

A feast for the senses

It seems on any night of the week across Merri-bek, there are live music gems to discover and explore. Prefer a night in? Independent record stores abound, full to the brim with new and secondhand LPs in every genre. Check out the latest international and homegrown acts, get involved at an open mic night or chat tunes with a passionate local business owner. The choice is yours in Merri-bek, the home of live music and independent record stores.

Whether it be a solo adventure to add to or revive your LP collection or gathering your friends to take in some local live music, you really are spoilt for choice. And there's every chance you'll run into your neighbour or make new friends along the way. Revisit a favourite artist or discover a new one. From East Brunswick right through to Fawkner, you'll find something in the municipality to satisfy any musical craving you can think of.

Take a stroll to discover your local record stores and live music venues – it's just the ticket. How's this weekend? See you on the trail!

We support sustainable options as you travel within Merri-bek. Why not leave the car at home and walk the short distance between venues, ride your bike or catch public transport and avoid parking hassles. It's the best way to soak up all the local sights and sounds.

If you're enjoying alcoholic beverages on your afternoon or evening out, please do so responsibly. Each of the live music venues listed serves alcohol-free options.

Local public transport options

TRAIN: Upfield Line

Jewell, Brunswick, Anstey, Moreland, Coburg, Batman, Merlynston and Gowrie Stations.

TRAM ROUTES:

No. 19 to North Coburg
No. 1 to East Coburg
No. 6 to Moreland
No. 96 to East Brunswick

BUS ROUTES:

503 via Albion St
504 via Brunswick Rd
506 via Dawson St
508 via Victoria St
509 via Victoria St
510 via Moreland Rd
526 via Pentridge
513/514/534 via Glenroy
536 Glenroy - Gowrie Stations
530/531 via Sydney Rd
951 Brunswick - Glenroy Stations (Night Bus)

LOVE MERRI-BEK trails



Brunswick Ballroom

314 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
Tue - Fri 6:30pm - 1am
Sat 1pm - 1am
Sun 1pm - 11pm

Booking: Through the website www.brunswickballroom.com.au

Fun fact/s about your venue/look and feel?

The Brunswick Ballroom won 'Best Small Venue' award at the Music Victoria Awards two years in a row.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

This eclectic live event space specialises in contemporary music, good people and exceptional art. Cabaret, to comedy, theatre and all styles of music.



The Jazz Lab

27 Leslie St, Brunswick
Mon - Thurs 7pm - 11pm
Fri - Sun 7:30pm - 11pm

Booking: Through the website www.thejazzlab.com.au or at the door (unless sold out)

Fun fact/s about your venue/look and feel?

The Jazz Lab is the spiritual successor to the world-famous Bennetts Lane and is the only Australian venue to make the Downbeat Worldwide Top 100 Jazz Clubs.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Jazz and improvised music, or jazz adjacent (blues, funk, soul, afro-beat, etc.)



Howler

7-11 Dawson Street, Brunswick
Tues 5pm - 10pm
Wed - Thurs 5pm - 11pm
Fri 3.30pm - 1am
Sat 12pm - 1am
Sun 2pm - 11pm

Booking: Online at howlerbrunswick.com with ticket purchasing through Moshtix

Fun fact/s about your venue/look and feel?

Howler is a unique award-winning live music venue that has hosted some of the best including Billie Eilish, Black Eyed Peas, Laufey, The Killers and MJ Lenderman.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

All Genres - Rock, Indie, Jazz, Punk, Folk, Metal, Disco, Techno we love it all.



Musicland

1359 Sydney Rd, Fawkner
Tues 11am - 5pm
Wed 11am - 12am
Thurs 11am - 5pm
Fri 11am - 1am
Sat 11am - 3pm & 6pm - 1am
Sun 2pm - 12am

Booking: Either online www.musiclandlive.com or at the door

Fun fact/s about your venue/look and feel?

Musicland is a unique live music complex, with two venues, a music shop, three bars, a beer garden, a food van and more.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

No specific genre, anything live.



The Retreat

280 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
Sun - Thurs 12pm - 1am
Fri - Sat 12 noon - 3am

Booking: Venue booking via the website www.retreathotelbrunswick.com.au, with ticket purchasing through Eventbrite

Fun fact/s about your venue/look and feel?

As Brunswick's oldest pub, The Retreat Hotel is something of a Sydney Road institution.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

There are no rules! Live music spans pop, rock, blues, country, First Nations open mic, electro-pop, punk and more.



Blacksound Records

351 Sydney Road, Brunswick
Mon - Sat 10am - 6pm
Sun 10am - 5pm

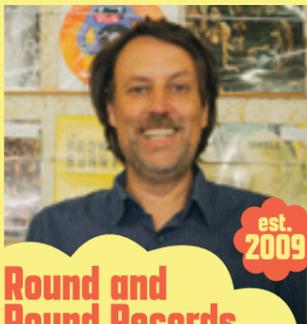
Booking: we have regular free live shows in store, they're all ages friendly, and typically a Sunday matinee show.

Fun fact/s about your venue/look and feel?

We're run by local musicians, so everything we do is very community minded. We also host an art gallery with exhibits typically featuring artists whose work relates to the music we stock in the shop.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Underground metal, punk, noise, avant-rock, ambient, experimental, electronic, free improv, weird jazz and radical outsider music.



Round and Round Records

556 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
Sun - Wed 10am - 5pm
Thur - Sat 10am - 6pm

Fun fact/s about your business /look and feel?

Favourite genres at Round and Round include prog and psychedelic rock, garage, punk, soul, jazz, funk, hip hop, electronic, dance, experimental and industrial.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Buying and selling new and secondhand records of all genres.



Feminista Vinyl

134 Nicholson St, Coburg
Weekends 11am - 4pm

Fun fact/s about your business /look and feel?

The women-led Feminista Vinyl runs out of the same premises as a feminist counselling service, and hosts gigs and live music in an intimate performance space.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Specialising in female-led, trans, non-binary and GNC-inclusive bands and artists.



Record Paradise

159 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
Tues/Wed & Sat/Sun 11am - 5pm
Thurs/Fri 11am - 7pm

Fun fact/s about your business /look and feel?

Don't miss the beautiful garden out back on your next visit.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Record Paradise stocks all genres of new and secondhand records with a focus on indie pop.



Ringo Barr

666 Sydney Rd, Brunswick
Wed - Sat 11am - 5pm

Fun fact/s about your business /look and feel?

Ringo Barr merges two quintessentially 'Melbourne Music' experiences: live music and record shopping, with a nod to the Japanese 'record bar' experience, too.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Selling an eclectic mix of records including indie/alternative, electronica, international music and jazz. Live music offerings include singer-songwriters, jazz, funk/soul, electronica, hip-hop and indie/alternative.



Round Again

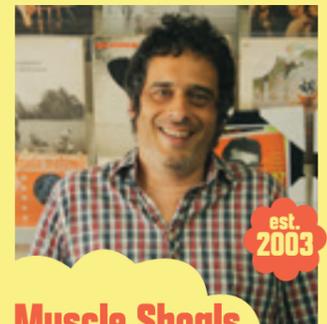
48 Gaffney St, Coburg North
Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm
Sat 11am - 6pm
Sun 12pm - 6pm

Fun fact/s about your business /look and feel?

Greg has been collecting and researching vintage audio for the past 40 years and has an extensive collection of rare and hard-to-find items sourced from all around Victoria.

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Stocking a huge range of vinyl records, both LPs and 45s, as well as thousands of CDs in various genres.



Muscle Shoals

504 Lygon St, East Brunswick
Wed - Sun 11am - 6pm

Fun fact/s about your business /look and feel?

Owner Marsden Williams named the store in honour of the "Muscle Shoals sound" and the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio in Alabama (alumni include Rolling Stones, Paul Simon, Bob Dylan and others).

Specific Genre or favoured musical style or other?

Buying and selling both common and unusual records, with over 5000 available in-store.

LOVE MERRI-BEK trails



Find more great places to visit, wine, dine & shop on...



LOVE MERRI-BEK buy local

- 01 Bar Oussou 653 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 02 Brunswick Artists Bar 314 - 316 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 03 Brunswick Green 313 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 04 Edinburgh Castle Hotel 681 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 05 My Aeon 791 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 06 The Penny Black 420 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 07 Red Betty Rear 859 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 08 Rubix Warehouse 36 Phoenix Street, Brunswick
- 09 Stay Gold 133 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 10 Tempo Rubato 34 Breese Street, Brunswick
- 11 The Bergy Seltzer 64 Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 12 The Cornish Arms 163A Sydney Road, Brunswick
- 13 Union Hotel 109 Union Street, Brunswick
- 14 WaxFlower Bar 153 Weston Street, Brunswick
- 15 Benji's Karaoke Bar 285 Lygon Street, Brunswick East
- 16 Lomond Hotel 225 Nicholson Street, Brunswick East
- 17 The Post Office Hotel 229 - 231 Sydney Road, Coburg
- 18 The Woodlands Hotel 84 - 88 Sydney Road, Coburg
- 19 Victoria Hotel 380 Victoria St, Brunswick
- 20 Coburg RSL 323 Sydney Road, Coburg
- 21 The Sporting Club 27 Weston Street, Brunswick

- Bike Paths
- Train Line
- Train Station
- Tram Line



- 22 Noisy Ritual 249 Lygon St, Brunswick East
- 23 Brewdog Pentridge T101/1 Champ St, Coburg
- 24 Co-Conspirators Brewing Co 377 Victoria St, Brunswick
- 25 Foreigner Brewing Co Factory 12, 102 Henkel St, Brunswick
- 26 Inner North Brewing Co 10A Russell St, Brunswick
- 27 Welcome to Brunswick 1 Frith St, Brunswick
- 28 East Brunswick Hotel 280 Lygon St, Brunswick East
- 29 The B.East 80 Lygon Street, Brunswick East (off map)
- 30 Strange World Records 168 Lygon St, Brunswick East