

Back to the Wild Kids Risk Assessment



Project Name/Site Address	Back to the Wild Kids Bush School 1. Balaka Falls (Hunts Creek) 6 Ferndale Ave, Carlingford NSW 2118 2. Granville Activity Centre (Scouts NSW), 2 Arthur St, Granville NSW 2142 3. John Irving Park Community Garden (Harris Park Community Centre) 6 Jorden St, Rosehill NSW 2142	Phone	0404276675 (Karlie Hindmarsh)
Task details	Forest School	Date created	11/09/2024
Permits/Plans required	Land use agreement with any applicable landowners	Valid until	31/12/2025
Prepared by	Karlie Hindmarsh (Level 3 Forest School Leader, Primary Teacher Dept of Education)	Approved by	Christina Dee and Lisa Howells (Forest School Learning Initiative)

NAME	POSITION	SIGNATURE	DATE
Karlie Hindmarsh	Level 3 Forest School Leader	<i>K. Hindmarsh</i>	11/09/2024

Risk	Consequence Rating	Likelihood	Management	Who/Treatment
Tool/Equipment Use • Injuries	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See separate individual risk assessments for each tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid (FS Leader) Call ambulance if severe injury Notify parent/guardian
Snake bite	Major	Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close liaison with Ranger/landowner about sightings and likely location(s) of snakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid (FS Leader) Call ambulance

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stay a recommended distance from long grass during summer months (education of staff and children) ● Staff to carry out pre visit site inspection and remain on alert ● Clothing requirements advised to parents ie – rubber boots / long pants ● Program planning /site(s) chosen / wildlife education ● Snake briefing and snake stomp around site boundary at start of session ● Flora and fauna ID sheets and reference books available as resources for students to help them identify potentially venomous snakes ● Staff to ensure children follow appropriate procedure if sighted: (Stand still, back slowly away, notify FS Leader, evacuate the site) ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Emergency contact numbers for children (parents to attend) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger/landowner
Dog Bite	Moderate	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dog safety awareness of children provided regularly, children discouraged to pat unknown dogs ● Staff to be on alert for ‘dogs off lead’ and to alert parents and children if a dog is in range ● Staff to ensure children follow appropriate procedure if approached by dog: (Stand still, arms by side, avoid eye contact) ● Staff to manage controlled and supervised interactions with dogs where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger/landowner

Child getting lost	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Program planning, selection of appropriate location and familiarising children with site boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger / landowner to help search for child ● Call police
Child hit by vehicle	Major	Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Selection of location away from parking areas (Vehicle access to site is restricted, and access roads are low speed) ● Educate children about road safety and identify areas where cars may be a hazard, familiarising children with site boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance ● Remove other children from area ● Organise de-brief counselling for staff, parents and children as necessary
Stranger interference	Minor	Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Familiarising children with site boundary ● Protocol established for staff to model appropriate interactions with other users of parklands and to limit contact with other parties that could disrupt the program ● Signage displayed in public areas to alert park users of Bush School Program in progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call police ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger/landowner
Child hit/impaied by branch / tree at eye level (broken limb/other serious injury)	Moderate	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Council/landowner tree audit and pruning ● Selection of appropriate areas in consultation with landowner ● Weather forecast monitored for high wind ● Stocked first aid kit ● Operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Safety briefing about “blood bubbles” with children before every session ● Remove dangerous branches if possible. Make children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Session moved or cancelled in the event of high wind ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance ● Remove other children from area ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger/landowner

			aware of any low/eye level branches and discuss with them	
Tree roots, stumps, thorns, fallen branches on ground/ uneven ground	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct pre-session safety sweep ● Remove large/thorny branches from walkways ● Identify tree stumps, roots and thorns during boundary walk with students ● Encourage children to look around as they walk ● Appropriate footwear to be worn 	
Child fall from tree	Moderate	Possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Educate children about risk-taking ● Selection of designated “climbing tree” in consultation with landowner, identify unsuitable trees ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger/landowner
Creek (Balaka Falls only): Drowning/ Near Drowning	Catastrophic	Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Program planning / site(s) chosen / water /environmental education as part of program ● If visiting creek, staff to carry out pre-site inspection to gauge strength of water flows and identify any hazards ie slippery rocks, depth of water ● Avoid visiting creek after rain events due to high flows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance ● Notify Ranger/landowner ● Remove other children from area ● Organise de-brief counselling for staff, parents and children as necessary

<p>(Balaka Falls only): Sickness from poor water quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Litter ● Pollution ● Algal blooms ● Storm water ● Sewage overflow 	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Wash/sanitise hands after contact with creek water prior to eating ● Educate children about water quality ● Avoid ingestion of creek water by advising children and minimising splashing near faces ● Avoid contact with the water in the creek within 48 hours after rain events due to increased pollution from storm water ● Ensure open wounds are not exposed to creek water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If water has been ingested – give the child a glass of drinking water ● Other first aid where appropriate ● Advise parent/guardian if water has been ingested ● Monitor child
<p>Sunburn/ Heat & cold Exposure / Extreme Weather conditions</p>	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor weather conditions ahead of each week's session ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Protective clothing (hat, sleeves, sunscreen) ● Program conducted in shaded areas ● Children bring water bottles ● Apply sun safety policy ● Parents briefed on need to bring and apply sunscreen and dress children appropriately to weather conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cancel session(s) if extreme weather conditions are considered too hazardous ● Advise parents if children appear sunburn or heat effected
<p>Insect bite / sting OR ingestion of</p>	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No pick no lick rule ● Flora and fauna identification sheets and reference books to be provided as a resource to help them identify potential toxic plants and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance if severe reaction ● Notify parent/guardian ● Inform parents whose children are

or reaction to plant/other material			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explicit discussion re fungi and not touched under any circumstances ● Protective clothing / education of children as part of Bush School program ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Request allergy information from parents ● Carry Emergency Action Plans and Epi-pens and Asthma Medication for relevant children ● Use of repellent approved by Parents ● Liaise with Ranger/landowner about species present on site 	<p>not appropriately dressed</p>
Swooping birds, magpies	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers and students to observe the site for birds throughout the year and that may swoop during breeding season ● Students taught why they swoop, students to be encouraged to treat birds with respect which has been shown to decrease swooping behaviour ● Identification sheets and reference books to be provided to all students and as a resource to help them identify birds ● FS site might be moved if swooping too bad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance if severe reaction ● Notify parent/guardian
Needle stick injury -risk of contracting HIV or other	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Rare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff to carry out safety sweep prior to the program starting ● Any syringes are removed using tongs and placed securely in a sharps container ● If a needle is difficult to retrieve, staff to contact Park Rangers/landowner to remove 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flush the area with flowing water ● Wash the wound well ● Put antiseptic on the wound with a waterproof band-aid ● Notify parent/guardian ● Seek medical attention for an

blood borne viruses			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Creek corridors will require closer inspection due to presence of sand / gravel and dense vegetation. 	<p>assessment of the risk of infection and appropriate treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the needle and syringe cannot be retrieved, mark the area so others are not at risk
Dangerous or toxic / dangerous rubbish ie. Asbestos, heavy metal contamination in soil	Moderate	Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If site was a former tip site so there is the possibility that dangerous or toxic rubbish may find its way to the ground surface ● Staff to carry out site inspection prior to the program starting to identify any hazards, remove all rubbish prior to session ● Cordon off identified rubbish that may be considered dangerous ● Brief children and parents about safety when digging in soil (do not lick hands, avoid flicking soil in faces, wash/sanitise hands before eating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remove children and staff from area ● Wash hands ● Contact Park Ranger/landowner to carry out park risk management strategy
Fires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Burns ● Smoke inhalation 	Major	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult / child ratio (1:1) and constant supervision ● Stocked first aid kit and operational mobile phone carried at all times ● First aid trained staff ● Educate children about campfire safety ● Ensure site of fire is appropriate ● Appropriate measures are taken to minimise the risk of the fire spreading ● Fire bans are adhered to ● All long hair tied back ● Staff members have knowledge of fire safety. Ensure children are wearing appropriate clothing (long sleeves) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First Aid (FS Leader) ● Call ambulance if severe burn ● Notify parent/guardian ● Notify Ranger/landowner

			with loose garments/jewellery secured or fastened close to the body	
Covid-19	Minor	Unlikely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitising, hand washing, PPE and cleaning equipment • Physical distancing • Working outdoors, natural airflow and ventilation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive cases remain in home isolation for required time • Notify other families about any close contacts in Bush School group, families conduct own RATs if symptoms arise

SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENT

Level of Risk - Risk Matrix

Likelihood Ratings			Consequence Ratings - for incident injury or near miss				
Almost Certain	L5	Expected to occur in most cases	Catastrophic	C5	Death or permanent disability		
Likely	L4	Will probably occur in most cases	Major	C4	Treatment in hospital		
Possible	L3	Might occur at some stage	Moderate	C3	Medical treatment or ambulance attendance		
Unlikely	L2	Could occur	Minor	C2	First Aid treatment		
Rare	L1	May occur in exceptional circumstances	Insignificant	C1	No physical injury		
			CONSEQUENCE				
			Negligible (C1)	Minor (C2)	Moderate (C3)	Major (C4)	Catastrophic (C5)
Likelihood	Almost Certain (L5)	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High	
	Likely (L4)	Medium	Medium	High	High	Very High	
	Possible (L3)	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High	
	Unlikely (L2)	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High	
	Rare (L1)	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	

Outcomes

Very High - Immediate Action required and must be managed with a detailed plan

High - Attention needed and management responsibility specified

Medium - Management responsibility specified and response procedures monitored

Low - Manage through defined routine procedures

Location #1: Band Rotunda (The Dairy Cottage), Parramatta Park, Corner Of Macquarie Street &, Pitt St, Parramatta NSW 2150



Location #2: Balaka Falls (Hunts Creek) 6 Ferndale Ave, Carlingford NSW 2118



Location #3:

Granville Activity Centre Scouts NSW, 2 Arthur Street, Granville NSW 2142

