

ALFRED NUTTALL MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN



z o m i n j e k a

**TWILIGHT KINDERGARTEN
OPEN EVENING
INFORMATION BROCHURE**



WELCOME

Thank you for visiting us for the City of Darebin Twilight Kindergarten Open Evening.

Alfred Nuttall Memorial Kindergarten (ANMK) is the only sessional kindergarten in the suburb of Fairfield. For nearly 70 years, ANMK has prided itself as a smaller, intimate education provider built on core values of *quality, community, and connection.*

In 2023, the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA), the national regulator of kindergartens and childcare centres, deemed ANMK to be **exceeding.**

We are committed to offering a two year program. We strongly believe this provides sufficient time to enable a child to feel safe and secure, to develop relationships with peers and key adults, and to explore their interests and identity. Our observation is that it is often in a child's second year at the kinder, when they are familiar and confident with the space, educators and peers, that they can truly scaffold social development, be engaged in learning and thrive in readiness for school.

ANMK is a non-profit, incorporated Association. It is governed by a Committee of Management. This is a volunteer group of 13 skilled, committed parents who are responsible for the governance, leadership and oversight of the kindergarten.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ON-SITE PROGRAM

We create a safe and nurturing environment where children can thrive. Our programs reflect and respect the values of families and celebrate the diversity of our local communities. With an engaging and flexible curriculum, children are supported to realise their full potential.

Key values of our service philosophy:

- **Play-based.** Our program fosters a joyful celebration of childhood where learning is fun. Our open-ended play spaces support children's different learning styles and provide opportunities for creativity, investigation, exploration and imagination.
- **Nature.** Our teaching philosophy reflects a commitment to nature, sustainability and place.
- We are committed to **Reconciliation**, consciously embedding Aboriginal culture, history and perspectives in our pedagogy.
- **Inclusion.** We embrace cultural, social and developmental diversity, and value each child as unique with individual qualities and needs. We embed children's voices in our program and emphasise their rights to be listened to and valued.



Sustainability is important to our kinder and embedded in our practices. We have water tanks, worm farms, recycling and composting.

We recognise the importance of a child's relationships with families and the wider **community** as part of building confidence and learning. We encourage families to participate and contribute to our program, and offer all families the opportunity to feel a sense of belonging. To support children in developing relationships in their community, we organise incursions and excursions and stay connected to local childcares, the library and schools.

BUSH KINDER

OFF-SITE PROGRAM

Bush Kinder is an important component of our program. It allows children to develop a meaningful connection to the natural environment and an appreciation for sustainability.

Our Possum, Kookaburra and Wombat groups include a full day of Bush Kinder per week, which takes place at the beautiful Darebin Parklands.

The benefits of unstructured nature play for children are well-documented. They range from increased confidence, imagination and concentration, to enhanced social, physical and language skills.

Bush Kinder also offers an opportunity to take minor risks, which is an important element of children's play. It supports them to manage and assess risk and develop an understanding of practical safety.

The Bush Kinder program builds on our home kinder program. Both incorporate the environment, sustainability and Indigenous connections to outside play.

Our Bush Kinder team is passionate about supporting children to learn in natural environments. They have the required early childhood qualifications as well as First Aid qualifications.



OUR TEAM



SUSIE ALSTON
DIRECTOR & LEAD EDUCATOR

Susie holds a Postgraduate Diploma of Education (Early Childhood) and has been working in the early childhood sector for over 15 years. Susie is passionate about the importance of outdoor and nature play for children, and the influence of this play on helping children develop a love and care for the environment. Susie is also a practicing yoga instructor and enjoys camping trips with her family.



CLAIRE PERRONE
LEAD EDUCATOR

Claire is a passionate and nurturing teacher who has been working with children and families for almost 10 years. She builds respectful and supportive relationships with children by getting to know their dispositions and curiosities. Claire loves learning alongside children, working with them to explore their interests and to understand the world around them. Claire knows the affinity children have for nature and the effect this has on children's wellbeing, so she ensures children have ample opportunity to be active and explore the natural world.

OUR TEAM



AMANDA SALTMARSH EDUCATOR

Amanda holds a Certificate III in Children's Services and is working towards completing her Diploma. Amanda also holds a Certificate IV in Vet Nursing and has a strong passion for reading, spending time with family, listening to music and caring for her many pets. Amanda enjoys sharing her love for arts and animals with the children and her fellow educators.

YUKIE GREEN EDUCATOR

Yukie has worked with children of different ages in childcare centres and kindergartens in Japan. In 2015, Yukie joined ANMK as an Additional Assistant and has been working as an Educator since 2016. Yukie enjoys sharing her culture with the children, including Japanese language and origami. Yukie likes listening to music, watching movies and musicals, and swimming.

YUKO SO-STAVRETIS EDUCATOR

Since migrating from Japan in 2000, Yuko completed her Certificate III in Children's Services and has enjoyed working with children at various early childhood settings ever since. She is currently working towards completing her Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. Yuko enjoys cooking and exploring different cuisines, baking bread, botanical painting and going on walks with her family dog. She is also learning to play the ukulele and hoping to enjoy music with the children.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

ANMK is managed by a Committee of Management (CoM), which is staffed by 13 locals (typically parents), who volunteer and commit their time. The CoM consults widely with parents and staff, and works closely with Darebin Council. They meet once a month and are responsible for ensuring ANMK complies with regulatory obligations. New members are elected each November at the Annual General Meeting.

TIMETABLE & GROUPS

Our Kinder sessions run 8.30am–4pm during the school term.
ANMK does not operate during school holidays or on public holidays.



KOALAS 3-YEARS | TUESDAY & FRIDAY

The *Koala* Group is for 3-year-olds who will benefit from two days of Home Kinder. They will share one session with other 3-year-olds from the *Kookaburra* group (Tuesdays), and one multi-age session with the 4-year-olds from the *Wombat* group (Wednesdays).



KOOKABURRAS 3-YEARS | TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

The *Kookaburra* group is suitable for confident 3-year-olds who might be keen to explore Bush Kinder. The Bush Kinder sessions are introduced gradually, initially with part days, working up to full days. These sessions are shared with the 4-year-old *Wombat* group, where the older children help to guide the younger ones.



WOMBATS 4-YEARS | WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

The *Wombat* group is for 4-year-olds who may benefit from a gradual introduction to Bush Kinder, initially with part days, working up to full days. These sessions are shared with the 3-year-old *Kookaburra* group, where the older children help to guide the younger ones. Mixed-age groups provide a great opportunity for the 4-year-olds to build confidence and leadership skills in preparation for school the following year.



POSSUMS 4-YEARS | MONDAY & THURSDAY

The *Possum* group is best suited to confident children who have already been in childcare or have completed 3-year-old kinder. They usually commence Bush Kinder sessions by week 4 of term 1. Bush Kinder for runs unless there is very inclement weather such as storms, extreme heat or high winds.



OUR COMMUNITY



When your child joins ANMK, you will be warmly welcomed into our community.

Parent support is highly valued. We ask that all ANMK families support our working bees at least once each year (3-hour commitment). From time to time, you might be asked to support ANMK in other ways, such as washing a load of hand towels.

We have a calendar of **social events** across the year for parents and families. These include:

- Welcome Picnic (February, all families)
- Social Drinks (March, parents/carers)
- Kew Traffic School Family Day (May, all families)
- Social drinks (September, parents/carers)
- AGM (November, parents/carers)



FEES & ENROLMENT

Enrolments are completed online via the Darebin Kindergarten Registration System Portal. For 2025 enrolments, **registrations are now open**. For information on the central enrolment process, please contact:

City of Darebin Kindergarten Registration Team

☎ (03) 8470 8825

✉ Registration.KindergartenChildCare@darebin.vic.gov.au

Eligibility

- For your child to be eligible for three-year-old kindergarten, *they must turn three by 30 April*. Children must be three-years-old before they can attend kindergarten. If your child turns three in January, February, March or April, we strongly recommend you contact us to discuss options.
- For your child to be eligible to attend four-year-old kindergarten, *they must turn four by 30 April*.

ANMK offers free kinder as per the Victorian Government Kindergarten Expansion Announcement. This means there will be **no fees** payable for the 15 hours per week of three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten.

Kindergarten fee deposit

A \$100 refundable enrolment deposit will be required to confirm acceptance of a place at ANMK. This enrolment deposit is only refundable upon commencement with ANMK, as per our Fees Policy (available on our website).

The Alfred Nuttall Memorial Kindergarten community welcomes all children and families and celebrates and respects our diversity. We share a commitment to equity and all children's right to a quality education.

We look forward to welcoming you.



(03) 9489 0262



34 Separation St, Fairfield, VIC, 3078



admin@alfrednuttallkinder.org.au



alfrednuttallkinder.org.au

