

THE BRIDGE OCTOBER 2025

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

From the Editor

The cycle of life has been most evident in the past couple of weeks with loved and respected members passing away and yet new babies arriving, providing us with much joy and hope for the future.

We have briefly acknowledged those we have said goodbye to and will include a full story on our beautiful Elsie in next month's edition. Our thoughts are with all these families at the moment.

On a happier note congratulations to the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club teams on their grand final successes and an amazing year yet again.

The photos of Rachel's little lambs brings a warm smile and reminds us that spring is definitely here.

Helen, Editor

Vale

Alan Marshall – 25.07.1940 – 22.09.2025

Formerly of Valencia Creek, Alan and his wife Gerada raised a family and ran a dairy farm at their Valencia Creek property for many years, before relocating to Sale. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2023.

Alan was a valued member of the Valencia Creek CFA for over sixty years, was involved in many community organisations and was an active contributor to the Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club.



Our condolences to Gerada and all the Marshall family at this time.

Remo Salce – 14.04.1945 – 21.09.2025

Remo will be remembered as a wonderful farmer, family man, skilled craftsman and a quiet achiever.



During their years at Boisdale Remo and Mary farmed on the Maffra-Boisdale Road property, before relocating to Sale. They still retain the farm here and Remo was often out working in his workshop creating beautiful, bespoke pieces of furniture.

Our condolences to Mary and all the family.

Elsie Allen



Our beautiful Elsie passed away peacefully at home early Monday morning.

Elsie was a much loved and respected teacher, wife, mother, grandmother, sportswoman and

wonderful community member.

She took on many leadership roles within local organisations and always appeared very calm and relaxed. In more recent years she was stoic and still had a ready smile despite her decreasing health.

Married to Jim for over sixty years, they worked together to raise a wonderful family, manage farming businesses, and participate in numerous organisations in Boisdale and surrounding areas.

The Boisdale Public Hall acknowledged the contributions of both Elsie and Jim at the AGM in August by dedicating a seat in their name at the hall.

We will have more of Elsie's life in the next edition.

Her funeral will be held at the Boisdale Hall on Monday 6th October at 11am.

Our thoughts are with Terri, Ross, Gregor and all the family at this time.

But some lovely news:

Congratulations to

Kirsty Robinson and Nate Telling, Main St, Boisdale on the arrival of their first child, August Haze. A beautiful boy of 9lb 3oz, possibly a potential footballer for Boisdale! Wonderful news and lovely to have more little ones in the township.

And

To Phoenix and Elijah, Mathers Lane, Valencia Creek on the safe arrival of their first child, Tully Joy on 28 September. Another beautiful little girl for our Lane and a new resident to grow up in Valencia Creek. Well done.

Congratulations also to

Garry Rose and the Briagolong Bush Band for forty-five years of music entertaining local residents and many other communities. An amazing achievement.





Local CFAs – Boisdale Brigade

That horrible wind and the lack of rain has increased the call outs. Boisdale has had ten call outs for the month, two of them fires: a grass fire at Upper Maffra and a bush fire to the north of Coongulla needed a number of brigades to control the fires. It's looking like it might be a long summer, if we don't get rain. The Fire Danger Period could be declared soon. Now is the time to ensure your property is prepared for summer. To find out more, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare



Tim Crooke, Boisdale CFA Secretary/Treasurer

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

Valencia Creek CFA

Members are saddened with the passing of long-term member Alan Marshall. Alan was a member of Valencia Creek CFA for over sixty years and often drove the tanker for fire responses in the early years. He was presented with a 50-year service medal at an awards presentation night at Valencia Creek in 2012. Our sympathy is extended to Gerada and all the Marshall family.



Alan, 3rd from left in the front row.

It's time to review your emergency plan, clean up around your property and check your emergency equipment. Check the BOM site for wind forecasts and register your burn on 1800 668 511.

Valencia Creek CFA enquiries contact Captain David Montague (Monty) on 0427 454 207

Boisdale Garden Club

Members enjoyed a pleasant afternoon at the home of Sue Hides in Glen Campbell Court, Sale on Saturday 13th September. Sue took us on a tour around her five-acre property taking in the beautiful trees, a dam with ducks and patches of colourful daffodils. Thanks to Sue for her hospitality and a great afternoon.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday 11 October at Jeff and Beth Wheaton's home, 398 Maffra-Newry Road, Maffra at 1pm. Bring a chair, mug and a small plate for afternoon tea. New members most welcome.

For further details contact Joy on 0429 036 999.

Wellington Shire Council Hard Rubbish collection

Boisdale township residents: if your bin is collected on a Tuesday, your hard waste collection will begin on Monday 20 October.

<https://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/environment/hard-waste-collection>

Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

A brilliant night's entertainment was held at the Hall on the 20th September to mark the 45th Anniversary of the Briagolong Bush Band. The band played to a packed house with some former band members back for the night and many new and old fans enjoying the music.



If you missed the show the Briagolong Bush Band will be playing at a Bush Dance at the Newry Hall on Saturday 18th October, 6 -9pm. Food available A real family event at \$5 per head, children under 16 free.



The next concert at the Valencia Creek Hall will be on Thursday 13th November with the Canadian Bluegrass Band the **TONE RANGERS**. They are the headline act at this year's Mountaingrass Festival.

More details later.

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

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

The Valencia Creek Friday Night Happy Hour is always lots of fun at the Valencia Hall. The next Happy Hour will be on Friday 7th November from 5-7pm. Just bring a drink and some nibbles to share. Everyone is most welcome.



Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross

At our meeting on Tuesday 30th September at the Boisdale Stables we organised the celebration for 110 years of Red Cross in Briagolong and the presentation of long service awards to many members. **The event will be an afternoon tea at the Briagolong Hall on Thursday 6th November, 2pm.**

Four of our members are due for their 60 years' service medals, a huge achievement.

We mourn the passing of Elsie Allen, a dedicated member for over fifteen years.

I have been given a large box of knitted squares that need joining together for knee rugs for disadvantaged people, if you could help, please contact me on the number below.

For enquiries contact Helen Montague 0448 349 42

Maffra Agricultural Show on Saturday 25th October

This a year's theme is **The Beet Goes On**, seeing Boisdale was one of the biggest sugar beet growing areas locally we need to support all the hard work that goes on to creating the show. Schedules are available locally.



St George's Anglican Church, Boisdale

A wonderful Blessing of the Pets Service was held on Sunday 28th September at the church. Lots of people attended with Rev. Tim blessing seven dogs and three cats. A light lunch served on the lawns outside was enjoyed by all and even the neighbour's heifers joined in to view the proceedings.



Louise Blencowe and Joy Morley, Church wardens.

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

Everyone is welcome no matter age or ability.

For more information, please contact

Judy on 0400 443 167.

Boisdale Public Hall

The Hall Committee mourn the passing of Elsie Allen, our former secretary / treasurer for 25 years, she will be greatly missed, and it is fitting that her funeral will be conducted at the hall she loved and supported for all those years.

Boisdale Hall is available for bookings please contact

Samantha White via Mob. **0428 549 045**

or email: boisdalepublichall@gmail.com

Judy Traill, Chair - 0400 443 167

The next Friday Night Happy Hour on 17th October from 5 – 7pm may be held at the Boisdale Hall due to a booking at the Stables.
Please check the Hall and Stables Facebook sites for more updates.

Rachel Dawkins' lambs are just so cute!



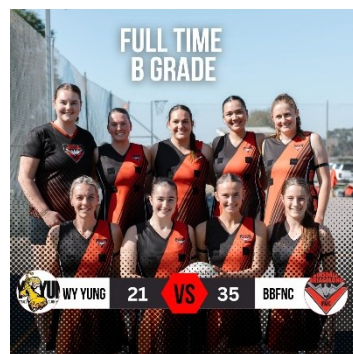
Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club

WowWee, what a month it was for BBFNC at the EGFNL finals. We had four netball teams hit the court - A Grade, undefeated B Grade, C Grade, and undefeated D Grade and one football team, our mighty Reserves.

The club came in hot and walked away with three premiership cups on the day.

B Grade smashed it with a 35–21 win over Wy Yung, and D Grade followed up with a dominant 50–33 victory. Both teams were undefeated and absolutely unstoppable. Every single game was tight, fierce, and full of heart, and we couldn't be prouder of our C and A Grade team for making it to the finals and leaving everything out there.

Then came our Reserves footy boys—who meant business from the first whistle. They broke the spell with a huge win, 8.12 (60) to 5.8 (38), showing the grit and grind they've carried all season.



With that win, BBFNC has now brought home five cups this year—Youth Girls, Women's, B Grade Netball, D Grade Netball, and Reserves Football.

From the netball

courts to the footy field, BBFNC has proven what it means to be a Bomber.

This year's finals will go down in club history. Massive congratulations to every player, coach, and supporter—you've done us proud.

Chellce Ward

Ed: Thankyou Chellce for your reports through out the season. What a fantastic Club.



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

Community Bank Maffra & District

The warmer weather is here, and we held a community BBQ to celebrate. Maffra put on a sunny day with music from the Maffra Municipal Band.

The past month has seen some staff changes. Kirsty is on maternity leave with her new baby boy.

Reece and Erin have settled in well and become part of the team.

Reece; What motivated you to apply to work at Community Bank Maffra & District?

I have been a customer for a long time, I visited the branch regularly, loved the customer service and the vibe overall so I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the team! Giving back to the

community is also important to me.

Erin; What motivated you to apply to work at Community Bank Maffra & District? I wanted to move closer to family and return to a customer focused role.

Make sure you say hello to Reece and Erin next time you're in the branch.

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

Bank Opening hours: M-W 9.30- 4pm, Thurs. 9.30- 5pm and Fri. 9.30- 4pm. Offering a full range of services and great customer service.



Boisdale & District Progress Assoc. and Boisdale Stables

Both the Progress Assoc. and the Stables Sub committee are saddened with the passing of Elsie Allen, a long-standing member of both committees, including Chair of the Stables committee during the redevelopment phase. Our thoughts are with all the family at this time.

We also note with sadness the death of Remo Salce.

Remo was a wonderful woodworker and restored an old Baltic pine cupboard that was in the Stables. Our thoughts are with Mary and the family.

We will organize a working bee prior to November as we have several



bookings in that month.

Friday Night Happy Hour may need to be held at the Boisdale Hall on Friday 17th October due to a booking at the Stables.

We wish Laura Savige and Bill Harvey all the best for the imminent arrival of their new baby.

For bookings and enquiries please contact **Helen 0448 349 420** or **Laura Savige 0459 076 069** or email boisdalestables@outlook.com

Helen Montague, Chair - 0448 349 420

The Birdman of Boisdale

AZURE KINGFISHER

The **azure kingfisher** (*Ceyx azureus*) is a small kingfisher in the river kingfisher subfamily, Alcedininae.

The azure kingfisher measures 17–19 cm (6.7–7.5 in) in length, and the male weighs 29–32 g (1.0–1.1 oz) while the female is slightly heavier at 31–35 g (1.1–1.2 oz).

It is a very colourful bird, with deep blue to azure back, a large white to buff spot on the side of the neck and throat, rufous-buff with some blue-violet streaks on the breast and flanks. The feet are red with only two forward toes. The lores (the region between the eye and the bill) are white and inconspicuous except in front view, where they stand out as two large white eye-like spots which may have a role in warding off potential predators.

The habitat of the azure kingfisher includes the banks of vegetated creeks, lakes, swamps, tidal estuaries, and mangroves. It is common in the north of its range, tending to uncommon in the south. It is mostly sedentary but may migrate seasonally.



The azure kingfisher's diet consists of small fish, shrimps, amphipods, and freshwater yabbies, water beetles, spiders, locusts, and small frogs or tadpoles.

The breeding season is from and from August to February in southern Australia, sometimes with two broods. The nest is in a chamber at the end of a 1 m (3 ft 3 in) long burrow in an earthen creek bank.

A clutch of 4–6 white, rounded, glossy eggs, is laid. Both parents incubate the eggs for 20–22 days and then feed the hatchlings for a further 3 to 5 weeks. The nests are occasionally destroyed by floods, and their contents may be taken by the brown snake.

The azure kingfisher is usually silent, but makes a sharp, squeaky call when breeding. Its voice is a high-pitched, shrill "pseet-pseet", often in flight.

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



Boisdale Consolidated School (BCS)

Term 4 commences on Monday 6th October. Further school news in the next edition.

Belinda Marshall, Principal. Phone 51454391.

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.
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