A city of dreams

By Elle Cecil

Located approximately 35 kilometres to the south east of Melbourne, the City of Greater Dandenong encompasses Bangholme, Dandenong, Dandenong North, Dandenong South, Keysborough, Lyndhurst, Noble Park, Noble Park South, Springvale and Springvale South.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), over 168,000 people called Greater Dandenong home in 2020.

As the most culturally diverse region in the country, over half of Greater Dandenong's residents were born overseas at 87,609 people. This has resulted in a rich combination of cultures in the region, with more than two thirds of residents speaking a language other than English at home. The broad variety of foods, practices, traditions and customs means that Greater Dandenong is full of wholesome and interesting experiences.

Of the 17,661 businesses operating in the Greater Dandenong region, the majority industry is transport, postal and warehousing at 3,487 businesses, construction at 2,816, rental, hiring and real estate services at 1,604 and manufacturing at 1,423.

As of 2016, industries with the highest proportions of the 60,306 employees in the Greater Dandenong region are manufacturing at 15.8 per cent, health care and social assistance at 11.2 per cent, retail trade at 10.4 per cent and construction at 7.3 per cent.

The ABS showed that the total number of occupied private dwellings, or homes, in the region is 48,566. The 2020 land area of the Greater Dandenong region is 12,954.7 hectares, according to the ABS.

Showcasing the best of Greater Dandenong, this feature includes things to see and do, places to eat and drink, sport and recreational activities as well as retail and entertainment must-sees.

Lonsdale Street, Dandenong. 280956 Picture: GREATER DANDENONG CITY COUNCIL

Arts and Entertainment

With venues such as the Drum Theatre and Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre providing rich cultural and creative experiences to the Greater Dandenong region, it's no wonder that thousands of patrons attend exhibitions, shows and workshops in the area each year.

The Walker Street Gallery and Arts Centre is funded by the City of Greater Dandenong, and features a band room, performing arts centre and gallery space. The Drum Theatre features a performing arts centre that seats over 520 people inside the former Dandenong Town Hall's historic heritage facade.

Environment and Sustainability

The thriving variety of environments found in the Greater Dandenong region provide a rich and beautiful home for wildlife to live and for residents and visitors to enjoy. Wetland and bush reserves are managed by council, which aims to create a strongly biodiverse environment for all.

Whether you cycle or walk through a variety of beautiful and weaving trails, share a picnic or barbecue with friends and family, take the kids to the playground or go bird and animal spotting, Greater Dandenong offers an endless variety of spaces to explore on your weekends or days off!

With four community gardens and over 20 school community gardens, throughout the region, many Greater Dandenong residents share an interest in gardening and community integration, where members can tend to plants to grow and share food, as well as donate it. It is a great learning opportunity as well as keeping people active and healthy outdoors.

Sport and Recreation

With a total of 30 sporting reserves, the City of Greater Dandenong facilitates more than 100 sporting organizations including AFL, netball, cricket, soccer and rugby.

Get down to Rowley Allan Reserve in Keysborough where you can spend some time in the cricket nets, kicking the footy, playing lawn bowls, trawling the playground or shooting hoops on the netball court. A few of the other sites in the region include Hemmings Park in Dandenong, which has barbecue and picnic facilities, a basketball court, walking or biking trails and a skate park, and Alex Nelson Reserve in Springvale South, which also features a great playground, soccer field and tennis courts.

Have a swim or complete a gym or group fitness session at the Noble Park Aquatic Centre or Dandenong Oasis, the latter of which also features squash courts.

Parks and sporting facilities in the area also feature dog off-leash areas, pavilions, athletics tracks, fitness equipment, table tennis tables, volleyball courts, a baseball diamond and rugby and hockey fields.

A variety of upgrades to facilities include an all abilities extension to the playground at Ross Reserve, new lighting being installed at Tatterson Park Oval, and the redevelopment of the WJ Crow Pavilion at Thomas Carroll Reserve.

GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Enjoy *Luminosity*

Until 29 May, the City of Greater Dandenong is turning the night lights on.

Visit your favourite restaurant for dinner and then take a stroll through streets known and unfamiliar to explore *Luminosity,* light-based art installations and projections across Springvale, Noble Park and Dandenong.

Springvale Multicultural Place will become a glowing, alien landscape with works and workshops from **The Indirect Object.**

Dandenong's Thomas Street and surrounds will feature installations curated by the Centre for Projection Art, showcasing **Atong Atem, Steven Rhall,** Hazara Community work developed by **Andrew Garton** and **Yandell Walton, Lilah Benetti** and **Roshan Ramesh.**

Noble Park will be lit up by internationally renowned projection artist **Nick Azidis** and local artists with Connection Arts Space.

Luminosity is a component of the *In Situ* events program funded by the Victorian Government's Outdoor Economy Package.

For more information visit greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/in-situ

Photo credit: *In Situ Luminosity*, Springvale: **The Indirect Object**, Oasis, a synthetic garden made from recycled and reclaimed materials.

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GREATER DANDENONG
City of Opportunity

Visit your local library

Greater Dandenong Libraries has a wide range of free and exciting regular programs for the whole community to enjoy.

- **Peer2Peer Homework Club,** every Monday, 4pm-6pm, during school terms, Dandenong Library
- **Conversation Circle,** every Thursday, 6pm-7.30pm, during school terms, Dandenong Library
- **Reading Circle,** first Wednesday of the month, 11am-12pm, Dandenong Library

To find out about more programs visit **greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/libraries** or follow us on Facebook and Instagram **@greaterdandenonglibraries.**

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