

THE BRIDGE

MAY 2025

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

From the Editor

Easter and ANZAC Day are now over for 2025 which means the days are whizzing by again and we're heading towards winter.

Congratulations to the Briagolong RSL on a wonderful ANZAC Day Service at the Cenotaph. We were well represented with Andrew Pembury (Val. Ck) leading the parade as flag bearer, Peter Caithness (Val. Ck) as a piper with the Sale RSL Pipe Band and our own Garry Rose who sang the very moving song he has written about Sandican and the death march resulting in the terrible loss of nearly 2000 Australian soldiers in WWII.

For those who can make it, our intrepid Antarctic reporter Peter Caithness, whose blog we featured in each edition last year will be showing amazing footage and talking on his expedition at the Valencia Creek Hall on Saturday 17th May at 7.30pm. It should be a great evening. See flyer included. Stay warm everyone.
Helen, Editor

Boisdale Garden Club

Members had a wonderful afternoon visiting Rachel Dawkins' home on Saturday 12th April. Rachel gave us a history of the property and took us on a tour around the garden, wandering through the orchard, stopping to admire the chooks and her sheep. All this in a lovely Valencia Creek setting. Many thanks to Rachel for her hospitality.

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday 10th May when we will be visiting Boisdale House, on Foster's Hill at 1pm.** Members to bring along a plate of afternoon tea, a mug and chair. This should be a lovely afternoon with great views over Boisdale and the autumn foliage.

Seven members will be attending the Annual Garden Clubs of Gippsland Conference in Sale on Wednesday 14th May. This is always an interesting day out. New members are always welcome to join us.

Contact Joy on 0429 036 999 for further details.



Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross

A seniors' meal and meeting will be held on **Thursday 5th June at 12md at the Briagolong Hotel** to discuss a date for the 110th anniversary celebration for the former Briagolong Red Cross and our service awards presentation.

For enquiries contact Helen Montague 0448 349 420

Boisdale Public Hall

Polling Place

Boisdale Public Hall is the voting hub (Polling Booth) for the upcoming Federal Election on Saturday 3rd May 2025. Voting opens at 8.00 am and closes 6.00 pm.

Boisdale Public Hall and the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committees of Management will be holding their meetings on Tuesday 13th May 2025 commencing at 6.30p.m at the Boisdale Hall. Soup and sandwiches will be provided at the start of the meeting now that the weather is so much cooler.

We are always looking for people to contribute to the running of our local facilities; everyone is welcome to attend if you would like to be involved. There are four meetings per year.

Boisdale Hall is available for bookings please contact **Samantha White** via email: boisdalepublichall@gmail.com or mob. 0428 549 045 or Judy on 0400 443 167



ANZAC Day tributes at Boisdale Hall.

Boisdale Recreation Reserve

Next meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2025, following the Boisdale Hall Meeting. Tim Crooke, Chair
0418 331 766

Boisdale Tai Chi Group

Where: Boisdale Public Hall

When: Every Wednesday morning starting at 10.00 am, followed by morning tea.

Cost: \$5.00 per session

Supported by the Community Bank Maffra and District.

For further information please contact Judy on 0400 443 167

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



Community Bank Maffra & District

To kick off our 10th birthday celebrations in May, come and enjoy free family fun



activities at the **Maffra Rotary Club Market on Sunday 4th May**. Jumping castle, petting farm, live music and giveaways provided. Keep an eye on our socials for all our birthday celebrations throughout May.



Community Bank Maffra & District has awarded grant funds of \$250,000 to Central Gippsland Health Services.

The money will go towards the Maffra Hospital renovation, creating dedicated palliative care rooms. The funds will provide larger beds, equipment, renovations and glass doors to access the gardens.

For more information contact admin@mdcfs.com.au

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

Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

The next Friday Night Happy Hour at Valencia Creek will be on Friday 2nd May from 5-7pm.

Just bring a drink and some nibbles to share, a great chance to catch up, everyone is most welcome.

Come and hear all about **Peter Caithness's Year in Antarctica at Valencia Creek Hall on Saturday 17th May at 7.30pm**. Peter has had



some incredible adventures as part of the Australian Antarctic Division's 77th Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition. He posted a regular blog update with amazing stories and photos which we'll be able to see and hear about in the comfort of our local (heated) hall! Entry is a donation towards the hall renovations. Please bring a plate of supper to share. Tea and coffee provided.



For Hall bookings contact Cath on **0427 149 253**



Next Music Night: We Mavericks will perform at the Valencia Creek Hall on Friday 30th May at 7.30pm. \$35 pp. Bookings to **Garry on 0439 454 428**. Called everything from 'contemporary folk' to 'alt-country' and 'acoustic-pop', no words capture their unbelievable musical kinship, or the way they relate to their audiences. Please note the 7.30pm start over winter.



Local CFAs – Boisdale

April was a busy month for Boisdale CFA with 10 call outs, which included eight fires, one gas leak and one motor vehicle accident. After the Easter weekend we were called to an unattended campfire near the Avon River. It looked like campers didn't want to take their rubbish home, so set it on fire and left! With fire restrictions lifted for the Wellington Shire, please follow these tips:

☀ Check the weather forecast

📄 Register your burn off (residential zones may still require council permits)

💧 Have plenty of water on hand

🚗 Clear 3mtrs around the fire

👁 Monitor the fire

🚒 Completely extinguish

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/contact/register-your-burn-off>

For enquiries contact **Paul Chilton, Boisdale Captain 0418 354 224**. boisdalecfa@gmail.com

Tim Crooke, Boisdale CFA Secretary

Valencia Creek CFA

A reminder for Valencia Creek CFA members that there is a **Thermal Imaging Camera Session at the Valencia Creek Station on Monday 5th May at 7.30pm**. Please contact Monty if you can attend.

We are still keen to obtain any early photos or memorabilia on Valencia Creek CFA for a book being written on the history of Valencia Creek to celebrate the centenary of the hall and CFA in 2026.



Please contact Monty, Garry **Junior Running Team members 1980's**. Rose 0439 454 428 or Maurie Killeen on 0427 454 336 if you can assist. For local CFA issues or queries contact **Captain David Montague on 0427 454 207**.



Boisdale Stables

Friday Night Happy Hour is on 16th May

from 5-7pm. This will most likely be held at the Boisdale Hall as the weather is becoming colder.

Check out the Stables and Hall Facebook sites prior or just look for the cars! Everyone is most welcome to attend. Just bring something to drink and nibbles to share.



If you're having an event or function in the next few months, contact Laura and she will assist you.

For Stables bookings or enquiries contact Laura Savage 0459 076 069 or boisdalestables@outlook.com



Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club

We've now reached round three of this season and we are off to a fantastic start! While we've experienced some tough losses, there have been plenty of wins to celebrate. Our Reserves team has returned stronger and fitter than ever, delivering an incredible 130-point win over Stratford in the first round. The seniors weren't far behind, securing a massive 100-point victory against Lakes, showing that they are ready to take on the competition. But it's not just the football teams who are shining. Our A, B, C & D Grade netball teams have been dominating, taking on every challenge with confidence and skill. These teams are on fire!



One of the most exciting moments so far this season was the debut of our Under 13s netball team on April 12th. They played their very first match against Stratford showing us all what teamwork,

determination, and fun are all about. These young legends are definitely ones to watch!

In addition, our Women's and Youth Girls teams both brought home impressive wins on April 27th, and we're excited to see what's in store for them this season. With new players and a fresh coach for the Women's team, there's a real sense of excitement surrounding these teams.

However, you may have noticed our players wearing black armbands in the first round. This was in memory of Dustin Daly and his cousins, a deeply meaningful gesture for our club. The Daly family has been a vital part of BBFNC for years, with Tyson, Bridie, and Bella Daly having played football, Matthew Daly having coached the Youth Girls, and Amy Daly capturing precious moments through photography. We also honour cousins Sarah, Henry, and Angus Johnson, who have all proudly represented our club. Please keep them in your thoughts every time we take the field.

As always, to stay up to date on all things BBFNC, visit social media or the website!

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

Chellce Ward, BBFNC.

Boisdale Lawn Mower Group

Boisdale Lawn Mowers have had such a busy time of late keeping all our public areas looking wonderful. If you can spare a little time, please contact **Bob Newman on 03 5145 4390 or Judy on 0400 443 167.** Ride on mower and fuel supplied.

The Birdman of Boisdale

OLIVE WHISTLER



Description: The Olive Whistler is a medium-sized stocky bird. The males have grey heads, with a whitish throat. The upperparts are reddish-brown to grey and the underparts are a lighter reddish-brown. Females are similar, but generally less colourful. Immature birds have more rufous wings and blotches of paler feathers on the head.

Similar species: They may resemble females of the related Golden Whistler, *P. pectoralis*, but these are grey to white underneath, with yellow near the vent. The Olive Whistler is endemic to south-eastern Australia. It occurs from the coast to the Great Dividing Range, ranging from Tasmania and south-east South Australia, through New South Wales to the McPherson Range in south-east Queensland. Olive Whistlers are usually uncommon throughout their range.

Habitat: The northern population is found in mountain rainforests above 500 m to 1500 m, especially Antarctic Beech forests. In the south, they occur in dense vegetation of eucalypt forests, rainforests, paperbarks, alpine forests and coastal scrubs and heathlands.

Seasonal movements: The Olive Whistler is said to be sedentary or can show some local altitudinal movements, moving to lower areas in winter. They mainly feed on invertebrates, some seed and leaves, or forage from the trees down to the ground, usually in dense vegetation.

Breeding: They build a cup-shaped nest of twigs, leaves and bark placed 1-3m off the ground in shrubs, trees or dense grass. The eggs are incubated by both parents. The logging of mountain forests may adversely affect the Olive Whistler. It is listed as vulnerable in New South Wales.

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

CLEARING SALE by Heyfield Lions Club

A/C D & K Malcolm, end of Malcolm's Rd, Boisdale.

Saturday 3rd May. Don't forget to vote.

Auction starts at 10 am. Tractors, Machinery, tools, sundries and collectibles. The Malcolms are some of the last early farmers who took up closer settlement in 1911 after Foster Bros sold up some of their run, so all collectibles are authentic.



Boisdale Consolidated School (BCS)

Term 2 Welcome

We are delighted to welcome all students, families, and staff back to school for Term 2. It has been a fantastic start to the term, filled with community spirit, student leadership, and exciting progress across the school.

In the very first week, our student leaders showed incredible maturity and respect as they led our school's ANZAC Day ceremony. Each classroom was represented as students laid handmade wreaths in a touching tribute to our servicemen and women. The ceremony highlighted both the leadership and compassion of our students.

This week, the energy continued with our much-anticipated House Cross Country event. The four school houses gave it their all, showing teamwork, determination and school pride. From here there will be a larger number of students who will progress to the next level which is Heyfield and District Schools Sport Association. Well done to everyone and a big thank you to Mrs Barrett for her organisation in running the event. We're also thrilled to report progress on the restoration of the original Boisdale School Building with the plastering now completed and the interior and exterior painting will commence in the next week. The final fit-out is just around the corner and completion anticipated for late May/early June. We can't wait to see this space brought back to life for future learning.

Looking ahead, we have some wonderful celebrations coming up. **Next Friday, 9th May**, we'll host our annual **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea** – a special event where we honour the amazing women in our school community. The following week, we'll celebrate **Educational Support Appreciation Day**, recognising the vital contributions of our ES staff who support the day-to-day life of our school in so many ways. Finally, a reminder that our **Prep 2026 Information Session** will be held on **Tuesday, 14th May**. We warmly invite all families with children beginning Prep in 2026 to attend and learn more about the engaging, nurturing environment we offer. It's a fantastic chance to meet staff, explore our facilities and see what makes our school a great place to begin a child's educational journey. If you are unable to make the information session and would love to see what BCS has to offer, please call the Office (51454391) to arrange an appointment.

Wishing everyone a productive and positive Term 2 ahead!

Belinda Marshall, Principal. Phone 51454391

With the 75th Anniversary celebrations happening for the school in 2026 we will include some of the old school photos in each edition.



BOISDALE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL
Forms 1-2 1965

The Victorian Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum.

Welcoming local services and community members to talk with police about issues in your community.

Date: Thursday 29th May

Time: 1pm - 4pm

Venue: Winning Post Function Room, Sale Greyhound Racing Club. This is a free event.

See link below for further information.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wellington-psa-neighbourhood-policing-forum-tickets-1312341822719?aff=erelexpmlt>



Wellington Early Years Expo returns for a day of fun, learning and connection

Wellington Shire Council is proud to present the 2025

Wellington Early Years Expo, returning to the Gippsland Regional Sports Complex in Sale on Thursday 8 May 2025.

The free expo will showcase a wide range of early years services, programs and activities that support children and families across Wellington Shire. The expo is a great opportunity for parents and carers to connect with local early years providers, while their children enjoy a range of exciting and interactive entertainment.

Young ones will be entertained by the GRSC inflatables, face painting, and a visit from the Bubble-gum Fairy – *bringing bubbles, fairy fun and a magical musical story time*. Families can also enjoy the Wacky Wombat stunt and circus show; Bug Blitz will be presenting mini-museum workshop display plus a free sausage sizzle for everyone to enjoy.



The Bridge is due in the last week of each month. **Contact Helen to be placed on our email distribution list for a coloured copy each month.** Copies are available from the Boisdale Post Office. **Editor:** Helen Montague. Mob: 0448 349 420 or email dhmontague@bigpond.com **Proof reader:** Rachel Dawkins.