



City of  
**DAREBIN**

the place  
to live

**DAREBIN  
ABORIGINAL &  
TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER  
RECOGNITION  
& DISCOVERY  
MAP**

Long before Council lines were drawn, the land which we now know as the City of Darebin was cared for by the Wurundjeri Willam people of the Kulin Nation.

**We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willam people as the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.**

Further to this, Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Cultural Heritage Council Aboriginal Corporation (herein referred to as the Wurundjeri Land Council) as descendants and representatives of the Wurundjeri people, whose lands span the area now known as Greater Melbourne.

While the Wurundjeri Land Council is not located within the City of Darebin, we recognise the important role the Wurundjeri Land Council plays in:

- protecting and managing local Aboriginal cultural heritage
- local natural resource management
- providing cultural consultations, education, tours and cross-cultural awareness training
- offering cultural practices such as Tanderrum (Welcome to Country), smoking/cleansing ceremonies, dance/performance and artworks
- providing guidance and upholding cultural integrity regarding the use of the Woiwurrung language when naming places, products or events.

**For more information on the Wurundjeri Land Council's history and services, Wurundjeri Ancestors, and significant places, please go to: [www.wurundjeri.com.au](http://www.wurundjeri.com.au)**

## Purpose statement

Darebin City Council recognises, pays respect to and celebrates the long-standing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage within our community. Council is committed to building strong partnerships with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and contributing to the journey towards reconciliation.

This map has been created to help guide new and existing community members and visitors to the rich Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage that exists within Darebin. As part of this acknowledgment and celebration of culture, the spirit of self-determination and achievement, we have chosen not to list the many mainstream organisations that provide designated services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

We hope the whole community can use this resource as a guide to recognising, celebrating, and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culture and organisations.

Darebin City Council has worked diligently to capture all of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander points of interest within our municipality. However, due to the dynamic nature of service provision, some information may have been unintentionally omitted.

*This is by no means an extensive listing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations or points of interest, as many more organisations and important sites lie beyond Darebin's municipality.*

*The information supplied within this publication has been provided by the agency or organisation it references. While care has been taken in collating this information, Darebin Council takes no responsibility for errors or inaccuracy of the content provided.*

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Event Calendar

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## **Survival Day - 26 January**

This date marks the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney Cove in 1788. It is recognised by many as a time to recognise the ongoing survival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture.

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## **Anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generations - 13 February**

On 13 February 2008, the Australian Government and Parliament issued a formal apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - particularly the Stolen Generations.

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## **National Close the Gap Day - Third Thursday in March**

This annual day of recognition aims to raise awareness of and promote meaningful action against the health inequality that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia.

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## **Harmony Day - 21 March**

Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Harmony Day promotes the celebration of Australia's cultural diversity, inclusiveness, respect and belonging.

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## **National Sorry Day - 26 May**

National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the impact of previous government policies which saw the forcible removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

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## **Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum - 27 May**

On this day in 1967, a national referendum to determine whether the Australian Constitution should be amended to be more inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities was held. The overwhelming majority of people (90.77%) voted in favour, allowing Aboriginal peoples to be counted in the Census and giving Federal Parliament the power to make laws for Indigenous people.

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## **National Reconciliation Week - 27 May - 3 June**

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is bookended by two major events in Australia's reconciliation: Anniversary of the 1967 referendum and Mabo Day. NRW is a chance to celebrate and build on respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider Australian population.



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### **Mabo Day – 3 June**

Mabo Day commemorates Eddie Koiki Mabo, who campaigned for Indigenous land rights and was the key plaintiff in a claim for ownership over traditional lands on Mer Island in the Torres Strait. On 3 June 1992, the High Court of Australia ruled in favour of Mabo and his fellow plaintiffs, overturning the concept of Australia being “terra nullius” or “nobody’s land” prior to European settlement.

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### **Coming of the Light – 1 July**

Coming of the Light is the celebration of the 1871 arrival of the London Missionary Society at Erub (Darnley Island) in the Torres Strait.

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### **NAIDOC Week – First full week (Monday to Sunday) in July**

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements. Regular NAIDOC events include a flag-raising ceremony, the NAIDOC Awards, NAIDOC March and the NAIDOC Ball.

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### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Day – 4 August**

Children’s Day is an opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. It is also a chance for all Australians to show support for and learn about the impact that culture, family, and community play in the life of all children.

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### **Wurundjeri Week – First full week (Monday to Sunday) in August**

Wurundjeri Week acknowledges and celebrates the traditional owners of the land now known as Greater Melbourne. Events throughout the week acknowledge the history and culture of the Wurundjeri people and aim to share this with the non-Indigenous community.

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### **International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples – 9 August**

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is an occasion to promote and protect the rights of the world’s Indigenous populations, and to recognise their achievements and contributions across the world.

# PLACES & SPACES WITHIN DAREBIN



\* **3KND** is in the process of relocating. For more information on its current address, please go to: [www.3knd.org.au](http://www.3knd.org.au)

† **Minajalku** is in the process of relocating. For more information on where programs are running, please contact VAHS Preston on 9403 3300.

**\* 3KND (Kool n Deadly) Aboriginal Radio Station**

**Phone:** 9471 1305  
**www.3knd.org.au**

Melbourne's first Indigenous owned and managed radio station, 3KND provides a vital service, broadcasting 24 hours a day across the AM network, digital services and online streaming. Multimedia training, recording studio hire and music production are offered to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community with advertising opportunities available to all.

**1 Aboriginal Catholic Ministry**

**Where:** 434 St Georges Road, Thornbury

**Phone:** 9480 3849

**www.cam.org.au/acmv/**

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry (ACM) provides a space for reflection, prayer, connection, liturgical celebrations and monthly mass for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. ACM also facilitates the FIRE Carriers reconciliation program with Catholic schools around Victoria, and a foundation that supports Aboriginal children in independent schools. ACM believes in truth-telling of this country's history and promoting Aboriginal spirituality in the wider community.

**2 Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL)**

**Where:** 496 High Street, Northcote

**Phone:** 9416 4266

**www.vacsal.org.au**

VACSAL is a state-wide agency that delivers and supports a number of community programs and services for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, which aim to support children, young people and their families. VACSAL also advises government on a range of community development issues.

**3 Aboriginal Centre for Males Referral Service**

**Where:** 201 Bell Street, Preston

**Phone:** 9487 3000

**www.vacsal.org.au/programs/aboriginal-centre-for-males-referral-service.aspx**

The Aboriginal Centre for Males Referral Service is an outpost of VACSAL. The Centre provides aid, relief, and support (including the Aboriginal Community Justice Panel) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and their families, due to family violence and homelessness. The service aims to culturally strengthen families, bring awareness and responsibility to men for their actions and their role as a father/husband/partner, and to keep their families together.

**4 Bert Williams Aboriginal Youth Services**

**Where:** 21 Normanby Avenue, Thornbury

**Phone:** 9484 5310

**www.vacsal.org.au/programs/bert-williams-center.aspx**

The VACSAL Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS) delivers proactive and preventative services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth who live in or visit the North and West Metropolitan Region. Services aim to enable quality outcomes for youth who are homeless and/or are within, or at risk of entering, the youth justice system. Programs offered include the Koorie Youth Justice Support Service (for 10-20 year-olds), Koorie Youth Hostel (homeless males 16 -22 years old) and Koorie Early School Leavers & Youth Employment Program (10-20 year-olds).

**5 Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS)**

**Where:** 238 - 250 Plenty Road, Preston

**Phone:** 9403 3300

**www.vahs.org.au**

The Preston branch of VAHS provides a broad range of services and programs including Family Counselling, Adult Mental Health Services, Drug and Alcohol unit, Koori Kids and Adolescent Mental Health units, part-time Medical Services, Integrated Care team, Healthy lifestyle programs (including gym, financial wellbeing and Men's programs).

## 6 **Aborigines Advancement League**


**Where:** 2 Watt Street, Thornbury

**Phone:** 9480 7777 

Services provided and housed by the League include: Home and Community Care; Family Support; Aboriginal Tenants at Risk Support; Indigital; Victorian Aboriginal Funeral Service; Gurwidj Neighbourhood House; and Disability Support. The Aborigines Advancement League also hosts NAIDOC events, an Elders Christmas luncheon and cultural awareness training opportunities, and houses a small museum.

## 7 **Fitzroy Stars Football and Netball Club**

**Where:** 2 Watt Street, Thornbury

**Email:** fitzroystarsfc@bigpond.com.au 

The Fitzroy Stars Football and Netball Club is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander club, with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal players. The club has junior and senior teams competing in the Northern Football League and the Northern Netball League. Their home ground is the Sir Doug Nicholls oval, at the Aborigines Advancement League. The club invites members of the wider community to attend home games and events such as the NAIDOC game held each July between Fitzroy Stars and Thomastown football clubs.

## 8 **Yappera Children's Service**

**Where:** 2B Watt Street, Thornbury

**Phone:** 9416 8787

**www.yapperachildrengservice.com**

Yappera is a multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Service that has been servicing children and families for 37 years. Yappera provides Long Day Care, Early Start Kindergarten, 4-5 year-old kindergarten and a range of community-driven support programs, services and activities.

## 9 **Lady Gladys Nicholls Hostel**

**Where:** 56 Cunningham Street, Northcote


**Phone:** 9480 7777

**Email:** richardb@aal.org.au

The Lady Gladys Nicholls Hostel provides temporary accommodation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and families.

## 10 **Melbourne Polytechnic Koorie Services Centre**


**Where:** Building G (Level 2) 77-91 St Georges Road, Preston

**Phone:** 9269 1331 

The Koorie Services Centre provides multiple forms of support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Support includes course and career pathway advice (job vacancies, apprenticeships and degree advice); art opportunities (exhibitions, Koorie concerts, festivals, and theatre events); programs including Men's and Women's support, health and wellbeing, family, leadership, relationship and community disability programs; links to Koorie organisations, important community meetings and forums; as well as the provision and promotion of NAIDOC week events, employment and youth expos.

## 11 **MAYSAR**

**Where:** 1c Browning Street, Kingsbury (Brizzz Brothers Boxing Gym)

**Phone:** 9416 4255 

MAYSAR (Melbourne Aboriginal Youth Sport and Recreation Co-operative) offers a range of activities and programs around culture, art, recreation, sport and boxing. For more information on upcoming programs and events please check the Facebook page.

## 12 **Margaret Tucker Hostel**

**Where:** 113 Perry Street, Fairfield

**Phone:** 9482 1161

**margarettucker.org.au**

Margaret Tucker Hostel provides short-term crisis accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls aged 15-18 years and helps young women to access health, education and housing services.

## 13 **La Trobe University Ngarn-gi Bagora Indigenous Centre**

**Where:** Office 202, Level 2 Agora East Building, La Trobe University, Bundoora

**Phone:** 9479 5806

**www.latrobe.edu.au/indigenous**

Ngarn-gi Bagora is a Woi wurrung phrase meaning 'place of learning'. The centre provides assistance and support to prospective and enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It offers a dedicated learning area for Indigenous students and provides academic, cultural, personal, and financial support for enrolled Indigenous students. The centre also promotes Indigenous culture and awareness within the wider university community.



**14 Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS)**

**Where:** 273 High Street, Preston

**Phone:** 1800 064 865

**www.vals.org.au**

VALS provides referrals, advice/information, duty work, and case work assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria. VALS solicitors specialise in areas of criminal, family and civil law.

**15 Link-Up Victoria**

**Where:** 273 High Street, Preston

**Phone:** 9480 7377 or  
1800 687 662

**www.linkupvictoria.org.au**

Link-Up provides a support service to the Stolen Generations, to find and be reunited with their family and reclaim their heritage. Link-Up also supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to find and be reunited with family who were adopted, fostered, or placed in an institution. Link-Up also organises community events which mark National Sorry Day (26 May) and the Anniversary of the National Apology (13 February).

**16 Dardi Munwurro**

**Where:** 273 High Street, Preston

**Phone:** 1800 435 799

**www.dardimunwurro.com.au**

Dardi Munwurro (meaning 'strong spirit' in Gurnai language) provides programs and personal coaching for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men aimed at empowering, inspiring and healing. Programs include a new Residential Men's Healing Place (Ngarra Jarranounith Place), the Dardi Healing and Family Violence program, Workplace & Personal Development, Youth Journeys Program (leadership training) and Aboriginal Cultural Competency training.

**† Minajalku Healing Centre (VAHS)†**

**Phone:** 8459 3800

The Minajalku Healing Centre is a place where members of the Aboriginal community can come to access services to help with their personal healing journeys. The centre provides programs including men's or women's groups, youth projects, smoking/cleansing ceremonies, arts and crafts.

**17 Spiritual Healing Trail**

**Where:** Corner Separation Street and Yarana Road, Alphington

**Phone:** 9499 3486

The Spiritual Healing Trail is a gift from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as a gesture of reconciliation. Less than 4km from the Eastern Freeway, the trail aims to promote good health through improving our emotional and spiritual wellbeing and connectedness to the land where we reside, to others, and most importantly ourselves. The trail is accessible during daylight hours for self-guided walks.

**18 Stolen Generations Marker – Empty Coolamon**

**Where:** 350 High Street, Preston

This marker, created by Yamatji artist Robyne Latham, honours the pain, resilience and survival of the Stolen Generations and their families. It also highlights the wider community's vision of reconciliation between our First Peoples and the non-Indigenous community.

**19 Wurundjeri Marker**

**Where:** 274 Gower Street, Preston

The Wurundjeri marker at the Preston Customer Service Centre acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land, and pays respect to Elders, past and present.

**20 Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association (VACCA) – Head Office**

**Where:** 340 Bell Street, Preston

**Phone:** 9287 8800

**www.vacca.org.au**

VACCA is Victoria's lead Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation. A community controlled organisation, VACCA protects and promotes the rights of Aboriginal children, families and communities. Services are based on human rights, self-determination, cultural respect and safety.

**21 Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc (VAEAI)**

**Where:** 144 Westbourne Grove, Northcote

**Phone:** 9481 0800

**www.vaeai.org.au**

VAEAI advises on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education issues, monitors education trends and advocates for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

**22 William T Onus Hostel**

**Where:** 75 Westgarth Street, Northcote

**Phone:** 9489 6701

William T Onus hostel provides short-term accommodation for individuals who are waiting for housing, seeking employment, or who have general business or other commitments away from their homes and communities.



Artwork by Natasha Ellis-Corrigan, proud Jinabara/Bundjalung woman.  
Aboriginal artist from Jinabara Designs.

## CITY OF DAREBIN

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