

Greater Dandenong Council News

Dandenong Wellbeing Centre

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**Dandenong
Market Precinct**

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**Muderra
Way**

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**Prime Minister
Visits Dandenong**

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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:

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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 April edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Work on our new wellbeing centre is well underway. Last month I joined my fellow Councillors for a tour of the site, next to the old Oasis, and you can already see how amazing this facility will be. Read all about it on page 3.



In further news for the future of our city, we are calling on shoppers and traders to help shape a long-term plan for the Dandenong Market Precinct. Dandenong Market is one of the oldest in Australia and has a special local character. We have a draft plan for the next 20 years for the Market and surrounding precinct, to ensure it will continue to evolve and thrive. Learn more about this and find out how to have your say on Page 7.

We've had a busy start to the year and I know many families will be ready for the school holidays and a break to spend time with family and friends. You can read about holiday activities for young people (aged 12-25) on Page 10.

Over the school holidays there are two special religious observances. To those celebrating Easter I wish you a very happy Easter. Likewise, to those community members celebrating Passover I want to say Chag Sameach (happy Passover).

Every April we host a special event to teach the community about the value of local waterways. Join us for the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival and hear about how you can protect our waterways and support our planet. Read more on Page 3.

Happy New Year to those who celebrate their traditional New Year in April to mark the solar new year and harvest season. Including Thailand, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Sri Lanka and parts of India and Nepal.

Finally, I want to mention Anzac Day on 25 April. This is a chance to us all to reflect on the sacrifices our service men and women have made for our country.

Mayor Cr Sophie Tan

My City

This image of grey-headed flying foxes was taken along the Dandenong Creek, south of Heatherton Road in Dandenong North. It is our community calendar feature image for April. These animals play an important role in maintaining our biodiverse environment. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/biodiversity to find out more and learn about how you can support wildlife like these Flying Foxes.



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



This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. This publication is fully recyclable, please dispose of wisely.

It is printed carbon neutral in Victoria using vegetable based inks by an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System certified printer.

Front cover: Mayor Sophie Tan poses in front of one of the warm water pools which is undergoing testing.
Picture: Carla Gottgens.

FSC
Logo

Discover Dandenong Creek Festival



Celebrate the vital role Dandenong Creek plays for our environment and explore how you can protect it at our annual Discover Dandenong Creek Festival.

Did you know the creek provides an important habitat link for native flora and fauna, supporting biodiversity and a healthy environment?

The creek starts in the Dandenong Ranges and flows through Greater Dandenong all the way to the Patterson River and out into Port Phillip Bay.

Every April we help local residents 'discover' the beauty of the creek and the role it plays across our city.

Join us on Thursday 16 April from 11am–2pm, at Tirhatuan Park, 4 Kriegel Way, Dandenong North.



Experience a Traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony supported by the Bunurong Land Council and share in a traditional Aboriginal dance performance.

Experience roving performers, a live wildlife show and live entertainment organised by Council's Amplify youth crew. Get your face painted, enjoy a free sausage sizzle and learn to fish with family and friends.

Learn how to protect the Dandenong Creek now and for generations to come.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/discover-dandenong-creek-fest for more information.

Councillors preview progress at Dandenong Wellbeing Centre

Councillors were given an exciting look at the emerging Dandenong Wellbeing Centre during a project site tour last month.

The visit highlighted significant progress on the project and gave Councillors a view of the centre's impressive size.

The tour started in the newly formed pool halls, where pools have now been fully concreted, and several are already undergoing early-stage water testing. The pools are filled with water to check for leaks, and the water is re-used across several pools to save on wastage. These pools will soon support swimming lessons, rehabilitation programs, water-based fitness and family recreation for everyone.

Standing in the deep end of the 50m pool, Councillors looked back towards open spaces earmarked for health and wellness services, fitness areas, community rooms and the warm water pools.



Throughout the visit, Councillors expressed enthusiasm about the progress and the opportunities the new centre will bring to Dandenong.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan said the tour provided a glimpse into the future.

"The progress on the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is truly inspiring, and it was wonderful to see the vision coming to life during our tour," Mayor Tan said.

"Standing in the deep end and looking back across the entire site, you can really feel the scale and ambition of this project."

"This centre will be a major asset for our community – a place for health, wellbeing and connection. I know the community is eagerly anticipating its opening and so are we."



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DWC to stay updated on the project.

Consultation on the formal name of the new centre closed in March. Subscribe for updates so you can be among the first to hear the result.

Councillor Contacts



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April Council Meeting

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 20 April**

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

APRIL

MONDAY

20
APRIL

► Noble Park Ward



It has been a busy start to the year across Greater Dandenong and as Mayor of this great city I have been very busy attending openings and special events throughout our suburbs.

Across February and March the Bright Community Organisation hosted their second annual Ramadan Night Market in central Dandenong. We were pleased to welcome Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Premier Jacinta Allan and several ministers and MPs to the event throughout the month.

In other great news for Dandenong, I attended the sod-turning launch of a social housing project. A partnership between Homes Victoria and Launch Housing, the Dandelion project will deliver 70 high-quality homes offering safe, secure and permanent housing for some of our most vulnerable community members. A stable home can be the foundation for better health, education, employment and connection to community, and this project will help transform many lives.

I also attended the official launch of a lighting upgrade at WJ Turner Reserve in Noble Park North. Council maintains top-notch sporting facilities across our suburbs, and the installation of four new lighting towers means safer training conditions and more flexible scheduling for the clubs that use this ground. Projects like this one help get more people, more active all year round.

Council recently adopted the Open Space Five Year Plan, which sets out a detailed schedule of works to ensure



open space projects are spread evenly across our city and occur within budget. There are several projects planned for Noble Park Ward, and I will make sure to share these as they happen.

Last year works to upgrade parts of the Paddy O'Donohue Centre, including the kindergarten space were finished. This building has been servicing the community for more than 100 years and I will work to ensure it continues to serve the people of Noble Park.



If you have any local issues you would like to discuss, please contact me via email at Sophie.Tan@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0466 793 727.

► Keysborough Ward



Community connection is important, and Council is proud to offer many opportunities for connection.

I hope many locals attended and enjoyed the recent Keysborough's Big Picnic at Frederick Wachter Reserve. The annual event is one of our biggest community celebrations and gives everyone an opportunity to connect and socialise in a family and pet-friendly environment.

Speaking of connection, the Kindness Community is a volunteer-led charity offering nourishing food in a caring and uplifting environment to boost health, reduce loneliness and build community for our most vulnerable residents.

Many residents are facing financial stress, food insecurity or mental health challenges and the Kindness Community is just one of many local organisations helping those in need. As a volunteer with the group, I see firsthand the difference they are making to people in our city.

The service offers a free meal every Tuesday evening from 5pm at Hemmings Park, 61A Princes Highway, Dandenong, and provides a supportive space



and referrals to support services for those who need it. Visit [kindnesscommunity.org.au](https://www.kindnesscommunity.org.au) to find out more.

Another way to connect is by enjoying the great outdoors. Every Saturday at 8am a group of people dedicated to being more active meets at Dandenong Park for the Dandenong parkrun.

The free, fun and friendly event gives you the chance to complete a 5km course at your own pace. Participants can walk, jog, run or simply spectate, and volunteers are always welcome.

Cr Melinda Yim

There is no cost to join in, but participants must register before their first event. It would also be appreciated if you could volunteer at some events. Visit parkrun.com.au/dandenong to find out more.



If you would like to contact me about local issues please email Melinda.Yim@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0428 331 557.

Cr Sean O'Reilly



Our area is home to many high-quality sporting facilities, giving more people the opportunity to stay active in ways that suit them.

This year, the turf cricket wicket at Warner Reserve was removed and replaced with a synthetic wicket. The new wicket is positioned between the two soccer fields, helping to preserve the quality of the soccer surfaces while providing cricket players with a more consistent training option. The \$146,000 project was enthusiastically welcomed by local cricket players during the recent summer season.

Works are also continuing at Springvale Reserve. A high fence has recently been installed at the football oval to prevent footballs from impacting the netball courts. Further improvements are underway inside the pavilion, with the social room toilets being redeveloped

and an additional accessible toilet being added. Following upgrades to the kitchen and canteen last year, these works will help make the space more welcoming and accessible for all users.

Greater Dandenong has many excellent open spaces, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of them to stay active. Whether you play organised sport or enjoy a casual game with friends, there is a place for you.

For pet owners, we also have a network of dog off leash parks where you can safely exercise your dog. Warner Reserve is one such location, and Springvale Reserve is home to a fully fenced dog park.



If you would like to discuss local issues, please email Sean.Oreilly@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone 0422 523 258.

► Springvale North Ward



Pets of Greater Dandenong



Registering your pet isn't just a box to tick, it's how we help lost pets find their way home and keep our community safe and happy.

A registered pet is a protected pet, and responsible pet ownership starts with that all important tag. Register it – Tag it – Love it!

With pet registrations due by April 10 every year, now is the time to make sure you are paid up and your details are correct.

All cats and dogs aged over three months must be registered with Council, and the information you provide on your registration can help us track you down in a hurry.

The information also helps us understand just who makes up our animal community. Pets can provide great support to their owners and are among the most important members of any household.

It's not a popularity contest, but if it were, our top dogs would be a Cavoodle or a Maltese cross, named Bella or Milo.

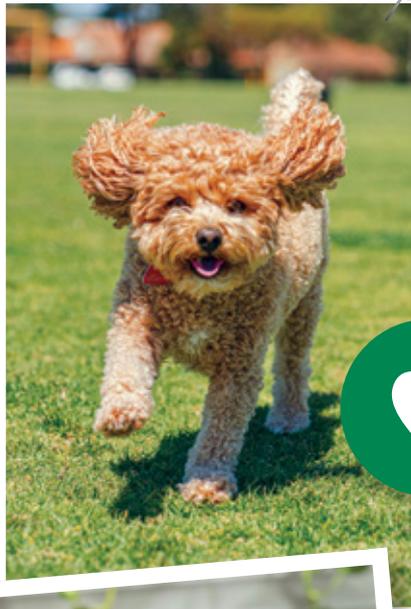
The most popular cat would be a domestic short haired named Luna or Milo.

“Once you have picked your perfect breed and chosen the right name, the next step should be to microchip and register your pet,” Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said.

“Having a pet is a big responsibility, but by looking after them well and making sure they are safe and secure at home and while out on walks, they become valued members of our community.”



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals to find out more about pet registration.



Most popular pet names

Female dog names	Male dog names
Bella	Milo
Luna	Max
Coco	Charlie
Ruby	Rocky
Nala	Teddy
Daisy	Buddy
Molly	Toby
Mia	Leo
Lucy	Ollie
Millie	Lucky

Female cat names	Male cat names
Luna	Milo
Bella	Simba
Coco	Leo
Mimi	Charlie
Mia	Lucky
Lucy	Jasper
Daisy	Max
Molly	Oscar
Kitty	Tiger
Cleo	Loki

Top dog breeds	Top cat breeds
Cavoodle	Domestic Short Haired
Maltese X	Domestic Medium Haired
Jack Russell Terrier	Domestic
German Shepherd	Domestic Long Haired
Labrador	Rag Doll
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	Tabby
American Staffordshire Bull Terrier	British Short Hair
Toy Poodle	Burmese
Jack Russell Terrier X	Russian Blue
Chihuahua	Rag Doll X

A Vision for the Dandenong Market Precinct

We are seeking feedback on a future vision for one of our most significant cultural and economic destinations.

The draft Dandenong Market Precinct Plan looks at what could be done over the next 20 years. It takes advantage of currently under-utilised spaces and proposes increased housing. It looks to encourage investment, improvement movement through the area and connection with other parts of central Dandenong.

Highlights of the Plan include quality public spaces, mixed use developments, an expanded Pioneer Park and a significant upgrade to Palm Plaza.

The Plan includes a whole section on the Market itself, focused on improved waste disposal and sustainability, improved back-of-house and better pedestrian flow – while keeping the character that makes the current Market so successful.

The draft Plan was developed through targeted stakeholder engagement, consultation with various experts and draws inspiration from market precincts around the world.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said the community's voice would be essential in shaping the next chapter of Dandenong Market precinct's evolution.

"Dandenong Market is the heart of our community – a place of culture, connection and commerce. The character of the Market remains central to the vision in the Plan.

"Foodies come from far and wide hunting for exotic ingredients and stick around for a snack. Locals get fresh, healthy food at affordable prices and bargains in the Bazaar. We want to make sure this continues for generations to come.

"This is a chance to imagine this precinct in the future, and we want our community involved in that conversation," Cr Tan said.



Above: Artist impression: View from Pioneer Park and Market.

Below: Artist impression: View from Clow Street & Lonsdale Street intersection.

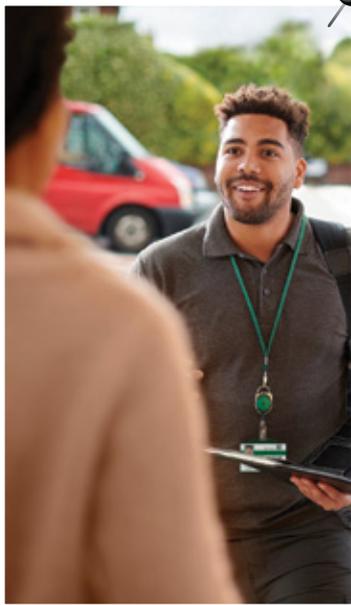


Have Your Say until Friday 10 April. Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dandenong-market-precinct-plan for more information.

Feedback will inform the final Precinct Plan before it is presented to Council for consideration later this year.

What's On April 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		The Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	Free Women's Wellbeing Circle Springvale Hub 5pm-7pm	GOOD FRIDAY Public Holiday		EASTER SUNDAY Public Holiday 
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
EASTER MONDAY Public Holiday			Discover Heritage Hill 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong 10.30am 	Dandenong and District Orchid Club Meeting Dandenong Showgrounds Committee Room, Greaves Reserve, Dandenong 7pm	Dandy Con Dandenong Library, Walker Street Gallery and Drum Theatre 11am-4pm	Sustainability Session - Plastic Trash into Treasure Keysborough Community Hub 1pm-3pm
13			16	17	18	19
Coffee Club Dandenong Library 11.30am 			Music Through the Decades Drum Theatre 10.30am 		Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day Greaves Reserve, 20 Bennet Street, Dandenong 8am-1pm	BBQs of the World Dandenong Market 10am-3pm 
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm 				Sports Club at the Hub Springvale Library 4.30pm	ANZAC DAY 	
27	28					
Zumba Jan Wilson Community Centre 6pm						



Share your experience with Council



Serving the Greater Dandenong community is our most important job.

Each year we measure our performance by surveying residents to find out what we are doing well and how we can better deliver for our community.

This April, independent research company, Metropolis Research will again door knock throughout Greater Dandenong to complete in-person satisfaction surveys.

With Metropolis staff speaking 17 languages, we are offering more residents the opportunity to have their say in their own way.

If the door knocker doesn't speak your language, you can request a call back from someone who does – ensuring the survey truly represents our diverse community.

The survey will take around 15 minutes of your time and will help us serve you better. Be sure to have your say.



Celebrating Culture, Creativity and Community

This month the community will gather to celebrate the launch of Muderra Way and the First Nations artwork that brings the area to life.

Muderra Way connects Leonard Avenue and Ian Street under the train lines in Noble Park. It was created during the level crossing removal project, but the road is more than just a new link.

Its story was shaped through a strong partnership between the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and Greater Dandenong City Council. Together, we worked to bring Culture, language and stories into the space.

The project includes a large artwork painted onto the road, four colourful pillar murals and special signs that share Bunurong language, stories and audio guides. All of these features were created by First Nations artists and through careful cultural consultation with BLCAC.

To help people understand and enjoy the artworks we joined with the Land Council to create a series of videos. These show how the art was

made, where the ideas came from and the positive changes it has brought to the area.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan invites the community to help celebrate the project at a launch event on Friday 17 April.

"This extraordinary project shows how art, culture and good partnerships can transform public places," Mayor Tan said.

"It is a space that now brings pride, colour and meaning to everyone who lives in, visits or passes through Noble Park."

Funding support was provided by Greater Dandenong City Council, the Victorian Government Department of Transport's Transporting Arts program and the Noble Park Suburban Revitalisation Board.



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

GATHER TO CELEBRATE

Night market brings people together



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese was warmly welcomed to Dandenong by Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan for the opening night of the Ramadan Night Market in February.

He was treated to the very best of Dandenong's culture and hospitality as he met with stall holders, market organisers and Councillors.

Mayor Tan said she was pleased the Prime Minister had made the trip.

"He's always welcome in Greater Dandenong, to attend our festivals and events, or just to sample our fantastic food scene."

On the night Mayor Tan gave a speech in which she acknowledged Ramadan as a time for patience, kindness, generosity and unity.

She said the market visitors expressed those values through the simple acts of sharing food, conversation and hospitality.



"This is a safe, welcoming city where people can gather to celebrate and share their faith, culture, food and traditions."

The night market, which returned to Dandenong for a second year, was praised for activating public spaces, bringing economic benefits to local traders and bringing people together.

Organised by the Bright Community Organisation the market operated across the month of Ramadan. The organisation hopes to see the market grow in future years.



Autumn Escapes school holiday program



Looking for some boredom busting fun or a new challenge this school holidays? Look no further than these Autumn Escapes.

This program of free and low-cost activities created by Council's Youth and Family Services team offers two weeks of fun. It includes workshops, excursions and a badminton tournament, for young people aged 12–25.

Here are the highlights:

Rap workshop

Wednesday 8 April, 1.30pm–3pm, Walker Street Gallery (Free)

Join musician, poet and DJ – Mr Congo – to learn the fundamentals of rap, experiment with beats and create your own original piece.

Connect and collaborate: Youth Leadership Collective

Wednesday 8 April, 6pm–8pm, Dandenong Civic Centre (Cost \$5)

An inspiring networking event for young people where you can make meaningful connections in a supportive space.

Badminton tournament

Thursday 9 April, 9am–5pm, Badminton Connect, Noble Park (Free)

Open to players of all skill levels. Register for under 16s and under 25s doubles divisions.

Creative writing workshop

Monday 13 April, 2.30pm–4pm, Springvale Library (Free)

Explore the art of creative writing with published young adult author Karen Corner.

Luna Park

Tuesday 14 April, 10.30am–3pm, Luna Park, St Kilda (Cost \$30)

Join us for a day of rides, games and activities.

Skate workshop

Friday 17 April, 12pm–2pm, Noble Park Skate Park (Cost \$5)

Learn new tricks and boost skills with Curbside Coaching. Perfect for all skill levels, all gear provided.



Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to find out more and to register.

Behind the Scenes

Dinesh Ellepola is a Business Analyst in our Digital Technology team.

At the heart of Dinesh's work is a simple goal: to save time and money while helping Council operate more efficiently. What truly keeps him motivated, however, are the people and the community he supports every day.

Dinesh works closely with officers across Council to understand challenges and design practical, effective solutions.

One of his current projects is supporting our Immunisation Team to automate parts of their booking system. The new approach will make the process easier for the community, reduce manual effort for staff and improve the protection of sensitive patient information.



Dinesh joined Council in 2025 after three years with Whittlesea Council, building on a diverse consulting career across both the public and private sectors. His experience includes working with organisations such as Telstra, the Victorian Electoral Commission and Open Universities.

A business analyst helps bridge the gap between technology teams and other business stakeholders, to find solutions and deliver value to the business they work for.

He has also worked with an Australian company on transport solutions at Heathrow Airport, helping to develop an automated taxi service for passengers.

"I like to talk to people and really understand their challenges, it's about asking the right questions," Dinesh said.

"With the Heathrow project, one of the highlights was working with such a wide range of people, from lawyers to unions, taxi management, drivers and customs officers. Understanding everyone's perspective was key to finding the right solution."

Dinesh is available to work with teams across Council and has been encouraged by how open staff are to new ways of working.

"What I learnt within the first couple of weeks is that people here are really open to change."

Outside of the work itself, Dinesh says one of the best things about working in Greater Dandenong is its multicultural community, especially the food.

"The mix of cultures and flavours across the city makes every day a delight," he said.

Dandy's Got Talent



If you are aged 12–25 and you've got a talent you want to share, apply to be part of the Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services' Dandy's Got Talent.

Returning in 2026, after a successful pilot event two years ago, the event aims to celebrate the creativity, confidence, and diversity of young people in our community.

Young people can apply across a range of performance categories including singer songwriter, cover music, dance, bands, and group performances. There are prizes up for grabs.

The event will be held on Thursday 9 July at The Castle, Dandenong and is supported by the Victorian Government through the Amplify Youth Committee (Formerly FReeZA) initiative, which empowers young people to plan and deliver drug, smoke and alcohol-free music and cultural events.



Expressions of interest close Thursday 28 May. Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.

How to have your say



You can help shape Greater Dandenong and the work we deliver at Council.

We love to hear from you, our community, about your expectations, aspirations and ideas for our upcoming projects and plans.

We provide face-to-face and online opportunities for you to have your say.

The best place to start is our Have Your Say webpage that lists all of our current engagements and gives detailed instructions on how to get involved.

The platform includes more than 40 tools to help us tailor engagements to our community's needs and includes content in 10 languages other than English.

We also post Have Your Say updates on how we have used your feedback from past engagements.



We are committed to listening to all voices and regularly run engagements on projects and services. Stay informed and have your say by registering for updates. Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/register for information.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives



Dandy-Con 2026

Celebrate pop culture and immerse yourself in a world of fantasy as Dandy-Con returns for 2026.

Get ready to nerd out with fandoms, gaming, cosplay competitions, workshops, artist stalls, comic book sellers and much more.

Events will be held across Dandenong Library, Walker Street Gallery and Drum Theatre.

Join the fun on Saturday 11 April, from 11am–4pm. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/dandycon for more information.



Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to see what our libraries have to offer.

Libraries After Dark (ages 16+)

Batik

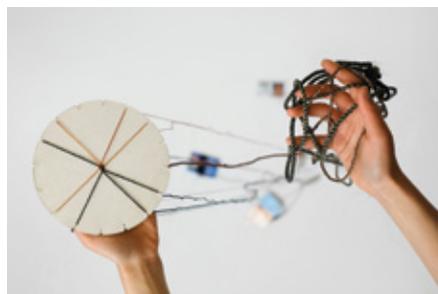
Thursday 2 April, 6.30pm–8pm,
Dandenong Library

Dive into the world of textile art and learn traditional dyeing techniques to create your own unique fabric design.

Japanese Kumihimo Braiding

Thursday 9 April, 6.30pm–8pm,
Springvale Library

Explore this traditional Japanese art used to weave threads and decorative cords for garment and festival ornaments.



Silversmithing

Thursday 16 April, 6.30pm–8pm,
Keysborough Community Hub

Join this hands-on workshop where you will craft your own dangly metal earrings using basic silversmithing techniques.



Colombian Treats

Thursday 23 April, 6.30pm–8pm,
Dandenong Library

Perfect for food lovers and curious cooks alike, learn to make traditional Colombian treats.

Photo Framing

Thursday 20 April, 6.30pm–8pm,
Springvale Library

Make personalised photo frames using craft materials and techniques.

The Think Tank

Jaws, Claws, Tails and Scales

Saturday 18 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm,
Dandenong Library

Touch, observe and learn about animals such as gliding possums, frogs, turtles and friendly lizards. Guided by experienced wildlife educators, for ages 7–12.



School Holiday Program

Bedazzle a Book

Tuesday 7 April, 2.30pm–4pm,
Dandenong Library

Decorate a book with gems, stickers and other fun materials. All materials provided. For ages 12–25.

Japanese Taiko Drumming

Wednesday 8 April, 2.30pm–3.30pm,
Keysborough Community Hub

Enjoy a bold performance and then give Taiko Drumming a go.



ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

WHERE CULTURE COMES ALIVE

EXHIBITIONS



THE MAZE

The Maze was a large, immersive installation crafted in 1991 under the guidance of artist Sue Circosta and more than 100 young people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Revisit the original art through an exhibition of our museum collection, then see a new interpretation at the Walker Street Gallery. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/themaze for more information.

JON TJHIA AND FAYEN D'EVIE, THE MAZE: REIMAGINED, BACK ↑ NOTES

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, until May 16

More than three decades after The Maze was first created the work returns in this reimagination. Contemporary artists Jon Tjhia and Fayen d'Evie have created a new exhibition that reconnects cultures and generations while exploring feelings, dreams, nature, and the idea of conflict resolution.

THE MAZE: PAST, PRESENT AND LEGACY

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens, until May 16

Take a step back in time and explore this museum collection of photographs, documents and remnants from The Maze's original development.

CULTURAL SKETCH: THE MAZE EDITION

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Thursday 9 April, 6pm-8pm

Join in an evening of creativity, conversation and shared making.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: INTO THE MAZE

Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre, Saturday 11 April, 2pm-4pm

Step into a new world and take part in a collaborative roleplaying experience inspired by The Maze exhibition.



9 BY 5

Drum Theatre Foyer, until 1 May

Explore a collection of small works with a big impact at the long-running 9 by 5 Exhibition.

The works, measuring just 9 by 5 inches span painting, photography, illustration, sculpture and mixed media.

You are invited to celebrate the artwork you love most and cast your vote for the People's Choice Award, which will be announced on Monday 27 April.

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

CULTURAL SKETCH: 9 BY 5 CHATS

Drum Theatre Foyer, Thursday 30 April, 6pm-8pm

Celebrate winners of the 9 by 5 exhibition prizes and join in an evening of live drawing, conversation and shared making inspired by tiny art.

DRUM THEATRE



TRASH WITH A PORPOISE

Thursday 9 April, 11am

Join us for a fast-paced children's sketch comedy show packed with sharp, hilarious scenes that tackle the serious issue of marine waste. The show is followed by a free craft activity. For ages 4-12.

AUSTRALIAN BEE GEES SHOW - 30TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

Thursday 9 April, 8pm

Fresh from celebrating 15 years headlining the Las Vegas strip, the Australian Bee Gees Show returns down under.

MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES - ENCORE

Thursday 16 April, 10.30am

Experience a captivating musical journey from the timeless hits of the classical era to the high-energy 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Headlined by Paul Cincotta and Lisa Lombardo.

Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to purchase tickets and explore what's on at the Drum Theatre.

Robot is a game-changer

White line fever has nothing on the latest member of our parks team.

A new line-marking robot was recently put through its paces and proved to be a real game-changer, taking on a series of tasks with ease.

In February the robot was set up to mark a cricket wicket. A curator would normally take around 45 minutes to measure, string line and mark the wicket ahead of play. The robot captured GPS points and completed a full wicket mark-out in under 5 minutes, with a high level of accuracy.

The robot was then taken to Noble Park Reserve to mark a boundary line for a game later that same day. Using satellite positioning the robot accurately measured and set out a compliant boundary line in 15 minutes. This task would ordinarily take two staff members up to two hours.

The final test involved switching an AFL oval to a soccer pitch at Frederick Wachter Reserve. While staff wondered if the ground was large enough for a senior pitch, the robot carried out a dry run to calculate dimensions then completed an initial field marking in 22 minutes.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said the efficiency and accuracy of the robot was impressive.



“This will help our parks team to support the switch from summer to winter sports and will help our clubs maintain their game surfaces to a high standard,” Mayor Tan said.

“We love to encourage our community to be more active and we are very proud of the top-notch sports grounds we have in Greater Dandenong. This is a fantastic use of technology to help us maintain our beautiful sports grounds.”



Draft Economy and Place Strategy

Our new Economy and Place Strategy will guide the city's growth over the next 10 years. The Strategy will help attract investment, create more jobs and shape places that people enjoy and feel connected to.

To help build this important Strategy, in 2025 we conducted eight community consultation sessions and two workshops with Council staff. We also received more than 80 responses to our online survey.

Thank you to everyone that provided ideas, insights and feedback.

The draft Strategy will soon be available for public exhibition and feedback. A range of options will be available to have your say. We want to hear from as many people as possible.

 **Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/economy-and-place-strategy to stay up to date with the project and have your say on the draft Strategy.**

Happy Easter



Easter is traditionally a Christian holiday, but many people in Greater Dandenong also enjoy it as a special time to spend with family and loved ones.

The Christian Festival, beginning on Good Friday and ending on Easter Monday commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It celebrates rebirth and renewal and is a time for reflection on faith and togetherness.

Easter Sunday marks one of the most significant dates in the Christian calendar, with many people attending church services.

Catholic Easter (on 5 April 2026) and Orthodox Easter (on 12 April 2026) are based on two different calendars and can either be celebrated on the same dates or up to five weeks apart.



Many families host barbecues and gatherings, including Easter egg hunts in their celebrations.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Sophie Tan said many local families would spend time together over the Easter long weekend, which this year marked the start of the school holidays.



“However you chose to celebrate, I want to wish our community a Happy Easter and a special weekend,” Mayor Tan said.

“As a culturally diverse community it is wonderful to see all of our residents sharing and respecting each other’s traditions.”

Passover for our Jewish community

Each year Jewish families gather to mark Passover. The eight-day festival commemorates the biblical story of the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in ancient Egypt.

This year it will be observed from the evening of Wednesday 1 April to Thursday 9 April. The festival starts with the Seder – a ceremonial meal held on the first night of Passover.

The eating of certain foods is also discouraged during this time, with restrictions on leavened foods like bread.



Families often use the festival to gather for special meals, prayer services or just spending time together with family and friends.

We would like to wish all people in our Jewish community a happy Passover.

Change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries

Only working smoke alarms save lives.

When you change your clocks back for the end of daylight savings, it’s also a good time to change batteries in your smoke alarms.

On Sunday 5 April, don’t forget to wind your clocks back one hour. While you’re doing that, change the batteries in your smoke alarms and help protect your home and loved ones from house fires.

Smoke alarms can alert people to fire dangers early, saving lives and reducing property damage. If your smoke alarm is more than 10 years old, you should consider replacing it.

There are new wireless, interconnected smoke alarms on the market that can offer better protection. When one alarm is triggered all the alarms activate, meaning everyone in your home will hear the alarm straight away.

There are also alarms for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, which use lights, vibrations or different kinds of sounds to alert people to fire risk.



Visit Fire Rescue Victoria’s website frv.vic.gov.au/smoke-alarms for more information.



DANDY- COMIC FESTIVAL CON 2026

Saturday 11 April

11am - 4pm

A fun day out for all! Cosplay, comics, workshops, stalls and more. Now bigger than ever across three exciting locations:

Dandenong Library

Walker Street Gallery
and Arts Centre

Drum Theatre



FREE!

