Barker College

Darkinjung Barker Prospectus

Darkinjung Barker

Barker College

Honor Non Honores

Mission

An Anglican community inspiring
every learner
every experience
every day

Vision

To be a leader in Christian education
that is characterised by a global vision
that inspires hope

Values

Commitment
Compassion
Courage
Integrity
Respect

Darkinjung Barker

We acknowledge the Dharug, Darkinjung, Wonnarua and Yolŋu peoples who are the traditional custodians of the land on which Barker College, Darkinjung Barker, Ngarralingayil Barker and Dhupuma Barker stand. We pay respect to the Elders past, present and emerging of the Dharug, Darkinjung, Wonnarua and Yolŋu nations and extend that respect to other Indigenous people within the Barker College community.

Welcome

A Barker education is shaped by our focus on preparing for a life beyond the school gates. We seek to expose our students to diverse opportunities and experiences, so that they are able to develop resilience and adaptability within a supportive environment

Education is the key and the hope for the future.

There is so much more to education than can be captured in literacy and numeracy rates, yet we know that these core skills are necessary for accessing the academic program both at school and post school. We work in alignment with key community organisations to provide education that is not only of the finest standard, but embodies pride in culture.

Our intention is to keep Darkinjung small, keep it local and keep it focused on our purpose — strong and proud cultural identity in concert with academic achievement.

Central to the success of Darkinjung Barker has been the active support of the parents and the community. Although not apparent at the time of creation of Darkinjung Barker, subsequent research has shown that First Nation children and families experience stronger academic growth when they feel consulted, safe and supported in a partnership with their local school. The dedication of the teachers and the loving care of the DLAC and the Barker community have shone a light on a model of education that can change the nation and rewrite the story of First Nation educational achievements. Our first graduates are now at University and undoubtedly will lead this change in the future.

This is an exciting time to be considering a Barker education for your child. The School's culture is inclusive, innovative and full of hope for the future. We are very excited about the years that lie ahead and extend a warm invitation to you to come and visit us so that we may show you what Barker has to offer your child.

Phillip Heath AM
Head of Barker College

Welcome to Darkinjung Barker, we are thrilled you are considering a Barker education for your child. In the Junior years, classes centre around our key values — commitment, compassion, courage, integrity and respect.

These values are central to how we engage in all activities and in all of our relationships. Our demonstration of these attributes points to our character and the culture of our School.

Students are encouraged to be themselves and to do so with the confidence that they will be looked after by their peers and supported. We want to be kind in how we think, act and speak.

Children at Darkinjung will explore these school values while developing their understanding of themselves and how they connect with the world around them. There is much optimism at Darkinjung Barker, and we look forward to welcoming you to the School community.

Martin Lubrano
Head of Junior School

Darkinjung Barker

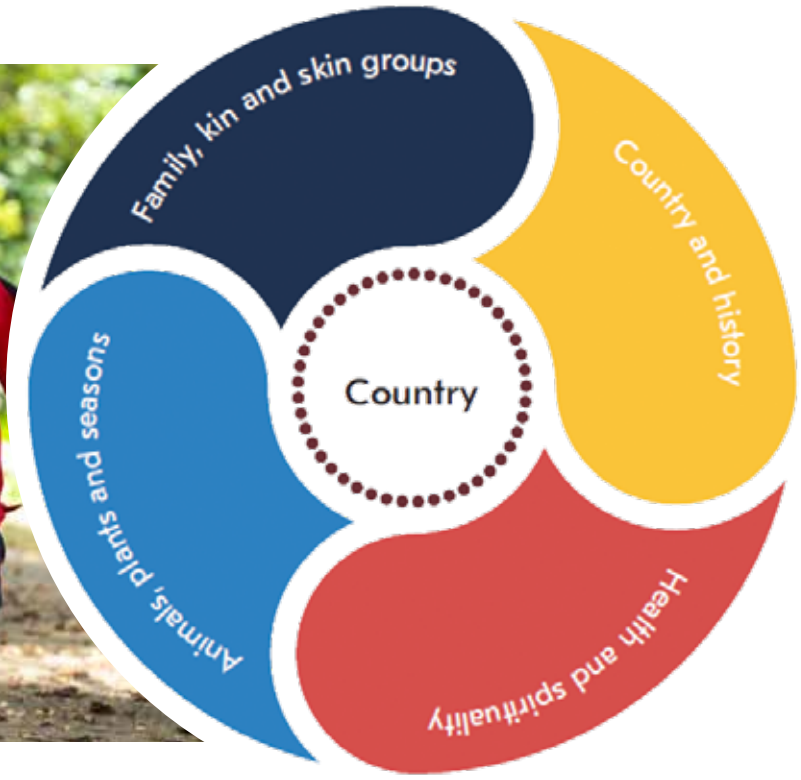
About Barker College

Barker College is a non-selective comprehensive Anglican School established in 1890 in Kurrajong Heights. The school relocated to Hornsby in 1895.

On moving to Hornsby, the school became a boys' only school. In 1975, girls were enrolled for the final two years of their secondary education, and in 2000, this was extended to include girls in Year 10. In 2016, the School embarked on a transition program to full coeducation and this process is realised in 2022, with girls in every year group and a student cohort approaching 2800. The School is committed to excellence and enrichment for all our students, Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12.

The School has established three schools exclusively for First Nations students: Darkinjung Barker at Yarramalong (2016), Ngarralingayil Barker at Wollombi (2020), and Dhupuma Barker at Gunyangara in North East Arnhem Land (2021). The incorporation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and perspectives into teaching and learning programs and activities is essential in the education of all Australian children.

The Big Idea



- Education on-Country in community two way learning
- Engagement with Identity, Culture and Language
- Connection with others
- Hunting, bush medicine, bush tucker
- Ceremonial dance, music and singing
- Cultural activities i.e. traditional painting, weaving, story telling

About Darkinjung Barker

In June 2015, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (DLALC) and the Council of Barker College (Barker) to jointly establish a small Primary School for Aboriginal children living in the DLALC area.

The Darkinjung Barker Campus commenced as a campus of Barker College in January 2016, providing school education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a culturally sensitive and affirming setting.

The School is located on the site of the former Yarramalong Public School on a leasehold basis in cooperation with the Yarramalong Community and the NSW Department of Lands. The Yarramalong Public School opened in 1870 and operated until its closure in 2009. The establishment of Darkinjung Barker returns children and education to the site, upholding the long heritage of education in Yarramalong.

By providing education to First Nations children, Darkinjung Barker is an example of practical Reconciliation that lies deep in the heart of a local community group, which has strived to preserve and protect the integrity of the cultural practices of the region, and providing an opportunity for children to thrive while learning on-Country.

About Dhupuma Barker
Northern Territory Campus

Dhupuma Barker is our sister school that forms the first stage in achieving an education pipeline for Yolŋu children in remote NE Arnhem Land.

It began as a bilingual school for Kindergarten to Year 6 students. The School caters for around 60 students in Primary Years, and we are thrilled to have opened an additional class for 10 students in the Middle Years (Years 7-10) in 2024.

The School offers access to quality education — allowing children to have educational opportunities without having to leave the community. Blending the Australian Curriculum with traditional Yolŋu teachings and cultural practices while building students' English language skills with a foundation in Yolŋu Matha. Dhupuma Barker empowers young people to walk in two worlds with dignity and confidence.

Darkinjung enjoys a warm connection with students from Dhupuma Barker, sharing their on-country learning experiences. We also host the Dhupuma students when they visit NSW for robotics competitions.

School Organisation

Tom Spencer is the Director of Aboriginal Campuses (NSW) and is responsible for the day to day operation of Darkinjung Barker. My name is Thomas Spencer, and I have been a part of Barker College for 11 years, serving in various roles at the Barker College Hornsby, Darkinjung Barker and Dhupuma Barker. I am incredibly privileged to now take on the role of Director of Aboriginal Campuses (NSW) for Barker College. The valuable knowledge and experiences I gained while working in remote North East Arnhem Land inspire me to bring these insights to the Central Coast and Hunter region. I am passionate about ensuring Aboriginal students understand and embrace their culture, take pride in who they are, and see this reflected and celebrated within our School. By fostering this sense of identity and belonging, I aim to create an environment where students and the wider community feel connected, supported, and inspired to grow together. There is nothing like immersing yourself in culture; experiencing it, breathing it, enjoying and celebrating it. Darkinjung does just that and it is a wonderful feeling! We have high expectations, and we work hard at knowing each students' strengths and interests, and how we can support them to grow spiritually and academically.

Families are encouraged to become members of the Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council to enrich our ongoing partnership. Please contact the DLALC directly for information on becoming a member.

Classroom Structure and Organisation

Classes are grouped for learning to suit the cohort size and learning strengths of individuals. Darkinjung Barker currently has four classes: a Kindergarten class, Mirganda (Stars), Year 1 to Year 2 work together in Banal (Sun), Year 3 and Year 4 are joined in Ganang (Rainbow), and our senior students of Year 5 to Year 6 are placed in the Bariyang (Daytime) class. Qualified, passionate educators, teach, encourage and support the children, inspiring a love of learning with a focus on strong foundations in literacy and numeracy. The curriculum is woven with culture which is exciting and inspires pride in our students. Their self-belief and cultural identity grows and they can be themselves; proud of who they are and what they can achieve. A strong, cultural identity helps to prepare our students for a successful life beyond the school gates.

Year 12 graduates from Barker College are engaged as Gap-Year interns to provide additional support to the teachers and students.

We provide a light breakfast to all students upon arrival to ensure they are ready to learn.

Classes commence at 8:50am and end at 2:45pm for students to depart on the buses

Teaching and Learning

At Darkinjung we have a focus on explicit literacy and numeracy instruction. Programs are delivered in conjunction with the MultiLit program, which is a model of direct and explicit instruction in key literacy and numeracy skills. Additional intervention support can be provided through targeted literacy and numeracy programs.

We deliver an array of learning opportunities in Culture, Language, Science, Geography, History, PDHPE, Wellbeing, Creative and Performing Arts, Music and Christian Studies.

Learning on Country

Educating children on-Country and teaching them the history, geography, animals, plants, stories, and songs of that place in partnership with their family and Elders, is the primary goal of this model of education.

The School aims to work in partnership with community groups to build opportunities for two-way learning for students to remain connected to culture and country.

Students learn, value and respect their culture and heritage so that they can confidently share their story with others if they choose. They develop a sense of belonging and connection that has the potential to improve their academic and pastoral outcomes.

School Fees

At Darkinjung families pay a fixed fee of $100 per child per term. This includes learning resources, text books, stationery, technology, transport and excursions.

Uniforms

All students wear a play-based uniform, which is the same as the Barker College sports uniform. This encourages students to be active in the regional setting and provides greater comfort for travel. A full set of uniforms is provided to each new child. We ask families to pass on uniforms that have been outgrown to other members of our community. Families are welcome to purchase additional garments from the Plume Store at the Hornsby campus, or online.

Transport

School buses are provided to encourage children's strong attendance at school. Student addresses are provided to the bus company annually to ensure that the bus routes align with student locations. The bus timetables are published on the Parents Facebook page each term. Parents are able to follow the bus routes using a transport tracking app.

Parents are encouraged to apply for the Student Drive Subsidy scheme if they need to drive their children to a designated bus stop.
School student travel / transportnsw.info

Connection to Barker College, Hornsby

Darkinjung students travel to Barker College Hornsby each fortnight to attend Robotics, Swimming, Music or specialist learning opportunities. Graduating students are invited to apply for a bursary position at Barker College for Year 7 and beyond.

Getting Involved

Darkinjung Barker welcomes volunteers, asking that they approach their work respectfully and agree to completing their Working with Children Check.

Opportunities for volunteering include cultural sharing, reading groups, gardening projects, campus working bees and preparing student "pop up canteen" lunches.

The children enjoy working with volunteers and benefit greatly from the enthusiasm that this brings to the classroom.

For further information, please contact darkinjung@barker.nsw.edu.au.

School Premises

As our school populations flourish, we may explore alternative locations to extend the opportunity of on-Country learning to more families. This would be done in consultation with community.

Enrolments

If you would like to enrol your child, you must complete a Registration Form with a profile of your child's learning and your connection to the local Indigenous community.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE

Where there is capacity in the class, we will be able to progress your application for enrolment.

We encourage all families to visit the School, meet our friendly staff and experience the wonderful learning happening in our vibrant classrooms.

The enrolment process may include a family meeting with the Director of Indigenous Campuses, to ensure Darkinjung Barker is the right learning environment for your child.

You will be asked to provide a copy of your child's birth certificate, a certificate of Aboriginality from a registered LALC or similar, and immunisation history statement, relevant reports around learning support or documentation on current care arrangements.

Office Directory

Darkinjung Barker Reception
Ph: 0456 694 091
darkinjung@barker.nsw.edu.au

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91 Pacific Highway Hornsby, NSW 2077

Policies as required by NESA

www.barker.college/about-barker/indigenous-education