

JULY 2026

Greater Dandenong Council News

NAIDOC Week

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 **Greater
Dandenong**

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 July edition of *Greater Dandenong Council News*.

This month marks the start of a new financial year and a new Annual Budget. Find out where your rates will be spent and read more about the 2026-27 Budget on pages eight and nine.

This month we celebrate NAIDOC Week and our ongoing journey towards reconciliation. Recently, Council adopted our Third Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which outlines our commitment to strengthening relationships, demonstrating respect and providing opportunities for collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Greater Dandenong. Read more on page three.

As a Council we are committed to representing the needs and aspirations of our community and we are constantly advocating for improved policy, services and funding. You can read about our advocacy efforts on page six.

Our efforts in the space of employment have resulted in the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub, which will open this month. Co-located with Council's Civic Offices at 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong, the hub will connect employers with job seekers.

We have also secured State Government funding through the Safe Local Roads and Streets Program for a series of road safety works. We recently consulted the community about designs for upgrades to Bryants Road, Dandenong and work is now underway to slow traffic, remove heavy vehicles and improve safety for all road users. Funding from the program will also be used to carry out future works at other locations, including McCrae Street and Clow Street in Dandenong, and Chapel Road, Keysborough.

Finally, sustainability is an important way to save money and resources for now and into the future. Read about upgrades to irrigation systems at our parks and reserves, and meet a Sustainability Planner who is passionate about supporting our community on page 10.

I hope you all enjoy the coming month and stay warm.

**Mayor
Councillor Sophie Tan**

My City

The 2018 removal of the Heatherton Road level crossing in Noble Park saw the train line and the station raised, creating new open spaces and opportunities for public art in the suburb.

This photo of the new train station was taken by local teen Gabriel Highland and appears as our community calendar feature pic for July.

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



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FSC
Logo

Front cover: Bunurong Elder Uncle Mark Brown. Picture: Hilton Stone



50 Years of Deadly

NAIDOC Week begins on 5 July, Bunurong Elder and Dandenong local, Uncle Mark Brown, shares his connection to this year's theme.

"The theme '50 Years of Deadly' – is not only about honouring the past, but about carrying that strength forward into the future.

Our Elders fought hard so future generations could stand stronger in Culture, language, identity, and pride. They carried stories, knowledge, and resistance through some of the hardest times this country has seen. NAIDOC is about acknowledging that sacrifice and resilience – but also asking ourselves what we do with that legacy now.

For me, the future means our young people growing up proud of who they are, connected to Country, language, and community. It also means walking together respectfully – where truth, understanding, and reconciliation are lived through action, not just words.

When I come up against racism, I remind myself why I do this work in the first place. I think about my ancestors, my Elders, and the generations before me who endured far worse so we could still stand here today speaking language, sharing Culture, and practicing ceremony. That strength runs through all of us.

I also focus on the people who are listening, learning, and genuinely wanting to connect. For every loud voice filled with hate, there are many more people wanting understanding and respect. Culture teaches us resilience, patience, and responsibility.

I try not to carry anger – I carry purpose. Positivity comes from knowing that culture is still alive, our people are still strong, and the next generation is watching how we respond.

This NAIDOC Week, I would like the broader Greater Dandenong community to understand that Aboriginal culture is not history locked in the past – it is living, evolving, and strong. I'd also like people to understand that reconciliation is not about guilt – it is about respect, listening, truth, and relationship.



This country is home to the oldest living Culture in the world. How lucky are we?

**NAIDOC
WEEK
5 JULY**

It happens when people sit together, listen to one another, and walk forward with mutual respect.

Everyone can be part of reconciliation through these small, genuine actions that build stronger communities:

- ▶ Taking time to learn about the Traditional Owners and the history of the Country they live on.
- ▶ Attending Aboriginal-led events, workshops, and cultural experiences.
- ▶ Supporting Aboriginal artists, businesses, and organisations.
- ▶ Listening openly to First Nations voices and experiences.
- ▶ Creating culturally safe and welcoming spaces in schools, workplaces, and community settings.
- ▶ Teaching children respect, inclusion, and truth from an early age.
- ▶ Moving beyond symbolic gestures into ongoing relationships and action."

The people of the Kulin Nations say 'Murrup' to describe a person's spirit or energy. For Bunurong and Palawa woman, Jillian West, NAIDOC Week is about sharing stories that open that energy in people and connect them with the oldest living culture in the world.

"What has been done so far was only possible because people had a voice and refused to be silent. Everyone has a reconciliation journey, and NAIDOC week is another opportunity to bring our country together with acknowledgement and storytelling.

Understanding where we came from helps us to recognise where we are.

We can't change the past, we acknowledge it, and we move forward for our ancestors that come before us and our future generations.

When I come across people who don't want to listen, I keep moving forward because I think of my ancestors. Nothing compares to hardship and adversity our people faced for 200 years plus... not being considered citizens, not even being considered humans until 1967, and our babies being taken away from their families. We couldn't speak language or express our cultural ways of living and caring for Country.

My Dad didn't finish grade 5. He later became a teacher, did a philosophy doctorate at University and wrote a thesis on embedding our ways of teaching into western life. That is still taught today.

My Dad is the reason I do what I do. He always said, 'It is not your right to understand but it is your obligation to accept difference.' This means – Are you open to sharing and learning about our stories and storytelling and embedding that in everyday life?

This country is home to the oldest living culture in the world. How lucky are we? We are still here, we are still sharing and teaching. On NAIDOC Week, I imagine if all people connected deeply with each other and country in the way we do as Aboriginal people. What an even more beautiful country that would be. Then I ask myself, what can we do now?"

Councillor Contacts



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July 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 20 July**

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

JULY

MONDAY

20

JULY

► Cleeland Ward

Cr Rhonda Garad



I am really pleased to report this year's Council Budget delivers major investment

into Cleeland Ward, with important upgrades to sporting facilities, parks, playgrounds and local infrastructure across Dandenong.

One of the projects residents ask me about most is the new Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing Centre. Construction remains on track for opening in 2027. Once completed, this modern facility will provide expanded aquatic, fitness and wellbeing services for our growing community.

Importantly, discussions are also continuing around retaining the existing squash courts and table tennis centre following the transition to the new aquatic centre. Many have expressed how valuable these facilities are and I strongly support exploring opportunities to keep them operating.

Another major investment is the \$3.3 million upgrade to the J.C. Mills Reserve Hockey Field surface and fencing. This is fantastic news for local sporting clubs, families and young people, with the upgraded facility helping strengthen Dandenong's role as a regional sporting hub. Progress on the project remains on track for completion in 2027.

There is also strong investment into local parks and playgrounds. This includes \$240,000 for upgrades to Apex Park Reserve playground and park amenities, improvement works at Gerard Reserve and Mills Reserve, and a major \$780,000 investment into Greaves Reserve for a new playground, picnic and barbecue facilities. These



projects will create safer, more modern and family-friendly open spaces for local residents to enjoy.

I would also encourage residents to explore the new Clow Street park. With its beautiful established tree canopy, landscaping and walking paths, it has become a wonderful garden setting to walk, relax and spend time outdoors.

Road and connectivity improvements also remain an important priority. Planning work around the Clow and Cleeland streets intersection, including a proposed \$8 million realignment project, will help improve traffic movement, pedestrian safety and connectivity throughout central Dandenong.



Please don't hesitate to contact me at rhonda.garad@cgd.vic.gov.au, on 0435 107 584, or via Facebook if I can assist with any local issues or concerns.

► Dandenong Ward



We are continuing to invest in Dandenong's heritage assets and local sporting facilities, helping to keep our community spaces safe, welcoming and fit for purpose.

We are upgrading the front fence and gates at the Heritage Archive, with electrical works now complete. These improvements help protect an important heritage site while increasing safety and accessibility for staff and visitors. The site in Hammond Road, Dandenong South, was opened 10 years ago and is shared by Council, the Dandenong and District Historical Society and the Springvale and District Historical Society for storage of significant records. Preserving our local history matters, and this work ensures the building remains fit for purpose into the future.

We have also seen positive outcomes from recent upgrades to local sporting facilities. The expansion of the synthetic cricket wicket at Greaves Reserve has been completed, supporting greater use

of the ground and more reliable playing conditions. While the wicket will be covered over winter, it will be ready for use once the weather warms and the cricket season approaches.

This upgrade is on top of other works delivered as part of the Greaves Reserve Master Plan, including:

- Full-sized acrylic multi-court for basketball and soccer
- Tennis half-court with rebound wall (great for solo practice)
- New pedestrian paths to make it easier to walk, roll or ride through the reserve
- New seating and furniture for relaxing or cheering from the sidelines
- Fresh landscaping to add colour and create a more welcoming space.

Greaves Reserve is one of the busiest locations in our community and I look forward to seeing more people enjoying this space for years to come.

Cr Jim Memeti



I will continue to advocate for the residents of Dandenong Ward. If you want to discuss any Council related issues please contact me via email at Jim.Memeti@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0434 560 239.

Cr Phillip Danh



We are delivering important infrastructure improvements across Yarraman Ward, with upgrades to local roads and community facilities helping to improve safety, access and day to day use for all.

A key project in my ward is the reconstruction of Dunblane Road, Noble Park. This project is valued at more than \$300,000 and will provide a smoother and safer road surface helping to improve conditions for drivers, pedestrians and residents who use this street daily.

We have also recently completed resurfacing works on Corrigan Road between Allister Road and Harold Road. The \$215,000 project included a new surface, as well as new pavement works and line markings, making travelling through Noble Park safer.

Alongside road improvement, we continue to support community sport and recreation across the ward. Recent works at Fotheringham Reserve, including cricket facility upgrades and lighting design improvements, have been



well received. This gives local clubs the opportunity to host more activities and events at the reserve.

In May I was proud to attend the official launch of upgrades to the Parkfield Reserve tennis courts. This \$850,000 project transformed four northern courts

into three high-quality synthetic grass court and included the installation of 350 lux LED lighting. We also improved fencing, upgraded furniture and added fresh line markings.

Footpath renewal happens annually across our city and this year the program is focussed on Noble Park, Noble Park North, Dandenong and parts of Keysborough. Each year we inspect about 25% of our footpath network and upgrade where needed at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million.

Finally, I would like to remind all residents to report dumped rubbish. Each month we receive hundreds of requests to clean up our streets and parks, and we attend to them all. You can report via our website at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au or phone 8571 1000.

If you would like to talk to me about any local issues, please reach out via email Phillip.Danh@cgd.vic.gov.au or phone me on 0473 482 153.

► Yarraman Ward



Meet the Junior Mayor



As this city's newly elected Junior Mayor, I'm honoured to serve the City of Greater Dandenong by embedding youth voice into the heart of our decision-making.

My name is Fariha Rezaei. I am 11 years old and a student at Dandenong North Primary School. More importantly, I am a Hazara girl. My heritage has taught me, more than anything, the true value of having a voice. My passion for being heard transcends mere words as I have seen how society struggles when people lose their sense of belonging and stop listening to one another.

Through my journey as an SRC President, Volleyball Captain, and member of the Junior Civic Leaders Club. I have learned what makes a great leader. In this role, I aim to be someone you can turn to with concerns, someone you trust to value your opinion and someone who turns promises into action.

I believe leadership has no age limit. I want to help others grow by lowering the age requirements for our city's leadership programs and creating a Junior Council with representatives from every ward.

I know I am young, but I am determined. This journey requires the cooperation of every young person here. Join me in strengthening our voice and shaping our city's future, together.

Council recently adopted the Our Bright Green Future Strategy and Action Plan to address the climate and ecological emergency. This will guide Council and community actions to build a more sustainable city.

Our new Junior Mayor understands the importance of living sustainably.

"To me being sustainable isn't just about protecting the environment but about making thoughtful choices that support



the well-being of people, our community and the future generations. It's about helping our environment and encouraging others to do the same. Little things like picking up rubbish and planting plants not only makes our ecosystem cleaner and healthier but can help protect the atmosphere for future generations. We as a community can take the next step running campaigns, setting up community gardens and holding local cleanup days are great ways of encouraging community involvement and promoting environmental awareness. As your newly elected Junior Mayor, I can't wait to make a positive impact in this amazing community," Fariha said.







Advocating for our community

We are always looking for ways to represent the Greater Dandenong community and secure resources to help drive meaningful change.


Councillors have recognised this important work and endorsed the City of Greater Dandenong Advocacy Priorities at their meeting on 18 May.

The document highlights our priorities and calls on our local partners and members of parliament to collaborate with us to make a difference.

-  **1. Back Your Neighbour**
A campaign which started in 2018 to support a consistent and fair approach for refugees and people seeking asylum.
-  **2. Poverty is Everyone's Business**
A campaign to secure funding for a coordinated response to issues including food insecurity, homelessness, financial hardship and social exclusion.

-  **3. Housing** We want to be an inclusive community with diverse housing options for all and to find ways to ease housing pressures.
-  **4. Transport** We are advocating for key transport upgrades to improve safety, access and connectivity.
-  **5. Sport and Recreation** We are seeking investment to upgrade key sport and recreational spaces across our city.
-  **6. Art and Cultural Spaces** We want investment to support the renewal of cultural spaces like Dandenong New Art (DNA).
-  **7. Business Development and Economic Growth** We need support to deliver an industrial precinct initiative to safeguard and strengthen our industrial and manufacturing precinct.
-  **8. Sustainability** We are seeking investment in climate resilient infrastructure that reduces the vulnerability of our community in response to climate related risks.

-  **9. Major Projects** We want investment in key projects to improve transport, education and community amenity for Greater Dandenong residents.
-  **10. Community Safety** We seek to build a cohesive, resilient community where everyone feels safe.
-  **11. Community Public Health**
We want to see meaningful steps to reduce the burden of gambling losses across our city. We are also calling for critical maternity and newborn services to be maintained at Dandenong Hospital.

 Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/advocacy to read more about each priority and a detailed outline of the supports we seek.

CDS Vic bin baskets are coming

Finding refundable drink containers just got easier.



We're rolling out new Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic) bin baskets across Greater Dandenong, making it easier for the community to recycle drink containers while out and about.

We're installing the wire baskets on the side of selected public bins. These are designed for CDS Vic eligible drink containers only. They provide a clear and accessible place for people to leave containers for recycling, for others to collect and return for a refund through the scheme.

The scheme offers a 10 cent refund for every eligible drink container returned to an approved refund point. This includes most aluminium drink cans, and glass and plastic bottles. The scheme

helps reduce litter, supports recycling efforts and provides opportunities for individuals and community groups to raise funds.

The new bin baskets also help protect public infrastructure. By giving people a visible place to leave containers, the baskets reduce the need for people to sort through bins or force open locked public bins when looking for refundable containers.

Installation of the baskets is beginning in central business district areas and major shopping strips, where foot traffic is high. Later in the year, leading into summer, we will expand the rollout to reserves and sporting grounds, where drink container use is more frequent during events and warmer weather.

Each basket features clear signage to show it is for CDS containers only. We ask residents to only place empty,



eligible drink containers in the baskets. Items such as coffee cups, wine bottles and general rubbish should not be placed in the baskets, as this limits their use for others.

Visit cdsvic.org.au/locations to find your nearest CDS Vic refund point.

Game on at Greaves Reserve



The gates have opened on an exciting new chapter at Greaves Reserve, with a range of upgrades now complete and ready for the community to enjoy.

At the heart of the improvements is a brand-new, full-sized acrylic multi-court, perfect for shooting hoops or kicking a soccer ball with friends. There's also a tennis half-court with a rebound wall, inviting players of all ages to practise their forehands, backhands and volleys at their own pace.

New pedestrian paths weave through the reserve, making it easier to stroll, roll or ride your way around the space. Whether you're heading to a game, taking a lunchtime walk or supervising energetic kids, getting around Greaves Reserve is now smoother and more inviting.

New seating and furniture provide comfortable places to relax, catch your breath or cheer from the sidelines,



while fresh landscaping adds colour and life to the reserve, creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

Delivered as part of the Greaves Reserve Master Plan, these improvements transform the reserve into a vibrant hub for recreation and social connection. It's a place to get active, meet neighbours and enjoy the

outdoors, whether you're playing hard or simply soaking up the atmosphere.

Ready to play? Visit Greaves Reserve off Bennet Street, Dandenong, and see what's new.

A budget message from our Mayor

**CONTINUING
TO INVEST**



A crane lowers a massive timber beam into place at Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing.

\$ Greater Dandenong Councillors passed the 2026–27 Budget at our meeting in June. This is a budget that invests in our future while continuing to deliver the services and facilities our community relies on every day.

This year's Budget includes a major capital works program of more than \$105 million, supporting projects that will strengthen livability, connection and opportunity right across Greater Dandenong.

A key focus is the delivery of Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing – one of the biggest and most important community projects our Council has ever undertaken.

Once complete, Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing will be much more than just a new building. It will be a vibrant community destination, bringing together aquatics, fitness, rehabilitation and wellbeing services all in one place. It will feature a 50-metre pool, learn-to-swim and leisure pools, warm water pools, a gym, group fitness spaces, allied health consulting rooms, community areas, a café and an integrated sports pavilion.

We're also continuing to invest in the things that matter most to local people – local roads and drainage, parks and playgrounds, waste and recycling, public safety initiatives and improvements to the Dandenong Market. We're progressing our Dandenong New Art (DNA) project which will be a contemporary exhibition space for our community.

This Budget reflects our Annual Action Plan, which sets out specific activities and projects we will undertake. Together our Annual Budget and Annual Action Plan detail how we will service our community.

The environment as always is a focus, with support to roll out actions from the new Our Bright Green Future sustainability strategy. We'll also be completing a new sensory trail at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North. This project builds on existing park features such as Dandenong Creek, native vegetation and open spaces to create sensory elements that support physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. The design is guided by principles of inclusivity, sustainability and community connection.

Community safety will receive a boost of more than \$2 million to support

security and CCTV infrastructure as well as public lighting renewal.

Works will also begin under our Five Year Open Space Plan, with more than \$2 million invested in eight projects to upgrade playgrounds, park amenities and recreational infrastructure.

We understand that many people in our community are continuing to face cost-of-living pressures. That's why we have worked hard to balance investment in our city with affordability for residents. We have applied the Victorian Government's rate cap, while continuing to provide flexible payment options and hardship support for those who need it.

This is a responsible and forward-looking Budget that continues to support our growing and diverse community.

Thank you to everyone who contributed feedback throughout the budget process. Together, we are continuing to build a stronger, more connected and more vibrant Greater Dandenong.

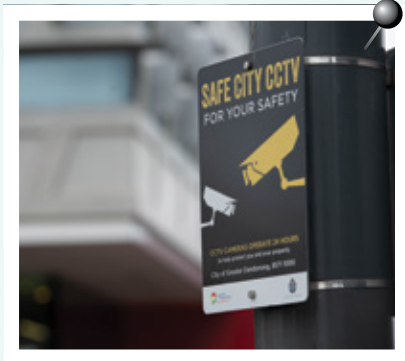
Visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/budget for more information.

**Mayor
Councillor Sophie Tan**



Annual Plan initiatives funded in the 2026/27 Budget

- ▶ Improve the perceptions of community safety through infrastructure upgrades, including improved lighting, streetscape enhancements, CCTV, fencing and other interventions.



- ▶ Strengthen Council's partnership with South East Leisure to design and deliver diverse, free and low cost physical activity initiatives that improve community access, enhance awareness, and drive increased participation.
- ▶ Implement the Springvale Revitalisation Action Plan including decorative lighting in Buckingham Avenue.
- ▶ Ensure major infrastructure projects, including the Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project, incorporate appropriate integrated water management measures.
- ▶ Progress the transition of Council owned vehicles to hybrid or electric vehicles.
- ▶ Deliver the Dandenong Pathway to Employment Hub to connect residents with local job, training, and support services to build work readiness and strengthen participation in employment pathways.
- ▶ Implement the Rates Hardship and Assistance Policy to support those experiencing financial difficulties.
- ▶ Improve access to community consultations in languages other than English, both in-person and online.

Top: From the sky we can see progress is well underway at Oasis Aquatics and Wellbeing.

Centre: Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North will become home to our city's latest Sensory Trail.

Bottom: Funding has been set aside for improvements to the iconic Dandenong Market.



Smarter irrigation saving water in our open spaces



Taking our irrigation systems online is saving money and water across

Greater Dandenong's parks and reserves.

Using web-based programming our upgraded irrigation controllers help to reduce water wastage and create a more sustainable city.

The system can automatically adjust to real time weather conditions. Rather than relying on fixed timers, the system responds to rainfall, temperature and seasonal changes, ensuring our parks and reserves receive only the water they need. This can save 30% more water than traditional systems.

With more than 30 sports reserves connected to the system, remotely cancelling a single irrigation cycle when it is raining can save up to \$15,000 each time.

The upgraded controllers also include sensors and flow monitoring technology that help us detect leaks early. If the system identifies unusual water flow or a fault, it sends an alert so we can respond quickly.

The technology improves how we manage our parks day-to-day, with remote access allowing staff to monitor and adjust irrigation in real time. This reduces manual work and supports a faster, more proactive approach to maintenance.

This upgrade shows how investing in smarter infrastructure can deliver better outcomes for the community. It helps keep our parks and sporting fields high quality, sustainable, drought resilient and ready for the future.



Behind the Scenes

Making small changes can have a huge impact. That's the message from Sustainability Planner Nikayla who works within Council and with the Greater Dandenong community to drive change.

Armed with an education in the field of conservation and a visual arts and design degree, Nikayla started as a casual team member with the Bushland Crew three years ago. One year later, she transitioned to an office-based role in the Sustainability Planning Team.

"I really love working at Council. There's a lot of opportunities for professional development...and the people that work here really do care about each other," she said.

Nikayla especially enjoys working with the Greater Dandenong community.

"It is a really interesting community, you never walk into a room thinking you know what you are going to get. I think that's kind of fun. I really enjoy being able to meet people where they're at. As far as sustainability goes some people are learning what compost means for the first time, while other people know more than me, they could give me a TED Talk," she said.

"Sustainability is such a broad topic but every small win makes a big difference. Whether it's making your house warmer or if you're feeling like you don't have the ability to buy things, we have libraries where you can rent things for free."

This month we celebrate Plastic Free July and Nikayla encouraged residents to make small changes.

"Being sustainable might be easier than you think. Bringing your own drink bottle has such an impact. When you remind your friend to bring their own coffee cup as you go to do your morning coffee routine - that's huge."

Nikayla has experienced many wins during her time with Council, including delivering the Sustainability Festival for the past two years.

"And then there's heaps of small wins from when I started like the first planting season, getting that done and then going back to that reserve later and being like wow this really grew up," she said.

"I remember when I started, I didn't have much experience on the tools, so I gained a lot of confidence learning how to use a brush cutter or a chainsaw. Just having patient people to teach me as well, learning all the plants and animals, it made me feel really confident."

What's On July 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 The Social Knitwork Dandenong Library 10am	2 Carers Walking Group Noble Park Community Centre 9.45am	3 Wona Bae and Charlie Lawler: Primary Succession Exhibition Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre 11am	4 Dandenong Parkrun Dandenong Park 8am	5
6 Adult Social Badminton Springers Leisure Centre 7.30pm	7	8	9 Dandy's Got Talent Showcase Event The Castle, Dandenong 2.30pm	10 Dandenong and District Orchid Club Monthly Meeting Greaves Reserve, Dandenong 7pm	11 Sustainability Session – Pimp my Tee Springvale Community Hub 2pm	12
13 Strength Training Jan Wilson Community Centre 8.30am	14 Nature Play Alex Wilkie Nature Reserve 10am	15	16	17 Bjorn Again – ABBA Forever Tour Drum Theatre 7.30pm	18 The Think Tank – The Four R's (ages 7–12) Springvale Library 2.30pm	19 Dandenong Market Winter Feast
20 Council Meeting Dandenong Civic Centre 7pm	21 Free Digital Skills and English Support for Mandarin Speakers Springvale Community Hub 11am	22 Zumba at Jan Wilson Community Centre 5.30pm	23 Citizenship English Language Classes Springvale Community Hub 10am	24 Yoga and Meditation Jan Wilson Community Centre 11.15am	25	26 National Tree Day
27 Free Mental Health and Wellbeing Support Springvale Community Hub 10am	28	29 Vika and Linda "Where Do You Come From" Drum Theatre 7.30pm	30 Adult Exercise Jan Wilson Community Centre 9.30am	31 Advanced English Language Classes Springvale Community Hub 10am		

NAIDOC Week
5 – 12 July



Love your libraries

Libraries
Change Lives

Libraries After Dark runs every Thursday evening and offers an opportunity to be social while learning new creative skills. Open to ages 16+, pop in for a free cuppa or a snack and make some new friends.

Indian Embroidery 1 & 2

Springvale Library, Thursday 2 July, 6.30pm–8pm

Keysborough Community Hub, Thursday 30 July, 6.30pm–7.30pm

Join us for one or both sessions in this two-part mindful stitching workshop. Learn Kantha, a traditional Indian embroidery technique known for its simplicity, beauty and storytelling.



Watercolour

Keysborough Community Hub, Thursday 9 July, 6.30pm–7.30pm

Join Jun, a self-taught artist, to explore simple techniques and practical tips to help build confidence with watercolour.



Sustainable Jewellery

Dandenong Library, Thursday 16 July, 6.30pm–8pm

Design and create your own unique, sustainable jewellery using non-traditional jewellery making techniques and reclaimed material.

Card Making

Springvale Library, Thursday 23 July, 6.30pm–8pm

Using card embossing machines and a range of creative tools, make cards that look store-bought and perfect for any gifting occasion.



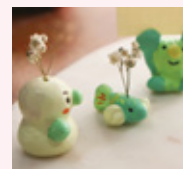
Celebrate Plastic Free July with this **Succulent Garden Workshop** at Springvale Library on Thursday 23 July, 10.30am–12pm. Plant your own succulents while learning simple, low-waste gardening techniques to use at home.

This workshop includes a short, practical overview of succulent care, propagation methods and general horticultural best practices.



Join us for this month's **Art Series** to explore working with air dry clay.

Artist Eden Hoang hosts this tactile workshop where you can learn hand building techniques to create unique decorative objects in a relaxing environment. Perfect for beginners looking to connect and create. Visit Dandenong Library on Tuesday 14 July, 6.30pm–8pm.



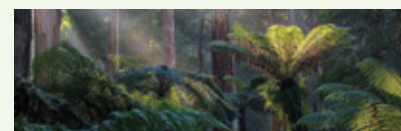
Explore **HACC (Home and Community Care) services for younger people** at these drop-in information sessions. The service is offered at Keysborough Community Hub on the first Wednesday of each month, 12.30pm–2.30pm. This service aims to support Victorians under 65, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under 50, if their ability to live independently is at risk due to illness, mental health, disability or other conditions. Stop in to find guidance, service referrals and support in different languages.

The Think Tank – The Four R's

Springvale Library, Saturday 18 July, 2.30pm–3.30pm

Dandenong Library, Saturday 25 July, 2.30pm–3.30pm

A fun, hands-on program that helps participants learn about cutting plastic waste and making a real difference by reducing, reusing, recycling and rethinking how we use plastic. Presented by Earth Crusaders this program is suitable for 7–12-year-olds.



ARTS IN GREATER DANDENONG

JULY 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 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.

ARTS OPPORTUNITES

Learn more about upcoming events across the city at greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/things-do-and-see/arts-and-culture

Connect with us

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

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



HERITAGE HILL MUSEUM AND HISTORIC GARDENS

66 McCrae Street, Dandenong

Open Wednesday and Thursday, 10am–2pm

Free entry



EXTRAORDINARY STORIES

Until 27 August

Local history is brought into sharp focus in this museum collection exhibition. Featuring treasured objects, artworks and recorded memories from the Greater Dandenong Civic and Cultural Collection, it links everyday lives with moments of change.

Guided Tours Through Time, Thursday 2 July at 10.30am. Hear stories of the people who shaped Heritage Hill and Discover how their lives intertwined with the growth of Dandenong.

HERITAGE HILL OPEN DAY

Saturday 11 July, 10am

Across the year we offer four seasonal open days, inviting you to experience heritage in new ways. Each event connects to exhibitions, stories and the ever-changing gardens, offering welcoming activities for all ages – from creative workshops and discovery trails to picnicking, storytelling and hands-on exploration.



DRUM THEATRE

226 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

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

Free exhibition entry



BJÖRN AGAIN – ABBA FOREVER TOUR

Friday 17 July, 7.30pm

Tickets \$75–\$79

This internationally acclaimed show is a full-blown ABBA revival where audiences of all ages can sing, dance and party like it's 1979.



VIKA AND LINDA "WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?"

Wednesday 29 July, 7.30pm

Tickets \$89

Vika and Linda treat the audience to songs from their new album together with the songs and stories of their amazing career.

DISCOVER WHAT'S ON
drumtheatre.com.au

Something sweet is stirring at Dandenong Market

The arrival of Sweet India to Dandenong Market signalled more than a new restaurant – it's a sign of growth, diversity and opportunity for the region.

Every new business that opens its doors adds to the Market's reputation as a thriving hub for culture and commerce, creating jobs, attracting visitors and strengthening community ties. *Sweet India* also brings authentic Indian flavours to the table.

Owner Goutham Nag Modem said *Sweet India* currently operates 10 stores across Melbourne. Six are company-owned, including the store at Dandenong Market, while four are franchise-owned.

Sweet India brings Melbourne's multicultural heart a taste of authentic Indian sweets, savoury street food and homestyle meals.



**AUTHENTIC
INDIAN
FLAVOURS**

Dandenong Market General Manager Ian Sumpter said the market was established in 1866, making it one of the oldest markets in Melbourne, and it is one of Melbourne's most vibrant community hubs, attracting over 5 million visitors annually.

"Dandenong Market is the vibrant heart of our community, a place where all generations and cultures come together to connect and celebrate in their preferred place to shop and trade," Mr Sumpter said.

Sweet India opened its doors in Dandenong Market in 2025 and to help launch this new location they sponsored Dandenong Market's Diwali festival.

Goutham said operating within a market environment is new to us... "but we're enjoying the experience and excited for what's ahead".

You can find *Sweet India* in the Bazaar section of Dandenong Market and with an outward facing shop front the business is open seven days per week.

Local business breaks the mould and excels

Staff at Dandenong South business, Dotmar Injection Moulding, are forging their own path and achieving new heights.

Towards the end of the pandemic, the company was finding it difficult to recruit employees – so they changed tack.

"We found that if we could offer flexible hours, school mums were a great source of employment," said operations manager Michael Nagengast.

The business began offering flexible working arrangements, which did wonders for their recruitment and retention of staff.

Nowadays, 64% of their workforce are female, which is almost unheard of in manufacturing's traditionally male-dominated industry. Not only that – the workforce is extremely culturally diverse, which Mr Nagengast said brings value to the team.



Dotmar employee, Thi Lien, at work.

"It's a really nice place to work, and several employees have been with us for decades. I think more than anything, it's the family atmosphere that makes people want to work here," he said.

The company specialises in injection-moulded plastic components (anywhere from 2g to 4kg) across industries such

as automotive, spa and pool, food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods and others.

Aside from its innovative hiring processes, Dotmar Injection Moulding has found other ways to evolve and minimise their environmental footprint. As of January, the business is 100% carbon neutral.

The factory uses 1000-plus solar panels and purchases carbon credits to offset what they can't cover with solar. New machines have to be efficient and environmentally friendly, and the business uses a closed-loop system where materials are recycled, reused and repurposed, to minimise waste.

Dotmar Injection Moulding is part of the Dotmar Engineering Group, which operates in most Australian states and New Zealand. But they're still very much focussed on keeping it local and working with other manufacturers in the industry.

"We believe that working together is key to making ourselves stronger."



Winter Feast at Dandenong Market

 **Rug up and head to Dandenong Market this winter as Winter Feast returns for a spectacular day of ice skating, seasonal flavours and feel-good vibes.**

Taking place on Sunday 19 July, from 10am-3pm, the free event is set to transform the market into a buzzing winter playground for all ages.

For one special day, the market's southern carpark will be reimagined as a pop-up winter escape, complete with a free ice skating rink, live DJ and plenty of delicious food to keep you warm.

Warm up with a mix of comfort food favourites, seasonal street eats and classic winter sweets. Enjoy free face painting and visit more than 120 market traders who will open throughout the event.

Come celebrate winter with the Dandenong Market, corner Clow and Cleeland streets, Dandenong.



Learning about dog safety together

 **Four-legged members of our community were the focus of a safety workshop during the April school holidays.**

Families across the community came together learn about safety around dogs at an interactive workshop delivered through a partnership between our Local Laws and Libraries teams alongside the RSPCA.

Designed especially for children and families, the workshop focused on helping young people learn how to interact safely with dogs, understand dog behaviour and build confidence around responsible and positive pet care. The session aimed to teach valuable skills to keep both people and pets safe.

The session aligned with Council's newly approved Domestic Animal Management Plan, which covers everything from pet registration to reducing dangerous or nuisance dog behaviours, cat curfew and improving animal welfare. During engagement for the plan, our community told us safety around dogs was a key area of interest.


The workshop proved popular, with strong attendance and plenty of enthusiasm from children, parents

and carers. The positive response demonstrated the value of accessible education and shared learning when it comes to promoting safety and wellbeing.

Fun messaging was used to explain safety to the youngest audience members. It said:

- T:** touch them gently
- A:** avoid touching if they're eating or at rest
- I:** imagine how they're feeling, are they happy or are they scared?
- L:** love them with respect and show them that you care.

This initiative is a great example of how effective partnerships can deliver meaningful outcomes. The collaboration between Council's Local Laws team, Libraries staff and the RSPCA highlights the positive impact that working together can have in supporting a safe, informed and pet friendly community.

 **Visit [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/pets-and-animals) to find out more about responsible pet ownership in Greater Dandenong.**




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Arts



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