



Darebin's library staff are delighted to welcome people back. Staff have been working hard to keep our community COVIDSafe and to ensure our libraries are accessible.

SUMMER 2022

YOUR COUNCILLORS



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REGISTER FOR A LOVE LOCAL CARD

Time is running out to sign up for your Love Local Card before registrations close on 31 March 2022!

Council has launched the Love Local Card as part of our ongoing effort to help the Darebin community and economy through the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative supports the retail, hospitality, health, fitness and beauty businesses that make Darebin a great place to live, work and play.

Pre-paid Love Local Cards to the value of \$30 and \$50 are being given to Darebin homeowners and jobseekers to spend at local independent businesses registered to take part in the program.

Marcia Lai is the owner and operator of Sensational Beauty in Thornbury, which is one of the hundreds of businesses now accepting Love Local Cards.

Marcia said her loyal clientele, which she has built up over the past 15 years, has been very supportive during the challenges of the pandemic, even offering to purchase services in advance during lockdown, when restrictions meant they couldn't visit the salon.

"It's really moving and makes me feel like it's not just a business — but the relationship between my clients and me is more than that. I am very grateful to have such beautiful clientele," Marcia said.

"Around here ... we help each other. I really appreciate that [locals] are thinking of me, community is very important."

For more information or to download a list of participating businesses visit darebin.vic.gov.au/lovelocalcard

Hurry — cards expire 31 May 2022.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Darebin,

I am delighted and thankful to have again been given the honour of being your Mayor. In another extraordinary year, the resilience of our community has never been more apparent.

In the next 12 months Council will roll out exciting projects such as construction of a new Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and B.T. Connor Reserve pavilion in Reservoir.

We will continue to Love Local, supporting our beloved local businesses, creative industries and artists. We will continue delivering an Age Friendly Darebin, Darebin's Access and Inclusion Plan and Library and Early Years strategies.

We will keep advocating to save Preston Market. I thank the community for rallying to help us deliver a petition with more than 10,500 signatures to the State Government.

There is much to celebrate too. In November, Council won a national climate award for the VECO project - bringing together 46 councils to pool electricity needs for renewable energy. This is something for us all to be proud of.

Finally, I am thrilled to serve alongside new Deputy Mayor Cr Trent McCarthy. Along with all of Council, we pledge to serve the people of Darebin well.

Cr Lina Messina
Mayor



NARRANDJERI STADIUM ART COMMISSION

Narrandjeri Stadium, a purpose-built premier facility for increasing participation in sport for girls and women at John Cain Memorial Park in Thornbury, is set to be completed in March 2022.

A permanent integrated artwork has been installed in the large bank of glass windows at the Narrandjeri Stadium entry and cafe, creating a welcoming and bright atmosphere for all who enter the new facility.

The art commission was awarded to Melbourne artist, Esther Stewart with the help of Lisa Warraner, a curator at Global Art Projects (GAP), an independent curatorial, arts consulting and arts management company.

"We were looking to establish two separate pieces of art in the stadium. One which would be a moveable piece that could be hung in the Darebin art collection or elsewhere should there be renovations in the future.

The second concept was for an artwork that is integrated into the windows at the entrance and cafe areas of the stadium," said Lisa.

The award winner was chosen by a selection panel that included community members who invited a shortlist of artists. Those considered had a connection to Darebin through work, a studio, residence or other link to the local community.

"GAP worked with the artists to create presentations to the selection committee. In the end, Esther Stewart, a Melbourne artist, was the successful applicant," said Lisa.

For more information about Narrandjeri Stadium and the integrated art commission, visit yoursaydarebin.com.au/JCMPSportsPark

LIBRARIES ARE NOW OPEN



Summer is here and Darebin's library staff are delighted to welcome people back. From veteran bookworms, to first time visitors there is something for everyone in all four of our wonderful libraries. Staff have been working hard to keep our community COVIDSafe and to ensure our services are accessible right across the community.

Staff member Jenny Goutzoulas was delighted to catch up with customers in a COVIDSafe way.

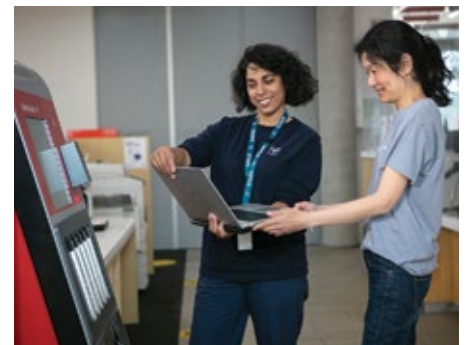
"I love that the libraries are open again. Most of all it's been so lovely to see some of our older customers return looking well and happy after such a long time. It's been great to have a chat with them and to know that they were doing well. After so long we are finally getting to chat about their families and the community and the books they still love to read," she said.

While regulations can be challenging for some, our staff are ready to help. Across our libraries we have specially trained staff who can help community members who face barriers to access our services.

Each library has its own team of dedicated COVID Marshals to support teams and community members at the door.

These specially trained Marshals will help our community to stay COVIDSafe as they transition safely back to our services. Help and information will be available to make sure community members can access their vaccine certificates and staff can help people access information in their language.

Even though there are new regulations, staff are always on hand to help and are available for a chat at any time.



"In this new world, libraries have both changed yet stayed the same," Jenny said.

"Yes, customers need to provide their details when they check in and their proof of vaccination, we need to practice social distancing and good hand hygiene, but once inside our doors the library is still the same place.

"Staff are always available for assistance or a chat. Although much has changed in our world, it feels like some things have stayed the same."

JOBS ADVOCATES



Darebin Council's Jobs Advocates help people who are looking for a job by determining their needs and linking them with services that help them gain employment.

Jobs Advocates representative Skyla O'Shea is enthusiastic about her job.

"It is wonderful to connect with different organisations and the community, to link job seekers to the services that are appropriate for them."

Although restrictions meant that for many months Skyla had to interact via phone or Zoom, she can now go out to the community.

"It's great to interact with people in person once more. I find it is easier and makes many people more comfortable in sharing their job needs if they are able to speak with you face to face."

Recently, Skyla helped find work for Bahar, who is newly arrived to Australia and had found it difficult to break into the local job market due to her lack of local experience.

"She is an intelligent and articulate woman whose details I referred to Jobs Victoria Employment Services (JVES).

Her application for a Project Officer position at Darebin Council was endorsed by JVES and she was ultimately successful.

"I am now delighted to say that she is my colleague," said Skyla.

Bahar was contacted by Skyla after trying every avenue on her own.

"Through Skyla's guidance, I realised that my interview skills needed to be sharpened, and both she and the Brotherhood of St Laurence helped me with that," Bahar said.

"Skyla also encouraged me to expand my horizons in terms of a position. In Iran, I had been a Planner, so I was just focused on that. Skyla opened my mind to other options that would take that experience into account while also including other strengths," said Bahar.

To find out more about Jobs Advocates, contact us on 9240 2275, or email jobsadvocates@darebin.vic.gov.au.

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

To speak to someone in your language, phone 8470 8470.



QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY IN DAREBIN

Queensland Fruit Fly is a serious pest that lays its eggs in fruit and vegetable crops, making the flesh inedible. In the summer of 20/21, outbreaks were found in Alphington, Preston, Fairfield, Thornbury and Northcote.

There are simple ways to prevent fruit fly in your garden:

- Pick fruit regularly and pick up fallen fruit from the ground.
- Shape and prune fruit trees to a manageable height for easy netting and harvesting.
- Remove unwanted fruit trees (or enlist the Darebin Fruit Squad to harvest your fruit trees).
- Put traps in your fruit trees to monitor for fruit fly.
- Net your vegetable garden, trees or bag individual fruit.
- Boil infested fruit or put in a plastic bag and leave in the sun for a week to kill larvae. Dispose of treated fruit in the landfill bin in case some larvae remain alive.
- Tell your neighbours so we can keep Darebin fruit fly free!

Please report sightings of fruit fly to Council via this online form <https://bit.ly/3DzNlv8>



FUSE DAREBIN RETURNS THIS AUTUMN

FUSE is Darebin's contemporary, multi-arts festival celebrating our vibrant cultural diversity and promoting First Nations artists.

Running from 11-27 March, FUSE Autumn 2022 features a wide range of artistic events, performances and exhibitions with many local artists and performers.

The season's opening and closing events are inspired by the COVID-19 world around us. At the opening event, both artists and audiences can reflect on the loss they have felt during the pandemic. The closing party will be a large celebration where people can dance, eat and enjoy being with one another again.

Jodee Mundy OAM, Coordinator of FUSE Darebin, says the artist-led festival will be a COVID-safe celebration of reconnection after enduring intense periods of lockdown.

"Through story, music, dance, ritual and art, FUSE Autumn 2022 will allow artists and audiences the opportunity for gathering, storytelling, catharsis, and collective healing.

Because of the pandemic, FUSE Darebin, last September, was forced to go digital, so we are really looking forward to seeing everyone in the flesh and shaking the lockdown out of our bones with our beloved artists and our resilient local community."

FUSE Darebin Autumn program highlights:

Opening Event 'Sorry Business' Saturday 12 March

Come along and celebrate the sounds, culture, and heroes of Darebin against the backdrop of a changing world.

Closing Event 'Out of the Park Picnic' presented by FUSE Darebin & Multicultural Arts Victoria Sunday 27 March

Featuring local and top Australian talent, Out of the Park Picnic is a free celebration of 100 years of Edwardes Lake Park, and marks the end of FUSE Autumn. Curated by Neda Rahmani and featuring a tapestry of dance and musical performances, this live event will represent Darebin's diverse community.

FUSE presents Made in Rezza

Made in Rezza supports Reservoir-based artists, makers and creatives to develop new works, with 15 x \$3000 commissions up for grabs. Works will be displayed in Reservoir shopfronts during FUSE and the creation of each work will be documented with a short film.

FUSE Fund artist-led programs commissioned by FUSE Darebin

Highlights include: 'Things Will Be Different', a documentary project that shows the richness of the people, communities and support networks within public housing. 'An Uncertain Time', an ambitious immersive, sensory performance work designed for babies aged 0-12 months and their carers.

FUSE@Large

This is FUSE's open-access program, offering the chance for any local venue, artist, creator or producer to participate in the festival.

The full FUSE Autumn 2022 program will be available online in February at fusedarebin.com.au

WOMXN'S WORK EXPERIENCE GROUP

You Am I is an inclusive and accessible work experience program designed for womxn* with disability to develop workplace skills, learn about Council and plan community events.

In 2021 the group co-designed the Light Up Darebin event. It celebrates International Day of People with Disability (IDPWD) by lighting up Preston and Northcote Town Halls in the IDPWD colours.

The story below was written collaboratively by Theodora and Angela on behalf of the You Am I work experience group.

This year, Darebin City Council welcomed us, five outstanding womxn with lived experience of disability, to participate in a work experience task. We designed an event for the International Day of People with Disability on 3 December.

We enthusiastically collaborated online with two Council staff for 12 weeks.

The placement has been very new to us but we all thoroughly enjoyed it. We shared knowledge and developed skills such as:

- working to a timeline
- communicating within a virtual group setting
- working to a budget
- design and editing to Council regulations
- networking and promotions.

The environment was professional, yet very relaxed, with much compassion, respect and fun. Group members described their experience as amazing, encouraging, collaborative and a good experience. On behalf of the womxn, thank you to Ania and Jade (the extraordinary Council staff) for making our work experience so very special!

*Womxn spelt with an x refers to all women, including those who identify as genderfluid, genderqueer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary.



For more information about the IDPWD event, please contact 8470 8327 or disability.access@darebin.vic.gov.au

ГРУПА ЗА РАБОТНО ИСКУСТВО ЗА ЖЕНИ

Програмата You Am I (Ти си јас) е сеопфатна и достапна програма за работно искуство наменета да им помогне на жените со онеспособеност да развијат работни вештини и способности, да дознаат повеќе за Општината и да планираат настани во заедницата.

Во 2021 година групата учествуваше во осмислувањето на настанот Осветлете го Даребин. Со тој настан ќе се одбележи Меѓународниот ден на луѓето со онеспособеност (МДЛО) така што општинските згради во Престон и Норткот ќе бидат осветлени со боите на МДЛО.

Текстот што следува заеднички го напишаа Теодора и Анџела од името на групата за работно искуство You Am I.

Годинава општина Даребин нè покани нас, пет исклучителни жени што ја имаат искусено онеспособеноста, да учествуваме во задача за стекнување работно искуство. Осмисливме настан по повод Меѓународниот ден на луѓето со онеспособеност за Меѓународниот ден на луѓето со онеспособеност што се одбележува на 3 декември.

Дванаесет недели многу полетно соработувавме преку интернет со двајца членови на општинскиот персонал.

Таа работа за нас беше нешто сосем ново ама сите многу уживавме во неа. Споделувавме знаења и развивме вештини и способности како што се:

- завршување на работата во определен рок
- групна комуникација преку интернет
- работење во рамките на утврден буџет
- осмислување и обработка во склоп на општинските прописи
- мрежно работење и промоции.

Работната средина беше професионална, ама сепак многу опуштена, со многу сочувство, почит и забава. Членовите на групата го опишаа своето искуство како неверојатно, како поттикнувачко за претприемаштвото и како добро искуство. Од името на жените, благодарност до Анја и Џејд (извонредните членови на општинскиот персонал) за тоа што нашето работно искуство го направија толку многу посебно!

За повеќе информации за настанот по повод Меѓународниот ден на луѓето со онеспособеност, ве молиме јавете се на 8470 8327 или пишете на disability.access@darebin.vic.gov.au

WARRK-WARRK BRIDGE NAMED



We are pleased to announce that Warrk-warrk Bridge is now the official name for the bridge that suspends over Merri Creek, connecting Beavers Road, Northcote to Kingfisher Gardens, Brunswick East.

The construction and the naming of the bridge came about after great interest and participation from the community, making the bridge a place that not only meets the needs of residents, but also reflects the culture and history of the Wurundjeri people.

Both Moreland and Darebin City Councils received petitions from local residents and community groups asking for a safe and accessible crossing point over Merri Creek. After a feasibility study was conducted, Council awarded the contract for \$2.9m to Simpson Construction.

Construction of the bridge began in February 2019 and was completed in September 2020.

In August 2020, Council followed its commitment of honouring the tradition of the Wurundjeri people when naming structures within Darebin and asked the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to provide possible names for the bridge. Council then reached out to the community to decide between the two names provided: Bindjirru Parren, meaning Two Way; and Warrk-warrk, meaning Nimble in Woi-Wurrung language.

Submitting over 700 responses, the community chose Warrk-warrk.

The Warrk-warrk bridge has been updated on Government mapping systems, with signage for the bridge soon to be installed.

To learn more about the history and the naming of the Warrk-warrk Bridge, visit: bit.ly/darebin-wwbridge

DAREBIN WINS NATIONAL CLIMATE AWARD

Council is committed to creating a sustainable future for future generations and this hard work has received a National Climate Award.

This year, Council was thrilled to accept the Collaboration Award in the Cities Power Partnership's national Climate Awards for its ambitious Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO). VECO is a ground-breaking power purchase agreement designed to reduce energy bills and reduce electricity prices by using clean renewable energy generated right here in Victoria.

Spearheaded by Darebin City Council, this pioneering agreement between 46 Victorian Councils will also help develop Victoria's sustainable energy infrastructure. It's a win for the environment and a win for our pockets!

VECO councils will receive renewable energy from Red Energy generated from wind farms in Victoria, putting money back into the local community. This renewable energy will be used to power our council-owned infrastructure, like our town halls, sports grounds, community venues, leisure centres and streetlights.

This year's National Climate Award winners were selected from entries submitted by a wide range of communities from small rural townships through to capital cities, in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, community engagement, ambition, collaboration and innovation.



For more information please visit veco.org.au

SUMMER SAFETY TIPS



Keep cool and save money this summer

Climate change is making summers hotter and longer. To keep yourself and your loved ones cool and safe this summer, check out our top 10 tips at darebin.vic.gov.au/heatwaves

Want to get out and about but keen to stay cool too? Our Keep Cool in Darebin map shows you where you can find cool public places and water fountains around Darebin. Download the map at <https://bit.ly/3o4yz9m>

And if you'd like some more tips on how to keep your home cool and reduce your energy bills, check out all our great tips at darebin.vic.gov.au/savingenergyathome



Warm weather and snakes

Snakes, like many of us, like to bask in the sun. Now that the warm weather is here, snakes can be active within Darebin's local reserves and open space areas.

Some important tips to remember when you are out walking in our parks and reserves:

- If possible, wear long pants and closed shoes.
- Stay on designated paths.
- Keep your dog on a lead.
- Never put your hands in hollow logs or long grass.
- Look on both sides when stepping over logs or other large objects.

Snakes will generally move away if they see or hear you coming. If you do happen to see a snake, stay calm and quietly back away from it. Most snake bites occur when people unknowingly stand on or attempt to capture or kill a snake. If you are bitten by a snake, call 000 (triple zero) immediately.

YEAR IN REVIEW

It's been a tough year for the community and Council's 2020/21 Annual Report reflects many of the challenges faced.

Council has been proud to support 237 of Darebin's resilient, local businesses through grants worth more than \$540,000.

Over 120 local restaurants and cafes benefited from 1300 additional seats created by transforming parklets and laneways in response to COVID-19 restrictions.

The autumn 2021 FUSE festival ran successfully and featured 160 artists at 18 locations across Darebin. Arts organisations and live music venues make Darebin a great place to live and Council provided \$160,000 to help venues adapt to COVID-19 restrictions.

We provided funding for emergency food relief, homelessness and family violence agencies in Darebin, as well as redeploying staff to work in these services.

More than \$50m was spent on capital works including the construction of the Narrandjeri Stadium, Warrk-warrk Bridge and \$5.4m to renew footpaths. Council spent \$7.9m on playgrounds, sporting ovals, pavilions and lighting upgrades.

Council achieved carbon neutral certification in 2020-21 highlighting our commitment to sustainability.

Darebin is the lead council in securing new electricity contracts for 46 Victorian Councils to switch to 100% renewable energy from 1 July 2021.

This means our streetlights, libraries, sporting facilities and town halls will be powered by renewable energy, creating a bright future for our kids.



Read the full report at darebin.vic.gov.au/annualreport

WHAT'S ON



MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL

We'll be listening to the needs of Darebin's many lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, transgender, gender diverse and queer (LGBTIQ) residents at Midsumma Carnival on 23 January to prepare for our next LGBTIQ Action Plan. Find us at the 'Melbourne's North is Coming Out' stall.

More information at

midsumma.org.au/whats-on/events/midsumma-carnival/

For updates and to learn more about the Action Plan contact

diversity@darebin.vic.gov.au

MELBOURNE PRIDE

The new Midsumma event Melbourne Pride on 13 February will bring the party closer to home, celebrating human rights milestones for LGBTIQ people in the streets of Collingwood.

More information at

midsumma.org.au/whats-on/events/melbourne-pride-a-road-to-pride/

PARKLIFE

Get active and meet new people at Parklife, a new social sport program for LGBTIQ people and allies in All Nations Park. Learn soccer or cricket basics in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Just rock up, check in and come play! Happening every Saturday 11.30am to 12.30pm.

More information at

proud2play.org.au/parklife
or contact info@proudtoplay.org.au



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registrations for 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten open on 1 February 2022. Applications for round one offers need to be in by 30 June, however registrations are accepted all year round.

Kindergarten helps children develop strong social skills and encourages a love of learning.

For the full list of kindergartens in Darebin and advice on how to register visit

darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

TWILIGHT KINDERGARTEN OPEN EVENINGS

If you've been wondering about kindergarten options for your family, come along to one of the Twilight Kindergarten Open Evenings and find out about the services available and how your child can benefit from new learning environments.

The evenings will be held in March 2022.

For a list of dates, venues and participating kindergartens visit

darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten



SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH

Darebin Council is responding to homelessness in our community with a human rights approach to engage and support those who are homeless.

Funded by Darebin Council, the Darebin Assertive Community Outreach Program (DACO) is delivered by Merri Outreach Support Service.

The program has specialist homelessness workers who respond to observations of people sleeping rough (people who are homeless and sleeping in the public realm) across Darebin.

The DACO team undertake outreach visits to those who are sleeping rough and provide short term case management and referrals to housing and other health and wellbeing supports.

For more information and to access support please visit

darebin.vic.gov.au/homelessness

WHAT'S ON



LET'S TAKE OVER 2022

Saturday 5 March 2022
Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

Come along to a multi-artform, participatory festival created by the participants of Darebin Arts' youth skills development program.

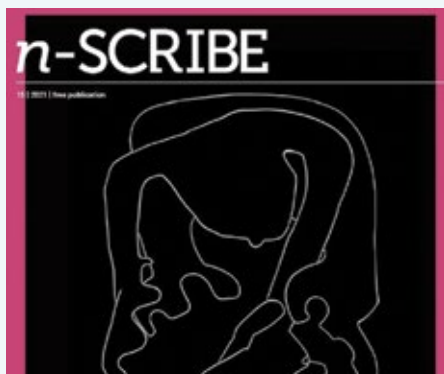
Eleven young people between the ages of 15-25 have been given the opportunity, the budget and the skills to forge their creative careers as artists, producers and programmers.

Then they take over the Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre for a weekend.

Free event, bookings required.

Bookings open in late January 2022.

More information at
arts.darebin.vic.gov.au



N-SCRIBE LAUNCH

6pm
Thursday 24 February 2022
Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

Come along to the 2022 n-SCRIBE magazine launch and celebrate the finest emerging writers in and around Darebin. Hosted by the fabulous Bexx Davis, the annual n-SCRIBE launch will feature readings, anecdotes, yarns and refreshments. Entry is free and open to all.

n-SCRIBE is Darebin Arts' annual free literary magazine publishing fiction, non-fiction, poetry, short stories, journalism, creative non-fiction, memoir and images and is available from Darebin Libraries, Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, cafes, and other Darebin community hubs.

More information at
arts.darebin.vic.gov.au



WRITE CLUB SUMMER WORKSHOPS

6.30 to 8.30pm
Tuesdays in February/March 2022
Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

The first rule of Write Club is — you must write! We provide a quiet space for you to write, plan, get cracking on a new project or finish the one that's way past its use by date.

Whatever the project — from poetry to fiction, graphic novels to short story — turn up to the page at Write Club.

It's your time to write!

These free sessions will run over five Tuesday evenings in Summer.

For more information and to register go to arts.darebin.vic.gov.au/writeclub



BARRY DICKINS WRITING THE WAVE WORKSHOP

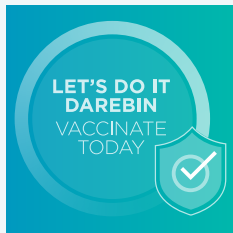
1 to 3pm Saturday 19 March 2022
Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre

Bring along your writing materials and spend an afternoon with acclaimed writer Barry Dickins as he guides the group through a workshop full of whimsical approaches, seeking memory and transformation.

Barry will inspire new ways of looking at your writing and provide avenues to change what's not working.

Register for this FREE event at
<https://bit.ly/darebin-dickins0322>

WHAT'S NEWS



VACCINATION CHAMPIONS

Darebin has thousands of Vaccination Champions - people who are vaccinating for themselves, their loved ones, their community. We want to share our community members' Vaccination Champion stories.



"I hope everyone will have the COVID-19 vaccine, to protect us from contamination or infection from the virus. It protects you and it protects the vulnerable people in the community." - **Maria**



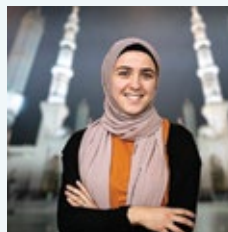
"For me, it's about protecting my children, my family, and the community. Even though I'm fully vaccinated the virus can still be transmitted but the chances of ending up in the ICU are lower and the risk of getting long COVID symptoms is lower." - **Uncle James**



"My husband and I live in Preston with our three kids. As a music educator who works across school sites for a non-profit organisation, I can see the huge benefit for our population to be double vaccinated."- **Katie**



"I've lost family to COVID in Mexico and most of them got very ill, so I know it can get pretty bad." - **Diego**



"I got vaccinated with two of my teenage children. The younger generation are so inspiring. My kids were excited to do their bit and they understand the impact this has on the wider community." - **Maysaa**



"I got vaccinated to protect my family, I can't wait to see them now Melbourne has reopened!" - **Jess Dal Pos**

COVID-19 third dose vaccines are now available to anyone aged 18 and over who has had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine more than four months ago.

Stay up-to-date with accurate information in your language and book your vaccination today at a state-run centre on 1800 675 398 or at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine



NORTHCOTE SCORES A PERFECT 10

Northcote was named Melbourne's most liveable suburb in a report released late last year.

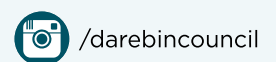
The PwC Australia 2021 'Future Victoria' report looked at the best places to work, live and play in light of the changes brought on by the pandemic.

Northcote scored a perfect 10!

Based on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people, Northcote is currently home to over 25,000 Darebinians.

It's just one of the many diverse, vibrant suburbs that together proudly make up Darebin!

#LoveLocal #DiscoverDarebin



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