

BRIDREPORT

A Wood Turning Legend Retires

After growing up on a farm, Tom Harper went on to work at UMT milk factory at Legerwood for 25 years.

In his retirement his late wife Pam bought him a lathe for a significant birthday around 1984 and a career in wood turning began.

He began turning and doing displays and exhibitions - firstly in Stanley in 1988, then North East Arts and Crafts, Kings Meadows High School, expanding to Deloraine Craft Fair and Agfest doing a dozen shows a year, attaining Best Display in 2000 at the Deloraine Fair. Eventually his individual pieces - eschewing mass production - were selling on the Spirit of Tasmania and in most airport gift shops on the Eastern seaboard and Hobart.

Tom's favoured timbers - Sassafras, Leatherwood, Blackwood, CeleryTop Pine and Myrtle are now hard to find and costly to buy, while Huon Pine is still able to be sourced.

The Pavilion Visitor Information Centre has stocked his beautiful woodwork for many years, and due to his generosity we were able to keep our retail prices low and he was one of our biggest sales items. Buyers loved that each item was different, be it a lidded bowl, plates of all sizes and a variety of useful and quirky items. We miss you Tom!

These days, health has prevented him from the turning life, together with losing his 'business partner' Pam, Tom keeps up with his large garden and chooks, and is often seen riding his electric bike around the village.



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**Bridport
Village Market**

Spring Markets!!

Bridport Community Hall

Saturday, October 4th 2025

Long Weekend, November 1st 2025

9:30am - 1:00pm

*Homemade Goods proudly
Crafted, Baked & Grown here in Tassie !!
BBQ, and a little Bric a Brac for spice...*

*Come along!
42 fabulous
Stalls and
counting.*



**hello
spring!**



CAR BOOT & OUTSIDE STALLS WELCOME

October 2025 to Easter 2026 on the Village Green

To book a stall or site call Viv: 0457 622 221

Email: bridportvillagemarket@gmail.com

Facebook: Bridport Village Market

Proudly run & supported by members & friends of CWA Bridport



OCTOBER 2025 IN DORSET

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
OCT 6TH - 12TH

Tues 7th
11am -2pm
Youth & Family Fest
Bridport Green
Bright Dorset /
Dorset House

Wed 8th 6pm
'Just a Farmer'
Screening
Mechanic's Hall
DPSN / BH4D

Fri 10th 12-2pm
Senior's Week
Lunch
Northbourne Hall
Eating with Friends
/ Dorset House

Fri 10th 6:30pm
'Take Some Time'
Trivia Night
Scottsdale
Football Clubrooms
DPSN

Sun 12th 10:30am
Combined Church
Service
St Andrew's
Dorset Combined
Churches

SENIORS WEEK
OCT 13TH - 19TH

Mon 13th
Wills and Related
Matters
Scottsdale Library
LCLC

Tues 14th
10am - 2pm
Independent
Living Expo
Northbourne

Tues 14th
3pm - 6pm
Family Fun Day
Nugget Sellers
Dorset Christian
Leaders Network

Wed 15th 11am
'Food For Thought'
Consumer Rights
Scottsdale Library

Wed 15th 2pm
Author Talk -
Rhonda McCoy
Scottsdale
Library

CHILDREN'S WEEK
ONLINE WEEK &
26TEN WEEK
OCT 20TH - 26TH

Mon 20th - Fri 24th
Literacy Support
Scottsdale Library

Tues 21st 3pm
Protecting
Information
Online
Tas Libraries

Tues 21st
Get Online with
Tas Libraries

Wed 22nd
10.30am - 12pm
Polliwog Playgroup
Party
Dorset House

Thurs 23rd
11am
Managing Emails
Safely
Tas Libraries
Be Connected

Sat 25th 8:30am
Ruby's
Marathon
Scottsdale
Recreation
Ground

How To!

Easy crochet & needle felting



Friday 10 October

1.00pm - 3.30pm

CWA Hall, Main St, Bridport

\$10 (includes some materials)



Love the beach? Love birds? We need your help. The Hooded Plover Count is coming up, and we're looking for volunteers to help survey beaches in Tasmania's north east.

These small, beach-nesting birds are listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Tasmania is a stronghold for over 60% of the eastern population, and about a quarter of the global population lives along the stunning coastline of the north east and the Furneaux group of islands.

That's why every count matters! It helps us track their numbers and protect their nests.

⇒ No experience needed – we'll give you everything you need.

⇒ A great excuse for a beach walk – and you'll be making a real difference.

Keen to help? Email Nikita at nsarangdhar@nrmnorth.org.au to sign up or learn more.





When: 31 October to 9 November

Where: Beaches across the North East coast

Bridport Ex-Services, Bowls and Community Club Inc.



Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 26 October 2025, 3:30 pm

The Bridport Bunker Club

Agenda to include:

Welcome; apologies; 2024 AGM minutes ; President's Report; Financial Report; Auditor's Report.

Election of Committee:

President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer and four general representatives.

Nomination forms available from The Bunker Club.

All nominations plus any notice of motion to be in the hands The Public Officer by 6 pm Wednesday 15 October.

Simon Hirst
Public Officer

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

DORSET

YOUTH & FAM FEST

TUESDAY OCTOBER 7TH

11AM - 2PM

Learn To Skate Workshop

Hosted by Drop in Skate School (BYO Helmet)

• Activities • Music • Food

• Youth Workers • Stalls

BRIDPORT SKATE PARK

CONTACT

JACK - 0473 078 759 OR

DORSET HOUSE - 0474 100 219



ALWAYS FREE

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The Lions Club of Bridport Inc.

2025 Charity Golf Day & Raffle



The Lions Club of Bridport held our Charity Golf Day at Barnboughe Dunes on 18th September 2025. This year the weather gods were very kind to us and all our intrepid golf teams! Our fundraising this year will all be donated to the Bridport Primary School Playground Equipment upgrade.

Bridport Lions served complimentary bacon & egg rolls for breakfast, complimentary prawn cocktails & wine tasting on the 14th Hole, sausages & hamburgers on the 4th Hole, roast meat and gravy rolls for lunch and a delicious selection of sweet and savoury offerings for afternoon tea in the clubhouse.



Bridport Lions members sold tickets for the major raffle in the lead up to the event and sold many more on the day. All raffle and team prizes were generously donated by Bridport, Scottsdale and Launceston businesses and individuals.

Raffle Prizes & Winners

- 1st Prize Return flight from Flinders Aviation for 2 to Flinders Island – won by Harriet Beattie
- 2nd Prize one night’s accommodation for 2 at the Country Club Casino – won by Liza Cox
- 3rd Prize 2 metres of firewood kindly donated by Gerke Firewood – won by Andrew Bond
- 4th Prize donated by Marie Gooch Pilates Centre – won by Liza Cox
- 5th Prize hamper of goods from The House Paddock in Scottsdale – won by Andrew Bond



Team Prizes & Winners

- 1st Prize 4 x vouchers donated by Nic Betts Golfing Lounge – Dion Turner’s team
- 2nd Prize 4 x \$50 vouchers donated by Bridport Landscaping Supplies – Launceston Toyota
- 3rd Prize 4 x \$25 vouchers donated by The Bunker Club – MAK Constructions

Bridport Golf Club - Ladies Team



Other Prizes

- Longest Drive 10th Hole \$100 voucher donated by Bridport Hotel – Bryce Gorman
- Nearest to Pin 5th Hole \$50 voucher donated by Good Sports Scottsdale – David Bird
- Nearest to Pin 16th Hole \$50 voucher donated by IJ Motors Bridport – Daniel Smith
- Ladies Team Prize 4 x \$25 vouchers donated by St Marks Distillery – Andy Kent
- Over 70s Team Prize 4 x \$50 vouchers donated and won by David Vautin and Peter Bond
- Highest Overall Score 4 x wooden spoons created and donated by Lawrence Archer – Riverside Golf Club (David Vautin and Peter Bond)

Riverside Golf Club - Over 70s Team



We would like to thank all the local businesses and individuals who generously donated the above prizes, along with our wonderful sponsors:

- Harcourts Northeast Real Estate
 - Fulton Hogan
 - North-East Glass and Screens - Scottsdale
 - IGA Top Shop
 - Tania Rattray – Independent Member for McIntyre
 - Scottsdale Veterinary Service
 - David Vautin Family Trust and Peter Bond
 - Paul McDougall Fertilizer Services
 - Nutrien AG Solutions
 - Link Technologies Tasmania
 - Launceston Toyota
- Clovelly Dairy - Bridport
 - Cottage Bakery Scottsdale
 - Platinum Earth Moving
 - Bridport Bay Inn
 - Michael Ferguson – Liberal Member for Bass
 - Padgett & Co Forestry Services Scottsdale
 - Mark McDougall Farming Contractor
 - Bridport Electrical Services
 - Waterhouse Real Estate – Bridport
 - Active Areas Pty Ltd

Swanning about by Lou Brooker



I went for a drive on the internal road between Barnbougale and Lost Farm where the road follows a shallow waterway. I know it as a favourite nesting place for black swan.

I could not believe my eyes when I looked across the paddock, the swans were as thick as the hairs on a dog's back. No that's not a very good simile, but there were so many swans there, it seemed they outnumbered the cows. Is this a 'bevy of swans'? It's a term I've heard before. The conditions are certainly suitable for breeding here; there's plenty of feed, they can be close to the water and alongside the ditches, there are rushes in which to nest and lay their eggs.

Two swans cruised along the ditch beside the car. I stopped and wound the windows down to listen in on their conversation. It consisted of a short reassuring, crooning sound. Somewhat like a peep or a squeak; occasionally I'd hear a little whistle.



Once, I heard the amazing bugling, trumpeting sound the black swan sometimes makes, a sound that carries far, but seemed to come from two swans swimming side by side just fifty meters away. I wondered why the different sounds and what that bugling meant.

On the way to Hobart, it's worthwhile stopping at Lake Dulverton in Oatlands where the swans spend ages building mounds on small islands. Or do they make their mounds look like small islands?

They don't seem to do this at Barnbougale. Here, their nests are more simple – a collection of grasses, reeds and other aquatic material.

Swans are monogamous for life, and it got me wondering if they also nest in the same spot each year, just restoring last year's nest. The one I saw close to the road last year used the same spot again this year.



The Country Women's Association



It's Not All About the Cakes

The Country Women's Association (CWA) is not just about baking the best scones in Australia. Since 1936, the CWA has been a cornerstone of the Tasmanian community. By 1948, the Bridport branch had flourished enough to secure its own space. The North Scottsdale School, perched on Main Street with a stunning sea view, was acquired for the princely sum of \$50 and has been their cherished home ever since.

The group proudly runs the bustling monthly Bridport Village Market. This vibrant market quickly outgrew the CWA hall and is now held in the Community Hall, showcasing a delightful array of goods from local producers and artisans.

As we gear up for the busy season, ready to welcome visitors from near and far, the CWA is buzzing with plans to create exciting events and projects for both the local community and guests. Last month, they unveiled the Little Library & Pantry, a charming beach-hut style store next to the hall. With the motto 'Give what you can, Take what you need,' the hut is quickly filling up with books for all ages, pantry staples, and seeds.



Breast Cancer Awareness is a cause close to the heart of CWA Bridport, with two current members being breast cancer survivors. Recently, one member launched a petition to bring back the breast scan bus to our region, a campaign that has garnered support from the CWA at the state level. To further support the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the group will be hosting 'Frock Up or Frock Off,' a glamorous high tea with entertainment, raffles, and prizes on Saturday, 15 November at the hall.

'How To' days are also on the horizon for the holidays, offering a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to learn new skills, from crochet to writing.

To stay updated on what's happening or to enquire about booking the hall for your own event, check out the notice board at the hall or visit the Facebook page CWA Bridport Tasmania Branch.

U3A Bridport Seniors Group

All seniors welcome

Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm

Bridport Hall



Oct 1	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat	Oct 22	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 Bridport Hotel, followed by cards		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.
Oct 8	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat	Oct 29	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Movie		11.00	Let's learn something new
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.
Oct 15	10 am	Tea/Coffee/Chat			
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee			
	11.00	Guest speakers Donna and Shane Roach. Rotary			
	12.30 pm	trip to Africa Lunch followed by cards etc.			

U3A Seniors Social Group report

Our September guest speaker was Lou Brooker who educated and entertained us on Fungi, as well as showing us amazing photos. One might think that would be a short talk, but, so many varieties and different shapes and colours. Photos taken from various parts of the state. A real eye opener to most of us, made us aware of the passion of some, such as Lou, who study such things that are a part of the works of nature and we take for granted not knowing their purpose in the big picture. These fungi look after our forests by decomposing waste, feed for our wild life, help maintain the health of trees etc.

A big thank you to Lou and all our speakers who give up their time to come to inform and entertain us. Also to the BridReport for publishing our program every month, a great service to the public.



Bridport Bandicoots by Mike Douglas

Conical holes in your lawn indicate the presence of the brown bandicoot, an attractive native marsupial, usually nocturnal, that superficially resembles an overgrown rat, although the rat has a longer tail.

They are fairly common in Bridport gardens, especially those where an area of lawn is fringed with dense, low shrubbery providing a hiding place.

A particularly good plant for a bandicoot refuge is the common sagg which grows vigorously in a garden situation.

Bandicoots are great diggers with lawn grubs that feed on the roots of turf sought after as a favourite food - so they are actually beneficial for your lawn. Golfers might have a different view after finding holes drilled in a putting green.

In bushland these animals turn over lots of soil during their search for insects and their larvae, worms and tubers. They are sometimes referred to as ‘ecosystem engineers’ since their foraging cycles nutrients and allows water and oxygen into the soil, helping to break down organic matter.

Tasmania also has the eastern barred bandicoot but it is uncommon around Bridport.



Bridport Surf Life Saving Club

Bridport SLSC Gears Up for a Big Summer Season

The Bridport Surf Life Saving Club is set for an exciting and action-packed season, with a range of programs and achievements already shaping up for summer.

Bronze Medallion and SRC Courses Begin November 1st

Training for the Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) kicks off on November 1st, with sessions available in both Bridport and Launceston. These essential courses, which are free for members, will culminate in an assessment day on December 6th. The club encourages anyone interested in surf lifesaving to get involved and take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

Nippers Program Returns November 16th

The popular Nippers program will launch on Sunday, November 16th, helping young lifesavers prepare for the first statewide carnival of the season. This major event will be hosted at Bridport on the weekend of December 13th and 14th, promising a great showcase of junior talent and community spirit.

New Patrol Captains and High Performance Success

Bridport SLSC is proud to announce that six new patrol captains have completed their training, strengthening the club’s ability to keep local beaches safe. The club also celebrates the selection of Annie Howard, Tim Innes, Cooper Reeve, Stuart Innes, Felix Harvey, and Harry Culhane in the Surf Life Saving Tasmania High Performance Squad—a testament to the dedication and skill of Bridport’s young members.

Coolangatta Gold Competitors

Annie Howard and Tim Innes have been hard at work preparing for the prestigious Coolangatta Gold. Annie will compete in the Under 17 division, while Tim will represent Bridport in the Under 15s, showcasing the club’s commitment to developing elite surf sports athletes.

Get Involved

Bridport SLSC welcomes new members, whether you’re interested in joining as a Nipper, becoming a patrolling member, or supporting the club as a sponsor. For more information or to get involved, please contact secretary@bridportslsc.org.au.



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Tuesdays @ Dynamic Osteo

28 Ellenor Street, Scottsdale 9 am - 5.30 pm

About Karl Thomas

I am an experienced physiotherapist with over 40 years experience practicing in Tasmania.

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Bridport Pharmacy



Comfort Me Raffy

One in fourteen children and young people aged 4 to 17 in Australia experience an anxiety disorder. Anxiety can affect your child's thoughts, behaviour and feelings.

They might find it hard to go to school or do things they'd usually enjoy. It can also affect how they get along with other people.

Meet Karyn: A Personal Journey Toward Helping Children with Anxiety. Karyn is an inspiring individual who has faced her own battles with anxiety later in life. Through this journey, she discovered the power of companionship, especially from her assistance dog, who provides comfort and support during challenging times. Karyn's journey began with a creative outlet: she wrote and illustrated a children's book as a project for her own mental health. This experience sparked her desire to help others, leading to the creation of Comfort Me Raffy, a plush companion designed to assist children facing similar struggles with anxiety. Comfort Me Raffy is more than a cuddly toy; it embodies the love found in Karyn's assistance dog. With its soft, huggable design, Raffy offers children a sense of security, promoting physical touch that releases calming hormones. With six touch points that activate a soothing Raffy voice and two relaxing soundtracks, this beautifully soft Raffy replica is designed to bring comfort and inspire resilience.

Just as Karyn's dog helps her feel safe and less anxious, Comfort Me Raffy serves as a gentle companion, making it easier for children to navigate their fears. By encouraging open communication, Karyn's creation allows children to express their worries and develop resilience, guiding them toward a brighter, more confident future.

Come and hug Comfort Me Raffy at Bridport Pharmacy, you will instantly fall in love.

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Children (<12) \$19.95

Bridport and the 1890 Economic Depression

Bridport and the 1890 Economic Depression Tasmania experienced severe economic hardship in the 1890s, marked by widespread unemployment, the collapse of the Van Diemen’s Land Bank, and falling land values, all stemming from a downturn in world mineral prices, and a broader Australian recession. However, whilst a boom in silver and copper mining on the West Coast provided some relief, the Northeast continued to be severely impacted by depressed global mineral prices. The economic situation improved by the late 1890s, however the reliance upon mining in the North East of Tasmania was still affected by a drift of people to the mainland.

Whilst Bridport was not the main focus of the 1890s economic depression, which was a national and Tasmanian crisis, the completion of the Launceston to Scottsdale railway in August 1889 made sea trade via Bridport less viable, particularly as Bridport relied upon the prosperity that tin-carting brought to the town. As a direct result, local cargo ship captains, and their crews, were forced to find other employment, contributing to a population decline in the district.

Indeed, valuation rolls for the late 1890s and early 1900s reveal that many of the houses in Bridport were vacant, with some being resumed by the bank as a result of mortgage default.

Commercial activity fell to historical lows, with former mineral, timber and farm produce exports being diverted to the railway through Scottsdale. Where Craske’s Jetty often saw queues of horse drawn carts containing farm produce and bags of tin, these fell away and only local farm produce was brought to Bridport for export by sea.

The critical transition from vital sea trade port to a seaside resort forced many that remained in Bridport to adjust their business and employment practices. The critical challenge to the migration to seaside resort was consistent with the economic depression delivering less disposable income for people to take holidays there. Fortunately, Bridport had begun this transition in the 1880s, thus Bridport had established itself as a tourist destination for seaside and fishing/hunting pursuits.

Despite all of this, the opening of the railway did not spell total doom for Bridport’s sea trade, as surrounding agricultural enterprises continued to prosper, and wool was intermittently shipped from the port. Additionally, in 1900, Bridport was listed in the Encyclopaedia of Tasmania as becoming a favourite summer resort, there being good shooting, boating and bathing, both in salt and fresh water. The Daily Telegraph reported in 1909 that Bridport has become the seaside resort of pleasure-seekers from Scottsdale and adjoining districts, and even extending to influence from Launceston.

It must not be thought that Bridport became less important than it was prior to the 1890s depression, but as a seaside resort, Bridport improved annually in the estimation of the many visitors from far and wide. Bridport’s recovery from the nation’s economic depression was achieved through the change in focus to seaside holiday trade, aided by the construction of new hotels and accommodations for holiday makers, where Bridport went from strength to strength over the next few decades.

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.

FREE Local events

BRIDPORT

Tai Chi and Qigong
Iron Lotus Tai Chi

Basic gentle health promoting exercises for mind and body. Relaxing and invigorating. All movements can be modified to suit your body. Can be done standing or seated. Bridport session is outdoors unless weather is wet, so please dress warmly.
Monday 13 October 11:00am-12:00pm
Bridport Hall Outside, Main Rd, Bridport
Enquiries: 0418 606 656

SCOTTSDALE

Food for Thought - Protecting Against Scams and Navigating Consumer Rights

Department of Justice – Consumer, Building and Occupational Services

Hosted by Libraries Tasmania in collaboration with Consumer, Building and Occupational Services, this informative session is designed to empower seniors with vital knowledge to protect against scams and make informed consumer decisions. Participants will learn to identify fraudulent schemes and understand their consumer rights. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your awareness and stay scam-savvy. If you cannot make one of these locations, you can participate online by visiting cbos.tas.gov.au/seniorsweek.

Wednesday 15 October 11:00am-12:00pm
Scottsdale Library, 51 King St, Scottsdale
Bookings: cbos.tas.gov.au/seniorsweek (close: 13/10)
Enquiries: 1300 654 499

Seniors Week

13-19 OCT 2025

Celebrating a respectful, age-friendly island

CONNECTING GENERATIONS THROUGH FOOD

Seniors Week partners:

Scottsdale Seniors Week Event

Eating with Friends and Dorset Community House

Join Eating with Friends to share a two course meal, followed by tea and coffee, with fun games and a chance to win prizes. Eating with Friends is about bringing people together for a nutritious meal, making new friends, reducing social isolation and improving wellbeing.
Friday 17 October 12:00pm-2:00pm
Northbourne Hall, Northbourne Ave, Scottsdale
Bookings: admin@dorsethouse.org.au
(0474 100 219 (close: 13/10, spots are limited)

The publishers acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Bridport and North-East Tasmania, the leenererrerter 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

ALWAYS FREE

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