

Greater Dandenong Council News

Employment Pathways Hub

PAGE 3

**One Tree
Per Child**

► [PAGE 7](#)

**Capital Works
Completed**

► [PAGE 8-9](#)

**Dandy
Vibes**

► [PAGE 12-13](#)

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

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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 August edition of Greater Dandenong Council News.

This edition we share stories of how we are advocating to support our community.

Turn to page three to read about the new Dandenong Pathways to Employment Hub, which will connect local job seekers with local employers. The Hub aims to build confidence in job seekers and support local industry.

On page six you can read more about our efforts to address homelessness and affordable housing shortages across Greater Dandenong. As we mark Homelessness Week (3–9 August) we emphasise our commitment to working in partnership with community, agencies, other levels of government and stakeholders on what matters to our community.

Sustainability is another key priority for us. The simple act of planting trees helps us combat climate change, improve our environment and save money. Read about how we are getting our youngest residents involved through the One Tree Per Child program on page seven.

In our July edition we reported on the 2026/27 Annual Budget and shared our plans for the coming year. In this edition we share with you some of the key projects completed in 2025/26. Turn to pages eight and nine to see more.

See pages 12 and 13 for highlights from the Dandy Vibes grants program. Local organisations used Council grants to support community activities across public spaces in our city.

I hope you are inspired by the stories in this edition.

Mayor
Councillor Sophie Tan

My City

Springvale Winter Fest was a hit, drawing local families and visitors who embraced the winter chill to enjoy a day full of fun. The winter themed carnival and multicultural food festival featured everything from exciting rides and market stalls to a diverse range of food. Live performances and community activities brought the streets to life, as thousands gathered in central Springvale to celebrate the diversity and vibrancy that makes our city so unique.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Winterfest to see more photos of the event.

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.

FSC
Logo

Front cover: Siga Nabalarua, Mayor Sophie Tan, Can Phu Trinh and Nyaguay Muon outside the new Dandenong Pathways to Employment Hub.



Siga Nabalarua, Can Phu Trinh and Nyaguay Muon will staff the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub.

Opening doors to employment

A new hub in the heart of Dandenong is helping our community connect with jobs, skills and opportunities.

Located on Lonsdale Street in Central Dandenong, the Pathway to Employment Hub brings together employment support, practical advice and connections to local employers under one roof.

Whether someone is looking for their first job, returning to the workforce or exploring new opportunities, the Hub provides a welcoming place to get started.

Funded by the Australian Government and supported by the Victorian Government, the three-year pilot program works closely with local employers, service providers and community organisations to make it easier for people to access the support they need and connect with employment opportunities across the region.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said the Hub is designed to help people navigate their employment journey with confidence.

"This Hub is about opening doors and creating opportunities for people to build skills, make connections and take the next step towards employment," Mayor Tan said.

"As a Council we are committed to representing the needs of our community, and we have strongly advocated for this hub here in the heart of Greater Dandenong. The fact it is now open and bringing opportunity to our community is a win."

The Hub supports a broad cross-section of the community, including young people, migrant communities and those re-entering the workforce. In its first year, there will be a strong focus on helping young people build confidence, develop skills and connect with local employment opportunities.

"By bringing together employers, service providers and community organisations, we're creating a coordinated approach that helps residents access the right support at the right time," Mayor Tan said.

The program also works closely with employers to ensure training, activities and supports reflect current workforce needs and create meaningful pathways into jobs and further education.

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 4pm, the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub offers free support and guidance for anyone looking to take the next step in their employment journey.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/employment-hub

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August 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 17 August**

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

AUGUST

MONDAY

17

AUGUST

Medium Grants Program Now Open

Applications for Greater Dandenong's Medium Grants Program Round 2 are now open.

The grants provide funding for not-for-profit community groups, organisations, and individual artists to deliver projects, programs, and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community. This round will fund projects taking place in 2027.

Grants are available across four categories:

- Community Development
- Climate Change Action
- Arts, Festivals and Events
- Individual Artists.

Applications close Tuesday 11 August 2026.

Applicants are encouraged to review the Program Guidelines and attend an online information session on Monday 3 August to learn more.

Highlighted Project

In 2025 artist Alberto Burgos created an art project titled *Film Frames of Connection and Community*. Our grant enabled Alberto to run photography workshops with newly arrived Afghan women, creating a connection to each other and their new community.

Working with Foundation House and the Victorian Afghan Associations Network (VAAN), he used film cameras and took participants on walking tours around Greater Dandenong to capture images.



The exhibition *Film Frames of Connection and Community* is on display at the Drum Theatre until 15 August.

Alberto said one of the project highlights was documenting everyday moments that reflect the diversity of the Greater Dandenong community.

"Small interactions, families sharing meals, elders with grandchildren, friends outside local shops together, create a beautiful moment of time in Dandenong's history," he said.

Another highlight was working with newly-arrived Afghan women.

"Seeing their confidence grow was incredibly rewarding. I was in awe of how strong and thoughtful their images were. Their bravery in approaching street photography and engaging with strangers showed real growth and trust in their own perspectives."



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/medium-grants-program to find out more.

► Keysborough Ward



Over the past three years Council has invested in sports grounds across the Keysborough Ward. The improvements were all designed to support local sporting clubs and to get more people active.

I recently spoke to our Sport and Recreation department to find out more about the impact the improvements had, and it is clear to see many of the clubs have benefitted from our investment.

Improvements at Rowley Allen Reserve included oval floodlighting, safety upgrades to the pavilion and works to the main oval, including the replacement of two coaches' boxes. For the first time the Keysborough Football Netball Club, which calls the ground home, introduced a female football team this season. The club also partnered with Parkmore Pirates Junior Football Club to field four junior teams, up from two last season.



The installation of 150 lux floodlighting and portable senior-sized soccer goals at Frederick Wachter Reserve has been great for the South East United Football Club, which increased participation by 26%. Junior participation also increased and last season the Boy's U16 team won the Victorian State Championship.

Cr Melinda Yim

Works at Coomoora Reserve included renewal of the drainage for the eastern soccer field and renewal of cricket nets (three lanes). Last season two Coomoora Cricket Club teams won grand finals. The Keysborough Soccer Club has seen a 132% rise in female participation.

Speaking of women and girls in sport, Council is committed to helping grow participation levels across all sports. We regularly work with clubs to support a more inclusive environment and recently hosted an online women and girls coaching workshop.

I will continue to advocate on behalf of local sports clubs to improve facilities and get more people involved.



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

Cr Alice Phuong Le



I am so proud to represent the Springvale Central Ward. Springvale is a place where people support their neighbours, embrace diversity and stay connected. It is a place where people feel welcome and supported.

In June I joined with the community to celebrate the best of our suburb at Springvale Winter Fest. The vibrant, winter-themed carnival and food festival was a family-friendly event that had something for everyone.

Something that was on show was our city's cultural diversity, including a strong showing from our Vietnamese community. This year marks 50 years since the first Vietnamese refugees arrived in Australia beginning a journey of hope, resilience and new opportunity. They have helped shape the identity of Greater Dandenong as a vibrant, inclusive and thriving community, and we are proud of their lasting contributions.

A program of water main renewal was carried out across our city including in Springvale Central Ward. More than \$685,000 was invested in the critical infrastructure that supports our growing community now and into the future.

Recently we adopted the Annual Budget for 2026/27, but I would like to take a moment to celebrate recent projects completed in Springvale Central Ward. Olinda Avenue Kindergarten received an upgrade to the toilet area as well as some new blinds. This work reflects our commitment to supporting local families and creating welcoming spaces where children can learn, play and thrive. Investing in our kindergartens helps ensure young families have access to quality facilities close to home.

A project to upgrade flooring at the Burden Park Bowls Club was also recently completed. This practical investment will improve comfort, safety and accessibility for visitors and reflects our commitment to supporting local community spaces where people can stay active, connected and engaged.



Please reach out if you would like to discuss any local issues. You can contact me via email at AlicePhuongLe@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0429 059 974.

Census 2026: Be part of our community story



A strong community starts with good information. Every five years, Australians take part in an important event that helps shape the future of our communities.

Led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Census provides a snapshot of who we are, how we live, and what our communities need to thrive. The information collected helps ensure services and infrastructure are planned to meet changing community needs.

Census day is taking place on Tuesday 11 August. Households will be asked a series of questions about age, country of birth, languages spoken at home, employment, education and living arrangements.

Most households will receive a letter with instructions and a unique login code to access the form online. You



can complete the form online, or you can request a paper form. There is help if you need it. Support is available online, by phone or through community assistance services.

If you're completing the form for your household, remember to include everyone staying in your home on Census day, including visitors.

For a diverse and growing municipality like Greater Dandenong, Census data plays a vital role in planning services that reflect our community.

It helps Council to:

- Deliver family and children's services, including playgroups, kindergartens and childcare, in areas where they are most needed

- Support our multicultural community through inclusive programs
- Plan and maintain parks, sports facilities and recreational spaces for people of all ages
- Develop programs and initiatives that promote health and wellbeing.

Every response contributes to a clearer understanding of our community. By participating in the Census, you are helping to shape the services, facilities and support that will benefit Greater Dandenong now and into the future.

Visit info.census.abs.gov.au/about/doing-census for more information.

Homelessness Week



Having a home is essential to a person's wellbeing, but across Greater Dandenong we have the highest number of people experiencing homelessness in Victoria.

Recent figures show more than 2300 are experiencing homelessness, this includes people sleeping rough, couch surfing and living in boarding houses or overcrowded properties.

Homelessness Week 2026 (3–9 August) is an opportunity to raise awareness of the impacts of homelessness and the solutions needed to end it.

Greater Dandenong Mayor, Cr Sophie Tan said Council was working with partner agencies and other levels of government to advocate for real change.

"We want to reduce homelessness, increase the supply of social and affordable housing, and support residents to live with dignity and stability," Mayor Tan said.

"Not having a place to call home is a deeply distressing and isolating experience. It cuts people off from their community and can lead to terrible physical and mental health outcomes."

Rising living costs and limited affordable housing contribute to disadvantage in our community, including our rates of homelessness and poverty.

"Right now, one in five people in our community live below the poverty line. Through ongoing advocacy efforts we want to tackle key issues including food insecurity, homelessness, financial hardship and social exclusion. Poverty is everyone's business," Mayor Tan said.



Since 2020 Council has invested over \$1.7 million to help alleviate poverty, and we are calling on all levels of government to invest in place-based initiatives to tackle these issues.

During Homelessness Week we will host an event with the South East Housing and Homelessness Alliance (SEHHA), inviting MPs, councillors from Cardinia and Casey, as well as local support organisations to discuss the key issues.

SEHHA is a collective of agencies working collaboratively to address homelessness in the south east region. SEHHA's members are three local councils (Greater Dandenong, Casey and Cardinia) and seven community organisations who provide coordinated support and advocacy for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Visit sehha.au for more information.

One Tree Per Child



Local school children are taking the lead in protecting their environment and building biodiversity through the One Tree Per Child program.

Across June and July Grade 3 students from six local primary schools took part in organised plantings to help revegetate the Dandenong Wetlands.

The sessions included a traditional Welcome to Country, a guided exploration of surrounding bushland and a ranger-led planting of indigenous species. Each student was encouraged to build a connection with the land they live on and was provided a small tree to take home and plant in their own garden.

Greater Dandenong Mayor Sophie Tan said each tree planted helped to increase our city's canopy.

"Greater Dandenong has one of the lowest tree canopies in metropolitan Melbourne, and the One Tree Per Child program is just one way we are committed to improving the canopy and biodiversity in our city," Mayor Tan said.

In 2016 the canopy covered only 9.9% of our city, but sustained efforts have increased it to 14.6%. Tree planting initiatives will help us reach our goal of 15% by 2028.



"Climate change is a real issue for the residents of Greater Dandenong. It is shaping our lives, our health, our finances and the places we call home. We are working to take real action and increasing our tree canopy, which helps keep our streets, suburbs and houses cool, is an important step," Mayor Tan said.

The One Tree Per Child program operates across the globe and was established by the co-founders of National Tree Day (John Dee and Olivia Newton John). The program operates across the world and aims to have every child plant at least one tree before leaving school.

Give your unwanted items a second life



Got items at home you no longer need?

Instead of sending them to landfill, give them a second life at our next Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Day.

This event is for residents to drop off items in good condition for reuse, as well as items for recycling including electronics. It's a great way to keep valuable materials out of landfill and put usable items back into the community.

You can also drop off broken or unwanted electrical items and appliances, which will be recycled safely. If it has a plug, cord or battery – or if it lights up, heats up, moves or makes noise – it is e-waste and can be recycled at the event.

On the day load your items into your car and drive to Greaves Reserve in Dandenong – there's no need to get out of your vehicle.

Items in good condition are passed on to local charities such as Big Group Hug and Brainwave Bikes.



Reuse and Recycle Drop Off Days are held several times a year. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/public-forms/waste-events-reminder-registration and register to receive an SMS reminder about the events.

Recycling at home made simple

1 Keep it loose

Always place recycling directly into your yellow-lid bin – not in plastic or paper bags. Items in bags can't be sorted and will end up in landfill, even if the contents are recyclable.

2 Stick to hard plastics

Only recycle hard, rigid plastics like bottles, tubs and containers from food, cleaning and personal care products.

Soft plastics – such as bread bags, chip packets and cling wrap – don't belong in your recycling bin.

3 Leave lids on

Keep lids attached to bottles and containers so they can be captured and recycled too.

4 Not all glass is recyclable

Glass bottles and jars are fine in your recycling bin. However, items like lightbulbs and broken drinking glasses should be kept out.

5 Skip coffee cups

Takeaway coffee cups can't go in your recycling bin because they're lined with plastic. They can be recycled through specialised programs, such as Simply Cups at participating 7 Eleven stores across Australia.



Recycling rules can be tricky. Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/which-bin-do-i-put-it for quick guidance. You can also download the Recycle Mate app to check items at home or while you are out in the community.



A year of delivery

Over the past 12 months, we delivered a significant program of capital works across Greater Dandenong, upgrading roads, parks, playgrounds, sporting facilities and community spaces, while progressing major projects like the new Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing.

Alongside major builds, we focused on the essentials, improving safety, access and reliability through footpath upgrades, drainage works and building renewals.



A socially connected, safe and healthy city



With more than 100 parks, sports reserves and playgrounds and over 600 hectares of open space, we continued to invest in places where people stay active, connect and feel safe.

- ✓ New multi-court, tennis half court with rebound wall, improved paths and seating at Greaves Reserve, Dandenong

- ✓ A new pocket park at View Road, Springvale
- ✓ Springvale Reserve Pavilion upgrades
- ✓ A new synthetic cricket wicket at Warner Reserve, Springvale
- ✓ New lighting at Frederick Wachter Reserve, Keysborough and WJ Turner Reserve, Noble Park North (pictured left)
- ✓ Upgraded bathrooms, a new gym-style floor in changerooms and new carpet in the social room at Gerry Sweeting Pavilion in Lois Twohig Reserve, Dandenong North
- ✓ Improved accessibility, new park furniture and landscaping at Doris Reserve, Dandenong

A city that respects and celebrates diversity, our history and the arts

We continued to celebrate our city's diversity, storytelling heritage and creative spirit.

- ✓ Continued delivery of the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan, including the delivery of the Springvale Creative Wayfinding Project to improve navigation, enhance safety and strengthen the identity of the Springvale precinct.
- ✓ Engaged more than 40 artists and groups with exhibitions hosted by Greater Dandenong, supporting 43 local traders, and reinvesting over \$74,000 in the local economy



- ✓ Launched our first large-scale Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' peoples public art gateway at Muderra Way, Noble Park.

A city that supports business, entrepreneurship, quality education and employment outcomes



We continued to invest in a local economy where businesses can thrive and residents can access jobs and opportunities close to home.

- ✓ Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing is supporting local industry, including Dandenong South-based ATCO Structures, which provided the temporary facilities for the team working onsite throughout the construction
- ✓ Upgraded parking meters with mobile payments, allowing people to start, extend or end parking without returning to their car, making it easier to stay longer and support local businesses
- ✓ Made improvements at Dandenong Market, including more accessible parking, upgraded safety systems
- ✓ Established the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub, transforming an under-utilised building on Lonsdale Street into a space that helps our community connect with jobs, education and training.

A green city committed to a sustainable future

We continued practical work to reduce environmental impact and build a more sustainable city.

- ✓ Drainage upgrades in Leonard Avenue, Vincent Crescent and Browns Road (Noble Park), Gladstone Road (Dandenong North) and Grace Street (Springvale)
- ✓ Planted 1861 street trees and more than 30,000 indigenous seedlings across the city, growing canopy and biodiversity
- ✓ Used more than 7,000 tonnes of recycled materials in roadworks
- ✓ Installed porous pavement near Dandenong Market made from recycled tyres



A city of accessible, vibrant centres and places

We improved how people move through and experience our activity centres, making them safer and easier to access.

- ✓ Safety upgrades to Cleeland and Clow streets, Dandenong
- ✓ A new footpath on Fowler Road, Dandenong South
- ✓ The final stage of the Perry Road construction and widening in Keysborough
- ✓ New equipment in Maternal and Child Health Centres
- ✓ Road resurfacing including Outlook Drive, Loch Road, Sylvia Street, Carlton Road, Howe Avenue and Westminster Avenue in Dandenong North



A council that demonstrates leadership, responsible use of public resources, and a commitment to investing in the community

We continued to invest in infrastructure our community rely on every day, focusing on practical, durable work that delivers value over time.

- ✓ In Palm Plaza, Dandenong, we replaced pavers damaged by tree roots with durable concrete, expanded garden beds and improved drainage across 95m of kerb and 170sqm of pavement
- ✓ Continued the citywide Footpath Renewal Program, replacing more than 8000sqm of worn and uneven paths, with a focus on footpaths in Noble Park, Noble Park North, Dandenong and parts of Keysborough at an investment of around \$1.5 million



- ✓ Inspected 16,689 sites and completed 4,987 maintenance jobs to fix everyday issues across roads, footpaths, drains and other infrastructure.

Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing

In the past 12 months construction of the new Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing has moved from planning into visible delivery.

The building is fast taking shape, with major structural works completed including concrete poured, beams installed, walls established and early water testing underway.

This once in a generation project is supporting local jobs and suppliers throughout construction.

With significant milestones now achieved, work continues across the site as construction progresses.

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/Oasis to stay up to date on the project.

love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

2026 Children's Book Week

Celebrate Children's Book Week (22–28 August) with The Big Book Week Show, at Springvale Library on Friday 29 August, from 2.30pm–3.30pm. This super fun, interactive show presented by Carp Productions is bursting with laughs and lots of audience participation. We invite families to dress up as their favourite book characters. Keep an eye out for staff who will also get into the spirit – you never know which storytime characters you will meet on the day.



STEAM Festival

Celebrate the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics), this month at our libraries. Enjoy a program of events that encourage curiosity, learning and creativity.

Dungeons & Dragons Miniature Painting

Dandenong Library, Sunday 2 August, 1.30pm–4.30pm

Unleash your creativity at this event aimed at people aged 13 and over. Perfect for adventurers of all skill levels.

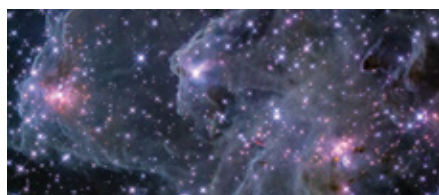


Edison Space Code Quest – The Think Tank

Springvale Library, Saturday 15 August, 2.30pm–3.30pm

Dandenong Library, Saturday 22 August, 2.30pm–3.30pm

Head to the Moon with Edison Robots. Learn about space research and exploration while using coding. Presented by Swinburne University of Technology's science education team PrimeSCI. For 7–12 year-olds.



Libraries After Dark

Air Dry Clay

Dandenong Library, Thursday 6 August, 6.30pm–8pm

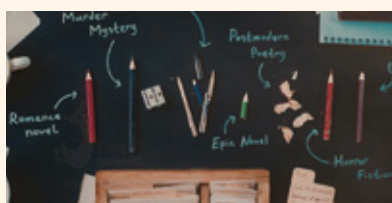
Create and personalise handcrafted ornaments and tags using air-dry clay. Suitable for all skill levels.



Creative Writing

Springvale Library, Thursday 13 August, 6.30pm–8pm

Using nature as inspiration learn to shape stories, characters and ideas through short writing sprints and guided exercise.



Bad Art Night

Keysborough Community Hub, Thursday 20 August, 6pm–7.30pm

Unleash your inner mess and create the most gloriously wonky, chaotic or downright confusing artwork for your chance to win a prize.



Rice Clay Sculpture

Dandenong Library, Thursday 27 August, 6.30pm–8pm

Learn how to mix, mould and dry rice clay to create usable art pieces such as small sculptures, bowls or jewellery.



Art Series

Pastel Nagomi Art

Join artist HM Sally for a relaxing session of Japanese pastel Nagomi art. Use your fingers to paint soft, dreamy landscapes.

Dandenong Library on Tuesday 11 August, 6.30pm–8pm

Springvale Library on Tuesday 18 August, 6.30pm–8pm



All library programs are free but registration is essential. Scan the QR code to find out more.

ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



WALKER STREET GALLERY AND ARTS CENTRE

Corner Walker and Robinson Streets, Dandenong

Open Wednesday to Saturday, 11am–3pm

Free entry



WONA BAE AND CHARLIE LAWLER: PRIMARY SUCCESSION

Until Saturday 15 August

Featuring works by internationally acclaimed artists Wona Bae (South Korea) and Charlie Lawler (Australia) this sculptural and immersive installation considers how life adapts, reorganises and continues: quietly, collectively and beyond human control.

Primary Succession invites you into a future where landscapes thrive through crisis.

Beyond the gallery, this exhibition continues in Harmony Square with *Field of Future Ecologies*, an illuminated installation of crystals have been forming over time, revealing slow, natural processes in action.

Final day is Saturday 15 August – don't miss out.



HERITAGE HILL MUSEUM AND HISTORIC GARDENS

66 McCrae Street, Dandenong

Open Wednesday and Thursday, 10am–2pm

Free entry



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES: COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Until 27 August

Local history is brought into sharp focus in this museum collection exhibition which reveals how history is told through many voices and materials. Explore rich, interconnected stories of people, places and events.

From working lives and migration journeys to civic moments, creative expression and significant local places, the collection captures history as it was lived, remembered and passed on.

Together these materials shows that no single item tells the whole story – but when combined they create a deeper understanding of Greater Dandenong's past, present and evolving community identity.

Connect with us

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

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



DRUM THEATRE

226 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Box office open Monday to Friday, 10am–4pm



ALADDIN – VICTORIAN STATE BALLET

Thursday 6 August, 10.30am
(Encore performance)

Saturday 8 August, 7.30pm
Sunday 9 August, 2pm

Much loved by children and adults, Aladdin and his adventures come to life in the breathtaking production.

A BENGALI PLAY – DETECTIVE

Saturday 15 August, 6.30pm

Detective is adapted from stories from the writings of Bengali Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore by Ms Khadiza Bithi.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNIN' – ENCORE

Thursday 17 September, 10.30am

Audience favourites Ian Stenlake, Michelle Fitzmaurice and pianist Kym Dillon celebrate songs from Rogers, Hammerstein and Hart.

DISCOVER WHAT'S ON
[drumtheatre.com.au](https://www.drumtheatre.com.au)



Dandy Vibes

Placemaking and Revitalisation in Action

Behind the scenes, Council's Placemaking and Revitalisation Team has been working to transform Dandenong's public spaces into vibrant, welcoming destinations.

Activating public spaces enhances safety, builds community pride and creates meaningful opportunities for people to connect.

Dandy Vibes

One of the key drivers of this transformation has been the Dandy Vibes Grant Program, a cross-council initiative delivering creative, community-led experiences throughout central Dandenong.

The program attracted strong interest, supporting 23 activations across Palm Plaza, Pocket Park on Lonsdale Street, Harmony Square and Dandenong Park. Running from December 2025 through to the end of May 2026, Dandy Vibes invited the community to take part in a diverse mix of activities promoting health and wellbeing, cultural exchange and creative expression.

Highlights included:

With One Voice – Community Singalong

Harmony Square resonated with music and community spirit as the With One Voice Greater Dandenong Choir hosted a lively public singalong. Part of a nationwide Sing-a-long-a-thon involving 26 choirs across Australia, the event invited passers-by to join in a 60-minute session of well-known songs, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere in the heart of the city.

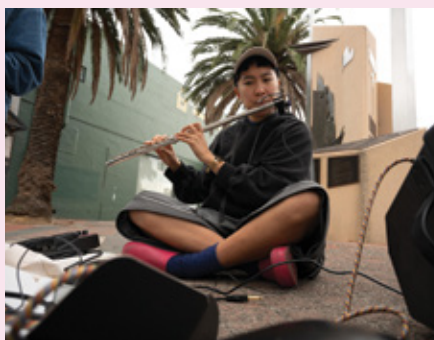


Fusion Theatre – Public Enemy Number Two

Fusion Theatre brought Dandenong's mischievous seagulls to life through playful street performance. Roaming characters, comedy and interactive antics captured attention, while the community joined in the Seagull Deterrent Song. Sensory stations ensured calm, inclusive spaces for neurodivergent children, while ranger characters issued humorous 'fines' to amused crowds.

A vacant shopfront in Harmony Square was transformed into a 'Seagull Base', offering a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creative process. The result was a light-hearted, shared experience that surprised and delighted visitors.

Shrishti – Having a Dandy Time



A unique soundscape experience unfolded as Shrishti Collective presented an immersive, improvisational performance. Blending live instrumental and electronic music with field recordings captured from around Dandenong. Presented at the bustling Palm Plaza, the performance invited shoppers and visitors to pause, listen and connect with their surroundings in a new way.

Paperazzi Design Studio – Secret Mini World Garden Trail



Palm Plaza was transformed into a place of wonder with the Whimsical Secret Mini World Garden Trail, a playful public art activation inviting families to explore hidden miniature fairy gardens.

The self-guided experience culminated in a free, family-friendly craft workshop where participants contributed their own creations to the display. Materials were later repurposed and donated to local kindergartens and schools, extending the project's community and sustainability impact.

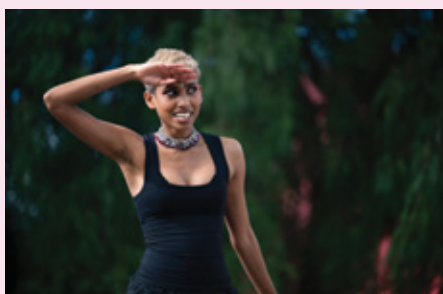
Creative Sparks – Community Mural



A vibrant community mural brought colour and meaning to central Dandenong, celebrating community connection, unity and shared identity. The artwork wove together symbols of local plants and animals to reflect the many cultures, generations and stories that shape the Dandenong community.

At the heart of the project was an inclusive community paint day, where residents of all ages contributed to the mural using a guided, paint-by-numbers approach. Led by a professional artist, the process ensured everyone could help create a lasting artistic legacy in the public space.

Ausdance – Dandy Dance



Dance brought generations together through Ausdance's Dandy Dance program. Delivered as a series of free, inclusive workshops, the initiative welcomed participants of all ages and abilities, whether seasoned dancers or first-timers.

Held over four days in Harmony Square, the program created a lively and welcoming atmosphere, and showcased Dandenong's cultural diversity.



Baran Club – Afghan Mother's Day Community Celebration

Baran Club brought colour, culture and community spirit to central Dandenong with a vibrant Mother's Day celebration honouring Afghan women and families. Held at Harmony Square, the event transformed the public space into a welcoming cultural hub, featuring an Afghan fashion show, live performances, traditional food and handcrafted market stalls.

Welcoming people from all backgrounds, the celebration highlighted Dandenong's rich cultural diversity while strengthening cross-cultural connections and community cohesion in the heart of the city.



Little Projector Company – That Was Then/This Is Now

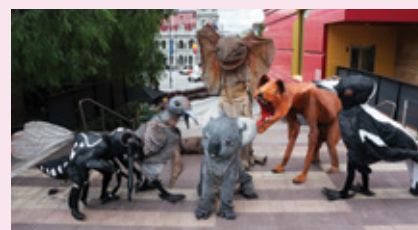
That Was Then/This Is Now reimagined Central Dandenong as an open-air dance floor. Large-scale projections lit up Harmony Square, surrounding buildings and laneways, while live music and a roaming projector bike delivered nostalgic 90s DJ mixes.

Media students from Dandenong High School contributed original visuals, blending emerging talent with professional production. The nighttime activation transformed building facades into playful canvases, bringing colour, movement and energy to the CBD after dark.

Our Beat

Music, movement and creativity took centre stage with Our Beat, a vibrant activation that filled public space with energy. Hosted by Mr Congo and featuring a DJ, beat-making workshops, live performances and interactive artmaking, the event encouraged people to dance, connect and share stories. With a strong message of unity, love and creativity, it drew in audiences from across Dandenong and beyond.

Snuff Puppets – Beasts of Oz



The streets came alive with Beasts of Oz, a series of engaging roaming performances featuring large-scale puppets. The activation unfolded through key trading areas across two days. Skilled puppeteers brought the creatures to life as they moved through the streets, interacting with the public and inviting shoppers and visitors to pause, engage and become part of the spectacle.

The Association of Hazaras in Victoria Inc – Samar Art & Business Exhibition

Harmony Square was transformed into a vibrant multicultural marketplace celebrating Afghan arts, culture and community. Across two days, the exhibition brought the space to life with live music and dance, art displays, interactive stalls and a rich offering of Afghan food and handcrafted goods.

What's On August 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
31					1 Bluey's Big Play The Stage Show Drum Theatre 9.30am and 12.30pm	2
3 Free Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Springvale Community Hub 10am-2pm	4 Free Digital Skills and English Support for Mandarin Speakers Springvale Community Hub 11am-1pm	5 Zumba Jan Wilson Community Centre 5.30pm	6 Carers Walking Group Noble Park Community Centre 9.45am	7	8 Aladdin – Victorian State Ballet Drum Theatre 7.30pm	9 Sustainability Sessions – growing in containers and small spaces Keysborough Community Hub 1pm-3pm
10 Adult Social Badminton Springers Leisure Centre 7.30pm	11 Nature Play Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve 10am	12	13	14 Dandenong and District Orchid Club Monthly Meeting Committee Rooms, Dandenong Showgrounds 7pm	15 Community Yoga and Meditation Workshops Keysborough Community Hub 10am	16
17 Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	18 Sensitive Storytime Springvale Library 10.30am	19 The Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	20 Chronic Pain Support Group Springvale Library 4pm	21 Sports Club at the Hub Springvale Library 4.30pm		
24 Playgroups Jan Wilson Community Centre 10am-12pm	25 Library Help for Adults Dandenong Library 1pm	26 Baby Bounce Dandenong Library 10.30am	27 Citizenship English Language Classes Springvale Community Hub 10am	28	29	30
				Save the date Community Screening of Shaun Micallef's Going For Broke Drum Theatre Tuesday 1 September, 7pm-9pm		

Behind the Scenes

This month we take you behind the scenes on a visit with members of our Business and Employment team to Dandenong Market.

A new generation of traders is emerging at the Market, and the Business and Employment team's recent visit to Taho Tayo highlighted this exciting transition.

Engaging directly with local organisations is central to the team's role, helping to build meaningful relationships, better understand what matters most to our local business community and offer on-the-ground, targeted support.

Recently, Senior Economic Development Officers, Sarah Harrison and Beverly Witherby met with the owner of Taho Tayo, Matt (pictured). The meeting provided an opportunity to introduce the Business and Employment team, check in on Matt's business, and outline the support and connections available through Council.

During the visit Sarah and Beverly discussed opportunities for support, including the Small Business Workshop Program for upskilling and development. Matt expressed strong interest in strengthening his



local connections while continuing to balance a presence at community events and festivals across Victoria.

The visit left the team with a great story to share with the wider business community and a clear action to connect Matt with relevant internal and external stakeholders to support his business growth.

You can read more about Taho Tayo online. The article takes a deeper look at Matt's inspiring journey to introduce a lesser known Filipino dessert to a wider audience, and how he navigates staying connected to his culture as a second generation immigrant in Australia.



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/news to read more about Taho Tayo.

Community art on show

The Noble Park Community Centre Art Show returns this October, continuing its long-standing tradition of celebrating local talent, cultural diversity and community creativity.

Now entering a new decade, the annual event will showcase artworks by emerging and established artists from across Greater Dandenong and surrounding communities. People of all ages are encouraged to submit their artworks and be part of this vibrant local exhibition.

Organised by a dedicated team of volunteer artists with support from Noble Park Community Centre staff, the Art Show has become a much-loved highlight of the local cultural calendar.

Entries open Monday 3 August and close Monday 5 October.

Categories include Junior (Primary and Secondary) and Open (aged 18 and up). Entry is free for Junior categories and \$10 or \$8 concession for Open entries.



The free exhibition will be held from Friday 16 October to Sunday 18 October. Visit npccartshow.org for more information.

2027 Community Calendar



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

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

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

From December 2026 you will be able to collect your 2027 Community Calendar from convenient locations across our community, including Council Customer Service Centres, the libraries in Dandenong and Springvale, Keysborough Community Hub and other central locations.

This year's calendar will once again feature photos of our city taken by community members.

Capture the places that make Greater Dandenong unique and enter the 2027 Community Calendar Photography Competition.

We're inviting residents to share their favourite views and local discoveries – from iconic cityscapes and green open spaces to hidden suburban treasures and the natural beauty found across our city. Show us what makes Greater Dandenong worth celebrating.

COLLECT FROM DECEMBER



Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au to read the terms and conditions of the Photography Competition, how to submit your entry and where you will be able to collect a copy of the 2027 calendar.

Now Open

Greater Dandenong City Council Medium Grants Program

One-off grants to not-for-profit community groups, organisations and individual artists to support the delivery of projects, programs and events that benefit the Greater Dandenong community. **Applications close 11 August 2026.**

Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/medium-grants-program to find out more.



Join us for an online information session about eligibility and to support your application on Monday 3 August at 5pm.

