

Spring Family Newsletter

Spring 2025

www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au

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Diane Leak

Secretary on the HPCH Board of Governance.

Farewell Diane

The Hampton Park Community House members extend their heartfelt thanks and warmest wishes to Diane Leak, who has recently retired from her role as Secretary on the HPCH Board of Governance.

Diane has been an exceptional volunteer and a long-term resident of Hampton Park, well known and loved by many in our community. Over the years, she has contributed tirelessly through her work in local schools and by welcoming countless community members to the Community Garden and shared lunches at Uniting Place.

While Diane is stepping back from her board role, we are delighted that she remains actively involved in community life through the HP-Town Community Groups Collaborative.

We thank Diane for her dedication, generosity, and unwavering community spirit, and we wish her all the best in this next chapter.



Autumn reflections

Children services reflection

As we wrapped up Term 3 at Hampton Park Community House, our children, families, and educators celebrated a wonderful season of connection, learning, and community spirit. Highlights of the term included Father's Day celebrations, Science Week, and Children's Week, each providing meaningful opportunities for children to explore, create, and share their learning with families.

These events showcased the strong relationships and collaborative spirit within our community, reflecting our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and curiosity in every child. We are proud of how our children have grown in confidence and creativity this term and look forward to continuing this joyful journey of learning together in Term 4.

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

Become a member

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



Policies & Procedures

Hampton Park Community House regularly reviews its Policies and Procedures to ensure they remain up to date and align with current legislation. Recently reviewed policies include:

- **Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing**

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/qa-2-child-safe-environment-policy-v24-final-web-wfqiogjpquu.pdf>

- **eSafety for Children**

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/esafety-for-children-policy-v-2025-final-wfstwjfkpdul.pdf>

- **Staffing – Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments (New)**

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/-/files/safe-use-of-digital-technologies-and-online-environments-final-web-wfucrfuahbil.pdf>

- **Privacy and Confidentiality**

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/governance-policy-risk-management-v24-25-wfksqltxcp-wfpgqxhtcok.pdf>

- **Tobacco, E-Cigarettes, Vapes, Alcohol & Other Drugs**

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/tobacco-e-cigaret-vape-other-drugs-v-25-final-web-wfpanmbnbph.pdf>

We value our community's input in shaping these important policies. If you have any suggestions or feedback for future policy development, please email us at

Email Us

managercs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au

From Good to Great

We're proud that both of our Children's Services, Strong Drive and Stuart Avenue, have consistently achieved a "Meeting" rating.

This reflects the quality, care, and commitment of our leadership team and educators across all programs, including our Early Years (under-5s) and Outside School Hours Care (OSH) at Stuart Avenue.

While we celebrate this success, our team continues to strive for "Great", building on our strengths and enhancing learning experiences for every child.

Across both services, we're focusing on Quality Area 1: Educational Program and Practice, using intentional teaching to create engaging, hands-on learning opportunities. Classrooms are filled with visuals and themed activities that spark curiosity — from puzzles and playdough to creative arts and writing.

Our current theme, "The Miniature World Around Us," has inspired children to explore literacy, numeracy, science, and fine motor skills through mini-beast stories, songs, and craft. In OSH, educators extend this approach through play-based learning, teamwork, and problem-solving activities.

We're also strengthening Quality Area 2, promoting wellbeing and independence through our Breakfast Club and the Animal Fun movement program — both encouraging healthy choices, coordination, and confidence.

Through reflection, creativity, and dedication, our educators continue to move From Good to Great, providing inclusive, meaningful learning for every child.



Celebrating our Early Years Educators

Last term we celebrated Early Childhood Educators' Day, recognising the passionate team who make Hampton Park Community House such a special place to learn and grow.

Through our play-based approach, educators create joyful, hands-on learning experiences that nurture curiosity, confidence, and connection. Every day, they embed our HPCH Values — modelling kindness, collaboration, optimism, learning, and excellence in all they do.

We thank our educators for their dedication and the difference they make in the lives of children and families across our community.

Values in Action Guide

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/final-25032-hpch-valuesinaction-v06-fa-wfwotkasdaym.pdf>



Vanessa
OSH Care Team

Farewell Vanessa

Vanessa was part of our OSH Care team for a short time. During her time with us, Vanessa brought a caring and positive energy to the program and quickly became a valued member of our team.

Due to personal circumstances, Vanessa has decided to pursue a different career path, and we wish her all the very best for the future. We thank her for her contribution and the support she provided to the children and families during her time with us.

Maternity Leave Update:

We're delighted to share that Teagan has welcomed a healthy baby boy. Congratulations to Teagan and her family.



Teagan
ECT/Educational Leader



Program Area Updates

We want to keep you informed about some changes to our programs at the end of Term 4. Due to limited demand, the Board of Governance has made the difficult decision to close the Occasional Care program and the Strong Drive Service at the end of Term 4, 2025.

The Hampton Park Community House Service on Stuart Avenue—our original childcare site—will continue to offer OSH and Kindergarten programs. Pending approvals, we aim to return the Occasional Care program to Stuart Avenue in 2026, ensuring families can continue to access programs in a familiar and welcoming environment.

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 managercs@hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au 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.

Out of School Hours Care

This winter for the OSHC program, the children have enjoyed a season full of fun, creativity, and learning.

During Lamington Week, our budding bakers got hands-on in the kitchen, whipping up their very own lamingtons — with plenty of chocolate and coconut to go around.

Book Week was a colourful celebration of stories, with everyone dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing their most-loved reads. It was wonderful to see their imaginations come to life.

Our Winter Vacation Care program was packed with exciting activities, from arts and crafts to a special Science Week, where children explored fascinating experiments and learned through play.

We've had a fantastic winter and can't wait for more fun to come. Please select any picture you like from the Owna app for these activities.

Vacation Care

Our Spring vacation care program at Hampton Park Community House OSHC was a big hit once again, offering an exciting mix of incursions, excursions, and in-house activities that kept children engaged and smiling throughout the holidays.

From adventurous trips to Playzone, Inflatable World, and the Botanical Gardens, to creative experiences like airbrush art and themed in-house days, every moment was filled with fun, learning, and friendship. It was wonderful to see the children explore new environments, develop social skills, and make lasting memories with their peers and educators.



Wins

Our Out of School Hours (OSH) team, led by Najah, achieved 100% compliance in the recent Food Safety Audit a wonderful result that reflects our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and caring environment for your children.

We also received lovely feedback from the Preschool Field Officer, who praised your Kinder team for offering such a rich variety of sensory activities and noted how engaged and happy the children were during these experiences.

A big thank you to HPCH's amazing educators for their creativity, care, and dedication and to you, the families for your continued support.

Your child

Kindergarten

A wonderful term of learning and growing

This term has been filled with meaningful learning, exploration and connection as children engaged in experiences that supported their development across all five Learning Outcomes of the EYLF.

We began the term with celebrating Science Week. We had a visit from the Melbourne Museum who ran a 'Rockets and Robots Program.' In this Rockets and Robots STEM workshop the children discovered how astronauts' journey to space using rockets and explore what it takes to live beyond the atmosphere. This experience sparked curiosity and built foundational skills in problem-solving, coding, and teamwork.

We then started a Breakfast Club in our Kindergarten room. We are introducing unfamiliar fruits/vegetables to the children to expand their interest in healthy food. Whilst also providing favourite more familiar fruits/vegetables. This experience deepens children's understanding of healthy eating. The benefits to our children engaged in this program are: Improved concentration, emotional wellbeing, encouraging social development and supporting and developing social skills.

The Henny Penny Program brought a little piece of the country to our city classroom making the wonder of Mother Nature accessible to all our children. The children have delighted in observing the chicks hatch and then watching them in their enclosure. These observations become a major point of discussion. The program has facilitated a series of shared experiences which has enhanced communication development on all levels.

In our classroom we have engaged in early numeracy and literacy activities with a morning Alphabet writing table and puzzle table. We continue to use group time to develop foundation skills such as language development, social skills, numeracy and literacy skills. We are also working on children's executive functioning skills such as organising their own belonging, packing away items after being used and organising their lunch boxes.

We continue to build our program around the interest and inspirations of the children and look forward to the learning ahead.

Parent Teacher Interviews

If you wish to discuss your child's academic progress, strengths, and needs with their teacher please feel free to contact Holly or Athira to arrange this. These meetings provide a dedicated time for open communication, allowing teachers to share insights and parents to provide context about their child's learning and development.

Occasional Care

During the winter period, children were mostly engaged in indoor activities, while on sunny days they enjoyed playing outside. We welcomed two new children into our care, and they settled in smoothly. Throughout this time, we had marvellous experiences celebrating special events such as Science Day, World Elephant Day, and Red Nose Day. In addition to these, children also participated in a variety of activities including playdough, painting, writing, and physical play, which supported their creativity and development.



Special Dates

Term 4 - 2025

Oct

Term 4 - First day of Term 6/10

6/10 - World Space Week

20/10 - Children's Week

Nov

4/11 - Melbourne Cup

10/10 - Food Safety Week

Dec

18/12 - Kindergarten Graduation Day

19/12 - Last Day of Term

Kindergarten Enrolment

Please keep a lookout in your emails for Kinder enrolment details. The City of Casey is currently sending out offers over the next few weeks. If you have any questions please see Holly or Athira.

Click for Kinder Registrations

<https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/registrations-kindergarten>



Family Wellbeing Father's Day Feature

What makes your Dad special?

Because he helps us, he plays with us, and he looks after us.

What is your favourite thing to do with your Dad?

Playing cars, playing with dolls

What is something your Dad always says?

He says kind words, he says i love you
Stay safe in kinder

What makes your Dad laugh?

Funny jokes i do

What does your Dad cook (or eat!) best?

He eats pasta, rice and noodles. He cooks omelettes with us.

What's the best adventure you've had with your Dad?

Going to Mount gambier holiday house

What is your Dad really good at?

He is really good at loving and looking after us.

What do you love most about your Dad?

Cuddling and tickling and joking

What's one word you would use to describe your Dad?

Love

If you could give your Dad any present in the world, what would it be?

Fridge magnet, hot wheels and an airplane, doll house

My Dada Dennis

Your child

Up-coming Events

Term 4, 2025

Christmas Colouring Competition – Launching 17 November 2025

Get into the festive spirit with our Christmas Colouring Competition. Download your picture here or collect a copy from Reception at: HPCH (16–20 Stuart Ave).

All ages are welcome — let your creativity shine this Christmas! Winners will be announced on Thursday 12 December 2025.

16 Days of Activism – 25 November to 10 December 2025

You may notice a whole lot of orange around Hampton Park — that's because we're proudly participating in the 16 Days of Activism campaign. This important initiative raises awareness and takes a stand against gender-based violence.

Walk with Us

Join our community walk in support of the campaign. Meet in front of Hampton Park Community House (16–20 Stuart Ave) 11:00 am – all community members are welcome. If you or someone you know needs support, please contact 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) — a confidential, 24/7 counselling and support service.

16 Days of Activism Art Exhibition Opening

Friday 6 December 2025 | 12:00 pm
Holy Trinity Church, Hampton Park
Celebrate creativity and community with a powerful exhibition of artworks inspired by the theme of respect and equality.

Christmas Giving Campaign

Help us spread joy this holiday season! We're seeking donations of non-perishable food items and gifts for local families in need. Donations can be dropped off at Hampton Park Community House (16–20 Stuart Ave) during opening hours.

Help keep our doors open

We're asking families to complete a short postcard telling us why you value Hampton Park Community House. We'll be sending these to our local MP as part of the Keep Our Doors Open campaign to help secure the funding our community needs.

Postcards are available at the House—your voice makes a difference!

Help keep our doors open

<https://www.nhvic.org.au/post/keep-our-doors-open-campaign>



EO Kate Madden (LH)
Networker NE (Julie Johnson) RH



Call today:

P : (03) 8768 8342

Hampton Park Community House
PO Box 440 Hampton Park VIC 3976



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Lorna M: 0438 075 302

Family Support
Program Coordinator



Zohra M: 0493 040 499

Community Programs Coordinator

Community Life

Hampton Park Community Groups Network – Working Together for a Thriving Community

The Hampton Park Community Groups Network is a vibrant collaboration of local community groups, sporting clubs, churches, the Probus 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, our next meeting will be held at **12 noon on Tuesday 13th May at Hampton Park Community House, 16–20 Stuart Avenue.**

HP CGC Handbook 2025

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/community/hampton-park-community-handbook-2025>

Thank you for helping fill our Sunflower Wall



This October, Hampton Park Community House came alive with colour as we celebrated Mental Health Awareness Month. Our "Sunflower Project" invited everyone — young and old — to create vibrant sunflowers filled with creativity, positivity, and care.

Thanks to your wonderful contributions, our front wall bloomed beautifully, spreading sunshine and smiles throughout the neighbourhood.

We're so proud of what our community achieved together — and we'd love for you to see it too! Visit our Facebook page Hampton Park Community House Facebook or view the gallery to see all the amazing sunflower creations across Hampton Park and the Community.

Click for Sunflower template

<https://www.hamptonparkch.vic.edu.au/static/uploads/files/sunflower-making-wfpcyrtoeqw.pdf>