



Love a life of learning and living!

Pictured: Sigi Hyett (CEO) and Alison Fraser (ECT) helping the children at Belle Vue Park Kindergarten to say an acknowledgement to Country

Hello from our CEO

As usual, there have been lots of exciting developments across Northern Schools Early Years lately, that we are excited and proud to share.

- We have just been announced as the Approved Provider for a brand new kindergarten at Greenvale Primary School from 2025. We're excited to work in partnership with the school to bring our K-6 model to life in the Greenvale community!
- More of our services have undergone Assessment and Rating against the National Quality Standard, and several have achieved an 'Exceeding' rating!
- We have expanded our Wellbeing Team even more, and now have seven Social Workers and Family Support Workers based at many of our services to support children and families experiencing vulnerability.
- In term 2 we welcomed Coolaroo South Primary School Kindergarten into the NSEY. The team is settling in well thanks to the leadership of one of our experienced teachers, Huma Rizvi, as well as support from our management team and the school Principal Anne-Marie Grozdanoski.
- We also held our staff conference and professional learning day on the 4th of September, which provided a wonderful chance for us all to come together for a day of shared learning and networking.

Read on to find out more!

This Term's issue brings you:

Kindergarten enrolment, important reminders and dates - 2

Bush Kindergarten programs - 3

Transition to school - 4

Meet our Wellbeing Team - 5

News from our kindergartens - 6



Sigi Hyett,
Chief Executive
Officer

Enrolments are still open for 2025!

Kindergarten places are filling fast for 2025, so it's important to register as soon as possible!

Remember, if your child is currently attending 3-year-old kindergarten, you must submit an enrolment registration to secure a place in a 4-year-old program for 2025. For those children attending 4-year old kindergarten who will go to school next year, you must enrol at the school. This does not happen automatically.

- To enrol in a 3 or 4-year old program in the City of Hume: click here to go to the Council's website and complete the registration form.
- To enrol in a 3 or 4-year-old program in the City of Merri-bek: click here to go to the Council's website and complete the registration form.
- To enrol at Rothschild Road Kindergarten (Gisborne) or Molesworth Street Kindergarten (North Melbourne) contact the NSEYC Office on 9306 1662 or email us at office@nseyc.org.au.
- To enrol for long day care at Glenroy Hub Children's Centre, go to the Moreland Council website or call 9240 1111.

You can also pick up enrolment forms from our office, our kindergartens or school offices. If you need any assistance to register, please contact our office on 9306 1662.

Learn more about free kinder for 3 and 4-year olds in this video:



Important dates/events



- 3rd-12th October - Dashain (Nepali Festival)
- 9th-13th October - Durga Puja (Hindu Festival)
- 12th October - Yom Kipur (Jewish)
- 19th to 27th October - Children's Week
- 31st October - Diwali (Hindu Festival)

School term dates for 2023 and 2024

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Term 3, 2024 | 15 July - 20 September |
| Term 4, 2024 | 7 October - 20 December |
| Term 1, 2024 | 28 January - 4 April (kindergarten commences 30 Jan) |
| Term 2, 2024 | 22 April - 4 July |
| Term 3, 2025 | 21 July - 19 September |
| Term 4, 2025 | 6 October - 19 December |



For more information about our services, for help with enrolling, or any other queries please contact us on 9306 1662 or email office@nseyc.org.au and we'll be happy to help!



Bush Kindergarten programs at NSEY

Do you remember the joy of climbing trees and splashing in puddles? For many of us, outdoor play was a vital part of childhood. Today's research highlights the benefits of spending time in nature: children who engage with the outdoors tend to be happier, healthier, more resilient, and better socialized. However, modern children often face schedules that limit their opportunities for beneficial outdoor play.

After successfully trialing Bush Kinder programs at several of our kindergartens, we are now introducing these programs across the rest of our services as part of our strategic plan. To help us achieve this, we applied for Bush Kinder Grants from the Victorian Government, and have received over \$45,000 in funding for 10 services towards purchasing equipment, and our staff are also under going professional learning to support them to implement the programs.

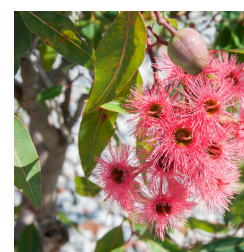
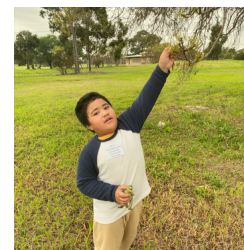
What is Bush Kinder?

Regular Bush Kinder sessions provide dedicated time for children to be outside in a quality natural environment away from screens and other distractions. Attending bush kindergarten offers your child the opportunity to grow at their own pace, connect to others with kindness and creativity, learn holistically and increase their communication, self-regulation, confidence and overall wellbeing.

Research shows that the benefits of bush kinder for children include:

- Reduced stress through being in nature
- Improved concentration and cognitive development
- Improved physical skills and health
- Enhanced social and language skills

By allowing children to engage in natural play, running, climbing, and exploring we support their holistic development and wellbeing.



At our recent conference, NSEY teachers and educators participated in an inspiring and informative professional learning session with Doug Fargher, the founder of Bush Kindergarten in Australia. Our teams are excited to incorporate what they learned into their programs!



Transition Statements for children going to school

If your child is starting school in 2025, then their Early Childhood Teacher will soon compile a Transition Learning and Development Statement (TLDS), with input from you and your child. The TLDS will summarise their abilities and approaches to learning, and (with your permission) will be passed on to the primary school where they will attend. It promotes continuity of learning for children transitioning into primary school, and helps to ensure that their new teacher has all the information they need to support your child's learning from day one of their Foundation year!

At NSEY, we are fortunate that most of our kindergartens are located on school sites, making the transition much easier for children and families. Our kindergarten children regularly visit their school sites, so they are already familiar with the school environment, programs and staff, and the kindergarten and Foundation teachers already know each other. Completing the TLDS is another important part of the transition process.

Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/transition-school-resources-families> to find out more about the TLDS, including information in multiple languages.



IMPORTANT:

School enrolment does not happen automatically even if your child attends kindergarten.

If your child will attend school in 2025 please ensure they are enrolled by visiting:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/how-choose-school-and-enrol>

Second year of four-year-old kindergarten

In most cases, children successfully transition to school after their Four-Year-Old Kindergarten year. During four-year-old kindergarten, your early childhood teacher will assess your child, plan for their move to school and identify any developmental areas that may need particular attention. There may be a small number of children for whom a second year of kindergarten is appropriate.

Your child may be eligible if:

- your child's teacher has found they have developmental delays in at least two key areas of learning and development
- your child will have better outcomes through a second year of kindergarten than going to school.

Find out more about a funded second year of four-year-old kindergarten on the Department of Education website: www.vic.gov.au/does-my-child-need-second-year-kindergarten



Meet our expanded Wellbeing Team

We have recently expanded our Wellbeing Team, which now includes seven Family Support Workers and Social Workers. This team supports families and children across many of our kindergarten services including: Belle Vue Park Kindergarten, Bethal Kindergarten, Broadmeadows Preschool, Dallas and Upfield Kindergartens, Holy Child Kindergarten, Lorne St Kindergarten and Meadows Kindergarten.

Meet Renad, Sam, Deborah, Natalie, Rebecca, Emma and Sandeep, pictured below (except Natalie who was away this day!). We are really excited and so fortunate to have such a highly skilled and experienced team supporting our children, families and teams!

Our Wellbeing Program provides holistic support to children and their families to enhance their wellbeing, make it easier for them to fully participate in our kindergarten programs and experience the benefits of two years of quality early learning.

In collaboration with the Early Childhood Teacher, our Wellbeing Team provides support for:

- enrolment, accessing kindergarten and transition to school
- building social connections and engagement within the community
- accessing support to extend child development and wellbeing
- engaging in the kindergarten program, and
- referral pathways to additional services.



Celebrating Book Week at our Head Office

We love an excuse to dress up at our Head Office! So to celebrate Book Week we had a morning tea and dressed up as some of our favourite book characters. Some of the highlights included Sean as Dr Seuss's Cat in a Hat; Melanie, Brinda, Linda and Deanne as 'Things' 1, 2, 3 and 4; Ivette and Aleyda as Harry Potter; Zosia as a pixie; Sigi as a Puss in Boots; and, Deb as Mary Poppins. A special thank you to Linda for the delicious themed cupcakes!





News from our early learning teams

Three more NSEY kindergartens have received an 'Exceeding' rating

Congratulations to the latest of our kindergarten to receive an 'Exceeding' rating against the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care!

Every few years, kindergartens (and other early childhood education and care services) across Australia are assessed and rated by the regulatory authority to make sure they are meeting the required standards and providing a high quality learning experience for children. Services are assessed against the 7 Quality Areas, which include:

- 1. Educational program and practice
- 2. Children's health and safety
- 3. Physical environment
- 4. Staffing arrangements
- 5. Relationships with children
- 6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- 7. Governance and leadership

Holy Child Kindergarten, Rothschild Road Kindergarten @ Willowbank Primary School and Meadows Primary School Kindergarten all received an 'EXCEEDING' overall rating at their recent assessment (which means they are not only meeting the Standard, but going above it). The Glenroy Hub Children's Centre received an Exceeding rating in two quality areas, and a 'Meeting' rating overall - a wonderful achievement for a new long day care service. Well done to all of the teams!

We asked Suzanne, Early Childhood Teacher and Nominated Supervisor at Rothschild Road to share what this outcome means to her and the team (pictured above):



Above: The team at Meadows Primary School Kindergarten
Below: The team at Rothschild Road Kindergarten



"We are so excited for this achievement! Being a relatively new service, opening in 2022 with one group and quickly increasing to 4 groups in 2024 has meant our team has rapidly grown from 2 staff to 12 in a short period of time. Achieving an 'Exceeding' rating with many new faces to the team is something we are really proud of, demonstrating our team's commitment to provide high quality education and care to the Gisborne community. This rating also showcases our great team relationships to work collaboratively within our own team and the wider NSEY team to explore and embed practices within our service."

**Huge congratulations to the teams at Meadows, Holy Child and Rothschild Road Kindergartens and the Glenroy Hub Children's Centre!
Keep up the excellent work!**



NSEY annual conference day

On September 4th we held our annual staff conference, an important opportunity for our teams to step away from their services, share in some professional learning, and connect with colleagues from across the organisation.

Early childhood teachers, educators and Family Support Workers from all 17 of our education and care services joined our management and administration team for a whole day of inspiring and thought-provoking presentations and workshops. We organised the conference to coincide with Early Childhood Educators' Day, and took the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the incredible work our teams do with children and families every day.

Our keynote speaker Lisa Hunter presented about the concept of *Heliotropia*, which refers to consciously 'turning towards the sun' and the things that sustain life to promote our own wellbeing and thrive. Early childhood expert Louise Dorrat led a fun and practical workshop on Language and literacy through music, storytelling and dance. And Doug Fargher (the founder of Bush Kindergarten in Australia, led a hands-on workshop about nature pedagogy.

It was wonderful to see our teams participate so joyfully in the workshops and embrace all of the learning opportunities! Thank you to everyone who came along. One of our staff members commented *"I enjoyed the uplifting atmosphere and engaging presentations at the conference. It was inspiring to see everyone so enthusiastic about learning and participating."*

Huge thanks also go to the organising team, our Teaching and Learning Facilitator Linda Hyett for putting together some beautiful resource show bags for each team, and to our Trade Fair exhibitors: Yarn Strong Sista, FKA Children's Services, JP Books, Auslan on Pine, and Modern Teaching Aids.



Thank you for reading!