



Barker
College



Barker Barang
2023 Year in Review





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



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.

From the Head of Barker College



Dhumuma Barker, Darkinjung Barker and Ngarralingayil Barker have continued to be an important part of the Barker College school profile.

NSW Campuses

Darkinjung Barker and Ngarralingayil Barker are well established and are meeting the needs of their communities, each in unique ways. We continue to see the children grow as individuals, proud of who they are, their Aboriginal heritage and identity and excited to come to school each day. The addition of Administration support in 2022 with an Indigenous Campuses' Operations Manager, has assisted staff in the day-to-day operation of the campus. In addition, the Year 13 internship program continues to provide valuable support to teaching and learning.

We are grateful to be working in partnership with key aboriginal communities, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation. The wisdom, guidance and support of local community elders is essential in the success of the

schools and the development of cultural knowledge and understanding in the emerging generation of community leaders.

Student attendance is positive with both NSW campuses maintaining average rates of around 80%, extremely positive for Indigenous communities across Australia. Enrolment numbers have been strong with 22 children at Darkinjung, and 14 children at Ngarralingayil. These numbers have fallen from figures in 2022. The remoteness of the campus and distance travelled each day have had an impact on enrolment numbers. At the end of 2023, one of the Year 6 children from Darkinjung transitioned to Year 7 at Barker College, Hornsby whilst one went to a Central Coast High School and another is boarding at another Independent School in Sydney following in the footsteps of an older brother.



Building opportunity to employ and develop Aboriginal educators is seen as a prime objective of our schools. Across the campuses there are three Aboriginal teachers and an Aboriginal teachers' aide. This is such a benefit within the classroom. It has allowed for the building of the Indigenous language in the program.

becoming more confident, developing socially and emotionally. In a small school environment, where connections and relationships are fostered, and where culture is celebrated, these children are making the most of their schooling.

Two of the Aboriginal teachers have been studying a Masters in Indigenous Language Education from Sydney University, completing the course at the end of 2023 and graduating in early 2024.

The children are continuing to thrive,



Dhupuma Barker

Dhupuma Barker has over forty committed students and attendance has remained strong throughout the year. It has been a joy to see the djamarrkuli working on projects and sharing their writing and maths work under the care of our dedicated team of teachers and Yolngu co-teachers. On-Country learning is the best part of every week, and I am so grateful to our staff for providing these rich and exciting learning opportunities.

Some absolute highlights for the School this year have included the success of the Robotics program and the rise to fame of the tenacious Djirikitj Firebirds; the development of the new school premises which will begin soon with the generous support of Rio Tinto,

donors and community; and the marvellous achievement of extending the classes to Middle Years' students in Years 7-10. These are all extraordinary accomplishments so early in our history.

The partnership we share with the Gunyanjara community makes all of this possible, and the djamarrkuli are set to soar.

Phillip Heath AM
 Head of Barker College
 Head of Darkinjung Barker
 Head of Ngarralingayil Barker
 Head of Dhupuma Barker

From the Head of Junior School



The academic programs provide the children with the foundation skills necessary for successful learning and the children are all showing the appropriate levels of development and improvement.

Highlights from the NSW Campuses

The Schools continue to engage with Good to Great Schools literacy programs and they are progressing positively. The eight cycles of School practice provide a systematic way to drive continuous school improvement with a focus on professional development for teachers, data driven improvement for students, peer collegiality amongst teachers and community engagement. Support is provided through each stage of the program by the School Partnership Manager, School Partnership Coordinator and the Teaching Coach. There has been a greater focus on data collection and tracking performance. This has allowed us to more specifically identify areas for growth and plan strategies around individual student improvement.

The students at both campuses benefit from the Books in Homes program which provides them with nine new books each year that they choose from a selection of 48 books three times each year. The School library gets one copy of all 146 titles each year as well. This program has been sponsored by staff members from the Hornsby campus.

The students are also engaged in wonderful learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Culture and heritage programs are central to the foundation for learning. The children regularly embark on excursions to broaden their experience and deepen their understanding. Culture and Heritage officers from the Darkinjung Land Council as well as a representative of Dhinewan Mentoring provided culture programs at the campus on a regular basis. In addition, traditional Wonnaruah language (Ngarralingayil Barker) and Darkinjung and Wanarruwa language (Darkinjung Barker) are being incorporated into teaching and learning programs. Children have represented the School at key community events including marching with veterans at Anzac Day, participating in cultural celebrations, dancing at NAIDOC week assemblies at the Hornsby campus and other significant Aboriginal organisation community events.

Robotics continues to be a wonderful addition to the programs at both NSW campuses. Both campuses have visits from Robotics staff from the Hornsby campus on a fortnightly basis. In addition, the Darkinjung children visit the Carden Ave Robotics Centre on their visit to the Hornsby campus on each alternate fortnight. The Darkinjung School hosted the VEX Robotics Regional



Championships with teams from four schools attending. This event was a qualifying tournament for the State Championships held in Sydney.

In Athletics, the Darkinjung Barker small schools relay team participated at the NSW PSSA championships finishing 25th overall. One Year 6 girl also qualified for the IPSHA Championships in the 100m and 200m.

Connection across campus continues to be a highly sort after initiative. The children from Darkinjung attend Hornsby each fortnight and the children from Ngarralingayil attend once or twice per term. The children join in the Junior School Cross Country Championships and Athletics Championships at Hornsby. Students from Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil join together a couple of times per term for shared learning or a games day. Students from the Hornsby campus travel to each of the campuses to participate in activities where they share knowledge and understanding as well as participate in buddy programs.

The Schools' commitment to connecting with culture, heritage, and the community remained fundamental to the on-country learning experience at Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil Barker.

Highlights from Dhupuma Barker

In June 2023, the turning of the soil at the site of the new permanent Dhupuma Barker school, marked the start of an exciting new chapter for the community. In close consultation with community, the design of the School integrates culture and country into the functionality of the School. Featuring flexible classrooms, specialist learning areas, covered play spaces and areas designed for cultural ceremony, the design pays tribute to the beauty of Gunyangara and honours the Yolŋu people. It is due to open from Term 3 2025.

The 40 children enrolled at Dhupuma Barker in 2023 were split across the two classrooms, with one teacher focussing on

the younger children (Midawarr class) and a second teacher looking after the older group (Djambati class).

An important addition to the team in 2023 was the Community Support Officer. The Community Support Officer prepares breakfast, snacks, lunches, cleans, shops and manages the social media page. She also assists in the classroom.

The School continued to undertake the Literacy and Numeracy programs with Good to Great Schools. The fully funded program is ideally suited to remote Indigenous bilingual schools.

Throughout the year, Flinders University students in their final year of study, visited the School every two weeks to work with our students. The focus is on health-related topics. This continues the connection begun in 2022.

The children in the younger classroom continued to develop their letter/sound/handwriting skills and there has been excellent progress during the year, especially the children who are attending school every day.

In the older class, the students have worked on spelling and reading mastery programs with Good to Great Schools. Progress has been extremely positive, especially with strong attendance. In Maths, students gained mastery on the levels that they worked through. Teaching staff collaborated with Yirkala Bilingual School in November for a Maths conference to develop a deeper understanding of and resources on Yolngu mathematical concepts.

The School held a successful Rugby Union day in early March with support of NTRU. In the second half of the year, the children enjoyed a six week Aus Kick AFL program at school.



The first ever Dhupuma swimming carnival was held at the town pool in late March. There were 27 students competing against each other in two teams, Fire Fire & Stormy Rain.

The School began an extremely positive connection with the new aged care centre in town. Our students are visiting each Friday playing some sports, reading books with the residents and enjoying morning tea together. The plan is to share some work the children have been doing including artworks.

Dhupuma Barker hosted the first VEX inter-school robotics competition in the Northern Territory in Term 4 and the Barker Djirikitj Firebirds qualified to the National competition in Adelaide.

The Djirikitj Firebirds won a Northern Territory Science Week People's Choice Award for Remote Schools in August for their achievements in Robotics over the last 12 months. Three of the students travelled to Darwin with the School's co-teacher to collect the award.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Lubrano', written in a cursive style.

Martin Lubrano
Head of Junior School

Improvement Targets

- Work in conjunction with other schools/ organisations to replicate the model (or similar) that has been implemented at Barker's Indigenous schools.
- Close performance and achievement gaps in numeracy and literacy. Create a consistency with the implementation of the Good to Great Schools program in Literacy across the three campuses. Supplement Good to great with other recognised phonemic awareness programs for early literacy development. ie Heggarty's, Mini-lit.
- Continue to provide appropriate learning, behavioural and well-being support to students beyond the classroom. Engage specialists in learning support to work alongside classroom teachers. Further consolidate access to counselling services to work with students, families and external agencies.
- Continue to build on attendance rates of students aiming for consistency at 90% for all students.
- Further develop opportunities between Barker College, Dhupuma Barker, Darkinjung Barker and Ngarralingayil Barker to increase awareness of Indigenous culture.
- Establish opportunities for Indigenous educators to work within the programs at our schools. This could be through university partnerships providing practicum experience for trainee teachers, targeted employment programs for graduating teachers, training pathways for aboriginal community members to train as teacher assistants (co-teachers) or to upskill from a teacher assistant to a Primary school teacher.
- Build engagement of parents and community within the School.

Student Attendance

Darkinjung Barker

Year	Sem 1	Term 3	Avg 2023	Avg 2022	Avg 2021
K	84%	73%	79%	85%	84%
1	84%	91%	88%	90%	83%
2	89%	89%	89%	77%	83%
3	90%	85%	88%	76%	85%
4	87%	88%	88%	82%	68%
5	97%	71%	84%	89%	92%
6	96%	93%	95%	75%	79%

Ngarralingayil Barker

Year	Sem 1	Term 3	Avg 2023	Avg 2022	Avg 2021
K	-	-	-	78%	60%
1	88%	91%	90%	67%	79%
2	62%	71%	67%	80%	79%
3	88%	85%	87%	85%	68%
4	74%	83%	79%	67%	56%
5	82%	91%	N/A	N/A	67%
6	-	-	-	61%	66%

* No Kindergarten students in 2023
No Year 6 students in 2023

Dhupuma Barker

Attendance remained strong throughout the year. In Term 3 the School reached its highest enrolment - growing from 12 students to 41 in only two years of operation. Attendance remains at the highest level seen for peer students in the Northern Territory at around 85%.



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