

# Autumn Family Newsletter

May 2025

[www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au](http://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:

- Kindergarten enrolment and orientation
- Road Safety Education and Safe Transport Policy
- Delivery and Collection of Children

### Membership

Hampton Park Community House is a for-purpose community owned and operated organisation governed by Hampton Park Care Group Inc. Our mission is to support local families, individuals, and groups to connect, grow, and thrive together.

On behalf of the Board of Governance, **Chair Jeff MacAlpine** warmly invites you to become an **active and involved member**—your voice and contributions help shape a stronger, more inclusive Hampton Park community.



[secretary@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au](mailto:secretary@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au)

**Become a member**

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

## Summer reflections

Summer at Hampton Park Community House Children's Services wasn't just hot days and sunshine—it was full of laughter, learning, and happy memories.

Hello and welcome to all our families, especially those who are new to our community. This Term 1, we were so happy to meet many new children and families in our 3- and 4-year-old Kindergarten, Occasional Care, and Before and After School Care programs.

It's been lovely to watch how quickly the children settled in. Some children who started in Occasional Care have now moved up to Kindergarten. And some of our Kindergarten children from last year are now in our school age program. Watching children grow and move forward like this makes us so proud. It shows how strong our programs are and how much the children feel like they belong here.

Now, we're getting ready for Term 2. There's so much to look forward to. We'll be going on fun trips, having visitors come in, and celebrating special days like Mother's Day and Harmony Day with all of you.

We also have some exciting news—our Outside School Hours Care program is now part of the Vic Kids Eat Well project with Monash Health. This means we're learning more about healthy food and good habits. We'll also talk about this in Kindergarten too, with fun games and activities that help children learn how to stay strong and healthy. Let's work together to make Term 2 full of happy moments, healthy choices, and strong friendships.

## Your voice!

At Hampton Park Community House, our Values and Philosophy shape everything we do and help create a warm, inclusive, and supportive environment for all children and families. We believe that our philosophy should reflect the voices of our community, and we would love you to be part of this process. Your thoughts and ideas are important in ensuring our approach truly represents the needs and aspirations of the families we serve. We invite you to review our Service Philosophy and share your feedback. Together, we can continue to build a strong, welcoming, and enriching space for all children to learn and thrive.



**Jeff MacAlpine**

Chair Board of Governance  
Hampton Park Care Group Inc.

### Survey Questions

<https://survey.zohopublic.com.au/zs/zmBSh1>

## Your child

### Good to great

Hampton Park Community House Children's Services has been actively engaging in the Quality and Rating Assessment process as part of our commitment to continuous improvement and high-quality early childhood education.

In the Summer, our Strong Drive service underwent assessment against the National Quality Standards (NQS) in November, followed by our Stuart Avenue service in February. Both services achieved a **Meeting** rating, reflecting our solid foundation in delivering quality care and education. Over Autumn, our focus will shift toward strengthening key areas of practice to progress from Meeting to Exceeding the NQS, ensuring we provide even greater outcomes for children, families, and our community.

#### Quarter 2 Focus: Growing great learning together

We're working to make our educational program even better by planning more intentionally, involving families more deeply, and giving children more voice in their learning.



**Holly Van Order**

Early Childhood Teacher (ECT)

### Team updates

#### Welcome Holly -Early Childhood Teacher (ECT)

*Holly has worked as a teacher for over 15 years. She has a Bachelor of Teaching with a Graduate Diploma in Special Education. She worked for many years teaching children on the Autism Spectrum, a career she was passionate about. Holly's interest in how children learn and see the world has led her to work in Early Education and believes that a child's role is learn through play. Holly feels that as an Early Childhood Teacher it is her responsibility to guide and provide opportunities for children to explore and learn with wonder.*

*Holly always strives to be a kind, patient, enthusiastic teacher and a partner for children and their families in their child's educational journey. Holly also has a 5-year-old son and understands the vital importance of quality care and the importance of building relationships in the classroom and community. Her personal philosophy is to bring creativity into the classroom, nurture children's love of learning and to foster their overall wellbeing. She strives to provide environments that are inviting fun and inspire wonder and learning.*

#### Welcome Vanessa - Educator OSH

*We are excited to welcome Vanessa to our team. Vanessa is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education at Deakin University and is passionate about nurturing children's growth, curiosity, and confidence. She is committed to creating enriching experiences that support each child's individual journey through early learning. A graduate of Hampton Park Secondary College, Vanessa has strong ties to her local community and values the importance of building warm, respectful relationships with children and families alike.*

*Her experience working in Out of School Hours (OSH) care with Camp Australia has deepened her understanding of play-based learning and the vital role it plays in children's wellbeing and development. Proud of her full Vietnamese heritage, Vanessa brings a culturally rich perspective to her teaching and embraces opportunities to celebrate diversity in early childhood settings. She enjoys incorporating elements of music, movement, and cultural storytelling into her practice, creating vibrant and inclusive environments where every child feels a sense of belonging. Vanessa believes that all children are capable, creative, and deserving of care that honours who they are. Her philosophy is rooted in child-led learning, respectful connections, and fostering safe, inclusive spaces where children are empowered to explore, imagine, and thrive.*



**Vanessa**  
Educator OSH

**Please join us in welcoming Vanessa to Hampton Park Community House**

### Child Safety statement

#### A Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Hampton Park Community House aims 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.

#### Here's how we're doing it:

##### Better teaching, better learning

Your educators are doing special training and meeting each month to share ideas and reflect on how to make learning even more meaningful for your children.

##### Your voice matters

We're trying new ways to involve you in what and how your child learns—like family surveys, group chats, or helping shape our programs. We're also building stronger community connections, including with cultural groups, to reflect the backgrounds and identities of our families.

##### Your child leading the way

Every week, we're creating more chances for children to make choices, share ideas, and help plan their learning environment.

# Your child

## Farewell Emma

We would like to share that Emma has resigned from her position at Hampton Park Community House. We sincerely thank Emma for her valuable contributions to our Children's Services team. Her dedication and commitment have made a lasting impact, and she will be greatly missed. We wish Emma all the very best in her future endeavors.

## Program changes

We want to keep you informed about some changes to our programs in **Term 2** based on demand. Our **Occasional Care Program** will now be offered **only on Thursdays and Fridays** at **Strong Drive** from **8.30 AM to 2.30 PM**.

We understand that these changes may impact some families, and we are here to support you. Please reach out to our Children's Services Manager. To discuss ways we can assist you in finding alternative childcare options that suit your needs.

Thank you for your understanding and support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



[managerscs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au](mailto:managerscs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au)



**Emma**  
Educator Kindergarten



**Tegan**  
ECT & Educational Leader



## Maternity leave

We are excited to share that Teagan will be going on maternity leave at the end of Term 2 as she prepares to welcome her second baby! We wish her all the very best for a smooth and joyful journey ahead. During Teagan's leave, Holly will be stepping into the role of Educational Leader and Early Childhood Teacher (ECT) to ensure a seamless transition for our children and families.

Wishing Teagan a wonderful maternity period filled with love and happiness

## Out of School Hours Care

Our Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program had an exciting start to the year, beginning in January with our Vacation Care Program! The children engaged in a variety of fun and educational experiences, including:

Learning about the butterfly lifecycle, Enjoying a game of tenpin bowling, Dancing to their favourite tunes at a fun disco, Relaxing at Village Cinemas, Exploring different animals at The Big Goose, Jumping and playing at Inflatable World and so much more.

During Before and After School Care, children participated in a range of activities tailored to their interests, knowledge, and development. Some highlights included:

**Healthy eating conversations** – Children explored nutritious choices and illustrated their favourite fruits and vegetables.

**Messy play & hands-on learning:** The children designed and built tunnels, comparing their creations to initial map plans.



## Your child

### Wins!

Congratulations to Teagan, Najah and the Out of School Hours (OSH) team — our service has been named a winner of the Vic Kids Eat Well 2025 New Year Competition.

The team wowed the judges with their creative and engaging ideas to make healthy eating fun and appealing for children. Their dedication to promoting nutritious choices truly stood out, inspiring the Vic Kids Eat Well team and shining a light on the great work happening in our program every day.

We're incredibly proud of this achievement and excited to see how the prize will support our OSH team in turning their exciting plans into action, helping your children discover the joy of healthy food through fun, flavour, and learning.



### Vacation Care

Teagan, Najah, and the Out of School Hours team delivered an Autumn Vacation Care Program packed with engaging and varied activities that kept children entertained every day. With highlights like hands-on science experiments, a farm visit, movie days, and an excursion to Moorabbin Airport, it's clear why this program continues to be a favourite among local families.

#### Enquire Now – Winter Vacation Care Program!

Looking for a fun, safe, and engaging place for your child these winter holidays? Our Vacation Care Winter Program is packed with exciting activities, creative workshops, and adventures to keep your child entertained and supported during the break!

**Limited spots available – Enquire now to secure your place!**

Call Deepa on 0466 099 243



[managerscs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au](mailto:managerscs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au)

**Or drop by the office to find out more.**

Let us take care of the fun – while you take care of everything else!

“ Logan had a great time at Inflatable World and said, It was the best day ever! ”

“ Taneesha really enjoyed the airbrush activity and said, I like coming here, airbrushing and hanging out with my friends. ”

“ Salina said, I liked it when we went inside the aeroplane. ”

### Highlights Autumn Vacation Care



Moorabbin Airport



Easter Fun



Sea Creatures

# Kindergarten

We had a fantastic start to the year in our Kindergarten Program, welcoming new families and reconnecting with returning ones! To begin the term, we hosted a Parent Information Session, where we introduced our educators, program, and philosophy while discussing key details about kinder expectations and daily essentials. We truly appreciate all the families who took the time to attend and engage in this session.

Throughout the term, children have been busy developing social skills, strengthening their self-regulation, and building confidence as they became more familiar with their teachers and learning environment. We have explored a variety of topics and celebrations, including Healthy Lunchbox Week, Fairy Tale Day, Holi, St. Patrick's Day, and Ramadan.

**Our program has been enriched with exciting incursions, such as:**

**Little Wombat Program** – Learning about Aboriginal culture and storytelling

**Little Sprouts** – Creating a worm farm and learning about composting

**CFA Visit** – Discovering fire safety and meeting local firefighters

In daily learning, we have focused on music and movement, as well as introducing letters and numbers during group time. Looking ahead to Term 2, we will encourage children to practice writing their names and expand our literacy and numeracy focus. We also have a variety of new incursions and special celebrations planned!

## Important reminders

### 1. Extra warm clothes

Please pack some warm clothes (like a jumper, pants, socks) in your child's bag in case they need to get changed during the day.

### 2. Food for morning tea and lunch

Please pack enough healthy food for your child to eat at both morning tea and lunch. Try to include fruit, sandwiches, or other healthy snacks.



## What's on?

### Special Dates

Term 2 - 2025

#### April

22/4 first day of Term 2  
23/4 healthy smiles incursion  
25/4 Anzac Day public holiday

#### May

08/05 Mother's Day morning tea 1-3pm  
08/05 King Swim incursion  
19/05 Friends with honey incursion  
20/05 Kindergarten Open Day for 2026 families  
21/05 National simultaneous story time  
23/05 Little wombat incursion

#### June

02/06 Little wombat program  
02/06 and 6/6 Kinder photos  
09/06 Kings birthday public holiday  
10/06 Kinder Curriculum Day

#### July

04/07 last day of Term 2

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are excited for another wonderful term of learning and discovery.

### Occasional Care

Term 1 has been an exciting time in our Occasional Care program, filled with creativity, exploration, and cultural learning! Our educators followed a monthly program plan, ensuring a balance of cognitive, sensory, creative, and physical activities while also incorporating spontaneous experiences to support children's development.

The children engaged in various fun and enriching activities. On the first day, they were encouraged to draw their self-portraits, fostering self-expression.

A spontaneous moment of curiosity led to an art experience when children noticed tiny hearts on the table and excitedly asked, "I want that!" This inspired a creative session where children used paper hearts, glitter, glue, and cutouts to craft their own artwork. They joyfully shared and admired each other's creations, saying "Good!" and proudly showing their work to educators and friends. These experiences played a key role in developing their social skills, imagination, and thinking processes.

A major highlight this term was our first-ever Aboriginal culture incursion from the Little Wombat Program. The session began with a storytelling experience about Aboriginal culture, introducing children to kangaroos and their footprints. The most exciting moment came when the host played the Didgeridoo, mimicking animal and bird sounds for the children to guess. To wrap up this meaningful experience, children engaged in Aboriginal-inspired colouring and playdough activities.

Additionally, we celebrated a range of special events, including Recycling Day, Harmony Day, Ramadan, Fairy Tale Day, St. Patrick's Day, Puppet Play, and much more!

Looking ahead, Term 2 will bring new learning experiences and celebrations, continuing to nurture children's curiosity and growth.

**Thank you for being part of our Occasional Care family!**



### Snapshots Term One



Little Wombat Program



St Patricks Day



Recycling Day

## Your child

### Family wellbeing

A big thank you to Our Village and MSFIN for their generous donations of clothes, toys, and food. These gifts have helped many local families and brought comfort and happiness during tough times. It's a great reminder of the power of community and kindness.

Thanks to the support of local schools, NDIS providers, and health professionals, we're able to offer even better help to families when they need it most. At HPCH, our Community Services and Children's Services teams are also working together to make sure families get the right support at the right time.

A fun moment we'd love to share is the recent school holiday trip to the Moorabbin Aeroplane Museum, followed by lunch at Flight Deck. The kids (and staff) loved watching the planes take off. The Family Services team joined in too—laughing, exploring, and enjoying the day with your children. These fun days out help build happy memories and stronger support networks for everyone.

If your family needs a little extra support at the moment, please don't hesitate to reach out. **You can call Lorna, Family Services Coordinator, we're here to help.**

Need support?  
Your family support team  
is here to help



**Lorna M: 0438 075 302**

Family Support  
Program Coordinator

## Community life

### HP Community Groups Collective – Working together for a thriving Town

The Hampton Park Community Groups Collective is a vibrant collaboration of local community groups, sporting clubs, churches, the Progress Association, multicultural women's and youth groups, and providers of food and material aid. Together, we advocate, support, and connect to strengthen the wellbeing of the Hampton Park community.

**We welcome all local groups who share our vision of a connected and caring community.  
If your group would like to get involved, come to the event.**

#### Upcoming Community Events: Neighbourhood House Week Event 12-18th May

##### **Ripples of Change: The Story of HP Town**

**Date:** 13 th May 2025

**Venue:** Progress Association, Hampton Park Pavilion Room, Robert Booth Reserve, Somerville Rd

Join us for a special lunchtime gathering to celebrate one year since the birth of the HP Community Groups Collective—a grassroots alliance driven by the heart and voices of Hampton Park.

This is more than just an event—it's a tribute to the power of community. Over the past 12 months, passionate local residents and organisations have come together to build a more connected, inclusive, and resilient Hampton Park.

##### **What to Expect:**

- Heartfelt storytelling and lived experiences from local changemakers
- Conversations that spark ideas and deepen connections
- A chance to reflect, celebrate, and imagine what's next—together

Let's honour our shared journey and continue building momentum through unity, storytelling, and purpose. Everyone is welcome. Lunch provided.

### Coming Soon – Free Community First Aid Workshop

**Register your interest with Graham:**  [enquiriesHPPA@outlook.com](mailto:enquiriesHPPA@outlook.com)



## Your child

## Adult Education

### Term 2 courses

#### Flexible computers

**When:** Tuesdays 1-3pm

**Venue:** Hampton Park Library 26 Stuart Avenue, Hampton Park

**When:** Wednesday's 9.30-11.30am

**Venue:** Uniting Place, 1 Coral Drive Hampton Park



#### English for Life

**When:** Monday's 12-2.30 pm

**Venue:** HPCH Workspace 16-20 Stuart Ave, Hampton Park

**When:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9.30am-12.30pm

**Venue:** Hampton Park Library

**When:** Wednesdays 9.30-11.30am

**Venue:** Hampton Park Secondary College, 58-96 Fordholm Rd, Hampton Park



**Zohra M: 0493 040 499**

Community Development Coordinator  
& Adult Educator



**"Home Sweet Cookies"  
have a taste!**

## Your story

### Local Business Spotlight – Share Your Story

**Celebrating the passion and perseverance of local family businesses.**

At Hampton Park Community House, we love celebrating the passion and dedication of local businesses run by community members. If you're a local business owner and would like to be featured in our Local Business Spotlight, we'd love to hear your story.

**Please reach out to our marketing team via email to find out more.**

**Disclaimer:** Hampton Park Community House is proud to support the spirit of local entrepreneurship by sharing the stories of community members. While we do not necessarily endorse or promote specific products or services, we applaud the efforts of local families creating opportunities and contributing to a vibrant, connected community.

## Home Sweet Cookies

### A sweet journey from Home to Community

At Hampton Park Community House, we love sharing stories that celebrate local talent—and this Autumn, we're pleased to introduce Trisha, the founder of Home Sweet Cookies. Originally from overseas, Trisha moved to Australia in 2020 and quickly found her passion in the kitchen. During her high school food class, she discovered a love for cooking that felt "like heaven." From there, her journey began—baking at home for her family, who loved her food so much they encouraged her to turn her skills into a business.

"My family is my biggest inspiration," Trisha says. "They believed in me even when I doubted myself."

Today, through **Home Sweet Cookies**, Trisha offers handmade cookies packed with flavour, made from quality ingredients—and most importantly, made with love. "What makes my cookies special is the care and attention I put into every batch." As a **young mum and a proud migrant woman**, Trisha's business is about more than baking. It's about building a future for her children and creating connections with the Hampton Park community. "I may not have a lot of friends here yet, but I know the local community is full of kind people," she says.

Like many small businesses, getting started hasn't been easy. Advertising and confidence were her biggest hurdles—but Trisha stayed focused. "Every time I feel like giving up, I look at my babies and remember why I'm doing this."

Her dream? To grow **Home Sweet Cookies** and maybe even open stores in other countries one day. Right now, she's hoping the local community can help her spread the word.

Want to support a local,  
homegrown business?

**Follow Trisha online, place an order,  
or tell a friend about her delicious creations!**

**Instagram:** @cookiesby\_trisha

**Phone / WhatsApp:** 0411 290 008

**Facebook:** Trisha Mae Rodriguez



**Call today:**

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