

Revitalising Reservoir

Prosperous Preston

Strengthening our
southern suburbs

**Advocating for
our community**

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DAREBIN COMMUNITY UNITES TO PROTECT PRESTON MARKET

More than 200 people gathered at Preston Oval on 1 October for a peaceful picnic to celebrate Preston Market and call for it to be protected from demolition.

“What an amazing example of our community coming together to fight for what’s right,” Darebin Mayor Lina Messina told the crowd.

“Preston Market is more than just a market. Its multicultural and social value is an integral part of Darebin. The market is the heart of our community and we want to see it safeguarded for generations to come.”

Families enjoyed musical entertainment, kids’ activities and rousing speeches from Darebin residents and community leaders.

“We don’t need to knock down the market for new houses. There’s enough room for both,” local 8-year-old, Harriet said.

We agree, that’s why we’ve created an alternative proposed plan that would protect the aspects of Preston Market our community loves, while allowing for new development in the precinct.

The Standing Advisory Committee Hearings are happening now and will run until 9 November. We’ve submitted our plan and asked the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) and Planning Minister to endorse it instead of the VPA’s plan.

You can read more about our plan here: yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/prestonmarket.

As the planning process comes to an end and the fate of the market hangs in the balance it’s more important than ever to join the fight to #protectprestonmarket:

1. Email the Planning Minister to express your concerns with the VPA’s plans and your support for our alternate plans: lizzie.blandthorn@parliament.vic.gov.au
2. Sign our petition: <https://www.change.org/p/minister-for-planning-protect-preston-market>

Protecting Preston Market: The Facts

1. Preston Market is owned by Preston Market Developments Pty Ltd. The market has always been privately owned.
2. In 2017 the State Government took over the planning for the market precinct and assigned the role of establishing planning controls to the VPA.
3. Darebin Council does not have power to change the planning controls for development of the precinct, this responsibility sits with the VPA.
4. In April, the VPA released revised proposed planning controls for the site that would still see up to 80% of the market demolished.
5. We are advocating for what our community wants – the market protected in its current site and form.

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

FUSE, our multi-arts festival was a fantastic success this year. The diverse and vibrant program celebrated First Nations culture, immersed people in interactive adventures and invited Darebin creatives to activate our city in unexpected ways. FUSE Spring 2022 culminated in the FUSE Block Party – what an amazing expression of Darebin’s unique creative identity.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Protect Preston Market Community Picnic on 1 October. It was so heartening to see the community joining together to fight to protect our beloved market. The fight continues with the Standing Advisory Committee hearings in progress now. These will guide the State Planning Minister’s final decision on the market. We have submitted our proposed plan to better balance development with the market’s heritage and asked the Victorian Planning Authority and Planning Minister to endorse it.

I encourage everyone to read our story on page 5 about the advocacy work we’re doing at Council. Our 2022 Advocacy Platform sets out Council’s priorities for a revitalised Reservoir, prosperous Preston and strengthened southern suburbs.

We also have a wonderful story on the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) on page 7. DAAC plays such a vital role in advising Council, and it is through its support and guidance that we are able to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities on a wide range of projects.

I’m really excited about Darebin’s future. I hope you are too.

Cr Lina Messina
Mayor



WRITEABILITY GOES LOCAL IN DAREBIN

Writers Victoria is working with Darebin City Council to run ‘Writeability Goes Local’ at the Preston Library. Writeability is a creative writing program for writers and aspiring writers with disability. Developed by people with disability, the Writeability ‘Our Own Voices’ forum is completely free and will continue for the next six months.

‘Our Own Voices’ explores how language, writing and telling our own stories helps transform ways of thinking about the self, disability and community.

In introducing the Our Own Voices forum, Jessica Walton (they/them) spoke of the importance of the ‘Own Voices’ movement in literature.

“It’s great for people to write about a disabled person, but we need to highlight that we need authors to also be disabled people,” they said.

“The author has a deeper understanding of the difficulties, joy and pride, because the author has actually lived it.”

By bridging the gap between mainstream arts and disability communities, Writeability will use writing to break down barriers to social inclusion and give people with disability the skills and opportunity to tell their stories their way.

To find out more and register, visit [Darebin.vic.gov.au/events-calendar](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/events-calendar)

Stay up-to-date with ‘Your Darebin’

To stay up-to-date with the latest local news, subscribe to our monthly online newsletter ‘Your Darebin’.

Visit darebin.vic.gov.au/council-newsletters and follow the links to have *Your Darebin* delivered to your inbox each month.



SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE
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NEW KINDERGARTEN FOR RESERVOIR EAST

Children in the Reservoir area will have a brand-new kindergarten in 2023 to help them get ready for school, and to make it even easier, it will be located at Reservoir East Primary School.

Being built by the Victorian Government with the support of Darebin Council, the new centre will feature three kindergarten rooms, two consulting rooms, and outdoor play spaces, which will provide Reservoir's three-and-four-year-olds with up to 15 hours a week of play-based learning.

Reservoir East Primary School Principal James Cumming says it will give children great links from kindergarten to prep.

“Children in Reservoir deserve the best quality early education and care,” Mr Cumming says.

“Having the kindergarten co-located at Reservoir East will provide families stronger opportunities and transitions between kindergarten and school, and help develop a familiar environment, strong partnerships and continued learning and teaching opportunities for children.”

Find out more about this and all of Darebin's kindergartens at darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

روضة أطفال جديدة لـ RESERVOIR EAST

سيكون لدى الأطفال في منطقة ريزفوار روضة أطفال جديدة مع حلول عام 2023 لمساعدتهم على الاستعداد للمدرسة، ولتسهيل الأمر أكثر، سوف تكون موجودة في موقع مدرسة Reservoir East الابتدائية.

يجري بناء روضة الأطفال من قبل حكومة فيكتوريا بدعم من مجلس داربين، وسيضم المركز الجديد ثلاث غرف لروضة الأطفال، وغرفتين استشاريتين، ومساحات للعب في الهواء الطلق، والتي ستوفر لأطفال ريزفوار الذين تتراوح أعمارهم بين ثلاث وأربع سنوات ما يصل إلى 15 ساعات في الأسبوع من التعلم القائم على اللعب.

يقول مدير مدرسة Reservoir East الابتدائية جيمس كومينغ إنها ستوفر للأطفال روابط رائعة من روضة الأطفال إلى الإعدادية.

يقول كومينغ: “يستحق الأطفال في منطقة ريزفوار أفضل تعليم مبكر ورعاية جيدة.”

“إن وجود روضة الأطفال في موقع مشترك في Reservoir East سيوفر للعائلات فرصاً أقوى وانتقالات بين روضة الأطفال والمدرسة، ويساعد على تطوير بيئة مألوفة وشرائح قوية وفرص تعليمية مستمرة للأطفال.”

اكتشف المزيد حول هذا الموضوع وجميعروضات داربين على الموقع darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

ADVOCATING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

At Darebin, we've always proudly advocated for issues that matter most to our community. These are our current top advocacy priorities.



Revitalising Reservoir

- Seeking investment for the Reservoir Leisure Centre redevelopment.
- Expand the work of the Reservoir Revitalisation Board; creating local jobs, skills and training opportunities.
- Improve safety at Boldrewood Parade and Broadway intersection.
- New electric bus route along proposed Suburban Rail Link corridor.
- New bus route and bus lane connecting La Trobe Uni to Burnley Station.
- Upgrade route 86 tram stops for accessibility.
- Fund feasibility study to extend Route 11 tram to Edwardes St and establish interim electric bus service for this route.
- Construction of Edwardes Lake playspace.
- Funding for Donath East, John Hall and KP Hardiman Pavilions.
- GE Robinson Park trees and fitness equipment.
- Tracey Reserve seats and trees.
- Rewilding Cheddar Road and building Ruthven Wetland.
- CH Sullivan Park playspace upgrade and trees.

Prosperous Preston

- Protect Preston Market.
- Support to finish delivering the new Intercultural Centre, and explore feasibility of a Preston Global Learning Hub.
- Renew Kendall Harding Bridge.
- Upgrade route 86 tram stops for accessibility.
- Improve St Georges Rd cycling corridor.
- Address safety at Miller St/ High St/ Plenty Rd/ Dundas St.
- Improve safety of tram roundabout at Miller St and Gilbert Rd.
- Improve pedestrian and cyclist safety at Elizabeth, Bell and Nicholson St intersection.
- Redevelop Preston City Oval pavilion and lighting.
- Upgrade TW Blake, HP Zwar and AG Davis Parks and WK Larkins Reserve.

Strengthening our southern suburbs

- Fairfield safety improvements, including new pedestrian crossing on Station St at Wingrove St.
- New pedestrian crossing at Elizabeth and Rayment St.
- Preston-CBD Safe Cycling Corridor.
- Build Alphington Rail Spur shared use path.
- Permanent bike lanes for Heidelberg Rd.
- New bus route and bus lane connecting La Trobe Uni to Burnley Station.
- Support for works allowing sharing of Northcote Public Golf Course between golf and park users.
- Seeking investment for Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre redevelopment.
- Seeking investment for redevelopment of Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion.

To read this article in another language, go to darebin.vic.gov.au/AdvocatingForAllOfOurCommunity and select your language from the drop down menu at the top of the page.



NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE SET TO MAKE A SPLASH IN 2023

Excitement is building for the opening of the redeveloped Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, especially for Northcote Swim Club President Fiona Preston, whose club has been at the Victoria Road site since its opening in the 1950s.

Fiona says the club will be more than proud to return and make the most of the redeveloped facility, and looks forward to being able to support and develop the ambitions of a vast range of swimmers.

“Through the design of the centre with accessibility as a key priority, we hope to attract swimmers of varying abilities, for whom pool access will be much improved,” Fiona says.

“As a multi-sport and recreation centre, the range and diversity of users, as individuals and groups, that it will cater to cannot be underestimated. It will be a meeting place, a place for connection and sharing ambitions and interests and a community hub that has been missed greatly.”

The renewal of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is part of the Darebin Council Plan 2017–2021, supporting our goal to expand opportunities for participation and social connection through sport, physical activity and other leisure activities.

Targeting a 6-Star Green Star rating, Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is expected to be completed mid-to-late 2023.

To find out more, visit darebin.vic.gov.au/advocacy-and-projects

RESIDENT PARKING PERMIT POLICY – HAVE YOUR SAY

We know parking is important.

People with cars want to be able to park near their home, as well as visitors, carers, service providers and tradespeople.

There are often not enough on-street spaces for everyone who'd like them. This is when we need to manage parking so that spaces are available for those who need them most.

Our Resident Parking Permit Policy outlines who can get permits. It aims to ensure fair distribution of parking permits throughout Darebin, particularly where there is a high need. Since the policy was introduced our diverse community has continued to grow and change, as have our parking needs.

We've developed four options we think could improve the current policy. The options range from small adjustments to big changes. We'd also like to know if there are other parking permit needs our community has, such as the needs of families, of multigenerational and numerous adult households, and other exceptional circumstances where a permit might be needed. You can see the four options at yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/parkingpolicy

What do you think about the options? What other ideas do you have? Tell us how you think the Resident Parking Permit Policy can be improved.

It's important to know this is different to the Darebin Parking Strategy, policy and restrictions that we sought feedback on in 2019. These were rejected after the community told us they did not meet people's needs.

Find out more and have your say until 20 November at yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/parkingpolicy



AN INDIGENOUS VOICE TO COUNCIL

By Charles Pakana

Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee co-Chairs Uncle Alan Brown and Mayor Cr Lina Messina.

In 2017 when the Federal Cabinet rejected the Uluru Statement from the Heart's call for an Indigenous voice to Parliament, it claimed that such a call was neither "desirable or capable of winning acceptance at referendum".

Across the country though, a great many Local Government Authorities had already been relying on an Indigenous voice. Key among those was Darebin City Council, which for nearly 20 years has maintained - and relied upon - a First Nations voice to Council.

In its current form, that voice is the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC).

DAAC is also the only Darebin Council-sponsored community advisory committee to have introduced a community member as co-Chair. Filling that role for the past several years is Gunditjmara (south-west Victoria) man, Uncle Alan Brown, a proud resident of Preston since 1970.

"We have an incredibly culturally rich and diverse First Nations community in Darebin," Uncle Alan says.

"Importantly, that community is just as much committed to total fairness and equity for all community as it is for First Nations."

Traditionally, the other co-Chair position is taken up by the sitting Mayor. Darebin's current Mayor, Councillor Lina Messina, emphasises the strong contributions made by the committee.

"DAAC has a reputation as being one of the most constructive and productive of our community advisory committees," Cr Messina says.

"Over the years, its members have worked closely with Councillors and Council officers to achieve some of the most progressive initiatives this City has seen."

Key among those initiatives are community consultation on the renaming of the Batman electorate to Cooper; the 2019 signing by Council and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation of the 10-point *Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*; an innovative Indigenous Employment Strategy; and Council's nationally recognised - and applauded - decision to cease celebrations on 26 January.

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

For more information on the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee see:
darebin.vic.gov.au/daac

COMMUNITY GRANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Darebin is lucky to have so many people and groups making incredible contributions to our community. One way Council can support projects that make a real difference is through our Community Grants program.

For Yina Han from Melbourne Harmony Rhythm Beijing Opera Group, receiving a Darebin Council Community Grant has meant their group has been able to put on performances to benefit their members. "These communities are the backbone to a healthy and vibrant Darebin, as they are neighbourhood-based and their members are everyday individuals of the Darebin city," Yina says.

"Mental health support and looking after our elderly are the most visible benefits we bring into the community. After COVID, many of the elderly Chinese community members faced loneliness and isolation, and a sense of dread from the pandemic. Through our activities, many members of our group and the community at large find normalcy and relief from our scheduled rehearsals and events."

Yina encourages community participation and says: "If you want to join a community group or start one, don't hesitate, just join and contribute. People need a sense of returning back to normal, and with the constant Council support, we can make Darebin a great place to live."



For more information and to see the current grants open for applications visit darebin.vic.gov.au/darebin-grants

SPOTLIGHTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AT THE NORTHERN BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the local businesses recognised as part of the 2022 Northern Business Achievement Awards!

Every year Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Merri-bek, Nillumbik and Whittlesea councils each award one Young Business Achiever and nominate two businesses to go into the running for the overall awards.

This year's Darebin Young Business Achiever is Hayden Marks of Melbourne Bushfood.

Our two business nominees Fungi Solutions and The Last Hurrah Funerals are now in the running for the final NBAA awards announcement on Thursday 1 December.

Wishing our two business nominees the best of luck for the final awards in December!



NBAA Business of the Year Award nominee: Fungi Solutions

Fungi Solutions is a social enterprise working to provide a clean accessible alternative to unsustainable single-use plastic materials that pollute our ecosystems and contribute considerably to landfill. This innovative Thornbury-based Myco-Cycling company uses fungi to break down organic waste to create ethical, sustainable packaging solutions. fungisolutions.com.au



NBAA Business of the Year Award nominee: The Last Hurrah Funerals

The Last Hurrah Funerals, located in Thornbury, offers the community truly compassionate deathcare, co-creating original funerals for unique people. The business offers a circle of support to the dying and their people, with sustainable and wholistic options, including free cardboard caskets and more. lasthurrahfunerals.com.au



NBAA Darebin Young Business Achiever: Hayden Marks of Melbourne Bushfood

Hayden started Fairfield-based Melbourne Bushfood in 2019 at just 21 years old. At the core of his business is helping to raise awareness and accessibility of native foods in a way that's culturally respectful and sensitive. The native ingredients are sourced exclusively with First Nations growers, wild harvesters and small farmers. He has funded over \$50,000 worth of capacity-building projects in remote regional Australia as well as biodiversity projects closer to home. melbournebushfood.com.au

Find out more about the Northern Business Achievement Awards at darebin.vic.gov.au/NBAA



THAT'S A WRAP ON FUSE SPRING 2022

Across 16 days, 31 events, 20 venues and five suburbs, Darebin's multi-arts festival FUSE Spring 2022 showcased the work of about 60 sensational local artists, artistic groups and community organisations.

Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thanks to all the artists, curators, creatives, staff, crew and project partners who worked tirelessly to spark up another FUSE extravaganza.

Stay tuned to the FUSE website and social media for news of our Autumn 2023 festival, set to light the fuse again in March next year.
www.fusedarebin.com.au



2022 COUNCIL MEETINGS

The following Council Meetings and Planning Committee Meetings are scheduled for the rest of 2022 and all community members are welcome to attend.

There are no Council Meetings or Planning Committee Meetings scheduled for January 2023. We will publish all 2023 scheduled meetings in our DCN Summer 2023 edition.

Find out more at
darebin.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Format	Venue
Ordinary Council	Monday 24 October	6 pm	Attend in-person or online	Preston Civic Centre / Preston Town Hall
Planning Committee	Monday 14 November	6.30 pm	Attend in-person or online	Council Chamber
Ordinary Council	Monday 28 November	6 pm	Attend in-person or online	Preston Civic Centre / Preston Town Hall
Special Council Meeting (Mayor & Deputy Mayor election)	Wednesday 30 November	6 pm	Attend in-person only - No questions taken	Preston Civic Centre / Preston Town Hall
Planning Committee	Monday 5 December	6.30 pm	Attend in-person only	Council Chamber
Ordinary Council	Monday 19 December	6 pm	Attend in-person or online	Preston Civic Centre / Preston Town Hall

DAREBIN'S TOY LIBRARY - REFRESHED, REORGANISED AND ONLINE!

Darebin Toy Library's longest active member Nivedita joined back in 2009 and has loved using the service for her four children.

Using the feedback received during our review last year, we have been working to make the Toy Library the best it can be. We have removed fees, refreshed and reorganised the toys and upgraded our software so you can now join, browse and renew online and book an appointment to visit.



Being a working mum of four means the convenience of online services has made it more accessible for Nivedita to use the service.

"I love the idea of online because you can see and renew your toys and book an appointment," Nivedita says. "Now it's even easier to make a selection and it's a great set-up as the toys are separated according to age and use."

"Before it was age-appropriate but now it's cognitive, reading and more imaginative play so if you go to this section, you can see all the toys relating to that theme."

Nivedita recommends the Toy Library to friends and families. "It's very beneficial to the community for sustainability practices and for people saving money."

To find out more about the Darebin Toy Library, visit our website at darebin.vic.gov.au/toylibrary or call 8470 8104.



HAPPY SOLAR SAVERS

Renee Turner, her husband and their five-year-old son are happy Solar Savers community members.

In July 2019 they installed a solar system at their Preston townhouse through Darebin's Solar Savers Rates Program, and they have been reaping the savings ever since.

"In summer we see a huge difference in our bills," Renee says.

Through the Solar Savers Rates Program, Council covers the upfront costs of installing a solar system up to \$6,000, with eligible participants repaying the amount interest-free along with their quarterly rates payments over 10 years.

Although they have a small and complex roof, they were still able to install a 2.75kW system and enjoy the benefits of solar power. Renee has seen an average drop in their power bills of 30 per cent, or \$71.50 per bill, which more than covers their repayments.

The family had been wanting to go solar for a while but had assumed it wasn't affordable. Being able to benefit upfront and repay as you go through Solar Savers appealed to them. Applying was simple, with Council providing all the information they needed.

"It couldn't have been easier," Renee says. They are now planning to renovate their kitchen and will consider even more electric-efficient options.

The Solar Saver Rates Program is available to eligible Darebin home-owners and renters who meet a range of criteria.

Find out more and register your interest in Solar Savers at darebin.vic.gov.au/solar



SUPPORTING DAREBIN'S YOUNG JOB SEEKERS

Jobs Advocate, Skyla, supports local young job seekers aged 15 - 26 to build employability skills, employment seeker skills and to get into casual, part-time or full-time employment.

Skyla encourages young people to come along to The Hub at Northland on a Wednesday as it's a friendly, welcoming space.

"There are a lot of staff with a lot of experience coming from different backgrounds," she says.

"Here at The Hub we are a bit of a one-stop-shop. There are several of us working with young people to search for jobs that are appropriate, help people with their CVs and cover letters and that sort of practical stuff. We also provide more support if it's needed."

Skyla wants young people to value the things they have done both at school and outside of school and to see how those skills are really relevant to the job market and to being employable, even if they are not paid jobs.

"They are really valuable experiences for them to share and get across to potential employers," she says.

"Young people are respected and valued, and we understand that they do a lot of things that might not be paid work but are really relevant to going out and getting a job."

Entry to The Hub is outside at Northland, next to Target. For more information visit darebin.vic.gov.au/youth-employment-support

WHAT'S ON



MICF'S DEADLY FUNNY RETURNS TO NORTHCOTE TOWN HALL IN NOVEMBER

Cheeky and loud, black and proud! Join us for a laugh as we catch the future generation of stars before they become the next big thing.

For 16 years this deadly competition has crossed the country to unearth the freshest, fiercest, funniest comedians and yarn-spinners from the oldest culture on earth.

The *Deadly Funny* comedy competition is open to First Nations comedians and storytellers, and has seen the likes of Steph Tisdell, Kevin Kropinyeri, Andy Saunders, Shiralee Hood, Dane Simpson and Sean Choolburra join the program as both participants and mentors.

Friday 25 November, 6.30pm
Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre
Approx. running time: 60mins

Tickets: arts.darebin.vic.gov.au



DAREBIN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Darebin Maternal and Child Health offers free sleep and settling sessions for parents and carers of newborn babies to toddlers (1-3 years) throughout the year.

The sessions include:

- Understanding your baby's normal age-appropriate sleep
- The functions of sleep
- Understanding the signs of sleep
- Helping establish appropriate sleep patterns for your baby.

Free breastfeeding support is also available to Darebin residents.

To book, please speak to your Maternal and Child Health Nurse or email mchappointments@darebin.vic.gov.au or call **8470 8298**.

LOCATIONS

Northcote Family Centre
 185-187 High St, Northcote

Keon Park Children's Hub
 1-7 Dole Avenue, Reservoir

Thornbury Early Years Centre
 2A Raleigh St, Preston

Find out more about the other parenting, health and early development supports we offer for families at darebin.vic.gov.au/mch



Maree Clarke, River reed necklace, 2014 (installation views). Photo: courtesy of Glasshouse Gallery Port Macquarie and Rhiannon Hopley.

BUNDOORA HOMESTEAD ART CENTRE

Upcoming exhibitions
Until Saturday 19 November
Free entry

MADE/WORN: AUSTRALIAN CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY

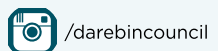
From intimate pieces to large scale works, the contemporary jewellery in *Made/Worn: Australian Contemporary Jewellery* explores the act of making and how jewellery is worn on the body, telling stories that start with the artist and continue through the life of the object worn or experienced, creating new resonances with owners into the future.

PLACE | SHA SARWARI, AVAN ANWAR AND ELYAS ALAVI

As we move through space we create meaning and association which become integral parts of our identity and inner worlds. But what does 'place' mean to migrants and refugees who have been caught in the crossfires of the current geopolitical environment? *Place* is a new exhibition of works by artists Sha Sarwari, Avan Anwar and Elyas Alavi, whose lived experiences inform their diverse art practices.

Find out more about these exhibitions at darebin.vic.gov.au/bundoorahomestead

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



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