



Kindergarten 2021

Welcome to the Silver Banksia Room



It's me, Ellen! I am one of the two bachelor qualified teachers here at Kids on Rennie, working in Silver Banksia, the kindergarten room.

Completing studies in 2017, I worked briefly in remote Western Australia then returned to Geelong – where I am born and bred – and have since worked as the lead teacher at another long daycare centre.

Four old kindergarten is the age group I am most passionate about and through play I love introducing children to skills and concepts they will need for lifelong learning such as social and emotional skills and academic foundational skills.

Although my partner currently resides in Chicago, Illinois, I have no intent to leave my number one dog-son and the rest of my human family and friends any time soon! I enjoy sunshine, music, reading, walking the dog and consuming glorious amounts of food and beverages with friends

and family.



Hello! My name is Melanie and I love working part time as an Early Childhood Teacher in the Silver Banksia Room. We have so much fun learning every single day.

I live in Lara with my 3 children, my husband, our new puppy, our chickens and fish. It's great to work in the community that I live in so if you see me around, feel free to say 'hi'! 😊 I love doing crafty projects at home, singing while I cook, walking my dog and mum-dancing with my friends.

I completed my post graduate studies in 2014, and in previous roles I have worked as a Teacher, Educational Leader and worked in professional development. I love trying new strategies and always learning more about what we do as teachers, and what young children need in order to thrive and be their best unique selves.



My name is Kassidy. I have been in the early childhood industry for 7 years. I'm very passionate and dedicated to providing children with a fun educational program that is based on children's interests and providing them with experiences that enrich their learning and development.

I have a 2-year-old son Sebastien. I love camping in my free time and portrait drawing. I also love to apply my creativity through fun messy play activities with the children.

I am looking forward to fostering an inclusive environment for children to not only grow but also have fun! I feel privileged to be an educator, and to be able to support every child and help them achieve their goals.



Hi! I'm Harkamal, I have been the Assistant Teacher in the Kinder room at Kids on Rennie and you will still find me in the room from time to time.

I have been working in Early Childhood for the last two years.

My husband and I live in Tarneit currently but hopefully will move to Lara soon. I chose this field because I love to work with children, because even if you feel tired sometimes their positive faces will cheer you up. I'm just loving my job and ready to have more and more experience.

My hobbies are art and craft, dancing, photography and of course hair styling.



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Silver Banksia Expectations and Routine

The 4 year old Kindergarten year is an exciting time for many children and families. It is a year of great growth and development especially in the areas of social and emotional development and a time where children have the freedom to develop their own sense of agency, independence and confidence as they learn through play. As Early Childhood Teachers we understand that among the most important skills for young children to learn are those that will support a love for learning that will last a lifetime; dispositions for learning such as curiosity, imagination and persistence, and skills such as investigating, experimenting and problem solving. We also focus on the important life skills that all people need; developing emotional intelligence, resilience, and learning social skills and strategies necessary to participate positively in society.

This year, in order to help your child develop their sense of agency and independence, we encourage the children to carry their own backpack and be responsible to hang it up, take out their water bottle and put it in the tub each morning. There will be specific places for the children's hats, jackets, drink bottles and shoes in the room, clearly labeled. Please label all your child's clothing items and provide sufficient spare clothes suitable for the weather. Jackets in winter, hats, and shirts that cover the shoulder in summer. It is also suitable to pack a rash-vest and board shorts for water play in summer.

Our Daily Rhythmn

Prior to 9am, children can play in the Coast Banksia room, and weather permitting have access to the outdoor space.

At approximately 9am each day the Silver Banksia room is opened and at 9:15am we have a Good Morning Yarning Circle where all the children are welcomed, and we can plan our day with the children. We ask that you endeavor to be at Kindergarten by this time if possible.

Our Routine is flexible, however we will usually offer a progressive morning tea with outdoor play to allow for greater uninterrupted free play time. At 11:30am we tidy up for our main group time which may include stories, songs, dance, inquiry conversations and puppet/dramatic role play social stories.

Lunch times are a special occasion in Silver Banksia! We split into two groups, while one group enjoys lunch in the dining room with our Cook and an educator, the other group can engage in a special small group experience.

After lunch and some quiet downtime, we have indoor-outdoor free play until approximately 2:45pm when we tidy up and have a short group time where we read a story and review our day. Afternoon tea follows, and more indoor-outdoor play. Late snack is available for children who stay after 5pm.



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Enrichment Program

This year we are excited to commence an exciting program of incursions and excursions for our Kindergarten Children. As restrictions permit, we will add to this program with special planned incursions and excursions that extend on children's strengths and interests, as well as spontaneous community walks. Below is the planned schedule for regular incursions in Term 1, this is subject to change in Term 2.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sporting Incursion TBA	Mini Musos AM	Community walks 10AM	Bush Kinder 10AM <small>*alternating weeks</small>	Bush Kinder 10AM <small>*alternating weeks</small>
		OR Lara Library 2PM		

Bush Kinder



Starting mid February and alternating Thursdays and Fridays, KOR is excited to be offering a Bush Kinder Program. This is a regular excursion to the Mittagong Guides Campsite at 2 Rennie Street, Lara. Here at the secure campsite we will be able to play freely and explore the natural environment. The site has shelter, water and toilets and is only a 7minute walk from Kindergarten. We hope to attend in a variety of weather conditions as is deemed safe and reasonable (for example very light rain, and when the UV is less than 8).

What are the benefits of Bush Kindergarten?

“Bush Kindergarten responds to a child’s right and need to access natural spaces for optimum learning and development. Regular sessions provide dedicated time for children ...to be outside in a quality natural environment away from screens, a crowded school/ sports curriculum and the bubble of being inside. Attending a bush kinder session will offer your child the opportunity to grow at their own pace, connect to others with kindness and creativity, learn holistically and increase their communication, self- regulation and confidence. Simultaneously, children will build a positive and protective relationship with our planet Earth..” <https://bushkindergarten.com.au>

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Mini Muso Academy



Mini Muso Academy is an exceptional program run by Lara local Erin Florey. Erin's sessions link to the Early Years Learning Framework and include a wide variety of experiences such as AUSLAN, music theory, instrument songs, movement, yoga and sensory games. For more information please check out the website.

<https://www.minimusoacademy.com/>

Cooking with the Chef

In the Silver Banksia Kindergarten Room we eat our main meal of the day in small groups in the Piazza where we have the opportunity to talk to the Cooks Harry and Sarah about our nutritious lunch. We also have the opportunity to cook spontaneously, either in the classroom with our teachers or with the Cook in the piazza space. Cooking experiences are generally planned around special days or in response to children's interests. For example making lamingtons when we have been reading Possum Magic and learning about Australia for Australia Day. Food is a great signifier of culture and a wonderful way to learn more about the world. We plan cooking experiences involving foods from all around the world. This stimulates our senses and minds while providing a prompt for talking about food and culture.

Sports Incursions

Due to Covid Restrictions planned incursions from local sporting teams are still in development. We hope to be able to offer a range of visits from Lara Sporting Clubs such as Karate, Australian Rules Football, Soccer, Netball and Tennis. To be advised.

Community Walks

Each family will be asked to fill out an incidental excursion form which allows us to take the children for walks in the Community. For example, we may walk to post a letter, or to fly kites we have made in the park. We are also able to walk to the Lara Library.

Other Community Venues we hope to visit later in the year include Woolworths, Austin Park, the Lara Sporting Grounds, Roirama Nursery and the Lara Pet Hospital and Veterinary Centre.