

# BRID RE PORT

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH THE LATEST EVENTS IN BRIDPORT



## LOCAL HEROES - "SERVICE WITH A SMILE"

As a child, Bridport's Michelle Hoult loved hearing stories of her father's deployment to different places around the world. So much so that it became a dream of hers to one day follow in her father's footsteps and serve Australia in the Defence Force. At just 17 years of age Michelle joined the Navy. At the time her father, had just completed 20 years of service as an under water weapons specialist. Little did she know, that what she was about to embark on, would be one of the most challenging yet fruitful journeys of her life. Where women are often overshadowed in what is typically seen as a male dominated world, we see through Michelle's eyes a wonderful and an inspiring example of the significant and long-lasting contribution women have to our Defence Force.

*I have wanted to serve Australia in some way since I was a very young girl, I think I chose the Navy because my father had served 20 years, I loved listening to his stories of travel and adventure which one time we became apart of when we lived in Scotland for 18 months while Dad was on an exchange posting with the Royal Navy and served in the first Gulf war.*

*During our childhood it was instilled in my brothers and I that Australia was a truly blessed country and that we should always give back to our*

*community, that we should contribute in some way, no matter how big or small, to maintain and make better what it is that we have.*

*I joined the Navy in 2002 as a Combat Systems Operator (CSO), specialising in Electronic warfare, I worked in the Operations room and we were like eyes and ears of the ship.*

*After recruit school and category training I posted to my first ship HMAS Success, an Auxiliary oil replenishment ship. My first deployment was border*

*protection duties, I experienced my first ANZAC day wearing the uniform while ashore at Christmas Island, it was surreal to actually be doing what I had wanted to do since I was a young girl.*

*I then joined the Guided Missile Frigate HMAS Melbourne and began operational readiness exercises to prepare for deployment to the Middle Eastern Area of Operations (MEAO).*

**continued on page 3**

## FAREWELL AND WELCOME - it was nice to be missed!

A very big thank you to Gayle Edson - outgoing editor and distributor of the monthly BridREport for many years. This free of charge publication, with the support of Dorset Council has been in recess for a couple of months. We welcome Melissa Hall as the new editor with this April edition.

We aim to keep you informed of community events. We depend on the many local clubs and organisations to provide news and stories.

Contact Melissa at [bridreport@gmail.com](mailto:bridreport@gmail.com) if you are not on the mailing list or require information.

Remember our  
Diggers



25th April





# CENTENARY OF THE ANZACS

The Bridport RSL Sub-Branch extend an invitation to all Service personal, past and present, along with the community to join them at the 6 am Dawn Service at the Cenotaph, opposite the Ex-Services Community and Bowls Club on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

The service starts sharp at 6 am attendees are asked to be in place before hand.

The RSL President invites the community to the Gunfire Breakfast appreciatively cooked and served by volunteer staff across the road at The Club. \$10 per plate.

Pte Harvey - The Gallipoli Bear -WWI will be raffled at the breaky @ \$2.00 per ticket.

## **The ANZAC day commemorations will resume at 11 am with a parade down the main street.**

This year community organizations are invited to support the Diggers and march with them. Representation of animals in war will parade down the street. They will include "War Dogs", Horses - representing the Light horse, cavalry, horses that pulled hospital wagons, pigeons - delivering messages.

We are still looking for a Donkey - to represent Simpson and his donkey. If you can help out here please contact Gayle on 0439 330 700.

The CWA, Red Cross, Woman's Land Army, Life Savers, Guides and Scouts, School students, Fire Brigade have all been invited to dress up in period costume, or their organization's uniform and march with pride in this once in a lifetime commemoration.

It is hoped you will join us. March for a family member; remember to wear your medals as a civilian on the right hand side. Awarded medals are worn on the left.

The parade will meet and form up at the CWA car park at 10.45 am

The Bridport Primary School Choir will lead the singing and perform their ANZAC day tribute - In Flanders Fields. A performance not to be missed.

The ANZAC day service will conclude with the laying of wreaths at the cenotaph.

It is hoped that you will join the Diggers, all service personal, on this memorable occasion.

The President at one Dawn Service said as years ago.

"I invite you to stop and listen.  
Breathe deeply, and smell the air".

During that silence a young child piped up in the dawn light and said,  
"Mister I can't hear anything".

"No son" said the President.

"What you experience is the sounds and smell of freedom."

"You do not hear the noise of canons or rifle fire."

"You do not smell the fear of battle, the gunpowder from guns or artillery"



**Lest We Forget.**

**BRIDPORT RSL SUB-BRANCH**

***"It was quite an experience serving in the same area my father had 13 years before me."***

*We sailed in October 2003 and I celebrated my 19th birthday two months later during a port visit to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.*

*It is only now that I am a mother that I can appreciate the worry I gave my Mum, being so young on the other side of the world in an area that was not exactly a holiday destination at the time.*

*I was the youngest onboard and one of the most junior of 180 crew, there were 35 women onboard however my gender did not matter, if you could do the job then you were accepted and apart of the team with equal pay and equal rights.*

*We spent six months situated in the North Arabian Gulf, our priority was to enforce exclusions zones around some highly valuable resources, conduct boarding inspections on all oil tankers coming in and out of the Shatt al Arab river and assisting our allies in the area as required. It was quite an experience serving in the same area my father had 13 years before me.*

*The longest we spent at sea was approximately 34 days; however we did enjoy time in port visits such as Bahrain, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Muscat and Phuket on the way home.*

*Email onboard ships was relatively new and not a very reliable source of communication, so there were a lot of letters and care packages sent from home and phone calls during port visits.*

*We returned home to Australia late April 2004, it was quite an emotional moment to be reunited with my family and then to march a few days later on ANZAC day through the streets of Sydney with everyone cheering us on. We had not yet been awarded our medals but everyone knew we had just arrived home and the welcome we received was very moving.*

*I stayed onboard for another 2 years during which we conducted more border protection duties, major international training exercises and goodwill visits overseas.*

*I then returned to HMAS Success for two years and continued in the same deployments and training exercises. I then posted to HMAS Anzac in WA and completed operational readiness exercises in preparation for my second deployment to the MEAO.*

*It was in the middle of the Indian Ocean I realised I was pregnant with our first child and was flown home at the next port visit, as it was not safe for me to stay onboard. I posted ashore to my first 'desk' job after nearly 6 years at sea, the break came at a good time. All three ships that I had served on were at a constant 'high tempo' in which we spent more time away than at home and I was ready for some respite.*

*I was due to return to sea again when my son, Kokoda, was 18 months old, however shortly after the birth of our daughter Poppy, I realised that I could not be the parent that I wanted to be and still do justice at the level I wanted to the service, of course my family takes priority.*

*I discharged at the rank of Leading Seaman late 2010; it was always my goal to serve at least 10 years, however I would not change a thing.*

*My career in the Navy was demanding and exciting, I travelled to places I would never dreamed of visiting, made amazing life long friends and received training and skills I can continue to use for the rest of my life. My overall experience during my time in the Navy was very positive, the mateship service men and women share is quite unique, and I do miss that aspect of the service.*

*Compared to many of our service men and women who came before*

*me, I personally have had it pretty good in terms of how I have been perceived by the public and the outcomes I have had from my experiences. I believe Australia still has a long way to go to help those past and present Defence personnel that are in need of proper care, in particular those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other health issues.*

*I have seen firsthand the effect PTSD can have; I feel this is an issue that needs to be addressed more openly within our society to remove the stigma that seems to surround PTSD.*

*Today I live a very different life; I am now studying full time to become a Primary school teacher and graduate later this year. I am also the state Sales Representative for SafeTcard Australia which keeps me busy. I am also exploring other opportunities that may see me serve Australia again in a new role.*

*My husband Dean also served in the Navy and the Army, which included operational deployment to the MEAO. If any members of the Bridport community are considering joining the Australian Defence Force and would like to have a chat, we would be happy to answer any questions.*



Michelle with her Family; Husband Dean, Daughter Poppy and Son Kokoda

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN KIDS CLUB

### Address:

Scottsdale High School  
20 Coplestone Street,  
Scottsdale

### Date & Time:

6th -10th April 2015  
10 am - 12 noon  
with registration from  
9:45 am

### Ages:

6 -10 years

### Offering:

Basket Ball, Indoor  
Soccer, Arts & Crafts,  
Fun Activities, Clowns,  
Balloons, Face Painting,  
and HEAPS MORE!



# ★ KIDS SPOT ★



Stephen, Tori, Seth and Harrison enjoying some Easter Craft at the Bridport Play Centre.

## BRIDPORT PLAYCENTRE

Now operating for 3 & 4 year old children.

Open Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am - 12 noon.  
Please feel free to come and have a look with your child.

Term 2 starts on Tuesday 21st April

Childcare rebates are available.

For enquiries please contact:

Carlie Stein 0438560234, Jane Brown 0419389507

or Kylie Moore 0427560034

### SCOTTSDALE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

OLD & NEW PLAYERS WELCOME FOR 2015 NTJFA, U10, U12 & U15 TEAMS. MEET THE COMMITTEE, COACHES & FAMILY DAY ON SUNDAY 29TH APRIL STARTING 2.00PM AT THE SCOTTSDALE REC GROUND. FOR ENQUIRIES PHONE CLINT ON 0428523665 OR EVA 0437526672

## BRIDPORT PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS GO ON AN INTERESTING HISTORY EXCURSION

*"In History, we have been exploring the importance of our local war memorials in Bridport and Scottsdale. The cenotaphs are very important meeting places and memorials for Australians to gather and remember men and women in the armed forces who have fought and died for our country. They are places where we can show honour to them for the sacrifices they have made for us."*

From Mrs Haley and Mrs Beard's Grade 1/2 Class

## CAMERAS ARE RECORDING

The Bridport Lions Club wants to clarify operations of the town's surveillance cameras.

The club's Graeme Harris says all three surveillance cameras are fully operational and transmitting images to the Police Station in Bridport.

"Most people would be aware that these cameras were jointly funded by the Dorset Council and the Bridport Lions Club with the aim of reducing vandalism and aiding the police in their duties," Mr Harris said.

## NOTICE BOARD

### COAST CARE UPDATE

The March working bee involved removal of sea spurge at Lades beach. Sea spurge has highly toxic sap and is invading many parts of Tasmania's coastline. It can be controlled by removing plants. It is relatively easy to pull out but glasses and gloves should be worn.

The April working bee will be held on the 26th April. We will be removing weeds and rubbish in the area of the Wildflower Reserve south of Charles St near the walking track. Meet on site from 9 am.

New members are always welcome.

John Davey  
Ph: 0419 306 285



## BRIDPORT TEXTILE GROUP

MEET EVERY TUESDAY AT  
THE BRIDPORT  
COMMUNITY HALL. PLEASE  
COME AND JOIN US.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PHONE GWEN BARBER  
ON 63561081



## BRIDPORT GROUP OF SING AUSTRALIA



The Bridport Group meet at the Uniting Church, main street Bridport on Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm.

All new comers are very welcome, especially those who believe they "can't sing?"

The Group will be participating in the Bridport Anzac March and Service, leading the singing of the well known and loved songs of that era.

## \* COMMUNITY MEETING

Having reviewed submissions relating to the Bridport Concept Plan, Dorset Council will be providing feedback on the submissions and details on '**where to from here**' at a community meeting. Residents are invited to attend the meeting at

**7 pm on Tuesday 21st April 2015**

in the Bridport Hall.

No RSVP is required.



## BRIDPORT SURF LIFESAVING CLUB

Sunday 29th March was the last day of the 2014/15 patrolling season! We would like to say a massive THANK YOU and WELL DONE to all of our dedicated volunteer surf life savers from the Bridport SLSC for an excellent season! Full season wrap up in next issue. STAY TUNED...

## Dorset Bike Riders Group ( DBUG )

DBUG is a casual group of bike riders from this district who aim to promote bike riding as a fun, healthy activity. The main activity is a group ride held on the first Sunday each month. The rides are generally in the easy/moderate range and held on quieter roads to encourage a range of riders. Distance is normally around the 20km mark, though some riders shorten or lengthen the ride. Most rides commence midmorning and always end with a lunch whether it's at a cafe, winery or a picnic venue, a great chance to socialise.

The next ride is on Sun 3rd May in the Tomahawk area. Details are shortly to be sent out to our mailing list. If you want to be on the mailing list just email a request to [ianwhenn@netspace.net.au](mailto:ianwhenn@netspace.net.au)



SOME OF THE DBUG MEMBERS ENJOYING ONE OF THE MONTHLY RIDES.

### TAI CHI

All welcome at the  
Bridport Community Club  
every Tuesday 9.30-10.30  
am. Cost \$1 for an hour of  
relaxation and friendship.  
Contact Anna-Marie for  
enquiries on 6356 1474

### CWA MARKETS

CWA market is held the first Saturday of the month 9am to 1pm at the CWA Hall - fresh, baked and preserved produce, pre-loved items and craft, plants and much more. New stall holders welcome - contact Anna-Marie on 6356 1474

### ADVERTISE YOUR BRIDPORT BUSINESS...

FREE of charge in the monthly BridREport with a 10 x 6 cm size ad. For larger size ad please contact Melissa for a quote at [bridreport@gmail.com](mailto:bridreport@gmail.com)

### RAFFLE

BRIDPORT TEXTILE GROUP ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING A QUILT RAFFLE RAISING MONEY FOR THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTORS GROUP. TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE EASTER MARKETS. THE TEXTILE GROUP WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE DORSET COUNCIL WHICH HAS ENABLED THEM TO PURCHASE SEWING MACHINES AND FABRIC TO MAKE 3 QUILTS TO RAFFLE FOR CHARITY.

## \* EASTER MARKETS

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL  
AT THE BRIDPORT COMMUNITY HALL

9AM - 2PM

OVER 32 STALLS OFFERING  
HOME MADE & HOME GROWN LOCAL GOODIES.

Browse through a diverse range of items including, Judith Anne Bags, felt animals, buttons, machine embroidered items, preserves and fudge, hand made jewelry, children's clothes, plants, felted hats, soap, children's slippers and much much more...

EVERYONE WELCOME!

## CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Bridport Weather Observation Station Coordinator Lis Booth is calling for volunteers to assist in the collection of weather observations for the Bureau of Meteorology.

Bridport volunteers have been collecting weather observations for around 20 years at the small weather station at the SeaView Village, right here in Bridport.

"Some of our volunteers involved with this, including Margaret Milne, the previous co-ordinator of many, many years, have been doing these obs for the whole time, all 20 years of it. An amazing volunteer effort.

"The fact that we do collect this data means that Bridport's weather observations get mentioned in the newspaper and other news media," Mrs Booth said.

The weather observations are taken twice daily (around 9AM and 3PM) and are then phoned through to the BOM. A process that takes about 20-30 minutes

from the moment you leave your home until you hang up the phone after reporting.

The activity was set up by Bridport Innovations Inc. as a way to get the town's name more 'out there'.

"It is a great way to draw that extra little bit of attention to our lovely Village by the Sea, particularly if the weather in Launceston is not as nice as up here, on the bay," Mrs Booth said.

"Really, anyone can do this: young mums can do it just after dropping kids off at school in the morning or just before picking up in the afternoon, older people can do it on their way to shopping or a cup of coffee at the café, high-school or primary-school kids could maybe do it as part of a science project, teachers?" she said.

"It would be great if we could find another few people who are willing to spend one observation shift of 20 minutes per week.

"This would help when existing volunteers go on their holidays, the system is not depending on the 3 or 4 people who are staying put," Mrs Booth said.

Bridport Innovations, under whose umbrella the weather - observations are taken, is a registered volunteer organisation.

"Any hours spent volunteering locally with us (either in the weather-obs, or staffing the Visitors Centre @ the Pavilion or other things) can be credited to "Approved Activities" schedules from Government/Centrelink/ Employment agencies," Mrs Booth said.

If you are interested in volunteering e-mail Lis Booth at [iesja@dodo.com.au](mailto:iesja@dodo.com.au)

Alternatively, you can go and have a talk to the people behind the counter at The Pavilion or email Bridport Innovations at [bridportinnovationsinc@gmail.com](mailto:bridportinnovationsinc@gmail.com)

"We look forward to hearing from you."

### WEATHER STATS FOR MARCH 2015

Min temp 4.8 on 21/3  
Max temp 24.5 on 6/3  
Rainfall 116.3 mm which  
fell over 16 days.

### WANTED - ALIVE AND LIVELY

The Bridport Visitor Centre has casual and some permanent shifts available for reliable volunteers interested in tourism.

We operate 7 days a week on three hour rosters.

Contact Co-ordinator Jenny Whenn  
on 0408 100166 or email  
[bridportinnovationsinc@gmail.com](mailto:bridportinnovationsinc@gmail.com)  
for more information.



## FUN RUN ORGANISERS LOCKED IN FOR ANOTHER YEAR

### FROM THE EDITOR

I'm a small town girl. I have lived in the city and the country, the first world and the third world and I've never met a place like Bridport.

I'm new to the area and I'm amazed at what this small and simple "village by the sea" has to offer. It's position, on one of the most stunning, untouched stretches of coastline in the world where bush meets beach; it's people, some of the friendliest folk you'll ever meet, not to mention interesting; the opportunities, when sought after, are endless for both young and old; and the sense of community, the strong feeling of belonging and that people matter. For a small town Bridport you pack a punch and I'm blessed to call you home.

Michelle Hoult puts it beautifully, "...it was instilled in my brothers and I that Australia was a truly blessed country and that we should always give back to our community, that we should contribute in some way, no matter how big or small, to maintain and make better what it is that we have."

For the generations of Australians who have gone to war, I have nothing but respect and complete admiration. ANZAC Day is a day of remembering. We remember those who fought, and continue to fight for the freedoms we enjoy today. In particular, we remember those who have died in the struggle for freedom, both for us and for those oppressed in other parts of the world.

Easter is also a time to remember. The hope of new life that comes through the Easter story is also about freedom and sacrifice, but a somewhat different understanding of it.

This month we celebrate both and give thanks for those sacrifices and the freedoms that followed. Wishing you a safe, happy and meaningful Easter!

Be blessed,

*Melissa*

Sports clubs, work mates and other organisations are being encouraged to enter a team in this year's Access Locksmiths Bridport Fun Run.

The event is coming up in late October as the finale to the North East Rivers Festival.

Co-ordinator Ian Whenn said with the sponsors Access Locksmiths, Bridport Electrical Services and A & D Professional Accountants locked, in there would be more prize money on offer than ever, including \$200 for the quickest team of four.

"The open womens' and mens' prizes has been bumped up to \$300, but we're still looking at having the emphasis on the FUN side of the fun run.

"We're working on having quite a few random draw prizes and teams especially will be encouraged to get into the fun mood with team uniform or even fancy dress.

"There could even be a prize for the best turned out team... goodness knows who'll judge that," said Mr Whenn.

"The important thing for people to remember is to put Sunday 25 October in the diary, especially if you're in the netball or footy clubs, surf club, cricket club, squash, darts, eight ball, tiddly winks or have a group of moderately fit mates at work."

Registrations from 12 year olds up will be taken on the day.

THE BRIDREPORT IS  
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IF YOU HAVE AN UP  
COMING EVENT OR  
SOMETHING YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO SHARE PLEASE  
CONTACT MELISSA FOR  
MORE INFORMATION:

[bridreport@gmail.com](mailto:bridreport@gmail.com)

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE  
INDIVIDUALS, CLUBS,  
ORGANISATIONS AND  
BUSINESSES WHO  
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS  
MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE  
BRIDREPORT.  
HAPPY READING!