

# BRIDREPORT

## Temporary closure of Bridport Visitor Information Centre

With heavy hearts Bridport Innovations made the decision on 19 March to close for three weeks in line with Scottsdale Visitor Centre and in the interests of health and wellbeing during the Coronavirus crisis.

We are now closed indefinitely.

If necessary volunteers can be reached by phone, details are displayed on the Information Centre door.



At a time when our lives are subject to daily change and it is hard to know what to expect, it is nice to be able to bring you the monthly BridReport, our own little village news sheet. These are strange times when every single person is having to adapt and change, rethink how they do things, be clever.

I think everyone would have to agree that just now, we are so lucky to live in this beautiful neck of the woods, with fresh clean air, magnificent scenery right there at our windows, plenty of space to exercise, people willing to help out with shopping and delivering food; all that, together with a positive mind-set, will help us all get through to the other side of this .

Easter is a time for some people to celebrate the original meaning of Easter, for others it is a time for families to gather with friends. This year will certainly be different, but with so many ways to communicate now, there are endless opportunities to share 'virtual' time together; it will be interesting to hear how people go about it.

Please continue to support our local businesses while they are still able to operate and for you, take care of yourself and others around you, stay well, stay safe ... and stay home!



Stairway to the Sun Photo by Marg Perkins

## Fiesta hits the Web

A new website for the Tassie Scallop Fiesta has been launched to promote the annual event.

As the site points out, organisers have no intention of contravening directives from authorities to minimise the impact of Covid-19. But they are hopeful that progress with the anti-virus campaign will allow a fiesta in some form to be held by the scheduled date, Sunday 2 August 2020.

The planned youth engagement project with the Scottsdale High School has had to be deferred till next year.

The planning committee is allowing up until early June to make a final decision if the event has to be postponed or cancelled for this year.

But the dedicated website, partly supported by Events Tasmania, will be promoting the event and North East Tasmania from now on.

Ticketing is not yet in place, but most of the proposed events and attractions are described. Head to the website and tell your friends.

[www.tassiescallopfiesta.com.au](http://www.tassiescallopfiesta.com.au)

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### "Bridport We're Going On a Bear Hunt" Event

Bridport residents can have some fun by 'going on a bear hunt' with their children. If you would like to be part of the Facebook page event please search for "Bridport We're Going On a Bear Hunt" in events section. Put a Teddy Bear in your window from the 1st - 14th April and take our children on a magical Bear Hunt whilst on your daily exercise during self-isolation due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please join in the fun.

See how many you can find!

How many colours can you see?

Can you catch a big one?





**Bridport Netball Club**

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the North Eastern Netball Association has decided at this stage to postpone their season until early May. This is very disappointing for all those involved as everyone has put a great effort into the pre-season, but it is a necessary measure to help minimize the spread of the disease. Until further notice all clubs are no longer training or holding any gatherings.

We would like to give a shout out to our sponsors which, as every year have been a great support to us as a club. We are aware that as small businesses many of them are doing it quiet tough in this difficult time and we hope that as a community we can try and support them wherever possible.

We would like to send our well wishes to all our club members, their families and the wider community.

***In light of all the seriousness going on in the world here is a joke to brighten your day***

Why is basketball messier than netball??

(Because in basket ball players dribble, while in netball there in no dribbling but we wear bibs just in case).

**New Saintry's Bus Service**

Saintry's reports that Bridport has the biggest uptake of usage in the North East so far. Good news, and thanks to the locals who are supporting the service. Stress-free-drive and no parking worries in Launceston CBD for shopping and appointments.



**North East Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.**

The March Field Nats outing was in two parts. The little reserve of Merthyr Park near Lilydale had been the focus of a visit in 2016. Since then, it has been discovered that many of the small rivers in the Lilydale area either have the Giant Freshwater Crayfish, *Astacopsis gouldii* in them or are potential habitat for same. That can be said for the Second River which runs through the reserve, though none were seen this day. The highlight of the walk was the sighting of a mass of Ghost fungi, *Omphaloma nidiformis* at the base of a tree. This fungus is luminescent, but we didn't wait around to see it glow.

The next part of the outing was a walk up Mt. Direction. We were lucky enough to be accompanied on this 2km uphill track by Heiner Seibert from the Tamar Valley Semaphore Association, who explained some of the Semaphore history as well as features of the track including a divergence via the quarry where stone was extracted for the fort-like walls of the buildings and stone fences at the top. The return journey back down provided a wonderful panorama to the north (over Bell Bay and Low Head), and to the west (dominated by the extensive Hillwood berry farm poly tunnels).

It's quite likely that the next outing for the group will be cancelled, but watch this space in the next BridReport for some natural news of interest.

The picture shows the Ghost fungi seen at Merthyr Park. It was taken by Len Gillett – who led the walk.



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### Bridport Girl Guides News

Bridport Girl Guides had a very successful fund raising with their cheese platters and seafood raffle at the recent Bridport Summer Party. Thank you for your support.

Bridport Guides are continuing to run despite our present circumstances. They have a private blog going for guides of all ages. We also have private Facebook for the individual groups. This way the guides can still interact with their leaders and each other. The blog consists of guiding traditions, personal challenges and community activities ( of course not physically) . Each week their group leaders notify them of their challenges. Each week supplies of what they may need are left at the Bridport PO and Scottsdale Salvos which may have changed by the time this is printed. As you are out for essential shopping please check out the post office window for our Anzac Day challenges. Thank you to those leaders who are putting in such an effort.

13 Guides and 3 leaders travelled to Snug for the Long Weekend where they took part in the Annual Scout Guide Regatta. They participated in 37 events on the water and on the shore , gaining several first, second and third placings. They all challenged themselves to try new things and all thoroughly enjoyed their weekend, coming home extremely tired. Thank you to Rachael Knott, Rosie Waite and Viv Sarich for giving up their long weekend to take the Guides.



Let's hope if we all stay put and do the right thing we can keep everyone safe.

Our thanks go to the teachers, health care people across the board, our police, shop people and all other essential services for their work to get us through. And for all those home schooling do whatever it takes to stay sane!

Lyn Commane  
Dorset District Manager



#### PLEASE NOTE

Guides will not be selling ANZAC biscuits until June so keep an eye out for the new look and recipe



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Sun 11 am - 2 pm

**BRIDPORT NEWS AGENCY**  
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**CLOSED until further notice**





## Splitters vow to defend Fiesta title

It's not scheduled for another four months but the champion team from the Tasmanian Splitters' Challenge at Tassie Scallop Fiesta 2019 is promising to be back to defend the title.

The team members, who work for Superfresh Seafoods at Bridport, have taken delivery of the updated perpetual shield to hang in the factory office foyer.

The scallop fishing season closed at the end of 2019, enforcing a six-month lay-off before knives are sharpened again ready for a start about mid July.

Planning has started for the next Tassie Scallop Fiesta to be held on Sunday, 2 August 2020, when the scallop splitting races are bound to be a popular event.

What else goes on the program for the Fiesta and a series of fringe events will be considered over coming months ... suggestions and who might drive them would be gleefully received.



Plant manager Jacob Stanford and champion scallop splitters Cheryl Davis, Sarah Shan, and Karen Hayes admire the updated perpetual shield



ABC Landline cameraman captures the action in last year's Scallop Splitters' Challenge (used in a story on the Fiesta and Scallop industry) ... from the website home page.

### Dorset Council Offices and Depots are now closed to the public



Council have moved to internet and telephone-based customer service systems. All Council functions remain operational.

Please **email** queries to the listed email addresses above rather than calling. Staff are checking emails regularly and estimate a response within 1 business day.

If you are unable to submit requests or queries electronically, staff can be reached by telephone on (03) 6352 6500 from 9.00am - 4.30pm. Council ask that you please use the general phone number for all queries, even if you have a direct officer's number during this time.

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Council Meeting (incl. Public Question Time)	The 27 April Council Meeting is planned to be held virtually, with further details to come.  Public Questions can be submitted in the usual ways: <a href="mailto:dorset@dorset.tas.gov.au">dorset@dorset.tas.gov.au</a> ;  <a href="mailto:gm@dorset.tas.gov.au">gm@dorset.tas.gov.au</a> ;  or dropped off at the Council Office (see below hardcopy info);  <a href="http://www.dorset.tas.gov.au/council-meetings/development@dorset.tas.gov.au">www.dorset.tas.gov.au/council-meetings/development@dorset.tas.gov.au</a>
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General Queries	<a href="mailto:dorset@dorset.tas.gov.au">dorset@dorset.tas.gov.au</a>  03 6352 6500  9.00am – 4.30pm
Hardcopy Information	Mailed to PO Box 21 SCOTTSDALE 7260  Dropped off and placed through mail slot at 3 Ellenor Street SCOTTSDALE



ALL markets held by CWA have been cancelled due to the current health crisis.

Apologies for any inconvenience.....Stay safe and well

### Bridreport new editor

Bridport Innovations, which brings you this monthly BridReport, would like to welcome Alison Reader as the new editor, as from this edition.

Maureen Gatenby has held the role for the past two years and we thank her very much for her input and collation of this local production. 🙌

Many of you will know Alison from the Bridport and Scottsdale libraries, as well as from her involvement with Pony Club and other community groups.

Alison has taken on the role with enthusiasm; we thank her for volunteering to work with the sub-committee to keep our village up-to-date with what's on.

### Brought to you by



If you have an up coming event or something you would like to share please contact Alison for more information:

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

A BIG thank you to the individuals, clubs and organisations and businesses who contributed to this month's issue of the Bridreport