

THE BRIDGE

September 2026

THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

From the Editor

Spring is finally here and we're already experiencing beautiful weather, apart from a few chilly mornings. So much is happening in our communities at present and in the next few months.

What an amazing effort by our Boisdale-Briagolong Football and Netball teams, please support them this weekend and barrack hard.

We are also gearing up for some major celebrations locally with Valencia Creek celebrating 100 years of the hall and the fire brigade and the launch of the Valencia Creek History book on 14th and 15th November.

Closely followed by the 75th Anniversary of Boisdale Consolidated School, with the main celebration being on Saturday 21st November. Lots of interest already on the school's Facebook site.

Finally, the predictions for the summer season are for increased bushfire risk, so time to start cleaning up around your properties, revisit your fire plan and check your fire fighting equipment.

From the editorial team - Helen and Rachel



Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club

"It all comes down to this!" This weekend, the BBFNC will be represented in every senior

Grand Final, with our A Grade, B Grade, C Grade and D Grade netballers, alongside our Reserves and Senior footballers all earning their place on the biggest stage of the season.

It's a remarkable achievement for our club and a testament to the commitment, hard work and determination shown by every player, coach, volunteer and supporter throughout the year.

Adding to the excitement, both our D Grade netballers and Reserve footballers head into their Grand Finals undefeated, looking to complete perfect seasons. D Grade will be chasing an incredible three-peat, while B Grade have the

opportunity to secure a remarkable fourth consecutive premiership. Our Reserves are also hunting success, aiming to go back-to-back after another dominant



season. Meanwhile, our C Grade side has already produced one of the stories of the finals series. In the opening week of finals, they took part in an unforgettable contest that went into 24 minutes of overtime, eventually securing the victory and booking their place in the Grand Final in dramatic fashion.

The Club has already tasted success this finals campaign, with our Women's Footballers bringing home the Premiership Cup, and now the



Bombers have the opportunity to complete something truly special with a full senior club sweep.

Whether it's on the football field or the netball court, every team has earned the right to compete for glory and we are so excited to watch it play out.

<https://www.facebook.com/boisdalebriagolong>

Chellce Ward for BBFNC.

Ed: Thankyou Chellce for your reports throughout the football / netball season, may Saturday be a wonderful culmination of the season for *The Bombers*.

Boisdale Garden Club

Our next **meeting and AGM will be on Saturday 12th September, at the Boisdale Hall, commencing at 12md.** We will have soup and bread provided and if everyone could please bring a small plate.

Michele Adler has agreed to be our guest speaker. Michele was a pharmacist for 20 years before she became a Horticulturist. Michele is also President and Honorary Life Member of the Burnley Gardens. New members are always welcome.

Contact Joy for further details on 0429 036 999



Boisdale & District Progress Assoc. and the Boisdale Stables

The Progress Assoc. and the Boisdale Stables **will hold their AGM and a short general meeting at the Stables on Sunday 4th October at 11.30am.**

Stables members are asked to attend at 10am prior to the meeting for a short working bee in preparation for wedding bookings in October. A sausage sizzle will be available.

For Stables enquiries and bookings contact Laura Savage 0459 076 069 or email

boisdalestables@outlook.com Facebook site below.

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



Boisdale Consolidated School

August has certainly been a busy month at Boisdale Consolidated School, with plenty happening across the school as we move towards the end of Term 3. Our students have had many opportunities to participate in activities beyond the classroom.

House Athletics was a fantastic day, with students competing enthusiastically and supporting their teammates throughout the different events.

Book Week was another highlight, with our Book Fair and dress-up celebrations bringing plenty of colour and excitement to the school.

Our younger students have also been out and about, including our Grade 1/2 students visiting Old Gippstown. Our Grade 6 students have continued their transition activities with Maffra Secondary College as they begin preparing for the next stage of their education. While our prep students have completed their swimming program at Kemp aquatics and participated in a Bunnings fairy garden incursion.

We have also continued to work on improving our school grounds and facilities. Planning is underway for further development of our outdoor areas, including new native and sensory garden spaces that will provide additional opportunities for play, exploration and learning - thanks to a Landcare grant.

One of the biggest events on our calendar is now getting closer. **Boisdale Consolidated School will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November 2026.** Planning is well underway for what promises to be a wonderful opportunity to recognise the history of our school and the generations of students, families and staff who have been part of it.

We are looking forward to welcoming past students, staff and families back to Boisdale to reconnect, share memories and celebrate this significant milestone with our current school community.

As always, thank you to our staff, families and the wider Boisdale community for their ongoing support of our school.

We look forward to another busy few weeks as Term 3 draws to a close

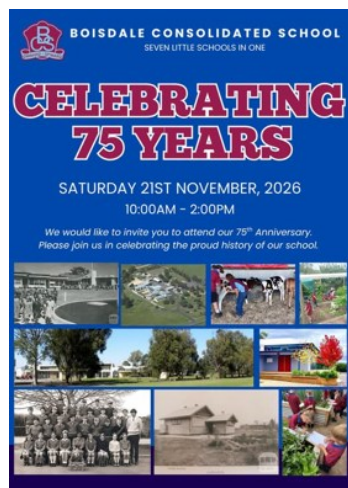
Belinda Marshall, Principal.

Ed: See the school's Facebook site, link below for more 75th Anniversary details including many comments and school photos being posted.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28027458053612513>

Lots of interest from former students already, more details in the next edition.

Please contact Helen Montague on 0448 349 420 if you can assist with collating the school's history archives in preparation for the 75th Anniversary.



Local CFAs – Boisdale Brigade



A busy August weekend with one of our members completing the chainsaw course, while other crews gathered at the Boisdale Hill Climb for a group training exercise. Crews from Boisdale, Valencia Creek, Cowwarr, Glenmaggie, Coongulla, Newry, Sale, and Maffra worked hard to refresh critical skills including:

- 🚒 Water drafting from static supplies
- 🚒 Mock running grass fire containment
- 🚒 Hazardous tree identification
- 🚒 Entrapment drill crew safety drill

Local brigades are always upskilling to keep our communities safe!

Tim Crooke,
Secretary
Boisdale CFA.

If you are interested in joining your local brigade or need information, contact

Captains; Paul Chilton, Boisdale on 0418 354 224 or David Montague, Valencia Creek on 0427 454 207

Valencia Creek Fire Brigade

Members continue with training to update their skills for the coming season and were involved in the recent exercise at the Boisdale Hill Climb.

This week they have undertaken FLAIM Virtual Reality training to improve tactical skills and to learn how to respond to realistic emergency incidents in a safe environment. Scenarios included haystack fires, machinery fires, car fires and house under ember attack. Participants said it was a fun way to learn more about live and serious firefighting techniques.

Thanks to Anthony Kovco for setting up the gear and debriefing after each scenario.

Brigade members have been working tirelessly researching the history of the brigade and obtaining photos for the book being written on Valencia Creek, which will be launched at the Centenary Celebrations on 14th and 15th November.

Maurie Killeen has a wealth of information on the origins of fire fighting in Wa de Lock and Valencia Creek, much of which will be featured in the book.

If you can assist with photos or memorabilia, please **contact Garry Rose on 0439 454 428 or Maurie Killeen on 0427 454 336.**



Preparedness information for property owners



from Vic Emergency
AFAC News has released the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring. The

outlook suggests an earlier start to the bushfire season this year. Drought-affected areas in parts of eastern and western Victoria are facing an increased bushfire risk leading into spring and summer.

Under the forecast conditions, there is potential for multiple large fires starting as early as October across parts of the state.

Now is a great time to start preparing your plan and property including updating your fire plan, mowing long grass, clearing gutters, maintaining your fire equipment.

For more tips on how you can get ready for the upcoming fire season, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property

Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

Lots happening at the Valencia Hall as we prepare for the centenary celebrations in November.

Improvements to the amenities area with new toilet cisterns and floor coverings, improved storage and a freshening up with painting projects.

The next **Friday Night Happy Hour** will be held at the **Valencia Hall on Friday 4th September from 5-7pm.**

Just bring some a drink and some nibbles to share.

The hall will be warm and everyone is most welcome to attend.

And we have a concert at the Valencia Hall on

Wednesday 16th September at 7.30pm.

Rhiz & The

Sugarplums have built an impressive live reputation, performing at some of Australia's most celebrated folk and country festivals.



Tickets \$30. Please book with Garry on 0439 454 428

See our Facebook site for updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/valenciacreekhall>

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

Valencia Creek Centenary Celebrations



celebrations, including the book launch of the history of Valencia Creek. Keep watching the hall and CFA Facebook sites for regular updates.

We will put the **Friday Night Happy Hour at Boisdale** on hold until **Friday 16th October 5-7pm**, when it should be warmer at the Boisdale Stables. More next edition and on the Stables Facebook site.

Boisdale Public Hall

Boisdale Public Hall held its AGM in August with the office bearers remaining the same: Judy Traill, Chair, Tammy Chilton, Vice Chair and Samantha White, Secretary/Treasurer. Please contact any one of us if you are interested in joining our committee or you would like to hire the hall for any events,

Hall bookings can be made via email:

boisdalepublichall@gmail.com or contact **Samantha**

White on mobile 0428 549 045. Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/boisdalepublichall>

Tai Chi at the Hall

Tai Chi is going strong every Wednesday morning commencing at 10am followed by morning tea. The cost is \$5.00 per session. No matter your age or ability Tai Chi caters for everyone. **For more information contact Judy Traill on 0400 443 167**

Boisdale Recreation Reserve

Boisdale Recreation Reserve is steadily moving forward with the new netball court and two half courts and the upgrade to the change room facilities.

The Recreation Reserve Committee is pleased to announce the wonderful support for our project from **Saputo Australia and Ag Warehouse, Maffra** with a grant for \$10,000 to go towards the upgrade of our netball change rooms.

The Recreation Reserve Committee held their AGM in August and all office bearers were returned: Tim Crooke, Chair, Judy Traill, Secretary, Jayden Pratt, Vice chair and Tammy Chilton as Treasurer.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member please anyone of the above.

Contact Tim Crooke on 0418 331 766 or Judy on 0400 443 167 for info or bookings for the recreation reserve.

Boisdale Lawn Mowers Group

The lawn mower group is still looking for volunteer mowers to help take some of the pressure off Bob. The grass is shooting away early this year and I'm sure Bob would appreciate some help. Mower and fuel are provided. **Please contact Bob on 03 5145 4390 or Judy on 0400 443 167**



Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross

A lunch meeting was held at the Briagolong Hotel on **Thursday 3rd September** for a Seniors' lunch with ten members attending. Red Cross members will be conducting the hotel raffles next Wednesday and Friday evening to support the Nepal Flood Appeal. **Australian Red Cross has launched a Global Emergency Fund for the Nepal Flash Floods.** All donations will support the Red Cross response to devastating flash floods in northern Nepal. <https://www.redcross.org.au/global-emergency/>

For enquiries contact Helen on 0448 349 420

The Birdman of Boisdale

THE JACKY WINTER



The Jacky Winter is a small grey-brown flycatcher with a faint pale eye-line and white underbody. The dark tail has prominent white outer feathers which are obvious when it lands, wagging its tail from side to side.

It typically sits upright on a bare branch or perch, wagging its tail and uttering its 'peter-peter' call. There are three subspecies, with slight geographical variation, darker in the south and paler in the far north and inland. This species is also known as the Brown Flycatcher, Postboy, White-tail or Peter-Peter.

The Jacky Winter is widely distributed in mainland Australia and in southeast New Guinea.

They prefer open woodland with an open shrub layer and a lot of bare ground. They are often seen in farmland and parks. Resident and in some places a seasonal visitor.

They dart out from a perch to snatch at flying insects, returning to the same perch again. They dive and twist in the air, hovering and grabbing at insects.

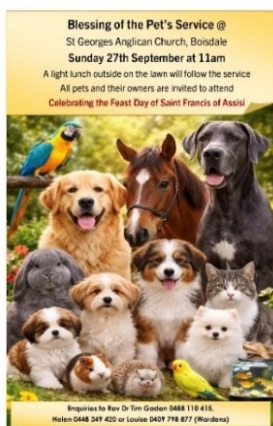
During breeding, the Jacky Winter sings constantly and has high, slow song-flights. The cup-shaped nest is very small and made from grass and strips of bark, bound with spider web on the fork of a dead branch.

The female incubates the eggs and probably broods the young, fed by the male. They may raise several broods in a season. Their nest is always in an exposed position, clear of leaves.

Numbers have declined substantially in some areas, particularly in the south, from clearing for farming or housing. Jacky Winters can be quite tame and familiar in some areas.

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

St George's Anglican Church, Boisdale



Join us on **Sunday 27th September at 11am** for our annual **Blessing of the Pets Service**.

A delightful service, followed by a light lunch outside (weather permitting).

All pets and their owners are most welcome.

Contact wardens Helen 0448 349 420 or Louise on 0409 796 877 for enquiries.



Community Bank Maffra & District

♥ Supporting local organisations, projects and events. At Community Bank Maffra & District, we're proud to invest in local organisations that help build and strengthen our community.

Our community investment funding is made possible by profits generated through banking services at our branch. Through sponsorships, we provide funding, goods or services to support events, projects and organisations that create local impact.

Applications and guidelines are available here:

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

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

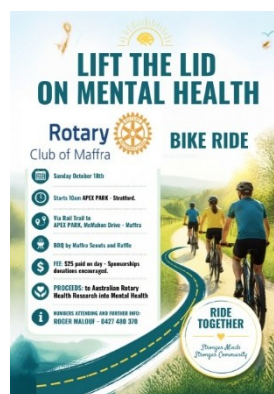


Rotary Club of Maffra

Mardi Gras 2027 is looking now for Fundraising Entrants. The first meeting will be in November, which seems a long time away, but your team needs to meet and discuss a few ideas beforehand, if possible.

Last year just two clubs made almost \$68,000 between them by being Mardi Gras Fundraising Entrants. There is money out there, your club just needs some time from you to organise some fundraising events – it does not need to be too much hard work, even a small amount of money raised will help! And the more people helping the easier it will be.

For Mardi Gras Fundraising Entrants contact Mel at melissamafframardigras@gmail.com



The Rotary Maffra Community Market, 1st Sunday of the month, offers the full proceeds of running the Rotary BBQ, and the sausages are donated by community minded businesses. Support your club by getting three people together and book a date with Claire at ccochrane51@gmail.com

Claire Cochrane, President.

**Cake Stall and Car Boot Sale at
St John's Anglican Church,
Maffra, this Saturday 5th
September from 9am.**



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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