

THE BRIDGE

March 2020

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

The Editor

It is hard to comprehend the vagaries of the weather and the changes from fire to rain.

Change is always occurring and not always sad as some valued local residents make changes to their circumstances. Their efforts and commitments to our area have been much appreciated.

We greatly appreciate the newsletter grant from WSC to enable us to produce and distribute The Bridge.

Ken & Helen

Jumping for Jenni



At the end of February Jenni Gray, Boisdale local and treasurer of the Boisdale and District Progress Association and Stables Sub-Committee, retired after working for 42 years in the banking industry.

In these days of part time employment and technological change it's a rare feat to be in the one industry, with the one employer for that long. Jenni began work on 8th February 1978 at the State Bank in Heyfield as "very nervous 16 year old". Her work life then revolved around Heyfield, Sale and Maffra where she has retired as Branch Manager of the Commonwealth Bank.

Jenni says she has seen many changes in technology over the years. Everything was manual when she started, staff would have to stay back to calculate the June interest on every eligible account and post it on an old Burroughs Machine. All account entries were hand written and they used to do exchanges with the other Banks.

Its mind boggling to think of the way technology has evolved since Jenni started and she says that keeping up with these changes has been the most challenging part of her work life. She has met many people from all walks of life and has always prided herself on her customer service skills. She really enjoyed helping people achieve their financial goals, especially purchasing their first home. Jenni says that for young people there is so much opportunity within the financial

sector to develop and grow not only in the retail, but other areas including IT, financial planning, marketing, or International, just to name a few. The world is their oyster and they can go where ever their desire takes them and be suitably rewarded. Overall it is a rewarding job and she has enjoyed the many years she has spent in banking.

The best part of her job she says were the people she worked beside over those many years. She has made lifelong friends and also felt like part of the family with her fellow workers. It was great camaraderie and she remembers at Christmas time they would have cherry pip spitting competitions in the strongroom which were very competitive!

Jenni has a busy time ahead and it definitely won't be a time for putting her feet up! Her first job is the 35 cubic metres of mulch she has to spread. She will be spending the first month in the garden getting ready for her daughter's wedding at the end of March. She has been married to Les for nearly 17 years, and between them they have 7 kids, all grown up now and 12 grandchildren. Jenni and Les plan to travel 6-8 months and not spend another winter in Victoria!

Beyond that Jenni is really looking forward to not getting up at 6 o'clock every morning and she will continue to spend time gardening, cooking & following her beloved Tigers.

The sad part for the local community will be that she is retiring as treasurer of the Progress Association and the Stables Sub-Committee, though she will remain a member and be involved with the Stables when she can. She has been a valued member and her work has been much appreciated. Congratulations Jenni and good luck on your well- deserved retirement!

Ed: But it means we need a new treasurer for the Boisdale & District Progress Assoc. and Stables Sub-Committee! Please let the editors know if you can assist.



Boisdale CFA

The rain is amazing!! It's so great to see the dams full, the grass green and having the majority of the big fires contained or under control. Thank you to everyone who bought a raffle ticket or gave a donation, it all helps. **The winners of the hampers are:** 1. Gippsland Precast 2. Erin Clyne 3. Gippsland Precast 4. Chenara Hunt 5. Chevy Abbot. The raffle raised \$4039 and donations \$6809, a total of \$10,848 toward the second vehicle for Boisdale CFA.

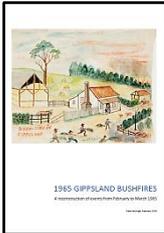
We haven't reached our goal yet, but we will continue to fundraise and apply for grants, so we can get a second vehicle for our station.

In other news we have 5 new members going through their fire-fighting training. We are always looking for new members, you can either become a fire fighting member or a non-fire-fighting member. Volunteering is great for the soul and it gives you the opportunity to really make a difference. Anyone over the age of 16 can apply to join. Contact our Training Officer Dee Dorber 0405 916 742 or boisdalecfa@gmail.com

Tim Crooke (Sec.)

Valencia Creek CFA

Valencia Creek CFA, with assistance from Valencia Hall Committee and DELWP, supported the very successful commemorative event for the 55th anniversary of the 1965 Bushfires that impacted our region. The function was held at the Valencia Creek



Hall on Sunday 1 March. Peter McHugh has written a comprehensive history of the fires, which was launched at the event.

Over 120 people attended, including former residents and those from Bruthen and other communities who

were also impacted at the time. The booklet is available from Peter on 0417 035 506 for \$20 (\$25 if posted). An electronic version is also available.

Part of the event was the presentation of service medals to Valencia Creek CFA members by Acting CFA Operations Manager Paul Taylor and Valencia Captain David Montague. The medals represent 640 years of active CFA service from the twenty four members receiving awards.



BOISDALE GARDEN CLUB

On Saturday 14 March at 2 p.m. our Club will be visiting the home of Mr. Gary Roberts in Maffra to view his beautiful tubulous begonias and to find out how to grow and look after them. Afterwards we will have afternoon tea at the Carpenter Street Cafe. New always welcome members are. Further details contact **Joy 5145 4225**

Boisdale Common Effluent System

Work began in late February to separate the storm water from the existing common effluent system to comply with operating conditions set by the EPA. The contractor is Clint Kelly Excavation and they will be in contact with each property prior to commencement of works. It is anticipated that works will take approximately 10 weeks to complete.

For details contact Lucy Spooner, Project Engineer at Wellington Shire, 51423091 or contractor representative Clint Kelly, 0428407007.

Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club

On behalf of the Boisdale Briagolong Football Netball Club, I'd like to invite the local Boisdale community to join us as we prepare for season 2020. Over the summer, the Club was excited to be able to regain Josh Stubbe's services as the senior football coach for another year. Last year, Josh guided the senior football team to its first grand final appearance in almost 20 years, and we're hoping that he can go one better this season. Jason Langshaw will also remain as our Reserve's coach and he'll be attempting to go for back-to-back premierships wins after taking home the chocolates last year.

Turning our attention to our female teams, successful dual-premiership coach, Kenny Marshall, will continue to lead the women's football side, still undefeated after two seasons; can he again guide the players through another flawless season and go the three-peat? And, Jason Miller will again look after the coaching duties for the youth girls football team and with very little change in the teams' personnel, and another season under their belts, we are expecting big things from them as well. Belinda Marshall will also continue as the Women's Football Manager and Club Vice President. In netball, Kylie Brown and Sarah Corbell will handle co-ordination duties whilst Sarah Gardiner will coach our A Grade side. Additionally, Renee Smith, Sarah Wood, Michelle McQuillen, Rachel & Elly Weatherly and Lorelle McQuillen will be responsible for looking after our B, C, D, Under 17 and Under 15 sides.

With the season for all our teams due to kick off on the weekend 18-19th April, our teams are all hitting the training track already and a couple of practice games have been scheduled to be played, at the Boisdale Recreation Reserve, in the coming weeks – the first against Yinnar on the 14th of March and the following week we will come up against old rivals, Cowwarr FNC. After the game, the Club will be hosting a hi-tac; if anyone is interested in joining in the fun, and purchasing a \$30 all-inclusive ticket, please feel free to contact me on ryan@gippsport.com.au.

Also, next month, on Saturday 4th of April, the Club/Recreation Reserve Committee will be hosting a free FAMILY/COMMUNITY DAY which will include market stalls, activities for children, live music and more. We'd like to invite all local community members to come join us.

Finally, I'd like to make mention of our loyal sponsors, volunteers and supporters – the Club truly values our sponsors and the financial support they provide the Club; equally valued is the loyalty and hard work of the many volunteers and supporters. Without this support, and effort, the BBFNC can't survive as a successful club and would struggle to be a competitive force. Remember that success is not just measured by a premiership flag on the wall; equally significant is the depth of commitment that comes from those who put in and what the Club is able to offer in return. Once again, thank-you to all and welcome in anticipation of a successful year on and off the field.

Ryan Evens

The Boisdale & District History Group

is currently assisting the Club with scanning, cataloguing and reproducing the BBFNC photos so they can be re-displayed in the Clubrooms and Corporate Box.

We are setting up a display of early football teams and have a photo of the 1884 and 1915-20's Boisdale Team. The photo we have of the 1939 Premiership team (pictured) is actually the 1931 Boisdale team, if you happen to have a photo of the 1939 Premeirship Team please contact Helen on 0448 349 420 and we can scan a copy for the Club.



1931 Team (not 1939 as originally thought)

1939 Grand final team players

Drought Relief Crew

The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has received Drought Grant money from the Victorian State Government via DELWP. This money is being used to employ farmers, farm workers and individuals affected by the drought to undertake a range of environmental projects and public good projects. Ryan Evens put in for the works for the Recreation Reserve, the Boisdale Hall and Stables to the Wellington Shire Council.

The community of Boisdale has been very fortunate over the past few weeks to have the services of the Drought Relief Crew undertake works around the town. This team of hard working individuals lead by a great team leader in Rory Smith, has completed the inside painting of the Football Club's new change room facilities and undertake a great cleaned up job around the oval. At the Stables they shifting stored goods, timber etc. in preparation for the toilet construction, plus a thorough clean up inside. The Hall was

thoroughly cleaned, with the windows looking great. The crew will be back in a few weeks to assist with the layout of the new hall garden. The weather went from extremes with heat, humidity and rain, but that didn't stop them. The community and local organisations are very appreciative of the Drought Relief Crew for their efforts, Ryan Evens and Bodye Darvill, Coordinator Community Committees, Wellington Shire Council. Thank you for a great job.

Farewell Bob & Kerrie Miller



Ed: Bob & Kerrie are relocating to Maffra and plan to spend much of their time travelling. Bob has been one of our wonderful town lawn mower people for many years and both have supported our community activities and events. They will be missed from the community.

Kerrie writes:

I moved to Boisdale the end of 1987 with my first husband, Keith Patterson and our two boys, Ryan and Lachlan. We lived next door to the shop where Ray and Mona Brideson lived. Keith was a policeman working in Sale. We chose Boisdale following our move from Melbourne as my mother Dorothy Jessep (nee Clayton) was born and raised in Boisdale and Maffra. As a child we often visited family members, including Marshall (Bill Jessep's father) and Gladys and Claude Tatterson (Dad's Aunt and Uncle) in the Boisdale Butcher Shop, so we were familiar with Boisdale and the community. We bought the house we are now in 1989.

When we moved to Boisdale the butcher shop was operating, as was the local store with groceries and fuel. Most the farms were dairy farms with a few market gardens sneaking in here and there. The town was full of young families, with lots of kids everywhere. The kids all played together, running through everyone's yard. Street Tiggy was a favourite. On our first night in Boisdale Marion Killeen brought over a casserole and a firm friendship was started. I remember when all the kids in town came down with chicken pox. Poor Marion volunteered to look after my kids as I was working. She had a house full of kids all at varying stages of chicken pox. A valiant effort!! Fun times with Gary and Colleen Crawford, Kevin and Marion Killeen, Ray and Mona Brideson, all the badminton crew and the football balls and parties it was a great time to live and play in Boisdale.

The football club was the focal point of the town and our main social activity and both Keith and I were involved in all aspects of the club. I was secretary for a

while. Everyone knew each other and they were very protective of each other. April 19th 1990 the flood hit. It devastated our town, but also rallied the town. It brought out the best and the worst in people.

I remember going out for dinner at the Newry Pub only to be accused of wasting donated money, that if we could afford to eat out, we did not need assistance.

There was \$34,000 worth of damage done to my home. It had been swept off its stumps and left on an angle. Keith and I split up two week after the flood. So my memories of the time are full of fear and trauma. Service organisations were fabulous and the town rallied to protect themselves. I felt particularly loved and protected as everyone came together to assist myself and the boys to get on with our lives and make a new start.

The hall has great memories for me as I played D Grade badminton there. Training nights and playing nights were full of laughter and fun. The people were great. Playing in the little rural halls all over the region was so good. I think it was a loss to the communities when it moved to the stadium.

Robert and I married in 1995 and he moved in with his two daughters, Nicole and Tamara and son, Nathan and we began our life together as a family.

I have seen the town change from young families with growing children, to older residents and the kids moving on to their own lives. I hope the pendulum is swinging back now and more families will return to add youth and vitality to the town. The Christmas Tree BBQ and games at the hall each year were great fun. Santa arriving on the Fire truck was a highlight of the event.

For our own family we have had celebrated all of life's milestones in and around this house. Robert and I brought our two families together to make one big family in 1995. We laughed, cried, celebrated and commiserated with each other over the past 25 years within these walls. We were lucky to have my mum live here with us for 12 years before her passing. I rejoice that we had this time with her and were able to share our lives so intimately with her.

We have had fantastic neighbours all over the town and we still miss Joyce Clarkson. She was a wealth of garden knowledge and truly good person.

Over the years we have had some fun times with neighbours so much so that Robert is no longer allowed to drink red wine with Duncan Malcolm. It can get very messy.

For the girls 18th birthday they had put a notice in the common room at school inviting anyone who wanted to come along. Needless to say that the expected 30-40 people, turned into 150+. It was still a great night and most were well behaved.

Because the community looked after us when we were in need we instilled in our kids that they had to give back to the community. Hence the mowing of the Church and the playground started. It is something I think he will miss when we move, though he doesn't think so. He now mows from the 80k sign down to the playground and inside, as well our own home. He also

slips in and mows lawns for people to help out. I think he is pretty amazing as he does not expect thanks, he just likes the town to look neat and tidy.

The future and what it holds for us:

We have bought our RV, Tingara, and hope to travel around Australia, visiting our kids and grandkids as well as seeing what is happening in our country. This year I am still working at Uniting and Robert is teaching swimming as we move into our new home in Maffra and set it up as a low maintenance home to come home to between our travels.

It has not been an easy decision to sell up and move as we will miss Boisdale, the community, the people, the view and of course, my lovely home that has held me safe and provided a loving home to raise our beautiful blended family. Kerrie Miller

Ed: Best wishes to Bob & Kerrie for the future and for their adventures.



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Grants Available Now

Did you know that Maffra & District Community Bank have grants available for local groups or organisations that provide services to our community?

To date, we have distributed \$112,460 in grants, donations and sponsorships. The funding has been made to a diversified group of recipients including hospitals, schools, kindergartens, sporting clubs, special interest groups, town bands, museums, agricultural and historical societies, just to name a few. We have also supported our local RSL, Rotary and Lions groups with various funding initiatives.

Is your group or organisation looking for funding for your next project, a project that will benefit the wider community? If the answer is "yes", you can email us at admin@mdcfs.com.au to request an application or drop into our branch at 146 Johnson Street, Maffra and our friendly staff will be happy to help you.

Grants are considered and awarded at regular intervals over the year, and we are always accepting applications. We will consider any reasonable request from amounts as small as \$100 to \$10,000 or more.

The Board of Directors, Branch Manager and Staff at Maffra & District Community bank are excited to see how we can assist our local communities strengthen and grow in 2020.

Rob Christie - Chairman - Board of Directors

Boisdale-Briargolong Red Cross

The Red Cross March Appeal is currently under way. Red Cross has supported multiple programs throughout Australia for over 100 years and is always there in times of distress. Please support our local Red Cross Group with this annual appeal.

Contact details for the editors:

Email Ken Roberts at mik212@hotmail.com or phone 0437 109 562. If you would like an electronic copy in colour email Helen@ dhmontague@bigpond.com
Articles are due in by the last week of each month.