

BRIDREPORT



Taswater visits Bridport to answer questions on the recently announced water surety solution. Sewerage treatment plant concerns also addressed.

Shortly after the last BridReport was printed, Taswater announced that:

- Additional water from the Camden Dam would be spilled into the Brid River during times of low water flows, to improve river health, and ensure adequate water was available at the Bridport water treatment plant for peak summer demands.
- \$6 million would be spent to upgrade the water treatment plant, but signalled that a further full upgrade would be necessary when capacity is reached – around 2035.
- \$14.8 million would be spent to upgrade the Scottsdale *sewerage* treatment plant.

The public meeting appreciated Taswater's attendance, but had many questions. It was agreed that there will be ongoing consultation, and that residents with specific water/sewerage issues should phone 136 992 or make contact via Taswater's website.....

<https://www.taswater.com.au/customers/complaints-and-feedback>

Although Taswater have signalled a capital works program of \$1,700 million for 2026-2029, the task is huge. For example:

- 91% of Tasmania's sewerage treatment plants do not meet acceptable guidelines because of ageing infrastructure.
- 24% of water is still "unaccounted for" in Tasmania. That's pleasingly down from 33%, but still a long way from the desired 10%
- 5 dams are at critical failure risk with storage reduced to minimal levels
- Computer systems need huge expenditure because of growing cyber-security risks.

Bridport residents will no doubt suffer some water bill pain to contribute towards resolving issues such as these. However, the average 8.8% p.a. additional cost could be much less for many in Bridport.

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The fixed charge will reduce from 84% to 67% of the total bill. That means those using little water, such as those with holiday homes, will benefit.

Taswater's Community & Stakeholder Manager, Christian Attfield acknowledged that an earlier proposal to pipe water to Bridport from Scottsdale had now been abandoned "because of its \$50 million cost." The meeting sought some extra information about that cost, as it had previously been included in Taswater's 2016-2018 corporate plan at \$12 million. A four-fold increase for a pipeline solution, which would have delivered cleaner water to our water treatment plant, seemed extraordinary.

Similarly, annual performance reports for the Scottsdale and Bridport *sewerage* treatment plants seemed to indicate that non-compliant discharges for Bridport are much worse than Scottsdale. In view of the \$14.8 million allocation to Scottsdale, the timing of when upgrades/replacement might occur at the Bridport sewerage treatment plant was questioned.

Timing of all of the upgrades is sometime in 2026-2029 – still probably 2-3 years away. More urgency was urged given the already long delays in resolving the Bridport infrastructure issues.

Field Naturalists visit Scamander

The North East Field Naturalists Club consists of members from all over the North-East. They come from Bicheno, George Town, Winnaleah, Westbury, Scottsdale and places in between.

The monthly outings organised for and by club members are to explore and learn more about all those places. Sometimes there will be a focus on a specific natural phenomena. For example in spring members might look for orchids. In autumn or in winter there might be a focus on fungi. There might be an outing to look at a place of geological interest or to explore a particular vegetation type.

The group records its reports and photos on its website netasfieldnats.com.au , but as well, many members record their sightings and photos on iNaturalist, an online platform for citizen scientists.

Every couple of years, quite often in spring, the group visits a place on the East Coast which is important because of its biodiversity. The Winifred Curtis Reserve at Scamander is protected because its 80 hectares contains bushland, heathland, dunelands and marshlands. It is known as one of the best small reserves in Tasmania and has an amazing variety of species.

On September 13th, the group will spend the day in the Reserve exploring the various trails. As well as enjoying the early spring blooms, there's the possibility of seeing the tailed spider orchid, *Caladenia caudata*, seen below.

The club welcomes those interested in learning about nature.



U3A Bridport Seniors Group

All seniors welcome
Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm
Bridport Hall



Sep 3	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat	Sep 24	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Bingo		11.00	Trivia
	12.30 pm	Lunch at The Bay Inn, followed by cards		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.
Sep 10	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat	Sep 31	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Guest speaker: Lou Brooker		11.00	Let's learn something new
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.
Sep 17	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat			
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee			
	11.00	Movie			
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.			



Lions Club of Bridport Inc.



Lions Club of Bridport Charity Golf Day 2025

After a request from the Bridport Primary School Association, the Bridport Lions Club has decided to donate all money raised from our annual Charity Golf Day at Barnbougles Dunes on 18th September to be used to fund the update of playground equipment. Whilst the current equipment has provided many years of enjoyment to the children of the school and the wider Bridport community, sadly much of it has now reached the end of its safe and usable life. Bridport Lions are very proud to assist the Bridport Primary School Association to raise the necessary funds to install new, safe, and engaging play structures that will encourage physical activity, social development and imaginative play.

The Lions Club of Bridport will be selling raffle tickets in the lead up to this event with some great prizes on offer including a return flight for 2 to Flinders Island generously donated by Flinders Island Aviation. The raffle will be drawn at our Charity Golf Day on 18th September, and the winners will be advised. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10.

In 2024/25 our Bridport Lions Club supported the following Community Organisations:

- Eb’s Ride for RAW (Rural Alive and Well)
- Red Dirt Café - 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



For more information on our Lions Club of Bridport Charity Golf Day, please contact the following Lions Club Members:

Leonie Johnston	Secretary	Mobile 0438 281 352
Melissa Coote	Assistant Secretary	Mobile 0455 288 380
Maria Saunders	Treasurer	Mobile 0437 995 128



Lions Club of Bridport - Mental Health and Suicide Awareness

After seeing a recent article in the NE Advertiser regarding the Scottsdale Lions project to paint a vintage Massey Ferguson tractor in the familiar light blue to raise mental health awareness within the Dorset community, the Bridport Lions has decided to follow their lead. Scottsdale being rural means the tractor is very appropriate, Bridport being seaside, an old boat seems the most appropriate for a similar installation. At the moment this is just an idea – we need a boat to paint!

If anyone has an old boat that they could donate to the Bridport Lions we would be very appreciative! Our Dorset community is unfortunately all too familiar with suicide, any awareness we can raise can only be a positive thing. Please contact Secretary Leonie Johnston 0438 281 352 or Assistant Secretary Melissa Coote 0455 288 380 if you know of a suitable boat.

Many thanks for your ongoing support of Lions Club Bridport.

Leonie Johnston
Secretary
Lions Club of Bridport
Mobile 0438 281 352

After the Storm by Lou Brooker



These sand bags were inserted into the bank in 2018 in an attempt to stop erosion of the picnic area at Old Pier Beach. The easterly storm brought waves and a backwash with enough energy to do this damage and, yet again, alter the sand movement on the beach. The system has needed constant repair since its installation 7 years ago.



Further south at Eastman's Beach, there's a man-made cement wall which has been there since the 1930's. Strangely, this wall has lasted longer than the bags, despite lately having a huge quantity of cobbles hurled at it. This rock material would have helped dissipate the wave energy during the last storm. Some of us remember when there was only sand at the base of the wall.



In the estuary near the Elizabeth Street swale where the waves would have less power again, there was still the persistent push of the extreme high tide eroding the walking track. Nearby, the water pushed in over the track stopping 15 metres away at the base of two huge boulders.

These rising sea level events will continue causing damage to man-made structures. They are tearing away huge chunks of our natural coastline too - witness Adam's Beach

The big question on everyone's mind is.....what will we do about it in the future?

BRIDPORT FOOTBALL CLUB

Vote Count & Dinner

Friday 12th September 2025

6:00 for 6:30pm start

Roast meal included
along with a free drink on arrival.

\$20.00 per person

Dress Code: Smart Casual

RSVP by Tuesday 9th September 2025:

Kristy - 0407 132 142



WANTED articles for up-coming events and/or wrap-ups -
general informative articles - please email:
bridreport@gmail.com

Rotary
Club of Scottsdale



RUN

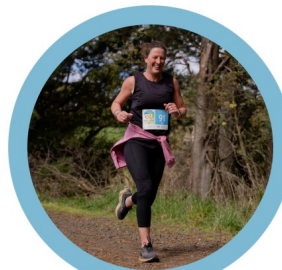
Saturday, Sept 13, 2025
2km, 7km, 14km, 27km, &
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& 54km

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Dog Owner Responsibilities—Dorset Council



A friendly reminder of the following points for those within the community that own a dog of their responsibilities to keep not only the public and other dogs happy and safe, but their own four-legged companion/s:

-  Ensure that your dog does not roam, day or night.
-  Ensure that your dog is fenced in or tied up.
-  When a dog is taken for a walk, it must be kept on a lead of no longer than two metres when in a built-up area and under effective control. At all times, the dog must be in sight of the owner and be immediately responsive to a command;
-  Dogs are prohibited from being taken into shops, public swimming pools, playgrounds, sportsgrounds (when a sport is being played), and children’s educational establishment facilities (schools, kindergarten, preschool, crèche). Penalties apply.
-  Council has declared areas where dogs are permitted to be taken to exercise (off-lead in some circumstances), and other areas where dogs are permitted to be taken when remaining on-lead at all times. Information on these areas is provided on our website - <https://www.dorset.tas.gov.au/dogs>
-  Owners must ensure that a dog is not a nuisance to their neighbours, for example by barking excessively.
-  Should any dog defecate in a public place or land not owned by the person, the owner is responsible and must clean up the droppings and dispose of them. This includes the designated dog exercise area in Christopher Street, Scottsdale. Council provide Dog Tidy Bags and Bins for your convenience throughout townships in our municipality.

Bridport Fun Run

Expressions of Interest

We have been advised by Bridport Surf Life Saving Club that it is no longer in a position to continue running the Bridport 10+ Fun Run.

Is there another club or organisation who may continue the legacy of this great annual October event?

Pluses include:

- 1/2 day community event
- Great fundraiser
- Existing blueprints/equipment can be made available
- Local business support.

Interested parties should contact:

BSLSC Stephen Blizzard 0400 510 958 or
Bridport Innovations Inc.
Jenny Whenn 0408 100 166.

Wattle Day by Mike Douglas

Time flies - Wattle Day, September 1st is here again - with the national colours prominent in the landscape.

Australia has an astonishing array of wattles (Acacias) ranging from small shrubs to sizeable trees, such as the blackwood. Habitats vary from deserts to rainforest.

You could plant a different wattle every day for two years and still have many left over.

You could plant a different wattle every day for two years and still have many left over.

A persistent myth is that wattle blossom causes hay fever. The real culprits are other plants, particularly grasses, that flowers concurrently.

Silver wattles, North East Rail Trail near Scottsdale



Bridport Community Men's Shed Round Up

The Men's Shed has wound up another successful (Financial) year with the election of office bearers for 2025/2026.

President: Bob Child, Vice President Terrance Harris, Secretary/Treasurer Jake Frost.

Bob's President report reminded all members of the successful year they have had. Over the past twelve months they have built and sold a child's cubby house, built benches for the local netball club, a picnic table for Girl Guides, cut and provided the sticks that held the poppies made by the CWA for ANZAC Day. They have made cutting and crib boards for the local primary school and repaired many a project that has been bought into The Shed when a handyman has been needed.

A successful grant application to Rio Tino – Bell Bay Aluminium allowed the purchase of three first aid kits and two First Aid courses to be undertaken by members. A kit in each of the workshop areas and a master first aid kit in the meeting room.

A successful grant application to Tasmania Men's Shed Association allowed the purchase of a new Defibrillator. The defib is located on the wall outside the main workshop allowing convenient access in case of emergency. Members will undertake instruction on it's use.

Work place safety is a priority to all members.

This year's subs are now due and can be paid at any time during Shed working hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 am – 1 pm.

The Bridport Community Men's Shed is well equipped with an emphasis on woodworking gear, an established vegetable garden and a warm welcome to old and new members.



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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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Bridport Pharmacy - Dry Eyes



Dry eye disease is a common condition that occurs when your tears aren’t able to provide adequate lubrication for your eyes. Tears can be inadequate and unstable which can lead to inflammation and damage of the eye’s surface.

Signs and symptoms, which usually affect both eyes, may include:

A stinging, burning or scratchy sensation in your eyes, stringy mucus in or around your eyes, sensitivity to light, eye redness, a sensation of having something in your eyes, difficulty wearing contact lenses, difficulty with nighttime driving, watery eyes, which is the body’s response to the irritation of dry eyes or blurred vision or eye fatigue.

Treatment

For most people with occasional or mild dry eye symptoms, it’s enough to regularly use nonprescription eye drops, also called artificial tears. If your symptoms are persistent and more serious, you have other options. What you do depends on what’s causing your dry eyes. Some treatments focus on reversing or managing a condition or factor that’s causing your dry eyes. Other treatments can improve your tear quality or stop your tears from quickly draining away from your eyes.

Selecting and using nonprescription products for dry eyes:

A variety of nonprescription products for dry eyes are available, including eye drops, also called artificial tears, gels and ointments. Talk with your eye care specialist about which might be best for you. Artificial tears may be all you need to control mild dry eye symptoms. Some people need to put drops in several times a day, and some use them only once a day.

Consider these factors when selecting a nonprescription product:

- Preservative vs. nonpreservative drops. Preservatives are added to some eye drops to prolong shelf life. You can use eye drops with preservatives up to four times a day. But using the preservative drops more often can cause eye irritation. Non preservative eye drops come in packages that contain multiple single-use vials.
- Drops vs. ointments. Lubricating eye ointments coat your eyes, providing longer lasting relief from dry eyes. But these products are thicker than eye drops and can cloud your vision. For this reason, ointments are best used just before bedtime. Eye drops can be used at any time and won’t interfere with your vision.
- Drops that reduce redness. It’s best to avoid these as your solution for dry eyes, as prolonged use can cause irritation.

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Bridport Medical History

Medical practices of the mid to late 19th century were rudimentary at best, compared to 21st century practices. In earlier times, most illnesses and accidents often proved fatal as a direct result of a lack of medical presence, let alone a hospital. Despite this, there was definitely a substantial lack of medical skills in the North East of Tasmania with the establishment and growth of European settlement and the increase of agricultural activities, mining and timber operations, and bush life in general.

Injuries and sicknesses of that time were often at the mercy of the skills and medical supplies on hand to deal with them. As a result, mortality, and more important, infant mortality, was a generally accepted outcome of the day. The nearest General Hospitals were located at Launceston and Hobart, which were out of reach to many in the region. Not only was access, as a result of the tyranny of distance a challenge, but the availability of resources to get there was beyond the capacity of most.

The Launceston Examiner reported in 1864 that the Northeast was growing at a considerable rate, with over 500 persons living and working there, including over 100 children. The concern was raised that, among other infrastructure, there was no doctor, and if one was sent for, it could cost as much as £20, as a result of the difficulty and time taken to get there and back. A letter was published in the Launceston Examiner in 1880, raising the point that the recently arrived doctor at Bridport should be granted an annual salary by the district to ensure he remains in the district. The letter articulated the effort Doctor Ockley went to by riding his horse to Boobyalla and back a number of times in a week to manage a child with debilitating injuries, only charging what the family could afford for his trouble. The writer said that if this doctor is to remain in the district, the district must offer a financial incentive to keep him there. Interestingly, Dr Ockley decided to move to Gladstone in 1881, again depriving Bridport of a doctor.

When Typhoid Fever grew to epidemic proportions in the Northeast Districts in 1887, concern was again raised in the media of the lack of a medical practitioner at Bridport, with the nearest doctor located at Scottsdale. Travel was being restricted by the Government to only those not afflicted, meaning many would go without medical support. W.H. MacFarlane wrote in the 1950s of the Typhoid Epidemic in 1889, only one week before the new railway had opened, and noted many residents were arguing a case for the establishment of a hospital in the Northeast. He noted there was a specially marked carriage that was painted yellow, to take Typhoid sufferers to Launceston. The carriage became known as the "Yellow Peril", and was an old unlighted carriage that was fitted out with just two beds.

The only option for Bridport residents was to travel to Scottsdale to see a doctor or nurse. Indeed, in 1904, Nurse Heazlewood wrote to the Scottsdale Road Trust advising that the road to her house was unsafe, particularly at night, and needed repairs. Considerable discussion followed and the trust advised Nurse Heazlewood that the cost of repairs would be £50. In 1906, Mrs Mary Heazlewood informed the Scottsdale Road Trust that as she had intended opening a private hospital, she desired the road to it be improved so that building material could be brought in. Clearly the road was still not repaired from 1904.

Bridport remained without a medical practitioner for most of its early days. However, it was not until 1918, as a result of a particularly severe outbreak of Typhoid, that a meeting was held to establish a hospital at Scottsdale. To that end, public donations began growing, and in 1921, the North Eastern Soldiers Memorial Hospital was opened by the Premier of Tasmania. Many Bridport social, carnival, concert and dance activities were arranged over the years to raise funds the NESM at Scottsdale, clearly being the primary medical facility for the district. Bridport remains without a doctor to this day, with residents still having to travel for medical support.

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 leenererter clan of the Coastal Plains Nation, with respect for Elders past and present.

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

