



Tim Woodward, Isla Scott, Liang Luscombe and Debris Facility (L-R) are four of 70 artists who work from Northcote based art studio, Artery Cooperative which is one of Council's Arts Recovery Partnerships.

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VECO POWERS DAREBIN WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

In May this year Darebin City Council was proud to launch VECO, the Victorian Energy Collaboration, Australia’s largest ever emissions reduction project by local government.

In total, 46 Victorian councils signed up to VECO to purchase 240GWh of renewable energy together from two Victorian windfarms – Dundonnell near Mortlake, and Murra Warra II near Horsham.

Led by Darebin, the project reduces emissions by 260,000 tonnes of CO2-e every year, equivalent to removing the emissions from 90,000 cars, and will provide enough electricity to power 48,000 homes with renewables.

Darebin Mayor Councillor Lina Messina said the project was proof of what can be achieved when we work together.

“This is a visionary project that pushes the boundaries of what was thought possible for local government.

This is the collective effort of staff and councillors from across the state for the benefit of their communities,” Cr Messina said.

VECO will cut Darebin’s electricity bill by 30 per cent, based on current costs.

“By powering our council buildings and streetlights with affordable renewable energy, we’re making ratepayers’ dollars go further. Every dollar we save on energy bills is a dollar we can put towards improving our roads, footpaths, libraries and community programs,” Cr Messina said.

“There is no box this project doesn’t tick – it tackles climate change, cuts energy bills, invests in Victorian businesses, and grows jobs in regional Victoria.”

Red Energy will supply the power and is a 100 per cent Australian owned and operated energy retailer based in Melbourne.

For more details, please visit
veco.org.au



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Darebin,

There is so much exciting work happening and we're excited to share some of it with you here. The headline is our Council Plan 2021-25 and Budget 2021-22.

These two huge pieces of work were moulded by you. It was your 20-year vision, developed by the amazing deliberative panel made up of 39 community members, that gave us the foundation for our plans. We're grateful and proud to represent such an amazing community.

Our work begins with economic recovery. At the forefront of our decisions will be our businesses, pensioners and most vulnerable.

The relief program is expansive and anchored by an innovative voucher program, set to inject millions of dollars into our economy, supporting growth and putting vibrancy back in our streets.

But that's not where it ends.

We'll act on a circular waste economy, support those experiencing homelessness, and continue action on the Climate Emergency.

There's so much in the Budget and Plan that deserves attention, and I hope everyone takes a look.

In this edition you'll also find stories about our energy project VECO, our community award winners, and protecting Preston Market.

I hope you get as much of a thrill from these pages as I do.

Cr Lina Messina
Mayor



DELIVERING A BUDGET FOR ALL

Over the next 12 months Darebin City Council will embark on a number of new and exciting projects to help keep the City of Darebin a great place to live, work and play.

On 28 June, Councillors adopted the 2021-22 Budget. The Budget sets out Council's key goals and priorities for the financial year, while ensuring our community has access to the hundreds of quality services, programs, events and open spaces that we all enjoy.

This year's Budget continues Council's proactive approach to supporting our community through the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes a \$3.2 million financial assistance package that will be enable Council to run an innovative voucher program which will boost the local economy, while another \$6.3 million will be used on targeted business recovery programs, establishing a Chamber of Commerce, and revitalising our retail activity centres.

Another key feature of the Budget is the more than \$60 million capital works program. This will include completion of the Narrandjeri Stadium in Thornbury, redevelopment of BT Connor Pavilion in Reservoir, and the commencement on the new Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Council will also continue responding to the climate emergency through this budget, through programs like Council's popular Solar Saver initiative, and by planting 4800 trees and another 250,000 indigenous plants in our parks and bushlands.

All of this is on top of our core services like collecting the 5.5 million bins over the year, facilitating 620,000 visits to our libraries, conducting 22,200 immunisations, maintaining 30km of shared bike paths and 56 sporting ovals, and approximately 130,000 hours of aged care services.

Visit our website to read the full Budget at darebin.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY VOICES SHAPE DAREBIN'S FUTURE PLANS



Dozens of local Darebinites have helped Council draft a series of important plans and strategies that will shape our city's future.

At the Council Meeting on June 28, Councillors adopted the Darebin 2041 Community Vision, the 2021-25 Council Plan (which incorporates the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan), the ten-year Financial Plan and 2021-25 Revenue and Rating Plan.

These forward-looking strategies came on the back of an extensive period of community consultation, with feedback captured from over 3000 residents who provided their thoughts online, at in-person information pop-ups, and targeted sessions with people from our CALD communities.

To help drill down into all the information captured, late last year a 39-member deliberative engagement panel was convened of people who live, work and play in Darebin.

The panel has met regularly over the past seven months to develop the Darebin 2041 Community Vision which articulates our local community's aspirations for the future.



The Darebin 2041 Community Vision is:

Darebin is an equitable, vibrant and connected community.

Darebin respects and supports First Nations People, values country, our diverse communities and places.

Darebin commits to mitigating the climate emergency, creating prosperity for current and future generations.

This Community Vision is underpinned by three key priority areas: making Darebin a city that is known for being vibrant, respectful and connected; prosperous, liveable and flourishing; and climate, green, and sustainable.

The Darebin 2041 Community Vision has directly informed the 2021-25 Council Plan, which outlines the strategic objectives and 169 actions that Council will strive to achieve during their elected term.

The 10 Big Actions in the 2021-25 Council Plan are:

- **Build infrastructure for the future –**

This includes redeveloping Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, building the new Darebin Intercultural Centre in Preston, and redeveloping BT Connor Reserve in Reservoir.

- **Plan infrastructure for decades to come –**

We'll plan for improvements to the Edwardes Lake Boat House, Reservoir Leisure Centre, and a Global Learning Hub in Preston.

- **Continue to lead with our response to the climate emergency –**

We'll update our Climate Emergency Plan, offer solar installations to our community and build on the circular economy to massively reduce our waste going to landfill.

- **Deepen our commitment to truth and justice for First Nations communities –**

We'll partner with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples who live and work in Darebin.

- **Support vulnerable members of our community –**

This includes expanding our homelessness assertive outreach program and supporting community-led programs that achieve greater physical and mental health for all.

- **Champion local business and creative industries –**

We'll provide continued support as the local economy recovers from COVID-19, as well as establishing a Darebin Chamber of Commerce.

- **Build a more inclusive community for all –**

Support multicultural communities, increase access to Council's services and sporting assets to groups who are under-represented, develop our Disability Access Plan, and achieve Rainbow Tick accreditation.

- **Improve the quality of development –**

Pursue protections for Preston Market, conduct a Planning Scheme Review informed by community consultation.

- **Protect our natural environment and biodiversity –**

We'll increase tree canopy coverage in our parks, retail centres and residential areas, and enhance understorey planting.

- **Expand our delivery of quality universal services –**

This includes providing more three-year-old kindergarten places, continue to deliver our Age Friendly Darebin project and registering to become a home care provider.

To read the full Darebin 2041 Community Vision and 2021-25 Council Plan, please visit our website.
darebin.vic.gov.au/councilplan

LOVE LOCAL BUSINESS

Nhiều doanh nghiệp ở địa phương đã bị thiệt hại nặng nề vì đại dịch Covid-19 và những lệnh đóng cửa sau này. Điều quan trọng là chúng ta hỗ trợ cho các doanh nghiệp địa phương trong thời gian khó khăn này để giúp họ có thể xoay sở được.

Trong khuôn khổ chiến dịch Love Local của chúng tôi, gần đây chúng tôi đã triển khai một bản đồ trực tuyến để nêu bật những doanh nghiệp địa phương và khuyến khích cộng đồng đi mua sắm và ăn uống ở địa phương và sử dụng các dịch vụ chuyên môn ở địa phương.

Bản đồ trực tuyến hiện nêu bật trên 1400 doanh nghiệp bao gồm cả Tiệm Hoa Alnor Art mà quý vị có thể tìm biết thêm ở bên dưới.

Xem bản đồ tại discover.darebin.vic.gov.au/locale/business-map. Nếu làm chủ một doanh nghiệp địa phương, quý vị cũng có thể nạp các chi tiết về doanh nghiệp của mình.

Alnor Florist

Tiệm Hoa Alnor Art ở Reservoir là doanh nghiệp được thành lập đã hơn 40 năm qua, phục vụ các nhu cầu về hoa của quý vị từ những loại hoa hằng ngày cho các dịp sinh nhật, cưới xin, sinh nở, kỷ niệm, tình cảm và những dịp đặc biệt. Chúng tôi có dịch vụ giao hàng tin cậy cho khách đặt hàng ở địa phương – 7 ngày trong tuần!

“Khi người dân địa phương trân trọng những tình yêu mà chúng tôi đặt vào công việc của mình, nó khiến chúng tôi cảm thấy như tất cả mọi chuyện đều xứng đáng. Nó giúp cho các doanh nghiệp của chúng tôi rất nhiều khi các khách hàng chọn đi mua sắm ở địa phương thay vì mua sắm trực tuyến hay ở Khu Trung tâm Thành phố nơi họ làm việc. Nhiều khách hàng có khuynh hướng xem trên doanh nghiệp trực tuyến để tìm tiệm bán hoa, quán cà phê hay nhà hàng gần họ nhất để không phải đi xa. Vì vậy, bản đồ doanh nghiệp Darebin đúng là thứ mà chúng tôi cần trong cộng đồng của mình.”

~ **Don Le** (Chủ nhân kiêm Nhân viên Điều hành Alnor Florist)



Many local businesses have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns. It's important we support local businesses during these times to help keep them afloat.

As part of our Love Local campaign, we have recently developed an online map to highlight local businesses and encourage the community to shop and eat locally and engage local professionals.

The online map currently features more than 1,400 businesses, including Alnor Art Florist which is run by Don Le.

If you're a local business operator, you can also add your business to the map.

Alnor Florist

Alnor Art Florist in Reservoir has been an established business for over 40 years, catering for all floristry needs from everyday flowers to celebrating birthdays, weddings, births, congratulations, anniversaries, sympathy and special occasions. Reliable delivery service available for local orders – 7 days a week!

“When locals appreciate the love we put into our work it makes us feel like it's all worth it. It helps our business a lot when customers choose to shop locally, as opposed to shopping online or around the CBD where they might work,” owner and operator Don Le said.

“Many customers tend to look up businesses online to find their nearest florist, cafe or restaurant so they don't have to travel a big distance. So, the Darebin business map is exactly the kind of thing we need in our community.”

This story has also been translated into Vietnamese, which is Don Le's first language.

You can access the map via discover.darebin.vic.gov.au/locale/business-map



PROTECT PRESTON MARKET

Darebin City Council is concerned about the future of the iconic Preston Market site, which is privately owned by a property developer.

The State Government has just finished a consultation process on planning rules for the market and the surrounding site, which could see as little as 20 per cent of the original market building retained, with offices and apartments built above parts of a new market.

Council has made a comprehensive submission to the Government about its proposal. Council's view is that the draft planning rules pose an existential threat to Preston Market, and fail to protect the social, economic and cultural functions of the market.

Council has called on the Government to ensure there is stronger heritage protection for the current market building, protection for the current traders and a guarantee the market will continue to provide affordable and fresh food for our diverse community. We remain concerned these elements are not locked in.

Change is inevitable on the privately-owned site, and Council recognises the land surrounding the market is a good location for new apartments and local businesses given the close proximity to transport and activity centres.

However, Council believes the State Government needs to commit to high quality urban design including affordable housing, open space and high environmental standards.

The proposed rules are insensitive to the local context and heritage of the market and will cause overshadowing of open spaces due to excessive building heights.

The Victorian Planning Authority's community consultation on the plans closed on July 13, however you can read Council's position on the Preston Market on Council's website.

Darebin City Council would also like to thank all of the local community members who took the time to make their own submission to the State Government about the market.



For more information, please visit yoursaydarebin.com.au/prestonmarket

SUPPORTING CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Creative business pivoting has reached new heights at Artery Cooperative in Northcote where a new exhibition space has moved into a vertical structure to adapt operations in a Covid-safe way.

It's part of a new program of one-night only exhibitions at the cooperative's expansive Helen Street site, which provides studio spaces and facilities for more than 70 local contemporary artists.

Studio artist and organiser, Tim Woodward explains the new exhibition space, titled Working at Heights, is named after a three-tier storage shelf located inside the complex which has been repurposed to reinvigorate the studio after a challenging year of COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns.

"This unconventional space allows artists to be a bit more playful and approach exhibiting work differently," says Tim. "It also activates a corner of the warehouse that was underutilised previously; it was chosen for its suitability for Covid-safe social gatherings."

Artery Cooperative is one of eight creative businesses funded through Council's Arts Recovery Partnership grants, which is part of Darebin's COVID-19 Community and Local Business Resilience and Recovery Package.

The Arts Recovery Partnerships aim to support local creative businesses, arts organisations and live music venues adapt their operations in a Covid-safe way, and support artists as they return to their practice.

"Everyone's really enthusiastic to get back to work in the studio," says Tim. "While the emphasis is to get artists back working in the studio, informal opportunities like this exhibition program that bring people together to gather and reconnect are very important also."

"We're planning to hold the one-night exhibitions regularly on Friday evenings and all are welcome."



Other Darebin Art Recovery Partnerships and their projects:

Reservoir Stomp will create an intimate concert series in suburbs which rarely host live music events, including Keon Park, Kingsbury and Reservoir.

Rawcus Theatre Company will explore new ways of working with communities by collaborating on a photographic presentation about living in Darebin.

Thornbury Picture House will continue their Covid adaptation by programming events that fuse live music and cinema and make use of their street-fronted bar.

One step at a time like this will use Darebin to relocate and rebuild their theatre making practice on a local scale.

Neon Parlour will produce a series of special events that employ artists and promote their work, whilst welcoming audiences back into the gallery space.

The Merri Creek Tavern will reinvigorate their business and industry networks by programming 50 performances by diverse, local artists in their front bar.

Bar 303 will invite five local musicians from diverse backgrounds to program a special series of shows.

Supporting creative industries and the arts in Darebin is one of the priority actions in Council's Council Plan 2021-2025.

To keep up to date with these programs and events through 2021 sign up to the What's On Arts & Culture newsletter at darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe



DAREBIN LOCALS RECOGNISED WITH COMMUNITY AWARDS

Every year the Darebin Community Awards highlight the wonderful and impactful contributions our community members make to the City of Darebin. The awards are a chance to recognise and celebrate some of the incredible people who strive to make Darebin a better place.

The 2020 Darebin Community Awards were held in March this year. The winners of each award are:

Citizen of the Year joint winners -

Christine Lombardo and
Hiruni Peiris

Young Citizen of the Year -

Rumbi Mutzeo

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Leader of the Year -

Ian Hamm

CALD Elder Community Leader of the Year -

The Very Reverend Father
George Nasr

CALD Emerging Young Leader of the Year -

Fardowsa Yussuf

Lifetime Achievement Award -

Vona Thompson

Community Group of the Year -

Locked Down Trivia

Sustainability Award -

Darebin Hardwaste Heroes

Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leader of the Year, Ian Hamm, said his award was not an individual achievement, but the result of many. "The award is recognition of the commitment and effort of many different people over a long time to enhance the lives of Aboriginal people living in the City of Darebin," Ian said.

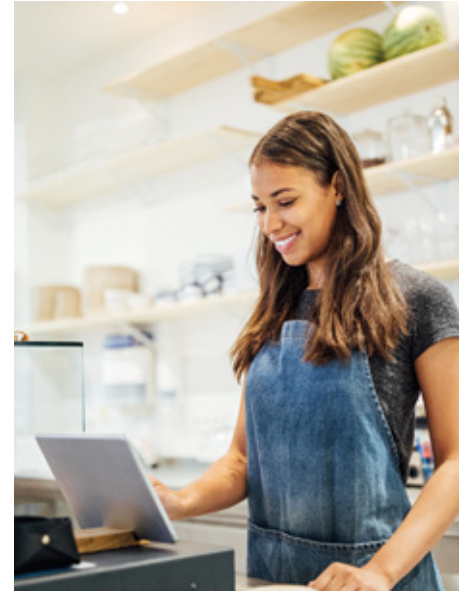
If you know someone who deserves to be recognised for their work in our community, please keep an eye out for when the 2021 Darebin Community Award nominations open in September.

We are also currently seeking community representatives to join the Darebin Community Awards Selection Panel.

Council has established the panel to oversee the selection process for winners in each of the award categories to ensure transparency, fairness, accessibility and inclusivity at each stage of the process.

The Expression of Interest will close on 1 September 2021.

For further information please contact Darebin's Senior Producer of Creative Culture and Events by calling 8470 8551 or emailing bryanmer@darebin.vic.gov.au



SPEND LOCAL VOUCHERS TO HELP BOOST DAREBIN'S ECONOMY

Darebin City Council is about to embark on an innovative voucher scheme that will see millions of dollars be spent on helping the local Darebin economy recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Darebin's ratepayers and most vulnerable citizens will be eligible to receive spend local vouchers, which is a key element of Council's 2021-22 Annual Budget.

In the coming months, residential property owners will receive a \$30 voucher to be spent at a participating local business, while \$50 vouchers will be available to pensioner property owners and local Job Seekers.

The vouchers will provide financial support to those eligible, while local businesses will also benefit from the investment.

Please keep an eye out for more information about the voucher program, including which businesses are participating and how you can get your voucher if you are eligible, as it becomes available in the coming months.

BACK ON THE ROAD SERVING DAREBIN'S SENIORS



The smile beaming from behind the wheel of the Community Bus belongs to Jan.

Jan has been driving Council's Community Bus for 25 years and knows the streets of Darebin like nobody else.

"I love my job and I'm glad to be back behind the wheel seeing familiar and friendly faces again and helping people get to where they need to go," says Jan.

The community bus is an important service for so many of Darebin's older residents and one that was sorely missed during the lockdown.

"The community bus is like a lifeline for many residents who find it difficult to get on and off public transport," says Jan.

"Without this service, many older people would find it difficult to get to the shops or the library or go on outings, it helps them maintain their independence." "It's also a great way to make connections with people as there's always someone around to have a conversation with."

If you're an older resident and have difficulty accessing transport, you may be eligible for Council's Community Transport Service.

Our drivers provide door-to-door service within Darebin for \$5 return.

Assisted transport is available to shopping centres, leisure centres as well as to senior citizen clubs and supported group outings.

For more information and find out if you're eligible, call Council's Supported Independence team on 8470 8296.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

In 2015, the State Government introduced a set of national child safe standards for organisations regulated or funded by government that provide services for children.

The standards were recommended by the government's parliamentary inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations and are established under the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005)*.

They aim to ensure that organisations are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect.

We pride ourselves on being a child safe organisation with zero tolerance for child abuse and we recognise our legal and moral responsibilities to keep children and young people safe from harm.

For more information about Council's Safeguarding Children Policy which is applicable to all Council staff and representatives, visit darebin.vic.gov.au/childsafe

WHAT'S ON



THERE'S MORE TO RESERVOIR LIBRARY

Not only is Reservoir Library now open on Sundays from 1-5pm soon you'll also be able to enjoy Libraries after Dark on Tuesday nights.

It's the perfect Tuesday night go-to venue for free entertainment, to learn new skills, meet people or just spend time in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

On Tuesdays in July escape the winter chill and head upstairs at Reservoir Library for the Mid-Winter Movie Nights. You're welcome to bring your own snacks and drinks.

Visit the website to view the program. Bookings are essential.

Libraries After Dark also continues every Thursday night until 10pm at Preston Library where you'll always find something fun and free happening whether it's movie screenings, craft circles, workshops, guest speakers and more.

Free Wi-fi is available.

For more information and to book for the Mid-Winter Movie Nights visit the What's On section at darebinlibraries.vic.gov.au or call 1300 655 355.



PRESENTED BY DAREBIN ARTS - HYDRA

From multi-award-winning duo Double Water Sign, comes this searing new work of dystopian science-fiction, a story about water scarcity and surviving the end of the world.

Shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Drama Award, Hydra asks "What parts of ourselves will we have to kill to survive the end of the world?"

Written by Rachel Perks and directed by Bridget Balodis, cast featuring Sapidah Kian and Casey Filips. Presented by Darebin Arts Speakeasy, a year-round independent arts presentation program. Now in its eighth year, Darebin Arts Speakeasy presents creative and challenging contemporary performances by emerging and established artists.

Hydra 21 - 31 July 2021

Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre
Auslan interpreted performance on Thursday 29 July at 8pm
Group of 4 or more \$28,
Darebin Resident \$30,
Full \$35, Preview \$25,
Concession and Students \$28

For tickets and more information including the Darebin Arts Speakeasy 2021 season visit darebinarts.com.au/speakeasy



IT'S TIME TO GET ACTIVE

There's no time like the present to start working on your fitness.

Our Get Active in Darebin Winter program has begun and caters to people of all ages, abilities and fitness levels.

It is a free community-based exercise program and offers classes from Monday to Saturday until 22 August 2021 at various Darebin venues.

Fitness activities include Qi Gong, Tai Chi, Meditation, Yoga and Pilates. There's also a family friendly Zumba class, so you and the kids can enjoy some exercise together.

This year we've also added a new spin cycle class. And in response to community feedback, we're also offering an evening class.

All classes are facilitated by qualified instructors. No bookings required, simply turn up on the day with your water bottle, towel and mat and join in the fun.

Class numbers are limited so get in early.

For details and to view the timetable, visit darebin.vic.gov.au/GetActive or call 8470 8376 for details.

WHAT'S NEWS



Still from film by Courtney Catherine



Uncle Brian Birch (Palawa) Untitled (detail) 2006. Synthetic polymer paint on canvas. 80 x 80cm



ART IS BACK

Bundoora Homestead Art Centre doors have reopened with four new exhibitions this winter.

Under the clearest blue sky is an exhibition of vibrant paintings by Uncle Brian Birch, a proud member of the Victorian Aboriginal community.

Bringing together works from personal and institutional collections, the intimate body of work at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre examines Uncle Brian's connection to Country, family and tradition.

He came to painting later in life, picking up a paintbrush at the age of 70 after completing a course in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Arts at the former Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) in Preston.

At 86 years of age, Uncle Brian is still painting and says he's still learning. "When I'm painting, I feel I'm in another place; a spiritual place where everything just comes out of me about my people and my community, and I'm always learning."

Born in Fitzroy in 1936, Uncle Brian completed his studies at NMIT in 2005 and won the National Gallery of Victoria Acquisitive Art Award in the 2006 Victorian Indigenous Art Awards. He received the 2006 Gumbri White Dove Award at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre and was commended in the Koori Heritage Trust Acquisition Award in 2008.

Under the clearest blue sky is on exhibition until 18 September 2021.

Other current exhibitions include: *May All Acts Of Love And Pleasure Be My Rituals* by Ophelia Bakowski; *First Door on the Right* by Julie Vinci; and group exhibition, *Morphosis* featuring works by Laksmi Shitaresmi, Jeremy Blincoe, Monica Lim, Peter Ellis, Misklectic, Abdil Setiawan, and Fika Rai Santika.

Bundoora Homestead Art Centre is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am-4pm. Entry is free. Café open until 3pm. For details visit bundoorahomestead.com or call 9496 1060.

GOLD HEAD AUCTION

After a 12 month sojourn in All Nations Park, it is time for the original Gold Head sculpture to find a new home.

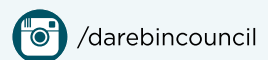
As agreed with the anonymous artists of this much-loved guerrilla artwork, Darebin Council will auction off the Gold Head for charity.

Join us for an golden evening of auctioneering with performances by Jason Tamiru, DJ Sean Whelan and The Huxleys, as well as light refreshments.

All proceeds from the auction will go to Elizabeth Morgan House, who provide secure refuge accommodation and specialist family violence services to Aboriginal women and their children.

**Thursday 29 July
5:30pm - 7pm
Northcote Library**

Bookings essential. To find out more about the infamous Gold Head statue and to book for the auction, visit darebinarts.com.au/whats-on



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