



2026-27 Budget endorsed
Page 6

YOUR COUNCILLORS



MAYOR
CR EMILY DIMITRIADIS
South East Ward

M: 0437 918 708
E: Emily.Dimitriadis
@darebin.vic.gov.au



DEPUTY MAYOR
CR MATT ARTURI
North East Ward

M: 0417 294 158
E: Matt.Arturi
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR CONNIE BOGLIS OAM
West Ward

M: 0427 938 376
E: Connie.Boglis
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR RUTH JELLEY
South Central Ward

M: 0459 949 340
E: Ruth.Jelley
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR JULIE O'BRIEN
South Ward

M: 0459 406 253
E: Julie.O'Brien
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR KRISTINE OLARIS OAM
Central Ward

M: 0427 450 751
E: Kristine.Olaris
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR ALEXANDRA SANGSTER
South West Ward

M: 0467 838 844
E: Alexandra.Sangster
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR VASILIOS TSALKOS
North Central Ward

M: 0461 389 079
E: Vasilios.Tsalkos
@darebin.vic.gov.au



CR ANGELA VILLELLA
North West Ward

M: 0436 918 095
E: Angela.Villella
@darebin.vic.gov.au

VACCINATIONS THIS WINTER



Staying up to date with vaccinations this winter is a safe and effective way to protect you and your loved ones from serious disease.

Measles, flu, and whooping cough are currently circulating in our community.

Mayor Emily Dimitriadis got her flu vaccine to prepare for the winter months and encourages everyone to do the same.

"From my experience as a hospital pharmacist, I know how important it is to get recommended vaccines on time and in line with the government schedule to keep your family protected," Cr Dimitriadis said.

Darebin Council immunisation service runs free vaccination sessions for babies, children, and adults.

To find session dates and locations visit darebin.vic.gov.au/immunisation



SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE
T 8470 8470

العربية

Italiano

Soomalii

繁體中文

Македонски

Español

Ελληνικά

नेपाली

اردو

हिंदी

ਪੰਜਾਬੀ

Tiếng Việt

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Darebin stands. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future leaders.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the winter edition of Darebin Community News.

One of the greatest privileges of serving as Mayor is meeting the incredible people who make Darebin such a special place. Whether it is volunteers supporting their local community, residents advocating for positive change or people simply looking out for their neighbours, I'm constantly inspired by the generosity, kindness and community spirit I see across our city.

I'm pleased to report that the 2026-27 Budget was endorsed at a Special Council Meeting last month.

Shaped by feedback from residents across Darebin, this budget sets out our plan for delivering the services our community relies upon every day, while responding to increased financial pressures and planning for the future.

I'm passionate about ensuring the safety of all Darebin residents, including our most vulnerable and youngest community members, so it's fantastic to see more projects in the budget supporting the construction of pedestrian crossings outside schools, kindergartens and childcare centres, such as Perry Street Kindergarten in Fairfield and Thornbury High School.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your ideas, priorities and feedback during our community consultation process. Find out more about the 2026-27 Budget on page 6.

Winter's chill may have well and truly settled in, but there are so many reasons to get out in the community and make the most of everything our city has to offer. On page 11 you can read all about our long-running and very popular Get Active program which offers free, inclusive activities for all ages and abilities. I encourage you to get involved!

Cr Emily Dimitriadis
Mayor



English Pronunciation Group volunteers: Dianne, Denise, Meg, Maggie and Peter

CELEBRATING DAREBIN'S VOLUNTEERS

This year marks 10 years of Darebin's English Pronunciation Program!

For the past decade, the program has run on Friday mornings at the Darebin Intercultural Centre, supporting local learners to build confidence, strengthen their English language skills, and connect more deeply with their community. Its ongoing success has only been possible thanks to the dedication and generosity of its volunteer teachers.

"When you're speaking a second language, being understood is so important," Volunteer Program Lead Meg Rosse said.

"That's what motivated the creation of the English Pronunciation Program.

By gathering a team of volunteer teachers, we could offer a program in which each participant could have 30 minutes with a teacher to work on improving their pronunciation."

Across Darebin, volunteers continue to play a vital role in creating a stronger, more connected and vibrant community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gives their time and skills so generously.

If you've ever considered volunteering, let this be your sign to get involved! From community programs to environmental projects, education, mentoring and more, there are many ways to make a difference.

Visit darebin.vic.gov.au/volunteering to learn more



BEYOND AGE

Beyond Age asked members of the community to reflect upon their lives to showcase different experiences of ageing.

The project, a partnership between Darebin City Council and Senior Rights Victoria, challenges ageist attitudes and promotes respect for older people.

Participants brought along a photo of their younger selves and had a new photo taken to show them in 2026.

By shifting societal attitudes and emphasising the value of age, we can work towards a safer, more inclusive society for older people and combat ageism as one of the significant drivers of elder abuse.

Head along to Northcote Library to see the **Beyond Age Exhibition**, launching on **Wednesday 9 September at 11.15am**.

This exhibition is part of Council's work to acknowledge **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** which is marked on June 15 each year.

*2026 photos taken by Stephen McKenzie



Learn more at darebin.vic.gov.au/beyondage

BEAT THE CHILL WITH THE WARM WINTER READ

Few things beat snuggling up with a good book on a cold day. Darebin Libraries invites you to celebrate reading this winter by joining the Warm Winter Read.

There are good reasons to read more. Research from Australia Reads shows that reading for pleasure can reduce depression and dementia risk, boost empathy and self esteem, and help people feel more connected to others. And the best part? Reading can happen anywhere — in a cosy corner at home, on the train, at the park, or while working-out at the gym.

The Warm Winter Read, for booklovers aged 16+, is a gentle reminder of the joys — and benefits — of reading. You can set your own reading targets,

share reading recommendations, and connect with other readers at author talks and other events. You can also go into the draw for great prizes, including books, vouchers and an e-reader.

For library member Bea, being part of the Warm Winter Read in 2025 helped her to make more time for reading. "Through the Warm Winter Read I discovered new favourite authors, thanks to librarian recommendations. Attending Library events helped me to connect with other readers who love books as much as I do."

Cosy up with some good books this winter with Darebin Libraries!

The Warm Winter Read runs until 31 August.



For info on joining and attending events, visit libraries.darebin.vic.gov.au

MAJOR UPGRADE AND EXTRA PLACES FOR MARYBOROUGH AVENUE KINDERGARTEN

Chris Hodge has been an educator at Maryborough Avenue Kindergarten for 32 years — only the second teacher at the centre since it opened in 1977.

While much has remained constant for this local institution over the decades, Chris and the kindergarten community welcomed some big, exciting changes this year with a major upgrade that transformed its indoor and outdoor spaces.

Delivered by Council in partnership with the Victorian Government through the Building Blocks Partnership, the project added a second classroom, and expanded and improved the existing classroom, creating capacity for up to 68 additional kindergarten places.

The modern upgrades also include a new foyer area, staff room, staff toilets and cleaning room, as well as nature-play in the upgraded outdoor area.

The project has been shortlisted in the Master Builders Victoria Excellence in Construction Awards.

Chris said the expansion would help accommodate the growing number of young families in the Kingsbury area which, in recent years, has included the children of her former students.

“Even though we’ve completed many maintenance jobs over the time, it’s lovely to have a big upgrade; to have a proper foyer and a second room so we can expand. All of it gives us that flexibility and means it can grow into the future,” Chris said.

Chris said the “bright and modern” facilities feel welcoming for families.

“I think the best thing about my job is the relationships we build over the year with the children, or many more years with siblings and their families,” Chris said.

“Over the past seven or eight years I’ve started to teach the children of children I taught (years ago) in my class, which is lovely.”

For more information about kindergarten in Darebin visit
darebin.vic.gov.au/kindergarten



OUR BUDGET 2026-27, DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS MOST



Roads, waste services, libraries and community programs – the things people rely on every day – are at the heart of Darebin’s newly endorsed 2026-27 Budget.

Darebin Council endorsed its 2026-27 Budget at a Special Council Meeting on 30 June, outlining how Council will continue delivering essential services while responding to increasing financial pressures.

Like many households, Council is operating in a tighter financial environment, with rising costs and limited revenue growth. This year’s budget focuses on maintaining the services the

community relies on every day, while investing in infrastructure and planning for the future.

The Budget includes a \$27 million capital works program, with investment in renewing and upgrading key community assets such as roads, footpaths, drainage and community facilities. It also continues funding for important services that support health and wellbeing, waste and recycling, libraries and local programs.

Council received valuable feedback during community consultation, helping to inform decision-making.

Reservoir resident Alex said, “It’s good to see continued investment in the everyday services and facilities that help keep our community connected and supported.”

Mayor, Councillor Emily Dimitriadis said the Budget strikes a careful balance between delivering for the community today and planning for the future.

“We’ve prioritised the services people rely on while taking a responsible approach to financial sustainability,” she said.

“We’re focused on building a strong, connected and resilient Darebin for everyone.”

You can read Our Budget 2026-27 and other key documents at darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

Key budget figures



Expected income:
\$236.2 million



Expected expenses:
\$245.8 million



Building and infrastructure
renewal and improvements:
\$27.6 million



Rates: **2.75% increase**
(cap set by the State Government,
limiting how much councils can
increase rates each year.)

A large part of the budget is invested in maintaining and renewing the infrastructure that supports daily life — helping keep our community safe, connected and running smoothly. Here's what's planned for 2026–27:

Plant &
equipment

**\$4.8
million**

Road
network

**\$6.4
million**

Footpaths
& cycleways

**\$1.9
million**

Recreation &
leisure facilities

**\$4.5
million**

Bridges

**\$1.6
million**

Land &
buildings

**\$4.9
million**

Drainage
network

**\$1.3
million**

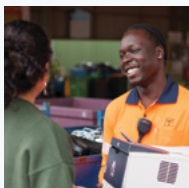
Parks &
open space

**\$1.3
million**

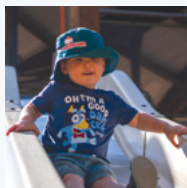
Other
infrastructure

**\$0.9
million**

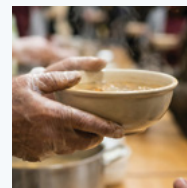
What this budget delivers — the essential services and everyday work that support our community:



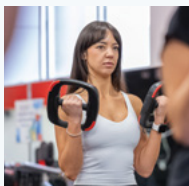
**50,000+
tonnes
of waste
collected**



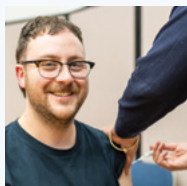
**130+
playgrounds
maintained**



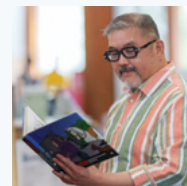
**27,500+
community
meals
delivered**



**280+ free
Get Active
sessions
held**



**21,500
immunisations
provided**



**1,000,000+
library books
borrowed**

Council is budgeting for an operating deficit of \$9.6 million in 2026–27. This means we'll spend more than we earn in this year. This is mainly due to planned investment in business transformation largely through technology, to better deliver services and meet our community's changing needs. This investment is funded from savings made in recent years.

إعتمد مجلس داربين ميزانيته للسنة المالية (2026 – 2027) خلال اجتماع استثنائي عُقد في 30 يونيو. وتركز الميزانية على تقديم الخدمات الأساسية وصيانة البنية التحتية المجتمعية، بما في ذلك الطرق ومسارات المشاة والمكتبات وخدمات النفايات والمرافق العامة، مع الاستجابة للضغوط المالية المتزايدة والتخطيط للمستقبل. يمكنكم الاطلاع على ميزانيتنا للسنة المالية (2026 – 2027) وغيرها من المستندات الرئيسية عبر darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

戴瑞宾市议会已经在6月30日举行的市议会特别会议上正式通过《2026-27年度预算》。该预算聚焦提供基本服务和维护社区基础设施，包括道路、人行道、图书馆、垃圾处理服务及社区设施，同时应对日益增加的财政压力，并为未来做好规划。查看我们的《2026-27年度预算》及其他重要文件，请访问 darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

Το Δημοτικό Συμβούλιο του Darebin ενέκρινε τον Προϋπολογισμό 2026-27 σε Ειδική Συνεδρίαση του Συμβουλίου στις 30 Ιουνίου. Ο Προϋπολογισμός επικεντρώνεται στην παροχή βασικών υπηρεσιών και στη συντήρηση των κοινοτικών υποδομών, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των δρόμων, των πεζοδρομίων, των βιβλιοθηκών, των υπηρεσιών απορριμμάτων και των κοινοτικών εγκαταστάσεων, ενώ παράλληλα ανταποκρίνεται στις αυξανόμενες οικονομικές πιέσεις και σχεδιάζει για το μέλλον. Διαβάστε τον Προϋπολογισμό μας 2026-27 και άλλα βασικά έγγραφα στην ιστοσελίδα darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

डारेबिन काउंसिल ने 30 जून को काउंसिल की एक विशेष बैठक में अपने 2026-27 बजट का समर्थन किया। बजट बढ़ते वित्तीय दबावों का जवाब देने और भविष्य के लिए योजना बनाने के साथ-साथ आवश्यक सेवाएं प्रदान करने और सड़कों, फुटपाथों, पुस्तकालयों, अपशिष्ट सेवाओं और सामुदायिक सुविधाओं सहित सामुदायिक बुनियादी ढांचे को बनाए रखने पर केंद्रित है। हमारा बजट 2026-27 और अन्य प्रमुख दस्तावेज़ Darebin.vic.gov.au/budget पर पढ़े जा सकते हैं।

Il Comune di Darebin ha approvato il bilancio 2026-27 in una seduta straordinaria tenutasi il 30 giugno. Il bilancio si concentra sull'erogazione dei servizi essenziali e sulla manutenzione delle infrastrutture comunitarie, tra cui strade, marciapiedi, biblioteche, servizi di gestione dei rifiuti e strutture di pubblica utilità, tenendo conto delle crescenti pressioni finanziarie e pianificando per il futuro. È possibile consultare il bilancio 2026-27 e altri documenti chiave al sito darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

Советот на Даребин го одобри својот буџет за периодот 2026-27 година на вонреден состанок на Советот што се одржа на 30 јуни. Буџетот се сосредоточува на обезбедување основни услуги и одржување на инфраструктурата на заедницата, вклучувајќи патишта, пешачки патеки, библиотеки, услуги за отпад и објекти на заедницата, а истовремено одговара и на зголемените финансиски притисоци и планирање за иднината. Прочитајте го нашиот буџет за периодот 2026-27 година и други клучни документи на местото на интернет darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

डारेबिन सिटी काउन्सिलले ३० जूनमा आयोजित काउन्सिलको विशेष बैठकमा आफ्नो आर्थिक वर्ष २०२६-२७ को बजेट अनुमोदन गरेको छ। यस बजेटले सडक, पैदलमार्ग, पुस्तकालय, फोहोर व्यवस्थापन सेवा तथा सामुदायिक सुविधाहरू सहित आवश्यक सेवाहरू र सामुदायिक पूर्वाधारको निरन्तर सञ्चालन र मर्मतसम्भारमा केन्द्रित गरेको छ। साथै, बढ्दो वित्तीय दबाबलाई सम्बोधन गर्दै भविष्यका लागि योजना बनाउने उद्देश्य पनि यस बजेटमा समावेश गरिएको छ। २०२६-२७ को बजेट तथा अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कागजातहरू darebin.vic.gov.au/budget मा हेर्न सकिन्छ।

ਡੈਰਬਿਨ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਨੇ 30 ਜੂਨ ਨੂੰ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਆਪਣੇ 2026-27 ਦੇ ਬਜਟ ਨੂੰ ਪਾਸ ਕਰ ਦਿੱਤਾ ਹੈ। ਇਹ ਬਜਟ ਵੱਧਦੇ ਵਿੱਤੀ ਦਬਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਭਵਿੱਖ ਲਈ ਯੋਜਨਾਬੰਦੀ ਦਾ ਧਿਆਨ ਰੱਖਦੇ ਹੋਏ ਸੜਕਾਂ, ਫੁੱਟਪਾਥਾਂ, ਲਾਇਬ੍ਰੇਰੀਆਂ, ਕੂੜਾ ਚੁੱਕਣ ਵਾਲੀਆਂ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਕ ਸੁਵਿਧਾਵਾਂ ਸਮੇਤ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਅਤੇ ਭਾਈਚਾਰਕ ਬੁਨਿਆਦੀ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀ ਸਾਂਭ-ਸੰਭਾਲ 'ਤੇ ਧਿਆਨ ਕੇਂਦਰਿਤ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸਾਡੇ 2026-27 ਦੇ ਬਜਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਮੁੱਖ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ਾਂ ਨੂੰ darebin.vic.gov.au/budget 'ਤੇ ਪੜ੍ਹੋ।

El Concejo Municipal de Darebin aprobó su Presupuesto 2026-27 en una Reunión Extraordinaria del Concejo del 30 de junio. El Presupuesto se centra en la prestación de servicios esenciales y el mantenimiento de la infraestructura comunitaria, que incluye calles, aceras, bibliotecas, servicios de gestión de residuos e instalaciones comunitarias, y al mismo tiempo responde a las crecientes presiones financieras y planifica para el futuro. Lea nuestro Presupuesto 2026-27 y otros documentos clave en darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

Golaha Darebin wuxuu ansixiyey miisaaniyaddiisa 2026-27 shir gaar ah oo Golaha ah oo la qabtay 30kii Juun. Miisaaniyaddu waxay diiradda saaraysaa bixinta adeegyada muhiimka ah iyo dayactirka kaabayaasha bulshada, oo ay ku jiraan waddooyinka, waddooyinka lugaynta, maktabadaha, adeegyada qashinka iyo xarumaha bulshada, iyadoo laga jawaabay cadaadisyaada dhaqaale ee sii kordhaya isla markaana loo qorsheynayo mustaqbalka. Ka akhri Miisaaniyaddeenna 2026-27 iyo dukumintiyada kale ee muhiimka ah bogga darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

ڈیئرین کاؤنسل نے 30 جون کو ایک سپیشل کاؤنسل میٹنگ میں اپنا 2026-27 کا بجٹ منظور کیا۔ بجٹ میں بنیادی خدمات کی فراہمی اور کمیونٹی انفراسٹرکچر کی مینٹیننس کو توجہ دی گئی ہے جس میں سڑکیں، فٹ پاتھ، لائبریریاں، کورٹا اٹھانے کی خدمات اور کمیونٹی کے استعمال کے مقامات شامل ہیں، اور ساتھ ساتھ بڑھتے ہوئے مالی دباؤ اور آئندہ منصوبہ بندی کے لیے بھی اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں۔ ہمارا 2026-27 کا بجٹ اور دوسری اہم دستاویزات darebin.vic.gov.au/budget پر پڑھیں۔

Hội đồng thành phố Darebin đã thông qua Ngân sách năm 2026-2027 tại cuộc họp đặc biệt của Hội đồng vào ngày 30 tháng 6. Ngân sách chủ trọng vào việc cung cấp các dịch vụ thiết yếu và duy trì cơ sở hạ tầng cộng đồng, bao gồm đường sá, lối đi bộ, thư viện, dịch vụ thu gom rác thải và các tiện ích cộng đồng, cùng lúc ứng phó với áp lực tài chính ngày càng tăng và lập kế hoạch cho tương lai. Đọc Ngân sách năm 2026-2027 và các tài liệu quan trọng khác tại darebin.vic.gov.au/budget

SAVE ON STAYING WARM THIS WINTER WITH THE DAREBIN ENERGY UPGRADES PROGRAM



Monique went fully electric thanks to the Darebin Energy Upgrades Program

The Darebin Energy Upgrades Program can help keep your home cosy this winter, with free, tailored advice about increasing your energy efficiency or going electric.

Heating and hot water have the biggest impact on your energy bill — and those costs add up when it gets cold.

As gas prices continue to rise, recent modelling* shows Darebin households can save around \$1285 per year on energy bills by going all-electric, up to \$2700 by adding solar and even more with insulation and draught proofing.

So, if you've been thinking about upgrading your insulation and draught proofing, old heater, or hot water system, Darebin's Energy Upgrades Program can help you get started.

Limited rebates of up to \$3500 are available for eligible households and businesses.

Darebin resident Monique recently upgraded her insulation and switched to electric through the Darebin Energy Upgrades Program, helping her save on winter bills and keep her home warm through the chilly months ahead.

Initially only looking to install solar and battery, Monique said the rebates made it possible to upgrade her home to fully electric.

"I wasn't going to get insulation, wasn't going to get a split system, wasn't necessarily going to get off gas. I wanted to do it at some point in the future, and the rebates made it more affordable," Monique said.

"Trent from (recommended supplier) All Electric Homes came out and sat down with me and we had a chat about the things I wanted. Then they put together the quote with recommendations and other options, so I found the guidance through the program really easy."

Start saving on staying warm — register today at darebinenergyupgrades.org.au for a free, no-obligation quote.

*Recent modelling by Renew shows that households in Melbourne can save \$1285 per year on their energy bills by going all-electric — and up to \$2700 if they have solar panels and even more if they insulate and draught proof their home.

Insulation and Draught Proofing Made Easy information session

Learn how insulation and draught proofing can help keep your home comfortable, with expert advice on:

- How insulation and draught proofing can save you money on your energy bills
- Where to insulate for the biggest impact
- How to check what insulation your home currently has

Thursday 13 August

6-7.30pm

Preston Library

Plus, find out about our new Darebin Energy Upgrades Program, offering limited council rebates for insulation and draught proofing.

Register today at libraries.darebin.vic.gov.au/insulation

SHARED E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER TRIAL

In February 2026 we launched a micromobility trial, with 180 e-bikes and 60 e-scooters available for hire in Northcote, Fairfield and Alphington.

Since the trial launched, riders have averaged more than 700 trips a week, with many using the service to connect to public transport. Nearly half of all e-bike trips connect with destinations outside Darebin and users are traveling an average of 2.2km – around 20% longer than the rest of metropolitan Melbourne.

All e-scooter and e-bike trips must start and end at a designated parking location, and we're keeping track of how the parking technology is working to maintain clear, safe and accessible public spaces.

Thank you to more than 130 community members who already have shared their feedback during the trial. Council will evaluate the trial after it concludes in August 2026, including considering community feedback, so we hope people continue to share their experience and thoughts through the remainder of the trial.

Have you used the service and would like to share your experience? Complete our two-minute rider survey at darebin.vic.gov.au/escootertrial

If you have any questions or feedback please contact the Sustainable Transport Team at micromobility@darebin.vic.gov.au



Riders have averaged more than 700 trips a week since the micromobility trial launched in February.

Find more information, including FAQs and a map of the trial area and parking locations at darebin.vic.gov.au/escootertrial

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Your Say Darebin is Council's online engagement platform, where you can tell us what you think to help shape our community.

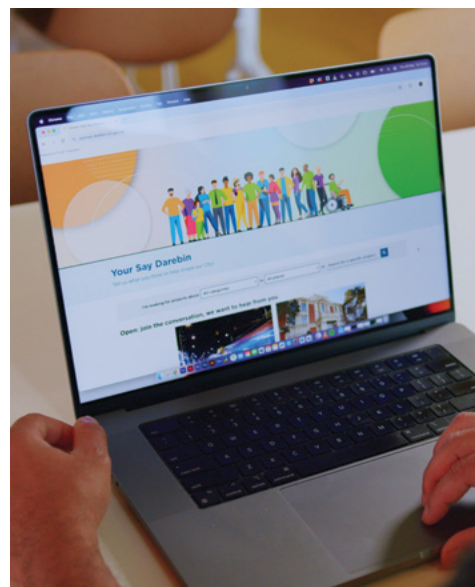
Every year Council runs more than 20 community engagements, both in person and online, seeking feedback on a range of different projects, plans and policies. That is more than 20 opportunities to have your say.

Your voice is valued and helps shape important decisions in Darebin. When you share your opinions, it helps us build the city

the community aspires for and needs. That's why we want to hear from you!

Head to yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au to get involved and have your say now. You can also sign up to be notified of any new engagements, follow projects that match your interests or look back on previous engagements.

You can also call us on **8470 8888** and ask for the Community Engagement team or speak to us in your language by calling the Darebin Multicultural Telephone Line on **8470 8470**.



Council runs more than 20 community engagements each year, both in person and online.



Stay up-to-date with Your Darebin

For the latest local news, subscribe to our monthly online newsletter *Your Darebin*.

Visit darebin.vic.gov.au/council-newsletters and follow the links to have our online news delivered to your inbox each month.

LGBTIQA+ ACTION PLAN FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE DAREBIN



Our new LGBTIQA+ Action Plan is shaped by the stories, experiences and ideas shared by local LGBTIQA+ communities.

We're proud to launch our LGBTIQA+ Action Plan, delivering on Council's commitment to create a safer and more welcoming Darebin for LGBTIQA+ community members.

Endorsed by Council on March 24 2026, the plan has been built directly from the stories, experiences and ideas shared by local LGBTIQA+ communities.

Kade and Rachael from the Darebin LGBTIQA+ Advisory Committee were excited to attend the official launch after many hours of work behind the scenes.

"We've been working on the plan with Council for about 18 months now. We're so excited to see it come to life in the community," Rachael said.

We heard from almost 300 community members who shared their thoughts and ideas about how Darebin services, programs and facilities could be more accessible for LGBTIQA+ communities.

Find out more and download a copy of the plan at darebin.vic.gov.au/LGBTIQA

GET ACTIVE IN DAREBIN THIS WINTER!



Get Active in Darebin is one of Council's most popular programs, offering free, beginner friendly activities for community members of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Get Active has grown since its launch in 2012, now offering more than 20 sessions and attracting more than 1000 visits each season. In 2025, Get Active in Darebin was commended in the Parks and Leisure Australia VIC/TAS Awards of Excellence.

For many participants, the real magic of Get Active is the sense of belonging and care that develops in classes. Darebin local Cass and her son found the inclusive parent-child swim sessions "refreshing, calm and like nothing else we'd experienced," appreciating the small, quiet, relaxed classes and supportive environment. Meeting other parents and their children was a bonus.

For Sophia, attending Get Active tai chi sessions opened the door to new community connections — and eventually to becoming a facilitator herself. "One of the special things about tai chi is that it is for all people," she says. "I truly love our Get Active tai chi community!"

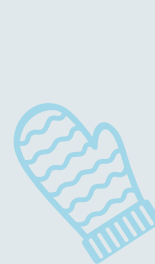
Darebin resident Adrian enjoys trying something new each week, including boxing, barre, yoga and zumba. And for Bindy from Queer Sporting Alliance, who facilitate some highly popular Get Active sessions, "the real impact of Get Active is in the sense of community it creates, with many participants forming lasting friendships."

Whether you want to get fit, try something new, or connect with your community, Get Active truly does offer something for everyone. Get Active in Darebin this winter!

Get Active in Darebin runs from 20 July to 30 August.

Find session and registration details at darebin.vic.gov.au/getactive

WHAT'S ON



DAREBIN ARTS THIS WINTER

Brighten the colder months with a vibrant program of exhibitions and performances across Darebin Arts.

From thought-provoking visual art at Bundoora Homestead Art Centre to bold, contemporary performances at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre, there's something for everyone this season.

At **Bundoora Homestead Art Centre** (1 July–24 October), explore a series of compelling exhibitions spanning migration, identity, ecology and sound — featuring works by Australian-Hazara artists in *Chogh* (چوڱ), a moving tribute to lost landscapes in *Requiem in Power* (RIP), intimate local reflections in Heidi Schoenheimer's *Around Here*, and Sally Ann McIntyre's exploration of extinct bird calls in *Post-extinction huiā soundings*.

At **Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre**, Darebin Arts Speakeasy presents an exciting winter line-up of theatre and live performance. Highlights include the genre-blending love story *Rabbit & Watson* (15–26 July), and the sharp, funny and deeply personal *Cut Chilli* (12–23 August).

Find out more
arts.darebin.vic.gov.au



Heidi Schoenheimer, *Ripe Jackfruit at Preston Market* (detail) 2026. Courtesy of the artist.



360 SPORTS CAMPS

Coming up these Spring school holidays, 360 Sports Camps return to Narrandjeri Stadium in Thornbury. Kids can enjoy basketball, soccer, netball, pickleball and more in a fun, active environment.

Camps run 21–24 September and 28 September — 2 October, 9am–5pm daily. Multi-day discounts available.

Save the date!

Bookings at darebin.vic.gov.au/school-holidays



QUEST CONNECT AT EAST PRESTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Quest Connect is a drop-in program that brings trusted local services together under one roof to help with bill relief, legal advice, government documents, wellbeing support programs or filling out forms.

You'll find friendly faces ready to support you — no appointments, no pressure. Just real help, right

here in the community. Morning tea provided.

Quest Connect is a Bridge Darebin program delivered in partnership with Quest Preston.

Where: 7 Newton St, Reservoir

When: 16 July, 20 Aug & 17 Sep

Time: 10am–12pm

To find out more, head to darebin.vic.gov.au/questconnect

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



/cityofdarebin



/darebincitycouncil



/darebincouncil

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
darebin.vic.gov.au



NATIONAL RELAY SERVICE

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