



The Boolarra Link

Established 1981 - Volume 42, Edition 3

Centenary Celebration time capsule unveiled



The Boolarra Community Development Group has been working on a project to renew the Centenary signage and develop a Rose Garden in Centenary Park.

With the framework for the Rose Garden completed by Strzelecki Engineering, Michael Cleaver arranged for Laurie Zeibell to assist him with the installation of the framework, and the movement of the Centenary Rock into the new garden bed. They were somewhat surprised when moving the rock to come across a time capsule that had obviously been buried there as part of the celebrations in 1984. Fortunately, the capsule was not dam-

aged. Enquiries were made with the Historical Society, who advised that the Centenary Celebration committee, including Michael Gleeson, Bluey Hibbins, Judy Webster and Ann and Paddy Morgan had prepared the time capsule. The intention was that it would be re-opened in fifty years, or 2034.

After discussions with the members of that group, it was decided that the best course of action would be to re-bury the capsule. It was also proposed that a new capsule be prepared, to be opened fifty years from now, or 2074.

The Development Group has prepared some material to go into the new capsule, including a copy of the Link and input from the Folk Festival and the Footy Club.

However, if anyone has any other items or material they think would be suitable for inclusion in

the capsule, please contact Michael Cleaver or myself, bearing in mind that the items need to be able to fit inside a length of 100 or 150 mm PVC pipe.

The two time capsules will be buried in early October. Michael has sourced some old railway sleepers with a local connection to be included in the Rose Garden, and the intention is to have a plaque with some of this story, and instructions for recovery of the time capsules at the back of the Rose Garden.

*Colin Brick,
Boolarra Community Development Group.*



Boolarra South Landcare Group

At our last working bee we readied some nest boxes for installing. There are a number of boxes available of different sizes to suit birds or possums and if you are interested and have a suitable



Koala at the Mill site on a very small tree.

tree contact Alison on 0408 992 927.

One of our group Peter Devonshire has recently retired as Chair of the Board of Latrobe Landcare Network. He was a member of the Board for 10 years. Peter oversaw the change of the Network to WGCMA and more recently to Latrobe City Council. The Board thanked Peter for his contribution over all that time.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is developing a new waterway management strategy to guide how our waterways are managed. We are interested in restoring fish habitat in the Morwell River. Floods and subsequent erosion has seriously affected the fish populations in our river and we are interested in having a survey of the fish populations and seeing what can be done to restore them.

Some of our farmers have problems with deer and have to build very high fences to try to keep them off their farms. If you are adversely impacted by deer there is a Victorian Deer Control Program identifying priority areas to minimise the impact of deer. It also aims to increase awareness, understanding and capacity to manage deer. More information can be found on the DEECA website.

Landcare is encouraging participation in a campaign 'Let's put the great back into the great outdoors'. The campaign is a great spring clean of our



*Keith putting up a nest box.
Koala at the Mill Site on a very small tree!*

your neighbourhood It is a way to take practical action before summer hits. Where do you walk, does it need a clean up? Can you tackle a roadside somewhere? This program is being launched all over Australia to encourage us to look around and see what we as individuals can do. Time to not just to say you are interested in the environment, actually do something positive to improve it and it will only take a few minutes of your time.

Denise Schiller.

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Or general contact:

info@boolarralink.org.au

Website:

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The Boolarra Link AGM

To be held on
25 October 2023
From 5.30pm
Multipurpose Building
Boolarra
All Welcome

Location:

Email: editor@boolarralink.org.au

Phone: 0488 488 354



Old Kitchen.



New Kitchen.

New Kitchen for the Boolarra Old School Museum.

Out with the old in with the new.

The Mirboo North and District Community Bank Investment Scheme Grant has provided us with funding to replace our 50-year-old kitchen unit with new, this is Stage 1 of our upgrade at the Boolarra Old School Museum. Stage 2 will be the addition of new built in two-drawer filing cabinets along the wall and a new exhibit area. This multi-function area will allow us to improve our filing system and storage area for documents, files and equipment. Don't forget our monthly Open Day is the first Sunday of the month from 2pm - 4pm at the Museum. We also have a monthly meeting at the Museum on the third Tuesday of the month at 2pm with an interesting speaker and afterwards afternoon tea. Everyone welcome.

Linda Minter.

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The Boolarra Link would like to thank our valued private and business sponsors for their continuing support.

- Strzelecki Plumbing
- Charlie Mac and Associates
- Boolarra Post Office
- Neil and Sue Clutterbuck
- Nadine and Matthew Gleeson

If you like to support this community project, The Boolarra Link with a small or bigger contribution please contact us on info@boolarralink.org.au or speak with any of our committee members.



Budger-Tea

The Budgerie Hall Committee invites the residents of Budgerie, Boolarra, Yinnar, Churchill and surrounding districts, to join us for a free morning tea every

Thursday 10:30am-12:30pm.

Come to eat, come to laugh, come together.

Proudly supported in 2023 by
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Michael Watt

The Boolarra Link Committee are deeply saddened on the passing of Michael Watt, and would like to offer our deepest condolences to Michael's family and friends.

Boolarra won't be the same without you, Michael. Rest in peace.



Boolarra and District Historical Society

As Boolarra moves on towards its 140th year, and not far from the 150th, it seemed a happy coincidence that the capsule, buried at the 1984 centenary celebrations was found in good condition as a removal of the large centenary rock to a new rose garden revealed recently. It will be replaced under the rock unopened, probably, till the 150th anniversary year. Thanks to the workers who made this important discovery. It brings back memories of a wonderful weekend in 1984.

Museum open days on the first Sunday of each month have flourished this year. Our collection of maps of the district has occupied visitors searching for property titles. Photographs of the town, early families and school pupils are very popular and one of our members is constructing a 3D model of the town and the railway as it was early last century using these maps and photographs. Speakers at our meetings these last few months have included Patrick Morgan who has just published a history of the Gippsland Catholic Diocese called 'A

Mass Kit in the Saddlebag', which follows the gradual establishment of the Catholic Church in this region from its beginnings in the 1840's to the 1970's this century. We also learnt from Marion Keogh of Yinnar of her childhood at a Molesworth Green farmhouse at Boolarra South. This farm originally belonged to the Earl family, the first settlers in that district. One of our members, Ivan Haustofer, is researching the life and farming projects that Molesworth Greene established in this district, so we are grateful for any information.

We held our AGM dinner this August and with a large group of members present it was unanimously agreed that our present committee members be kept in place: president: Edgar Owen, secretary; Denise Schiller, vice-president; Linda Minter, secretary; Tony Minter, treasurer. We thank them for their service to the society and to our community.

Boolarra and District Historical Society meets at 2pm at the Boolarra Historical Museum on the third Tuesday of each month. New members are always welcome, and information about our activities can be obtained from President Edgar Owen (5169 1566), Secretary Linda Minter (0447 996 702) and treasurer Tony Minter (0427 101 253). The Museum opens on the first Sunday of each month from 2-4pm or by appointment with the above members.

Ann Morgan.



Upper Morwell River Early Spring Wattles, by Catheryn Thompson.



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We still have a few Post Office Boxes available and remember, if you live in town then you are entitled to a reduced rate because there isn't a town mail delivery.

You may set up an email notification with us when mail is awaiting collection (Mail2Day).

Mary & Shannon & Team

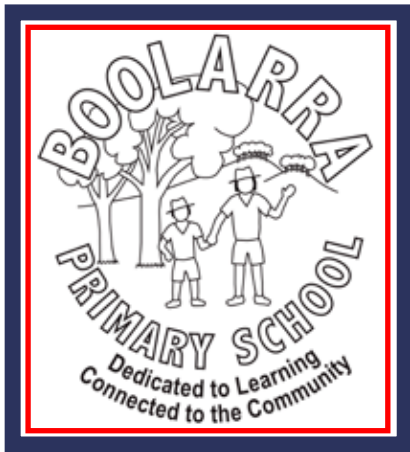
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David 0429 941 905.



Boolarra Primary School

We have had an action-packed Term 3 at Boolarra Primary School. We celebrated Book Week with a dress up day and activities led by our student leaders. Our students celebrated Science Week by completing several science activities aimed to provoke their curiosity. Students enjoyed a visit from some very cute lambs and learned about how to care for them. Our junior students were joined by children from the Boolarra Kinder to participate in a visit from the Monash University Teddy Bear Hospital and a visit from the Melbourne Museum to learn about dinosaurs. Several students represented our school at the Yinnar and District Basketball Competition. They all tried their very best and had lots of fun.

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of four new school members- our school chooks! Students are enjoying spending recess with our chooks and they are receiving lots of love and

attention. The chooks will be used to enhance the science and personal learning curriculum. Interacting with animals helps children to self-regulate and have empathy. They also help to assist social interactions with others. Boolarra Primary school is now accepting enrolments for 2024. We encourage families to view every day as an open day at Boolarra Primary school. Please contact the school office to organise a personalised tour of our school. We welcome and encourage all families to book a tour, even if you have not decided if Boolarra is the school for your child. We would love to show you around and share the wonderful work our students and staff are doing at Boolarra Primary School.

*Susan Duncan,
Principal,
Boolarra Primary School.*



Science Week.

Students with the Chooks.



Book Week.

Hungry Lamb.



Basketball Team.

Book Week.



Science Week.





BURNING ISSUES BOOLARRA CFA NEWS

September 2023

Start Summer Preparation and Planning NOW!

The first hints of spring weather are starting to show and, as always, our thoughts are turning to planning and preparation for the coming summer fire season. We are beginning our mandatory pre-season training drills and making sure our appliances, equipment and skillsets are ready for what is looking to be a warmer and drier summer with an associated fire danger risk.

Advice from CFA D27 HQ is that the 2023-2024 fire season is coming early and the development of the El Nino weather pattern means the potential is for it to be quite busy. Current climate outlooks predict that spring will be warmer and drier than normal and we know that both Queensland and NSW fire services are indicating that their fire seasons are about 6 – 8 weeks ahead of normal.

What does this mean for you? It is time to review your bushfire planning and start preparing your property for summer. Understanding the Australian Fire Danger Rating system will help you with your planning and preparation. Go to <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-fire-danger-ratings/about-fire-danger-ratings> for information. The AFDR is displayed on the signs at the corner of Monash Way and Bastin Street, and at the Post Office, and is changed every time the rating changes. We also post this information on our Facebook page (www.Facebook.com/BoolarraCFA). Follow us to keep an eye on what is going on with your local fire brigade.

Planning

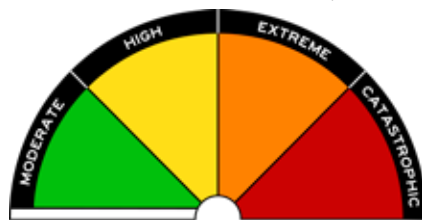
What are your plans if our community is facing the impact of fire? Who do you need to include in your plan? Will you stay or leave? Where will you go? What will you need to take with you? Thinking about these questions before the fire season means that you can create a plan that keeps you and your loved ones safe in the event of a bushfire emergency in our community. Surveys show that many Victorians do not have a bushfire plan and will wait until they see smoke or flames or wait for an emergency warning before they act. In many cases this means it is too late to leave. Each of us need to take some responsibility for keeping ourselves safe and having a plan is one way you can do this. When you have a plan, make sure that all members of your home know what the plan is. There are some more tips on making your bushfire plan on the CFA website:

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan>

Prepare your property

There are a lot of things you can do now to prepare your property for the summer fire season. Clear fine fuels such as leaf litter, twigs and bark from around buildings and fences. Check and clean your gutters on a regular basis. Prune back trees and shrubs near your house and keep the lawns mowed. Store fuels, firewood and gas bottles away from the house. If you live on acreage, create a firebreak along your perimeter fencing. Make sure that fire trucks can fit up driveways by trimming trees and bushes – remember a fire truck needs a minimum width of 3.5m and height of 4m to gain access. Make sure your property number is visible and easy to read, including at night.

The CFA website has a range of templates and advice to assist you with planning and preparation for summer www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare, or you can drop into the fire station on Sundays between 9am and 10am to have a chat and collect information that will help you.

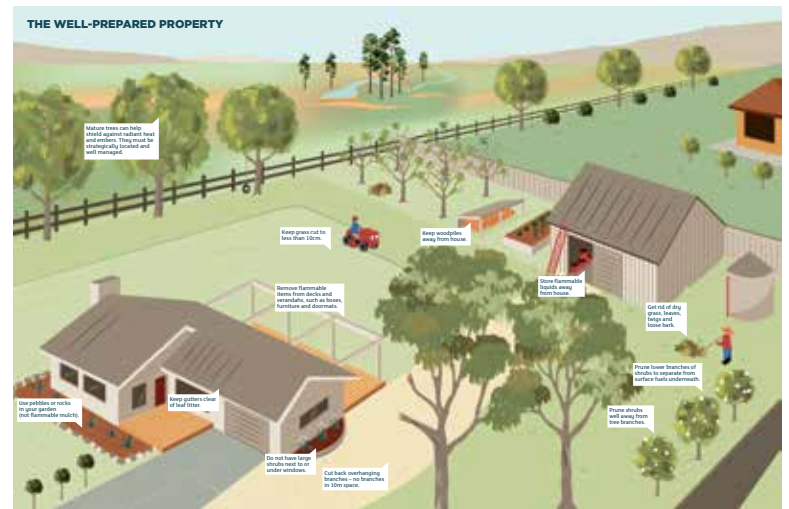


Community Information Sessions

The Brigade will be running two Community Information sessions in identified high risk areas of our community on Saturday 23 September. At 10am, we will have an information van at the intersection of Todd's Road and Darlimurla Road to chat with any residents who live to the north-west of Boolarra township (Darlimurla Road, Todd's Road, Bunderra Drive and Macintosh's Road area). From 1pm on the same day, we will have the information van at the old Scout Hall site on the corner of Bastin and Young Streets, targeting residents on the southern edge of the town abutting the Old Mill Site (Foster Road, Bastin Street, Young Street area). Advice and information specific to these areas will be provided to residents to assist them in planning and preparing for summer, but all interested community members are most welcome to come along.

Brigade Training

Brigade members continue to train each fortnight using all the appliances located at our stations to develop and maintain our skills. We often have members from Yinnar South join us as well. We are focusing our training on the Chief Officer's mandated skillsets – crew protection and Hazardous Tree awareness, as well as grass and bush firefighting, draughting from static water supplies, navigation and communication. We are



also refreshing our crew leadership and incident management skills and supporting newer members to develop these skillsets. We continue to take part in Group Training exercises, recently hosting several brigades at a session at the Boolarra Football Ground.

Firefighting Water Tanks installed

Recently, Latrobe City Council supported the installation of three 20,000 litre water tanks at strategic locations to support firefighting efforts. One of these is located on Budgeree Road, and the other two are in Yinnar South at Peel Drive and the intersection of Whitelaw's Track and Explorer's Road. Members from Boolarra, Yallourn North and Yinnar South ferried water to fill these as they were installed so that we have water sources in the event of a fire.

Give us a Hand – join our Brigade

Our Brigade is always on the lookout for new members and there are many roles that people can fill. We always need operational firefighters – especially people who can turn out during the day but there are also a number of support roles that can utilise the skillsets that people in our community have. If you are new to Boolarra, it is a great way to meet community minded people and get to know the local area. If you have some spare time, volunteering with CFA is a way you can fill that. We understand that volunteers give what they can, when they can, and our brigade is friendly, welcoming and inclusive. We provide a supportive space to learn new skills and we manage to have a quite a bit of fun along the way. Please pop in at the station any Sunday between 9 and 10 am and have a chat to us about how

you can give us a hand to keep our community safe, or contact the Captain, Simon Pickett 0447 696 631 or First Lieutenant, Rob Franssen 0439 327 104.

*Di Billingsley,
Community
Education Officer.*



Grafting repair exercise at Yinnar Community Garden

I visited the Yinnar Community Garden on a clear and sunny but very cold 16 August - with the gracious permission of Sari and Catheryn - to carry out a grafting repair to a damaged persimmon tree that had been accidentally reversed over by a vehicle some time ago.

The persimmon tree grafting pieces or 'scions' as they are properly called, I sourced from the original two-acre 1880's 'John and Martha Webster' heritage orchard here at 'Royston'. This was described by my late grandfather, who knew the Websters, as "...the best garden and orchard ever seen at Budgeree." The grafting scions are from a very large, spreading tree around eight metres high. In late summer/early autumn it bears heavily with medium sized, rounded to heart-shaped orange fruit - that when fully ripe, have a lovely pulpy flesh not unlike a mango in taste and appearance. It is of the non-astringent varieties of persimmon.

I learned to do grafting online through watching YouTube videos. It's a skill anyone can probably learn - but be prepared to fail repeatedly, before you eventually succeed.

Good luck to the Garden, and the continuation of rare heritage fruits, with this timely and handy 'persimmon repair' exercise!

Alan Hall.



Fruit of tree from original 'Royston' Webster heritage orchard.

Alan, Sari and Catheryn at YCG.



The repaired persimmon tree at Yinnar Community Garden.



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Meet our home loan specialists

It is with great delight that the Community Bank Mirboo North & District introduce our Branch Manager Alex Masut and Customer Relationship Manager Nicole Smith to the community of Boolarra. Alex and Nicole are our branch home loan specialists and are eager to help you with your home loan needs.

Alex is a lifelong resident of Gippsland where he resides with his wife Crystal. He joined Community Bank Mirboo North & District last year, originally hailing from Traralgon corporate branch. Nicole is a familiar face. She has been with the Community Bank since 2015 and is very active within the local community.

"We look forward to delivering friendly, personalised, and professional banking services through the community bank model to the community of Boolarra" says Alex. "When customers support the community bank it allows us to help our local communities in return through Community Bank grants, sponsorships and more".

Alex and Nicole look forward to meeting you and hope to build strong and lasting relationships within the Boolarra community. They are always up for a chat over coffee and enjoy attending network and community events.

Feel free to come into the branch and chat about anything from banking services to project or ideas to benefit the community of Boolarra. Alex and Nicole will be delighted to meet you.

Alternatively, if you would like to catch up with them at your home do not hesitate to contact them and make an appointment.

Did you know:

Community Banks are social enterprises that are able to strengthen their local communities thanks to the support of customers and shareholders.

It enables 80% of profits to be returned to the community through grants, scholarships, sponsorships and donations, with the balance providing a healthy return to shareholders.



Aniseed Myrtle

One of the more unusual trees we have growing at the Yinnar Community Garden is the Anise or Aniseed Myrtle (*Syzygium Anisatum*). Native to NSW, it is a rainforest tree which is rare in the wild. It can grow as tall as 45m in its natural habitat, but only to 10m when cultivated, and it can be kept clipped to 2-3m. I was first introduced to this plant at Peppermint Ridge in Tynong North, where our tour group was offered the delicate reddish baby leaves to nibble on. As promised, they tasted just like licorice lollies!



Aniseed Myrtle growing at the Yinnar Community Garden.

According to warndu.com, Indigenous Australians traditionally use Aniseed Myrtle to flavour food and to make a revitalising beverage. It was used medicinally as a tonic which had a vitalising effect. Aniseed Myrtle also has anti-fungal and anti-microbial properties and is used in the cosmetic industry. Interestingly it is very high in lutein, which studies show can help slow down age-related eyesight deterioration. It is also a good source of folate, vitamin E and vitamin C. A number of retailers sell dried and ground Aniseed Myrtle leaf for over \$100 per kg, but why not grow your own? It makes an attractive ornamental tree with wavy green leaves and can be harvested all year round. Aniseed Myrtles are sensitive to frost and need to be kept well-watered while establishing. As we are susceptible to frosts at the YCG, we have been protecting our tree with shade cloth during Winter. Although not as popular yet as Lemon Myrtle, Aniseed Myrtle is a fragrant and delicious native Australian food plant which is well worth considering for your garden. To taste it for yourself, come along to one of the YCG working bees on Wednesday or Saturday mornings (wet weather excepted)!

Rosemary Abetz-Rouse.

Danny O'BRIEN^{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

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"The support fund has minimised the financial burden placed on myself and family that comes alongside University. It has allowed me to greater prioritise study over working." - Karla from Thorpdale.

"With the grant received from ESF, I purchased myself a new MacBook Air as my old Lenovo was no longer functioning. This laptop has been phenomenal and I am so grateful." - Sam from Mirboo North.

Applications Now Open | Close 19th November 2023
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New 12 Seat Community Bus



Locals in Boolarra, Yinnar, Mirboo North and the surrounding area will have better access to transport thanks to funding from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for a new community bus.

The Community Foundation was successful in applying for \$56,800 of funding from the Department of Transport's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program (FLTSP) towards a new 12 seat community bus for the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation (Community Foundation). The remainder of the cost has been borne by the Community Foundation and the new bus has arrived and is in operation. The Community Foundation has been operating a community bus in the Mirboo North area in collaboration with the Mirboo North Community Shed for the past seven years. However, the bus itself has been in operation for over 17 years and was nearing the end of its life. The new vehicle will mean that this service can continue to support the local communities in our district, including schools and social groups.

Lack of access to transport is a key issue for our district, given its location halfway between local transport hubs of the Latrobe Valley and coastal South Gippsland. The Vital Signs Reports, which the Community Foundation published in 2020 in partnership with the Mirboo North and District Community Bank, identified transport access as an issue for young and old people in Mirboo North and the wider local area.

"We're thrilled to have worked with the Department of Transport and Planning to get a new community bus," says Ruth Rogan, Executive Officer of the Community Foundation. "Their support ensures that the people of Boolarra, Yinnar, Mirboo North and beyond will continue to have access to a community bus, a crucial transport option in our rural area."

The FLTSP provides funding to local governments and community organisations for small-scale transport projects, evidence-based transport studies, and funding to redesign and trial new ways in which transport services at a local level can be delivered across Victoria.

If you want to find out more about this 12 seater bus, which can be driven by anyone with an ordinary driving licence see <https://mirboodistrictfoundation.org.au/community-bus/>. For bookings call 0490 057 880.



Mirboo North & District
Community Foundation

Community Grants Program 2023

Do you have a community project that needs grant support?

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30th September



The Community Foundation has supported many wonderful volunteer led projects such as school mental health & well being programs, community access arts workshops, art mural restoration, all-ability playground equipment, local facilities upgrades and fitness programs.



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Boolarra Wool Group Yarning Winter 2023

Numbers have fluctuated over recent months as many members have been away travelling interstate and overseas. But as the weather is warming up, they're gradually coming back to join us once again. It's been good to catch up on their travel experiences and to see the work they've finished.

Our most adventurous member has been Sue Gilbert. Sue and her husband Ray walked from Canterbury (England) to Rome - 2200km in just under three months! We have enjoyed seeing her regular photo updates and are now enjoying having her working with us once again. Sue has completed a beautiful pram rug for her grandbaby due in October (photo).

Brenda K moved across to western Victoria a few months ago but is back with us for a few weeks. She has joined a local craft group in her new hometown and is currently crocheting a bean stick rug in cream and fawn.

Kate C was very busy before she headed away and finished her aqua jumper (photo).

Denise is knitting a magic square rug - this project is a bit bigger than the usual socks!

Marg is continuing with socks, alternating with a challenging baby jumper pattern. She's getting plenty of advice (but only when it's asked for, of course...).

Ros has been very productive making beanies and gloves for the overseas students at Federation Uni - we're sure these have been very welcome on the chilly winter mornings.

Lori has finished a crochet shawl with bell and rope design and completed some bed socks. Speaking of bed socks, Anne L hopes to have her bed socks finished by next winter.

Elizabeth has been diverted by a quilting project but is currently knitting up her hand spun alpaca.

Lois has three projects on the go - a mohair vest in dark green (a very warm garment for winter), and two garter stitch blankets. We're looking forward to seeing these!

Robyn reports "Socks, socks and more socks!" Guess how many pairs she has finished? (Clue: It's at least 150!).

Kerryn is still over in the west (enjoying grandma duty). Despite the heat she has finished one sock.

Sue C has finished a lacy scarf for her sister and has finally given in to her daughter's request for a handknitted jumper. Watch this space (but don't hold your breath...).

The Boolarra Shop hosted our annual Knit in Public Day in June - we were delighted to see the effort Juliette put in to make us feel welcome (photo).

Finally, we welcome anyone working on handcrafts to join us. We meet at the Boolarra Multi Purpose Building every Thursday, 11.30am - 3.30pm. BYO lunch, and tea and coffee provided. Bring a plate for a shared lunch on the first Thursday of each month.

Sue Clutterbuck,
0437 348 366.



Sue J's beautifully knitted pram rug.

Someone loves Brenda's blanket!



World Knit in Public Day at The Boolarra Shop - coffee, treats and themed decorations!



Finished at last - Kate C's longline jumper.

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BOOLLARRA FOLK FESTIVAL

Boolarra Folk Festival Celebrates Twenty Years
This year the Boolarra Folk Festival celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Over 9,000 people enjoyed the fantastic line up of performers and the enticing food and market stalls.

To mark this milestone the Boolarra Folk Festival Life Membership Event was held at the Old Boolarra Pub to acknowledge those who have contributed so much of their time and energy to the Festival. To maintain and manage an ongoing, annual, and free community event requires considerable coordination and cooperation. It would not be possible without the generosity and skills of community members.

During the afternoon we heard from Rick Teychenne and Grant McNeill who shared their memories and the achievements of the Boolarra Folk Festival. About 800 musicians have played on the main stage, the Memorial Hall and ARC Yinnar over the last 20 years. The market and food stalls have been a huge part of the success of the Festival with about 100 market stall holders participating each year. Sixty volunteers are needed to setup, manage and bump out the Festival. This means well over 1,000 people have provided their time and effort to be part of the Boolarra Folk Festival.

There is significant community and social benefit from showcasing our town, bringing people together and building our musical reputation as part of the arts corridor in the Latrobe Valley and South Gippsland areas. Over 160,000 people have attended the Festival. We estimate that each year about \$1.2 million is generated by people spending money to travel and stay in the area. Our local service and sporting clubs promote their activities and raise funds during the Festival.

The aim of the Festival is to be a free community event, so we rely on valued grants, sponsorships and publicity to keep the Festival going. The Latrobe City Council have provided funding since the inaugural Festival, and we have been fortunate to receive \$120 000 from them over the last 20 years. The Festival has also been generously sponsored by many other organisations such as FRRR, Engie, ACL, MNCF, Bendigo Bank and local private donors. We promote the Festival through our Facebook site, which has over 4, 500 followers, as well as local ABC, AM and FM radio stations and community publications.

Many great community people have been involved in the planning and running of the Festival with a consistently healthy number of committee members. Over the last 20 years there have been at least 40 committee members who bring varied skills and experience to plan and deliver the Festival. We are so fortunate to have this talent in our town and the Life Membership event was a great way to thank and show appreciation for everyone who has been a major part of our festivals.

*Jules De Cinque,
BFF committee member.*



Past and present committee Boolarra Folk Festival members and long-standing volunteers gather for a Life Membership event to celebrate 20 years of the free, community music Festival. Old Boolarra Pub, Sunday 16 July 2023.

Award Recipients

Life Membership In appreciation of long-standing membership and service.

Tracy Anderson
Kath Aveling
Terry Cupples
Gabrielle Francis-Foreman
Marietta Herni
Rob Herni
Bronwen Hilton
Grant Mcneill
Kristy Mills
Kate Reiske
Keith Robertson
Chelsea Stewart
Ray Stewart
Wendy Stewart
Regina Teychenne
Rick Teychenne

Valued Friend In appreciation of valued and sustained service.

Colin Brick
John Cargill
Roz Carstairs
Dan Clancey
Darren Cornell
Marg Gleeson
Mike Gleeson
Dave Grima
Cheryl Hilton
Merrick Hilton
Les Hunt
Paul Jordan

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NAIDOC Week in Boolarra

From the 2-9 July, Boolarra held its first ever NAIDOC Week. It was a huge success with many folks attending the official Flag Raising Ceremony and BBQ and various other activities during the week. For those who may not know: "National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth."

Each year there is a theme and in 2023 it was 'For our Elders' celebrating those trail blazers and community and cultural knowledge holders who have worked tirelessly for their people's betterment.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were raised in Railway Park after Aunty Christine Johnson offered a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. Many locals lined up to pass through the cleansing smoke while Gunaikurnai woman Hollie Johnson gave a brief but powerful speech about the importance of this year's theme - how vital it is to honour and respect all elders.

Following the public Smoking Ceremony a more intimate one was held at the Boolarra Police Station at the invitation of our local copper, Matt Ryan. He invited Aunty Christine to smoke the Station in what was a highly symbolic and reconciliatory moment - one for which Boolarrians can be proud.

Other activities throughout the week included a movie marathon of First Nations films, Kids dance and Art activities, and to top it all off a Masked NAIDOC Ball on the Saturday night in the Boolarra Memorial Hall.

Aunty Angie Chittem gave the Welcome to Country and musicians Monica Jasmine Karo (Gunaikurnai) and Pirritu Brett Lee (Palawa) created a soulful and warm atmosphere with their beautiful playing and singing. Food was provided by the Yinnar Pub and after dinner there was dancing to First Nations music. Most people wore masks and dressed up

and although it was a small gathering, the atmosphere was wonderful, playful and generous with all ages attending. There are plans underway for next year's NAIDOC week - and as Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly tell us "From little things big things grow" - so get your groove on and masks and dancing shoes ready! Boolarra's NAIDOC Week events were made possible with kind assistance from the Bendigo Bank - Mirboo North and District Fund, the Latrobe City Council and the Boolarra Community Development Group.

*Margie Mackay,
Correspondence Sec. BCDG.*



Hollie Johnson, Marg Lynn, Cath Thompson, A. Christine Johnson, Matt Ryan, Susan Purdy, Gilbert Douglas outside the Boolarra Police Station after the Station had been ceremonially smoked.



Robert Carstairs

The Boolarra Link Committee would like to offer our deepest condolences to Roz, and the family and friends of Rob Cartairs. Our thoughts are with you at this time.

The Voice to Parliament

- an Information session -

All welcome

Join us on Sunday the 1st of October
7pm Multipurpose Building, Boolarra.

Individual choices are important and we respect every individual's right to hold their own views.

We aim to provide a platform to share information for this very important national decision.

Hosted by Douglas & Mackay - light refreshments will be served.

For more info: douglasandmackay@iinet.net.au

Boolarra Trail Blazers



We have continued to meet and walk together during this difficult time (and we always keep 1.5m apart). It has been great to talk and to keep fit, however it has been great to be able now to share morning tea. We hope to be able to go for the occasional walk some place different soon, but in the meantime meet each Thursday at 9am at the Football Oval.

Phone John Lubawski on 5169 6494 or just turn up.

Boolarra

Verandah Jammers

This group meet at the Shop every Sunday at
1.30 to 3.30pm.

We play our ukuleles, have a sing and enjoy a laugh.

If you have an interest in music (or just want to sing) please contact

Libby Robertson 0408 594 798 or

Sue Clutterbuck 0437 348 366.

Libby Robertson.

Sheep Dog Trials to be held in Boolarra

The Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management (The Park) is delighted to announce that The South Gippsland Working Dogs Association will be holding Sheep Dog Trials at the Reserve from 17-19 November.

The committee was approached around two months ago and had an on-site meeting with several representatives from the SGWDA to see if the site was suitable, and if there was any interest in us staging the event in Boolarra. They were very happy with the facilities available at the Reserve, and we made it clear to them that we were fully supportive, and indeed excited, by the prospect.

There were a number of issues to be worked through by both sides, and they also looked at other prospective locations. In the end, they chose Boolarra because, as they said, everyone they spoke to and had dealings with in making the arrangements were so excited and supportive of the possibility of having the Trials here.

The Memorial Park and the many activities that are undertaken there, are a key community asset and the improvements that have been undertaken there over the past 25 years reflect very highly on the efforts of the local committee of management, and the user groups within the Reserve. The Park consists of 40 acres of land and boasts a range of sporting, recreation and community facilities which are heavily utilised by a variety of user groups and individuals. The cooperative nature in which these facilities are shared, maintained and improved by a range of groups is a credit to the community.

The Park Committee's goal is to maintain and improve the facilities at the Reserve, and to maximize the usage of the Reserve by the Boolarra and broader community. The proposed Sheep

Dog Trials are an exciting new development, which we are hopeful will become an annual event.

There will be 50 plus competitors from throughout Victoria and interstate, and over 300 sheep involved in the Trials, over three days of competition, so it is a significant logistical exercise. Initial set up will be on Thursday 16 November, and then there will be three days of events.

Several of the competitors will be camping at the Reserve for the duration. Since the Park Committee first discussed the Sheep Dog Trial proposal with the SGWSDA, I and other members of the committee have had conversations with a wide range of people both from Boolarra and the broader community, and without exception everyone has expressed excitement at the proposal. We believe this event could become a real attraction for the City of Latrobe as an annual event. We have been working closely with the SGWSDA, and other groups such as the cricket and football club, the Boolarra Community Development Group, and Michael Halliday who agists land at the Reserve, to ensure that this first event is a success.

WE would like to involve as many local groups in the event as possible. We are looking at a gold coin donation for entry to the Reserve, with the proceeds going to the SGWDA. They will be using the Social Rooms and are seeking local groups interested in providing morning teas, lunches, etc. over the three days. Any groups who are interested can contact me.

They are also looking at running a number of novelty events to provide additional entertainment for attendees. We are hoping arrange a visit by the Primary School, so that they can see working dogs in action, and have aspects of the dog training explained to them.

The Boolarra Community Development Group




will be looking to hold a Bush Dance which is intended to complement the Sheep Dog Trials, and provide an activity for the participants, spectators and the local community to attend. It will be held at the Memorial Hall with the very experienced Briagalong Bush Band. They provide very good music, and also a dance caller who instructs the dancers on the positions and steps for each dance. It can be very confusing for the newcomer, but it is great fun for everyone, and has everyone working together in a joyous way. The Bush Dance will be a great way to promote the interaction of the Boolarra community, the competitors and regional attendees at the Sheep Dog Trials. The BCDG is also looking at holding a market on the Sunday, so again anyone interested in having a stall, or a car boot of goodies, contact me. We also hope to arrange for some live music on the Sunday. It will also be the weekend of the Food Swap down at the Railway Park, so should be a busy and exciting day for Boolarra.

If anybody has any ideas or is able to assist with any aspect of the event, again feel free to contact me.

Colin Brick,
Secretary,

Boolarra Memorial Park Committee of Management,
0455 121 259.



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Boolarra Book Club

We meet the first Monday of each month at 2pm at Robern's.

We have a couple of places available so if you enjoy a good book, discussion, films (and the occasional outings).

Contact Robern on 5169 6494 about joining.

Books are the best thing in this difficult time.



Robern Lubawski.

BOOLARRA GARDEN CLUB

Boolarra Garden Club has enjoyed some amazing outings over the cooler months and several more are planned for the remainder of the year. We visited a truly beautiful private property at Hazelwood that was a show piece of vision, imagination and hard work. Our hosts provided a beautiful luncheon along with an informative talk on the transformation and progress of the property. In July we went to Greener Life indoor nursery at Inverloch and were treated to a private session by the very knowledgeable owner who shared many useful tips on growing indoors. Leongatha RSL was a great choice for lunch on such a cold day. Our August trip was to Garden World in Springvale, also an amazing Succulent nursery right next door to Garden World. Here we saw a kaleidoscope of colourful succulents artistically displayed in lovely designer pots. Lots of ideas to take home on pairing texture, colour and form to make interesting arrangements. Garden World did not disappoint with all the orchids in bloom, along with interesting cactus displays, and lots of gifts to purchase in the home wares section. Lunch was enjoyed at the Garden World Cafe with a huge menu to suit all tastes.

Rhonda Keegan.



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Boolarra Community Development Group

Annual General Meeting – 21 September 2023

Report from the Chair

Thank you all for your attendance this evening. Our Community Development Group's aim is to promote the social, economic and environmental development of Boolarra and district in accordance with the wishes of the community.

We see our role being to work with the people and groups within the community to advance and foster the town's wellbeing. We also seek to work closely with Latrobe City Council, State and Federal Members of Parliament and various Government Departments, as well as hosting and promoting various Community events for the enjoyment of all.

The BCDG also acts as an umbrella organisation under which other groups can apply for funding, and in recent years we have assisted the exercise group, the Kindergarten, the Play Group, the Historical Society, the Primary School and the BMX track proposal in their funding applications.

We have many willing volunteers in Boolarra, serving in a diversity of Community Groups and Clubs, and many of us wear hats in several different organisations. It is a testament to our community spirit in Boolarra that we have such strong participation in what is a relatively small population.

The BCDG has now been active for 21 years, and we are very proud of what we have achieved in that time. One aspect of this longevity is the ability to renew ourselves by the infusion of new blood with enthusiasm, energy and new ideas. We have been very lucky in the past eighteen months or so to have had such a group come in, and they have had a marked impact on what we have been able to achieve.

We have also implemented a committee structure which shares the workload more evenly and has enabled the committee to operate more effectively. The group is in a healthy financial position and we are actively seeking to utilise these funds for the benefit of the community.

We have previously identified increasing social participation as a key goal for our group, especially after the social disruption of the COVID pandemic. A brief look at the activities that we have been involved in over the past twelve months shows a wide range of activities.

As always, we have organised the regular, and ever popular Christmas Carols and Australia Day events. This year we also held the Easter Saturday Community Day, featuring an Easter Egg hunt, free music and Community Garage Sale and surprisingly a few car boot sales.



In May we assisted committee member Donna Mack in the staging of the Do it for Dolly down at the Footy Ground.

Donna did a great job in organising and pulling together a big event, and there was an excellent

turn out. A great community day and fundraiser for a good cause but I think, based on the learnings from this year, Donna may scale down next year's event and concentrate on the areas that worked best.

Another great initiative this year, championed by committee newcomers Donna and Margie Mackay, was the ambitious range of NAIDOC Week activities conducted in the first week in July.

Commencing with a welcoming Smoking Ceremony, a market and a short film festival, then followed by a range of daily workshops and closing with a Ball on the Saturday night, it provided a wide diversity experiences and opportunities for participation. There is a dearth of NAIDOC Week activities in the Latrobe Valley region, and it was great to see the involvement of the regional indigenous community. Our hope would that in future years we can increase the buy-in from the local community.

NAIDOC Week was shortly followed by a fundraising Bush Dance to assist the Spud Man family who had their fully stocked shed burnt down.

The Briagalong Bush Band presided over proceedings, in what was a very enjoyable evening, albeit without raising as much as we had hoped.

Coming up in November we have Sheep Dog Trials being held down at the footy ground over three days from 17 to 19 November. Judging by the amount of interest expressed by everyone I have spoken to about it, there will be quite an attendance, from both locals and regionally. To complement the trials, the Development Group will be staging another Bush Dance on the Saturday night. We may also look at having a market/car boot sale down at the footy ground on the Sunday. We are hopeful that this will become an annual event, and a real drawcard for Boolarra.

In many ways, the biggest new activity we have undertaken is the monthly markets on the first Sunday of each month. Some time ago we were approached by the Memorial Hall committee regarding their financial concerns. After committee discussion on the issue it was decided to trial the monthly markets, starting in March, with funds raised going to the Hall Committee.

Again, Donna Mack has been the stalwart in organising this, and has done a great job in chasing up stall holders and preparing the Hall each month. It a big commitment on the committee, and markets typically take a while to build traction. However, we have been able to contribute around \$2,000 to the Hall and stall holder numbers are increasing.

The Development Group does not act in isola-

tion. We rely on the assistance of many groups and individuals from Boolarra and the wider region. I would especially like to recognise the contribution to our activities that Brodie and Shannon at the PO make, both in distributing information on our behalf, and collecting things for us, as well as the support and assistance they give to many other Boolarra groups and individuals. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that Latrobe City make, supporting us not only financially through grants such as Australia day and Christmas Festivities, and the Small Town Capital Funding, but also with the attendance of the local Councillor at meetings, and the attendance of a Community Liaison Officer.

Finally, I would like to note the valuable contribution that the Community Bank, Mirboo North and District and the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation make in supporting a wide range of activities and projects within the community. I would also like to thank and acknowledge Traralgon Rotary for their assistance at Australia Day and the Do it for Dolly Day.

In closing, I would like to thank the Community Development Group Committee members for their participation and support, again noting the great contribution that the newbies have made. It would seem appropriate at this point to recommend participation in our Boolarra Community Development Group and we welcome visitors and new Committee members to attend our meetings normally held on the third Thursday of the month. Please come along and make yourselves known.

Community members are also invited to raise issues at those meetings by prior notice to the secretary, who will make time on the agenda.

*Colin Brick,
Chair,*

Boolarra Community Development Group.

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BOOLARRA FOOTBALL NETTBALL CLUB

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The Home and Away season has concluded and unfortunately neither Football grade were able to make it into the finals. Both teams battled hard all season but ultimately just lacked a few extra quality players across the field to really push the top teams. All the coaches and leadership groups should be commended on the job they did. We will also farewell Tony Giardina as Senior Coach, Tony spent 13 seasons as Senior Coach across 15 years. He is our longest ever serving coach and arguably our most successful, having taken the Club from rock bottom in 2009 and tasting ultimate success in 2011 with a historic Senior Premiership. Multiple finals appearances were also scattered amongst those 13 seasons. Tony's passion to coach and drive to make our Club better was plain to see and we will forever appreciate the hard work he has done for our



Tony Giardina closely watching on.



Incoming Senior Coach Brendan Mason.

Club. Taking the reins will be assistant coach Brendan Mason. Brendan has been at the club for three seasons now and gets his chance to lead the boys and put his stamp on the group. Brendan's CV is certainly quite impressive, in his three seasons at the Club he has a Senior Best and Fairest and two runners up Best and Fairest to his name. Along with two MGFNL Team of the Season awards, with a likely third this season. Brendan is looking to retain our current playing group and is already working hard to add more quality and depth to the list. We wish him all the best and we're right behind him in the quest to rise back into finals in 2024. We are always looking for more volunteers and helpers at the Club, we are a small community Club and rely on locals to fill roles. Please do not hesitate to come forward if you think you can fill

The Boolarra Football Netball Club would like to thank our valued sponsors for Season 2023 and welcome all new sponsors that have jumped on board since last season. We ask that you get behind and support these businesses as they support our community Club.

We are also always on the hunt for new sponsors. Darren Napier once again is leading the Sponsorship Drive, if you would like more information on packages don't hesitate to contact Naps.

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a role at the Club. No matter how small. The Club is very eager to get more people into roles at the Club to ease the burden on long serving volunteers that have taken on too much. Now more than ever we need people stepping up to lend a hand and do your bit for your Club.

You can keep up to date with all Club news via our Facebook page Boolarra Football Netball Club.

Simon Buglisi.



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The Boolarra Link Community Directory

Organisation	Contact Name	Phone	Organisation	Contact Name	Phone
Anglican and Uniting Churches	Lubawski	5169 6494	Churchill Neighbourhood Centre	Nathan Brown	5120 3850
Boolarra Book Club and Blazers Walking Group	Robern Lubawski John Lubawski	5169 6494	Cooperating Church		5122 1480
Boolarra Bowling Club	Travis Baker	0416 087 305	Cricket Club	Ben McCormack	0411 988 843
Boolarra Cemetery Trust	Lyrinda Carter	0408337764	Exercise Class	Kathleen Millett or Kate	5122 2591 5169 6592
Boolarra and District Horse and Trail Riding Club	Lisa PaPa boolarratrailriders23@gmail.com		Folk Festival	Rick Teychenne	0408 696 243
Boolarra CFA	Di Billingsley	0408 173 637	Friends of the Upper Morwell River	Denise Schiller	5169 6425
Boolarra Community Development Group	Colin Brick	5163 1212	Garden Club	Jill Simmonds	5169 6516
Boolarra Netball / Football Club	Simon Buglisi	0411 142 375	Grand Ridge Rail Trail	John Collins	0428 124 554
Social Rooms		5169 6507	Justice of the Peace	Matt Gleeson	0427 696 461
Change Rooms		5169 6507		Gwenda Pither	0427 963 385
Boolarra Historical Society	Linda Minter	0447 996 702		Gary Mills	0429 682 440
Boolarra Multi Purpose Building	David Warren	0429 941 905	Municipal Emergency Management Officer		1300 367 700
Boolarra Play Group	Alex Beamish	0438 518 961	Memorial Hall	Roz Carstairs	0429 383 686
Boolarra Pre-school	Family Services Admin	1300 367 700	Memorial Park	Colin Brick	5163 1212
Boolarra Primary School	Susan Duncan	5169 6471	Men's Shed	Neil Cartwright	5169 6592
Boolarra Quilting Group	Linda Minter	0447 996 702	Open Garden Day	Jill Simmonds	5169 6516
Boolarra Friends of the Red Cross	Glenys Morgan	5169 6721	Pilates	Kathleen Millett	5122 2591
Boolarra South Landcare	Denise Schiller	5169 6425	Police	Matt Ryan	5169 6222
Boolarra Tennis Club					0458 839 886
Boolarra Verandah Jammers	Sue Clutterbuck	0437348366	Pony Club	Secretary boolarraponyclub@gmail.com	
Boolarra Wool and Spinning Group	Kate Cartwright	5169 6592	Quilting and Silk Dyeing Group	Linda Minter	0447 996 702
Boolarra and Yinnar Community Recovery Committee	Colin Brick	5163 1212	Scouts	Daiel Cook	0423 495 977
Boolarra Youth Theatre Group	Tania Brown	5169 6466	Stroke Support Group	Paul Howells	0417 338 816
Budgeree Hall	Leanne Potter	0429 111 192	Wildlife Centre Nanaste	Trent Mills	0409 346 714
Catholic Church	Fr James Fernandez or Denise Schiller	5134 2849 5169 6425	Yinnar & District Judo Club	Sharon Taylor	0418 681 245
			Yinnar Community Garden	Peter Brimblecombe	0409 402 459
			Yoga	Secretary yinnarcg@gmail.com Kristy Mills	0475 376 015

What's on.

For contact information please refer to the Directory above.

Church Services in Boolarra and Yinnar

Catholic Church

Tarwin Street, Boolarra

Service times will be advised in due course when services are on.

Please contact Denise Schiller on 5169 6425

Anglican and Uniting Churches in co-operation

Tarwin Street, Boolarra

1st Sunday 10.00am Anglican Communion.
3rd Sunday 10.00am Uniting Communion.

No Service in Yinnar.

PLEASE NOTE: If there are changes to any Link Community Directory information, please notify the Boolarra Link Editor:
Sylvia Sauppe on 5169 6321
or editor@boolarralink.org.au

Groups and Organisations Meeting Times.

Monday

Exercise Class - 9.30am, all ages, Boolarra Memorial Hall.

Book Club - 2.00pm, 1st Monday of the month.

Men's Shed - Between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

CFA - Every 2nd Monday from 7.00pm - skills training at the station - prospective new members welcome

Quilting and Silk Dyeing Group - 2nd and 4th Monday from 11.00am - Multi Purpose Building.

Red Cross - Monthly 1st Monday at 1.00pm, The Boolarra Store

Tuesday

Yoga - 6.00pm-7.30pm General Class Boolarra Memorial Hall.

Pilates - 9.30am, Multi Purpose Building.

Wednesday

Men's Shed - Between 10.00am and 4.00PM.

Yinnar & District Judo Club - during school terms from 6.15pm - 7.30pm, Yinnar Recreation Reserve.

Thursday

Wool Group - 11.30 am-3.30pm, Multi Purpose Building.

Blazers Walking Group - Meet 9.00am, Boolarra Recreation Reserve.

Boolarra Memorial Hall - Bi-Monthly 3rd Thursday at 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

Boolarra Community Development Group - Monthly 3rd Thursday at 7.00pm, Multi Purpose Building.

Friday

Playgroup - 9.30am-11.30am, Multi Purpose Build.

Exercise Class - All ages 10.00am, Yinnar Memorial Hall.

Sunday

Historical Society - 2.00pm-4.00 pm, 1st Sunday of the month, Boolarra Historical Museum

Pony Club Rally - 2nd Sunday of the month, Recreation Reserve

CFA - 9.00am - 10.00am - Radio testing / equipment maintenance

Boolarra Verandah Jammers - 1.30pm, playing Ukulele every Sunday on the front verandah of the Old Pub.