

Greater Dandenong Council News

Sustainability Festival

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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



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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 March edition of Greater Dandenong Council News. It's a big month of celebrations across our community.

As Ramadan draws to a close, our Muslim residents will be celebrating Eid-al-Fitr. I wish them all Eid Mubarak. It's a great time for all of us to learn more about each other's traditions and share in the joy of these celebrations.

You can explore our city's vibrant diversity during Harmony Week (16–22 March). With residents from more than 150 different nations Greater Dandenong is a melting pot of cultures and I am proud to be a part of a community that respects and rejoices in this. Turn to page 6 to read more about Eid and Harmony Week.

Inclusive community celebrations continue with the return of two of our regular annual events. Join the fun with family, friends and pets at Frederick Wachter Reserve for Keysborough's Big Picnic. Find out all about it on page 3.

The Sustainability Festival at Dandenong Market is also back, offering practical ways to help you save money while doing good for the planet. Read more on page 9.

As a woman in leadership, International Women's Day is a calendar highlight for me. It is an opportunity to recognise the achievements of women in our community and to reflect on how we can continue to push for a fairer, more equal world. Join us for a special event showcasing women in business and hear from an inspiring guest who has built a career through passion and purpose. Turn to page 14 for details.

I hope you enjoy everything our city has to offer this month.

Mayor
Cr Sophie Tan

My City

Greater Dandenong is a city of celebrations. An estimated 35,000 people helped ring in 2026 at our New Year's Eve event at Wilson Park in Dandenong. The entertainment was as diverse as our crowd, and revellers were treated to a family-friendly fireworks display at 9.25pm to cap off the night. This month we invite our community to join the fun at Keysborough's Big Picnic.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events to find out what's on in our city.

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



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FSC
Logo

Front cover: Harry Habitat plugs in our Environmental Education Electric Van for charging. Picture: Hilton Stone.





Keysborough's Big Picnic



Join family, friends and furry companions for a fun filled day at Keysborough's Big Picnic.

The annual event returns in 2026 with live entertainment, delicious food trucks and exciting activities for the whole family.

Bring your pet along and take part in the pet parade, join the

Easter Egg Hunt, explore the food, market and community stalls, or simply connect with friends and neighbours in the park.

Keysborough's Big Picnic will be held at Frederick Wachter Reserve, Kingsclere Avenue, Keysborough, on Sunday 29 March, from 11am-4pm.



With free entry, the day promises to be fun for the whole family. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/keysboroughs-big-picnic for more information.

Community leaders recognised



The annual Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards recognise the outstanding contributions made by people within our community who work tirelessly to enrich the lives of others.

Nika Suwarsih has been recognised for her years of service to the Greater Dandenong community, including her role as Dandenong Empowerment Hub Manager for SisterWorks, a role she has held since 2021.

Since arriving in Australia in 2007, Nika has dedicated her time to supporting women and children from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds through a range of volunteer and paid work.

She has received many awards for her years of service to the community and is proud of her latest accolade.

"I'm so grateful for this recognition. I hope we can build a better future and a better place for each other," Nika said.

In her role at SisterWorks, Nika is responsible for coordinating many of the programs and activities run out of their Dandenong site, which focuses on employment pathways.

The organisation was also recognised as the Community Group of the Year at the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards.

SisterWorks empower women from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds to improve their confidence, mental wellbeing, sense of belonging and economic outlook. Their vision is an Australia where all migrant women are given the opportunities to become economically empowered.



Since 2013 the service has supported more than 3500 women and their families from 105 different countries. They report more than 85 per cent of women secure a job within six months of attending their programs.

Their vision is "A world where all women from migrant, refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds are economically empowered".



Visit sisterworks.org.au to find out more.

Councillor Contacts



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Council Meetings

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

The next meeting will be held on:

► **Monday 16 March**

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

MARCH

MONDAY

16

MARCH



Career and Support Expo

✔ Learn more about building a career and explore local jobs on offer at the annual Greater Dandenong Career and Support Expo.

The event provides the opportunity to explore training and employment pathways, meet potential employers and speak with support services all in the one place.

The diversity of the stalls reflects the needs of our community and offers something for everyone.

Last year's expo attracted a large crowd. On the day more than 80 people received career advice coaching, while employers conducted 19 on-the-spot job interviews.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Sophie Tan said the event was a one-stop-shop for job seekers.

"This is a golden opportunity to discover new opportunities or build on your current career path," Mayor Tan said.

Join us at Springvale City Hall, 18 Grace Park Avenue, Springvale on Wednesday 4 March, from 10am–1.30pm.

➔ This event is free but registrations are required. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/careerexpo for more information and to register.

► Springvale Central Ward



As we welcome autumn in 2026, I extend my heartfelt thanks for the continued trust and support you have placed in me. It is a genuine honour to serve as your Councillor in such a dynamic, multicultural and connected community as Springvale Central.

Greater Dandenong thrives because of its people and shared spirit. From the vibrant Lunar New Year festivities in Springvale central to the joyful New Year's Eve gathering in Dandenong. All year round we celebrate cultural events like ethnic association fundraisers, performances and community festivals, which strengthen the harmony across our diverse backgrounds. I actively support these activities to ensure everyone can participate, connect and contribute.

A particular highlight for me was attending the Greater Dandenong Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January at Springvale City Hall. Welcoming new citizens and celebrating outstanding community



contributors in volunteering, service, arts and sport was truly inspiring.

I continue to advocate for community trading opportunities, including plans to promote "Sunday markets" in Springvale. I propose a regulated approach where we address informal street vending positively through Council permits, ensuring safety, fairness and vibrancy while supporting our local economy and culture. The success of Dandenong Market every Sunday from 9am shows the potential – let's keep growing it.

Cr Alice Phuong Le

For our youth, I strongly back community football and sports programs, such as casual soccer at Springvale Community Hub. These encourage physical activity, friendships, skill-building and healthy habits. I'm committed to expanding these to engage even more young people.

Council is delivering ongoing improvements: upgrades to the Springvale Pedestrian Underpass with public art, improved lighting and welcoming features; cleaner, greener streets and parks; and progress under the Springvale Activity Centre Structure Plan. We listen closely to your feedback on maintenance, safety, pathways and balanced local trading.



Please reach out with your ideas. Your input shapes our priorities and delivers real results. You can contact me via email at AlicePhuong.Le@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0429 059 974.

Cr Rhonda Garad

► Cleeland Ward



It is an exciting time for Dandenong, with several major projects now well into their delivery phase and beginning to take visible shape on the ground.

I'm pleased to report the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is progressing well. The three main pools have now been laid and are currently undergoing testing. The walls are up, and you can clearly see the impressive scale of this facility taking form. Construction remains on track for opening next year, with the existing pool staying operational until the new centre is ready.

The Dandenong Community Hub also remains tremendously important to residents. Many community members have invested significant time participating in workshops and co-design processes, offering thoughtful and creative input. I continue to be a strong advocate for a hub that genuinely meets community expectations and future needs.

Another major focus in Cleeland Ward is the Dandenong Market and surrounding precinct. Approval and funding have now been secured for the redevelopment of the much-loved Bazaar section of the market. This project will introduce new offerings, accessibility upgrades and a more welcoming environment for shoppers.

Targeted stakeholder consultation has been underway to develop a Dandenong Market Precinct Plan. Council owns the Market and several parcels of land nearby. The plan is looking at future opportunities for this area, to make sure the market and surrounds continue to serve our community well. We expect it will be out for the next phase of community consultation shortly, so look out for information about that.

Keeping our streets clean is important to me. Council officers continue to target rubbish dumping hotspots around the Market, Stud Road and Cleeland Street through education, monitoring and enforcement.



I look forward to sharing further progress as these projects advance. Please contact me via email at Rhonda.Garad@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone on 0435 107 584.



Dancers from Ratoeh Jaroe Melbourne who performed at our New Year's Eve celebration

Harmony Week 2026

 **Greater Dandenong is proudly home to a vibrant and diverse community that lives together in peace and harmony.**

Our residents come from at least 154 different nations, speak about 130 different languages and follow 80 different faiths, making this a truly global community.

Harmony Week (16-22 March) celebrates cultural diversity, respect and inclusion. The week coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said the theme for the week is 'Everyone Belongs' and echoes our own message that our city welcomes all.

"Harmony Week is a time for all of us to celebrate the rich cultural diversity that makes Greater Dandenong so welcoming," Mayor Tan said.

"The week invites us to reflect on the values we share, including respect and inclusivity. As we come together for Harmony Week let's continue to build a community where everyone feels they belong, where every voice is valued and where our differences strengthen rather than divide us."

See page 12 for more activities to celebrate Harmony Week.

Join the Interfaith Network of Greater Dandenong as they celebrate Harmony Week 2026.

The Interfaith Network has been active for 37 years and brings together faith communities from across our city to promote peace and harmony in Greater Dandenong. The keynote speech will be on the topic of 'Building bridges and unity through interfaith dialogue and encounters', and will be delivered by His Eminence Mykola Bychok, Bishop for Ukrainian Catholics in Australia, New Zealand and Oceania.

The event will be held at Level 1, 39 Clow Street, Dandenong, on Wednesday 18 March, 9am-12pm.

 Visit interfaithnetwork.org.au/ifn-events/ for more information and to register.

Eid Mubarak

As the month of Ramadan comes to a close, Muslims celebrate with the Eid-al-Fitr Festival.

Across Greater Dandenong, community groups and families will gather for a special celebration involving a meal that ends the fast that is linked to Ramadan.

On a day of forgiveness and unity, Eid unites Muslims from around the globe in fasting, feasting, worship and prayer.

Eid has become one of the largest multicultural celebrations in Australia, and here in Greater Dandenong it has long been an important event on our cultural calendar.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan is looking forward to attending many Eid celebrations for community groups across our city this month.

"We take great pride in encouraging all of our residents to celebrate the cultures and traditions they and their families hold special," Mayor Tan said.

"Learning about each other's histories, cultures and customs helps build a more connected community and it benefits all of us. I wish all our Muslim residents Eid Mubarak. May you be blessed with peace, faith and happiness."

The date of Eid-al-Fitr changes each year and depends on the sighting of the moon. At the time of going to print, it was expected to be on Thursday 19 March or Friday 20 March.



**TAKING
SHAPE**



The walls go up



From Cleeland Street, progress at the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is now clearly visible.

Construction has leveled up, with many of the ground floor walls now in place and the layout of the new centre taking shape.

What was once an empty site is fast becoming a defined structure, with rooms and internal spaces clearly emerging as work continues.

This milestone marks a key phase in the build. Seeing the walls rise gives a clear sense of scale and confirms construction remains on track.

If you're travelling along Cleeland Street, take a moment to look across the site and see the progress for yourself.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dwc to keep up to date on this project.

Report an issue



We always strive to maintain our local community to the highest possible standard, including our roads, parks and public spaces. By reporting issues you can help us achieve this.

If you see something broken, missing or in need of Council's attention, please let us know.



There are a number of ways you can officially report incidents, including:

Snap Send Solve

Download this free app to your phone to report issues on-the-spot. Snap a photo, send a report and help Council solve the issue. This app is easy to navigate and can record the exact location for your report.

Online report form

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/report and fill out a simple online form.

Telephone Council

Phone **8571 1000** to speak directly to a Customer Service representative who will be able to take your report or direct you to the correct Council department. If you would like to contact us in a language other than English, please phone 131 450 and ask to be put through to 8571 1000.



Register your pet



Registering your pet and keeping microchip details up-to-date can give you the best chance of being reunited with a missing cat or dog.

The law requires all owners to register cats and dogs aged over three months with Council. Registrations are due by 10 April, so now is the time to register your pet for the year ahead and confirm microchip details are up-to-date.

Council Rangers love to reunite lost pets with their owners, but out-of-date information can slow that process.

Pet registration fees are used to help deliver Council's animal management services, which include the investigation of complaints and regular patrols of parks and reserves. A State Government levy added to each registration fee is also used to fund responsible pet ownership education programs across the state.

Heavily discounted fees are offered for desexed pets and those over 10 years of age. Penalties can apply if you fail to renew your registrations.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pet-registration for more information.

What's On March 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
30 Toddler Time Dandenong Library 10.30am 						1 Clean Up Australia Day 
2 Playgroups at Jan Wilson Community Centre 10am	3	4 Career and Support Expo Springvale City Hall 10am-1.30pm	5 Discover Heritage Hill 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong 10.30am 	6 Library Help for Adults Dandenong Library 2pm	7	8 International Women's Day 
11 Zumba at Jan Wilson Community Centre 6pm 		11 Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	12 SEBN International Women's Day Event Drum Theatre 12pm	13 Dandenong and District Orchid Club Monthly Meeting Greaves Reserve, Dandenong 7pm	14 Tote-ally Sustainable - The Think Tank Springvale Library 2.30pm	15
16 Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm 	17	18 Baby Bounce Dandenong Library 10.30am	19 Australian Barbra Streisand Show Drum Theatre 10.30am	20 Toni Childs - A Retrospective Drum Theatre 7.30pm	21	22 Sustainability Festival Dandenong Market 10am
23 Toddler Time Springvale Library 10.30am	24	25 Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong Forum Paddy O'Donohue Centre, Noble Park 7.30pm	26 Seniors Afternoon Dance Springvale City Hall 1pm			29 Keysborough's Big Picnic Frederick Wachter Reserve, Keysborough 11am-4pm 

Sustainability Festival



This year's Sustainability Festival will teach you to make small changes at home to help save money and save the planet.

The annual festival returns to Dandenong Market this month and is a wonderful celebration of all the ways we can live more sustainably and protect our planet.

The free, family-friendly event features activities, giveaways and environmental experts ready to answer your questions about sustainable living.

This year's theme is Change Starts at Home and refers to making small changes to your home to reduce costs and help you live more comfortably as the weather and climate changes.

Join us for the Sustainability Festival, at Dandenong Market, on Sunday 22 March from 10am-3pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/sustainability-festival for more information.

What's on in the lead up to the Festival?

Introduction to compost workshop

Wednesday 5 March, 1.30pm–3pm
Noble Park Community Centre

Mini Sustainability Festival

Fun, ecofriendly, creative workshops, community clothes and garden swap, and a visit from Roving Refills (soap, shampoo and cleaning supply refills).

Saturday 14 March, 11am–3pm
Springvale Community Hub

Design your own wildlife garden workshop

Learn how to use local indigenous plants to create food and shelter for wildlife.

Wednesday 18 March, 10.30am–12pm
Keysborough Community Hub

Top tips to live more sustainably

Reducing your energy usage at home will not only help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will also help you save money. Here are some top tips to help around the home:

Heating and cooling accounts for up to 40 per cent of energy use. If you can't afford to upgrade your system to a more efficient model consider these simple tips.

- ✓ If you have both gas heating and a reverse cycle air conditioner simply use the heating on the air conditioner rather than the gas unit
- ✓ Passive cooling techniques can help keep your house cool in summer, this includes draught proofing doorways and windows to stop hot air coming in
- ✓ Once the temperature cools at the end of the day, open doors and windows to allow fresh cool air to enter the house.

Household appliances can also contribute to high energy bills.

- ✓ If you have solar panels use appliances like washing machines, dryers and dishwashers during the day when the sun is shining
- ✓ When buying new appliances use the energy rating labels to compare running costs – the more stars the lower the costs
- ✓ Computers can account for 5 per cent of a household's energy bill and monitors are the biggest energy consumers
 - ▶ Use your monitor's power management features including sleep mode
 - ▶ Turn off your monitor and computer if you won't be using it for at least 20 minutes
 - ▶ Reduce screen brightness to the lowest comfortable setting
 - ▶ Don't use screen savers.
- ✓ When buying a new television choose one with at least a 5 star energy rating and choose a more efficient type (LEDs and LCDs use less power than plasmas).

When disposing of old household appliances do it the right way and reduce waste to landfill. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/waste to find out how to properly dispose of electronic waste.

Library of Things



Greater Dandenong Libraries has announced the release of its newest collection, a 'Library of Things'.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said the Library of Things was providing members with equipment and technology they may not normally have access to.

“Our libraries are like a second home to many residents and now rather than needing to purchase these necessities, we’ll have them on hand at Dandenong and Springvale libraries for people to borrow,” Mayor Tan said.

Useful objects for borrowing include:

- ▶ Wellbeing kits (containing a blood pressure monitor, pulse meter and digital thermometer)
- ▶ Thermal cameras for home heat loss detection
- ▶ Home energy kits
- ▶ Envoy audio players
- ▶ Digital slide/negative converters
- ▶ And so much more.

“We’re planning to grow the collection over time in collaboration with our community. The library service will select items that meet the needs and interests of our patrons,” Mayor Tan said.

The new collection complements the equipment (including basketballs, table tennis equipment and outdoor toys) already available at Springvale Library and Keysborough Community Hub.

You will need to be 18 years or older, have a full library membership and go through an induction process before borrowing your first item. All items (except sports equipment) will be available for a two-week loan.

 Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/library-things for more information.



Young Leaders Program – apply now

The Young Leaders Program offers the chance to develop leadership skills, build confidence, and make a real impact in your community.

The program is open to people aged 16–25 who live, work or study in the City of Greater Dandenong.

This unique program offers training in leadership, communication, public speaking, advocacy and team work, while introducing you to the role of local government. You’ll meet sitting Councillors, learn how decisions are made and discover how your voice can shape local matters.

A highlight of the program is the opportunity to plan and deliver projects that address local youth issues. Last year’s Young Leaders created two incredible initiatives:

- ▶ A Youth Summit – “Your Voice. Your Future”
- ▶ A Vape Awareness Campaign to educate young people about e-cigarettes.

Here’s what one 2025 graduate had to say:

“One of my favourite parts was the interaction with local government. Before joining, I didn’t realise how much power young people have to influence change. Through the Youth Summit, our Vape Awareness Project, and leadership workshops, I gained knowledge, confidence, and self-belief.”

Applications for the 2026 Young Leaders Program are now open. Don’t miss this chance to grow your skills, meet inspiring people, and make a difference.

 Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/young-leaders-program for more information or to apply.

Cleaning up Greater Dandenong



Dumped rubbish makes our streets look messy and pollutes our environment.

Last year we cleared 900 tonnes of dumped rubbish across Greater Dandenong streets at a cost to ratepayers of \$1.6 million.

Earlier this year the State Government visited our city to announce an Illegal Dumping Clean-up Rebate Program. The program will help local governments and land managers cover some of the costs of cleaning up illegally dumped rubbish.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said the rising costs of cleaning up takes money away from other important Council programs and activities.

"The rebate program will deliver support to clean up illegally dumped waste as well as increasing surveillance and enforcement activities," Mayor Tan said.

"Dumped rubbish is terrible for our environment and waterways, which is why we whole-heartedly welcome this crackdown on illegal dumping."

We are reviewing hotspots across our city to determine which areas to prioritise through our application to this program.

Mayor Tan asked residents to dispose of waste responsibly and reminded households to use their one free hard waste collection each year.

Rubbish dumping and littering on public land is illegal and heavy fines can be handed out to businesses and individuals who break the law.



To report dumped rubbish phone Council on 8571 1000 or report online via our website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or the Snap Send Solve app.

Behind the Scenes

Meet Sahar Ehsani, Customer Experience Officer.

Tell us about what you do at Council and how you came to work here.

As part of the customer experience team, I get queries directly from customers, either face-to-face or over the phone. From taking payments to guiding them how to apply for a permit, we can help with almost anything.

Before working here, I was a regular visitor to this council especially the library, I always liked the municipality and was looking for a customer facing role. Being a student, I was also looking for something flexible, and this job ticked all the boxes for me so I applied and it turned out to be a great decision.



What is the most rewarding thing about your job?

I love working with people because there is a lot of learning opportunities when you are in direct contact with different people. Whether it is handling conflict or just a fun fact from a customer, there is always something interesting happening. Being able to help people and seeing their grateful smiles is truly rewarding as well.

Tell us about what you do outside of work.

Outside work I try to read. I love true crime documentaries, podcasts and shows and probably spend unhealthy amount of time on them. I have just finished my Bachelor in Biomedical science and am currently doing a certificate in pathology which I will be finishing soon. I am hoping to start my master's degree within the next few months.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

March marks Harmony Week, a special time to celebrate our cultural diversity and promote respect and inclusivity. This month our libraries offer a range of programs and activities to help celebrate the cultural diversity of our community.



Lunar New Year Celebrations

Springvale Library, Sunday 1 March, 1pm–3pm

Enjoy a traditional lion dance performance and children's craft activities. New Chinese and Vietnamese collection items will also be available to borrow.

Bosnian Sevdah Workshop

Springvale Library, Tuesday 3 March, 10.30am–12pm

Join singer Nela Trifkovic in a vocal workshop introducing you to Sevdah, traditional vocal form from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Dandy-Con

Save the date.

Dandy-Con is coming on Saturday 11 April.

Start planning your costume and get ready for a wonderful day out.

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



Turkish Belly Dancing

Keysborough Community Hub, Thursday 5 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Discover the unique flair and cultural richness of this Turkish dance tradition in workshop led by renowned artist Azra.

Spanish Book Day

Springvale Library, Saturday 7 March, 11am–1pm

Explore our Spanish language resources, including books, magazines and DVDs. Borrow on the day or share your suggestions for future resources.

Moroccan Tea and Paint

Dandenong Library, Thursday 12 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Enjoy traditional Moroccan Tea while learning to sketch the country's iconic doors.

Persian Food

Springvale Library, Thursday 19 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Join us for a hands-on workshop in the lead up to Persian New Year and learn to make Ab Doogh-Khiar (a no-cook yoghurt and cucumber soup).

Serbian Book Day

Springvale Library, Saturday 21 March, 11am–1pm

Explore our Serbian language resources, including books, magazines and DVDs. Also enjoy a special performance by traditional folk dance group Šumadija.



Henna Workshop

Keysborough Community Hub, Tuesday 24 March, 10.30am–12pm

Explore the traditional art of henna and create your own temporary body art in this relaxing workshop.

Chana Chaat

Keysborough Community Hub, Thursday 26 March, 6.30pm–8pm

Experience the bold flavours of Pakistan's street food scene in this hands-on workshop with Kanwal Lashari, a fashion designer turned food storyteller from Lahore.



Children's Ramadan Workshops

Come together and enjoy creating art and craft decorations for Ramadan. Great activity for all ages.

Springvale Library, Monday 2 March, 4.30pm–5.15pm

Keysborough Community Hub, Wednesday 2 March, 4.30pm–5.15pm

Dandenong Library, Friday 6 March, 4.30pm–5.15pm

ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

WHERE CULTURE COMES ALIVE

EXHIBITIONS



THE MAZE: REIMAGINED

17 MARCH – 16 MAY

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre

Crafted in 1991 by more than 100 young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds under the guidance of artist Sue Circosta, *The Maze* was a large-scale immersive installation. This year it returns reimagined through contemporary activations by artists Fayen d'Evie and Jon Tjhia, reconnecting cultures and generations, while exploring feelings, dreams, nature and the idea of conflict resolution.

Exhibition opening at Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre on Saturday 7 March, 2pm.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/themaze for more.

THE MAZE: PAST, PRESENT AND LEGACY

Heritage Hill

Visit Heritage Hill to explore the origins of *The Maze* and revisit the stories, the friendships formed, the challenges faced and the impact on young lives and careers. See never exhibited photographs, sketches, participant interviews and personal reflections.



9 BY 5

16 MARCH – 1 MAY

Drum Theatre Foyer

The annual *9 by 5 Exhibition* honours the spirit of the original 1889 Melbourne showcase while carving out its own contemporary legacy. Running in greater Dandenong since 1995 this open-entry program features a diverse collection of small works with big impact, spanning painting, photography, illustration, sculpture and mixed media.

Exhibition opening in the Drum Theatre Foyer on Saturday 21 March, 3pm.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/9by5 for more.

Connect with us

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

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

JUMP CUT

**Harmony Square,
Saturday 28 March 2pm**

Enjoy short films from Swinburne's Screen & Media students and LoopdeLoop challengers. Meet makers, mingle with pros and dive into the world of moving art.

Connect with us

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DRUM THEATRE



ENCORE – THE AUSTRALIAN BARBRA STREISAND SHOW

THURSDAY 19 MARCH,
10.30AM

Experience the magic of Streisand's legendary career with Rachael Grace, as she brings to life the timeless hits that have defined generations.



TONI CHILDS – A RETROSPECTIVE

FRIDAY 20 MARCH, 7.30PM

Join the legendary Toni Childs for a special two-hour performance as she celebrates her life's musical works in song and in story.

Save the date...

Trash with a Porpoise

THURSDAY 9 APRIL, 11AM

Enjoy school holiday entertainment with this fast-paced children's sketch comedy show packed with sharp, hilarious scenes that tackle the serious issue of marine waste.

International Women's Day



This month celebrate International Women's Day with us and hear from inspiring Guest Speaker, Sarah Davidson.

Sarah Davidson's journey is a powerful example of what happens when passion meets purpose. She started her career as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer at a top international firm. Sarah and her partner Nic, "made the jump" when her "side project" which started off as a creative outlet grew itself into a booming business.

Out of their own personal frustrations at a gap in the market, they founded organic matcha green tea company, Matcha Maiden, in late 2014. It's a plant-based wellness brand that grew from a kitchen side-hustle into a global enterprise. Soon after, she co-founded Matcha Mylkbar, Melbourne's celebrated plant-based cafe, redefining healthy dining and community connection. If that isn't enough, Sarah created an acclaimed podcast Seize the Yay, where she continues to amplify voices and



ideas that challenge traditional notions of success, encouraging others to embrace joy and authenticity in their careers and lives.

Sarah's courage to pivot from corporate law to entrepreneurship reflects the essence of empowerment, choosing a path that resonates with purpose.

Sarah's story embodies the mission of Council's Women In Business Network, celebrating women's achievements while fostering meaningful conversations about equality and opportunity.

Sarah's story blends legal intelligence, entrepreneurial experience, and media versatility.

The Women In Business (WIB) network runs closed group sessions for members only throughout the year. If you wish to learn more, contact Council for an application form (free).

Did you know?

The WIB network is just one of the South East Business Network programs operated by Greater Dandenong City Council.

If you're interested in learning more we encourage you to contact Council's Business Development and Investment team via sebn@cgd.vic.gov.au.

What: International Women's Day with Sarah Davidson

When: Thursday 12 March, 12pm-2pm

Where: Drum Theatre, 226 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Cost: \$50 incl. GST



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/IWD26 to book.

Shaping our Reconciliation Action Plan 2026-28



It is vital that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are directly consulted on matters that affect them and that their voices remain central to decision-making.

Since 2025, we have been working with the Bunurong Land Council, Elders and community members from the RAP Reference Group to develop our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) for 2026-28. The RAP guides our reconciliation progress and is supported by the Reconciliation Australia Framework.

Key themes were identified including truth telling, cultural safety and awareness and communication and engagement. These priorities are reflected in the action plan.

Our RAP will undergo review by Reconciliation Australia and we look forward to sharing it with the wider community.

"Reconciliation is about everyone all coming together with one common goal. It's about land, it's about people, it's about communities. In my work, Council's role is represented at the centre as people coming together at the one meeting place." Trawoolway, Pliermernier, Bunurong Artist Auntie Heather Kennedy on her Reconciliation artwork *Coming Together as One*.



Artwork by Auntie Heather Kennedy 'Coming together as one'. Acrylic on canvas.



Find out more about the development of our RAP here: greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/your-council/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities

South East Running Festival



Get ready for an unforgettable day of fitness, fun and community spirit at the second annual South East Running Festival.

Whether you're a seasoned runner, a casual jogger or just looking for a great day out with the family this event has something for everyone.

Events include:

- ▶ 21km Half Marathon – starting at 7am
- ▶ 10km – starting at 7.30am
- ▶ 5km – starting at 8am
- ▶ 1km Children's Dash – starting at 8.30am.

The runs begin at Dandenong Stadium and follow a picturesque course along Dandenong Creek.



After the run there will be live music, food and drink stalls and family activities for all.

Join the fun at Dandenong Stadium on Sunday 19 April from 7am. Visit dandenongstadium.com.au/serf for details and to register.

Keysborough Probus Club

Calling all men and women aged 55 and over who are retired or semi-retired, and are keen to add friendship, fun and activities to their lives.

The Keysborough Probus Club is looking for new members who would like to join a club that is still small in size and can offer all the benefits you might be seeking.

Join a meeting and see how the group runs and get your questions answered before you commit.

The club meets at 10am on the first Thursday of the month at the South Eastern Masonic Centre, 270 Hutton Road, Keysborough.

Contact Judy Kemp at kempjtr@bigpond.net.au or 0429 982 422 for more information.

Mental health and wellbeing support



Mental Health and Wellbeing Local services can support Greater Dandenong residents aged over 26 to get mental health treatment, care and support closer to home.

The service has an office at 29b Langhorne Street, Dandenong, and now operates out of the Springvale Community Hub, 5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale, every Monday from 10am–2pm.

You do not need a referral to access the free service and appointments can be in-person or over the phone. Walk-in consultations are also offered and interpreters are available upon request.

To find out more visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mhwlocal or phone 8908 1800 to make an appointment.

Take control of your energy bills



Greater Dandenong residents can apply for help with paying energy bills through two government programs.

The **Power Saving Bonus** provides a \$100 payment for eligible Victorian concession care households to ease cost-of-living pressures.

You will need a recent electricity bill and an eligible concession card to claim the bonus and only one payment per household is available.

The bonus closes on 31 March. Visit compare.energy.vic.gov.au to learn more.

The **Energy Assistance Program** is a free over-the-phone service designed to support Victorians who are having trouble paying their energy bills.

The program covers energy bill debt, getting the best offer, saving energy and negotiating with energy companies.

To access the program you should hold a Commonwealth Government Concession card and be struggling to pay your energy bill.

To speak to an energy advocate phone 1800 161 215 on Monday–Friday, from 9am–5pm to book a telephone consult.

The Energy Assistance Program is delivered in partnership with Anglicare Victoria.

Visit energy.vic.gov.au/households to find out more about taking control of your energy bills.





KEYSBOROUGH'S

BBQ PICNIC

Sunday 29 March 2026, 11am – 4pm

Frederick Wachter Reserve,
Kingsclere Ave, Keysborough

Easter Egg Hunt | Pet Competition
Live Entertainment | Food, Market and Community Stalls
Make Your Move Sports Zone
Free Children's Activities



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

