



BUSH KINDER RISK ASSESSMENT (2025)

Quality Area 2

In consultation, Staff with the Committee of Management, have developed this document and it is to be monitored and updated regularly. We are keen to incorporate any ideas, suggestions or concerns not already addressed in the risk assessment.

Please contact admin@maribyrnongkinder.com.au or discuss with one of your child's teachers.

Bush Kindergarten Program Details:

Program: Maribyrnong Kinder Bush Kinder (off-site parkland-based kinder program on Wednesday)

Location: Pipemaker's Park, Maribyrnong.

Responsible Staff in Charge: 3YO Joeys Group Teacher & 4YO Willy Wag Tails Group Teacher

Times:

Tuesday	4YO Willy Wag Tails and Lorikeets	8.00am – 11.00am
Wednesday **	Wombats and Bilbies	1.30pm - 4.30pm

**** Notes:** Orientation at bush kinder will commence as soon as children have settled and when the teacher determines it would be appropriate for sessions to commence. Further information will be provided to families closer to the time

Emergency Contact: Mobile: 0477 812 342

(Bush Kinder staff will carry emergency contact details for all children during the program).

Risk Matrix

Consequences	Likelihood					
		Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain
	Major	Moderate	High	High	Critical	Critical
	Significant	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Critical
	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	Minor	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Insignificant	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

Hazard Identification	Benefit	Existing Control Measures	Risk Assessment Rating (use matrix)				Treatment
			Effec tiv en es s of exi sti ng co ntr ol s	Ri sk co ns e que nc e	Ri sk li ke li ho od	Ov er all ra tin g	
Describe the risk event cause/s and consequences e.g., something occurs...caused by...leading to...	Describe the positive outcomes for experience	Describe any existing policy, procedure, practice or device to minimise particular risk					For those risks requiring treatment in addition to the existing controls. List: What will be done? Who is accountable? When will it happen?
		EXISTING CONTROLS HAVE BEEN PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT IN THE BUSH KINDER PROGRAM, SELECTION OF SITE, AND THE WEEKLY SESSION. BUSH KINDER SPECIFIC POLICIES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH STAFF, FAMILIES AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE					A MAJORITY OF THESE TREATMENTS ARE REACTIVE MITIGATION. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION RESTS WITH THE KINDER TEACHERS ON SITE AT THE TIME OF BUSH KINDER SESSIONS (assisted as below)

Hazard Identification	Benefit	Existing Control Measures	Risk Assessment Rating (use matrix)				Treatment
<p align="center">Dog Bite</p>	<p align="center">Opportunities for children to authentically practise their dog safety skills learnt at kinder</p>	<p>Dog Safety Awareness program completed by all children in Term 1.</p> <p>Staff providing ongoing reinforcement of key points throughout the year.</p> <p>Protocol established for kinder staff to be on alert for 'dogs off lead' and to alert staff and children if a dog is in range. Staff to ensure children follow the appropriate procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stand still. ● Arms by side. ● Look down. <p>Staff to manage controlled and supervised interactions with dogs where appropriate.</p> <p>Regular park users to become aware of the Bush Kinder Program.</p>	<p align="center">Sa tis fa ct or y</p>	<p align="center">M o d e r a t e</p>	<p align="center">U n l i k e l y</p>	<p align="center">L o w</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff to remain vigilant concerning the presence of dogs and other animals. ● Follow First Aid procedures. ● Call parent/carer. ● Complete Incident Report and notify DET.
<p align="center">Snake bites</p>	<p align="center">Children learn about respecting animals and their habitats and what to do in the event they encounter a snake at bush kinder or in their home lives.</p>	<p>Snake awareness to be introduced during term 1 and continue to be discussed throughout the year.</p> <p>Children educated on snake awareness and staff to ensure children follow appropriate procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be quiet. ● Walk backwards slowly. ● Alert staff that a snake is present. <p>Snake and safety checks to be conducted before the commencement of each session and signed by two staff.</p>	<p align="center">Sa tis fa ct or y</p>	<p align="center">Ma jor</p>	<p align="center">U n l i k e l y</p>	<p align="center">L o w</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff to remain vigilant concerning presence of snakes. ● Staff to maintain vigilant site checks. ● Follow First Aid procedures. ● Call parent/carer. ● Completed Incident Report and notify DET. ● Notify Park ranger

Hazard Identification	Benefit	Existing Control Measures	Risk Assessment Rating (use matrix)				Treatment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make noise around the Bush Kinder site. • Check inside, around and under all logs and rocks. • Use a stick to check bushy areas including grass, and shrubs. • Remind the children prior to the session: Never put hands/feet in hollow logs or thick grass without prior inspection. 					
<p>Insect bite/sting ingestion of, or reaction to, plant/other material</p>	<p>Children learn about insects that are found in the parklands and how best to share the space. They learn which insects may be safe to handle and appropriate ways to handle insects, and which insects should be left alone or avoided.</p>	<p>Protective clothing/education of children as part of the Bush Kinder Program.</p> <p>Stocked First Aid Kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times.</p> <p>Allergy information requested from parents as per normal kinder procedure.</p> <p>Carry Emergency Action Plans and EpiPen's/Asthma medication for relevant children.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to use repellent bands, mozzie patches before the start of the session.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Possible</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow policies. • First Aid. • Call an ambulance if there is a severe reaction. • Call parents/carers. • Inform parents whose children are not appropriately dressed.
<p>Child falls from a tree</p>	<p>Children develop their gross motor skills and confidence climbing trees/logs/branch structures.</p> <p>Children explore risk-taking as they assess their climbing capabilities.</p>	<p>Adult/child ratio and constant supervision.</p> <p>Educate children about risk taking.</p> <p>Stocked First Aid Kit and operational mobile phone to be carried at all times.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Possible</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid. • Call an ambulance if applicable. • Call parents/carers. • Complete Incident Report. • Notify DET.

Hazard Identification	Benefit	Existing Control Measures	Risk Assessment Rating (use matrix)				Treatment
	<p>Children learn tree/log/branch safety.</p> <p>Group co-operation and awareness can be harnessed in tree branch structure climbing.</p>	<p>First Aid trained staff.</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact our insurer for advice (liability and claims management).
<p>Falling branches Child/Staff hit by tree branch</p>	<p>Children become knowledgeable about tree characteristics (bark/wood) and understand seasonal changes and weather implications to trees.</p>	<p>Council tree audit and pruning.</p> <p>Communication with a park ranger.</p> <p>Stocked First Aid Kit and operational mobile phone to be carried at all times.</p> <p>First Aid trained staff.</p> <p>Observe weather conditions including wind (refer to policy).</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate the children to a safe open space (E.g Rotunda). First Aid. Call an ambulance if applicable. Call parents/carers. Complete Incident Report. Notify DET. Contact our insurer for advice (liability and claims management).
<p>Injury caused by sticks</p>	<p>Children learn about safe play practices and appropriate/inappropriate ways to use a stick.</p> <p>Children learn about taking risks and the consequences of taking risks. Minor injuries that occur during outdoor play allow children to develop resilience and an ability to assess their behaviour and evaluate what they would do in the same situation next time.</p> <p>These strategies hold them in good stead when faced with serious risks and complicated challenges in the future. Risk taking in outdoor play fosters children's learning and development. Parents/carers</p>	<p>All children educated on safe stick play (e.g. no running, don't point them at friends, check for people around you).</p> <p>Constant supervision.</p> <p>Staff to model appropriate use of sticks with children.</p> <p>Stocked First Aid Kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times.</p> <p>First Aid trained staff.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Possible</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to remain vigilant of children's play. Follow First Aid procedures if injury occurs. Call parent/carer if necessary. Complete Incident Report and notify DET when required.

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	<p>can develop an understanding of realistic (as opposed to the exaggerated) risks of outdoor play and therefore provide ample opportunity for their children to engage in these worthwhile experiences.</p>						
<p>Sunburn / Heat / Sunburn / Extreme Weather Conditions (Hail, Heat, Storm, High wind, Thunderstorm Asthma, Fire-burn/smoke)</p>	<p>Children have authentic experiences of different weather conditions (i.e. rain, wind, sun, mud, rainbows, warmth and cold).</p> <p>Children have a connection with the seasons and plant cycles.</p> <p>Children have opportunities to practice self-care skills</p>	<p>Monitor weather conditions ahead of each week's session.</p> <p>Extreme weather determinants causing cancellation (refer to Bush Kinder Extreme Weather Policy):</p> <p>a. temperatures above 36</p> <p>b. wind speeds above 40 kph</p> <p>Stocked First Aid Kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times.</p> <p>First Aid trained staff</p> <p>Protective clothing.</p> <p>Bush Kinder conducted in shady areas or shade cover erected (if deemed necessary).</p> <p>Children bring water bottles and extra water provided.</p> <p>Apply Kinder Sunsmart policy. Sunscreen to be applied by parents prior to arrival at Bush Kinder and reapplied if necessary, by staff.</p> <p>Parents briefed on clothing appropriate to weather conditions.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate session to Home Kinder if extreme weather conditions are forecast/considered too hazardous. If unexpected hazardous weather or environmental factors (i.e. a fire, smoke) arise once the session has commenced the children will be gathered, roll calls taken and then evacuated to the Living Museum in the Pipemakers Parklands (or where the Responsible person deems most appropriate) in accordance with the Bush Kinder Program Emergency Evacuation Policy. Inform parents whose children are not appropriately dressed and explain compliance is necessary to participate in the Bush Kinder Program. The kinder reserves the right to ask parents to take a child home and dress in appropriate clothing before returning to the Bush Kinder site.

Hazard Identification	Benefit	Existing Control Measures	Risk Assessment Rating (use matrix)				Treatment
<p>Child getting lost/going out of boundaries/playing on Pipemarkers Playground</p>	<p>Learning the importance of rules and boundaries.</p> <p>Development of self-regulation.</p> <p>Developing a sense of responsibility and independence.</p> <p>Children also feel safe and empowered to be proactive in managing the boundary independently.</p>	<p>Adult/Child ratio and constant supervision.</p> <p>Program planning, selection of appropriate location and familiarising the children with the boundaries, conducting boundary walks at the beginning of each session.</p> <p>Familiarising the children with boundary limits of Bush Kinder site/s.</p> <p>Reinforcing with children when they can and cannot use nearby playground (only with guardians and not during Bush Kinder).</p> <p>Wrist band with Bush Kinder mobile phone number put on each child on arrival – provided by kinder.</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Major</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarise children with the Bush Kinder site and environment. Call the Police. Call parents/carers. Notify Park Ranger
<p>Stranger Interference</p>	<p>Children learn what is appropriate interactions with strangers (i.e. hello) and what is not ok (i.e. leaving with a stranger) and act accordingly.</p>	<p>Adult/child ratio and constant supervision.</p> <p>Protocol established for Kinder staff to model appropriate interactions with other users of the park and to limit contact with other parties that could disrupt the program.</p> <p>Authorities (police) and park rangers are informed of the regular occurrence of Bush Kinder program.</p> <p>Children practice emergency evacuation procedures (as per Bush Kinder policies).</p> <p>Parents/families all advised to park in Carpark A for safety</p>	<p>Satisfactory</p>	<p>Major</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarise children with the safety program – only talk to known adults identified as part of the Bush Kinder Program. Call the police. Call parents/carers. Notify DET. Children, parents and staff to practice emergency evacuation procedures regularly (at a minimum of once per term).

Hazard Identification	Benefit	Existing Control Measures	Risk Assessment Rating (use matrix)				Treatment
		(road safety and stranger interference).					
<p>Park users (other than kindergarten families)</p> <p>Activity within the park may include but is not limited to sexualised activity, drug and alcohol use, mental illness, sporting activities builders and trades people, green army, families/children at Pipemarkers adventure playground coming inside Bush Kinder boundaries</p>	<p>Children are connected with the community.</p> <p>Children can observe people being active, connecting with nature, relaxing, enjoying time with friends, pets and alone.</p> <p>Children learn the importance of communicating with staff about people they meet in the community and use this discussion to reflect on what's appropriate behaviour.</p>	<p>Adult/child ratio and constant supervision.</p> <p>Protocol established for Kinder staff to model appropriate interactions with other users of the park and to limit contact with other parties that could disrupt the program.</p> <p>Regular contact maintained with Park Ranger Martin. Information regarding the public space and its users shared between both parties.</p> <p>Children practice emergency evacuation procedures (as per Bush Kinder policies).</p> <p>Parents/families all advised to park in Carpark A for safety (road safety and stranger interference).</p> <p>Erect clear signage to notify public using Pipemarkers Playground that activity is Maribyrnong Bush Kindergarten session in progress.</p>	Satisfactory	Major	Unlikely	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarise children with safety programs - only talk to known adults identified as part of the Bush Kinder Program. Site safety checks completed and signed off before each session. A staff member to remain at Bush Kinder site at all times. Staff to maintain regular communication, open discussion and vigilance regarding children's safety. Call the police. Call parents/carers. Notify DET. Children, parents and staff to practice emergency evacuation procedures regularly (at a minimum of once per term).
<p>Water safety</p>	<p>Children become aware about open water and learn about water safety and risks associated with, and appropriate behaviour around water.</p> <p>Children learn about water habitats for animals, and</p>	<p>Staff discuss the dangers of deep water with children.</p> <p>Staff raise awareness of the risk of wetlands, rivers, and large puddles of water.</p> <p>Children are monitored and supervised by staff who are extra vigilant in the vicinity of</p>	Satisfactory	Major	Unlikely	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarise children with the Bush Kinder site and environment. Staff to remain vigilant of children's play. Follow First Aid procedures if drowning occurs. Call parent/carers.

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	<p>seasonal and weather changes to the water bodies.</p> <p>Children learn about water contamination.</p> <p>Children learn about why not to feed the ducks.</p> <p>Children appreciate and develop: group care, group awareness and co-operation.</p>	<p>water and staff/child ratios are strictly adhered to.</p> <p>If there is new body of water near or adjacent to the site, use clear marker for new boundary, (e.g. yellow chain).</p>					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete Incident Report and notify DET.
<p>Plan Prepared By</p> <p>Communicated to:</p>		<p>Maribyrnong Kinder Staff.</p> <p>All families, children, relief staff and Management Committee.</p>					

Reminder: Monitor the effectiveness of controls and change if necessary.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Maribyrnong Kindergarten 8 October 2025

REVIEW DATE: October 2026