









Nominate for our Community Awards Page 3 Groundbreaking agreement signed with Aboriginal Housing Victoria Page 5

Help shape our 2023/24 Annual Budget Pages 6-7

SUMMER 2023

YOUR COUNCILLORS



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MEET OUR NEW CEO

Building connected communities is a passion for Darebin City Council's new Chief Executive Officer Peter Smith.

"I'm absolutely passionate about the role local government plays in making a difference for people's lives," Peter says.

With more than 25 years' experience across all three levels of government, including 15 years in CEO roles, Peter was appointed our new CEO for a five-year term in a unanimous Council decision.

Starting at Darebin last October. Peter has hit the ground running by getting out and about to meet people at as many of our community services and programs as possible.

"What I love about local government is how close it can be to community and how it's able not just to provide services to community, but build community capacity and capability," Peter says.



"It can help people find local solutions to sometimes really complex problems such as social inclusion, climate change and reconciliation."

Having come from his previous role as CEO at City of Port Phillip, Peter is looking forward to working together with Councillors and staff to help deliver Darebin's wide range of valued community services and programs, as well as the Council Plan 2021-25 and Community Vision 2041.

"It's a really exciting agenda and I'm so happy to be here in Darebin to help staff, community and Councillors work towards it."

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

We welcomed news last month that we will again be able to host citizenship ceremonies in Darebin for new Australian citizens.

As a proudly diverse community and a Welcoming City, holding citizenship ceremonies for community members is something we have truly missed.



To find out more visit darebin.vic.gov.au/citizenship-ceremonies

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi wurrung people who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Darebin stands. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Cr Julie Williams **Mayor**

It was my huge honour to be elected as the Mayor of Darebin last November.

I am so humbled and grateful to be in the role this year and pledge to advocate for the needs of the community, to show respect to everyone, and to ensure no one is left behind.

With the support of my fellow Councillors, Darebin CEO Peter Smith and all the staff at Darebin, I look forward to continuing to deliver on our community vision and ensure Darebin is an equitable, vibrant and connected community.

I'd like to also congratulate Cr Susanne Newton on being elected as Deputy Mayor and I give my thanks to Cr Lina Messina and Cr Trent McCarthy for their outstanding commitment in their role as Mayor and Deputy Mayor over the past term.

This edition of DCN holds so many great stories.

There is our Memorandum of Understanding with Aboriginal Housing Victoria, which leads the way for other councils to work in partnership to improve access to housing, services and support for Aboriginal people.

We have a call-out for our Community Awards nominations, the opening of a new kindergarten in East Reservoir, an update on the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment and a refreshing summer sorbet recipe from the beautiful Rezza Recipes book.

There's so much to celebrate in Darebin. I hope you enjoy reading all about it.



NOMINATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY AWARDS

Every year the Darebin Community Awards acknowledge groups and individuals who make outstanding contributions to our community.

Nominations are now open for this year's awards.

There are nine award categories in total:

- · Citizen of the Year
- · Young Citizen of the Year
- · Community Group of the Year
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Leader of the Year
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Emerging Young Community Leader of the Year
- Sustainability Award
- · Lifetime Achievement Award
- CALD Elder Community Leader of the Year
- CALD Emerging Community Leader.

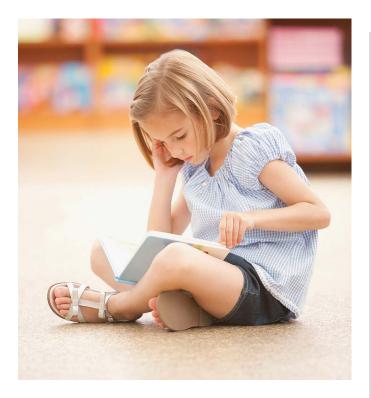
As well as specific criteria in each category, overall judging criteria considers:

- The nominee's desire for prosperity with a "share for all" attitude
- Demonstrating and exemplifying the highest standards in ethical behaviours and integrity
- Contribution to the community's cultural diversity
- Community values and support systems
- Equality and equity
- Concern for sustainability and the environment.

If you know someone who has made an amazing contribution to the Darebin community, we really want to hear from you!

Nominations close 11 February 2023. Let's celebrate the best of Darebin!

Nomination forms and more info can be found at darebin.vic.gov.au/community-awards



NEW KINDERGARTEN FOR RESERVOIR

Reservoir East Family Centre

Families in the Reservoir East area can look forward to a new kindergarten option close to home with Reservoir East Family Centre on track to open in Term One 2023.

Delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government and located at Reservoir East Primary School, it will offer 3-and-4-year-olds up to 15 hours a week of play-based kindergarten learning to help them get ready for school.

Kindergarten Registrations Open 1 February

Registrations for 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten open from 1 February 2023. Applications for round one offers are required by 30 June, however registrations are accepted all year round.

Twilight Kindergarten Open Evenings 23 and 28 March 2023

Twilight Kindergarten Open Evenings are a great opportunity to learn about kindergarten options for your family, available services and how your child can benefit from new learning environments.

To find out more about Reservoir East Family Centre visit darebin.vic.gov.au/refc

For information about kindergarten registrations or Twilight Kindergarten Open Evenings visit darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten



NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is raising the roof on expectations, with unique design features to support community health and wellbeing.

Architect Brett Diprose, Associate Principal Warren and Mahoney is proud of the development of this unique facility.

"It will be the best of its kind in Victoria. It will revolutionise the aquatics industry and people's expectations of an aquatic centre," he says.

"The timber ceiling of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is really the jewel in the crown of the facility. It's what will set it apart from any other facility. The timber creates a unique aesthetic that really accentuates that health and wellbeing aspect of the project."

Shaped by community consultation and completed by Warren and Mahoney Australia, the all-electric design targets a 6 Star Green Star rating which is the highest rating possible in the Green Building Council of Australia's sustainability rating system.

Stay updated online as the redevelopment progresses at darebin.vic.gov.au/NARC-redevelopment



DAREBIN AND ABORIGINAL HOUSING VICTORIA TAKE THE LEAD

By Charles Pakana

Darebin City Council has taken the lead across Victoria in signing a groundbreaking Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV).

The MoU, under development for more than 18 months and signed in November 2022, commits to exploring rates concessions on all AHV-managed properties in Darebin. It also commits Council to exploring the availability of housing stock, and to working in partnership with AHV to increase the wellbeing, community participation and inclusion in Council's services for people living in AHV-managed homes.

The Federal Government's *Closing* the Gap Report identifies housing as one of the key socioeconomic outcomes important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's rights, wellbeing and quality of life.

Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians Linda Burney has commented previously on the role all levels of government must play. "The Closing the Gap architecture can only work when all parties are invested and there is a coordinated effort from all jurisdictions in partnership with First Nations Peoples," Minister Burney says.

With more than 1,500 rental properties across Victoria, AHV is the largest Aboriginal Registered Housing Agency in the country.

In signing the MoU, AHV Chief Executive Officer Darren Smith reinforced the call for action and partnership with Aboriginal communities at all levels of government.

"This agreement makes a significant step forward in establishing greater outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians at a local level," Mr Smith said.

"It sets a precedent which other councils across Victoria should aspire to. Darebin City Council has shown real leadership to other councils in its relationship with the local Aboriginal community."

In the leadup to the MoU signing, in June 2022 Council voted unanimously to introduce rate concessions on all AHV properties, relating to the provision of affordable housing.

This will play a significant part in supporting one of AHV's key strategic targets of reducing Victorian Aboriginal homelessness by 10 per cent each year, over a 10-year period.

In summing up Council's commitment within the MoU, Cr Lina Messina, Mayor at the time of the MoU signing, put the call out to other councils.

"In creating this MoU we listened to, and took the lead from the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee," Cr Messina said.

"We hope that other Councils will follow suit in order to improve access to housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living right across the state."

 Uncle Charles Pakana is a proud Aboriginal journalist working with Darebin Council to tell First Nations stories.

Find out more about the MoU at darebin.vic.gov.au/AHV-DCC-MoU







HÃY ĐÓNG GÓP Ý KIẾN CHO NGÂN SÁCH THƯỜNG NIÊN 2023/24

Ý kiến cộng đồng đóng góp là phần quan trọng khi chúng tôi lập kế hoạch ngân sách hàng năm.

Để giúp soạn thảo Ngân sách Thường niên 2023/24 nhằm đáp ứng nhu cầu đa dạng của cộng đồng, chúng tôi muốn hiểu những dịch vụ và dự án nào là quan trọng đối với quý vị.

Từ ngày 6 – 26 tháng 2, chúng tôi kính mời quý vị đóng góp ý kiến về những gì chúng tôi đầu tư cho cộng đồng chúng ta.

Năm nay, chúng tôi làm việc hơi khác một chút. Chúng tôi muốn nhận được ý kiến của quý vị ngay từ đầu quy trình lập kế hoạch ngân sách. Như vậy chúng tôi sẽ có thời gian xem xét và kết hợp ý kiến quý vị đóng góp vào dự thảo ngân sách và điều chỉnh ngân sách cho phù hợp với ý muốn của cộng đồng.

Ngân sách thường niên là phần quan trọng trong việc lập kế hoạch cho tương

lai Darebin. Sử dụng Kế hoạch Hội đồng Thành phố 2021-25 làm kim chỉ nam, ngân sách này đề ra ngân khoản tài trợ cho các ưu tiên của Hội đồng Thành phố nhằm giúp xây dựng một cộng đồng thịnh vượng, an toàn và bình đẳng.

Khi cộng đồng chúng ta tiếp tục phát triển và thay đổi, chúng tôi biết Darebin cũng phải đương đầu với áp lực đáng kể về ngân khoản tài trợ khi mà thuế địa phương có mức giới hạn tối đa. Tất cả những điều này khiến cho việc chúng tôi lập kế hoạch chi tiêu trong tương lai cho các dịch vụ và chương trình dành cho cộng đồng trở nên rất quan trọng.

Một khi đã soạn thảo xong, chúng tôi cũng sẽ trình dự thảo ngân sách trở lại với cộng đồng vào cuối tháng 5 để quý vị xem xét và đóng góp ý kiến phản hồi.

Hãy truy cập yoursay.darebin.vic.gov. au/budget2023-24 để tìm hiểu thêm



và hoàn thành cuộc thăm dò ý kiến bằng ngôn ngữ quý vị thông thạo, từ ngày 6-26 tháng 2.

Quý vị cũng có thể đến một trong các Trung tâm Dịch vụ Khách hàng ở Northcote, Preston hoặc Reservoir hoặc gọi cho nhóm Dịch vụ Khách hàng qua số 8470 8888 để họ trợ giúp quý vị.







HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE 2023/24 BUDGET

Community input is a key part of planning our annual budget.

To help shape our 2023/24 Annual Budget so it meets our diverse community's needs, we want to understand what services and projects are important to you.

From 6 – 26 February we're inviting you to have your say on what we invest in for our community.

This year, we're doing things a bit differently. We want to hear from you right from the start of the budget planning process. This will allow time to consider and incorporate feedback into the draft budget and align it with what the community wants.

The annual budget is a key part of planning for Darebin's future. Using the Council Plan 2021-25 as a roadmap, the budget sets out funding for Council priorities to help build a thriving, safe and inclusive community.

As our community continues to grow and change, we know Darebin also faces significant funding pressures in a rate-capped environment. All this makes planning our future spending on services and programs for the community so important.

Once it's prepared, we will also bring the draft budget back to the community in late May to review and provide feedback.



Find out more and complete the survey in your preferred language by visiting *yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/budget2023-24* from 6 - 26 February.

You can also visit one of our Customer Service Centres in Northcote, Preston or Reservoir, or call our Customer Service team for support on 8470 8888.

PAVING THE WAY

Leisure and sporting facilities, roads and bridges, footpaths and cycleways, parks and open spaces.

These are just some of the vital community assets we are renewing and upgrading through this year's Capital Works Program.

Some of our recently completed projects include:

Kerb and channel renewal

This month we will complete delivery of about 700 metres of kerb and channel and associated paving through a \$400,000 project to improve drainage and prevent flooding hotspots right across Darebin.

Revitalising Reservoir

Since 2020 we've worked together as part of the Reservoir Suburban Revitalisation Board to commit about \$3.5 million in Victorian Government funding to 25 different projects in Reservoir's main activity centre.

The recently completed 'Bike it Rezza' project included installing rubber kerbing, bollards and line marking along Edwardes Street and Broadway, making it safer for cyclists and improving sustainable travel options for local shoppers.

We also recently completed footpath improvement works along Spring Street and High Street, including wayfinding signs, new flag poles and construction of a new seating space with custom street furniture, bike hoops and landscaping at the corner of High Street and Broadway.

We hope you agree it's looking great!

Download the Darebin Budget 2022-23 and find out more about the Capital Works Program. There's always lots going on! See *darebin.vic.gov.au/budget*







MAKING JOB HUNTING EASY

If you're a young person who would like support to land a job, you can get help at The Hub in Northland on Wednesday afternoons through Y Connect and other employment services.

Young people like Renee drop in and get help with resumes, practice interviews, cover letters, searching for jobs and filling in applications.

"It's been really beneficial and the mentors are really easy to talk to so there's nothing to lose by giving it a go," Renee says. "Y Connect helped me rewrite my resume to a nicer, more current format and also helped me do a mock interview to prepare for a real interview that I found through job searching with the Y Connect Mentor."

If you are 15-26 years old and want help to land a job, then come to The Hub any Wednesday from 12.30 - 5pm. You can book in advance or just drop in.

For more information visit darebin.vic.gov.au/youth-employment-support



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Making a difference for older people in our community is what drives our Supported and Connected Living team.

Community Support Worker Sarath is one of our many team members who support older people in our community every day.

Sarath has enjoyed a varied career across many different countries and roles and says he has always wanted to work in community services.

He is proud of his work in making a real difference in people's lives.

"This is the best place, because it is a peoples' place," Sarath says.

"Our quality of work, planning and delivery is absolutely the best. I love what I do. This is what I want to do, and I know I've helped somebody."

Darebin Council is committed to offering services and support to help older people be active, independent and connected with the Darebin community. We're proud to be a trusted provider of aged care services.

If you are a dedicated, confident and positive person who wants to make a difference in our community, we'd love to have you join our Supported and Connected Living team.

To find out more about the positions on offer in the Supported and Connected Living team visit darebin.vic.gov.au/supportedlivingjobs

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

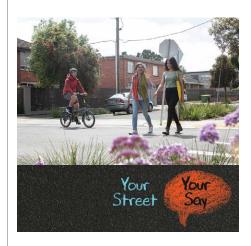
Your Street Your Say is your chance to help improve our local streets and neighbourhood for everyone who lives, works, studies or travels through Darebin.

Rolled out progressively across Darebin, we are asking everyone to share their ideas about walking, cycling, scooting, driving and playing so we can make our streets better for everyone. We're using this feedback to make a plan to improve our streets, making it safer and easier to move around Darebin.

Over this summer, people have given feedback for 'Group B' - the Northcote East/Fairfield, Alphington, Thornbury East and Bundoora/Macleod areas, and soon we will ask what your thoughts on the plan for improvements in those areas are.

Next up, we will move to 'Group C' - Reservoir East, Preston East, and Northcote West, to ask for people's thoughts on those areas, later this year.

Thank you for contributing to Your Street, Your Say and helping make Darebin a great place to live, work and play for everyone.



Find out more about Your Street Your Say at yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING DATES - FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2023

In line with our Public Transparency Policy and relevant legislation, please be informed of our Council and Planning Committee meeting dates for February - June 2023.

To ensure the most current list of meeting dates and venues is made available to the community, only meeting dates up to June 2023 are published here in our DCN Summer 2023 edition. The meeting dates for July - December 2023 will be published in our DCN Autumn 2023 edition.

Meeting dates are also available to the community on our website. We hope publishing these meeting dates encourages community members to attend.

In keeping with Council's commitment to be accessible to the community, the March Council meeting will be held at Prace Merrilands Community Centre in Reservoir.

Meeting	Date	Time	Location Council Chamber, 350 High St, Preston (unless stated otherwise below)
Planning Committee	Monday 13 February 2023	6.30pm	Virtual attendance available
Ordinary Council	Monday 27 February 2023	6pm	Wholly in person
Planning Committee	Tuesday 14 March 2023	6.30pm	Virtual attendance available
Ordinary Council	Monday 27 March 2023	6pm	Wholly in person Prace Merrilands Community Centre 35 Sturdee Street, Reservoir
Planning Committee	Tuesday 11 April 2023	6.30pm	Virtual attendance available
Ordinary Council	Monday 24 April 2023	6pm	Virtual attendance available
Planning Committee	Monday 8 May 2023	6pm	Wholly in person
Ordinary Council	Monday 22 May 2023	6pm	Virtual attendance available
Planning Committee	Tuesday 13 June 2023	6.30pm	Wholly in person
Ordinary Council	Monday 26 June 2023	6pm	Wholly in person

For more information, please visit darebin.vic.gov.au/council-committee-meetings



Reservoir lemons are abundant during citrus season. This special flavour is Daniel's herbal twist on a classic and can be made with or without an ice-cream churner.

REFRESHING REZZA SUMMER SORBET

Rezza Recipes is a beautiful collection of more than 60 recipes sourced from Reservoir locals and businesses.

Representing the vibrant Rezza community, the cookbook is curated by Elise Pulbrook (a semifinalist on MasterChef 2021) with illustrations by Carly Altree-Williams and design by Backpack Creative.

Rezza Recipes is available to borrow from Darebin Libraries as a hardcopy or eBook.

Lemon and Basil Sorbet by Daniel Gagaro Owner of Cono Gelateria Reservoir

Ingredients

- 6 7 large clean, dry, organic lemons (to yield 300ml juice)
- 250g sugar
- 50g glucose
- 500ml water
- 1/2 cup fresh basil leaves (tightly packed), stems removed

Method

- Peel 3 lemons, avoiding the white pith. Add to a small saucepan with sugar, glucose and water. Bring to a rolling boil for 4-5 minutes. Remove from heat, add lemon juice and half the basil leaves roughly torn. Chill.
- Sieve syrup into a jug. Roll remaining basil leaves into a tight cigar-shape and slice into fine ribbons. Run the knife through the basil once more, cutting it into small pieces and add to chilled syrup.
- 3. Pour the mixture into a stainless steel bowl and freeze for 3 hours, stirring every hour. Or, churn in a domestic ice-cream machine until firm sorbet consistency.
- 4. Serve from the freezer. If the unchurned mixture has frozen solid, blitz in a blender until smooth.

To reserve a copy of *Rezza Recipes* or access our digital collection visit *libraries.darebin.vic.gov.au*



Get more tips on keeping cool this summer at darebin.vic.gov.au/ heatwaves

BEATING THE HEAT

Does your home heat up quickly in summer? This could be due to heat entering the roof as a result of improper insulation, uncontrolled air leaks from gaps under doors that cause cool air to escape, or unshaded windows.

Managing these issues with a well-designed and insulated home can significantly lower your home's temperature, reducing your air conditioner use and energy bills. Draught-proofing windows or sealing up gaps and cracks will also minimise heat entering your home.

The size and location of your windows affect the amount of sunlight entering your home.

Simple tips to help minimise this include using thick blockout blinds with a pelmet and placing awnings, shutters or plants outside your windows.

For more energy efficiency and summer cooling tips, visit darebin.vic.gov.au/energy-bills

WHAT'S ON



FUSE AUTUMN 2023

FUSE, Darebin's contemporary multi-arts festival, returns in Autumn 2023.

Running from 12-26 March, FUSE celebrates Darebin's vibrant cultural diversity and rich artistic talent.

The Out of the Park Picnic will return to Edwardes Lake Park on 12 March, opening the festival with another full day of dancing, drumming and dynamic musicians.

The Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration is also back for 2023, drawing on #EmbraceEquity, the 2023 theme for International Women's Day. The oration will centre around social issues that disproportionately affect women who experience multiple forms of discrimination, giving a platform to culturally and agediverse leaders. To support an intergenerational approach, the oration will feature young and emerging, culturally and linguistically diverse orators.

The program will also include several of our FUSE Fund projects. Find out more at *fusedarebin.com*. au/FUSEfund2023.

FUSE@Large, our open-access program, will once again give anyone putting on an event in Darebin the chance to be part of FUSE.

View the full program from mid-February at fusedarebin.com.au



LIBRARY YOUTH EVENTS

Free workshops for young people who want to tap into their creativity and build their skills.

ZINE WORKSHOP WITH TONIA COMPOSTO

Friday 20 January, 3-4pm Reservoir Library

Lemon Chicken Por Favor! Bring your passion for art and zines to this workshop with illustrator and zine creator, Tonia Composto.

MIDSUMMA YOUTH EARRING MAKING WORKSHOP

Friday 10 February, 4-6pm Reservoir Library

Unleash your creativity and make jewellery that is truly unique to you. You'll learn basic jewellerymaking techniques and turn shrinkable paper and illustrations into earrings.

FINDING YOUR VOICE WITH ALICE PUNG YOUTH WRITING LAB

Thursday 23 February, 4.15-5.30pm **Preston Library**

Young adults often think their lives are boring and uneventful, so choose to replicate the style of older writers/television/popular fiction. Find your true voice by looking at your own experiences, families and feelings.

To find out more about our events and to book visit

libraries.darebin.vic.gov.au/events



BUNDOORA HOMESTEAD ARTS CENTRE

Open Wednesday - Saturday, 11am-4pm Showing until Saturday 4 March Five new exhibitions now showing at Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre.

MICHAELA BEAR: A FRAGILE BEAUTY

Examining sensation and emotion through the body.

KATY B PLUMMER: THE WITCH LAYS HER EGGS IN TERRIBLE CLUMPS

Digs into patterns of whiteness and witchery.

JACK LEE: TRANSITION BETWEEN STATES | 切换于境界间

A new multi-disciplinary exhibition exploring intersections of race, religion, gender and sexuality.

LINA BUCK: THE SUN'S KISS BEGINS TO STING

Connecting sense of community with climate change and rapid development.

ELYSS MCCLEARY: OUTLINE IMAGER

A site-specific response to the architecture of Bundoora Homestead Art Centre.

Image: Elyss McCleary, *Radius of dapple Mirror Taxi*, *Mantle pond* (detail), 2022, Oil on linen. 122cm x 107.5cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

Find out more about each exhibition and plan your visit at

arts.darebin.vic.gov.au/BHAC-exhibitions

Please note, information published in DCN is correct at time of printing.



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CITY OF **DAREBIN**

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NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment. contact us through the National Relay Service.



SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE

T 8470 8470

Italiano العربية

Soomalii 繁體中文 Македонски Español Ελληνικά नेपाली

हिंदी ਪੰਜਾਬੀ اردو Tiếng Việt