



SHOW: BCMA students who were accepted in to a new playwright and performance masterclass rehearse their self-written drama *Dust and Ruin*. **Picture:** Kate Healy

Dark days of *Dust and Ruin* at BCMA

IT'S February 2029, the world is on the brink of crisis. Water is scarce, the first nuke has been launched and natural disasters are occurring weekly around the world - and a group of children have been dropped off at a bunker but their parents never return.

That's the premise of a new play *Dust and Ruin* written and performed by children aged seven to 17 from the Ballarat Centre for Music and Arts.

The students, who auditioned at the end of 2018

for a new Playwright and Performance group, have researched and written the play which will make its debut this weekend.

The story might seem dark but the group have investigated global warming, drought, war and other events that are affecting their world and worked through a process of deciding what would be needed to survive in a bunker.

They then developed characters and the relationships that could develop living in a

very small place without the adults looking after them.

BCMA director Paula Heenan said the group was a mixture of ages and experience levels with some students having many years training in performing arts, and some who are new to acting.

Dust and Ruin will be performed at Mt Clear College theatre at 7pm on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday. Tickets from \$15 to \$25 available at trybooking.com

— MICHELLE SMITH