

Your child

Autumn Family Newsletter

May 2024

www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au



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Policies & Procedures

Hampton Park Community House regularly reviews its Policies & Procedures in line with current legislation.

Policies currently under review:

- Late collection
- Nappy change and toileting
- Kindergarten enrolment and orientation



Summer reflections

Summer is not just a season; it is a symphony of laughter, learning, and limitless possibilities. In Term 1, we joyfully celebrated our return to the Hampton Park Community House after a period of renovation. It was a heartwarming moment as we welcomed our Kinder and OSHC programs back on site, while our Occasional Care service continued to thrive at our Strong Drive location.

The renewed atmosphere filled our center with excitement and anticipation, marking the beginning of a new chapter filled with growth, learning, and cherished memories. We are grateful for the continued support of our families and staff as we embark on this journey together.

Hampton Park Care Group Inc. Association

The Association is a not-for-profit, community-owned, and managed entity overseeing childcare and education at the Hampton Park Community House. The Association's Annual General Meeting occurs every May, where they review the year's activities and plan for the future. The organisation focuses on providing quality care and educational services to support the local community. For more details, you can view the Annual Report 2023 below.

Annual Report

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/hpch-ar-2023-final-web-wfsrafvqdkwq.pdf>

Membership

We encourage all families to become members of the Hampton Park Care Group Inc. Association and add your voice to the future possibilities for the Hampton Park Community.

Become a member

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/getting-involved/memberships>

Message from the Chair.

Jeff (Macca) McAlpine extends a warm welcome to you all.

View Video

<https://youtu.be/FnRzE3QeG7o?si=TuRH6elMmPBZWHYt>

To provide comment or feedback on any HPCH Policies please email:  managercs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au

Your child

Your special talents

Calling all parents/carers to share your special talents. We believe in the power of diverse skills and experiences to inspire and enrich their learning journey. Whether you are passionate about music, art, storytelling, cooking, playing musical instruments or anything in between, we welcome you to spend some time with us in the room to showcase your unique talents. For example, Teagan delights the children with her expertise in netball and basketball techniques, while Athira brings the joy of Bollywood dance to your children.

Now, it is your turn to spark curiosity, creativity, and joy in the hearts of our young learners. Let's create memorable moments together! Send our educational leader your email with your talents.



teagan.grigor@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au



Athira

Assistant Director Children's Services

Team update

Welcome

Athira - Assistant Director and ECT

Hello everyone,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as Athira Arun, and I am delighted to embark on this exciting journey with HPCH. My journey to this service is fuelled by my passion for embracing diverse cultures and engaging with an enthusiastic community. Originally from Kerala, India, I bring with me a rich cultural background and a deep-rooted appreciation for the values of diversity and inclusivity.

My professional journey initially led me into the field of Human Resources back in India. However, my path took a transformative turn when I relocated to Australia with my family in 2013. It was here that I discovered my profound interest in working with children, initially through volunteer opportunities. This experience ignited a new found passion within me, prompting me to pursue a career in early childhood education.

Since then, I have worn various hats in different positions within the early childhood sector, all with the singular aim of providing the best possible experience for every child who walks through our doors. I am committed to creating a nurturing and supportive environment where each child can thrive, learn, and grow to their fullest potential. I am eager to collaborate with our dedicated team and partner with you, our valued families, as we embark on this journey of discovery and learning together.

Zakerah (Zac) - Early Years Educator

My name is Zakerah, and I'm a mother to three children whom I love spending time with. Originally from Afghanistan, I moved to Australia after completing my schooling in my home country. As a refugee, I arrived in Australia and dedicated myself to learning English and adapting to the new environment. I have obtained certificates in English and Community Services and Children's Services at the Certificate III level. Over the past five years, I've had the privilege of working in daycare, an experience I found immensely rewarding.

My passion for working with children stems from the joy and happiness it brings me. Currently, I am pursuing the Diploma of Early Childhood Education with the aim of developing my skills as an educator. My goal is to contribute to the growth and development of many young individuals, nurturing them both mentally and emotionally.



Zac

Early Childhood Educator

Your child

Summi - Early Childhood Educator

Personal Journey Hello!

I'm Summi Rana, and I am thrilled to join the team at Hampton Park Community House. My commitment to early childhood education began in 2006 when I completed my Certificate III in Children's Services. This foundational step sparked a journey of growth and learning, culminating in a Diploma in Children's Services in 2014. With over a decade of hands-on experience, I have dedicated myself to nurturing the minds and hearts of our youngest learners.

Professional Path

Since embarking on this rewarding career, I have embraced every opportunity to connect with children and guide them through their formative years. My professional path is marked by continuous engagement with innovative teaching methods and a deep understanding of the developmental milestones that are crucial in early education.

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is built on core principles that I believe are essential for fostering a supportive and productive learning environment for young children:

1. *Patience and Understanding* - Recognising that each child is unique and learning at their own pace.
2. *Encouragement and Positivity* - Celebrating every milestone and encouraging children to believe in their abilities.
3. *Communication and Listening* - Ensuring that every child feels heard and understood.
4. *Promoting Independence* - Empowering children to explore and learn through self-initiated discovery.
5. *Setting Boundaries* - Providing a structured environment where children can thrive within clear expectations. These principles guide my approach to teaching and reflect my commitment to creating a nurturing space where children can grow both academically and personally.

I begin this new chapter at Hampton Park Community House, I am excited to share my passion and collaborate with a team that values the importance of early childhood education.

As Term 3 approaches we are preparing the children for our move. We're having conversations about what they would like to do in their kindergarten program at the new site and how we will make our new environment welcoming and engaging for everyone.

Farewell

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Anisa, one of our beloved early childhood educators, from the Occasional Care Program and Hampton Park Community House. Anisa's enthusiasm, kindness, and professionalism have left an indelible mark on our team and the families we serve. Her punctuality and dedication to her work have been truly admirable, and her fluency in multiple languages has enriched our community. While we are saddened by her departure, we are also excited for her new endeavors. Anisa will be sorely missed by all of us, but her impact will continue to resonate within our hearts and the memories we've shared. We wish her all the best in her future.



Summi
Early Childhood Educator



Naveena
Occasional Care Program Leader



Maternity leave

From Term 2, Naveena will be going on maternity leave, and we look forward to meeting the new edition to her family soon. Congratulations Sriyani for taking on the role of Program leader until Naveena returns.



Sriyani
Early Childhood Educator
and Acting Occasional Care Program Leader



Anisa
Early Childhood Educator

Program update's

Occasional Care for under 5's

During the first term of Occasional Care, we were excited to welcome new children and help everyone settle in after the long Christmas holiday. Our main goal was to create a warm and welcoming environment where your child feels they belong. We focused on making your child feel at home, fostering their curiosity, and supporting their learning through play.

Activities we enjoyed:

- **Exploring together**, sensory zones and outdoor play let your child discover new textures and natural elements.
- **Creative fun**, art stations and music activities encouraged your child to express themselves and develop fine motor skills.
- **Building and puzzles**: These activities helped your child solve problems and use their imagination.

Snapshots

Term One



Connecting

Reading stories and talking about them helped your child learn new words and understand more about the world. Group games and pretend play taught your child how to work with others and understand different roles.



Creating

This activity not only fostered creativity and fine motor skills but also encouraged teamwork and problem-solving as they worked together on their projects.



Belonging

Each child had their own spot for their things, making them feel secure. We displayed family photos in the room, helping your child feel connected to home. We celebrated different cultures and let children choose some activities, making everyone feel included.

Your child

Kindergarten - free for 3 & 4 yr olds

What a great start to the year we have had this year. Children participated in an orientation which supported the children to settle into their new kinder environment. The children have adapted well into the program they have begun to make friends with the children in their groups, become familiar with the routine and staff. Children have begun to recognise their name by finding their name tag each morning to place on a locker they would like to have for the day. It has been great to see the children participate and grown so much already in a short period of time. The children have developed strong connections with their peers, and this is evident through the variety of experiences.



Self portrait drawings

This activity fosters a sense of belonging as children engage in creating self-portraits, exploring their own identities and expressing themselves creatively. It also contributes to their sense of being as they develop a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world. During the process, we delved into discussions about friendship and self-appreciation, prompting each child to share insights about their friends and qualities they admire in themselves. These conversations not only enriched the creative experience but also empowered the children to express themselves confidently during group interactions.

Please remember

- Bring a warm jacket
- Wear weather appropriate shoes
- A healthy lunchbox



Mother's Day – 9th May

Kinder Open day – 15th May

Kinder early finish – 15th May at 12.30

Bush kinder – Program starting in Term 2
 Every week alternative Wednesday or Thursday starts from 9th May
 June 10 – Public holiday, Service closed

Term 2 curriculum days (no Kindergarten classes):

- 28th June
- 1st of July
- 2nd of September
- 4th of November

What's New?

Launching in July, Kindergarten Vacation Care, a program of activities specially designed for your 3 and 4 year old child.

Join us these school holidays for exciting activities with friends!

Your child
Kinder Vacation Care for 3 & 4 year olds
Mon 1st July- FRI 12th July 2024
 8am - 5pm
 T: 03 8758 8342
Bookings call: 0466 099 243
managers@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au

<p>MON 1st Sports 4 Kids Enjoy a day of fun and excitement with your friends. Sports gear and participation in a range of different sports, fun games etc., basketball and more. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$22.00 TOTAL \$92 After Max. CC\$* \$4.75</p>	<p>TUES 2nd Children's first Aid Join our fun First Aid activity. Learn 60 key lessons with small groups. This is a fun way to help you understand an emergency and how to help someone in need. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$14 TOTAL \$84 After Max. CC\$* \$4.50</p>	<p>WED 3rd Grug - Bunjil Place Join us on a magical excursion for 1.4 year olds to Bunjil Place. An exciting excursion to Bunjil Place with the unique opportunity to meet and greet the Bunjil spirit, and participate in a variety of activities including a picnic. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$19 TOTAL \$89 After Max. CC\$* \$4.50</p>	<p>THURS 4th Experiment Time Children will be participating in a variety of science experiments that will get them thinking, and experimenting their mind and skills, and cause a little bit of chaos. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>	<p>FRI 5th Naidoc week 6-9th Make Dampier Celebrate Naidoc week 6-9th with our special activities. Children will participate in making damper and enjoying a special meal. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>
<p>MON 8th World Chocolate Day Celebration It's all about chocolate! Celebrate World Chocolate Day with a special day of fun and excitement. Children will enjoy a special chocolate tasting and a special chocolate treat. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>	<p>TUES 9th Messy Monsters Join our fun Messy Monsters activity. Children will enjoy a special activity where they will create their own messy monster and enjoy a special meal. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>	<p>WED 10th Teddy Bear Picnic Today's the day to bring your favourite teddy bear to school. Children will enjoy a special picnic together. Don't forget drinks and snacks for your furry friend. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>	<p>THURS 11th Storytime with Hampton Park Fire Brigade Children will participate in a special storytime with the Hampton Park Fire Brigade. Children will have fun learning about fire safety and get to see a fire engine. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>	<p>FRI 12th Butterfly Encounter Join us for a special Butterfly Encounter. Children will enjoy a special activity where they will learn about butterflies and get to see a butterfly. *You receive about three items. BASE FEE \$70 EXP FEE* \$5 TOTAL \$75 After Max. CC\$* \$4.25</p>

Things to bring

- A healthy lunchbox
- A water bottle
- A sun hat
- A sun cream
- A change of clothes

What NOT to bring

- Toys
- Candy
- A change of clothes

*Child Care Subsidy (CCS) may apply. CCS forms per fortnight and CCS percentage maximum 85%.
 *Afternoon tea included in fee.
 *Programs may be subject to change.

Out of School Hours Care

Over the past months it has been a pleasure to welcome previous and new children and parents back to the House. All the children settled in well this term and they have enjoyed an activity filled and engaging schedule. Lots of new friendships were formed throughout the term with all the children getting along together.



Najah
OSH Program Leader

Coming up

Nature Play

Coming up in Term 2, we're diving into Nature!

Research shows your child will benefit in countless ways from playing and learning in and about nature. During this term, your child will explore activities like gardening and creative arts and crafts using recycled materials.

Here's what they'll gain:

Staying healthy: Playing outside helps your child stay strong and fit.

Feeling good: Being in nature reduces stress and makes your child feel happier.

Become cleverer: Exploring nature helps your child's learning and imagination

Making friends: Outdoor play helps learning how to get along with others and work in teams.

Caring for the environment: Time spent in nature encourages your child to love it.

Building bravery: Outdoor play lets kids take safe risks and learn to overcome fears.

Engaging the senses: Being in nature lets children see, hear, smell, touch, and taste things they can't indoors.

It's going to be an exciting and enriching term filled with adventures and discoveries in the great outdoors.

OSH Vacation Care program

Snapshots

Term One



Nature play



New friendships



Celebrating culture

Your place

Events

The Renewal Project Welcome back event

The crowning achievement of 2023 was the triumphant completion of the Renewal Project, which encompassed the renovation of the Hampton Park Community House. This ambitious endeavor necessitated a temporary relocation of Children's Services to Strong Drive Family Centre.

To celebrate our return to Hampton Park Community House at Stuart Ave in 2024, we gathered for a memorable launch event. We were honored to welcome distinguished guests including Gary Maas MP, the City of Casey Administrator and CEO, as well as the original owners of the farm at Hampton Park. We also had the privilege of hosting the founding members of the Hampton Park Community House, the originals, and, most importantly, our wonderful community members and families.

As aptly stated by HPCH Board member Bruce McBain at the re-opening event, "facilities and buildings, no matter how great, rely on people—the HPCH staff and community—to bring them to life."

Thank you for being a part of this project and supporting the vision of growing thriving children's service.



Your child

Family support

In our latest community support efforts, the IFS team continues to make substantial strides in assisting families dealing with school disengagement. Priya has been actively involved with the School Refusal Working Group, a key initiative aimed at understanding and mitigating the complexities of students reluctant to attend school. This collaboration underscores our commitment to addressing educational barriers comprehensively and empathetically, ensuring that each student receives the support they need to succeed.

Chloe, is pioneering efforts to bridge the knowledge gap between family services and local schools, She is currently organising an information session targeted at well-being staff within schools. This workshop, designed to educate the role of family services, will also explore strategies for re-engaging young people with their educational journeys. Through such initiatives, we aim to foster a greater understanding and cooperation between families and schools, creating a supportive network that encourages students to return to and thrive in their educational environments.

The team has also experienced some changes and developments in expertise. Lorna has recently expanded her knowledge base by attending workshops on governance and Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD), ensuring that our team is well-equipped to address a range of challenges affecting our families. Meanwhile, we bid a warm farewell to Edith, who after two years of dedicated service and mentorship, will be moving on. Her contributions have been invaluable, and she leaves behind a legacy of compassion and resilience. As we continue to support our families, including distributing food boxes during term time, we are also exploring ways to enhance and expand this vital program to meet growing needs.



Lorna M: 0438 075 302
Family Support
Program Coordinator

Community life

Neighbourhood House Program

We're thrilled to introduce you to the Neighbourhood House program at Hampton Park Community House. Neighbourhood Houses are the heart of our communities. They bring people together to connect, learn, and contribute to their local community through social, educational, recreational, and support activities.

During Neighbourhood House Week, we hosted a series of vibrant community events. One highlight was the Stronger Together Hampton Park Community Group afternoon tea, where over 20 local community groups and their members came together to collaborate on ways to enhance our community. Another key event was the Hampton Park Community Kindergarten Open Day, warmly welcoming new families. Throughout the term, we invite everyone to participate in our various community events and activities, like the recent highly enjoyable Mother's Day afternoon tea. Join us as we continue to have fun and strengthen our community bonds.

What's on this Winter?

Neighbourhood House Term 2 Activities

Looking to enrich your life this term? Join us at Hampton Park Community House for a range of engaging activities tailored to suit your interests and needs.



Need support?
Your family support team
is here to help

Social Groups

Connect with like-minded women in our vibrant social group. Share stories, laughter, and support as we explore various topics and experiences together.

Community Seminars

Stay informed and empowered with our series of seminars addressing issues important to you. From health and wellness to community engagement, our seminars cover a wide range of topics to keep you informed and engaged.

Explore your passions

Whether you're interested in cooking, creative arts, gardening, meditation, or staying active, we have something for you. Join our workshops to learn new skills, unleash your creativity, and connect with others who share your interests.

Community events and outings

Hop aboard our Community Bus for exciting outings like the Op Shop Hop! Have fun exploring new places and enjoy the company of fellow community members.

Get creative with activities, projects, groups

Hampton Park has dozens of creative clubs – from drawing and painting to literature, floristry to choir! Head over to the HPCH Community Life site to browse all the creative activities on offer.

Community life joining fee of only \$10 you learn, grow, and connect with your community this term. Get involved and make the most out of your Neighbourhood House experience.

If you're interested in becoming a member of our **Neighbourhood House Association** or have any questions about our programs, please don't hesitate to contact our Community Programs team members:

Zohra M: 0493 040 499 or Sandra P: 03 8768 8342



communitylife@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au



Your child



Photo shoot

Little Images have been working photography magic for over 17 years and are the most popular choice when it comes to capturing early learning portraits. Get your family portraits taken at Hampton Park Community House this June.

When: Wed 26th and Thursday 27th June, from 9am

Where: Hampton Park Community House

[Book your spot today](#)

<https://www.littleimages.com.au>

Code: vwgyk



Adult Learning

Term 2 courses

Flexible computers

In the Flexible computers course, you'll learn essential skills including computer basics, keyboard shortcuts, and introductions to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. Gain proficiency in web browsing with Google Chrome, manage emails with Gmail, use Google Calendar, and understand the basics of safe browsing and internet security.

When: Thursdays 1-3pm

Venue: Hampton Park Library

When: Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

Where: Uniting Place, 1 Coral Drive, Hampton Park

English for Life

The English for Life course teaches essential English language skills and helps you adapt to Australian life. You'll learn how to use public transport, access medical or emergency support, and navigate daily activities, ensuring you feel right at home.

When: Monday's 12-2pm

Venue: HPC Classroom, 16-20 Stuart Ave, Hampton Park

Afghan Women's Literacy

The Afghan Women's Literacy course helps Afghan women learn basic English and form friendships with other women in the Australian Afghan community. This supportive environment fosters learning and connection, making it easier to navigate daily life and build a strong community network.

When: Tuesday's and Wednesday's 10am-12pm

Where: Hampton Park Library, 26 Stuart Ave, Hampton Park



Zohra M: 0493 040 499

Community Programs Coordinator
& Adult Educator

Special Dates

Term 2 2024

May

- 12** Mothers Day
- 15** International Families Day
- 20** National Volunteer Week
- 26** National Sorry Day
- 27** Reconciliation Week Begins

Winter Arts Festival

The City of Casey Winter Arts Festival
From the 8th June to 31 July

[See program here](#)

<https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/winter-arts-festival>

Call today:

P : (03) 8768 8342

Hampton Park Community House
PO Box 440 Hampton Park VIC 3976



Hampton Park

Community House
CHILDREN'S SERVICES



hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

Hampton Park Care Group Inc. acknowledges the traditional owners, Hampton Park's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live.

A Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Hampton Park Community House affirms the organisation's commitment to child safety. We have a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse, and we are committed to upholding children's best interests and keeping them safe, and we actively work to listen to and empower children within our organisation.

COVID Safe

Being COVID Safe is a responsibility we all share. When you visit Hampton Park Community House, please follow our COVID safety rules. Always provide your details, listen to staff, maintain hygiene and practice physical distancing.

A copy of Hampton Park Community House Covidsafe Plan is available at reception and at www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au



before & after school care | vacation care | occasional care | kindergarten | family support

Auspiced by: Hampton Park Care Group Inc. A 587 / ABN 91 334 724 925