



Kingsbury Tennis Club were one of 43 sports clubs to receive a Sports Recovery Grant to help clubs recover and adapt post COVID-19.

SUMMER 2021

# WHAT'S ON



Image: Kaylene Whiskey, Dolly Parton and Tina Turner, 2019. Image courtesy of the artist.

## EXPLORE BUNDOORA HOMESTEAD THIS SUMMER

Reacquaint yourself with Bundoora Homestead Art Centre when it reopens its doors on Wednesday 13 January to present three new exhibitions to explore.

The Multiverse, guest curated by Charlotte Christie, features the work of five artists who each take over a room within the Homestead transforming it into their own version of the universe. In the multiverse all possibilities exist.

Two solo exhibitions also open this January. Shannon Lyon's exhibition Li responds to the unique social and institutional histories of the Bundoora Homestead, formerly the Bundoora Repatriation Mental Hospital.

Jeremy Eaton's Through the Hand to the Mouth explores the gesture of lighting a cigarette as a recurrent and coded motif occurring in gay cinema since 1950.

Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre is Darebin's magnificent Queen Anne style Federation mansion operating as a historic house, art gallery and café, registered by Heritage Victoria and certified by the National Trust.



Image: IMMI (Kaspar Schmidt Mumm), Immi in The Multiverse 2020, digital image. Image courtesy of the artist.

**Entry is free. For opening hours and further details visit [bundoorahomestead.com](http://bundoorahomestead.com) or call 9496 1060.**



### FESTIVE DAREBIN COMMUNITY MIX TAPE

Get into the festive spirit and celebrate Darebin's musical talent with a new compilation created for the festive season.

The free Festive Darebin Community Mix Tape features an eclectic mix of local talent including singer songwriter Quinny, the 13-piece CaribVic Steel Band, local community choirs ARCapella and Northern Voice, and many more.

Stream it now from [fusedarebin.com.au](http://fusedarebin.com.au)



### OUT ON THE FARM

If you're looking for a fun family outing these school holidays, Bundoora Park Farm is great way to spend a few hours in the outdoors.

Come and say hello to Ben the Clydesdale, Peppa the pig and all our wonderful animals. Please note due to COVID-19, some activities are on hold and visits must be booked in advance.

**For more information and to book online visit [bundoorapark.com.au](http://bundoorapark.com.au) or call 8470 8170.**



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I'm honoured and delighted to have been elected Mayor for the coming year by my fellow Councillors to represent the diverse people of Darebin.

As Councillors, we've heard from residents and businesses alike how incredibly challenging 2020 was. Our priority is supporting our community through the pandemic recovery, and your health and wellbeing will be at the top of our minds and forefront of our policies.

We want the next four years to be about communication and collaboration, working collaboratively with every corner of the municipality to deliver a place where you want to live, work and play.

Underpinning our Council Plan will be economic support for our traders, manufacturers, service industries, and artists and creatives. We will continue mitigating the ongoing Climate Emergency, planting thousands of trees, putting solar panels on roofs, and reducing waste and improving our circular economy.

We will invest in vital infrastructure for our growing population, ensuring buildings are designed to work for you, are built with sustainability and future proofing in mind, and enrich our neighbourhoods and streets.

And we will deliver the programs and services required to ease growing inequality, support our First Nations, migrant and refugee population and ensure Darebin's progressiveness, inclusiveness, and diversity continues to be celebrated.

I look forward to your collaboration as we strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community.

Cr Lina Messina  
Mayor

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 19/20

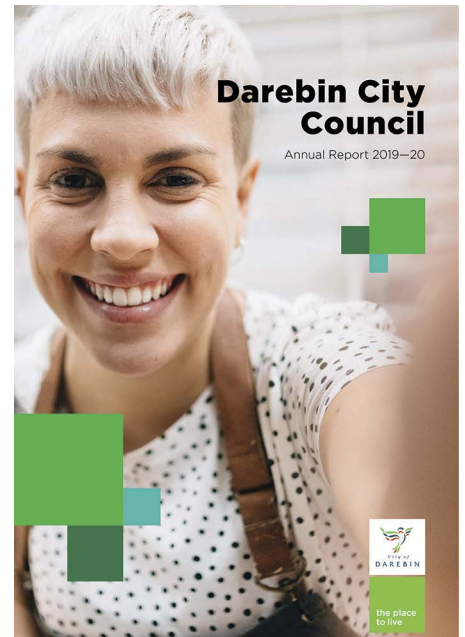
After a truly unique and challenging year, on 19 October 2020, Council endorsed Darebin's Annual Report for 2019-20.

The Annual Report includes information about the municipality, capital works program, financial and governance information, our performance against our Council Plan 2017-21 and a pandemic diary, covering the key decisions and adjustments we made to our services.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, Council continued to offer many of our services, as well as making great inroads into our longer-term projects.

### Highlights of the Annual Report show:

- Council rolled out an \$11.8 million support package to assist our community recover from the effects of the pandemic. This included specific support for residents, businesses, community groups, sporting clubs, the creative arts industry, emergency food relief, and domestic violence services
- Darebin coordinated other metropolitan Councils to assist Towong Shire with its recovery by redeploying specialist staff, vehicles and equipment in response to the devastating bushfires last summer
- After the recycling crisis hit Victoria, Darebin was one of the first of the affected Council's to resume normal service after securing a new contract with VISY
- Established a homelessness assertive outreach support program
- Council achieved its goal of doubling the amount of solar power generated locally from 18MW to 36MW per year, a year ahead of schedule
- Council also endorsed the Darebin Open Space Strategy which will improve local biodiversity and ensure all residents live within walking distance of quality open space
- In late 2019, Council rolled out its food and organic waste service which saved 1600 tonnes of emissions in its first year alone
- Council also began implementing recommendations from the Age Friendly report to improve services and programs for older residents in Darebin



The Darebin Council  
Annual Report 2019-2020  
can be read at  
[darebin.vic.gov.au/annualreport](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/annualreport)

# MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS



Darebin's new Council team for 2020-24 has been sworn in, pledging to serve in the best interests of the community for the next four years.

All Councillors from the previous term who chose to run again were returned by voters during the October elections, with two new Councillors - Emily Dimitriadis and Tom Hannan - elected to the team, giving it a mix of new faces and experience.

At the swearing-in ceremony at Preston City Hall, Councillors paid their respects to the Wurrundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the Darebin lands, while also speaking of the importance of working together to serve the community over the next four years.

At the Special Council meeting on 23 November, Cr Lina Messina was elected Mayor of the City of Darebin by her fellow councillors. This year will be Cr Messina's first term as Mayor, after first being elected to Council in 2016. Cr Gaetano Greco was elected as Deputy Mayor.

Each Councillor undertook an oath or affirmation, pledging to serve the best interests of the community, uphold the Councillor Code of Conduct, and faithfully and impartially carry out their roles as elected representatives.

The new term also brings a new ward structure in Darebin, with a single Councillor representing each ward, instead of three Councillors in each of three wards as before.

This change was legislated in the State Government's Local Government Act 2020.

## The elected Councillors for 2020-24 are:

- |                          |                   |                             |                |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| • <b>Central Ward</b>    | Lina Messina      | • <b>South West Ward</b>    | Trent McCarthy |
| • <b>North West Ward</b> | Gaetano Greco     | • <b>West Ward</b>          | Susanne Newton |
| • <b>South East Ward</b> | Emily Dimitriadis | • <b>South Central Ward</b> | Susan Rennie   |
| • <b>South Ward</b>      | Tom Hannan        | • <b>North Central Ward</b> | Julie Williams |
| • <b>North East Ward</b> | Tim Laurence      |                             |                |



**(MAYOR)**  
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**(DEPUTY MAYOR)**  
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**CR TOM HANNAN**  
 South Ward  
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**CR TIM LAURENCE**  
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**CR TRENT MCCARTHY**  
 South West Ward  
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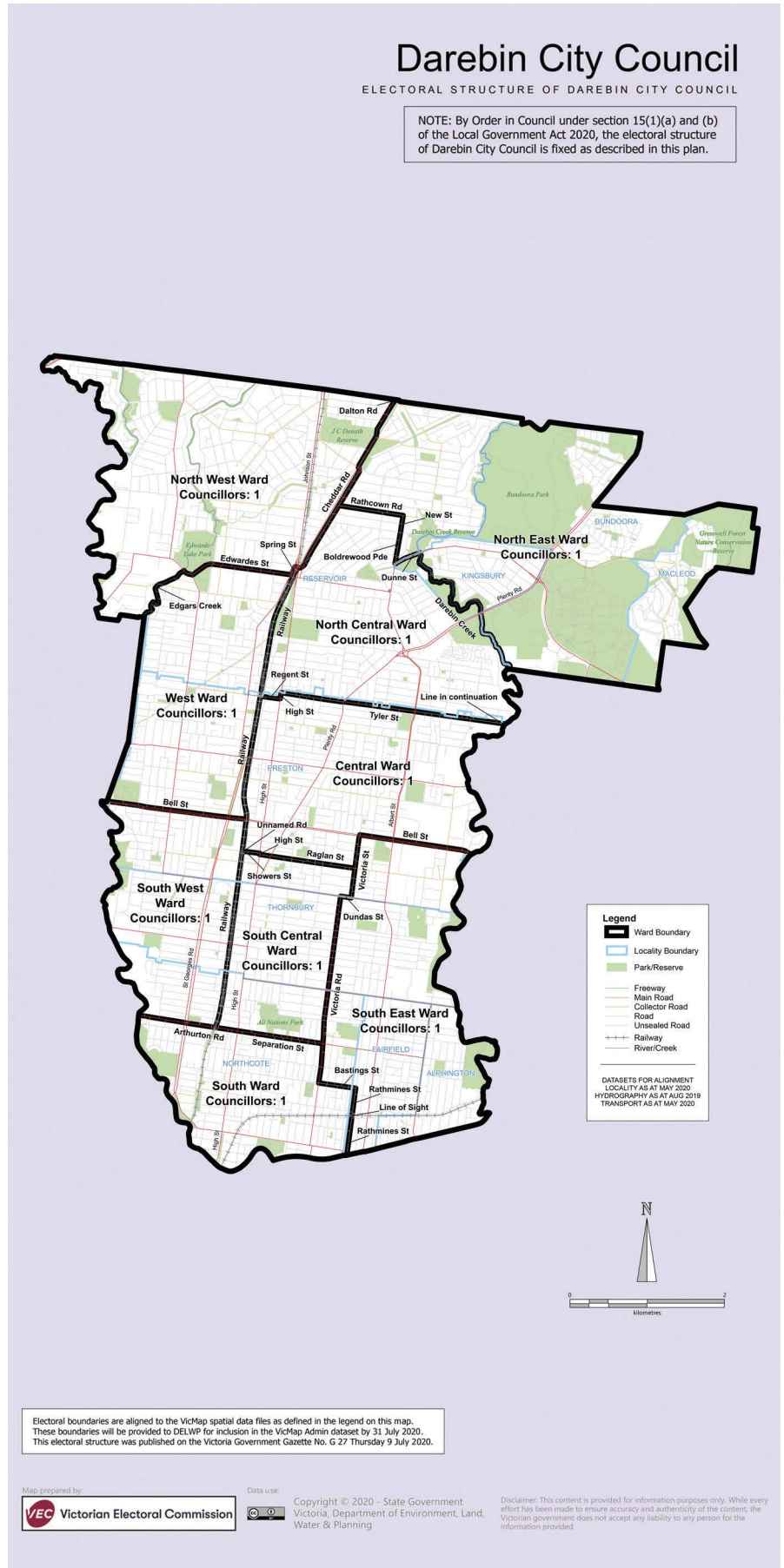
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**CR JULIE WILLIAMS**  
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On this page is a ward map of Darebin, and the contact details of each Councillor. This information can also be found online at [darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)

# SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS TO ADAPT DURING CORONAVIRUS



When Northcote yoga studio owners Jo Stewart and Rane Bowen closed their doors to customers early in 2020 during the lockdown, they felt a loss not only in income but also of community.

“Walking down High Street during the lockdown, with all the shops closed, it felt totally desolate,” Jo said.

The husband and wife team transitioned their business to a digital platform to enable them to continue to deliver some of their classes online.

“Rane is also a web developer so we were fortunate to have the skills to transform our business, but we also felt that we wanted to do more to help other small businesses during this really tough time, to help them keep connected with community,” Jo said.

Jo and Rane partnered with Kelly Stubbs a local designer and few other business-minded people

and began to work on a new initiative, Thrive Northside. It’s a website that shares interesting stories about small businesses in Melbourne’s inner north and provides businesses with tips and guides to help them navigate the small business world.

The Thrive Northside group were just one of more than 300 recipients of Council’s \$1 million Business Recovery Grants program which aimed to support businesses and organisations facing hardship and to enable them to adapt.

“We knew there was so many businesses like ours out there who have great stories to tell and who were really feeling disconnected from customers and the community,” Jo said.

“We have learnt so much along the way during the transition and wanted to share those tips and our skills to support the community we love, so this grant has helped us achieve that.”

With restrictions easing and businesses opening back up, Jo said the mood is lifting for business owners but now is the time to support local.

“We’ve developed a sustainable gift guide to encourage people to support local businesses especially during the festive season.

“It’s been a tough year and we’ve all been under a lot of pressure; we need to be kind to one another and support one another.”

Darebin’s Business Recovery Grants program was one of the Recovery Grants programs offered to local businesses and community organisations this year as part of Darebin’s \$11.8 million Coronavirus Community and Local Business Resilience and Recovery Package.

To view the list of grant recipients, visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/recoverygrants](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/recoverygrants)

**To find out more and connect with Thrive Northside visit [thrivenorthside.com](https://thrivenorthside.com)**

## GETTING SPORT BACK ON TRACK



Children and adults across Darebin are returning to their sports clubs after months in lockdown, aided by the latest round of Sports Recovery Grants.

Council awarded almost \$100,000 to 43 sports clubs as part of their \$1 million grants fund, forming an essential part of the \$11.8 million Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package.

One of the clubs is Kingsbury Tennis Club, who will use the funds to kickstart their free Hot Shots tennis program and an associated program for children with higher needs.

Kingsbury Tennis Club coach Yvonne Fantin said the funds would be crucial in their drive to recruit more junior players to the club.

"I think a lot of people are looking for something to get their kids active again. The more people we can get back out on the tennis courts, the better," she said.

The Sports Recovery Grants were awarded to sports clubs to help get players into sport, support clubs rebound financially and provide resources to ensure a COVIDsafe environment.

Other recipients included Victorian Roller Derby for rent relief and a player hardship fund, the North Metro Cricket League to support women and girls getting into cricket, and Parkside Netball Club to develop and pay female coaches.

## CONNECTING CREATIVELY

Darebin residents young and old will be invited to participate in an interactive animation project from local art studio Playable Streets.

Playable Streets was successful in obtaining a Creative Collaboration in Isolation Grant, as part of Darebin's Recovery Grants program, to begin work on their Collab-O-Mations project. The interactive program will collate more than 1000 individual drawings from 200 different people into an animation about coming out of lockdown.

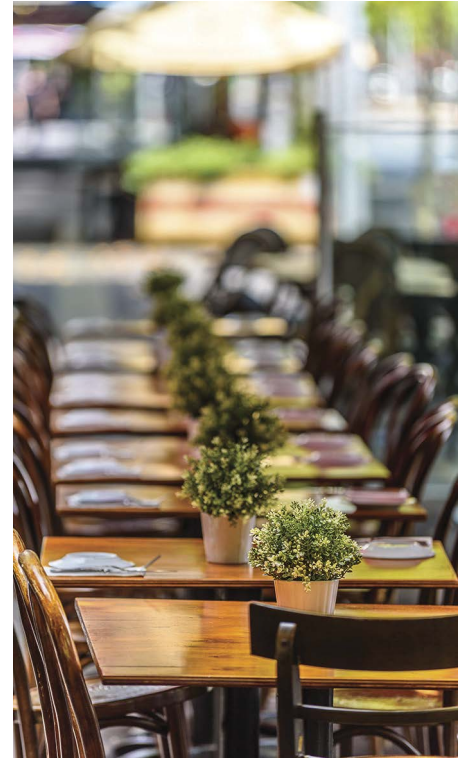
Playable Streets artistic director Glen Walton said the Collab-O-Mations project would showcase the different art styles from people right across Darebin, including primary and secondary school students and aged care residents.

"We'll also be asking anyone else who wants to participate to reach out so that we've got a really broad cross section of the community involved," Glen said.

"The last few months have been really tough, particularly as many of our projects are interactive and hands on, so it's been great to work on something like Collab-O-Mations that still has that element of community building."

In the first stage of Darebin's Recovery Grants program, \$127,000 was awarded to creative and cultural sectors in Darebin, while in the second stage \$30,000 was made available via the Creative Collaboration in Isolation Grants for artistic projects, while another \$50,000 worth was dedicated to the Creative Infrastructure Grants which supported businesses in the creative industry keep afloat during lockdown.

**To get involved with the Collab-O-Mations project, you can register for updates at [collabomations.com](http://collabomations.com)**



## NEW CAT CURFEW

If you have a pet cat at home, you'll soon be required to be confine your furry feline friend to your property overnight as part of the City of Darebin's new dusk-until-dawn cat curfew.

From 1 January 2021, cat owners will be asked to confine their pets overnight from 7pm-7am.

This has dual benefits - not only will it keep cats safe from being injured at night, but it will also protect our local native wildlife.

Studies have shown domestic cats kill more than 61 million birds annually, many of which are native. Darebin is home to 179 species of native flora and fauna, and the cat curfew will help protect many of these.

Keeping cats inside your property from dusk until dawn will also make your cat safer by reducing their ability to wander at night when 80 per cent of accidents involving cats happen. It's also when they're most likely to fight other cats where they could contract feline aids, a disease which is ultimately fatal.

Bridie, a Reservoir resident and fond owner of Boo, a one-year-old tabby, said the curfew would be an adjustment but could see its benefits.

"Boo is a bit cheeky and likes to explore, so when the curfew starts, I'll just need to keep a closer eye on him if he's outside and make sure I bring him in earlier each night," Bridie said.

"We regularly get other cats coming into our backyard at night and just sitting at the back door, so I can see it's definitely a problem, particularly if they start fighting."

Community consultation on the cat curfew was held across July and early August, before it was formally adopted by Council on 17 August.

The curfew begins on 1 January 2021.

**For more information on the cat curfew, please visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/pets](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/pets)**

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE LOCAL OUTDOORS

We're working with local businesses across Darebin to increase opportunities for extended outdoor dining during the summer months.

By extending dining spaces onto footpaths and car spaces outside cafes, bars and restaurants, local hospitality businesses will be able to cater to greater numbers of customers, employ more staff and get back to normal business levels sooner.

It's been a difficult year for the local business community.

Support local when you can this summer to help get Darebin back on its feet post-COVID.





## CELEBRATING LOCAL SONGWRITERS

The first time local singer songwriter Paige Black heard of Preston was in a song by Courtney Barnett. "I didn't know much about Melbourne when I moved here from the Yarra Valley in 2017," said Paige, the 2020 Darebin Songwriters Award winner.

"I found myself in a lovely Preston share house of really amazing people. I love Preston - I love nature so I walk along Merri Creek most days and there's a real community feeling. On weekends my housemates and I often walk to Preston Market to buy our fruit and veg and I buy a fresh croissant from the little French patisserie, and of course, a coffee."

Aside from winning the award, this year has been quiet for Paige. When things got tough she moved home with her parents but with restrictions easing, Paige is looking forward to coming back and performing again. "I can't wait to play with my band as I only got to perform with them once and then COVID happened. It was an incredible gig though at Wesley Anne to launch my debut single."

"I've just released a single, Oceans Apart, which won the Darebin Songwriters Award, so I'd like to find a venue that has a nice outdoor area so I can launch it."

The Songwriters Awards Grand Final was broadcast live on radio station 3KND.

A judging panel including esteemed musicians Emma Donovan, Jess Ribeiro and Charles Jenkins selected Oceans Apart from 12 finalists' songs. A People's Choice Award was awarded to Quinny for his song, Found & Lost.

"It was really nice to hear all the finalists' songs played during the radio broadcast," said Paige.

"When I got the phone call during the broadcast to tell me I'd won, I was almost crying I was so excited. The listeners could hear my parents celebrating in the background - it was pretty funny."

The Darebin Songwriters' Award is an annual competition showcasing the talents of local songwriters. The main prize includes cash, studio time and other prizes.

This year, for the first time, the awards were held as part of Council's FUSE Darebin festival.

**You can hear Paige's music on Spotify, Bandcamp, SoundCloud and iTunes. Paige has big things planned for 2021 so keep an ear out!**



**DAREBIN** 09.10 ▶ 25.10.2020

## FUSE FESTIVAL WRAPPED UP

This year's inaugural FUSE Spring festival was held during COVID lockdowns, featuring both online and outdoor events designed to inspire and shine a light on Darebin artists.

The program included artworks, streamed concerts, art walks, workshops and a host of other events.

While much of the program has closed for 2020, some events are ongoing including walking tours, All Nations Artwork Hunt and History on High, Beats, Ballads and Ballrooms and the Podcast Author Talks.

Visit [FUSEDarebin.com.au](https://www.fusedarebin.com.au) for details and pencil-in the dates of FUSE Spring - 11-28 March 2021.

Follow FUSE Darebin's social pages for further announcements.



## LIBRARIES REOPEN

More people than ever before have been accessing Darebin Libraries' digital collection, taking advantage of reading and listening to the thousands of ebooks and audiobooks during the lockdown period.

In October, library members borrowed 13,679 digital items, with both children and adults enjoying the latest titles. To keep up with the extra demand, Council has invested more money to expand its digital collection.

This is just one of the many ways the Darebin Libraries team has pivoted to continue providing library services to our community during the past 8 months.

This included recording bi-weekly Rhyme Time and Storytimes for children to watch online, moving the popular Conversation Café online for people of different backgrounds to practice their English skills, began a click and collect service, and continued to deliver library items to people who are homebound.

Some library staff were also redeployed to help deliver Council's COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Package.

With restrictions now easing, our libraries at Reservoir, Preston and Northcote have been able to open in a COVID-safe way, with limits as set by the State Government on the number of people inside at any one time.

"It's been so good to welcome people back to the libraries after such a long time. There's a real buzz around the place," librarian Sara Burgess said.

At the time of writing, you can now spend three hours inside the library to collect your reservations, browse and borrow, work and study at a desk while using wifi, use a computer (which can be booked in advance), as well as print, copy and, now, scan.

**To keep up-to-date with the latest Darebin Libraries services, and to find out more about Darebin's digital collection, visit [darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au](http://darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au)**



## MULTI-SPORT STADIUM UPDATE

Despite the challenges thrown up from COVID-19, construction on the new Multi-Sport Stadium at John Cain Memorial Park in Thornbury began in early September, and with restrictions now easing works are now well and truly underway.

The majority of the excavation has now been completed, as has the ground preparation for the west carpark. In the past month, installation of the screw pile footings for the stadium have also commenced.

Construction on the \$24.8 million Multi-Sport Stadium is on track to be completed by November 2021. Once complete the stadium will house four high quality basketball courts, including one showcase court.

The facility will achieve a five-star Green Star sustainability rating.

Excitingly, the four new outdoor netball courts at John Cain Memorial Park have now been completed. It is expected these courts will be available for community use before the end of 2020.

In August 2020 it was announced the State Government would be contributing \$2 million towards the Multi-Sport Stadium through the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund. This is in addition to the \$1 million grant from the Inner-City Netball Program.

**To stay up to the date with the project, please visit [yoursaydarebin.com.au/JCMPSportsPark](http://yoursaydarebin.com.au/JCMPSportsPark)**



## COVID-19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND FOOD RELIEF

This year has been a difficult one for many people in our community, and Darebin City Council is committed to providing emergency relief and support for our most vulnerable residents.

Council is working with local services and organisations to assist more people access food and essential items when they need it.

We are currently supporting about 400 households with emergency relief provided by local agencies. We have also deployed four staff across the emergency relief network to provide additional assistance with logistics and delivery.

If you need assistance accessing food or essential items, we've put together the Emergency Food Relief and Support Services Guide which is available on our website.

The guide lists different local agencies across Darebin, how they can help, and how you can get in touch. The Guide can be downloaded on our website.

**For more information on how we can help you, please call**

**Community Navigation Service on 8470 8888**

**Council's multi-lingual line on 8470 8470**

**email**  
[covidsupport@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:covidsupport@darebin.vic.gov.au)

**or visit**  
[darebin.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

## MAKING TIME FOR FITNESS

Darebin's leisure centres are buzzing with activity again now that they've welcomed back the community.

In the earlier stages of the reopening, Reservoir Leisure Centre staff found creative ways to adapt their services, moving their spin bikes outside creating an 'al-fresco' cycle studio while only outdoor activities were permitted.

And while the centre doors closed over the winter months, members and instructors found new ways to stay connected.

Group fitness classes went virtual, instructors live-streaming regular favourites like Pilates and Clubbercise for free at the RLC Facebook page with people tuning in in their bedrooms, living rooms and backyards while staying safe by staying home.

The arrival of warmer weather and eased restrictions means that exercise programs are returning indoors. You can once again visit your local leisure centre to hit the gym or cycle studio, join in a group fitness class and more.

- Bookings are required to attend our centres, so plan your visit a few days ahead. Find available times online and book your preferred session.
- If you need help making a booking online, you can call your local centre for assistance.
- Staff will welcome you on arrival to confirm your details and explain the COVID-safe procedures to be followed.
- Remember to bring your face mask. Face masks can be removed while exercising, but still need to be worn where possible during your visit.
- If you are feeling unwell, do not attend your booking and seek testing.

**Book a time to visit your nearest leisure centre:**

**Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre**  
[northcote.ymca.org.au](https://northcote.ymca.org.au)  
1300 760 379

**Reservoir Leisure Centre**  
[darebin.vic.gov.au/rlc](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/rlc)  
9496 1050

# WHAT'S NEWS



## FIRE PREVENTION

You don't have to live in the country to be at risk from a grassfire or bushfire. Suburban homes can come under threat, especially when they are close to parks, reserves, and creeks. Council regularly inspects the municipality for potential fire hazards in the lead up to and during the summer months.

Being fire ready is a shared responsibility between government, emergency services and the community.

Property owners can reduce the risk of fire on their property by clearing anything that could fuel a fire, such as long grass and green waste, removing leaves from gutters and downpipes and storing flammable or combustible materials such as woodpiles and rubbish away from the house.

If you have concerns about a property you think may be a fire hazard, you can report it to Council on **8470 8888**.

For more information on fire safety, go to [darebin.vic.gov.au/propertymaintenance](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/propertymaintenance)

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MONTHLY DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

The new Darebin Community News digital newsletter will soon be launched. The monthly newsletter will feature the latest news and updates from Darebin.

The printed Darebin Community News will continue to be delivered to your letterbox and will be delivered seasonally.

To sign up to receive the digital Darebin Community News visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe)



## FREE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Do you have a real Christmas tree but don't know how to dispose of it? We can help!

Council provides a free Christmas tree kerbside collection during January. To book a collection, call Customer Service on **8470 8888**.

Please note that limited collections are available each day. Alternatively, you can drop off real Christmas trees free-of-charge during January at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre at Kurnai Avenue, Reservoir.

For more information, visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/resourcecovery](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/resourcecovery)



## KEEP COOL

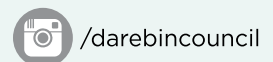
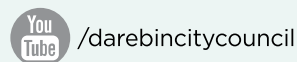
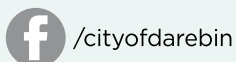
Pack a hat and slap on that sunscreen – summer is here and it is hot out there. Here are some simple tips for keeping cool this summer.

- Drink plenty of water, even if you're not thirsty.
- Plan to hold events during the cooler parts of the day.
- Hot cars can kill, so never leave children, older people or pets in cars.
- Leave pets with plenty of water and access to a shady spot.
- Keep cool by closing curtains, and seeking out air conditioned buildings where possible.
- And lastly – be kind to those around you.

Baking heatwaves can be a tough time for older people or those living alone. If you're able to do the neighbourly thing and check up on those around you on hot days, you'll be doing a wonder of good.

If you're not feeling well, call your doctor, nurse-on-call (**1300 606 024**) or in an emergency call **000**.

For other tips, visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/heatwaves](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/heatwaves)



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**[darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)**



### NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE

[relayservice.gov.au](http://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  
 العربية Italiano Soomalii  
 繁體中文 Македонски Español  
 Ελληνικά नेपाली اردو  
 हिंदी ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Tiếng Việt