

# THE BRIDGE

## JUNE - JULY 2026

THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

### From the Editor

Welcome to winter! While we miss the sun and warmth we can appreciate a warm fire, hearty soups, wattles starting to bloom and lots of inside activities.

We've just celebrated Volunteers Week and we have many amazing volunteers within our communities. A big thankyou to all who keep our halls, public areas, sporting clubs and local organisations vibrant and viable.

A great story on page four from the Rotary Club of Maffra on celebrating volunteering for their members, with our own Rob Christie receiving worthy recognition.

We're heading west for a few weeks to catch up with family hence combining the June and July Bridge editions. Hopefully it will be nice and warm (and cyclone free) in Exmouth. Stay safe and warm.

**From the editorial team - Helen and Rachel**

### Boisdale Garden Club

Members enjoyed a lovely afternoon last month at Carmen Gosstray's home at Bushy Park. Carmen took us on a tour of her garden and a history of the first Bushy Park homestead. Many thanks to Carmen for an enjoyable afternoon.

On Wednesday 13th May ten members attended the Annual Garden Clubs of Gippsland Conference at the Vines on Avon. What a brilliant day it was thanks to Maffra Garden Club.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 13th June at the Sale Art Gallery at 1 pm. We will have a look at Annemieke Mein's exhibition of detailed textile art with Australian fauna and flora. Afternoon tea at the Cafe afterwards.

Boisdale Garden Club is 20 years old this year and we will be celebrating our birthday on Saturday 11th July with a bush tucker high tea with Cassie.

**Contact Joy for further details on 0429 036 999**

### Boisdale Lawn Mowers Group

Our volunteers have been doing a fantastic job keeping the township of Boisdale looking wonderful.

The new mower is doing a great job thanks to the Maffra & District Community Bank support which allowed us to buy it. We are looking for more volunteers to help Bob Newman out. The mower and fuel are provided. If you can spare an hour or two it would be appreciated.

**Please contact Bob Newman on 5145 4390 or Judy on 0400 443 167**



### Community Bank Maffra & District

To celebrate Volunteers Week, we would like to acknowledge all the good work achieved by the volunteers in our community. Our Board of Directors are all volunteers, along with many community group committees.

These people donate their time and knowledge to keep groups going and encourage the community to participate. Many organisations wouldn't continue without volunteers. Thank you for all the work you do.



**Community Bank Maffra & District – Board of Directors**

**The Bridge is very appreciative of funding from the Community Bank Maffra & District for this year and to the Boisdale Consolidated School enabling the production and printing of this newsletter each month.**

Community Bank Maffra & District supports local community groups through sponsorships and grants to help groups with equipment, events and activities.

<https://communitybankmaffra.smartygrants.com.au/>

Bank Opening hours: M-W 9.30- 4pm, Thurs. 9.30-5pm and Fri. 9.30- 4pm.

### Boisdale Stables

The Stables boundaries have been re-surveyed and Wellington Shire Council Planning Department and other agencies are moving forward with the amendment to our title documents.

Planning is underway for the landscaping and fencing at the rear of the building and check out our facebook site for some of Laura's great posts.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064563377276>

**For Stables enquiries contact Laura Savige 0459 076 069 or email boisdalestables@outlook.com**



## Local CFAs – Boisdale Brigade

The thoughts of Boisdale CFA members are with our Lieutenant Andrew Noble and his family who lost baby Wyatt earlier this month. Sending you and your family strength during this tough time.

**Tim Crooke, Secretary Boisdale CFA.**

**Ed: The community also sends support and condolences to Andrew and the family during this difficult time.**



🔥🔥  
A massive congratulations to two of our Boisdale CFA members who have passed their **'Respond to Urban Fire'**

**Course**, after seven weeks of online theory and gruelling assessment days at VEMTEC West Sale with 100% success!



As the pilot group for the CFA's online theory format, they absolutely smashed it. This intensive qualification marks a massive step up in our brigade's capabilities.

These members are now fully qualified to wear breathing

apparatus, enter burning buildings, conduct search and rescue operations in zero-visibility smoke, and suppress structural fires from the inside.

A huge congratulations to our successful members for putting in the hours of online study and smashing their practical assessments today. Your dedication keeps our community safer!

**Tim Crooke.**

If you are interested in joining your local brigade contact Paul Chilton, Boisdale Captain, on 0418 354 224 or David Montague, Valencia Creek CFA Captain on 0427 454 207

## Valencia Creek CFA

Members would still like some early photos of the Valencia Creek Brigade, particularly the old "Austin" fire truck for the centenary celebrations to be held in November this year.

**If you know of anyone who may have some please contact Garry Rose on 0439 454 428 or Maurie Killeen on 0427 454 336.**

## Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee

The Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee of Management in conjunction with the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club and the Wellington Shire Council are steadily progressing with schematic design and planning before the release of tender documents for the major upgrade to our netball court. **Please contact Judy on 0400 443 167 for more information.**

## Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

**The next Friday Night Happy Hour will be held at Valencia Hall on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June and then on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July from 5-7pm.**

**Just bring some nibbles and a drink.**

**The hall will be warm and everyone is most welcome to attend. It's a great way to catch up with friends and neighbours.**

A Valencia Hall meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16 June at 7.30pm** for committee members and those interested in supporting the hall's activities.

Among items to be discussed will be:

- Plans for the storage extension.
- Potential to improve the look of the old PO and painting of the hall window and door frames.
- Progress on Centenary celebrations
- Possible concerts for the rest of the year.

Research continues for the book being written on Valencia Creek's history, we are still looking for photos that could be included in the book and can be displayed during the **Centenary celebrations on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2026.**

If you have any early photos of the hall or the Valencia Creek CFA, please contact Garry Rose 0439 454 428 or <https://www.facebook.com/valenciacreekhall>

**For general hall bookings contact Cath Noble on 0427 149 253.**

## Boisdale Public Hall

The tuck-pointing work is progressing well and now the scaffolding has been removed it really shows off the beautiful detail of this work.

Don't forget **Friday Night Sips for 19<sup>th</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July** at the Boisdale Hall from 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

**See details below.**

**The next Boisdale Friday Night Happy Hour will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June and then on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July from 5-7pm at the Boisdale Hall where it will be nice and warm!  
Just bring a drink and some nibbles to share.  
Everyone most welcome.**

Another date to add to your diary: **Boisdale Public Hall** will be hosting a **Vocal Nosh afternoon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July commencing at 11.30am – 2.30pm.**

Entry will be \$5.00 per head, children free. The fee includes soup, bread, tea coffee and the chance to learn songs and harmonies for fun! For enquiries contact **Jenny Candy 0438 454 352.**

**VOCAL NOSH**  
Community singing and soup  
Come and learn songs and harmonies for fun, wellbeing and food!  
No experience needed, easy to learn songs in a relaxed, friendly setting  
**BOISDALE HALL  
SUNDAY 26 JULY  
11.30am - 2.30pm**  
\$5 entry includes food and singing children free  
Enquiries: Jenny Candy 0438 454 352  
Supported by Community Bank Maffra & District, Wellington Shire Council and East Gippsland Choral Festival

For Hall bookings please contact **Samantha White via email: [boisdalepublichall@gmail.com](mailto:boisdalepublichall@gmail.com) or mobile 0428 549 945 or Judy Traill 0400 443 167**



## Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross

Fourteen members enjoyed a Senior's lunch, followed by a meeting at the Briagolong Hotel on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Day raffles were held to support Red Cross programs supporting our communities.

Thank you to Katherine and Foster Crooke for planting the tree in ANZAC Park to celebrate 110 years of Red Cross in Briagolong.

No meetings over the winter months and the next get together will be a Senior's lunch at the Briagolong Hotel on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Members will also be assisting with the hotel raffle nights that week to raise funds. **For enquiries contact Helen on 0448 349 420**



## Christine's Plant Stall for MND

Following the recent death of Neil Daniher from Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and the amazing fundraising he helped instigate over many years, we also recognise Christine Gillies from Valencia Creek who has the plant stall next to the Valencia Creek Hall.

Christine lost her brother to MND several years ago and all funds raised

from the sale of the plants goes to MND research. She has sent over \$2000 in the past to support this valuable research. While plants will be scarce over winter please keep supporting Christine with this worthwhile project.

## Boisdale Consolidated School



Last week, we welcomed many prospective Prep students and their families to our School

Open Day. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase what Boisdale Consolidated School is all about and to provide families with an insight into our programs, learning spaces and supportive school community. A reminder to families that 2027 Prep enrolments are due by 31 July 2026. Enrolments can be completed online via the Victorian Government portal: [students.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/](https://students.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/)

A big thank you to our office staff for their outstanding work in preparing and organising information packs and supporting families throughout the enrolment process.

This week, our students also participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime event, joining schools and libraries across the country in celebrating the joy of reading and storytelling. In addition, students have been involved in Reconciliation Week activities, providing important opportunities to learn about and reflect on our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to explore how we can all contribute to reconciliation in Australia.

Just a reminder to all parents and visitors to please observe the traffic management signage around the school, particularly in relation to speed limits in the driveway and car park areas.

On Friday 15 May, we celebrated Education Support (ES) Appreciation Day with a special staff lunch in recognition of the outstanding contribution our ES staff make to our school every day. Students across our classrooms also presented Education Support staff with

special classroom awards and messages of appreciation written by the students themselves. It was great to see our students acknowledge the care and support that our ES staff provide throughout the year.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup>, our Grade 5/6 students are participating in HDSSA Winter Sports against other local schools. Students are representing Boisdale CS in soccer, AFL 9s and netball. We wish all of our students the very best for the day. Our Senior boys have progressed to the next round of AFL 9s.

**Belinda Marshall, Principal**



## Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club

It was a memorable weekend for the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club, with every single team recording a victory in what is believed to be the club's first complete clean sweep in many years.

All seven netball teams and all five football teams – across both male and female competitions – came away with wins, marking a remarkable achievement for the club and a testament to the hard work being put in across all levels.

The success doesn't stop there. As the season approaches its halfway mark, the club's D Grade netballers, Reserves footballers and Women's football side remain undefeated.



Their strong starts are a reflection of the dedication and commitment shown by players, coaches and support staff, and the club is excited to see what the remainder of the season holds.

The past month has also seen several important milestones celebrated. Senior football coach and player Sam Bedggood reached 100 games, while Matthew Roberts, Clara Samms and Jacinta Mason each celebrated their 50-game milestones. These players have all made valuable contributions to the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club and their achievements were proudly recognised by teammates, supporters and the wider club community.

With the second half of the season now on the horizon, the club remains focused on continuing its strong form, with finals firmly in its sights across multiple grades.

The Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club would like to congratulate all players, coaches, volunteers and supporters on a fantastic start to the season and looks forward to what promises to be an exciting few months ahead.

**Chelce Ward for BBFNC.**

## The Birdman of Boisdale

### THE SCARLET ROBIN



The Scarlet Robin is a medium-sized robin, with a plump and compact appearance. Males have a black head, neck and upperparts with a conspicuous white patch above the bill (frontal patch). The

breast is scarlet red and the lower underparts are white. The wings are barred white and the outer tail is also white. Females differ markedly from males, being brown above with a whitish frontal patch and an orange-red breast, brown wings and white underparts. Young birds resemble females but are streaked white above, tinged buff on the wings and are mottled dark brown on the breast and sides of the body.

**Similar species:** The Scarlet Robin may be confused with other 'red' robins such as the Flame and the Red-capped. It can be distinguished from these species by the large white patch above the bill in both the male and female (this patch is absent in the Red-capped Robin and smaller in the male Flame Robin). Female Scarlet Robins also tend to have a much redder chest than females of other robin species.

**Locality:** It is found in south-eastern and south-western Australia, as well as on Norfolk Island. In Australia, it is found south of latitude 25°S, from south-eastern Queensland along the coast of New South Wales (and inland to western slopes of Great Dividing Range) to Victoria and Tasmania, and west to Eyre Peninsula, South Australia, as well as south-west Western Australia.

**Habitat:** It lives in open forests and woodlands in Australia, during winter, it will visit more open habitats such as grasslands and will be seen in farmland and urban parks and gardens at this time.

**Breeding:** They form permanent monogamous pairs that maintain territories year-round. The male advertises and defends the territory by singing from high, prominent perches. During the breeding season, the female selects a suitable, well-hidden nest site in a tree fork and builds a compact open cup nest. Nest materials include bark, grass, twigs and other plant materials; the nest is bound with spider web, lined with animal fibres or plant-down and camouflaged with moss or lichen. The female incubates the eggs while the male feeds her. Both sexes feed the nestlings and will continue to feed the young for some time once fledged.

Scarlet Robins can be quite tame around human habitation. Their habit of foraging on the ground for food makes them vulnerable to cats, and young birds that roost close to the ground may be taken by rats. Scarlet Robin populations have declined in South Australia and Western Australia as a result of land-clearing practices. They are particularly affected by the removal of understorey.

**Eventurers - Boisdale photographers Ian and Velta  
Fellowes - 0427 472 451**

## The Rotary Club of Maffra

**The Rotary Club of Maffra celebrated Volunteering and Community Service** at its Community Service Award Presentation on a Sunday afternoon at Duart Homestead.

**Among those presented with awards was Rob Christie, for his enormous amount of volunteer work in the community.**

Rob is best known for being the Chair of the Community Bank, Maffra and District. In this role he is largely responsible for hiring staff, running meetings and sourcing grants, he is an amazing advocate for the Bank.



Rob is also a wonderful advocate for Maffra Secondary College, serving on the school council for many years. He is Chair of the Boisdale and District Progress Association and member of the Wellington Shire Heritage Network and the Stratford Historical Society. He is secretary and treasurer for the Friends of Grant Heritage Area Society and he and Shan volunteer for the National Trust's Latrobe Cottage once a month.

As Chair of the Dargo Cemetery Trust, Rob has been instrumental in cleaning up and organising the cemetery.

He is also treasurer for the Rotary Club of Maffra and has initiated a Rotary project to support a couple of schools in Ethiopia, after a visit there two years ago. He and Shan personally support some of the students at one of the schools, which gets no government support and has very basic facilities. The Rotary project aims to finish building extra classrooms needed for over 1,000 students, some of whom walk up to 2 hours each way to get to school, they are that keen on getting an education.

Other recipients of awards included John Osborn, Daniel Parker-Estoppey, the Briagolong Art Gallery Committee and Melissa Meldrum. Josh Neille, the 'Wombat man', was also presented with a Community Service Award, for his work caring for and rehabilitating wildlife, and educating young people on the importance of wildlife.

**Josh will be speaking at the Rotary Club of Maffra meeting on June 18th.**

Everyone is welcome to come along and get inspired by his wonderful enthusiasm. **Come to Duart Homestead, with a 6pm for 6.30 starting time**, and share a meal with us. Tickets available at Humanitix up to 14<sup>th</sup> June.

**Claire Cochran, President.**



Reports for The Bridge are due in the last week of each month. **Contact Helen to be placed on our email distribution list for a coloured copy.**

Copies are available from the Boisdale Post Office.

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