



ECKA acknowledges Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands, water and resources of the countries that ECKA reside upon. We say thank you for sharing your connections and pay respects to their elders of the past, present and emerging. ECKA pays respect to the central place in education that Aboriginal cultural holds and says thank you.



Bakery Hill Kindergarten

2023 INFORMATION BOOK

Bakery Hill Kindergarten Inc. No A0010149A
82 Mair Street East, Ballarat 3350
Telephone (03) 53326872 Mobile 0457 806 952
Formerly Ballarat Free Kindergarten - Victoria's oldest country kindergarten
Entrance at rear of kinder.
PO Box 2200 Ballarat Mail Exchange Ballarat VIC 3354
Bakery.hill.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



Enriching children's lives through learning

We welcome families to Bakery Hill Kindergarten and trust that by our working together, your time with us shall be rewarding and enjoyable.

3-YEAR-OLD GROUP

Teacher: Aimee Lofts Team teacher TBA
Co-Educator: Angela Pearse

Interviews for 3-year-old families will be held on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd February.

Monday - Thursday rotational model. Session times 9.15am – 2.15

4-YEAR-OLD GROUP – Kunuwarra Group

Teacher: Colleen Clancy Team teacher Belinda McDonald
Co-educator: Donna Steenhuis

Interviews for 4-year-old families will be held on Wednesday 1st, Thursday 2nd , Friday 3rd of February.

Kunuwarra Group-Session days/times.

Monday -Friday rotational model. Session times 9am – 2pm

To enable us to begin to form warm relationships with your child we will commence the year in small groups for shorter periods. Some children will take time to build up to attending 15 hours of kindergarten per week.

TERM DATES FOR 2022:

Term 1	Monday 30th January	Thursday 6 th April
Term 2	Monday 24 th April	Friday 23 rd June
Term 3	Monday 10 th July	Friday 15 th September
Term 4	Monday 2 nd October	Wednesday 20 th December



Enriching children's lives through learning

Our Kindergarten is proudly managed by ECKA Inc. ECKA is called the Approved Provider and is responsible for all aspects of the management of the preschool including employment of staff. Information about ECKA can be found at www.ecka.org.au and you will receive an ECKA policy and procedure booklet when you commence.

ECKA is a not-for-profit community based Early Years Management Service for kindergartens and early childhood care services in Ballarat and surrounding areas, proudly managing 28 services. While all kindergartens operate within Legislative guidelines, each kindergarten operate an individual program to meet the needs of the children and families attending their service. ECKA values the role the kindergarten in building local support networks with families, often contributing to lifelong friendships between the families and children who have shared their kinder years together.

Our Purpose

Enriching children's lives through learning.

Our Values

Respect • Courage • Collaboration • Compassion

Our Guiding Principle

In order to deliver on 'Our Purpose', ECKA is committed to being a sustainable organisation that maximises its impact on the lives of children.

We commit to:

- Provision of high-quality education and care services that enhance the learning and development of all children
- Advocating for children and the early education and care sector – being an influential voice for high quality early years services
- Planning and partnering for effective, sustainable and supported early years services both now and in the future.

Contact ECKA

ECKA Office

11 Grandview Grove, Wendouree VIC 3355

P: 5339 5055

E: admin@ecka.org.au

Food

Children require **fruit snack** and **lunch**. (Sandwich, salad, vegetable snacks) and a **water bottle**. We encourage “nude food” – lunch boxes instead of glad-wrap, and healthy sugar free food.

Please note: - The Kindergarten is a NUT FREE ZONE.

NO Peanut butter or Nutella due to allergies.

NO Egg sandwiches also due to allergies. Thanking you for your cooperation.

The kindergarten does not have the facilities to refrigerate sandwiches so please ensure the sandwich has the appropriate filling or a cold pack is included in the lunch box to keep it cold.

Please help your child help themselves by providing lunch and snack containers that they can open themselves.

Allergies – Parents, please supply educators with your child's allergy management plan including your child's photo and their doctor's signature.

Clothing:

Bag, spare clothes - Children are encouraged to bring a **bag** to kindergarten containing their food and **spare clothing**. Each child is allocated his/her own hook in the bag room. Please remember to name your child's bag and belongings.

Hat - During term 1 and 4, and when the UV rating is above 3 **all** children are required to wear a **sun hat**.

Sunscreen – Should be applied by parents/carers **before** each session from September to April or when the UV is 3 and above.

Coat/Beanie - During winter month's children require a **warm hat and coat** at kinder each day as the children spend most days in the outdoor learning environment.

Smocks are provided by the Kindergarten for the children to use during painting and clay experiences however it is not always possible for the children to stay clean, so please dress them in clothing that is easily washed and comfortable.

Closed toe sandals/runners are suitable – Thongs, crocs and open toe sandals are not suitable footwear in the outdoor environment which includes tree climbing.

Please include spare clothing in your child's bags in case a change is required.

Please support the children towards independence by dressing them in clothes that are easily managed at the toilets (avoid belts, tricky studs)

All clothing items need to be labeled clearly with the child's name, especially if the child has a windcheater with the Kindergarten logo printed on it. **Logos are available to order during term 1 and 3.**



Toys: We do not encourage the children to bring toys to kinder as they can be lost or damaged, and can also be a disruption to the program. Gifts from nature are welcome in our program at any time.

Birthdays: Birthdays are celebrated at Kindergarten but not with food. If you choose to invite children from the Kindergarten to an external party, please ensure that you do this discretely.

Cooking: Occasionally as part of the program the children will be involved in some simple cooking experiences. If your child has any dietary restrictions, please include the details on your confidential enrolment form and advise the staff.

Kindergarten Committee:

The Kindergarten committee consists of parents who volunteer their time to assist with the running of the Kindergarten. The Committee is responsible for such things as the management of the building, grounds and fundraising.

The Eureka Community Kindergarten Association (**ECKA**) is the employer of staff and Govt Approved Provider of the kindergarten services. Meetings of the Committee are held monthly at the Kindergarten or Via Zoom and usually start at 7.30 pm and are open to **ALL** families.

Family Involvement:

Each year we are asked by families how they can help support the kindergarten and contribute to both our community and the educational programs we provide to the children.

There are many different ways that families may contribute in and out of kindergarten sessions. Some of the activities in the kindergarten session may include; attending an excursion, helping the children plant in our vegetable garden, cutting up the shared fruit platter or coming in to read a story, or out of session by supporting social events and providing your feedback and ideas.

If you are interested in volunteering some time to help, please speak directly with the educators or message us via the Storypark app. We understand that people have busy lives and lots of commitments and if you are not able to indicate support right now, we completely understand, however if your circumstances change, please feel free to speak with educators as we will be happy for your help.

Please note that our parent volunteers do not need a working with children's check provided that the volunteering is in the group with your own child. Staff will fully supervise all volunteers in accordance with our volunteer and visitor policies.

A sustainable service:

As much as possible environmentally friendly (Tri-nature) cleaning products are used throughout the service.

The children compost their fruit scraps and waste paper, tend vegetable gardens and are the caretakers of our pet chook who is also a great compost creator. We harvest rainwater and the pump encourages children to work for and be mindful of water consumption as does the tank gauge.

A few notes about safety: Please be careful when entering and exiting the gate to **ONLY** let **YOUR** child in /out and ensure that the gate closes firmly behind you.

Please discourage your child from standing on the gate.

If a 4-year-old session is in progress, we ask that 3-year-old families enter and exit the outdoor environment quickly to avoid disruption to the program. The outdoor environment is a learning environment.

The Department of Education require us to inform parents that **children are not to play** in the outdoor environment before or after Kindergarten sessions.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to having you as part of our Kindergarten community.



Luka, Aged 5. "My kindergarten"

Bakery Hill Kindergarten was established in a church hall in Ballarat in 1911. It was one of the first Victorian kindergartens, a pioneer in early childhood education.

Seeking a permanent building for the children, the people of Ballarat fundraised and the current kindergarten, which was architect designed, opened debt free in 1931.

The effort and actions of that community made a strong statement about the importance of young children and their place in their city which underpins our philosophy to this day.

We believe.

“Consistently warm and secure relationships are essential if children are to feel a sense of belonging, contribute to a community, be valued for their uniqueness, be respected and cared for and connected to others”

This requires.....

Time. Allowing children long periods of uninterrupted time at play whether amongst nature or indoors nourishes their spirit, wellbeing and their relationships with people and the environment. It makes them physically stronger, provides opportunity for wonder and curiosity to flourish, and for their ideas to grow and deepen.

Open ended experiences. We are educating children for an unknown future. Arming them with the tools research tells us they require is the role of education. Thinking skills, resilience and the creativity that comes from daily immersion in **open ended experiences with time to develop and refine theories is a child’s right and need.**

Beautiful environments. Our extensive natural outdoor environment complete with fire pit, billabong and creek as well as trees for climbing and shade, cultivates an abiding respect for nature and our place in it. Our large light filled rooms with bay and floor to ceiling windows ensures we are warmed by the sun and that the garden, seasons and birds are ever visible to the children.

Children’s voices. Children have ideas and thoughts to share, theories to test and relationships to build. They have fresh ideas about the world around them because they see it through new eyes and have many ways of showing what they understand and see. We, as educators want to listen to them, defend their right to be heard and their right to learn in a way that is meaningful for them, because they are part of the educative process.

Spirit of place. Whilst the chestnut trees planted many years ago and the preserved wooden furniture remind us of those who came before us at this kindergarten, the Eureka flag flying nearby on Bakery Hill tells another story about our city’s history. Through connecting with Wadawurrung language, knowledge and cultural practices we honor our First Nations People and enrich our own lives.

A sustainable lifestyle. Growing vegetables, keeping chickens, collecting their eggs, composting, harvesting rain water and living seasonal change in our outdoor environment connects us to the earth and sustainable practices.

Community. In keeping with tradition, the caretakers of the kindergarten are the families who attend from year to year represented by a committee. Together the families, ECKA, committee and educators work for the greater good of the children and their kindergarten. Our neighbourhood and city have riches to share on our journey of learning.