

# THE BRIDGE

## FEBRUARY- MARCH 2024

LINKING THE COMMUNITIES OF BOISDALE, BUSHY PARK AND VALENCIA CREEK

### From the Editor

Due to the editor taking holidays in February we have decided to combine the February and March editions of The Bridge. I hope you have all enjoyed a good start to 2024, even with the heatwave, destructive winds, loss of mobile phone coverage and power outages!

Our thoughts are with other communities who have been heavily impacted. A timely reminder that we need to update our Community Emergency Plan and check our own personal emergency plans.

There has been a lot happening over the past two months, hopefully much of it will be covered here so enjoy catching up on our local news.

### Editor Helen

#### Christmas 2023 Celebrations:

The **Boisdales Community Christmas Breakup** was held at the Stables on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December with locals enjoying catching up before the Christmas rush.

Gift vouchers were given to our local lawn mowing volunteers: Judy Traill, Bob Newman, Louise Blencowe and Judy Dalton in appreciation of the work they do around the township.

The Gourmet Hamper raffle was held over until the following Tuesday as the Stables Committee hosted around 70 Maffra Men's and Women's Probus members for a Christmas afternoon tea. Jean Heasley won the hamper and Bernice Lee was the winning bidder on the decorated Christmas Tree.

The **Valencia Creek Christmas Tree** on Friday 15 December was a great night at the hall with lots of children and families present. Kids' games, Santa arriving on the fire truck and the raffling of Christmas hampers added to the night. Many thanks to Danielle, Jarrah and their helpers for organising the night.

**Ed: Wonderful to have our younger community members so involved and enthusiastic.**



### Congratulations

**TO REX CANDY on receiving a Meritorious Award in the Australia Day 2024 Honours List.**

**From his citation:** Rex has been a leader in innovative river management and has been recognised for 25 years making East Gippsland's rivers healthier and its communities more resilient.

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) congratulates long-time employee Rex Candy for being awarded the Public Service Medal in the Australia Day 2024 Honours List (Meritorious Awards) for his contributions to waterway management. Rex has led the change in waterway management practices during his career with the East Gippsland CMA.

He has strongly advocated for a new approach to river restoration and has been instrumental in a change that has made our rivers healthier.

This has included flood and bushfire recovery, providing technical assessments on flood behaviour, and leading the stabilisation of rivers across the state.

**Ed: Well-deserved Rex.**

**ALSO, TO ROB CHRISTIE**, our local historian on the publication of his book **'A Convenient Scapegoat - Angus McMillan and the Gippsland massacres'**.

A well-researched and very informative read. See the review of Rob's book under the Boisdales & District History Group report on page 3.

Sad that people are still vandalising the Bushy Park Cairn. It happened again this week, they really need to read Rob's book.

The police are now involved, so if you have any information, please contact Stuart Brewer at the Briagolong Police Station.

As previously stated in this publication, we are hoping to create an Indigenous acknowledgement site around the cairn area so that all aspects of the local history can be told. This is being undertaken with Indigenous representation and council support, so we invite you to work with us on this project.

**Bushy Park Cairn Working Group.**

**VALE - KEITH ALLEN.** Condolences on the passing of Keith to his wife Margaret and their family, brother and brother-in-law to Jim and Elsie Allen. A local lad, who grew up and went to school in Boisdales and was part of the local community in his early years.







**From our roving reporter in Antarctica:**  
Peter Caithness from Valencia Creek has been selected to work in Antarctica for the next twelve months.

You can follow Peter's adventures via the link below:

<https://peterinantarctica.blogspot.com/>



*I have now met all of the other expeditioners going to stay with me at Mawson Station (there are 21 of us) and so far they seem like a great group. So for now we have the last few weeks of training. Over the last two months, apart from our technical training ( Radio Communications, Satellite Comms, Radar Systems,*

*Locator beacons, Printers etc.) we have completed fire training, training in monitoring changes to the earth's magnetic fields, training in monitoring the atmosphere for radiation as part of the International Treaty monitoring the use of Nuclear weapons, introductions to Antarctic weather and survival, medical briefings, had our teeth checked and any dentistry required completed. The roles of the 21 people heading to Mawson Station with me are as follows: Station Leader (1), Station Chef (1), Station Supply Officer (1), Doctor (1), Field Training Officer (1), Trades Supervisor (1), Communication Technicians (2), Electricians (3), Plumbers (3), Carpenters (3), Mechanics (2), Bureau of Meteorology Staff (2).*

*ANARE is Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition. Mawson Station was established in 1954 and is the longest continuously operating station south of the Antarctic Circle. It is Australia's most westerly continental station (the other two being Davis and Casey Stations) and is situated about 5200km south west of Perth. Mawson Time is 5 hours behind Australian Eastern Standard Time.*



### **Boisdale Garden Club**

A very successful first meeting for the year at the home of Stewart and Denise Olston's home in Maffra. A wonderful garden of veggies, fruit trees, colourful flowers/plants (even on the nature strip).

Next meeting is on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at Kilmany Park at 1.30pm** (Note change of day). Afternoon tea and a tour through the house \$15.00 to be paid in cash on the day. Numbers are needed for catering as soon as possible.

**Please contact Joy Morley 0429 036 999 or Kaye on 0458 411 717 by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March if you will be attending.**

### **PART TIME POSITION AT FARM EXPRESS SALADS, BOISDALE OFFICE.**

The candidate would need to learn our Farmsoft software and be good with numbers and general admin tasks. Hours would be from about 9am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

**Contact Angela Candeloro**

61 3 5367 4861 / 0412 310 021 or email

[angela@tripodfarmers.com.au](mailto:angela@tripodfarmers.com.au)



### **Boisdale CFA**

Boisdale Brigade had a busy end to 2023 with a house fire, illegal burn offs and our Community Christmas BBQ. The BBQ was a great day, with members and trucks from five other local brigades attending. It was great to see lots of kids (hopefully future volunteer firefighters) spraying water and exploring the trucks. A big thanks to Maffra Community Sports Club, Maffra & District Community Bank, Maffra 4x4 and Truck Centre and Woolworths for their support and making it possible to provide the BBQ for free.

We plan to make this a yearly fixture, but earlier in December so it doesn't clash with other Christmas



events.

If your New Years Resolution was to do more volunteering, we can help, we are always looking for new members. There is a role for everyone as a CFA volunteer. Not all roles in a brigade require you to

attend an emergency. Please call our Captain, Paul on 0418 354 224 or email [boisdalecfa@gmail.com](mailto:boisdalecfa@gmail.com)

**Tim Croke, Boisdale CFA Secretary.**

### **Valencia Creek CFA**

Training continues at Valencia Creek in ongoing preparation for the summer season. The new CFA marquee has been used over the Christmas period to provide CFA promotional material for residents.



Fire restrictions remain in place and with some possible dry weather predicted make sure your fire plan and preparations are in place.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property> **David Montague (Captain)**

**Contact your CFA Captains for further information.**

**Boisdale** - Paul Chilton 0418 354 224

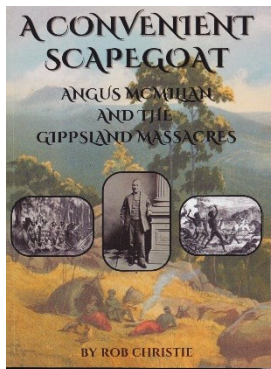
**Valencia Creek** - David Montague 0427 454 207



## Boisdale & District History Group (B&DHG)

**The Bushy Park Cairn Group, part of the B&DHG congratulate Rob Christie on the publication of his book:**

*A Convenient Scapegoat - Angus McMillan and the Gippsland massacres.*



Was Angus McMillan really the 'Butcher of Gippsland' or was he just the fall guy, a convenient scapegoat whose name has become unjustly associated with a dark time in Gippsland's history? In his book Rob Christie has meticulously researched and verified evidence that doesn't exonerate McMillan entirely but proves that he was not the leader

and instigator of the atrocities suffered by the Indigenous populations of Gippsland.

The book explores further evidence and delves deeper into the background of McMillan's place in the history of our region. He shows that the McMillan monuments are an important part of Gippsland history, that he was one of many responsible for the demise of Gippsland's Indigenous people, involved in the notorious massacres, but not deserving of the title of mass murderer. Well worth a read Rob's book is available at bookshops, newsagents and other retail outlets, or contact Rob Christie on 0488 759 065.

**Part of a review of the book by Rachel Dawkins.**

**Boisdale & District History Group** is also working with



Boisdale Consolidated School to research fundraising to repair to the white ant damage to the original Boisdale State School building located at the school.

Formerly the Prep and Grade 1 rooms, the building is now

used as the popular Community Playgroup venue. The building is currently surplus to the school's maintenance program, so funding for the repairs will have to be found from other sources.

So, we may be calling on past students for support. See Belinda's update in the Boisdale Consolidated School report on page 6.



## Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall

**Happy Hour on the first Friday of each month from 5-7pm is proving very popular.** Bring a drink and some nibbles to share and join in. Everyone is most welcome. **Next due on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

Valencia Hall has hosted several musical events recently with some great artists.

The Hall has also undertaken some building and maintenance improvements and is very appreciative of the Maffra & District Community Bank for a grant towards the renovations.



A Maffra & District Community Bank Sponsorship Presentation night will be held at the Valencia Creek Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March for all those groups who have received funding in their latest round of grants.

**AND** Valencia Hall is thrilled to announce the return of **Irish Legend ELEANOR McEVOY** on her "GIMME SOME WINE TOUR" on Easter Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. \$35 p.p. **Bookings to Garry on 0439 454 428**



Having released her 16<sup>th</sup> album "**Gimme Some Wine**" to rave reviews, Eleanor McEvoy, one of Ireland's foremost songwriters is now back on the road following the release

of her latest riveting single "**South Anne Street**".

For Hall bookings and enquiries contact **Cath Noble on 0427 149 253**

## Boisdale Public Hall & Recreation Reserve

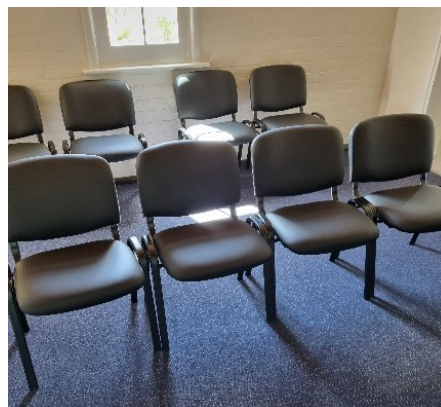
**The Boisdale Hall and the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committees** of Management have **postponed** the February 2024 meeting to **Tuesday 12th March 2024** at the Boisdale Hall commencing at 7.30pm. We would welcome new people who are interested in the local community to come along and join in. **Judy Traill, Chair 0400 443 167**

## The Boisdale Public Hall

The hall was the venue for Boisdale Consolidated School's graduation ceremony, which was a very successful night even though there was an incredible thunderstorm which led to flooding inside the hall. Thanks to all those who quickly mopped up.

The hall has received a grant from the **Wellington Shire Council, Reactivating Community Facility Volunteers Grant**

which has allowed us to purchase 12 comfortable chairs for the meeting room and a chair trolley, for which we are very appreciative.



**For Hall bookings please contact Sam White at [boisdalepublichall@gmail.com](mailto:boisdalepublichall@gmail.com) or mobile 0428 549 045**

## Boisdale Tai Chi Group

Is held at the Boisdale Hall every Wednesday morning commencing at 10.00am followed by a delicious morning tea. Our group is now preparing to publish our tried and well-tested favourite morning tea recipes.



Some of the very old recipes will include little insights into how they have been passed down through generations. We are also very lucky to have original artworks by Gail Noble.

We have received funding through the Maffra and District Community Bank to print the recipe books.

## Boisdale & District Progress Assoc.

**Will hold a combined Boisdale & District Progress Assoc. and a Boisdale Stables meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at the Boisdale Stables.** Come along and have your say on local issues.

The Progress Assoc. is the auspice body for The Bridge newsletter, the Boisdale & District History Group, the Boisdale & District Community Emergency Plan and also holds the title for the Boisdale Stables on behalf of the local community.

We are working with the Boisdale Recreation Reserve Committee for a shade shelter for the Boisdale Playground, if any of our local families who use the facility have ideas around designs please contact Helen 0448 349 420 or Judy 0400 443 167.

**Raquel Harris (Chair) 0411 051 295**



## Boisdale Stables

It was a busy time for the Stables before Christmas, a huge thankyou to all who assisted with setting up and catering for

the Maffra Probus booking in December for 70 people.

**Don't forget Friday Night Happy Hour is continuing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month (until winter time) from 5-7pm.** These evenings are proving very popular and lots of fun. **Next one will be on Friday 15 March.**



We are also having a visit from residents from McDonald Wing and Stretton Park on 15 March at 1.30pm for afternoon tea and as per the Progress report above, a Stables committee meeting will be held on **Wed. 27 March at 7pm at the Stables.**

Laura has been busy showing prospective wedding parties through the Stables and we have quite a few bookings for this and next year. She has also compiled a Stables Event Vendor Directory, which will be a valuable tool for people hiring

the venue. A huge thankyou to Laura for all her great work.

Do you have any suggestions for local sites for wedding photos that we could add to the directory?

This seems to be a frequent query from couples.

Even if you have a great view, interesting building or historic tree on your property we could include a fee to cover any inconvenience to you as the property owner.

**For Stables bookings contact Laura 0459 076 069**

[boisdalestables@outlook.com](mailto:boisdalestables@outlook.com)

**or Helen, Secretary 0448 340 420 for general enquiries**

## Boisdale-Briagolong Football Netball Club



After a much-needed break from football and netball, it is time for us to get back to the grind for 2024. Lots has been happening in the background at BBFNC over the past month, so here is a quick run-down of what we have been getting up to.

Jason Miller will be leading our Senior Female Football team for the 2024 season, after an epic end to last year we know Jason is raring to go for 2024!

Pre-season training kicked off on Wednesday 31 January at 5:30pm. If you are interested in playing or know someone who is, please let them know! This is open to all youth and senior female football players. We are still on the hunt for a Youth Girls coach, please reach out to a committee member or Megan Lee if you are interested!

Our male footballers have been well and truly getting stuck into training. With 20-30 odd numbers hitting the track each week, the team will be fit and fiery by the time round one comes around.

We welcome the following netball coaches to BBFNC for 2024: Under 15s - Hannah Pratt & Zara Flynn, Under 17s - Taryn Cunningham & Lindsay Coridas, D Grade - Mollie Huts, C Grade - Shona Osborn & Adelle Kelly, B Grade - Taryn Cunningham & Chloe Orchard and A Grade - Sarah Gardiner. The Netballers have finished up netball trials and teams have been selected which we will now see them getting stuck into training from February 15th.

In other general updates you may have noticed the new electronic scoreboard is in and ready to go for round one, thanks to Ray and the team for getting this one organised.

The 2024 fixture has been released (see the Club's Facebook site) with round one kicking off on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April in Boisdale, the countdown is well and truly on to see the teams play.

As always to stay up to date on all things BBFNC head over to socials or website!

**Rachel Weatherley**

## Community lawn mowers

We greatly appreciate our town lawn mowing volunteers if you have some spare time and can assist.

**Please contact Bob Newman on 5145 4390 or Judy Trill on 0400 443 167.**





## **Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross**

Our Christmas Breakup was held at the Boisdale Stables with around 12 members enjoying a bring and share lunch.

Several new members have joined over the past 12 months and two of our members are knitting trauma teddies which are used by local emergency services and hospitals.

**We will be having a meeting and small celebration on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am at the Boisdale Hall to acknowledge Kath Amey's 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday.**

An amazing lady and a wonderful achievement. A day raffle will be held, all welcome to attend.

**Contact Helen Montague 0448 349 420 for enquiries.**

## **The Birdman of Boisdale**

### **OWLET NIGHTJAR.**



The Australian Owlet-nightjar is the smallest of the nocturnal birds (night birds) found in Australia.

Its large brown eyes are non-reflective when exposed to a torch or spotlight (other nocturnal birds give a red reflection). The Owlet-nightjar has two different plumage colourations: russet-brown (rufous), and the more common grey. In both forms the birds are paler below and are faintly barred with black. There are two wide black stripes that extend over the head from the top of the eyes and meet on the back of the neck.

The rufous form is restricted to the female birds, which, even in the grey form, tend to be more rufous-tinged than the males. The young resemble adults but have less distinct black markings.

The Australian Owlet-nightjar is one of the most common and widespread of Australia's nocturnal birds. It occurs throughout Australia and its islands, as well as southern New Guinea.

The preferred habitat is almost any tree-studded area where there are suitable hollows, although open areas are also visited. During the day it roosts in hollow branches and tree trunks. The birds form permanent bonds, and pairs occupy the same territory throughout the year.

They feed at night on a variety of insects. Birds will readily take flying prey or will pounce on prey either on the ground or in trees. Hunting takes place within a territory and normally in pairs. They watch for food while in flight, or by sitting and searching from a suitable

perch. They raise one brood per season. Both sexes construct the nest, which is a bed of green leaves, placed in a suitable tree hollow or rock crevice. Both birds also incubate the eggs and care for the chicks.

## **The Eventurers - Boisdale photographers Ian and Velta Fellowes: 0427 472 451**

**Ed: Did you realise that all the bird photos accompanying Ian's reports are all taken by him. Beautiful photography!**



## **St George's Anglican Church, Boisdale**

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Eve Service at Boisdale and we were also delighted to have a baptism in January, the first in many years. Little River Tess Cartledge, daughter to Lou and Nick was baptised wearing the 170 year old Pettigrew family christening gown.



The church building will celebrate its centenary in August this year, it began as St Patrick's in Llowalong as a memorial church to soldiers who died in WW1. Services are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11am. The Easter Sunday Service on 31 March will be at St John's Anglican Church in Maffra at 9am.

**For enquiries contact Louise Blencowe 0409 796 877**

## **Your Community Bank - Maffra & District**



Our two new junior ambassadors attended the February Board meeting to meet board members and get an overview of what's involved in a

community bank.

Casey Svenson and Millie Harbeck were the successful candidates at interviews held in December. Both will receive \$1500 towards their Year 12 studies.

Since the bank opened, we have supported local groups and organisations with over \$330,000 towards projects and infrastructure.

The opening of the Men's Shed on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February was just one

project that received support from the bank.



Congratulations to our Bank Manager Haarmoni and her partner Cal for their wedding on 3 February.

Haarmoni is now back at work and all our friendly staff are available to assist with your banking needs.

Our opening hours are Mon. Tues. Wed and Fri. 9.30am –

4pm and Thurs. 9.30am – 5pm or phone us on 5141 1999.

**Rob Christie, Board Chair**





## Boisdale Consolidated School

A positive start to the school year for BCS with 206 students enrolled, ten classes and two new teachers commencing at the school.

The school indoor swimming pool is operational once again and years 3-6 students have started their swimming program this week. The school swimming carnival was held on Friday 23rd February.



The school canteen continues with the healthy snacks and lunch options on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Check out the menu on the School's Facebook site.



As referred to in the Boisdale & District History Group report inspections have been carried out on the 'infant school' (formerly the Boisdale State School building) which is where prep support and the playgroup are held.



Following a heavy downpour some of the flooring had to be removed and some extensive termite damage was discovered. There were no active termites and there had been previous repairs to some

beams, so the department sent engineers out in January to access the structural integrity of the building. The damage extends to door jambs, windows and weatherboards.

Their report recommendations state:

- Restrict access to whole classroom.
- Engage a licensed pest controller to remove/eradicate all live termites and termite nests if not already done.

### Short term recommendations (1 to 2 months):

- Engage a registered builder to remove the floorboards to the remainder of the room to determine the full extent of termite damage.
- Once the full extent of damage has been determined, the builder is to install new H2S treated floor joists of the same size as the existing and in accordance with the timber framing code.

This will be an expensive undertaking, so we are looking at avenues to assist with funding for the repairs and also with the painting of the building.

The Community Playgroup is very popular and brings in many families from a range of areas. It is also valuable as it promotes future enrolments for the school, so we do need to address the building repair issue. We will keep the community updated.

**Belinda Marshall, Principal - 03 5145 4391**

## Briagolong Community House

Check out the Community House Facebook site for the latest programs and events or call Shae (Coordinator) on 5145 5425.

**Tired of cooking meals?** Would you like a home cooked meal delivered to your door? Chef Jodie Taylor from Briagolong is now providing private dining with weekly meal menus. **Just ring or message Jodie on 0409 529 963.**

# Easy Meals

By Jodie Taylor

Enjoy a home cooked meal, delivered straight to your door

Choose which meal you'd like or get them both!

Put your orders in on Friday for delivery Tuesday morning between 9am & 10am

Alternatively you can pick your meal up from the Briagolong Post Office before 7pm Tuesday night

Large meals \$15.00  
Small meals \$12.00

Please pay CASH on delivery, sorry no eftpos available

Menus will be available from the Community House or Post office on a monthly basis.

## Menu

Week 1

- Roast Lamb with Mint Jelly
- Rissoles & Gravy with Mash/Veggies

Order due: Friday 9th Feb  
Delivery: Tuesday 13th Feb

Week 2

- Lasagne
- Snags & Gravy with Scaloped potatoes/Veggies

Order due: Friday 16th Feb  
Delivery: Tuesday 20th Feb

Week 3

- Roast Pork & Apple Sauce
- Sweet & Sour Chicken with Rice

Order due: Friday 23rd Feb  
Delivery: Tuesday 27th Feb

Week 4

- Curried Snags
- Shepherds Pie

Order due: Friday 1st March  
Delivery: Tuesday 6th March

For all orders please call or message  
Jodie Taylor 0409529963



## The Bridge is appreciative of the Boisdale Consolidated School for the printing of this newsletter.

Articles are due in the last week of each month.

**Editor:** Helen Montague Mob: 0448 349 420 or email [dhmontague@bigpond.com](mailto:dhmontague@bigpond.com)

Proof reader Rachel Dawkins.

Contact Helen to be placed on our email distribution list for a coloured copy each month.