

Greater Dandenong Council News

Reconciliation Week

PAGE 3

**Muderra
Way**

▶ PAGE 3

**Volunteer
Week**

▶ PAGE 6

**Our Bright
Green Future**

▶ PAGE 7

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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Dandenong VIC 3175

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Phone: 8571 1000



www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



@greaterdandy



facebook.com/greaterdandenong



cityofgreaterdandenong



youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong



TTY: 133 677

Speak and listen: 1300 555 727

relayservice.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



council@cgd.vic.gov.au

Important Numbers

Emergency calls

Police / Fire / Ambulance.....000

Street lighting faults /

non-operational

United Energy..... 13 20 99

Traffic signal faults /

non-operational..... 8571 1000

Hoon Hotline..... 1800 333 000

Hard Waste Collection

WM Waste Management

Services..... 9721 1915

Australian Animal

Protection Society..... 9798 8415

RSPCA..... 9224 2222

Nurse on Call..... 1300 606 024

Non Urgent Police Response

(no sirens)..... 131 444

Dandenong Police..... 9767 7444

Springvale Police..... 8558 8600

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing and is subject to change. For updates please visit our website and social media platforms.

Mayor's Message

Welcome to the May edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

Happy Volunteer Week! May 18–24 is that special time of year when we thank our local volunteers for their incredible contributions to improve the lives of residents in the Greater Dandenong community.

Our volunteer of the year is Heather Hanratty. On page 6, Heather modestly shares insight into her decades of service supporting older people, people with disabilities and people from diverse backgrounds.

We also mark Reconciliation Week this month and I invite you all to our warm and inclusive events, including our flag raising in Harmony Square on 27 May at 10am.

Read the latest on our reconciliation journey and hear all about our Muderra Way launch event on page 3. We celebrated the first Bunurong place naming and large-scale Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders' peoples public art gateway in Greater Dandenong with music, dance, storytelling and a barbecue. With our partners, the Bunurong Land Council and the Victorian Government, we've produced a documentary series on the project so look out for that on our screen network, YouTube channel, social media and website.

Community safety is a key priority in our Council Plan and recently, Victoria Police, in partnership with our community safety team, hosted the 2026 Neighbourhood Policing Forum at Dandenong Civic Centre. You can read about that on page 15.

If you're passionate about how your rates are spent, now's the time to have your say on the 2026–27 Draft Budget and Annual Plan. See page 4 for information on how to get involved. Speaking of plans, be sure to check out a summary of the new Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2036 on page 7.

I'm looking forward to seeing you out and about in our amazing city this May.

Mayor Councillor Sophie Tan

My City

This image of Dandenong's iconic Drum Theatre was taken by local resident Curt Casequin and appears as our community calendar feature image for May.

The Drum Theatre is a 518 seat state-of-the-art performing arts theatre which sits inside the heritage façade of the former Dandenong Town Hall. Hosting more than 170 performances each year the theatre offers something for everyone. Visit drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au and explore what's on at The Drum.

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



Front cover: Bunurong and Tralwoolway artist, Kobi Sainty, at Muderra Way in Noble Park. Picture: Muderra, Koornin Edwards (Bunurong, Gunnai, Gunditjmara, Mutti and Yorta Yorta), Kobi Sainty (Bunurong and Tralwoolway), Robert Michael Young (Gunnai, Wiradjuri, Yorta Yorta and Gunditjmara).

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FSC
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“All In” Stronger Together: Reconciliation Week in Greater Dandenong

National Reconciliation Week begins on May 27. We're inviting our community to join us, learn about and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture while reflecting on our role in reconciliation.

In the City of Greater Dandenong, the week is shaped by warm, inclusive events that bring communities together to be immersed in the oldest living Culture in the world.

During Reconciliation week, we will outline our intentions for the Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan. We will also host a Reconciliation Week Flag Raising Ceremony in Harmony Square. This event provides an inviting space for families, students, and locals to take part. It will feature a Welcome to Country, a Traditional Smoking Ceremony and a collaborative *All In* aerial art piece.

The celebrations continue with a series of local activities and events across Council sites. These events reflect our ongoing partnership with the Bunurong Land Council and our wider Aboriginal



Heather Kennedy with her work *Coming together as one*. Acrylic on canvas.

and Torres Strait Islander community. See our What's On calendar on page 8 for more information.

Reconciliation Week reminds us that meaningful change starts locally. Through shared moments and open conversations, Greater Dandenong continues to grow as a community grounded in respect, understanding and unity.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and who supported the development of our RAP. You have helped shape our future reconciliation journey.

➔ Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/reconciliation-week-26 for more information and a full list of events

Celebrating Muderra Way

The community came together last month to celebrate the opening of Muderra Way, the first Bunurong place naming and large-scale First Nations public art gateway in Greater Dandenong.

Created as part of the Noble Park level crossing removal project, Muderra Way connects Leonard Avenue and Ian Street. However, this new link does more than ease local traffic congestion, it tells a story shaped through a strong partnership between the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) and Greater Dandenong City Council.

From the beginning, the project sought to honour Bunurong Culture, language and stories. Every element was developed through careful cultural consultation with BLCAC, ensuring that First Nations voices guided the design and meaning of the space.

“For a long time, people have been making decisions for us”, says Uncle Shane Clark who is Senior Cultural Heritage Representative and Traditional Owner within the Bunurong Land Council.

“The work through Dandenong Council has been very respectful all the way. They acknowledge and highlight the First Nations people, Bunurong, on our lands on the Dandenong Council. They've always done it.”

Muderra Way now features a large road artwork designed to calm traffic, four vibrant pillar murals by First Nations artists, and signage sharing Bunurong language, stories and even audio guides. Each element offers visitors an opportunity to learn, listen and connect with the deep history of the land.

More than a roadway, Muderra Way demonstrates how art, culture and genuine partnership can transform public places. It brings colour, pride and a sense of belonging to everyone who lives in, visits or simply passes through the area.

Importantly, projects like this are a practical step toward reconciliation. By embedding First Nations culture into the local environment and doing so in partnership, Muderra Way helps create a shared space where community members can recognise, respect and celebrate the stories of Traditional Owners.

At the launch on April 17, guests were treated to artist talks, a traditional Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, music, dancing children's activities and a barbecue.

If you couldn't attend the launch, you can learn all about the project through a documentary series on youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong

The Muderra Way project was delivered through a partnership between Greater Dandenong City Council, Bunurong Land Council and the Victorian Government.

Councillor Contacts



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May 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 18 May**

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

MAY

MONDAY

18

MAY

Have your say on our draft Budget and Annual Plan

SHARE
WHAT'S
IMPORTANT



In 2024 we heard from over **3,000 community members** who shared what's important to them and where they would like to see Council focus its service delivery and spending.

These ideas and aspirations helped form our key documents, including the Council Plan 2025–29, Long Term Financial Plan 2026–35 and Asset Plan 2025–35.

In November 2025 we asked our community for any new ideas or specific projects they would like to see funded for the next financial year. The results of this consultation have helped form our Draft Annual Plan and Draft Budget for 2026–27.

We would love to hear what you think of the documents before Council considers adopting them on Monday 15 June.

To have your say

Visit yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au between 19 May and 2 June 2026.

You can also provide written feedback to our Customer Service team at Dandenong Civic Centre, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. To request a printed version of any of the documents please phone 8571 1000.

► Dandenong North Ward



Across the city, Council is looking to increase sports participation by encouraging more of our residents to get active. This includes upgrading sports pavilions and facilities to make more friendly spaces for everyone.

In Dandenong North Ward we recently upgraded the bathroom facilities at the Gerry Sweeting Pavilion in Lois Twohig Reserve to make them more suitable for use by all. Savings from the bathroom project mean we were also able to renew flooring in several spaces. Connecting changerooms, which were previously carpeted, have been upgraded to rubber gym-style flooring – a much more logical choice for dirty boots, while the large social room was re-carpeted helping to modernise the space.

Council is always working to upgrade roads, and many local roads in Dandenong North Ward are due to be resurfaced before June 30 this year. This follows on from scheduled resurfacing works on Outlook Drive, covering the section from Towong Street to Murray Road.



Other local roads scheduled to be resurfaced include sections of Loch Road, Sylvia Street, Carlton Road, Howe Avenue and Westminster Avenue, among others.

Recently Council partnered with the South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Job Program to present the Greater Dandenong Career and Support Expo.

Held at Springvale City Hall, the annual event attracted the biggest crowd ever, with more than 620 people attending. The day introduced job seekers to the

Cr Bob Milkovic

local job market and also provided those looking to advance their careers a chance to discover training and skills development opportunities. Some businesses even held interviews on the day, which made this a great way to connect job seekers directly with those hiring.



You can contact me with Council related matters via email at Bob.Milkovic@cgd.vic.gov.au or by phone on 0435 237 051.

Cr Lana Formoso



Since being elected to Council I have continued to push for road safety improvements and upgrades to our parks and reserves.

We recently completed the new playground at Barry Powell Reserve. This playground is part of ongoing works to upgrade the reserve following the adoption of a masterplan in 2020. Following community feedback this new larger playground has a nature theme and is sure to keep our youngest residents entertained and active.

The playground complements previous work on the masterplan including an upgrade to oval 2 and the construction of new multipurpose courts, which are proving very popular. I will continue to advocate for more funding to implement the masterplan and make this space a great facility for today and into the future.

Following repeated damage to a set of traffic bollards on Browns Road near Wren Drive, Council redesigned the

intersection to make it safer, including a change to the type of bollards installed. The new design provides better protection for properties at this location. An alarming amount of trucks illegally using local streets in this area remains an ongoing issue. While Council cannot enforce this matter directly, we have continued to advocate on this issue, resulting in elevated levels of reinforcement by the Victorian Government and the National Heavy Vehicle regulator.

Finally, I want to note the Stud Road pedestrian crossing has been completed and is already being well utilised to provide a safer experience for pedestrians. This project is particularly meaningful to me as I began campaigning for this as a resident in 2014 and it was the key reason I ran for Council in 2020. After more than a decade of advocacy, I'm incredibly proud and grateful to see this delivered for the community.

► Noble Park Ward



If you would like to talk to me about local issues, please contact me via email at Lana.Formoso@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0435 530 536.

National Volunteer Week



National Volunteer Week (18–24 May) is Australia's largest celebration of the people who generously give their time to others. This year's theme, *Your Year to Volunteer*, encourages everyone to discover the joy and purpose that comes from contributing to community life.

In Greater Dandenong, volunteers make an enormous impact across neighbourhood houses, libraries, sports clubs, community centres and Council programs. Their time, energy and compassion help strengthen social connection, support vulnerable residents and build a healthier, more resilient city.

As 2026 is also the United Nations International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development, this year's celebrations highlight the vital role volunteers play in creating inclusive, supportive and sustainable communities

Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan, said volunteers are at the heart of what makes the city stronger.

"Volunteering provides a wonderful opportunity to share your time, talents and abilities in a supportive environment. We are so grateful for the generosity of our volunteers and the vital role they play in supporting our community."

Whether it's sharing a skill, lending a hand at local events, or offering support to people who need it, volunteering is a powerful way to make a difference.

To find out how you can get involved, visit [Volunteering Australia](#) or explore local opportunities through the [Greater Dandenong Volunteer Resource Service](#).



...being part of something bigger continues to bring joy and purpose

Heather Hanratty — Volunteer of the Year



For more than 30 years, Heather Hanratty has been a steady, compassionate presence in the Greater Dandenong community. Her warm nature, commitment to others and decades of service volunteering have earned her the title of 2026 Greater Dandenong Australia Day Volunteer of the Year.

Heather first became involved in volunteering when her children started school, looking for ways to stay active and connected to the community. What began with the Meals on Wheels program soon grew into decades of service, touching the lives of thousands of residents through consistent care and heartfelt kindness.

Today, Heather continues her commitment to the community through her ongoing involvement in Council's Planned Activity Group (PAG) program. After stepping back from Meals on Wheels last year, she now volunteers four days a week at PAG, supporting structured activities designed to help older people and people with disabilities remain active, socially connected and independent. The program provides emotional, physical and social stimulation, as well as opportunities for meaningful interaction, especially for residents from culturally diverse backgrounds. Heather plays an invaluable role in creating a warm, supportive environment where participants feel welcomed, included and cared for.

On weekends, Heather also enjoys helping at community sporting events when she can. She says one of the highlights of this involvement is meeting visiting basketball teams who travel to Melbourne for games, something she enjoys being part of.

She also continues supporting local community programs, contributing through activities that bring people together. In the past, Heather has knitted mittens, blankets and teddy bears for children and older residents, offering comfort to those who need it most.

When asked what keeps her motivated after so many years, Heather says it's simple – she loves staying active and "getting back out there" to contribute to the community. Engaging with different people, hearing their stories and being part of something bigger continues to bring joy and purpose to her life.

Looking ahead, Heather hopes more people will consider giving their time to others. Her message is simple:

"Get out there, think about your future, and give back to your community."

Heather's story is a reminder that the smallest acts of service – given consistently and with heart – can shape a stronger, kinder and more connected community for everyone.

Sustainability plan gets a big (green) thumbs up



At Greater Dandenong City Council, we've been busy reducing our emissions, revegetating and protecting our reserves, cleaning our waterways, and embedding sustainability into our daily operations.

Mayor, Councillor Sophie Tan, said this important work in sustainability "is just the beginning".

"We are proud to have reduced our emissions by around 80 percent since 2019, we're exceeding our tree planting targets and making great strides in biodiversity – like the return of Krefft's gliders, which were extinct in Greater Dandenong."



The Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2036 empowers Council and the community to work together towards a *green city committed to a sustainable future*.

This vision underpins the sustainability strategy which was adopted unanimously by Councillors at their March meeting.

Mayor Tan said, "Our Bright Green Future is a priority strategy for Council, and the next step in our response to the climate emergency."

To ensure clear, measurable and relevant goals, the Action Plan captures the strategic objectives of:

- ▶ *Growing Nature Together, Council's Biodiversity Action Plan 2023–25 (the Biodiversity Action Plan)*
- ▶ *Draft Greater Dandenong Waste and Litter Strategy 2020–25*



- ▶ *Greater Dandenong Urban Forest Strategy 2021-28; and*
- ▶ *Councils existing and draft climate, sustainability and environmental strategies and plans.*

Mayor Tan thanked everyone who had their say on the strategy late last year. A summary of the feedback and the final draft are available by visiting yoursay.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/our-bright-green-future

Tree canopy grows



Imagine you are standing under some trees, looking up at the leaves and branches that form a roof above you – this is a tree canopy. This canopy is important for creating shade, lowering heat, supporting diverse wildlife and cleaning the air.

Greater Dandenong is an urbanised area and has traditionally had low tree canopy coverage but at Greater Dandenong City Council, we're working to change that.

Our 2025 audit shows we're on track to achieve our target of increasing tree canopy coverage from 9.9% in 2016 to 15% in 2028. Our tree canopy has grown .5% since 2023, to 14.6%

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said although this increase may seem modest, Council was exceeding its tree planting targets and strategically planting in built-up areas to protect people from extreme heat.

"Our target is planting 2000 street trees each year, and we have planted more than 31,000 since 2014. This doesn't include the many additional trees planted in parks and open spaces or as part of the capital works program."

We have a 10-year planting program in place for the three major activity centres



in Dandenong, Springvale and Noble Park and will collect data to complete urban heat mapping over the next two years.

"This will inform our future planting; in the meantime, we're already making great progress in built-up areas," the Mayor said.

"You may have already seen our planting as part of the Ian Street, Leonard Avenue, Frank Street and Springvale Road Boulevard projects. Around 580 street trees were planted in Noble Park alone last winter."

In 2018, we introduced new planning rules requiring developers to plant additional trees for new residential developments and they're paying off.

"These trees are now becoming canopy trees and improving the liveability of these new homes through reduced house temperatures and energy bills," the Mayor added.

We're encouraging residents to plant more trees on private land through education programs and festivals.

"We recently gave away 13,000 plants to local households, including to residents in the green wedge. In fact, over 22,000 indigenous plants were planted in revegetation projects across Greater Dandenong in the 2024–25 financial year.

"With 73% of land privately owned, success depends on the whole community."

Lower Power Bills Expo



Looking for ways to lower your electricity bills?

Join us at the Greater







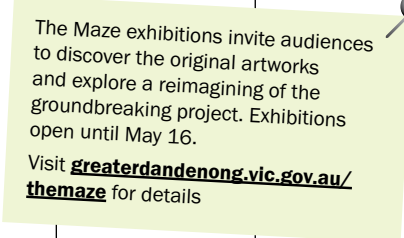
Dandenong Lower Power Bills Expo and discover simple ways to make your home more energy efficient.

Learn about solar, electric cooking, heating and cooling, electric vehicle charging and more – all in one place.

Springvale Town Hall
June 4 2026, 4.30–7.00pm

This event is organised by the Smart Energy Council, with support from the Victorian Government, Allume and Greater Dandenong City Council.


What's On May 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1	2	3
					Family Fun Springvale Library 3pm	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Coffee Club Springvale Library 11.30am 		Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	Discover Heritage Hill Tour 66 McCrae Street, Dandenong 10.30am 	Dandenong and District Orchid Club Monthly Meeting Dandenong Showgrounds Committee Room, Greaves Reserve, Dandenong 7pm	Springvale Urban Harvest and Community Clothes Swap Springvale Community Hub 1pm	
11	12	13	14	15	16	
	Metallic Paper Flowers – Art Series Dandenong Library 6.30pm		Community Aerobics Class (Vietnamese and English) Keysborough Community Hub 5.30pm	Sports Club at the Hub Springvale Community Hub 4.30pm 	Community Yoga and Meditation Keysborough Community Hub 10am	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm 	Sensitive Storytime Springvale Library 10.30am Reconciliation Nature Play for children 0-6 Alex Wilkie Reserve, Springvale 10am		First Nations Storytime Springvale Library 10.30am Chronic Pain Support Group Springvale Library 4pm		The Think Tank – Forces, Friction and Movement Springvale Library 2.30pm	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Reconciliation Week 'All In' event Harmony Square, Dandenong 10am Neighbourhood Watch Greater Dandenong Forum Paddy O'Donoghue Centre, 18–34 Buckley Street, Noble Park 7.30pm		Library Help for Adults Dandenong Library 2pm		
					 <p>The Maze exhibitions invite audiences to discover the original artworks and explore a reimagining of the groundbreaking project. Exhibitions open until May 16. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/themaze for details</p>	

Local suppliers helping deliver the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre

MADE FOR,
AND BY, OUR
COMMUNITY



 **Big projects don't happen without a lot of local know-how. The Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is taking shape thanks to hundreds of people – many from right here in Greater Dandenong – pitching in with skills, materials and passion.**

Here are just some of the local businesses helping bring the centre to life ahead of its opening in 2027.

From their base in Dandenong South, **ATCO Structures** (name in bold) is providing temporary facilities for the 200 plus workers building the centre. Think site offices, bathrooms and kitchens – plus temporary amenities for the Dandenong Hockey Club while the new pavilion is built. ATCO's work has created opportunities for more than 50 local suppliers and subcontractors, from cabinet makers and builders to transport operators.

Emily Judd from ATCO's Dandenong South office says the project feels personal.

“It's exciting to be part of something so significant in our own backyard,” Ms Judd said.

“So many local businesses are proud to be contributing to the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre, and it's rewarding to know we're helping create a lasting community asset.”

Australian Precast P/L, also based in Dandenong South, is supplying high quality precast concrete panels that form a key part of the building's structure and finish. Made offsite and delivered ready to install, the panels have kept the build of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre moving and are ensuring a strong, consistent result.

“Being part of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre is something our team is really proud of,” an Australian Precast P/L spokesperson said.

“Knowing that our precast panels will support a building focused on health, wellbeing and community connection

makes the work especially meaningful for everyone involved.”

Shaping the look and weather protection of the centre, **Askin Performance Panels** based in Dandenong South is providing the roof and wall cladding that will keep the building cool in summer, warm in winter and welcoming year-round.

“Contributing to once in a generation projects like the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre show the value of local experience and Australian made products,” an Askin Performance Panels spokesperson said.

“It's great to be part of creating a space that the community will enjoy for generations to come.”

Backing local suppliers like ATCO, AusCast and Askin supports local jobs, skills and pride – and helps deliver a centre made for, and by, our community.

 **Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DWC](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/DWC) for more information.**

#APUFF AIN'T TUFF

Our 2025 Young Leaders have created the #APuffAin'tTough health campaign to share the dangers of vaping with their peers.

The campaign toolkit includes a classroom discussion guide, social media tools and other resources for schools, parents and young people.

The campaign draws from VicHealth research with imagery created by a local graphic designer. The three distinct messages focus on connecting to a young audience and include:

- ▶ “Mirror, mirror, on the wall, how many vape out of them all? Not as many as you think.” This message focuses on the peer pressure that people feel despite the actual data which shows less people are vaping.
- ▶ “The choice is yours – addiction or connection.” This message shows that vaping can be isolating and friendship can support healthier choices.



- ▶ “Don’t let vaping smoke your life.” Which highlights how easy addiction can take over someone’s life and make them feel like they are drowning.

A Young Leader who helped create the campaign said, “It was a great experience. I loved working with everyone and learning from others’ ideas to improve my original idea. I feel proud of myself as it feels like I am contributing positively to the community.”



The Young Leaders Program helps future leaders develop their skills and make a positive impact on their community by planning and delivering community projects.

Visit youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/projects to find out more about the campaign and the Young Leaders program.

Laps Under Lights kick off at Ross Reserve



When the sun goes down, the reserve comes alive with people on the move and enjoying the evening atmosphere. Bring your friends and family for a relaxing stroll, a free warm drink and some fun group fitness sessions.

During Laps Under Lights local sports clubs will be training on the grounds, which provides a great opportunity for the wider community to make the most of the lighting.

Join us for a casual stroll around the perimeter of the athletics track which will also be lit and open for use throughout the night.



If you’re looking for a safe, welcoming and inclusive space to get your after dark steps in, these sessions are for you.

Held every Monday in May, from 6.30pm–7.30pm at Ross Reserve, 9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park.

Meet at the Ross Reserve Athletic Track and join us for Laps Under Lights. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au for more information.



Food waste in your green bin



Turn your food scraps into nutrient-rich compost and help green Greater Dandenong.

This month we celebrate Compost Awareness Week (3–9 May) and call on residents to place their food waste alongside garden clippings in the green lid kerbside bin.

It is estimated over one-third of household rubbish is food waste. By adding it to your green waste bin, you can reduce the amount of waste to landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create healthy compost for use at farms, gardens and parks.

Tips for composting with a kitchen caddy and your green waste bin:

- ✓ Line your kitchen caddy with paper towel or newspaper to absorb moisture and smells
- ✓ Empty scraps straight into your kerbside bin – don't use bags of any kind
- ✓ Remove labels and stickers from fruit and vegetables as these contaminate the compost.

A simple rule to remember is that if it grows or you can eat it, put it into your green waste bin.

If you are already composting at home we thank you for doing great work, but this service can complement backyard composting. Not all food waste can be placed in a home compost bin, but foods such as meat, bread, pasta and dairy can be placed in your garden waste bin.



If you don't already have a green waste bin, you can add one to your regular bin collection for a fee. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/food-waste to learn more.



Behind the Scenes

Meet Randika (Ronny) Bala Godage, Street Cleansing Attendant and Driver Operator.

Ronny has worked with our Cleansing Team for more than three years. As part of his job he operates cleansing plant and equipment, including street sweepers, footpath sweepers and garbage compactors.

He said the most rewarding thing about his job was when community members showed their appreciation for his work.

“A simple thumbs up or a thank you goes a long way,” Ronny said.

“The most surprising (thing about this job) is you never know what tomorrow will bring. Every day there is something different, it keeps my job interesting.”

Ronny remembers the time a resident accidentally threw his wife's jewellery out with the rubbish. The resident raised the alarm as soon as he realised his mistake, and thanks to



some quick thinking from Councillor Jim Memeti, contractor JJ Richards and Council staff the garbage truck was quarantined.

On a hot morning in January 2023 the truck was emptied and staff searched through six to eight tonnes of rubbish to find the jewellery. Within five minutes the crew identified the garbage bags collected from the resident's house and found the treasures that were worth up to \$10,000. A great result for everyone.

Ronny said outside of work he has a second job as a husband and father to two beautiful children, with a third child on the way. He also loves to go fishing and explore the great outdoors with his family.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Libraries After Dark

Mother's Day Floral Painting

**Keysborough Community Hub,
Thursday 7 May, 6.15pm–7.45pm**

Learn to paint beautiful floral greeting cards using simple watercolour techniques, perfect for all skill levels.



Candle Making

**Dandenong Library, Thursday 14 May,
6.30pm–8pm**

This beginner-friendly workshop will teach you how to craft your own custom candles from start to finish.



Illustrated Ephemera

**Springvale Library, Thursday 21 May,
6.30pm–8pm**

Using Japanese and French Papers, make a small hand-bound book with your won printed illustration.

Polymer Clay

**Keysborough Community Hub,
Thursday 28 May, 6.15pm–7.45pm**

This beginner-friendly workshop will guide you through shaping and designing unique clay creations including earrings, pendants or keychains.



Healing and Hope: The Power of Art Exhibition

Showing across the Dandenong and Springvale Libraries throughout May, this exhibition explores the harm of gambling in the community. The display brings together a photography exhibition by Deakin University, featuring images by people with lived experience of gambling harm alongside artworks by artist Nelson Nghe.

Together the works explore the hidden and complex impacts of gambling on families and culturally diverse communities, challenging stigma and raising awareness about gambling harm.



Children's Programs

The Think Tank

**Springvale Library, Saturday 23
May, 2.30pm–3.30pm**

In this Forces, Friction and Movement workshop we look at how push and pull forces act to move objects, especially toys. Explore inertia, rotational forces and more. This program is suitable for ages 7–12.



Sensitive Storytime

**Springvale Library, every Tuesday
during school term, 10.30am–
11.30am**

Enjoy the magic of reading in a way that suits children with extra sensitivities. Designed for ages 2-5, Sensitive Storytime includes a controlled group size, fidget toys, picture schedules and a flexible approach. Email libraryprograms@cgd.vic.gov.au to register. Visit libraries.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/events/sensitive-storytime for more information.



ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

WHERE CULTURE COMES ALIVE

EXHIBITIONS



THE MAZE: FINAL DAYS

The Maze: Reimagined enters its final weeks. Visit Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre before Saturday 16 May to experience a contemporary activation, then explore its origins at Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens (closing Thursday 14 May). Together these exhibitions offer a thoughtful look at creativity, memory and community across generations.

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

*Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre
Wednesday to Saturday, 11am–3pm*

THE MAZE: PAST, PRESENT AND LEGACY

*Heritage Hill Museum and
Historic Gardens
Wednesday and Thursday, 10am–2pm*

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

Connect with us

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

Sign up for e-newsletter:
drum.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au



9X5 WINNERS

This month we bid a fond farewell to the 9x5 Exhibition, a crowd favourite from start to finish.

Congratulations to this year's award-winning entries.

Best in Show for Outstanding Artistic Achievement: Strata by Ilona Jetmar

Highly Commended for Exceptional Merit: Kingdom of Feathers by Leanie Erasmus

Community Connections for work reflecting Greater Dandenong's community spirit: The Big Three: General Motors Holden Dandenong by Talwinder (Noni) Singh

Packing Room Prize (selected by the exhibiting team): The Vessel by Margaret Ho

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

HERITAGE HILL TOURS

Admire the unique architecture of Benga House and Laurel Lodge and learn how these historic homes reflect the elegance of their eras.

*On Thursday 7 May,
10.30am–11.30am*

Wander through Benga House's Edna Walling-inspired 1930s garden and marvel at Laurel Lodge's 150 year old Moreton Bay fig trees.

*On Thursday 4 June,
10.30am–11.30am*

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/discover-heritage-hill for more tour information.

DRUM THEATRE SWARÂNJALI

Saturday 16 May, 6.30pm

This special evening blends the elegance of Indian ragas with the vibrant rhythms of Sri Lankan music, presented by the talented students of Sa-Ga-Ri Academy of Music.

DANCE FROM DUSK TO DAWN

Thursday 21 May, 10.30am

Dancebourne Arts presents this exhilarating, captivating program with a remarkable and varied selection of new and original classical and contemporary dance.

SAVE THE DATE...

SEVENTH WONDER PERFORMS FLEETWOOD MAC

Friday 12 June, 8pm

Hailed as one of the world's leading Fleetwood Mac shows this show has been applauded by critics and fans, including Mick Fleetwood himself.

AUSTRALIAN EAGLES SHOW – 50 YEARS OF HOTEL CALIFORNIA

Saturday 20 June, 7.30pm

Australia's premier tribute to the Eagles' unforgettable sound, the show's first set will see the band perform the Hotel California Album in its entirety, followed by the second set of all the other Eagles classic hits.

Greater Career and Support Expo another huge success

The annual Greater Dandenong Career and Support Expo was held last month at Springvale City Hall. The expo was targeted to those in our community seeking support with their employment or education journey.

This free community event provided over 620 guests the opportunity to meet directly with local business and industry to discuss current vacancies, find out about opportunities for training and skills development or seek advice on local community support services.



A particular point of interest was the Dandenong Jobs board which saw over 150 jobs listed on pinboards for attendees to review. The jobs were taken directly from the Dandenong Jobs Website greaterdandenongjobs.com.au. Attendees were encouraged to take a photograph of a job they might be interested in or scan the QR code to take them directly to the website.



Key highlights:

- ▶ Over 620 attendees
- ▶ More than 40 exhibitors
- ▶ Over 170 jobs listed on the Greater Dandenong Jobs Board
- ▶ Two breakout sessions for speed interviews
- ▶ A vibrant networking breakfast
- ▶ A free community sausage sizzle.

The expo received positive feedback with more than 150 survey responses commenting on every aspect of the day.

One participant said: “The expo was a great opportunity, and I am very happy with the experience overall. I got to meet lots of people in the community in a supportive environment full of like-minded people who wanted to take the initiative and step up their careers.”

A big thank you to all the exhibitors and our event partner, South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula Job Program for working with us to provide our community with the opportunity to seek career advice and support.



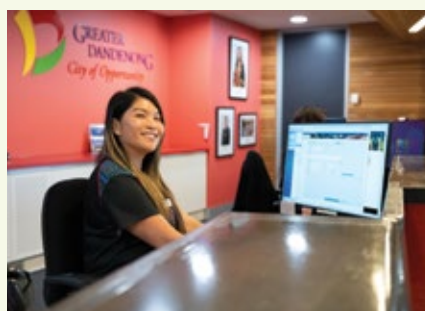
Customer Service Centres



We have three customer service centres spread across our city, giving the community a convenient place to visit us.

You can also reach us by visiting our website greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or by phoning our call centre on 8571 1000.

Our call centre operates Monday to Friday 8.30am–5pm. Outside of these hours, calls divert to an after hours service for emergencies.



You can visit us in person here:

Dandenong Customer Service,
Dandenong Civic Centre,
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
Open Hours: Monday to Friday
8.30am–5pm

Parkmore Customer Service,
Shop A7 Parkmore Shopping Centre,
317 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough
Monday to Friday 9am–5pm

Springvale Customer Service,
Springvale Community Hub,
5 Hillcrest Grove, Springvale
Monday to Friday 9am–5pm

Our Customer Service Centres are closed on public holidays.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE WEEK

11-17 MAY 2026



Neighbourhood houses strengthen communities through small actions that create a ripple effect.

Celebrating the role these organisations play in society, this year's Neighbourhood House Week has the theme 'Ripples of Change'.

With seven houses operating in Greater Dandenong, these spaces offer a variety of social, educational and welfare programs, fostering lifelong learning and community involvement.

From 12-8 May staff at each house will celebrate the role they play in supporting the local community and encourage everyone to get involved – have a chat, lend a hand, try a new class, or share an act of kindness.

Through inclusive programs and shared spaces our Neighbourhood Houses create an environment where every voice is heard, every story is valued and every member contributes to the vibrancy of our community.



Local Resident, Branka Loukas, has been living in Dandenong for over 15 years and is actively involved at Dandenong Community & Learning Centre in the weekly Floristry Class, Women's Woodwork Class and Community Garden. Branka always says, "united we stand, divided we fall!"

Contact your local Neighbourhood House to find out more.

Noble Park Community Centre
nobleparkcommunitycentre.com.au
9547 5801

Wellsprings for Women
wellspringsforwomen.com
9701 3740

Dandenong Community and Learning Centre
dandenongclc.org.au
9792 5298

Springvale Neighbourhood House
snh.org.au
9548 3972

North Dandenong Neighbourhood House
Facebook.com/NorthDandenongNeighbourhoodHouse
0448 658 354

Keysborough Learning Centre
klckey.com.au
9798 7005

Springvale Learning and Activities Centre
springvalelac.org.au
9547 2647

Springvale Learning and Activity Centre will host a free cultural lunch as part of Neighbourhood House Week's Largest Community-led Lunch Initiative.

Join the fun at **1 Osborne Avenue, Springvale** on **Tuesday 12 May, from 12.30pm-2pm**. To book your place phone 9547 2647 or email community@springvalelac.org.au.

Neighbourhood Policing Forum

The 2026 Neighbourhood Policing Forum at Dandenong Civic Centre brought together more than 60 community members, local traders and key agency representatives.

Hosted by Victoria Police, in partnership with Council's Community Safety Team the event featured a panel of policing experts who presented key crime statistics and outlined local operations aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety.



Learn more by visiting greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/news



National 18-24 MAY 2026
Volunteer
YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER **Week**



“I just love getting out there, meeting new people and giving back to the community. Volunteering keeps me active and connected, and it feels good knowing I can help someone in a small way.”

HEATHER HANRATTY
Greater Dandenong Volunteer of the Year 2026