



Barker
College

Darkinjung Barker
Ngarralingayil Barker

Prospectus



Ngarralingayil



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



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.



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 and Ngarralingayil Barker small, keep it local and keep it focused on our purpose – strong and proud cultural identity in concert with academic achievement. Such is the strength of interest in this program, we are working with Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council to consider an additional campus at East Maitland.

Teaching is cross-age, keeping kinship ties in place and enabling the small community of children to care for one another.

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 and Ngarralingayil 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 and Ngarralingayil 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 our campuses, and we look forward to welcoming you to the School community.

Martin Lubrano
Head of Junior School



About Barker College

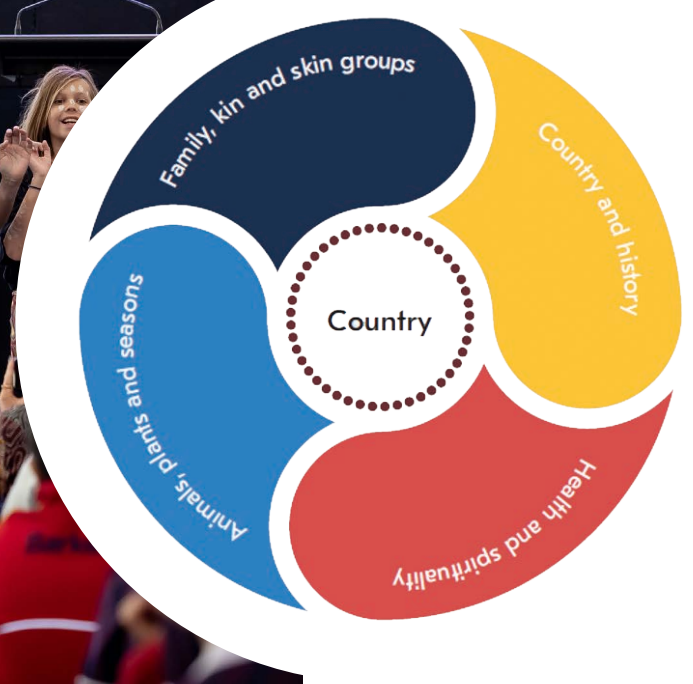


Barker College is a non-selective comprehensive Anglican School established in 1890 in Kurrajong Heights. The school relocated to Hornsby in 1895.

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 Ngarralingayil Barker



The School, Ngarralingayil Barker, is a campus of Darkinjung Barker, located on the site of the former Wollombi Public School, 45 minutes north of Yarramalong.

The Kindergarten to Year 6 school is coeducational and can cater for up to 40 students from the Cessnock, Maitland and Kurri Kurri area.

'Ngarralingayil' means 'a place where learning happens' in Wonnarua language.

As was the case with Darkinjung Barker, our aim is to provide a framework for young people to experience the best that the future offers and to become people who shape the future and are able to confidently walk in two worlds.

The opening of the School furthers Barker's vision to building lasting relationships with Indigenous communities and work together to provide culturally appropriate education for First Nations students, and to bridge the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Barker College and the Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation (KPAC) from Cessnock have worked together to make this proposal a reality. KPAC is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers that has been in operation for over 25 years. The aim of KPAC is to provide services to support the needs of the local Aboriginal community and to help improve the lives of Aboriginal people.

The School grounds are operated by the Wollombi School Community Education Trust (WSCET). WSCET and Barker College have worked together to ensure an appropriate, safe and engaging learning environment for the Ngarralingayil Barker students.

School Organisation



Jamie Shackleton is the Director of Aboriginal Campuses (NSW) and is responsible for the day to day operation of the two campuses, Ngarralingayil Barker and Darkinjung Barker.

Jamie Shackleton is an esteemed educator and experienced school leader who was part of the inaugural team when Darkinjung Barker opened in 2016. He has rejoined the NSW Aboriginal Campuses, and is thrilled to have returned to the community he loves.

Jamie is an empathetic and dedicated educator with a deep love for Indigenous Education. With over 20 years of teaching experience, Jamie consistently demonstrates strong leadership qualities, fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments. His passion for empowering students shines through in his commitment to education. His extensive experience and leadership skills ensure that Jamie is not only a leader and teacher but a mentor and advocate for all students.

Classroom Structure and Organisation

Each campus consists of two classes. A Kindergarten to Year 2 class and a Year 3 to Year 6 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.

At Yarramalong, Year 12 graduates from Barker College are engaged as Gap-Year interns to provide additional support to the teachers and students. We are currently working on a plan to provide similar opportunities for children graduating from secondary schools in the Lower-Hunter region.

Teaching and Learning

At Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil campuses we have a focus on explicit literacy and numeracy instruction. Programs are delivered in conjunction with the Good to Great Schools 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 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.

Attendance

We ask that parents and carers encourage strong attendance at school to give each child the best opportunity to learn. Did you know that taking one day per week off school equates to missing a month of learning in a year? We expect all students to achieve an attendance rate of 90% or above. The Director of Aboriginal Campuses (NSW) will request a parent meeting to discuss any student who is demonstrating a lower than expected level of attendance.

School Fees

Families pay a fee of \$100 per child per term. This includes learning resources, technology, transport and excursions. Occasionally, children are asked to bring a small sum to school for a "pop up canteen" or event, such as muffin days.

Transport

Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil 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. 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 swimming, music or specialist learning opportunities. Graduating students are invited to apply for a bursary position at Barker College for Year 7 and beyond.

Ngarralingayil students attend Barker College once or twice per term to join in school activities and for targeted specialist lessons.

Darkinjung Barker and Ngarralingayil Barker may visit each other throughout the term to enjoy collaborative Learning on Country and build a strong cohesive community.

Getting Involved

Darkinjung and Ngarralingayil Barker welcome volunteers, asking that they approach their work respectfully and agree to completing their Working with Children Check. For further information, please contact the respective school for further information. The children enjoy working with volunteers and benefit greatly from the enthusiasm that this brings to the classroom.

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.



**REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST HERE**



Enrolments

If you would like to enrol your child, you must complete an Application Form with a profile of your child's learning and your connection to the local Indigenous community. Where there is capacity in the class, we will be able to progress your application for enrolment.

We encourage all families to visit the Schools, 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 or Ngarrlingayil is the right learning environment for your child.

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



About Dhupuma Barker – NT 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 35 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 and Ngarralingayil Barker enjoy 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.





Office Directory

Darkinjung Barker Reception

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