 October**

MONDAY
19
OCTOBER

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

Celebrate spring at the Noble Park Family Fun Day

Join us for a day of fun, food and community spirit when the popular Noble Park Family Fun Day returns to Ross Reserve this spring.

The free event will be held on Sunday 25 October, from 11am to 4pm, and will bring together families, friends and neighbours for a vibrant celebration featuring entertainment, cultural experiences and activities for all ages.

Visitors will enjoy live performances, interactive workshops, outdoor games, market stalls and a diverse range of international food. There will be plenty of opportunities to connect with the community, explore different cultures and enjoy a great day out.





Whether you want to relax and enjoy the entertainment, take part in activities, browse local stalls or sample delicious food, there will be something for everyone.

Noble Park Family Fun Day
Sunday 25 October 2026
11am to 4pm
Ross Reserve, Memorial Drive, Noble Park
Entry via Corrigan Road

More information and the full event program will be available soon at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

► Dandenong North Ward

Cr Bob Milkovic

It's great to see important investments being made in Dandenong North that will benefit our community for years to come.

We're currently replacing the floor at Dandenong Stadium. The stadium is proudly home to the Dandenong Basketball Association and Volleyball Victoria and welcomes more than 17,000 visitors each week.

As well as replacing the floors, we'll be installing a new scoreboard, renovating the changerooms and renewing the roof by the end of the year. These upgrades will help maintain the high-quality facilities that so many people rely on to stay active, connected and engaged in local sport. As one of our city's premier sporting venues, the stadium plays an important role in supporting local clubs, schools and sporting associations and these improvements will help ensure it continues to serve our community well into the future.



I'm also pleased to see road resurfacing works being delivered across Dandenong North, including Loch Road, Pamir Street, Eve Court, Brott Court, Tyrol Street, Elms Court, Barton Street, Sylvia Street, Brady Road, Carlton Road, Howe Avenue and Yarra Court. These works will improve road conditions and help provide safer and smoother journeys for residents and visitors alike.

October is Seniors Festival month, a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the valuable contributions older residents make to our community. I encourage local seniors to get involved in the many events and activities taking place across Greater Dandenong and enjoy the opportunities to connect with others, learn something new and stay active.

These projects and programs are helping to make our community stronger and our neighbourhoods even better places to live, work and play.

As always, you can reach me at Bob.Milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or 0435 237 051

Cr Isabella Do

► Keysborough South Ward

It was wonderful to celebrate the first birthday of the Keysborough Community Hub in September. In just one year, the Hub has become a vibrant space where local residents can connect, learn and take part in community activities.

I've enjoyed seeing this important facility become part of daily life in Keysborough. Since opening, more than 72,000 people have visited the Hub for library services, Maternal and Child Health appointments, parenting groups and community programs. The library has also welcomed almost 1,200 new members and more than 58,000 items have been borrowed, highlighting just how valued this facility is.

As our community continues to grow, it's important that we invest in the spaces and services that bring people together. The Hub has quickly become a vibrant community destination, with residents enthusiastically embracing both its indoor facilities and outdoor spaces.

I'm also pleased to share that works on the Perry Road and Pillars Road upgrades are progressing well and remain on track for completion this year. These important projects will improve safety, connectivity and road conditions for residents, businesses and visitors across Keysborough South.



If you're a fan of local trivia, you'll be excited to hear that parts of the upcoming Liam Neeson film, The Mongoose, were filmed on Pillars Road before the upgrades began. The movie is due for release in October and if those scenes make the final cut, they'll show a very different road to the one our community will soon enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who continues to share their ideas and feedback with me. Hearing what's important to you helps me advocate for a better Keysborough South.

Remember, you can reach me at Isabella.Do@cgd.vic.gov.au or call 0427 161 104.



2027 Community Calendar

We are introducing a new way to receive your annual Community Calendar for 2027.

We know how important the calendar is to households across Greater Dandenong, with valuable information on managing waste and when to put bins out for collection.

To support our sustainability efforts, we're introducing a convenient local pick-up model.

From December 2026, you will be able to collect your 2027 Community Calendar from convenient locations across our community, including Council Customer Service Centres and libraries in Dandenong, Springvale and Keysborough. We will also be delivering copies to retirement villages.

If you are unable to collect your calendar due to special circumstances, please reach out to us using the contact details on page 2.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out how to get your hands on our 2027 Community Calendar.

Springvale Cleanliness and Waste Forum

We're hosting a community forum on cleanliness and waste in Springvale on Tuesday 13 October.

For more information, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste

Woody Meadows transform the landscape



A splash of colour is returning to some of Greater Dandenong's parks, but these eye-catching garden beds are doing much more than brightening our public spaces.

Since 2021, we have been taking part in the Woody Meadow trial planting project with the University of Melbourne. The innovative gardens are more environmentally-friendly, cost-effective and easier to maintain.

Woody Meadows are designed to encourage biodiversity through a rich variety of flowering plants and shrubs. The result is a display of colours that changes with the seasons while creating valuable habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Council's Environmental Engagement Team Leader, Patrick Cazaly, said the dense canopies created by these gardens discourage weeds and require less work for our horticulture team.

"Many of our public landscapes have the tendency to use the same palette of plants, which are hardy and low-maintenance, but they are not especially beautiful. Woody Meadows are full of bright coloured flowers," he said.

Every two years the garden beds undergo a rejuvenation process known as coppicing, where plants are cut right back to encourage strong regrowth.

While it might look like we have removed the beautiful plants it is quite the opposite. This method of hard pruning encourages the plants to grow back strongly and create a thicker canopy ensuring the gardens remain healthy and resilient.

There are three Woody Meadows across our city, including at Burden Park, Ross Reserve and Dandenong Park. The gardens were pruned in May and are now getting back to their blooming best.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/woody-meadows-project to read more about the Woody Meadows.

Seniors Festival 2026

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 Monday 5 October.

To nominate email the Positive Ageing Team: positiveageing@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 5556



Seniors Festival Afternoon Dance

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

Featuring live entertainment by Band O' Gold.

Cost is $10 per person and includes afternoon tea. Tickets can be purchased online or at one of the pre-sales sessions held at Mitchell Hall, Springvale Hub, Dandenong Library, or Keysborough Hub. Payment at the door can be arranged at the time of booking.

Bookings essential: scan QR code or call 8571 5556.

greaterdandenong-events.bookable.net.au



Living Well Expo

Springvale Town Hall, 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale Thursday 15 October, 10am–12pm

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 Grandparents' Storytime and hear from guest speakers.

For more information contact 8571 5556.

Seniors Festival Activities

Throughout the month of October, you can find events and activities to help you stay active around Greater Dandenong.

There are day trips and lunches to help you get out and about. Visit one of the libraries for activities that range from author talks and book groups to creative programs and help with digital technology.



Pick up your guide from Customer Service Centres located at:

- Dandenong Library
- Springvale Library and Community Hub
- Keysborough Community Hub
- Dandenong Oasis
- Noble Park Aquatic Centre
- Parkmore Shopping Centre

To view online or subscribe to our eNewsletter, please visit: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/living-well-greater-dandenong



Water Wise: Safety Skills for Seniors

As part of Victorian Seniors Festival and Community Safety Month this October, we are offering free Water Safety Sessions to help older adults build confidence and stay safe in and around the water.

Designed for people aged 65 and over, these sessions will cover water awareness, safe swimming practices and emergency response skills to help keep you and your loved ones safer.

Choose from a classroom-based information session or a practical pool session at Dandenong Oasis.

Water Safety Information Session (Dry)

Learn about waterway safety, recognising hazards, and choosing and fitting lifejackets correctly.

- Tuesday 6 October 11.45am to 12.45pm
- Dandenong Oasis
- Free, registrations required

Water Safety Pool Session (Wet)

Build confidence with floating, treading water and personal survival skills, and learn how lifejackets can help in emergencies.

- Thursday 8 October 11.45am to 12.45pm
- Dandenong Oasis
- Free, registrations required
- Limited to 20 participants

Bookings are essential. Register early to secure your place by visiting greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events

ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

WHERE CULTURE COMES ALIVE

EXHIBITIONS



UNCHARTED WATERS. THE JOURNEY OF MOTHER TONGUE

SHOWING UNTIL SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 11am–3pm

Acclaimed choreographer Annalouise Paul makes her contemporary art debut with *Uncharted Waters. The Journey of Mother Tongue*. Centred on *Primordial* (2026), a newly commissioned dance film within a spiral-shaped installation, the exhibition explores the languages that shape how we relate to one another and the world around us, inviting audiences into an immersive encounter to be watched, walked and felt.



CALL AND RESPONSE

A PARTICIPATORY MOVEMENT WORKSHOP WITH ANNALOUISE PAUL AND GÜLŞEN ÖZER

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 1pm–2.30pm

A participatory movement workshop with Annalouise Paul and Gülşen Özer. Following a guided exhibition tour, explore movement as a form of dialogue through artist-led activities. Open to all, no dance experience needed.



WALKER STREET KITCHEN

9 DECEMBER – 27 FEBRUARY

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, 11am–3pm

This socially engaged art project by acclaimed artist Nadia Hernández (Venezuela / Australia) uses food as both subject and medium to explore cultural memory, belonging and intergenerational knowledge. Bringing together local growers, market traders, and visiting and local chefs, Walker Street Kitchen reflects on the poetic and cultural dimensions of food, from growing and sourcing produce to the rituals of cooking and sharing meals.

HERITAGE HILL MUSEUM COLLECTION EXHIBITION

Open Wednesday and Thursday 10am–2pm



The Secret Life of Gardens

SHOWING UNTIL THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY

Beneath the blooms lies a story. *The Secret Life of Gardens* uncovers the garden history of Heritage Hill, from early domestic landscapes to Edna Walling's design influence, revealing how gardens shaped Australian life, culture and connection to nature.

THE SECRET LIFE OF GARDENS PROGRAM



Low Waste Food Gardening with Urban Nanna

Wednesday 21 October, 6pm–7.30pm

Join Anna, The Urban Nanna, for a practical workshop on low-waste gardening. Learn simple ways to reduce garden waste, make upcycled seedling planters and plant tags, and take-home seeds to start your own sustainable garden. Includes resources and follow-up materials.



Planting for Native Birds, Bees and Butterflies with Jaclyn Crupi

Thursday 19 November, 1.30pm–3pm

Want to help native wildlife thrive in your area? Join writer and gardener Jaclyn Crupi to discover how simple changes in your garden can support native birds, bees and butterflies. Learn practical, budget-friendly ways to grow native plants and create wildlife-friendly outdoor spaces.

SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN FOR *9 BY 5*

Opening Event: Saturday 13 February 2027, 3pm

Exhibition Date: 13 February–7 May 2027

Entries are now open for 9 by 5, Greater Dandenong's much-loved exhibition celebrating small-scale creativity. Artists of all ages and experience levels are invited to submit an original 2D artwork in the iconic 9 x 5-inch format. Painting, drawing, printmaking, photography and mixed media are all welcome. Applicants must upload an image of their completed artwork with their entry. Places are limited, so early submissions are encouraged.

Artwork Submissions close 20 December 2026.
greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5

WHAT'S ON AT THE DRUM

EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

Drum Theatre 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Saturday 7 November, 5pm–9pm

Celebrate 20 years of the Drum Theatre with a special night of live performance, storytelling and community. This one-off anniversary event features a Welcome to Country, local luminaries, anniversary cake, live music and a RIDDIM-curated foyer party showcasing local DJs and Our Beat alumni. Free tickets, bookings essential.

PHANTOM TRIBUTE

Sunday 18 October, 2pm–3.30pm

A one-of-a-kind concert celebrating Michael Crawford's iconic stage musicals and hit recordings, featuring favourites from *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*, *Aspects of Love* and more.



ENCORE – INSPIRING THEATRE, LASTING MEMORIES

EVERY SHOW STARTS AT 10.30AM WITH COMPLIMENTARY MORNING TEA FROM 9.30AM.

Oh Carole: The Songs of Carole King and Neil Sedaka

Thursday 15 October, 10.30am–11.45am

Motown Legacy

Thursday 12 November, 10.30am–11.45am

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Thursday 3 December, 10.30am–11.45am

Poverty is Everyone's Business



Council staff ran a Poverty is Everyone's Business information stall

In Greater Dandenong, one in five residents live below the poverty line.

Poverty is not something any one organisation can solve alone. Through our Poverty is Everyone's Business campaign, the Greater Dandenong Anti-Poverty Consortium is bringing organisations together to strengthen local responses to poverty.

Mayor Cr Sophie Tan said rising living costs are placing increasing pressure on local families.

"We know many people in our community are struggling to afford essentials such as food, rent and utility bills. Nobody should have to choose between putting food on the table and keeping a roof over their head."

Recent community feedback from Springvale Learning and Activity Centre's social supermarket, which provides free food parcels, fresh vegetables and pantry staples, highlighted these challenges, with more than half of respondents saying groceries have become increasingly unaffordable and almost half reporting they are buying less food than they used to.

Springvale Learning and Activity Centre, The Salvation Army and Nourish DBC are members of Council's Anti-Poverty Consortium.

The Salvation Army supported a local mother of three after she received notice to vacate her rental property. Before securing this rental, she and her children had been sleeping in their car and faced with the prospect of losing her housing again, she turned to local support services for help.

Through advocacy and casework support, alternative housing options were identified and she was connected with a program that enabled her to begin further study and improve her employment prospects. She continues to receive support while working towards a more secure future for herself and her children.

Another local resident received life changing food, warmth and connection through Nourish DBC.

"I wasn't just another person in need. I was welcomed, supported and made to feel part of a community."

These stories highlight the important role local organisations play in supporting residents experiencing hardship.

We are advocating for investment in homelessness outreach, financial counselling, community support programs and early intervention initiatives to help people access the support they need, when they need it.

Visit our Poverty is Everyone's Business webpage to find local support organisations: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/poverty-everyones-business



Safer communities through local action

Whether it's visiting a local shopping centre, walking to public transport or spending time in a neighbourhood park, feeling safe and connected helps people participate fully in community life. That's why community safety is one of our key advocacy priorities for 2026-27.

Community safety is about more than policing and security. It includes reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, supporting vulnerable community members and strengthening social cohesion so everyone feels safe and connected.

We're advocating for investment in community-led crime prevention initiatives across Greater Dandenong, as well as funding to improve safety and community confidence in the Springvale Activity Centre. These initiatives would help strengthen neighbourhood connections, activate public spaces and create safer environments for residents and visitors.

This advocacy builds on Council's existing Strengthening Community Safety Grant, which is already delivering $1.6 million in safety infrastructure upgrades across Dandenong and Noble Park to enhance perceptions of community safety, and further investment would extend this momentum across the broader municipality.

Mayor Cr Sophie Tan said investing in community safety helps communities thrive.

"Everyone deserves to feel safe and connected in their community. By investing in community safety, we can address the root causes of crime, strengthen community connections and build safer, more resilient neighbourhoods."

Learn more about our advocacy priorities and how you can support them at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/advocacy

What's On October 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 **Carers Walking Group** Noble Park Community Centre 9.45am	2 **Penguins of Madagascar** Springvale Community Hub **Advanced English Language Classes** Springvale Community Hub 10am	3 **Shaun the Sheep; Farmageddon** Springvale Community Hub	4 
5 **Strength Training** Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am	6 **Adult Exercise** Jan Wilson Community Centre 9.30am	7 **Mr Peabody and Sherman** Springvale Community Hub	8 **The Secret Life of Gardens** Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens 10am	9 **Sonic the Hedgehog 3** Springvale Community Hub	10 **A Minecraft Movie** Springvale Community Hub **Community Safety Family Fun Day** Palm Plaza at Dandenong Square 10am	11 **Anti-Poverty Week** **11–17 October**
12 	13 **Women's Community Street Soccer Program** Endeavour Hills Leisure Centre 4:00pm	14 **Zumba at Jan Wilson Community Centre** Jan Wilson Community Centre 5:30pm	15 **Citizenship English Language Classes** Community Rooms 2 and 3 Springvale Community Hub 10 am	16 **Zumba Gold** Jan Wilson Community Centre 10am	17 **Community Yoga and Meditation Workshops** Keysborough Community Hub 10am	18 **Art Show** Noble Park Community Centre 10am
19 **Council Meeting** Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	20 **Nature Play** Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve 10am	21 **Low Waste Food Gardening with Urban Nanna** Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens 6pm	22 **Women's Wellbeing Circle** Springvale Community Hub 5pm	23 **Yoga and Meditation** Jan Wilson Community Centre 11.15am	24 **Dandenong Parkrun** Dandenong Park 8.00am	25 **Noble Park Family Fun Day** Ross Reserve Noble Park 11am
26 **Playgroups at Jan Wilson Community Centre** 10am	27 **Free Digital Skills and English Support for Mandarin Speakers** Springvale Community Hub 10am	28	29 **Community Aerobics Class (Vietnamese and English)** Keysborough Community Hub 6pm	30 **Halloween Spooktacular** Springvale Community Hub 4:30pm	31 	



Behind the Scenes

Helping create safer and healthier communities.

Listening to the community is at the heart of Madalene's work as Council's Community Safety Program Officer.

Madalene leads our alcohol and other drug harm prevention portfolio, working with residents, community organisations, Victoria Police and health services to better understand local concerns and develop practical solutions.

With a Masters Degree in Health Promotion and experience across local government, community health, state government and the not-for-profit sector, Madalene brings specialist knowledge to one of the community's most complex social issues.

"I've always been interested in the social determinants of health and understanding how people's circumstances and environments influence their wellbeing," Madalene said.

Before joining Greater Dandenong City Council, Madalene worked with people experiencing homelessness, family violence, alcohol and drug dependence and social isolation. Those experiences sparked a passion for prevention and harm reduction.

A large part of Madalene's role involves building partnerships and working with stakeholders to respond to emerging community safety issues.

"The most rewarding part of my job is working with people to create meaningful change that improves community safety and wellbeing," she said.

One of Madalene's proudest achievements has been introducing Community Safety Month, an annual October awareness campaign that brings together residents, emergency services, community groups and local organisations.

The program is guided by community feedback, local crime and safety data, and issues raised directly by residents.

"Community safety is a shared responsibility," Madalene said.

"Every conversation, partnership and small step forward contributes to lasting positive change."

While much of her work happens behind the scenes, its impact is felt across the community through stronger partnerships, better access to information and support services, and initiatives that help residents feel safer, more connected and informed.

Community Safety Family Fun Day

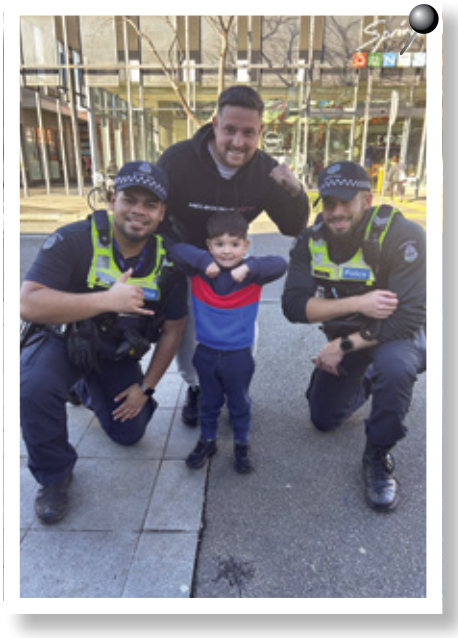
Join us for a free community safety event that will have something for the whole family.

Meet local emergency service workers and connect with community organisations that will share tips and tricks to help you feel safer.

Food and drinks will be available, while children can enjoy free activities throughout the event.

There will also be stalls offering free anti-theft number plate screws, children's car seat checks and installation by Kids Safe Victoria (appointments required) and vehicle tyre checks.

The day is presented in partnership with Council, Victoria Police and Dandenong Square shopping centre.



Community Safety Family Fun Day

Saturday 10 October, from 10am–2.30pm

Palm Plaza, between Clow and Walker streets, Dandenong.

Major investment in the future of Dandenong Stadium



Thousands of athletes, students, families and visitors use Dandenong Stadium every week, making it one of the busiest and most important indoor sporting facilities in Victoria.

To ensure the venue continues to support local, state and national sporting events for decades to come, we are investing in a major floor replacement across seven courts.

Built in 1992, Dandenong Stadium is home to the Dandenong Basketball Association and Volleyball Victoria and welcomes more than 17,000 visitors each week. While the courts have been carefully maintained over the years, the original sports flooring system has never been fully replaced.

The upgrade will see almost 4,700 square metres of timber sports flooring removed and replaced, along with other improvements to meet current engineering standards. Around 65,000 metres of Tasmanian Oak flooring will be installed. Laid end to end, the timber would stretch from Dandenong Stadium to the MCG and back, with another five kilometres left over.

This is a significant investment in a community asset that supports thousands of players, students, volunteers and spectators every year. With proper maintenance, the new flooring is expected to last up to 50 years, providing a high-quality playing surface for future generations.

Dandenong Stadium will continue operating in a reduced capacity while works are underway, with many activities relocated to Springers Leisure Centre. The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Pools, roofs and play

Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing's aquatic spaces are fast moving from concrete structures and pipework towards the places where our community will swim, exercise, recover, connect and play.



50-metre pool holds water

The centre's 50-metre pool passed its biggest test yet, holding roughly 1.3 million litres of water while specialists checked the structure was watertight.

With testing complete and the pool structure cleared, the next stage can begin. Tiling and detailed finishes will start turning the concrete shell into the competition and community pool people will soon swim in.



A roof over the warm water pools

Roofing is now complete over the two dedicated warm water pools and spa, creating another major enclosed area within Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing.

The two warm water pools will hold about 460,000 litres of water combined and will operate at around 34°C, creating the optimum temperate for gentle exercise, hydrotherapy, rehabilitation and relaxation.

Accessible ramp entry is another feature, making the warm water pools easier to use for people with a wide range of mobility needs, or simply seeking a more gentle pool entry.

Alongside them, the spa will hold about 125,000 litres of water and will operate consistently at around 38°C. The enormous spa will include 37 sets of twin jets, adding another dedicated warm water experience and place for relaxation and connection within the centre.

Splash pool takes shape

Construction is well underway on the leisure and splash pool – the final aquatic pool to be built at Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing.

Designed with children and families in mind, the shallow aquatic play area will include interactive water features, play equipment and a gently sloping entry into the water with no step.

These aquatic milestones mark another splash forward in bringing Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing to life for our community.

For construction progress and to learn more about Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Oasis

Celebrating Greater Dandenong's business community



Greater Dandenong's outstanding businesses took centre stage at the Greater Dandenong Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Night in August.

The annual gala brought together business owners, industry leaders and community representatives to celebrate the organisations helping to shape the region's strong, diverse and vibrant economy.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Phillip Danh, and Chief Executive Officer, Jacqui Weatherill, attended the gala alongside members of our Business Development and Investment team.

Mayor Tan said the awards highlighted the important role local businesses play in strengthening both the local economy and the wider community.

"The businesses recognised through these awards show that success is not just about business achievements, but also about the positive and lasting impact they have on their customers and the wider community.

"It was such a great evening, celebrating the fabulous mix of businesses within our municipality. Well done to the Chamber for hosting such a great night," Mayor Tan said.

From emerging enterprises and small businesses, to manufacturers, hospitality operators and transport and logistics firms, the awards recognised the innovation, resilience and service that contribute to Greater Dandenong's success.

We were proud to sponsor the Community Impact and Customer Experience Award, which was won by Soap Aid Ltd.

"The award recognises businesses that go above and beyond to make a positive difference through exceptional customer service, meaningful engagement and a genuine commitment to the people they serve," Mayor Tan said.

The Chamber has supported local businesses since 1947 and will celebrate its 80th anniversary in 2027.

"Our support for the awards reflects our shared commitment to a thriving local economy and to the businesses and organisations that create jobs, build connections and contribute to the wellbeing of the wider community," the Mayor added.

The evening provided an opportunity to celebrate achievement, strengthen connections and recognise the businesses helping drive Greater Dandenong's economy forward.

Halloween Spooktacular

Get ready for a frightfully fun evening of spooky surprises, live entertainment and Halloween magic! Halloween Spooktacular returns to Springvale Community Hub, Hillcrest Grove, Springvale, on Friday 30 October from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

Young people aged 12–25, along with their families and friends, are invited to enjoy live entertainment, Halloween fun, food, games and a costume competition.

Presented by Greater Dandenong City Council Youth and Family Services and supported through the Victorian Government's Amplify initiative, the event provides a safe, alcohol, smoke and vape-free space for young people to connect, celebrate and showcase their talents.



Learn more, youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/halloween-spooktacular

Deckchair Movies

Deckchair Movies returns to Springvale. Gather your family and friends for a free movie under the stars. Bring a picnic, blanket and chair. Movies start at 6pm.

Springvale Community Hub

Friday 2 October

Penguins of Madagascar

Saturday 3 October

Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon

Wednesday 7 October

Mr Peabody and Sherman

Friday 9 October

Sonic the Hedgehog 3

Saturday 10 October

A Minecraft Movie

For more information, visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/childrens-festival.

October is Motorcyclist Awareness Month

Safer roads are everyone's responsibility

October is Motorcyclist Awareness Month– an opportunity to recognise motorcyclists as an important part of our road community and to encourage everyone to play their part in reducing road danger. Motorcyclists have less physical protection than people travelling in cars, meaning the consequences can be much more serious when a collision occurs.

Creating safer roads is a shared responsibility. Drivers, motorcyclists and all other road users have a role to play in reducing the risk of collisions and serious injuries.

For drivers, this means taking extra care around motorcycles. Look twice at



intersections, check blind spots before changing lanes and give motorcyclists enough space. A motorcycle can be harder to see, particularly in busy traffic, so taking an extra moment to look can make a difference. For motorcyclists, choosing a safe speed, riding to the conditions and using appropriate protective equipment can also reduce the likelihood and severity of injury.

But safer roads are about more than individual behaviour. The way our roads are designed, managed and used also influences the level of risk people experience. We're committed to working with our community and road safety partners to create safer streets for everyone.

We will be hosting activities and events throughout October as part of Motorcyclist Awareness Month, and also throughout the year.

We can also provide Motorcycle Crash Cards for riders. Crash Cards allow riders and pillion passengers to record important personal and emergency information and keep it inside their helmet. A helmet sticker lets first responders know that a Crash Card is available.

To find out about upcoming events, Crash Card availability and other Motorcyclist Awareness Month activities, visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/roadsafety**

This October, whether you ride a motorcycle, drive a car, walk or cycle, help make our roads safer by looking out for each other.

NOBLE PARK
FAMILY FUN DAY

FREE ENTRY

Sunday 25 October 2026
11am – 4pm
Ross Reserve, Noble Park

Live Entertainment | Food, Market and Community Stalls
"Make Your Move" Sports Zone | Facepainting | Family Activities



Greater Dandenong

greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/noble-park-family-fun-day-2026