



Yusuke Akai is working on Council's Rewilding program. Around 10 hectares across the municipality has been covered with 230,000 indigenous trees and plants, with another 80,000 yet to go.

SPRING 2021



## YOUR COUNCILLORS



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## HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

There's a lot of information out there about the COVID-19 vaccine. But when it comes to your health, the one conversation you should have is with a doctor or pharmacist.

They can answer any questions you have and give you the information you need. So get informed and get vaccinated. Go to [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) or call the coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Darebin Mayor Councillor Lina Messina said these are important first steps we must all take.

"I've had my vaccine against coronavirus. Lockdown 6.0 is a reminder that our world won't get back to normal until everyone is protected against the virus, and this is my way of contributing to that goal. If you're eligible, I strongly encourage you to have a conversation with your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions and book a vaccination," Cr Messina said.

"The new vaccination hub at La Trobe University announced by the Premier in September is great news for the Darebin community."

The new hub will mean as soon as COVID-19 vaccines become available, more of the community can get vaccinated, in turn helping Victoria reach its vaccination goal.

**Stay up to date with this vaccination centre and other state-run vaccination centres at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment)**

## AVETE DOMANDE SUL VACCINO COVID-19?

Ci sono molte informazioni a disposizione sul vaccino COVID-19. Tuttavia quando si tratta della vostra salute, l'unica conversazione che dovrete avere è con un medico o un farmacista.

Possono rispondere a qualsiasi vostra domanda e darvi le informazioni di cui avete bisogno. Quindi informatevi e vaccinatevi. Andate al sito [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au) oppure chiamate il numero per il coronavirus al 1800 675 398.

L'assessore al sindaco di Darebin, Lina Messina, ha affermato che questi sono i primi passi importanti che dobbiamo fare tutti.

"Ho fatto il mio vaccino contro il coronavirus. Il Lockdown 6.0 ci ricorda che il nostro mondo non tornerà alla normalità finché tutti non saranno protetti dal virus, e questo è il mio modo di contribuire a questo obiettivo. Se siete eleggibili vi incoraggio vivamente a parlare con il vostro medico o farmacista in caso di domande e a prenotare la vaccinazione," ha affermato Cr Messina.

"Il nuovo centro di vaccinazione presso l'Università di La Trobe annunciato dal Premier a settembre rappresenta una fantastica novità per la comunità di Darebin."

Il nuovo centro significa che non appena i vaccini COVID-19 saranno disponibili, più persone nella comunità potranno essere vaccinate che a loro volta aiuteranno il Victoria a raggiungere il suo obiettivo di vaccinazione.

**Rimanete aggiornati su questo centro e altri centri vaccinali gestiti dallo stato al sito [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment)**



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Darebin,

Spring is here and with it, opportunities for growth and renewal. Council is working hard to support our community as we navigate our way to economic recovery together.

Whether it's your local florist, barista or barber, our Love Local program allows eligible community members to give back to their favourite local businesses through special pre-paid Love Local Cards to the value of \$30 and \$50.

This exciting initiative is part of Darebin City Council's commitment to economic recovery as outlined in our Council Plan 2021-2025.

Continuing with the theme of economic recovery, the redevelopment of Darebin's much-loved Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre will not only improve our health and wellbeing, but it is expected the project will drive economic growth through job creation. We have more details on this inside.

As we move forward, we remain mindful of our legacy, and it is in this spirit that Council continues to follow community voices in their opposition to the Government's draft plan for Preston Market. Together, with over 10,000 people who have signed a petition, we can preserve the market's vital role in serving our community.

In this edition you'll also find stories about the ongoing work of Darebin Assertive Outreach, our Rewilding program and exciting details on the Narrandjeri Stadium project.

Cr Lina Messina  
Mayor



## NARRANDJERI STADIUM UPDATE

Construction of the Narrandjeri Stadium is set to be completed in December 2021 and is now estimated to be 70% finished. Narrandjeri Stadium will be a 5-star Green Star certified building in keeping with Darebin City Council's work in sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The naming of the facility came about in consultation between Darebin City Council and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. With an overwhelming public vote, Narrandjeri was chosen, which means Women Leader in Woi-Wurrung language.

Darebin City Council reached out for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from clubs and associations to ensure that the facility is used in a fair and equitable way and so that diversity is represented through the participation of groups that often face barriers.

This includes women, girls, people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population.

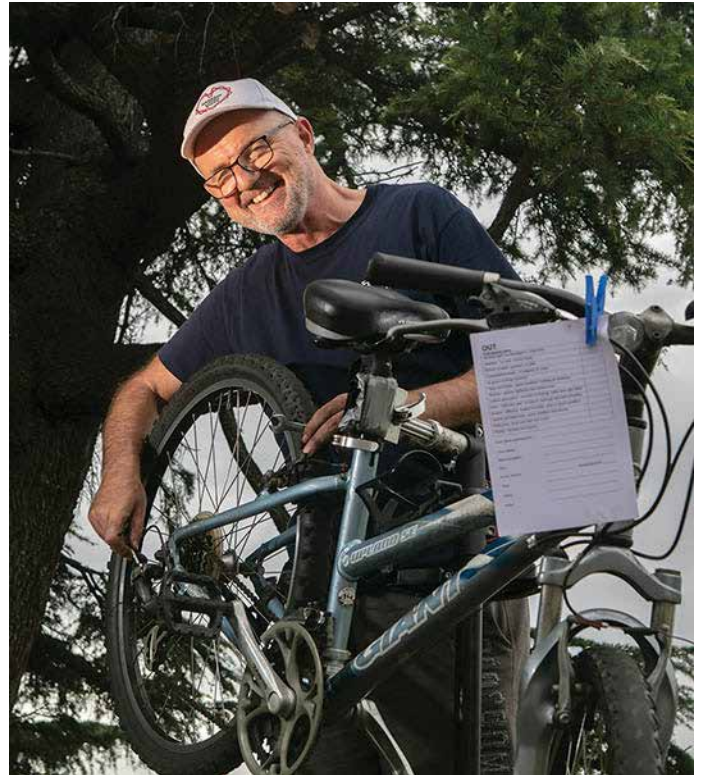
In the tradition of enhancing its urban landscape with innovative art projects and initiatives, Darebin City Council has announced the award of a major new integrated art commission to celebrated Melbourne artist Esther Stewart.

Regarded as one of Australia's leading contemporary artists, Stewart has undertaken significant exhibitions and commissions both nationally and internationally. Her work explores architecture, civic and domestic spaces through the dimension of abstraction.

Narrandjeri Stadium will offer access to much-needed space for indoor sports and exercise and will provide economic benefits to the community through the projection of more than 116 jobs over its lifetime and the contribution of \$14.05 million to the economy during construction.



# WE CYCLE AWARDED COMMUNITY GRANT



WeCycle volunteers, Anna Kortschak and Steve Edmonstone

Darebin City Council has awarded nearly \$300,000 in grants this year for not-for-profit groups and organisations that contribute to the health and wellbeing of its residents. One of the recipients is WeCycle, a volunteer-run community bike shed in Northcote that provides bicycles, helmets, lights and chains to those in need in the community. They work with numerous support agencies to find individuals whose lives would greatly benefit from bike ownership.

Co-founder of WeCycle, Gayle Ilievski, started the not-for-profit after having attended the Darebin City Council's Community Leaders Sustainability Program in 2015, and meeting co-founder Craig Jackson.

"We were in complete agreement that every individual deserves access to a bicycle. Having seen a need in the community where people were not able to afford to purchase one themselves, we thought we could do something to help."

And help they did, with the support of an incredible group of volunteers.

"We were quite fortunate that the City of Darebin gave us a space in Batman Park in Northcote, where people can work on the bikes to get them to roadworthy status. It is right out in the open, and often people will walk by, inquire about what we are up to, and then become volunteers themselves."

Due to COVID-19, WeCycle has had to temporarily close, but the intrepid spirit of the group means that they are still able to provide some services.

"Even before lockdown, volunteers would often take bikes out to locations as far as Craigieburn. In one heart-warming story, a family of four was given bikes, completely changing their ability to access their community. Some volunteers are still working on bikes from home, and that is quite an extraordinary effort," said Gayle.

Each year, WeCycle gives away 80-100 bikes, and Gayle envisions this number growing.

"It is so important to have a sustainable form of transport. Thanks to our volunteers and the help from Darebin Council, we are able to fill a very important need in the community."

In addition to providing bikes to the community, WeCycle also runs a free bike check to the public on the third Saturday of each month.

Booking are essential and can be made through the Eventbrite link at [wecycle.com.au](http://wecycle.com.au). Look out for new dates, as the program is temporarily suspended due to current lockdown conditions.

**For more information about WeCycle and on becoming a volunteer, visit [wecycle-melbourne.com](http://wecycle-melbourne.com) or email [wecyclemelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:wecyclemelbourne@gmail.com)**

## JOBS ADVOCATES



When you're looking for work, it can be difficult to know where to start. Darebin Jobs Advocates is here to help make the process easier and more accessible. There are several ways that Jobs Advocates can help you, from applying for jobs to connecting you with skills and training through Work and Learning Centres, TAFE Skills and Job Centres, apprenticeships and traineeships.

If you find you need more support, we'll link you to a Jobs Victoria Mentor who provides extra guidance by helping you create a successful CV that stands out from the crowd. Worried about the interview process? Don't be! Your Mentor can help build your confidence with practice interviews, sharpening your skills to find the job that's a great fit for you.

Although face to face engagement is not possible right now due to COVID-19, Jobs Advocates will still be there as a support to help you with your job skills virtually.

**Let's get the process started!**  
Simply contact us on  
9240 2275, or by email  
[jobsadvocates@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](http://relayservice.gov.au)

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



## DAREBIN COMMUNITY AWARDS 2021

Nominations are open to people and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the Darebin community across the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Group of the Year
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community Leader of the Year
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Emerging Young Community Leader of the Year
- Sustainability Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- CALD Elder Community Leader of the Year
- CALD Emerging Community Leader of the Year

Rumbi Mutzeo won the Young Citizen of the Year Award in 2020 for her work at Darebin Youth Hub and the FreeZa committee, where young people organise live performances and create opportunities for local artists.

When the Hub closed in 2020 and programs went digital, Rumbi curated and hosted many online events via Darebin Youth Services and designed a Youth Activism Panel for Youth Week.

Rumbi said that the award was unexpected. "It felt like a collection of the hard work I put into Darebin over the last three to four years. I wanted to help others while helping myself."

Since winning the award, Rumbi has performed in a theatre show with PONY CAM for FUSE Autumn 2021.

"Doing the show really shaped me, changed the way I do performing arts because that's my main skills."

Rumbi encourages young people who want to contribute to their local area to get involved in community events when they can.

"Start with an idea and start with your core values. Create your ideas because people can help you and there are financial resources ... people in Darebin are very open minded which I absolutely love."

Nominations for the 2021 Awards are now open and close 11 February 2022.

**Nominate online:**  
[fusedarebin.com.au/community](https://fusedarebin.com.au/community)

**For more information please contact Bronwyn on 8470 8551 or email [Bronwyn.Ryan-Mercer@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:Bronwyn.Ryan-Mercer@darebin.vic.gov.au)**





## LOVE LOCAL CARD



As part of our ongoing effort to help the Darebin community and economy through the COVID-19 pandemic, Council has launched the Love Local Card — a new initiative to support 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 will be given to eligible community members to spend at hundreds of local independent businesses registered to take part in the program.

Rafael Merino owns Living Energy Pilates & Rehabilitation in Macleod, which is one of the many businesses where community members can spend their Love Local Card.

“The Love Local Card is a great opportunity for businesses and consumers. It’s going to help residents to support their favourite local businesses — the places they’d like to see continue to thrive post lockdown,” Rafael said.

“I think it’s good if we can keep money circulating locally by shopping with businesses owned and run by families in the area who will put that money back into the local economy.”

Rafael said during lockdowns his business lost 80 to 90% of revenue, and the pandemic had meant “massive shifts” for his business — including some positive changes.

Forced to find innovative ways to operate while his studio was closed to clients, Rafael launched a whole new business model of renting out his reformer beds for clients to use at home. He also began offering online classes and developed a new bone density program for his older clients.

“The pandemic has had a big impact, but we’re positive and focused on the future and looking forward to reopening as soon as we can.”

**If you’re a business owner or community member and would like to find out more about the Love Local Card, visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/lovelocal](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/lovelocal)**

*Aiutate il Victoria a raggiungere i suoi obiettivi di copertura vaccinale. Maggiori informazioni a pagina 2.*

*Помогнете Викторија да ја постигне својата цел за вакцинација. Повеќе информации на страница 2.*

# UPDATE ON THE NORTHCOTE AQUATIC AND RECREATION CENTRE (NARC)



The NARC redevelopment project is progressing with the announcement of a builder, Kane Constructions Pty Ltd, made at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 23 August. Construction is commencing in October and will take approximately 18-24 months to complete.

This exciting new centre will boast a 6 Star Green Star rating, which is the highest rating possible in the Green Building Council of Australia's sustainability rating, highlighting Council's ongoing commitment to the climate emergency.

Council has consulted extensively with the NARC and broader Darebin community in the design of the facility, which has been shaped and completed by Warren and Mahoney Architects Australia.



The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation has also been consulted extensively throughout the development of the design of the facility and the landscaping. Consultation remains ongoing throughout the project to achieve integrated outcomes.

The new centre will bring both improved health and wellbeing outcomes for our community along with economic benefits. During the construction period, the project is expected to generate over 230 jobs (construction, manufacturing and professional services), and over 120 jobs once the new facility is operational.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, NARC will not be reopening prior to construction commencing, so be sure to check out other nearby swimming and gym options at the Your Say Darebin page: [yoursaydarebin.com.au/NARC](https://yoursaydarebin.com.au/NARC), where you can also sign up to receive regular email updates on the project and view a detailed artist's impression of the new facility.

**For more information, please visit [yoursaydarebin.com.au/NARC](https://yoursaydarebin.com.au/NARC)**

ਮਿਕਟੋਰਿਆਕੋ ਖੋਪਕੋ ਲਖਯ ਹਾਸਿਲ ਗਰਨ ਸਫ਼ਰ ਗਰੁੰਹੋਸੁ। ਥਪ ਜਾਨਕਾਰੀਕੋ ਲਾਗਿ ਪੁਥ ੨ ਹੇਰੁੰਹੋਸੁ।  
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## SUPPORTING LIVE AND LOCAL



Darebin is known for its many live music venues which are a melting pot of creativity, culture and community. Unfortunately, they've also been one of the hardest hit local industries since COVID-19.

Mark Garnett from Westgarth music venue, Merri Creek Tavern is pragmatic when it comes to finding ways to adapt during seemingly endless lockdowns and restrictions.

"I have learnt to focus on the things I can control, rather than focus on the things I can't," said Mark.

It's a mantra that's resulted in a change of pace and other adjustments to the business, which Mark co-owns with fellow musician, Mick Thomas.

"The band room is small so we started doing gigs in the front bar as it meant we could fit in more people but keep within density limits," said Mark.

"It brought about a different aspect to the shows which was way more casual."

Other newly adapted programming includes DJing sessions in the front bar, featuring local musicians playing their own music collection.

"That's been great as we've been able to learn more about each musician," said Mark. "By inviting them to play their own favourite records we get an insight into their musical influences and inspirations, which we wouldn't have known otherwise."

Building community connections and respect for everyone who enters is what Merri Creek Tavern is all about. Their line-up is eclectic and ranges from Punk to string quartets. This year the business received an Arts Recovery Partnership as part of Council's COVID-19 Community and Local Business Resilience and Recovery Package.

The program has a strong focus on connecting local creatives and creative businesses and helping them adapt in a COVIDSafe way.

"We're constantly engaging with artists, we've maintained connections in the industry throughout COVID," said Mark.

"We're in a good position to get things off the ground as soon as restrictions ease again."

"Until then, I hope the community will keep supporting local artists, buy their records, download their videos and get to their shows when you can."

Find Merri Creek Tavern online at [merricreektavern.com.au](http://merricreektavern.com.au)

**To keep up to date with the Arts Recovery Partners programs and events through 2021 sign up to the What's On Arts & Culture newsletter at [darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/subscribe)**





## ASSERTIVE OUTREACH

Luc feels “wonderful” these days, now that he has safe accommodation. But just a few months ago, life looked very different. Luc was experiencing homelessness and, for six months, he was sleeping rough. “It was terrible at the time. I slept outside on the street, and during the winter it was so cold. I thought at the time I couldn’t have survived. It was very rough,” Luc said.

Things changed for Luc when he was provided with support through the Darebin Assertive Community Outreach Program (DACO). DACO is funded by Darebin Council and is delivered by Merri Outreach Support Service, providing support to those experiencing homelessness in Darebin. Through the program, Darebin residents and business owners can contact Council if they see someone sleeping rough and are concerned for their wellbeing.

Council provides this information to DACO, and requests they visit the rough sleeper to offer resources and support, including options for accommodation and housing, referrals to health and wellbeing services and short-term case management.

Luc said DACO has been a huge help. “I really appreciate the support,” Luc said. “I think (the program) is very good. I was homeless before, I didn’t have a roof over my head, and now I have some accommodation, so it’s great.”

DACO is not an emergency service. If emergency assistance is required, a person appears distressed or their behaviour threatens their own and or the safety of others, call Police on 000 (triple zero).

**Community members can email**  
[assertiveoutreach@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:assertiveoutreach@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
**or call Council’s Community**  
**Development Officer on 8470 8269**



## PROTECTING PRESTON MARKET

Many community members recently joined Council’s call to ensure that the State Government’s proposed new planning controls protect the Preston Market properly. Protecting the market properly would require a significant change from the State Government’s proposal and Council is advocating strongly for this change.

Over 10,000 people have signed a petition and many people also made formal submissions to the recent State Government consultation process. We encourage any submitters to also participate in any hearings the State Government runs. Strong community feedback shows how important the market is to community, but ongoing advocacy remains important.

The market’s unique values are under threat from a redevelopment that could see 80 per cent of the original structures demolished. In May the State Government released their draft plan for the future of Preston Market and its surrounding site, making room for apartment towers up to 20 storeys high. Council is worried we could lose the Market’s heritage value and all the things that make it so special such as its diverse range of traders selling fresh and affordable food.

For two years Council has been working hard to understand what the community loves most about the market. In July Council made a submission to the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) as part of a public consultation process.

Darebin City Council would like to thank all local community members who made formal submissions and signed the petition to save Preston Market.

We also encourage community members to continue shopping at Preston Market at this time in a COVIDSafe way.





Darebin City Council team members Ben Smith (left), Alisa Rudd (centre) and Catherine Dando at Bundoora Park



## REWILDING PROJECT

If you've noticed things getting a bit greener and leafier across Darebin over the past 18 months, that's due to the work of Ben Smith and his colleagues in Council's Parks and Open Space team.

Since April last year, as part of Council's Rewilding program, around 10 hectares across the municipality has been covered with 230,000 indigenous trees and plants, with another 80,000 yet to go.

This huge effort was achieved with the help of Council staff redeployed due to the pandemic, as well as staff members employed through the State Government's Working for Victoria program.

"At the height of the planting when we had 30 people on site, we would regularly hit 6000 plants a day. And on average we were planting 1000 per day," Ben said.

It's no wonder that at one stage last year, thanks to this and similar projects undertaken by neighbouring councils, every nursery in the Melbourne Metro area had been cleared out of their indigenous plant stock. "By July there were no plants left," Ben said.

Luckily stock has since been replenished, because the project is far from over. As part of Council's five-year Breathing Space Strategy, the project will continue for the next three years, aiming to create habitat for native insects, birds and animals as well as increasing the numbers and types of indigenous plant species.

When deciding what to plant, Ben's task is to balance the needs of local wildlife with the needs of residents.

"There's a whole system behind what we do and what we try to achieve, and as much as we're focused on habitat and biodiversity and assisting threat on natural pollinators in the area, it's also understanding that this is an urban environment," Ben said.

"Rewilding creates space for residents that is separate from the urban hustle and bustle. It provides an opportunity to relax and get in touch with the environment, while also highlighting the unique indigenous plants and animals of Darebin."

With a Biodiversity Manager recently coming on board at Council, Ben is keen to work together to take a long-term approach towards protecting local endangered species, such as the Growling Grass Frog.

"Hopefully in the future these areas that have been rewilded can be safe havens for endangered species."

**For more information about the Rewilding Program visit [darebin.vic.gov.au/rewilding](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/rewilding)**



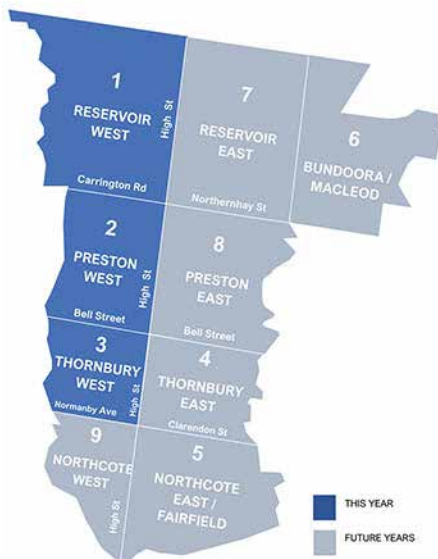
## YOUR STREET, YOUR SAY

We're making local streets safer for everyone, and we need your help. Your Street, Your Say is your opportunity to let us know how we can make your street safer for walking, cycling, scooting, or driving.

We want to know what makes it difficult for you to travel in your street, and how we can make it better. Your feedback will help us put together a plan to improve the liveability of your local streets over the next three years.

We launched the project in early October in Reservoir West, Preston West and Thornbury West.

If you live in, travel through or visit any of these areas, we want to hear from you.



**Sign up now for updates on this project and opportunities to provide feedback in October delivered straight to your email inbox [yoursaydarebin.com.au/ysreservoirprestonthornburywest](mailto:yoursaydarebin.com.au/ysreservoirprestonthornburywest)**



Image credit: Wendy Rowe

## MUSICIANS IN DAREBIN

Anthony 'Shorty' Shorrte knows Melbourne's lockdowns have fatigued many people. Now that restrictions are easing, he urges people to pre-book tickets to see bands because it gives musicians and venues a plan. More importantly, it brings hope and a sense of community.

"Music is the soundtrack to people's lives," said Shorty

Shorty is a percussionist who plays drums and has toured America with ARIA award-winning band Collard Greens and Gravy. The Darebin local is a member of bands Opelousas, who won the Victorian Blues Artist Award 2019, The Houndlings, and is part of a duo with Dan Dinnen.

Before COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the duo had plans to release a new album, but it all went on hold.

Like many musicians, Shorty has pivoted during lockdown.

"I've always done handyman stuff as a side gig, but that's morphed into a full-time gig."

Shorty has played at local venues the Lomond Hotel, Bar 303 and Open Studio.

"There is definitely a sense of community around music."

Creative content made by musicians, artists and writers has helped many people get through lockdowns. Shorty said that it's great when people show their support online.

Support your favourite Melbourne musicians on social media and visit Bandcamp online, where you can buy music and merchandise. "It's kept a lot of musos going," said Shorty.

Many festivals and productions have been cancelled, rebooked and cancelled again. Support Act helps working musicians experiencing mental health issues as a result of the impacts of COVID-19 on the creative industries.

**For artists, crew and music workers needing support call the Support Act Wellbeing Helpline on 1800 959 500**

**Find Shorty online at [opelousasband.com](http://opelousasband.com)**



# WHAT'S NEWS



## LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

Local resident, Ronghua Wang was recently featured in an ABC News article about lockdown life in Australia.

Originally from Shanghai, Ms Wang leads an active life. She is an involved member of Chinese seniors associations, takes care of home-stay students and acts as a guardian for Chinese students.

When the pandemic began and Melbourne experienced COVID-19 restrictions, Ms Wang put some activities on hold and began learning new skills to enrich her life.

"I do what I love. Australia's natural conditions are so good, I like to grow vegetables, so I rented a piece of land from the local government to grow my own vegetables. I often go there when I am free," Ms Wang said.

Ms Wang also likes to cook in a variety of styles, developing an accomplished repertoire and more patience with cooking.

The full article can be read online: [abc.net.au/chinese/2021-08-13/melbourne-sydney-canberra-lockdown-life-health-chinese/Australia/100336504](http://abc.net.au/chinese/2021-08-13/melbourne-sydney-canberra-lockdown-life-health-chinese/Australia/100336504)



## VACCINATION CHAMPIONS

Access to accurate information about COVID-19 vaccines can be challenging when social media may spread disinformation.

Tarek Khodr, President of the Islamic Society of Victoria, is working hard to provide accurate information to help keep people safe during the pandemic.

"When the vaccine first arrived, I was hesitant like a lot of people. I wanted to wait. Then I started to do my own homework. The Quran tells us to 'ask the people of knowledge' and in this case the people of knowledge are the doctors. The Muslim doctors I spoke to told me the vaccine is the way to go, so five months ago I booked my appointment and got my first jab," he said.

For several months Mr Khodr has been working to dispel the myths surrounding vaccines.

"We had a Zoom Mythbuster session with several doctors and the feedback we got from that was overwhelming."

According to Mr Khodr the effects of COVID-19 on prominent members of Victoria's Muslim community prompted many people into action.

"The number of people taking up the vaccine has skyrocketed.

I think it's because members of our community were in intensive care and that has changed people's mind. We're a close community and it affects us all when a member of our community becomes seriously ill."

Mr Khodr said a fear of needles has kept many people from accessing the vaccine, but he assures them there is nothing to worry about.

"At my first appointment I asked the nurse 'are you ready' and she said, 'we're already finished'."

Book your vaccination today with your GP or local pharmacy.

**Stay up to date with accurate information and book your vaccination today at a state-run vaccination centre on 1800 675 398 or at [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment](http://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment)**

## STAY CONNECTED IN LOCKDOWN

If you are an older person living in Darebin and have a computer or smart phone, Council staff can help you connect online with others locally and overseas with Zoom. Online video calls with family and friends are a good way to keep in touch during lockdown.

**Call our friendly staff on 8470 8063 to talk about getting support to get connected**



### CITY OF DAREBIN

274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877  
E [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
[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 Soomali  
繁體中文 Македонски Español  
Ελληνικά नेपाली اردو  
हिंदी ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Tiếng Việt