

THE BRIDGE

August 2026

THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

From the Editor

It has been difficult coming back to our weather after the warmth of Exmouth, Western Australia, but nice to have some lovely days even if the nights and mornings are very chilly. A bit more rain would be appreciated.

Don't forget to fill in your census on Tuesday 11 August. The Australian Bureau of Statistics data is valuable information especially when we are applying for grants for local communities and organisations.

Also with the Bird flu (Avian influenza) beginning to make an impact in Australia, twenty three cases confirmed in Victoria to date, be wary of sick or dead birds or other animals you notice showing signs of bird flu. You should not touch them or get too close. Record your location and report multiple sick or dead birds or other animals to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/campaigns/birdflu>

Again there have been lots of exciting activities happening locally, so enjoy this edition.

From the editorial team - Helen and Rachel

Congratulations to:

Chris Dawkins and Felicity Rayner on the arrival of their first child, Alice Anne in June.

A beautiful granddaughter for Rachel Dawkins.

Boisdale Public Hall

Boisdale Public Hall has undergone a considerable face lift with the final tuck-pointing work completed by Richard Hooft last week, a highly skilled and technical job. This work had been funded by the Wellington Shire Council. This new financial year will see a major upgrade to our heating and cooling and the final completion of the last quarter of the iron roof to stop persistent mould and leakage. The hall looks wonderful and the feedback from



Nosh, an afternoon of community singing led by Jenny Candy, with the support of the Stratford Singers.

We were fortunate to have a large representation of Islander singers, especially those from Vanuatu who are working locally. Their music and singing provided



enormous enjoyment to the afternoon. Plenty of delicious soups, breads and slices were provided with

funding from Wellington Shire Council to help with catering from Vintage Graze and a local contingent. Many congratulations to Jenny Candy and Rachel Dawkins for such a totally enjoyable afternoon of singing.

Judy Traill, Chair 0400 443 167

Ed: With special thanks to Judy Traill and Tammy Chilton for organising the catering.

Boisdale Hall and Recreation Reserve AGMs.

Annual General Meetings for the Boisdale Public Hall and the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee of Management will be held on Tuesday 11th August 2026 commencing at 6.00pm.

A light tea will be provided. The Boisdale Public Hall AGM will be held first followed by a brief General Meeting. The AGM for the Boisdale Recreation Reserve will follow, then a short General Meeting.

The meetings are open to all community members and we would welcome new faces on our committees. We have great facilities and we need your input to keep everything moving forward.

For further information please contact Tim Crooke for the Recreation Reserve Committee on 0418 331 766 or Judy on 0400 443 167 for the hall.

Hall bookings can be made via email:

boisdalepublichall@gmail.com or contact

Samantha White on mobile 0428 549 045.

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

The next Friday Night Happy Hour at Boisdale will be on **Friday 21 August from 5-7pm at the Boisdale Hall.**

We will be able to enjoy Peter's Mulled Wine from Mt Moornapa Winery at \$2 per glass.

The heating will be on, just bring some nibbles to share. **Everyone is most welcome.**

Boisdale Garden Club



Members enjoyed and celebrated our 20th Birthday at the Vines on Saturday 11th July. We shared platters between us, followed by a beautiful birthday cake. Joy also gave a brief history of the Club. It was a very

enjoyable afternoon.



Our next meeting due to be held on **Saturday 8th August**, has been postponed due to the ill health of the Exec. members.

The AGM will be held in September and members will be notified. New members are always welcome.

Contact Joy for further details on 0429 036 999



Local CFAs – Boisdale Brigade

Incredible teamwork in our community.

Earlier this month, a major multi-agency rescue took place in our foothills after a vehicle went off a track and ended up on its side.



Two people were airlifted to hospital, and another was brought out by a 4WD ambulance.

We are incredibly privileged to have such dedicated and highly skilled first responders watching over us. A massive thank you to everyone involved in this complex rescue:

Briagolong CFA, Boisdale CFA, Valencia Creek CFA

Stratford SES, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria.

We are lucky to have people in the community who drop everything to help when things go wrong. Wishing a full and speedy recovery to the three people injured.



It's also a good time to double check you and your family have ambulance cover.

Membership
ambulance.vic.gov.au

Tim Crooke, Secretary Boisdale CFA.

If you are interested in joining your local brigade contact

Paul Chilton, Boisdale Captain, on 0418 354 224 or

David Montague, Valencia Creek Captain on 0427 454 207



Valencia Creek CFA

Several brigade meetings have been held in recent weeks in relation to brigade training and research into brigade and State CFA Life memberships to be presented at the centenary celebration of the Valencia Creek CFA in November. We are still looking for early photos of the brigade which can be used in a book being written on the history of Valencia Creek.

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

Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

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

Peter from Mt Moornapa Winery will have his Mulled Wine there, just \$2 a glass.

So just bring some nibbles to share.

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

Hall improvements, research and preparation continue for the centenary celebrations of the hall and CFA and the book being written on Valencia's history to be launched on during celebrations on the weekend of **14th and 15th of November 2026.** Further details next month. We still need some early photos of the Valencia area, the hall and the CFA, so if you have photos of a wedding, 21st or other function at the hall please contact Garry Rose 0439 454 428 or Cath Noble 0427 149 253. See our Facebook site for updates.

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

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

Next concert at the Valencia Creek Hall:
THE BRIAGOLONG BUSH BAND is holding their mid-winter concert on **Friday 21 August at 7.30** and if there is space even a bush dance or two.

Featuring Fiddle wizardry by Georgia and Alex, keyboard mastery by Col and Garry's songs

Bookings to Garry on 0439 454 428. \$35.



Boisdale Lawn Mowers Group

Boisdale 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

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 Trill on 0400 443 167**



Boisdale Stables

Research and planning continue with the landscaping and fencing at the rear of the building over the cooler months.

Laura is putting some great posts of weddings and events held at the Stables on our Facebook site, so check it out.

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

For Stables enquiries and bookings contact Laura

Savage 0459 076 069 or email

boisdalestables@outlook.com



Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross

Our next get together will be a Seniors' lunch at the Briagolong Hotel on Thursday 3rd September at 12md. Members will also be assisting with the hotel raffle nights that week to raise funds for Red Cross projects.

For enquiries contact Helen on 0448 349 420



Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club

As the 2026 season enters its final stages, excitement continues to build around the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club, with plenty still on the line across football and netball.

This weekend marks our final home game of the regular season, with our men's footballers and netballers set to take on Wy Yung in what promises to be a tough and gritty contest. The following week, the Bombers hit the road to face Stratford in the final round before finals begin.

Several Bombers sides are continuing to impress, with both our D Grade netballers and Reserve footballers remaining undefeated as they push towards the business end of the season.

Our female football program has already begun its finals campaign. The Youth Girls battled their way to a thrilling 22-19 victory over Woodside in a nail-biting elimination final, while our Women's side fought hard but fell short in their opening finals match.

The result means both teams will line up in Elimination Finals this weekend, with our Women's team taking on Lindenow South and our Youth Girls facing Traralgon as they continue their fight to keep their premiership dreams alive.

With finals footy underway and the regular season drawing to a close for many of our teams, there's never been a better time to get behind the red and black. Whether it's our last home game this weekend, a finals clash, or the final round against Stratford, every cheer from the sidelines makes a difference.

Chelce Ward for BBFNC.



Boisdale Consolidated School

It has been another busy and exciting start to the term at Boisdale Consolidated School, with students enjoying a wide range of learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Our students continue to show their enthusiasm for learning and their willingness to challenge themselves. Across the school, classrooms have been buzzing with engaging literacy, numeracy, unit learning, while our specialist programs in the arts, music, physical education and STEM continue to provide valuable opportunities for students to develop new skills and discover their passions.

One of the highlights of term 2 was the **Business Bonanza**, where our senior students demonstrated outstanding creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. Students planned, designed and operated their own businesses, providing a fantastic learning experience while also raising valuable funds to support future improvements around the school.

Over the school holidays we were able to install a basketball half court in the junior playground, new internal farm fencing, as well as new fencing at the prep building to enable them to have a larger play space. This would not have happened without the ongoing fundraising efforts of the school community.

Boisdale Consolidated School is fortunate to be supported by an outstanding community. Whether volunteering at events, assisting with excursions, supporting fundraising activities or simply encouraging students in their learning, our families make a significant contribution to the success of our school. Thank you for everything you do.

Student achievement has also been something to celebrate. We are proud of the excellent learning growth being demonstrated across the school and congratulate our students for their persistence and determination. This year saw the highest percentage of students achieving, exceeding and strong on each of the NAPLAN tests (Numeracy, Grammar & Punctuation, Writing, Spelling and Reading).

Looking ahead, Boisdale Consolidated School will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 November.

This milestone provides a wonderful opportunity for former students, staff, school council members, families and community members to reconnect, share memories and celebrate 75 years of education in Boisdale.

More information will be available over the coming months, so keep an eye on our school newsletter and social media pages.

As always, we thank the Boisdale community for its continued support of our school.

Belinda Marshall, Principal

Central Gippsland Health Services have introduced a live Emergency Department (ED) tracker.

The tracker is linked to live ED data to provide patients and referrers an indication of the current demand for care, as well as other emergency contacts. The emergency department live tracker can be accessed at:

<https://www.cgshs.com.au/hospitals/sale/emergency-care>

The Birdman of Boisdale **THE BLACK-FACED MONARCH**



The Black-faced Monarch has a distinctive black face that does not extend across the eyes, grey upperparts, wings and upper breast, contrasting with a rufous (red-orange) belly. The dark eye has a thin black eye ring and a lighter area of pale grey around it.

The blue-grey bill has a hooked tip.

Young birds are similar but lack the black face, have a black bill and tend to have a brownish body and wings. It is one of the monarch flycatchers, a forest and woodland-dwelling group of small insect-eating birds and is strictly arboreal (found in trees).

Similar species: It resembles the Black-winged Monarch, *M. frater*, but this species is paler grey and has mostly black wings and a black tail, and is restricted to far northern Queensland, being a summer breeding migrant from New Guinea.

Distribution: The Black-faced Monarch is found along the coast of eastern Australia, becoming less common further south.

Habitat: It is found in rainforests, eucalypt woodlands, coastal scrub and damp gullies. It may be found in more open woodland when migrating.

Seasonal movements: Resident in the north of its range but is a summer breeding migrant to coastal south-eastern Australia, arriving in September and returning northwards in March. It may also migrate to Papua New Guinea in autumn and winter. The Monarch forages for insects among foliage or catches flying insects on the wing.

Breeding: The Black-faced Monarch builds a deep cup nest of casuarina needles, bark, roots, moss and spider web in the fork of a tree, about 3 m to 6 m above the ground. Only the female builds the nest, but both sexes incubate the eggs and feed the young.

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

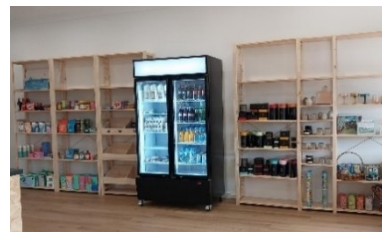
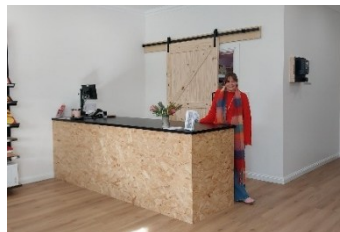
St George's Anglican Church

On the 5th Sunday during the calendar year the congregation of St John's Maffra join with the St George's parishioners for a combined morning prayer service, followed by morning tea. The next combined service at Boisdale will be on **Sunday 30 August at 10am**. Everyone is most welcome.

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

The Boisdale Post Office

Lots of changes at the Boisdale Post Office, as well as conducting all Australia Post services you can now buy milk, basic groceries and some lovely gift ideas, including children's presents. Pop in and see Tess and check out the renovations and new stock. Opening hours remain the same at present but may extend in the future.



Community Bank Maffra & District

Community Bank Maffra & District supports local community groups through sponsorships and grants to help groups with equipment, events and activities. Call in and talk with the friendly staff.

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

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.

Rotary Club of Maffra



Our Community Market provides an opportunity for community organisations to raise money by running the BBQ.

The market takes place at Island Reserve, behind Woolworths, between 8.30am and 12.30pm on the first Sunday of each month.

The BBQ itself is provided by the Rotary Club of Maffra, thanks to the generosity of Ryan Hekman from Gippsland Custom Builders. The sausages come from Ranford's Family Butchers, Sale, thanks to the sponsorship of many local businesses.

All the proceeds will go towards your organisation.

For expressions of interest and further information about the BBQ or market in general please contact Claire Cochrane at ccochrane51@gmail.com

Claire Cochrane, 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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