



CASTLEMAINE STEINER SCHOOL  
& KINDERGARTEN

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION



## WELCOME

**By Brian Dodd, Principal**

Castlemaine Steiner School and Kindergarten is situated in Central Victoria, in the Loddon Valley. It is noted for its Box Ironbark forests, rich in interesting ecology, geology, gold rush history and indigenous connections. On our doorstep we have granite outcrops, ancient volcanoes, rivers & creeks which become our classroom, and much more in the unique locations that encompass our outdoor education program. The natural environment is an important component of Steiner Education where that which is learnt in the classroom is met and enhanced in the natural world.

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# OUR SCHOOL

*Established in the area in 1987, our current campus was built in 1995. We enjoy buildings and classrooms that are sustainably designed, featuring solar energy, rammed earth and natural materials. All on 18 acres of beautiful natural bushland.*



*We have an onsite Playgroup program and classes from Kindergarten to Year 8, with approximately 230 students.*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

## Dja Dja Wurrung People

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this country and have strong connections to our local Dja Dja Wurrung people. Their culture and story is meaningfully woven through our curriculum from Prep to Class 8 and present in school activities such as Assembly and Spring Fair.

### OUR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders, past, present and future. For they hold the memories, the traditions, the cultures and hopes of Aboriginal Australians. We must remember that underneath this earth on which we so firmly stand, this is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land."





# OUR PROGRAM



Our Outdoor Program seeks to develop the child's understanding of his/her place in the natural world through immersion in it. As children develop their sense of adventure, and come to understand this, we see confidence developing, a connectedness with the environment and a sense of stewardship toward the natural world.

Taking learning outside the classroom gives students a non-academic setting in which to excel. It allows an experience where time is dictated not by the bell or a clock, but by our surrounds. Students have an opportunity to appreciate the value of their hard work as it meets the class curriculum and resonates with their own inner stage of development.

Our program offers a variety of different ways to explore the environment, such as; walking, bike riding, paddling, climbing, drawing, singing and star gazing. Through these activities students build confidence in their physical capacity, resourcefulness and ability to look after oneself. We then observe these skills extending to the social cohesiveness of the class, strengthening their bonds & care for one another.



# CLASS 3 & 4

## CLASS 3 - CLASS SLEEPOVER & FARM CAMP

We begin our outdoor education in Class 3 by setting up camp at school and enjoying a sleepover. Following shortly after, we embark on our first overnight camp in the local farming district. The students learn about seasonal cycles, the interdependence between us and our environment, the lives of Nomads, importance of shelter, climate and soils.



## CLASS 4 - MUCKLEFORD FOREST

This year focusses on our local history, geography and peoples. Aboriginal studies, European Settlement and local area mapping & measurement are enjoyed by the students within the Muckleford State Forest and surrounds. We participate in self-sustained low impact camping, bushwalking, orienteering, artistic activities, communal cooking and sleeping.



# CLASS 5 & 6

## CLASS 5 - TERRICK TERRICK, & BALRANALD

The Class Five students dive deep into Botany, Ecology & Environmental Studies along with regional history and geography.

Terrick Terrick National Park is destination for our bike riding camp and a highlight each year for the class. The park contains threatened indigenous grassland full of botanic wonder, which ties to our Botany Main Lesson in the classroom.

We spend time at Yanga Lake and Station with a local family with history to share of both Aboriginal heritage and white settler.

This year level also participates in the Victorian Steiner Education "Greek Olympics" hosted at various schools across the state each year. Activities include athletics, marathons, javelin and shot-put and on occasion a chariot race!



## CLASS 6 - MUCKLEFORD GORGE, LAKE TYRELL & KOOYOORA

With much experience now in camping, bushwalking and the natural environment, our camps extend in length to three nights and the physical demands increase.

Across the school year the Main Lessons will take in the mineral world and its relation to geography and geometry and this is reflected back to us in our explorations of Muckleford Gorge and the Muckleford Fault.

We explore geology by walking along Bassett Creek, canoeing along the Serpentine Creek and by taking in the magnificence of the Aboriginal scar and ring trees on our path.





# CLASS 7 & 8

## CLASS 7 - SERPENTINE CREEK, MOUNT ARAPILES & GOLDFIELDS TRACK

**At Class Seven the curriculum focuses on core topics such as Medieval Times, Voyages of Discovery and Indigenous Societies & Civilisations.**

We match these explorations in our outdoor program via a Rock Climbing Camp at Mount Arapiles, a Medieval Pilgrimage along the Goldfields Track and a Sailing camp in the local area.



## CLASS 8 - SAILING, SHOREHAM & RAFTING

Class eight continue their voyages of discovery and learn the art of sailing, creating a raft and travelling together. At the end of the year they spend a reflective time by the seaside at Shoreham.





# COME JOIN US

## How to Enrol

### PLAYGROUP REGISTRATION

Entry into our Playgroup program begins with the completion of the Playgroup Registration Form. This is available from our office, our website, or make contact and we can email a copy to you.

Once we have received your form we can discuss what available sessions there may be and arrange a free trial session.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / APPLICATION PROCESS

All new entrants/parents to the school will meet with the Principal as the first step of the enrolment process. Following which are further meetings with the Teachers and Learning Support staff (where required).

With the exception to Kindergarten & Prep enrolments, at the completion of the interview/meetings stage, a formal Offer of Place will be made to the student and enrolment paperwork provided to the family for completion. Refer to the Kinder & Prep information pages for enrolment processes/timelines.

To accept an Offer of Place, an Entry Bond is payable for each student, which confirms the place until the agreed commencement date.

### INTERVIEWS / ENROLMENT PROCESS

All entries to the school begin with the completion of an Expression of Interest Form and payment of a non-refundable \$100 Application Fee. This form and fee payment will either commence the enrolment process for your child, or register them for a future place in our Kindergarten or Prep programs.

### TUITION & SCHOOL FEES

All current fee information for CSSK Programs is available on our website; [www.cssk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/tuition-fees](http://www.cssk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/tuition-fees)

### CONCESSION CARD HOLDER DISCOUNTS

Eligible Concession Card Holders are able to access a 25% discount on Tuition fees for the school, from Prep to Class 8. Kindergarten has a separate subsidy available, and further details will be provided to Kinder applicants

### SCHOOL TOURS

Our Principal Brian Dodd takes a weekly school tour on Thursday's at 10am. We do have large groups of people at times so registration is required. Contact our Enrolments Officer on either 5479 2000 or [enquiries@cssk.vic.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@cssk.vic.edu.au) for further details.



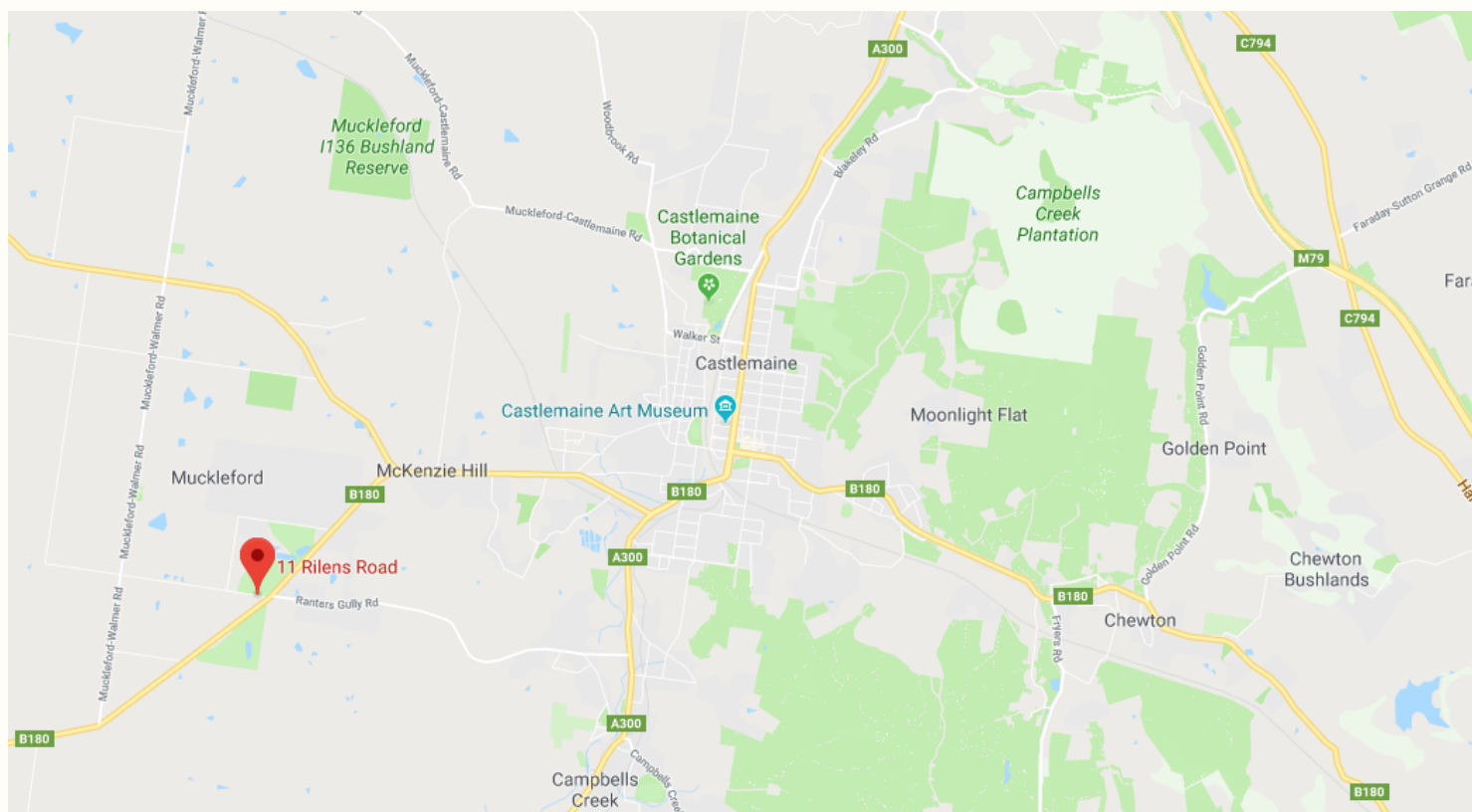
# WHERE TO FIND US

## OUR LOCATION

We are located a short drive from the township of Castlemaine at;  
11 Rilens Rd, Muckleford VIC 3451.

Phone - 5479 2000

Web - [www.cssk.vic.edu.au](http://www.cssk.vic.edu.au)



## THE PENNY NEWSLETTER

To keep up with our school news and gain insight into the day to day life of our classrooms, subscribe to our school newsletter The Penny. All dates for our Open Days, Concerts and Spring Fair are regularly updated in this newsletter.

## OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

All other available information for our school can be found at [www.cssk.vic.edu.au](http://www.cssk.vic.edu.au). Policies, Procedures, Enrolment Information and an overview of how the school began in 1987.