



Darebin's many cafés, restaurants, bars and shops have reopened – support, shop, taste, Love Local

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DAREBIN COMMUNITY NEWS

AUTUMN 2021

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to support local
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DAREBIN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES ARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

Do you want to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable community? If so, you might like to consider joining one of Darebin's many Community Advisory Committees.

Community Advisory Committees provide advice to Council on various issues and barriers to equality that are affecting different community members or groups. The committees also help foster community participation by providing direct input into policy, program and service development in the City of Darebin.

Darebin City Council is currently seeking expressions of interest from community members who would like to join one of the following Darebin Community Advisory Committees.

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC)
- Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Committee (DAHAAC)
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC)
- Darebin Interfaith Council Committee (DICC)
- Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (DSSGDAC)
- Darebin Welcoming Cities Reference Group (DWCRG)
- Darebin Women's Advisory Committee (DWAC)

Anyone who lives, works, studies or has strong links in Darebin is encouraged to apply. Applications close 1 April 2021.

Visit darebin.vic.gov.au/diversity for further information on how to apply or call 8470 8888.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's been fantastic to see our neighbourhoods returning to life in these first few months of 2021.

It's important we continue to support our local economy and in doing so add sound and colour back into our streets.

Our bi-annual arts festival, FUSE Autumn, is full of sound and colour and will support our artists and creatives by bringing a dynamic program of 20 COVID-safe events to be enjoyed by a live audience.

Running from 11 - 28 March, FUSE is a celebration of our creative community, and I hope you can all take time to engage with the incredible work on offer.

The creation of a circular economy is a personal passion, and as Council's representative on the Metropolitan Local Government Waste Forum, I have been elected as chairperson for a third year.

Later in this newsletter you will read about KP Hardiman Reserve, an incredible initiative using a range of recycled material in the redevelopment of a hockey field.

I can't tell you how exciting it is for me to see what can be achieved when we place the circular economy at the centre of demolition and construction work, and I hope you are as inspired as I am when you read about it.

**Cr Lina Messina
Mayor**



LATEST EDITION OF N-SCRIBE MAGAZINE NOW AVAILABLE

Local book worms and bibliophiles are now able to pick up the latest copy of n-SCRIBE, Darebin's annual literary magazine.

n-SCRIBE 2020 was officially launched last month at an event outside the Northcote Town Hall.

The magazine connects those who love to write by offering the chance to have their work published and read by the wider community.

The latest edition was edited by Bridget Caldwell-Bright, a Jingili and Mudwarra writer, and contains works from 39 local writers.

n-SCRIBE publishes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short story, journalism, creative non-fiction, memoir and images that reflect the wider community in Darebin. n-SCRIBE aims to uncover, celebrate and stimulate writing, arts and reading culture in Darebin.

Pieces are selected by a working group of writers and editors through a blind submission process.



The working group received no names or information about the author, and instead evaluated and selected each piece on its own merits.

Stay tuned for announcements for the opening of submissions for the next edition in the coming months.

Copies of n-SCRIBE 2020 are now available from Darebin libraries, Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, local cafes, bookshops and community hubs.

A digital version can also be downloaded from darebinarts.com.au/current-programs/n-scribe/ where you can also read past editions.



LOVE LOCAL TO SUPPORT LOCAL

After a challenging 12 months for local businesses, Darebin City Council is encouraging residents to support their neighbourhood shops, cafes and restaurants.

Darebin Mayor Councillor Lina Messina said shopping local was not only about generating local jobs, but also about generating the “vibe and vibrancy” of where we live.

“By shopping local you’re supporting local jobs and you’re supporting the community,” Cr Messina said.

“When we support small businesses, they in turn support recreational groups, community groups, sporting clubs and more, and that creates a networking system and a circular microeconomy.

“But more than that, it creates the heartbeat and the soul of our community, making it somewhere we all want to live, work and play.”

Kiri Gorter, who owns Use-Ta, a preloved children’s clothing store in Thornbury, said it was heartening to receive the continued support of local shoppers.

“During the first lockdown we had to pivot our business from a bricks and mortar store to 100 per cent online. The amount of support we received while we upgraded our website, and the amount of people that contacted us, even just to say hi, really gave us the encouragement to keep going,” Ms Gorter said.

Darebin City Council is encouraging those who live, work and play in Darebin to join in the Love Local campaign by supporting local businesses by shopping and eating out in their local neighbourhoods.

BUDDYING UP IN THE BACK GARDEN



An intergenerational friendship is blossoming in Alphington over a mutual love of gardening and some seriously spicy chillies.

Laxmi and Temby are both participants in the Buds program, Darebin City Council's intergenerational gardening trial.

The Buds program supports older residents maintain an active involvement in their garden by partnering them with a local young person who is able to help do some of the things they may not find as easy anymore.

"I struggle to bend and kneel and get up without some help, so having Temby help me in the garden has been fantastic. It had been bothering me that my garden was untidy. I also really enjoy her company, Temby's very easy to work with," Laxmi said.

"We've started a veggie patch which is something I haven't done for a long time, and we're growing a lot of chillies, even some ghost peppers, which are one of the hottest chillies in the world on the Scoville scale."

Buds isn't a traditional gardening program as the young helpers aren't professional gardeners, however this gives the helpers an opportunity to learn new skills from their new friends. The program also offers employment, training, and experience for local young people who are in need of work.

Temby, who lives around the corner from Laxmi in Alphington, has been assisting a number of senior Darebin residents in their gardens via the Buds program.

"Everyone has such different styles of gardening that I really feel like I'm learning a lot. Laxmi is into ornamentals and flowers, some people are only into veggies, or some are only into natives," Temby said.

"I'm finding out a lot about different plants and styles that I wouldn't have before. I didn't know anything about orchids - but now I have some!"

Buds is available to Darebin residents over 65 years old, or those over 50 years old with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.

The Buds gardening program is currently at capacity, however if you'd like more information or would like to join the waiting list, please call 9070 4746 or visit lively.org.au/buds

FUSE FESTIVAL STACKED WITH VIBRANT EVENTS



Darebin's biannual arts festival FUSE is now on, featuring 20 artistic events, performances and exhibitions that will embrace, reflect and entertain the Darebin community.

Running until Sunday 28 March, FUSE is an artist-led, multi-arts festival that celebrates Darebin's vibrant cultural diversity and promotes First Nations artists.

The Autumn program showcases a wide range of intercultural and interdisciplinary works, from small intimate affairs, to large-scale performances, with most of the artists and performers hailing from Darebin.

There's so much to see and do. Hear Mick Thomas (Weddings, Parties, Anything) and Jessica Lloyd (Mission Songs Project) in conversation with ABC Radio's Jacinta Parsons, as they explain *The Art of Story Telling in Song*;

or enjoy a beer at the Wesley Anne while Aboriginal artist and raconteur Joel Bray pulls back the curtain on how and why we appreciate contemporary art.

The FUSE events aren't just confined to indoors either, with audiences able to catch experimental theatre company Pony Cam and a group of young local artists transforming an urban car park into a large-scale performance space for *Paradise Lots*, while 10 public artworks have been commissioned around Darebin as part of *Stimulus Package*. Jump online to grab a map of where all the artworks are located and download the Children's Art Activity Guide.

The Darebin Community Awards ceremony will also take place as part of the festival on Thursday 18 March, acknowledging the people and groups that have made an outstanding contribution to the Darebin community, including the presentation of the 2020 Darebin Citizen of the Year award.

Darebin Mayor Lina Messina said she was delighted that a range of exciting, COVID-safe events and live performances would be enjoyed by audiences in person.

"The FUSE program brings together a fabulous array of events, from theatre, the visual arts, music and more," Cr Messina said.

"FUSE continues to support our local artists and our local community. This festival truly is a celebration of our creative community."

The FUSE program features a range of free and low-cost events. To view the full program and book your tickets, please visit fusedarebin.com.au



STORY OF SUBURBAN WINEMAKERS TOLD IN FUSE EXHIBITION

Growing food and making wine in backyards has been a long and storied tradition for many Darebin households.

Now the story behind the process has been presented by photographer Laki Sideris, a lifelong Darebin resident, for *Suburban Vintage*, a free photographic exhibition as part of this month's FUSE Festival.

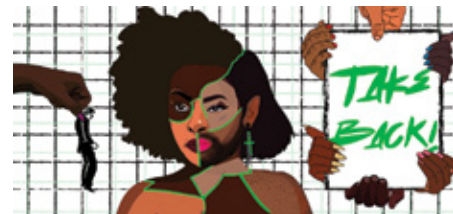
"The exhibition follows half a dozen local characters and families who have been making wine in their back shed for years," Laki said.

"Part portraiture, part documentary, these works are a series of video vignettes and photographs of the maker and their practise."

Laki, who also makes his own wine at home, said he hoped *Suburban Vintage* would "reveal what's hidden behind doorstep".

"If you tell someone that there's a winery in that little shed, they'd be really surprised. So with this project I wanted to let people peek over the fence to witness the care, love and joy their neighbours are putting into the craft."

Suburban Vintage will be open to the public from March 20-27 at Darebin Arts Centre. For more information on this and other events, visit fusedarebin.com.au



FIRED UP AND SET TO TAKEBACK CENTRE STAGE

Combining live performance and digital art, *TAKEBACK!* is a group of women, femmes and gender diverse artists of colour reclaiming space, voice, visibility, and truth telling with fire, wit and imagination.

The revolutionary project presented by Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV) and Darebin FUSE brings together visual artists, writers, theatre-makers, cabaret stars, poets, lyricists, videographers and filmmakers.

Director and Producer Candy Bowers said when she graduated from NIDA in 2001, she didn't feel represented by anyone on Australian stages and screens at the time.

"Coming out of a traditional school like NIDA, where I didn't learn anything radical or political or study black or female playwrights, it was out of complete isolation and zero visibility that I started thinking, I don't look like anyone in the plays we're going to see," Ms Bowers said.

Ms Bowers said she ensured the *TAKEBACK!* tech team was almost all women, with as many people of colour and gender diverse people as possible.

"Rehearsals are electric and emotional because performers have waited so long for a project like this, it's unprecedented."

Catch TAKEBACK! on 27 March at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre. Visit fusedarebin.com.au to book.

HOCKEY PITCH HITS RECYCLED GOALS



Darebin City Council's push for a circular economy was rewarded last month, with the announcement of a Sustainable Infrastructure Fund Grant for the refurbishment of KP Hardiman Reserve in Kinsgbury.

Council's decision to make using recycled materials in the demolition and construction of KP Hardiman Reserve a priority was recognised by the Victorian Government, with Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio announcing a further \$299,580 grant for the project on 11 February.

The upgraded hockey field will use 98 per cent reclaimed tyres for shock pads, recycled glass and aggregate in the concrete pathways around the field, recycled paper mulch for surrounding grass areas, recycled plastic seating for spectators, and recycled plastic in the AstroTurf playing field.

As part of the demolition process, the existing metal fencing at KP Hardiman Reserve will be recycled, the synthetic grass will be reused at local schools and golf courses, plastic pads will be reused in asphalt, while the crusher dust and concrete will also be recycled and reused.

Darebin Mayor Lina Messina said the \$3.18 million project would become a case study for what could be achieved when the circular economy was prioritised in demolition and construction work.

"We hope this project will become an inspiration for individuals, businesses and organisations across Victoria to take up the use of recycled materials and these exciting new technologies," Cr Messina said.

"Recycled materials are no longer a novelty. Their use will and must become a priority for how we design and build for our future."

Home to the La Trobe University Hockey Club, the field at KP Hardiman Reserve will see hundreds of junior, senior and masters players compete in Hockey Victoria competitions.

The field will be complete in June 2021.

Darebin City Council has also started taking steps to making our footpaths more sustainable by using recycled materials in the concrete.

The footpath renewal project is beginning in Reservoir, Bundoora, Thornbury and Northcote, and will use Polyrok concrete, which replaces 10 per cent of coarse aggregates with recycled plastic. Council estimates this will save more than 105,000kg of soft plastics from landfill.

To find out how you can contribute to improving sustainability, visit darebin.vic.gov.au/sustainabledarebin



DAREBIN LAUNCHES ONLINE MAP TO HELP LOCALS LIVE SUSTAINABLY

A new online tool has recently been launched to help local residents connect with each other by living and shopping sustainably.

The new Sustainable Darebin Map is an interactive online map that will help support interested community members discover where they can connect, grow, shop, travel and reduce waste sustainably in Darebin.

Featured places on the Sustainable Map include:

- local shops, cafes, and restaurants who are going single-use plastic free and greening their business
- places you can visit to borrow, share, donate, buy second-hand and take items for repair and recycling
- Darebin's best shimmy bike routes and bike repair stations
- creeks, wetlands, grasslands, reserves and wildlife sanctuaries
- local sustainability and climate action groups
- community gardens and organic grocers

To check out the Sustainable Darebin Map, please visit darebin.vic.gov.au/sustainabledarebin

CHANGING PLACES BATHROOM NOW OPEN AT EDWARDES LAKE PARK

With its eye-catching design and bright yellow walls, Darebin's newest public toilet is hard to ignore.

Located in Edwardes Lake Park, near the Griffiths St playground, the public toilet also contains a Changing Places facility.

Changing Places facilities are larger than standard accessible toilets, and have extra features including an adult-sized changing table, ceiling hoist system, a shower, and enough space for two people either side of a peninsula toilet, all in a safe and clean environment.

While the standard male and female toilets at the new Edwardes Lake Park public bathroom can be accessed by everyone, the Changing Places facility can only be accessed by those who qualify for a Master Locksmith Access Key (MLAK).

This prevents vandalism to the equipment and means the facility will be available to those who need it, when they need it.

Darebin's first Changing Places facility was opened in 2019 outside the Preston Library on Kelvin Grove.

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Vince Pirrottina believes the benefits of the Changing Places facilities are enormous for the residents who use them.

"Having access to good changing facilities will open up opportunities to many families and individuals who usually can't venture far from home due to a lack of suitable toilets in public places," Vince said.

For more information, please visit darebin.vic.gov.au/disabilityaccess

WORKING FOR VICTORIA PUTS DAREBIN LOCALS AT THE HEART OF THE RECOVERY

Darebin City Council has welcomed 114 new staff members to the fold since the beginning of the pandemic through the State Government's Working for Victoria initiative.

The Working for Victoria program helps Victorian jobseekers find work and employers find workers. This includes people who have lost their jobs and businesses who need workers due to the impacts of coronavirus.

The 114 short term roles are based in areas right across Council ranging from Information Services to City Works to Community Services, with the Working for Victoria employees being deployed to the areas that need additional support to provide critical services to the Darebin community.

Here's just a couple of the friendly new Working for Victoria faces who have recently joined our Economic Recovery team:

To find out more information on how you and your business can access assistance from the Economic Recovery team, please email business@darebin.vic.gov.au



Niamh Donohoe
Economic Development Officer

Niamh's key role at Council is to work with businesses in Darebin's activity centres.

She is looking forward to using her digital production skills to help the business community bounce back better than ever.

A proud South Preston resident, Niamh is passionate about the local bars and restaurants, listing Carwyn Cellars, Shop Ramen and Takeaway Pizza as some of her favourites.

Niamh said she loves how diverse Darebin is as a community, and how Council values creatives.



Farah Nur
Marketing and Promotions Officer

Farah is passionate about marketing in all its forms and the power that a strong digital presence can have on a small business's ability to reach new customers.

Farah will be spending his time at Council building intelligence around current local business needs. A Darebin regular, you'll often find Faarah's family congregating at C-Culture on High Street in Preston devouring bowls brimming with fried rice noodles and prawns.

Farah said he is excited about getting stuck into meaningful work for that will help the Darebin business community.



Nadira Shamid
Business Advisor

Nadira's been an accountant for 15 years and has a background in retail, education and consulting.

In her role as Business Advisor, Nadira said she was looking forward to helping small and medium sized businesses through this recovery period.

A proud Darebin resident, Nadira enjoys picnics in Darebin Parklands and trying to bake the perfect chocolate cake.

WHAT'S ON



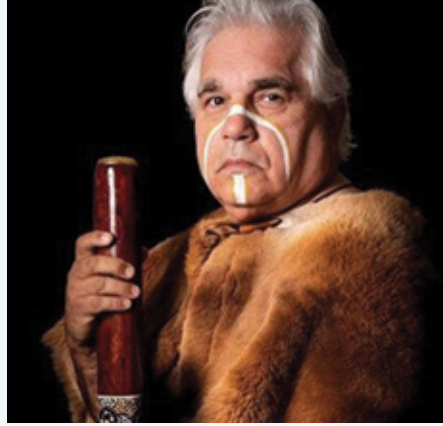
NICK JAMES ARCHER – RESTLESS 7 APRIL – 26 JUNE

Restless explores how lithium carbonate acts as an agent for both body and place to feel at rest.

Yet these places also play host to periods of immense unrest. A pillow can be a place of calm, yet also a place of isolation, torment and sleepless nights. A chair can be a place that slows the body down to assist contemplation, or a place of incoherent thought.

Reflecting on the history of psychiatrist Dr John Cade's work at Bundoora Homestead, Nick James Archer's Restless is an exhibition not to be missed.

For more information, please visit bundoorahomestead.com/whatson/exhibition/



GUNDOO DREAMING 23 MARCH

Pre-school aged children are invited to join Gene Blow, an Indigenous cultural worker, for Gundoo Dreaming, a fun and interactive Zoom session about Aboriginal culture, music and heritage.

Gene will play the didgeridoo, tell different Dreaming stories, and teach children dances mimicking Australia's native animals.

The free event is being hosted by the Darebin Intercultural Centre, and will be held online on Tuesday 23 March from 10:00am to 10:30am.

Bookings essential through Eventbrite: <https://ic-gundoo-dreamtime-kids-class.eventbrite.com.au>



LAINIE CHAIT – AUTHOR TALK 26 MARCH

Author Lainie Chat will discuss her autobiography *Electro Girl* and her experiences with epilepsy on Friday 26 March.

The event is hosted by Darebin Libraries.

Lainie was diagnosed with epilepsy in 1991 at the age of 19. At the time of diagnosis, there were three roads to go down - avoidance, acceptance or rebellion. Avoidance was her first choice, until her condition could no longer be ignored.

Lainie's mission is to educate about basic brain functions and the impact everyday choices can have, to reduce stigma around epilepsy and seizures, and to enable people to know what to do when they encounter someone experiencing a seizure.

Register for the free event by heading to darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au

WHAT'S NEWS



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In January this year Darebin City Council launched the first Your Darebin monthly newsletter.

Your Darebin allows us to deliver local news, with a strong community focus, direct to your inbox on a more regular basis.

The newsletter contains the same feature-style news content as you receive in the printed Darebin Community News, with photos and interviews of local community members about the projects they're involved in.

To get Your Darebin delivered direct to your inbox, subscribe by visiting darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe



CORONAVIRUS VACCINATIONS

The Federal Government's COVID-19 vaccine program rollout has begun in earnest and will continue over the coming months.

COVID-19 vaccines will be free for all Australian citizens, permanent residents and temporary visa-holders.

Initially, doses will be made available for priority groups in hospital hubs in urban and rural locations around Australia.

Priority groups include aged and disability care residents, aged and disability care workers, frontline healthcare workers, and quarantine and border workers.

Visit health.gov.au to stay up to date with the latest news and developments regarding the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

We have been busy designing and planning for Darebin's future. Following our recent consultation and engagement process, *Design Your Darebin 2041*, we are now well underway to creating our 20-year Community Vision. We have also started work to develop our four-year Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan), 10-year Financial Plan and the 2021-22 Annual Budget.

We'd like to thank those that told us about their aspirations for the future through our nine pop-up booths held across the municipality, via our online survey, and those who participated in our telephone survey. A 40-member deliberative panel of community members is now working hard behind the scenes to decide the outcomes of this important work.

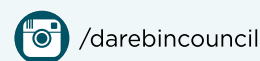
Stay tuned for more opportunities to have your say on Darebin's future during the next stage of consultation.

COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE HELD ACROSS DAREBIN

Darebin City Council will hold its regular meetings at different locations around the municipality this year to make it easier for community members to attend.

Council meetings are usually held monthly at the Preston precinct, however on 22 March the Darebin Council Meeting will take place in Reservoir at PRACE, located at 35 Sturdee St. On 24 May, Darebin Councillors will hold their monthly meeting at the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre.

To view the 2021 Council Meeting schedule, and to view agendas for upcoming meetings, or minutes of past meetings, please visit darebin.vic.gov.au/meetings



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