

BRIDREPORT

Fun of fair at Fiesta

Nearly 2500 people made the 2022 Tassie Scallop Fiesta another resounding success. Many visitors joined locals on the Bridport Village Green and the Community Hall to enjoy the laid-back day of entertainment and some education from experts in the culinary and viticulture arts.

Those attending demonstrations by celebrity chefs Analiese Gregory and Terry Fidler and wine cellar master Ian White were keen to learn and put some insightful questions to the presenters.

The event has met the aims of organisers in bringing some life and colour to the town at time that can be dour. Accommodation was difficult to find and several other businesses reported brisk trade in the lead-up days.

Although conditions were overcast for much of the day, threatening rain held off until well after the Fiesta finale – the scallop splitters challenge, which was run and won to the vocal encouragement of the crowd.

The resulting scallop meat was subject of a spirited auction to the great benefit of the Bridport Men's Shed.

Eased Covid restrictions meant more families attending, and the stilt-walking water droplets with their giant bubbles found great support among the younger brigade, who also enjoyed the face painting station and the Fishcare pond.

The Fiesta was the culmination of many hours of work by an ageing and dwindling army of volunteers, raising the question of whether Bridport can support another next year.



The seagulls were bothersome!



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North East Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Tasmanian Bats

It is well known that the North East Field Naturalist Club has an outing every month, but it also holds two indoor meetings in the year, one of them being the AGM. At the July indoor meeting, members were delighted to welcome Lisa Cawthen to speak about bats. Having studied at UTAS and now living in Hobart, Lisa has done a doctoral thesis and travelled all over the state for her bat research. She is also an educator, so her talk was full of interesting information.

Tasmanian bats are called microbats. They are tiny flying mammals weighing a mere 4 or 5 grams.

They are not really on our radar when it comes to conservation. They should be though, because they play a really important role as insect controllers. They consume thousands of insects each night, the majority of them mosquitoes.

Most bat species depend on forests for foraging, socialising, mating, breeding or roosting, but they can be found almost anywhere as long as there are roosting places and water nearby. Bats use one habitat for roosting and another for breeding.

Old trees with hollows are important to them because between September and February, maternal colonies form where mothers give birth and raise their young in the hollows. These colonies sometimes number in the hundreds. The biggest bat colony in the world is a whopping 25 million bats in Bracken Cave in Texas.

All eight Tasmanian bats use tree hollows. They are known to co-habit with possums too. People are probably familiar with the fruit bats on the mainland. These rarely visit Tasmania. They have interesting names like Gould's wattled bat, Chocolate wattled bat and the Eastern falsistrelle.

Threats to bats' habitats can be caused by tree removal, storms, fire and drought. Bats can also be injured or killed by wind turbines, aeroplanes, pesticides and predators. Amongst those predators are snakes, hawks, owls and cats.

Lou Brooker



Picture supplied by Lisa Cawthen of herself holding a stuffed Little Forest Bat.

Stories from the sea entertain



About 100 people were entertained and a little educated at the Mariner's Muse storytelling event at Bridport Golf Club.

The popular session signalled the start of the Fringe for the Tassie Scallop Fiesta.

The illustrated presentations by four different speakers were moderated by local historian Nigel Mercer and included two professors, a commercial fisherman and a yachtswoman.

Emeritus Professor Nigel Forteach explained the challenges in setting up a successful seahorse farm, Springfield resident Jane Kilburn talked about her experiences sailing through the Pacific, fisherman John Hammond gave a brief insight into his family's long association with the industry, starting with his grandfather, and marine biologist Prof Pip Cohen rounded off the evening with stories of her involvement and research into island fishing cultures.

The evening started with a scallop entree and the audience enjoyed pizzas during an intermission, before joining in a panel discussion with questions to the guest speakers.

Thanks to Unique Charters and Bridestowe Lavender Estate for their kind donations of lucky door prizes.

Golf Club member Ann-Maree O'Keefe serves some pizza to Bridport residents Deb Rattray and Anne Gillespie.



Market made its mark

Patrons and stallholders were enthusiastic about the Growers and Makers market that was a final part of the Scallop Fiesta fringe.

Many out-of-town visitors were among the several hundred to browse the 34 stalls in the Community Hall and the big marquee on the Village Green offering a wide range of produce.

Willie the flamin' piano was an intriguing addition and a number of players took the opportunity to provide an impromptu recital while Pete Willoughby welcomed bargain hunters with his ageless busking tunes.

The vendors reported it was well worth their time to attend the market. The RSPCA was a beneficiary from a popular stall with cupcakes sold by local cook Lauren Smylie. 🙌

Fiery opening for skate park

A scintillating display of skateboarding skills, with some spills thrown in, served as the formal opening of the Bridport skate park.

Half a dozen exponents from the Drop In Skateboard School showed off their styles under lights on the new structure.

The Federally-funded \$420,000 park was formally opened by Federal Bass member Bridget Archer and Dorset Mayor Greg Howard after a children's flag procession was led to a bonfire next to the park by pied fiddler Cathy Halliday.

Bobbie the box jellyfish was thrown onto the fire taking with her all the worries written out and deposited over the past three weeks.

The free evening of family fun on the foreshore was part of the fringe of the eve of the Tassie Scallop Fiesta.

That day dawned with the Brrrave winter swim hosted by the Bridport Surf Life Saving Club. About 50 stoic souls took to the waves albeit they were a long way out from Gofton Beach with a very low tide at sun-up 7.18 am.



Monson Brrrave swimmers

Pied fiddler,
Cathy Halliday,
leading the
children's flag
procession



Bridport Lions Club

The Lions Club of Bridport have been busy over the last month organizing the following activities/events:



1. Battery Recycling – Lions Club of Bridport are continuing to collect batteries from cars, tractors, trucks and farming equipment – we can either collect these from your property, or you can drop them off at the F C Management Shipping Yards (Matthew Bayles) – pallet available for old batteries. Please contact Doug Beswick (0427 561 937) or Bob Child (0429 133 739 or 0407 687 853).
2. Recycling Reading Glasses – Lions Club of Bridport have teamed with Bridport Pharmacy to provide a box for community members to “drop off” their old glasses. Lions Recycle for Sight Australia is part of the Lions Clubs International Worldwide Eyeglass Recycling Program, operating throughout Australia and overseas. We receive requests from humanitarian organisations either travelling to a developing country or supplying shipping container loads of suitable humanitarian aid from Australia to groups in these countries. Please support your Lions Club of Bridport in recycling your old glasses.
3. Charity Golf Day – The Lions Club of Bridport is conducting our Annual Charity Golf Day at the Barnbogle Golf Course. Registrations and breakfast available from 8.00 am prior to a shotgun start at 9.00 am. Funds raised will be supporting organisations who are helping local communities in a variety of ways. Entries close on the 27th September. We are limited to 18 teams, therefore, to avoid disappointment, please email lionsbridport@gmail.com or phone Leonie Johnston (0438 281352) or Ann Maree O’Keefe (0409 918 068).
4. Christmas in July – Lions Club of Bridport hosted a very successful Christmas in July Lunch at The Bunker Club on Sunday, 3rd July with 40 Lions Members and friends from George Town joining our Bridport Lions Club Members supporting this event.

If you are interested in becoming a Lions Club of Bridport Member please contact:

- Ann Maree O’Keefe President 0409 918 068
- Leonie Johnston Secretary 0438 281 352
- Jan Foster Vice President 0417 518 811
- Jenny Cox Treasurer 0409 440 130

Many thanks

Leonie Johnston
Secretary

Bridport Golf Club

Presents

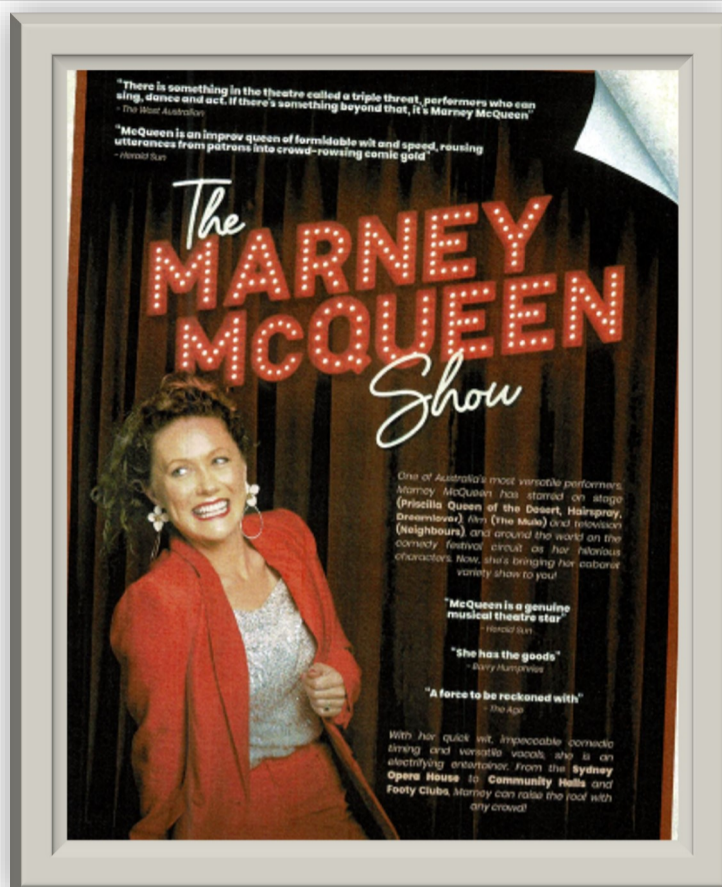
Marney McQueen**Cabaret Show**Friday 7th October 8 pm show

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Bowood – More than just a country estate

A recent Brid-Report covered early settlers, including the Brewer Family at Bowood. This article will focus on the Bowood estate, a significant contributor to both Bridport, and the North-East region of Tasmania in the 19th Century. Now one of the oldest homes in the district, building was commenced by Peter Brewer in the late 1830s, soon after taking up his initial grant of 500 acres of land. The homestead was completed in 1844.

The quite substantial homestead at Bowood, of some ten main rooms, was constructed of hand-made bricks, local stone and pit-sawn timber. Internal fittings are of Cedar Wood. Many outbuildings were constructed over time, including the addition of servants' quarters, a Post Office and trading post, and also a number of agricultural buildings.

Bowood employed many Ticket-of-Leave men in a range of agricultural and construction occupations, making the estate largely self-sufficient, given its isolation in the early days. In addition to the usual occupations of shearers, fencers, teamsters, wheelrights, carpenters and blacksmiths, Bowood even employed a shoemaker, such was the necessity of the time. A number of gardeners developed an English country garden, with many fine English trees and an orchard dominating the estate.

As Bowood grew in both stature and size, it became a significant mercantile stop for travellers living, working and passing through the district. Indeed, early Scott's New Country pioneers often passed through Bowood on their way to the then "Cox's Paradise". The estate traded all manner of goods for both home, agriculture and mining, developing a shipping enterprise, firstly along well-worn bullock trails from Port Dalrymple and Launceston, then by ship from the Brid River mouth, prior to the establishment of the port of Bridport. A Post Office was established and many travellers stayed at or camped near Bowood for safety on the trail. There was no mail service in those days, and whenever a pioneer of the district travelled to Bowood, they would take and pick up everyone else's mail.

With just two policemen to patrol the North-East Coast from Georgetown to Cape Portland in the 1840s, largely to protect against sheep stealing, police huts were established at many of the farms in the District. The police hut at Bowood was often used to house prisoners being returned to Georgetown. One allegedly regular Bowood police hut patron from Waterhouse was George "Shanty" Shillets, who had gotten the better of his guards on one occasion, absconding while they slept.

Bowood can boast many significant customers, including hosting various Vice-Regal personages visiting the region. Others included senior clergy, state MPs and other notable persons. Bowood was once described as the crossroads of the district, with numerous Bullock dray, horse and foot traffic passing by for mail, sale or purchase of goods, and shipping of wool, gold, tin and produce.

The Dorset Tasmania History Society aims to record and preserve the history of our region.

You can contact them via their popular Facebook page or via their President, Nigel Mercer, on 0412 063 024.



Safe Driving by Dr Jo Grey



Driving is a skill of daily living that most people value. The thrill of getting your drivers' licence as a teenager and the independence and mobility this brings are an important rite of passage. Possessing a driver's licence is also a great privilege which carries responsibilities.

When injury, disease, illness or aging potentially affect your ability to drive, it is necessary think carefully about your potential limitations and make adjustments to your driving habits and behaviour.

Driving can be more difficult for older adults due to a decrease in physical and mental health including visual, hearing, motor and cognitive (such as problem solving) abilities. Older adults who are in accidents recover less quickly and less fully than younger people which can lead to unnecessary dependency on others and most likely a stop to your driving. By playing it safe, older adults can prevent accidents.

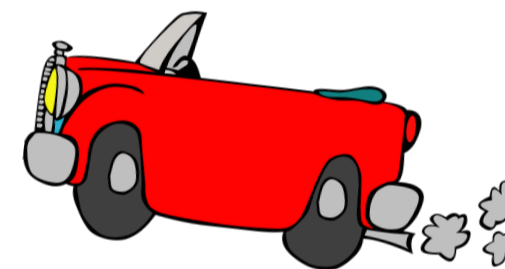
Here are some tips that older adults practise to ensure their own safety and that of their passengers.

Check your fitness to drive

- Have your eyes and hearing tested regularly and wear recommended glasses/hearing aids.
- If you are on medications, check to make sure it is safe to drive while taking them. Do not drive if you are tired and avoid long hours of continuous driving.
- Do not drive if you are emotionally upset.
- Keep your wits about you! As you drive, try the game "what if" to stay alert and mentally prepared for driving emergencies.
- Do exercises and stretches to improve your neck and body flexion so you can easily look around you when backing up, turning, etc.
- Drive only. Do not use a mobile phone, eat, smoke, etc.

Adjust your car

- Always wear your seatbelt properly
- Adjust your seat and headrest for comfort, to prevent injury and improve viewing.
- Adjust your mirrors for a clear view.
- Ensure your sun visor can prevent glare.
- Keep all windows clear and clean, inside and out.
- Keep unnecessary noise to a minimum: radio, fan and passenger noise.
- Make sure your car is properly maintained.
- Make sure your car is safe to drive in adverse conditions (e.g., ice or rain).



Drive in ideal conditions

- Heavier traffic and fast moving highways may be more difficult. Consider alternative routes or take a re-fresher course or lesson.
- Avoid peak hour when you can.
- Heavy rain, wind and ice make driving hazardous for everyone - avoid if possible.
- Driving at night, dusk or dawn may be more difficult for those with poorer eyesight even when wearing glasses.

If you have any type of medical condition, you will most likely be required to have a regular medical examination to certify that you are fit to continue driving. All Australian drivers are assessed according to the Austroad "Assessing fitness to drive for commercial and private vehicle drivers" which outlines minimal standards for all drivers. Doctors are legally required to verify that intending drivers meet the minimum requirements for all relevant medical conditions in order to certify that the person is fit to drive. In some instances, a conditional licence may be issued or a review by a medical specialist and/or an occupational driving assessment may be necessary to ascertain driving ability.

Prepare for driving retirement

There may come a time when you no longer feel safe to drive or you may be told that you can no longer drive. All drivers must consider that their ability to drive may not continue throughout their lifespan. Before the effects of aging influence the ability to drive safely, older adults should start the transition to driving retirement and consider the mobility options that will suit their needs within their community.

<https://austroads.com.au/publications/assessing-fitness-to-drive/ap-g56>



Bridport Girl Guides

Despite some very cold and wet weather the Bridport Girl Guides enjoyed a great Unit Camp at the Scout Cabin at Pearly Brook. The camp had a New Zealand theme and was led by one of our leaders Michelle Mott who comes from New Zealand.

Guides learnt a NZ Stick Game which provided us all with a lot of laughs. They made Poi's, the challenge was to twirl them. Everyone became very efficient at it. Other activities included searching for a Kiwi, completing challenges along the way which included making kiwi scats and collecting and examining our native animal scats; making bush donuts, moulding



'bone ' NZ jewellery from clay, making a swingin one of the trees, zooming down the hill in a toboggan, making a fairy garden and in the evening they all enjoyed an inside campfire. Only four Guides were brave enough to sleep outside in a tent.

The Guides tried NZ food by having a Hangi which included kumera and a NZ steamed pudding along with NZ biscuits, fruit and treats.

Although they all went home a bit damp muddy and tired they all said it was a great camp and look forward to the next one.

Kate Gofton joined us to teach macrame, which was very challenging to some of the leaders!

Lyn Commane
Dorset District Manager GGT
0409 561 642





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Wattle Day by Mike Douglas

It is the time of year when our national colours of green and gold are spread across the landscape.

The first known celebration of the wattle was in Van Diemen's Land at the inaugural Hobart regatta, December 1st 1838. The Governor's wife, Jane Franklin, was passionate about the wattle and urged regatta patrons to display a sprig of silver wattle blossom tied with a ribbon of British blue. The idea caught on, though given the date the blossom was probably from the black wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*. Booths displayed verse written about the wattle by patrons, such as:

I'm of colonial growth,
I boast no ancient fame,
You smile - but by my troth,
I'll make myself a name.

On August 10th 1853, the grand parade in Launceston to celebrate the end of convict transportation passed beneath an imposing arch decked out with wattle blossom that took three days to prepare. By Federation in 1901 it was a symbol of the nation. A Wattle Day League was started and September 1st 1910 was the first Wattle Day with a function in Sydney that 'greatly exceeded all expectations'.

Sad to say, Wattle Day has faded from public cognisance - but perhaps on September 1st you might pause to admire this national icon.

Sunshine wattle in the bush at Bridport



U3A (University of the Third Age) - Art Painting Group - Everyone Welcome

U3A Bridport Art Group is starting up on Friday the 12th August from 9 am - 3 pm.

The group is for individual painting, companionship and sharing ideas.

For those interested in being part of this new group come along on 12th August with your own paints, paper and or canvas.

U3A co-ordinators will be there to welcome you.



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Bridport Golf Club - Croquet



As a subsidiary club of Bridport Golf Club croquet membership is encouraging as it grows steadily. New players and beginners are most welcome to join the casual, relaxed games from 10.15 am each Wednesday.

Games are played Wednesday to coincide with Golf ladies competition day. There is a consistent number of players each week enabling a double round of games in both morning and afternoon. It is always good to meet other players and beginners from Tasmania and interstate. Croquet suits all ages/ability.

During winter players are invited to join Golf Ladies for a soup/savoury lunch at the Golf Club. A lucky draw for Croquet players is drawn weekly with vouchers awarded to the winner.

Once a month a Croquet, Cake and Coffee session is held to draw a raffle and for all players to help celebrate those birthdays for the month. Fund raising is used to help upgrade equipment.

Last month members elected a Croquet committee to oversee these activities. For information please contact any members.

President : Chris Russell 0429 781 440
 Treasurer: Pamella Krushka 0417 522 477
 Secretary: Helen Schuring 0428 340 579

Bridport Probus Club



In July Probus members had a great lunch at *The Bunker* at the monthly meeting and some special guest speakers. Regular monthly meetings are held on the 4th Friday.

Last month Nigel Mercer, Dorset Historical Society illustrated some inspiring chronology entitled 'Bridport to Scottsdale'. Most members remembered connections & stories in response to the photos.

At our July meeting Fay Ralph 'Aunty Fay' related her newly discovered connections to First Nations People. Fay's genealogy includes Dolly Dalrymple and settlements around Latrobe through the years to today's connections to Mannagelana mob of the north east, the significant landmarks, rivers and research into naming from original language.

On the 5th Friday in July members lunched at Nadine's at Pipers Brook after a Secret Garden visit with a sample of mulled wine.

Next month our meeting 26th August will welcome Kym Corfield as guest speaker: Library resources and opportunities....not just books. Members invite friends and those interested in trying Probus as an interest group for Fun, Friendship, Fellowship & Food.

If you are interested contact:

President: Simon Hirst 0448 635 611
 Membership: Margaret Smith 0477 185 344
 Secretary: Helen Schuring 0428 340 579



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

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

