

THE BRIDGE

MAY 2026

THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

From the Editor

What beautiful, balmy autumn days we have been experiencing, a lovely time in Gippsland. Rain is forecast this week which will be most welcome by our farmers and gardeners.

Well done to Briagolong RSL and the local community for the ANZAC Service at Briagolong on 25th April, it was a very respectful and moving tribute to those who sacrificed so much. Lest we forget.

As usual with our local newsletter and in our community, some sad events and some very positive ones, enjoy this month's edition.

From the editorial team - Helen and Rachel

Vale - Greg Dunsmuir



Greg, a much-respected Briagolong local, cited by many as 'The Mayor of Briagolong', sadly passed away following a farm accident.

Greg was a musician, farmer, family man and great storyteller.

If you haven't seen Rod McMillan's 2012 story that he filmed with Greg, have a look at

the link below. It's wonderful viewing.

<https://adland.com.au/short-films/a-briagolong-character-greg-dunsmuir>.

Our thoughts are with Leslie and all the family at this sad time.

Boisdale Garden Club

Members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at Viv Pederson's home on the Sale-Maffra Road for our last meeting. A beautiful, sheltered garden away from the noise of the road with lovely areas to sit and enjoy.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 9th May, 1pm at Carmen Gosstray's home, 1276 Maffra-Briagolong Road (just over the Avon bridge on the right).

Just bring a chair, mug and a small plate for afternoon tea, please park on the right side of the house. Come along and join us, new members are welcome.

Ten members will be attending the Annual Garden Clubs of Gippsland Conference on Wednesday 13th May at the Vines-on-Avon. This is always an enjoyable day out.

Contact Joy on 0429 036 999 for further details.

Congratulations

To the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee and the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club on securing a major grant for the netball courts.

Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee

Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, in conjunction with the Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball club are thrilled to announce that we have been

successful in obtaining a \$500,000 grant through the Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund. Wellington Shire Council (WSC) has also supported this funding application, and we thank them for their invaluable support. This funding will allow us to refurbish our old netball court and create a multipurpose area.

A new court and two half courts will allow for a warmup area and a variety of activities can be undertaken by the local community including Pickle ball.

Judy Traill, Secretary Boisdale Recreation Reserve



Present and future netball players



The announcement was made on site with; **Ray Adams BBFNC, Cr. Carmel Ripper WSC, Tom McIntosh MP, Member for Eastern Victoria, WSC Mayor Cindy Madeley, Tim Croke Rec. Reserve Chair, Natasha French, WSC Senior Community Facilities Officer, Judy Traill, Rec. Reserve Secretary and BBFNC netball players.**



Local CFAs – Boisdale Brigade

Congratulations to Boisdale Recreation Reserve for being successful on their grant to upgrade the netball courts.

Boisdale CFA recently held our elections, and the following members were elected to be part of the Brigade Management Team:

Captain: Paul Chilton

1st Lieutenant: Luke Chilton

2nd Lieutenant: Paul Bawden

3rd Lieutenant: Andrew Noble

4th Lieutenant: Phil Sim

Community Safety Coordinator: Abbey Walsh

Health & Safety Coordinator: Tammy Chilton

Training: Dee Dorber

Secretary: Tim Crooke

Treasurer: Tim Crooke

Thank you to all the members who held BMT positions for the last two years. Best of luck to the new team for the next two years.

We also have two members currently attending the Respond to Urban Course (run over 2 months). Once completed these members will be able to safely and effectively enter and combat structural fires.



A recent social gathering of Boisdale members and family 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 CFA Captain on 0427 454 207

Valencia Creek CFA

Valencia Creek brigade held their elections on Tuesday 28th May with twenty-three members in attendance. Captain David Montague gave an overview of the year's activities and thanked members for their commitment to CFA.

The new management team is:

Captain: David Montague

1st Lieutenant: Peter Caithness

2nd Lieutenant: Scott Bown

3rd Lieutenant: Steve Donner

4th Lieutenant: Nathan Callow

Community Safety Coordinators: Rachel Dawkins and Steph Montague

Health & Safety Coordinator: Nick Cartledge

Training: Steve Donner

Secretary: Rex Candy and Jenny Carr

Treasurer: Rex Candy and Jenny Carr

Members are still looking for early photos of the Valencia Creek Brigade for the centenary celebrations to be held in November 2026.

Boisdale Public Hall

The next Boisdale Friday Night Happy Hour will be on Friday 15th May 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.

Boisdale Public Hall is presently undergoing the restoration of the beautiful tuck-pointing work across the front of the building, a very tedious and highly skilled job. Richard Hooft is doing a great job and has quite a few weeks to go before it is finished.

Over Easter the hall had an engagement turning into a surprise wedding and a 70th birthday celebration all in one. Congratulations to all involved.

Bookings for the hall please contact Samantha White via email: boisdalepublichall@gmail.com or mobile 0428 549 945 or Judy Traill 0400 443 167

Boisdale Tai Chi Group

Boisdale Tai Chi Group has resumed for term 2 with great numbers turning up each week. Classes are held at the Boisdale Public Hall every Wednesday morning starting at 10.00 am, followed by our renowned morning tea. The cost is \$5.00 per session and everyone of any age or ability is welcome.

Please contact Judy on 0400 443 167 for more information.

The Boisdale Lawn Mower Group

Boisdale Lawn Mowers Group 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 and District Community Bank support which allowed us to purchase the mower.

We are looking for more volunteers to help Bob Newman out. The mower and fuel is provided.

If you can spare an hour or two it would be appreciated.

Please contact Bob Newman on 03 5145 4390 or Judy on 0400 443 167

Boisdale & District History Group (B&DHG)

Members from the Stratford Historical Society enjoyed afternoon tea and a tour of the Boisdale Stables, the Boisdale Hall and the Boisdale & District History



Archives located at the hall on Saturday 18th April.

For enquiries contact Helen on 0448 349 420

Boisdale Post Office renovations

Lots of work is being undertaken at the Post Office with a new floor laid (no interesting artifacts under the old floorboards!) and lots of other improvements. Well done to Tess and Bradden. Call in and say hello and check out the services now available at our local post office.





Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross

Our next meeting will be at a **Senior's Lunch at the Briagolong Hotel on Thursday 7th May at 12md.** All most welcome.

For those able to attend we are planting the Red Cross tree celebrating 110 years of Red Cross in Briagolong at the ANZAC Park at **11am, prior to the luncheon.**

While there is no fee for membership to Red Cross you will need to sign up online to renew your membership before the 30th June 2026. Contact Helen if you need assistance.

Members recently attended the Field Days at East Gippsland for emergency preparedness and also laid flowers at the ANZAC service at Briagolong.

For enquiries contact Helen on 0448 349 420

Boisdale Stables

With the last of our wedding events completed for April we are putting bookings on hold while we organise the landscaping and fencing of the rear of the Stables.

It was great to have the Stratford Historical Society visit the Stables in April and take a great interest in the photos and memorabilia.

Members were saddened to hear of the loss of Janet Glanville. Rick, her husband was a committee member during much of the early renovations and Janet had been involved with a floral art display at the Stables several years ago.

Our thoughts are with Rick at this time.



Trish Sinnott, Janet and Rick Glanville at the Stables Opening in 2023.

The next Friday night Sips on 15th May will be at the Boisdale Hall from 5-7pm. It's a bit too cold at the Stables at present.

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

St George's Anglican Church, Boisdale

There will be only one service at St George's this month on Sunday 31 May (5th Sunday) when the congregation of St John's, Maffra join us for a morning prayer service. Morning tea follows the service which is always a hit. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Contact Louise Blencowe 0409 796 877.

East Gippsland Art Gallery Board of Management and Gallery staff invite you to the official launch of three new exhibitions:

Hilary Peterson - Bodies of Water and Liminal Spaces
Elisabeth Scott - Let me Keep and **Velta Fellowes** - **Where is Foster?** All welcome and entry is FREE.
Exhibitions run until 6th June 2026.

Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

The next Friday Night Happy Hour will be held at Valencia Hall on Friday 5th June from 5-7pm. The hall will be warm and everyone is most welcome.

Research continues for the book being written on Valencia Creek's history, including photos that could be included in the book and can be displayed during the Centenary celebrations on

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th November 2026.

We still need early photos of the hall or the Valencia Creek CFA, please contact Garry Rose 0439 454 428 or Helen Montague 0448 349 420.

Thankyou to Monty, Tony and Chris (Hall neighbours) for the flag raising and flowers on ANZAC Day.

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

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

Community Bank Maffra & District

Does your community group have a project they are working towards? Check the guidelines on our website and requirements for applications.

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

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



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.



Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club

Wow! The season is well and truly underway, and it's been a hot start both on and off the field.

Heading into Round 3, our D Grade, Reserves and Senior football sides have secured every win possible so far — an outstanding effort that sets the tone for what's shaping up to be a huge year.

Our women's football team kicked off their season in style with an absolute smasher of a performance, making a clear statement early. Meanwhile, our Youth Girls continue to show exactly why they are the reigning premiers, bringing determination, skill and confidence every time they hit the field.

Over on the netball courts, our Senior Netballers have enjoyed the week off, but they're refreshed, refocused and ready to remind the rest of the competition who really means business as the season rolls on. With momentum building across all teams, there's plenty to be excited about as the season continues.

Chelce Ward for BBFNC.

Films at the Bundy – Season one; Feb – June'26.

See their website: <https://www.filmsatthebundy.com/>

The Birdman of Boisdale

WHITE-FACED HERON



The White-faced Heron is particularly versatile. It can be seen in many different wetland habitats: they occur on reefs, in rock pools and mudflats by the coast, in estuaries and saltmarsh, swamps, rivers, drains and at farm dams; they even occur in

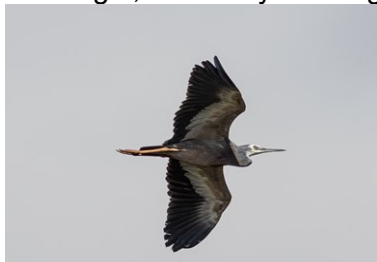
pasture and hypersaline wetlands.

The Heron is mostly light blue grey in colour, with a characteristic white face. In flight, the dark flight feathers of the wing contrast with the paler grey plumage, making this bird easily identifiable when viewed from below. It has a long, slim neck and a pointed grey-black bill. The legs are long and dull yellow in colour.

Sexes are similar. When breeding, the birds have long feathers (nuptial plumes) on the head, neck and back. The Heron has a slow bouncing flight. Young Herons are similar in appearance to the non-breeding adults (no nuptial plumes), but are duller, with little or no white on the face.

They are the most commonly seen herons in Australia. And are found throughout the mainland and Tasmania, and most coastal islands. They also occur in Indonesia, New Guinea, New Caledonia and New Zealand.

They can be seen foraging for a wide range of prey, mostly small aquatic creatures, using various methods, including standing and waiting for their prey, slowly stalking it, frantically dashing after it.



White-faced Herons may breed outside the breeding season in response to rainfall. Both sexes share the building of the nest, incubation of the eggs and care of the young. The nest is an untidy structure

of sticks, placed in a tree. Normally only one brood of young is raised in a year.

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



Boisdale Consolidated School

It's been a busy and productive start to Term 2, with a wonderful sense of energy across the school as students and staff have returned ready for learning. We concluded Week 1 with a meaningful ANZAC ceremony, led by our Grade 6 school leaders. They did an outstanding job guiding the service and encouraging all students to reflect on the sacrifice that many Australians have made, and continue to make, through service in the defence forces. I was incredibly proud of the respectful manner in which the entire school participated. Our school community was also well represented at local ANZAC Day services. I would like to

make special mention of Lola Clark, who read a poem at the Briagolong service. This was a wonderful contribution, and we are very proud of her.

On Wednesday, we welcomed the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, who visited to film some of our Grade 2/3A and 3/4A students as part of their STEM learning. Students have been designing and creating habitats to support biodiversity within our school grounds, including lizard lounges, frog bogs and bee hotels. It was fantastic to see their learning recognised in this way.

Our Grade 5/6 students have headed off to Woorabinda for their annual school camp. School camps simply would not be possible without the support and commitment of both staff and families.

I would also like to warmly welcome Bec Scriven and Demi Scriven to the Boisdale CS staff. Both Bec and Demi have previously worked at Boisdale, and we are pleased to have them back as they continue to support our staff and students for the remainder of 2026.

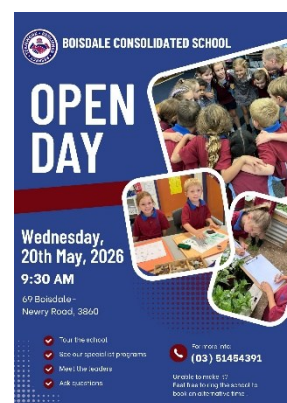
You may be aware of ongoing industrial action across Victorian government schools. Despite recent media reports, there has not yet been a formal offer presented to teachers, education support staff and principals. As a result, industrial action continues this term. This will impact student reports, with no written comments to be included. Students will still receive their Semester 1 reports; however, these will consist of teacher judgements only. There is also a planned half-day strike on Wednesday, 3 June – more information will be available closer to the date.

Earlier this week, we received preliminary 2026 NAPLAN data in the areas of grammar and punctuation, spelling, reading and numeracy. I am pleased to report that the 2026 results show significant improvement, with both the Grade 3 and Grade 5 cohorts achieving their highest proportion of students in the "Exceeding" and "Strong" proficiency levels, since proficiency levels were introduced in 2023. This outcome reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff in implementing consistent, evidence-based instructional practices across the school.

A reminder that our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea will be held next Friday. We will also be holding our **School Open Day on Wednesday, 20 May**, for prospective 2027 preps. and we encourage families to spread the word within the community.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Belinda Marshall, Principal



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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