

# BRIDREPORT

## British visitors charmed by another Bridport



A British pair of tourists had an unexpected hit of nostalgia when visiting the Pavilion information centre.

Mother and son travellers Linda Williams and Mike Day are both born and bred Bridport residents from Dorset, England, so had an interest in checking up on their namesake village during a five-week Australian holiday.

Calling into the Pavilion they did not expect to see a couple of reminders of home in their town's coat of arms incorporated into a welcome sign from the 1950s and an historic poster for the Biddlecombe Tannery.

"My Dad used to deliver hides to the tannery from the farm where he worked," Ms Williams said. "It's all changed now, but I can recognise where things were," she said, perusing the artefact. "I used to work in a shop in front of the main building when I was a girl." In fact her family has been in the area since at least the 1600s.

Despite not having visited her sister, who emigrated to Western Australia more than 50 years ago, Ms Williams is now on her fourth visit to Australia in little more than as many years.

The family spent Christmas with relatives in the West before taking in Uluru, Adelaide and the coast drive to Melbourne enroute to a week's touring Tasmania.

Self-employed Mr Day explained the timing of the trip was around how long he could extend his Christmas break from his electrician's business. "I was intrigued by the names on the map of this area, so it's good to get to Bridport and see it's a lovely spot."

They also planned to call into Weymouth and Lulworth, other localities also on the map of their part of southern England. "Travel is good for the human spirit, I think, and it will be good to be able to tell people at home about the other Bridport," Mr Day said.



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### Lions Club of Bridport



#### Recycle for Sight Program

Lions Club of Bridport encourages members of our community to recycle their glasses – we have a collection box at the Bridport Pharmacy.

Lions Recycle for Sight Australia is part of the Lions Clubs International Worldwide Eyeglass Recycling Program, headquartered in Queensland and 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.

Already close to 19 million pair of spectacles refurbished by the Lions Recycle for Sight Programme in Australia have been distributed. Since 1998 the Lions Clubs of Australia have been successfully restoring SIGHT to many millions of persons in need in Australia and adjacent countries.

Please support Lions Club of Bridport with donating your collection of used glasses with Boris and his team at the Bridport Pharmacy.

Many thanks

Leonie Johnston

Secretary

Lions Club of Bridport Inc

Mobile 0438 281 352



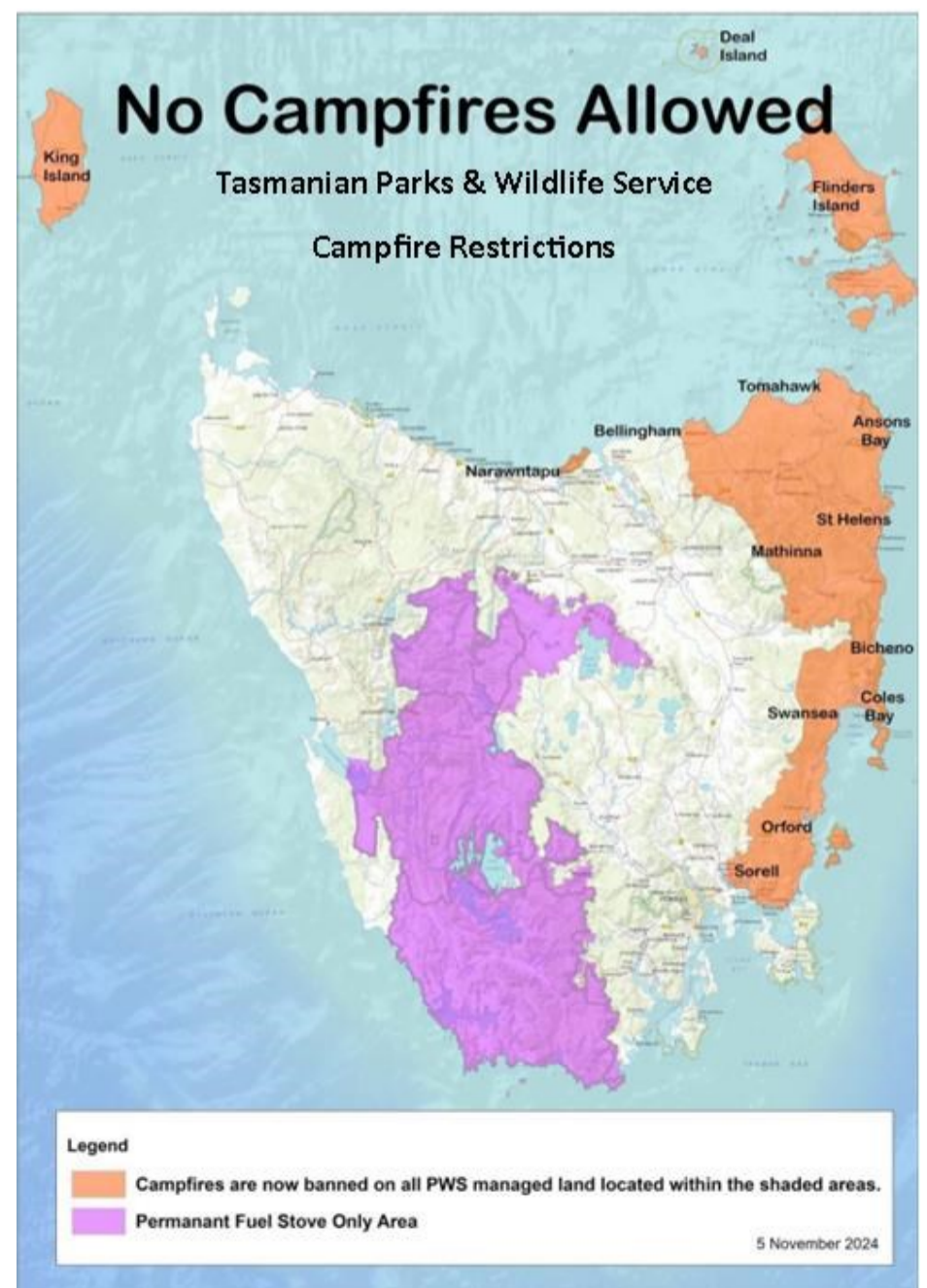
### Annual General Meeting

Sunday 16 February 2025

2:00 pm

Bridport Golf Club

Election of office holders General Meeting will follow



**WANTED** articles for up-coming events and/or wrap-ups - general informative articles - please email: [bridreport@gmail.com](mailto:bridreport@gmail.com)

# Lions Club of Bridport



## Show and Shine Car/Bike Events

Lions Club of Bridport's Show and Shine Car/Bike Show was a huge success - perfect weather, over 180 cars and bikes, fun for children with face painting, memorabilia for sale, line dancers to entertain us, great atmosphere and a huge crowd.

Our People's Choice Competition, very generously sponsored by FC Management (Matthew and Shannon Bayles), had over 800 votes. The winners were:

- 1st Prize - Troy Jones
- 2nd Prize - Nathan Causley
- 3rd Prize - Marcus Cole

Thanks to our Bridport Community and visitors for your ongoing support - fantastic teamwork from our Members of Lions Club of Bridport to ensure a very successful event with funds raised being donated back into our local community.

In 2024 our Bridport Lions Club supported the following Community Organisations:

- Eb's Ride for RAW (Rural Alive and Well)
- Need for Feed – NE Community
- Neuroendocrine Cancer Research
- Cystic Fibrosis Tasmania
- Samaritans Purse – Christmas Shoe Boxes
- Parkinson's Research
- Childhood Cancer Research
- Bridport Men's Shed
- Tasmanian Lions Foundation
- Australian Lions Foundation



## Green Stuff by Lou Brooker

I was talking to a fisherman the other day about the growth of the saltmarsh opposite the old resort. "Oh, you mean that green stuff?" he said.

That 'green stuff' is samphire. It's the dominant plant forming the saltmarsh and grows either in clumps, as seen in the picture below or forms a dense mat, well adapted to coping with high salt levels. In fact these plants are able to grow IN saltwater. One of its other common names is the beaded glasswort and you can see why, because each stem is made up of a string of 'beads' joined together. The plant ranges in colour from bright green to red with an inconspicuous flower at the tip.

Historically people used to burn samphire to collect the ashes which contain a high amount of soda. This was used to make soap and glass. Maybe this is how the 'glasswort' part of its name came into being.

In Britain, samphire is commonly served as a vegetable as it is a great source of vitamin A, calcium, and iron. A warning though, it is extremely salty. This saltiness can be tempered by soaking it in fresh water or blanching it. If it's bright green, it's younger, fresher and more palatable. I have made quite a reasonable pesto with it.

Volunteers in Bridport are working as a group to try to control the invasive weed sea spurge which is getting a hold nearby. If we continue this, the saltmarsh will remain in its natural state and flourish as a habitat.

Samphire forms the basis of a vegetation type which is protected by Commonwealth law but more than that, it absorbs and stores more carbon than an equivalent area of forest and can therefore mitigate the effects of climate change.



Samphire covered by salt water at high tide

A clump of Samphire or beaded glasswort



## Tawny Frogmouths by Ian Whenn

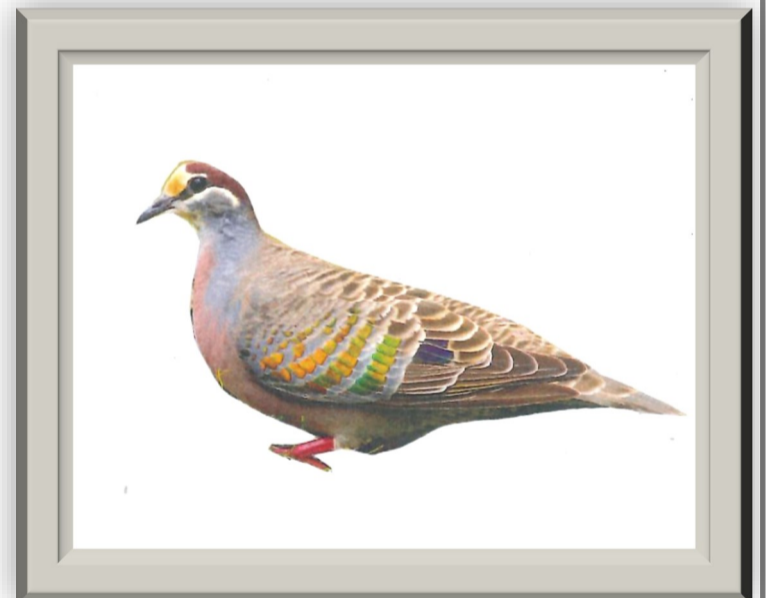
These unusual birds are more common than you might think. They are not spotted very often as they are active at night and by day are quite hard to see due to their excellent camouflage and their habit of freezing in a pose in the tree that makes them strongly resemble a broken branch.

A local resident was lucky enough this summer to have a pair nest in a small eucalypt in her front garden. The photo shows the pair with their chick shortly after it flew down to a lower limb from the nest. They flew off after the chick had a day or two to acclimatise.

The resident has fingers crossed she will get a repeat visit next season.

## Feathered Friends by Mike Douglas

My garden is frequently visited by a pair of bronzewing pigeons. These tubby birds, found in all states and territories, are the most widespread of our Australian pigeons.



The name refers to the bronze colouration of the wings where there are also green and orange patches.

Fallen seeds are a large part of their diet, especially wattle seeds. They wander around the driveway near a big, old sticky wattle then visit a nearby birdbath for a drink - unlike most birds pigeons have an adaption enabling them to suck up water as if drinking through a straw.

The bronzewing is a wary bird and if disturbed rises up with clattering wings. Despite the ungainly appearance they weave at speed through trees and shrubbery.

In the breeding season there is a low-pitched and far-reaching oom, oom vocalisation. You might have heard this distant booming and wondered what it was.

### Bridport: Visitors from thirty-three countries!



Bridport’s information centre, The Pavilion, welcomed a total of 4785 visitors in 2024.

Around 40% were from Tasmania and others came from every State and Territory in Australia:

- 714 Queensland
- 703 NSW/ACT
- 687 Victoria
- 207 Western Australia
- 134 South Australia
- 11 Northern Territory

The Pavilion’s volunteer staff welcomed tourists from many overseas countries: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Columbia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Holland, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the USA.

The largest numbers of overseas visitors came from the UK (71), New Zealand (43), Canada (24), Germany (22) and USA (22).

The Pavilion, operated by Bridport Innovations, is open every day from 10 am to 4 pm. As well as local and regional tourist information, it offers a wide range of local crafts, souvenirs, gifts, cards and even second hand books.

### Pickle Ball in Bridport

Pickle Ball is now available each Thursday in the Bridport Community Hall. This is a free, fun activity for all ages and abilities and a great way to meet other community members.



**We have two sessions available each Thursday:  
12.30 – 3.30 p.m. and 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.**

Rebekah Illingworth from Reclink Australia has provided all equipment - nets, bats and balls to our Bridport Community. Reclink Australia promote improved physical health, mental health and greater social inclusion. Anne Harding is the Coordinator of Pickle Ball in Bridport.

We would like to invite any Bridport Community Members, or visitors to Bridport, to come along and join us – this is a very casual event – you can drop in and out depending on time restraints and other commitments – it is not necessary to attend each week.

For more information, please call **Anne Harding on 0408 139 895**

### U3A Bridport Seniors Group

All seniors welcome  
Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm  
Bridport Hall



February 5	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat	February 19	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat
	10.30	No Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Bingo		11.15	Movie
	12.30	Lunch at The Bridge		12.30	Lunch followed by card/board games
February 12	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat	February 26	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Guest speaker Tony Grundgieger		11.00	Get to know your neighbour
	12.30	Lunch followed by card/board games		12.30	Lunch followed by card/board games

## Ear Wax

### About ear wax

Ear wax has an important job. It's simply a filter for your ear, protecting the ear canal from water, infection, trauma and foreign objects.

Ear wax comes from glands in the ear canal. When it's first made, ear wax is soft and colourless. When it comes into contact with air, it gets harder and becomes yellowish-brown. The ear canal's lining constantly renews itself. Along with chewing and talking, this process of renewal usually moves wax out of the ear. But sometimes a build-up of ear wax can block the ear canal.

### Symptoms of ear wax build-up

When ear wax builds up, it can cause discomfort like an earache. The build-up can also cause dizziness, mild hearing loss or ringing in the ear.

### Medical help: when to get it with ear wax build-up

You should see the doctor if have a build-up of ear wax that won't soften with drops from the pharmacy.

It is also advised to seek medical advice should you have sudden hearing loss, dizziness, ringing in the ear or unmanageable pain in their ear.

### Treatment for ear wax build-up

Ear wax build-up is usually harmless and easily managed.

You can soften ear wax with drops that you can buy from the pharmacy. You can also use a few drops of olive oil. Often, the ear will then clean itself.

If you experience ongoing ear wax build up, the doctor may prescribe special ear drops. Sometimes your doctor will use a syringe to flush out or remove the wax. Or the doctor might use microsuction, which gently sucks out the wax. In more serious cases of ear wax build-up, you may need to see an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Don't use cotton buds to clean your ear. They can push ear wax in deeper, cause it to build up, or even damage the ear canal or drum. Please do not hesitate to ask our staff at Bridport Pharmacy on effective ear wax management and removal.





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**About Karl Thomas**  
I am an experienced physiotherapist with over 40 years experience practicing in Tasmania. I previously established and ran Launceston Physiotherapy Services for over 20 years.



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## January events held in Bridport

### Bridport Surf Life Saving Club



A glorious day for the 2025 **Tasmanian Ocean Swim Series Intas Group Swim the Pier** on Saturday 4. A very big thank you to all the volunteers involved in making the event such a success. Congratulations to all the participants.



### The Bridport Hotel - Clean Our Coast

Thank you to our community for supporting our Clean Our Coast event on Sunday 19!! We appreciate your support, along with our sponsors **Byron Bay Brewery, Dorset Council and White Claw Australia.**



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## Bridport Early Roads

Poor road surfaces and a small population meant that road transport between towns in early Van Diemen's Land was sparse at best. More broadly, the earliest records of commercial road transport for passengers from Hobart to Launceston took place in 1825. The new service appeared, where a single passenger could travel from Hobart to Launceston for the price of £5, a huge sum for the period. Nonetheless, it did take three days to make the journey each way. Some of the many impediments to commercial road transport in those days was the terrain, thick forestation and rivers. These were largely overcome by convict labour, however post cessation of convict transportation, the Tasmanian Government contracted road construction on a commercial basis.

As noted in previous articles, early transport to and from the Northeast was largely by foot, horseback or bullock train, often through very thick bush, with tracks opening up by early settlers and prospectors alike. However, with the beginnings of early settlement in the district in the 1850s, the Government voted £100 toward the construction of a road between Launceston and Ringarooma in 1859. The contract was awarded to Mr Donald Stronach and James Scott, employing two axemen, and marked a line between Myrtle Bank to the Brid River, then through Springfield East, on to the Ringarooma River at the Branxholm Bridge. This work replaced Beale's Track, from Patersonia to Brid River (near Springfield) which was an early means of access to the district.

The Government then awarded a service contract in 1860 to follow Stronach's felled trees, clearing the path to six feet wide from Myrtle Bank to Branxholm, then 16 feet wide by George Priest in 1861. In 1864, the Government also funded the construction of sidelings and culverts between Myrtle Bank and the River Brid. This later served to extend the route to Scottsdale, and then on to Bridport, which provided settlers a shorter overland route to Launceston. District surveyor, Mr Richard Hall, was concerned that Meredith Valley was impracticable and favoured a road via Piper's River. However, James Scott and Thomas Hogarth argued a case for the Meredith Valley route. Hall's survey report seemed to argue his case more fervently.

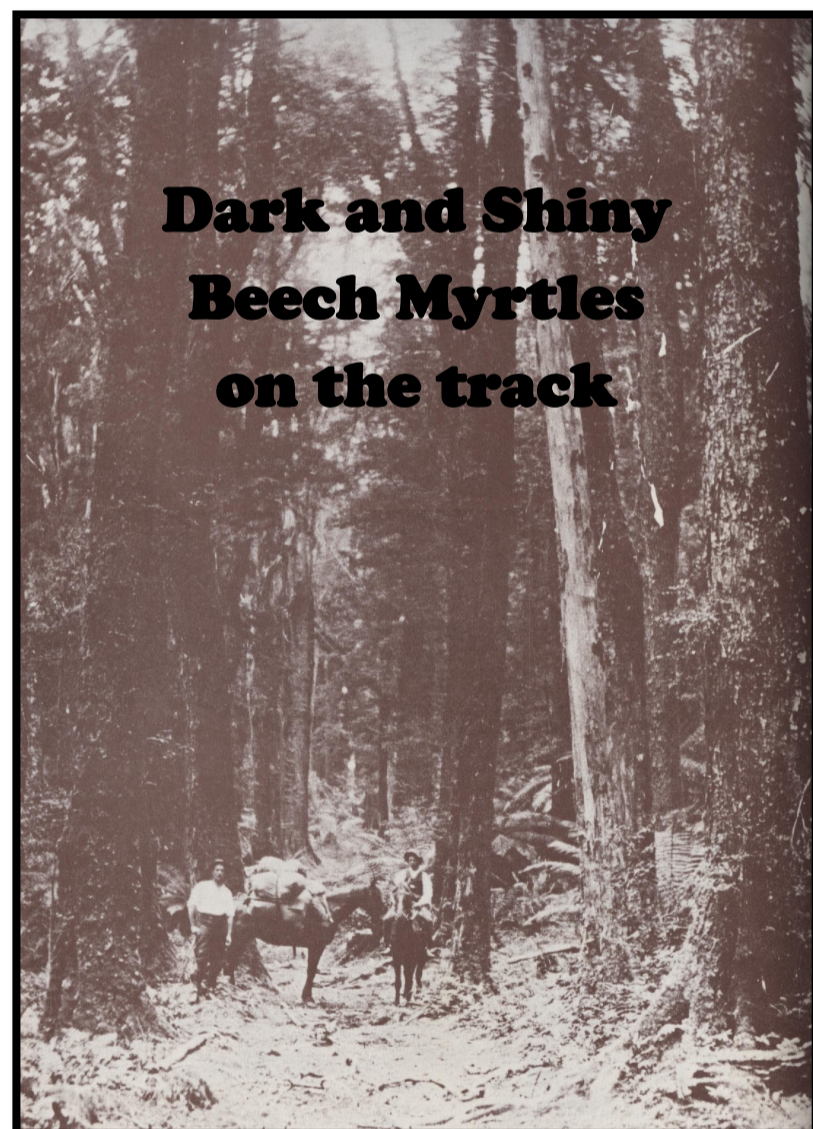
One of the main drivers for a road to Bridport was to get produce to the port, for transport to market. Many settlers wrote letters to newspapers and petitioned parliament in 1862 for the consideration of funding such ventures, articulating their desperate need for such a road. Many argued this route, largely because it reduced their particular need to get their product to market.

Despite the challenges of various people's concerns, opinions and arguments, the road from Bridport to Scottsdale, and further to the River Arnon, then on to the Ringarooma Road, of some 29 miles, commenced under various contracts from 1862. Interestingly, the road was far from complete in the early 1860s, when the Government held funding back. James Scott petitioned parliament, who would not budge, recommending funding be sourced from local ratepayers.

The road was eventually cut with drainage, culverts and bridges, all contracted for construction. Mr Richard Hall surveyed the road, which was cut with contract labour. Tasmania's roads were later managed by district Road Trusts, which consisted of boards elected by the local ratepayers and landholders, who were charged with the upkeep and maintenance of roads in their district.

Newspaper reports of the day indicate that Road Trusts were contentious, prompting many letters to editors expressing their opinions of their performance (or lack thereof). Road Trusts in the early days were funded by both ratepayers and the State Government. These responsibilities transferred to the new Municipal Councils, which were created from 1903.

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.



The publishers acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Bridport and North-East Tasmania, the leenerreter clan of the Coastal Plains Nation, with respect for Elders past and present.

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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

