



2005 – 2006

CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG



ANNUAL REPORT 2005 – 2006



GREATER
DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

> GREAT PLACE

- Dynamic and diverse city
- Recognised as the capital of the south east
- Victoria's manufacturing heartland
- Home to 9000 businesses
- 170 parks and reserves
- Home to Sandown International Raceway
- Multi-million dollar Drum Theatre, now open
- Land area of 129.5 square kilometres



> GREAT PEOPLE

- 133 000 residents
- People from 152 nations
- Half our residents born overseas
- 70 000 people employed locally
- 150 local community groups and service clubs
- An active and committed volunteer community
- National women's basketball champion team

> GREAT SHOPS

- A thriving and bustling Dandenong Market
- Modern shopping complexes at Dandenong and Keysborough
- Wide variety of fresh produce, seafood and meat
- Over 50 Asian restaurants and specialty supermarkets
- Extensive range of factory outlets
- Melbourne's best Asian shopping precinct at Springvale



> GREAT TIMES

- Festivals held monthly
- Sandown Racing – cars, horses and greyhounds
- Scenic bike paths stretching from Jells Park to Carrum beach
- 200 active sports clubs
- Indoor and outdoor swimming pools
- Largest basketball stadium in the southern hemisphere
- Victoria's largest Lunar New Year festival



Green

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OUR VISION

> A great city in which to live and work with great people for neighbours and friends where:

- People from all cultures and walks of life are welcomed and involved.
- All residents are proud of their city.
- Plans are in place for a dynamic sustainable future.
- Achievements are recognised and celebrated.
- Environmental, economic, social and civic wellbeing is a reality.

OUR MISSION

> To achieve the vision for Greater Dandenong through effective leadership, good governance and the delivery of high quality services.

In achieving the mission the council will:

- Provide people focused customer services.
- Be responsive to local needs.
- Plan for a better future.
- Give strong expression to local identity.
- Be democratic, effective and efficient.
- Be highly accountable for its actions.
- Advocate in the interests of the whole community.
- Ensure the continued economic development of the city.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of the community.
- Improve the quality of the city's environment.
- Manage the city's assets in a sustainable manner.
- Provide a safe city.
- Work constructively towards common goals held with the Commonwealth and State Governments.
- Be both a good corporate citizen and a good employer.

THE COUNCIL



The City of Greater Dandenong's 11 councillors are elected as representatives of all residents and ratepayers within the city. Their key responsibilities include:

- establishing the strategic direction of the city
- advocating a broad range of issues
- management of the community's assets
- ensuring the delivery of quality services
- providing fair and equitable representation of all constituents
- enforcement of local laws

Greater Dandenong Council was elected on 26 November, 2005 and will retire in November, 2008.



Ward Boundaries

- 1 Dandenong Ward
- 2 Keysborough South Ward
- 3 Springvale South Ward
- 4 Springvale Central Ward
- 5 Springvale North Ward
- 6 Noble Park North Ward
- 7 Dandenong North Ward
- 8 Lyndale Ward
- 9 Cleeland Ward
- 10 Keysborough Ward
- 11 Noble Park Ward

> CLEELAND



Cr Paul Donovan
Phone: 0408 251 926

Cr Paul Donovan joined the Greater Dandenong Council in 1997 and served as Mayor in 2002-2003. Cr Donovan is committed to improving his local area and to the continued growth of Greater Dandenong.

> DANDENONG



Cr Jim Memeti
Phone: 0434 560 239

Cr Memeti was motivated to stand for council in 2005 in an effort to improve perceptions of Dandenong. He believes it is important to work together with fellow councillors to get excellent results for our city.

> DANDENONG NORTH



Cr John Kelly
Phone: 0418 350 743

Cr Kelly has served as a councillor for more than thirteen years and is committed to ensuring the Greater Dandenong Council is open and transparent in its operations, and encourages increased community consultation in decision-making.

> KEYSBOROUGH



Cr Roz Blades
Phone: 0417 053 612

Cr Blades served as Mayor of the former City of Springvale in 1992 and was elected Mayor of Greater Dandenong in 1998. Currently serving her fifth term, Cr Blades has always been an active participant in community programs and her greatest passion is people.

> KEYSBOROUGH SOUTH

Cr Peter Brown
Mayor, December 2005 – current
Phone: 0408 138 939

Cr Brown was elected to the City of Greater Dandenong in 2003 following seven years as a councillor with the City of Springvale. He is motivated by a desire to improve the quality of life for residents in terms of care and management of the physical environment.

> LYNDALE

Cr Sue Walton
Phone: 0434 560 240

As a resident of Greater Dandenong for twenty years, Cr Walton is passionate about life and people in general. She hopes to see the development of better roads and more facilities to meet residents' needs in Greater Dandenong during her term.

> NOBLE PARK

Cr Pinar Yesil
Phone: 0434 560 242

Cr Pinar Yesil lives in Keysborough and works locally. She has lived in Greater Dandenong for four years, and is particularly passionate about the protection of animals.

> NOBLE PARK NORTH

Cr Maria Sampey
Mayor, July 2005 - Nov 2005
Phone: 0438 800 027

A perseverance to achieve positive results and the ability to listen to residents resulted in Cr Sampey joining the council in 2000 and was Mayor of the city in 2004-2005. She is passionate about ensuring local parkland is retained and upgraded to be more user-friendly for families & youths.

> SPRINGVALE CENTRAL

Cr Youhorn Chea
Phone: 0417 320 645

Cr Chea has been a councillor since 1997 and was Mayor of the city in 2001-2002. He believes it is important for the council to maintain a strong focus on facilities for young people, job creation and increased community safety.

> SPRINGVALE NORTH

Cr Alan Gordon
Phone: 0434 560 238

Cr Gordon has lived in Greater Dandenong for 23 years and becoming a councillor has been a life long dream. He plans to serve the city by improving communications with residents and identifying new funding opportunities.

> SPRINGVALE SOUTH

Cr Yvonne Herring
Phone: 0434 560 241

Having already served as a councillor between 1997 and 2003, Cr Herring returned in 2005 with a desire to continue offering Greater Dandenong good governance and to provide a voice for residents. She has lived in the city with her family for 26 years.

> COUNCILLOR'S OFFICE

Tel: 9239 5230
Fax: 9239 5369

COUNCILLORS WHO COMPLETED THEIR TERM IN NOVEMBER 2005

> DANDENONG



Cr David Kelly

A former Mayor of the City of Dandenong and councillor for nine years, Cr Kelly was elected to the City of Greater Dandenong in 2003. Cr Kelly enjoyed working for the good of the entire community as well as delivering facilities that residents can use and enjoy.

> LYNDALE



Cr Angela Long

Elected to the City of Greater Dandenong in 1997 and serving as Mayor in 2000-2001 Cr Long has years of community involvement behind her. Cr Long worked with the community to achieve better outcomes for the city and was committed to future development.

> NOBLE PARK



Cr Kevin Walsh

Driven by a desire to serve his community, Cr Walsh was elected in 2000 and served as Mayor in 2003-2004. His goal was to see the revitalisation of the Noble Park precinct within a vibrant Greater Dandenong as well as urban renewal and maintaining value for money for ratepayers.

> SPRINGVALE NORTH

Cr Naim Melhem



A councillor for the former City of Springvale, Cr Melhem has served as a councillor of Greater Dandenong since 1997 and was Mayor during 1999-2000. He was the Council representative on the EastLink Freeway Committee and the board of directors of the Municipal Association of Victoria. He has an extensive history of involvement with local community organisations.

> SPRINGVALE SOUTH



Cr Clare O'Neil

Cr O'Neil was elected to the Council in 2003 and served as Mayor in 2004-2005. Cr O'Neil brought a deep passion for the city's vibrancy and growth to her role.



GREATER
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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The City of Greater Dandenong has experienced an outstanding year with the completion of some very significant projects, including the Drum Theatre, the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre and The Castle. We also celebrated a number of festivals and special events including the Commonwealth Games and Queen's Baton Relay.



Reflecting on the year that was, it is clear that Greater Dandenong has achieved a number of successes and has cemented its position as the economic hub of the south east region.

Our City Improvement Program spending saw the completion and official opening of the Drum Theatre, a catalyst for our ongoing plans to revitalise central Dandenong. This was an event to be remembered. The Premier and a line up of star-studded performances dazzled the audience and provided a fitting entrance to what has become a cultural icon in our city.

Other changes now occurring around central Dandenong as part of the partnership between council, VicUrban and the Dandenong Development Board include new way-finding signage, decorative lighting, new bus shelters and Metro Village 3175, the largest inner city residential estate ever undertaken in Dandenong. As well as urban renewal in Dandenong, new housing estates have blossomed in Keysborough South. Eco-friendly houses are being built in landscaped open-space subdivisions, with plans well-advanced for rezoning from rural to residential of a large area of land bounded by Chapel, Hutton/Greens and Perry Roads to further increase housing opportunities within fifteen minutes of Dandenong's central business district and burgeoning arts precinct.

Along with all this was the commencement of redevelopment works on the Dandenong Market, which will see the introduction of an Aldi supermarket by the end of 2006. The future of central Dandenong is truly exciting, and promises to be monumental and of benefit to the entire community.

The completion of the \$5.8 million Paddy O'Donoghue Centre in Noble Park now houses a number of community groups plus childcare, maternal and child health services and a preschool. The success of the centre is clearly evident with close to 1000 bookings made since March and a waiting list already established for kinder places next year.

An exciting year has occurred for the youth of Greater Dandenong with the completion of The Castle, a premier music venue and social outlet. The new youth precinct at

Hemmings Park will see even more changes in the coming year with an upgraded playground, installation of new picnic area and BMX jumps track.

Work also commenced on the \$8.96 million redevelopment of the existing Stud Road Dandenong Basketball complex to house Volleyball Victoria. The redevelopment will include 10 basketball courts, 6 volleyball courts, 3 indoor beach volleyball courts, extension/refurbishment of the administration area to meet the needs of Dandenong Basketball Association and Volleyball Victoria, extension/refurbishment of entry/reception area, kiosk refurbishment, additional change and toilet facilities and additional car parking.

In March we joined in the Commonwealth Games action and witnessed a number of our community members take part in the Queen's Baton Relay through the streets of Dandenong. We hosted a number of events relating to the games and we welcomed Mozambique into our city as our adopted nation. We also celebrated the closing ceremony at the annual Summation Festival where thousands of people turned out to celebrate and embrace the cultural diversity of our city.

Council's popular community grants program gave over \$1.4 million to 269 community groups and individuals for local projects, events and activities. During National Volunteer Week we again thanked and congratulated over 200 volunteers who work for council in a variety of capacities, assisting other local people in need. Council also welcomed a State Government funding boost of over half a million dollars for Home and Community Care (HACC) services in 2005-06, allowing for an additional 20 care workers. Furthermore, we launched 'Dandenong Gives', an online site where people can donate money, goods or time to those less fortunate.

The momentum is set to continue into 2006-07, when as part of our \$23 million City Improvement Program we will witness a number of municipal capital works including the implementation of the Tatterson Park Master Plan, general park improvements, better disability access and car parking bays, footpath upgrades and new library materials.

Once again the results highlighted here in our annual report are the outcome of the dedicated efforts of staff, councillors, residents and all of our strategic partners. I would especially like to commend the continued professionalism and commitment by the executive team and all staff during a year of change, with the departure of our Chief Executive Officer.

I'm particularly proud to be Mayor of such a progressive city, and look forward to another exciting year ahead. I thank all council staff, government stakeholders and the residents, ratepayers and businesses of this vibrant municipality for the significant achievements of the last twelve months and for our brilliant future.



Cr Peter Brown
Mayor



EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The City of Greater Dandenong has witnessed a spectacular year of growth and revitalisation as we continue to cement our position as the regional capital city of the south east.

There have been a number of significant milestones reached throughout the year including the completion of the Drum Theatre, the Paddy O'Donoghue Centre and The Castle. These were all major development projects for the city and catalysts for the progress taking place.

In September the State Government announced \$92.8 million to kick start the revitalisation of Central Dandenong, including \$50.3 million for the central city, \$17.5 million for the George Street Bridge and \$25 million for the Metro Village 3175 residential development.

When the Community Cabinet visited Greater Dandenong in April, Premier Steve Bracks pledged a further \$190 million investment into Central Dandenong. As part of the government's Transit City initiative, this money will be spent on changed traffic conditions along Lonsdale Street making it more pedestrian friendly and improving the overall safety of the street; a new walk to be established linking Dandenong Station to Dandenong proper; and new public spaces and city parks.

This exciting news followed years of work undertaken by council, and further marks the city as a key activity centre evolving and thriving as a prominent business location and preferred residential address.

To take advantage of this activity and progress, Council also launched a rejuvenated logo and brand identity which graphically represents the council across all visual material including signage, vehicles, merchandise and publications. The logo reflects the reinvigoration and rebirth of the city, strengthening our position with a new tagline as A City of Opportunity.

As mentioned above, major highlights of the year included the completion of the \$13 million Drum Theatre which opened with much fanfare in February by The Premier and Mayor. This facility has been given a new lease of life igniting people's love of the theatre and forming an integral part of the city's cultural precinct.

The \$5.8 million state-of-the-art Paddy O'Donoghue Centre in Noble Park also opened its doors in 2006 reinforcing council's



commitment to improving services to older people, youth, families and children. The completion of The Castle, a premier youth music venue, has provided learning opportunities as well as a social outlet for some of the 25,000 youths that reside in Greater Dandenong.

The Metro Village 3175 initiative, the biggest residential plan for Dandenong in decades, got underway with a number of homes now nearing completion. Environmental sustainability is a focus of the development, with five star energy ratings for every home and designs with maximum exposure to natural light, solar hot water systems and recycling of storm water for parkland irrigation.

The EastLink project is well underway with constructors, Thiess John Holland, surging ahead with works right across the city. To date this has included construction of retaining walls, placement of bridge beams and concrete decking. Council has played an important role in the process by advocating on behalf of local residents where needed and ensuring good open communication is maintained.

Council continued to plan vigorously for the city's future, with a number of significant plans developed to help steer future directions. The Dandenong South Structure Plan, the Dandenong Park Masterplan, the Council Plan 2006-2010 and Noble Park Structure Plan were just a few.

We also took the opportunity to undertake a significant review of the Community Grants process, which resulted in guaranteed three year funding for selected groups. Providers of vital community services in Greater Dandenong now benefit through increased certainty and not having to reapply for funding on an annual basis.

The strength of our Home and Community Care program continued to grow, following council moving the service back in-house in 2004/05. Not only did this move better integrate our aged services, but additional funding has meant the service has grown and provided even more employment opportunities. The service also now boasts the offering of traineeships in Home and Community Care.

Despite another significant year of spending through our City Improvement Program, Council finished the year with an operating surplus of \$16.73 million for 2005/2006. Cash held at year end was \$2.42 million and council has maintained a healthy financial position.

Once again our five year Financial Plan has been structured to ensure that services to the community are maintained, whilst giving it the capacity and flexibility to create infrastructure improvements that enhance the lifestyle of the community.

The Executive team has been proud to be part of such an eventful year, and would like to take this opportunity to thank councillors, staff and the community who have assisted in achieving these wonderful results for our city over the past twelve months.