

BRIDREPORT

Pavilion goes Solar

Recently, a 3.3 Kw solar system was installed at the Bridport Visitor Information Centre, known to many as “the Pavilion.” Although an initiative of Bridport Innovations Inc, the cost was shared between Bridport Innovations and Dorset Council through Council’s Community Matching Funds Grants stream.

Rated capacity of the seven solar panels is nearly 5,000Kwh p.a. That should bring a financial benefit to Bridport Innovations through lower electricity bills, as well as contributing to Tasmania’s net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by feeding solar energy back into the grid.

The solar system enhances an earlier initiative at the “Pavilion” when electrical vehicle charging was installed back in 2020 – one of the initial batch of EV chargers around regional Tasmania.



This report is proudly sponsored by



Jamie Beaton

Senior Sales Agent & Co-Director

This Space Real Estate

M: 0407 276 349

E: Jamie.Beaton@thisspacerealestate.com

W: www.thisspacerealestate.com

BRIDPORT VILLAGE MARKET

Easter Saturday

**Bridport Community Hall
Saturday, APRIL 4th 2026
9:30am - 1:00pm**

Next Markets MAY 9th 2026 & JUNE 6th 2026

*Browse goods proudly Crafted, Baked & Grown here in Tassie!!
Enjoy the Sausage Sizzle, Plants, Jewellery, Fibre arts, Photography, Soaps,
Bric a Brac & so much more ...*



**Convert your Trash n' Treasure
into Cash on the Village Green!!**

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

Facebook: Bridport Village Market

*CWA Bridport, Proudly supporting our community
since 1938. Join in, new members Welcome :)*



Save the Date

Bands! **DDB FUNDRAISER** 12th July!
 Blackouts, Dan Lizzote,
 Aaron worker and
 Friends.

Meals Available
 limited Menu 🍴

1pm till 5pm

\$10 Entry

Bookings essential
 quote Blackdog
 call or sms Derek
 0408 141 177

Raffles, lucky door prizes!

MOVE & PLAY

a fun free active play session for busy kids 0-8 years

SCOTSDALE INDOOR ACTIVE CENTRE

THURSDAY 10.30-11.30AM

26TH FEB, 26TH MARCH, 16TH APRIL
 28TH MAY & 25TH JUNE

ARTHUR ST, SCOTSDALE

New families/carers always welcome
FREE SESSION
 more info: Tanya 0400 002 116

BRIDPORT NETBALL CLUB SEASON 2026

This year sees the Bridport Netball Club entering 4 senior teams and 4 junior teams into the NENA Competition.

With grading underway for senior teams, the girls are all enjoying being back on the court and look forward to the season getting underway.

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors who help keep our club running and allow us to support our members in many ways. Look out for our new training shirts that players will be proudly wearing around the town.

Shout out to our platinum, gold and silver sponsors below:

Platinum

the BRIDPORT HOTEL

Gold

BRIDPORT CALTEX

Bridport Electrical Services

cains Civil Contracting

Electrical Tasmania

FIRE SOLUTIONS (NSW) PTY LTD

IRWINIZED FABRICATION
 specialising in stainless steel and aluminium
 Matthew Irwin 0497 381 905

BSF BASS STRAIT FREIGHT

Silver

FABRICATION & WELDING

Sea Styles Design
 Hair & Beauty
 Jaculyn Williams

Bridport Golf Course

Come and Try sessions for April

Getintogolf Adults

Every Sunday 10 am to 12 noon

MyGolf for Juniors

Every Monday after school 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm

School Holidays

Girls Golf—Monday 20 April, 10 am—12 noon

MyGolf—Friday 24 April, 10 am to 12 noon Golf skills practice around the course

MyGolf—Monday 27 April, 10 am to 12 noon Juniors competition 6, 9 or 12 holes

All sessions are free

Please register
 @ Mygolf.org.au or Getitogolf.org.au

RIPPER: MyGOLF.

Cabbage Gums by Mike Douglas

Most of you have seen the sign on the Waterhouse Road that reads: Conservation of Eucalyptus pauciflora.

In Tasmania this tree is known as Cabbage gum, perhaps an allusion to the compact shape of some young trees. On the mainland it is called white sallee or snowgum for occurrences in the Australian Alps.

Cabbage gums were once widespread on the Waterhouse plain but were severely depleted in the 1950s during clearing for the soldier settlement scheme and also by the subsequent dieback of eucalypts.

Nearly 30 years ago some Waterhouse landowners re-established this tree as part of a landscape project using trees grown by Woodlea Nursery from locally collected seed.

Mature trees have gleaming white trunks or grey streaked with white, are only of modest height and often show strong branching from near ground level. Eucalyptus pauciflora is one of several eucalypts suitable for planting on the Bridport foreshore.

The photo, taken a few years ago, shows a remnant tree near Bridport that has since succumbed to dieback.



U3A Bridport Seniors Social Group

All seniors welcome
Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm
Bridport Hall



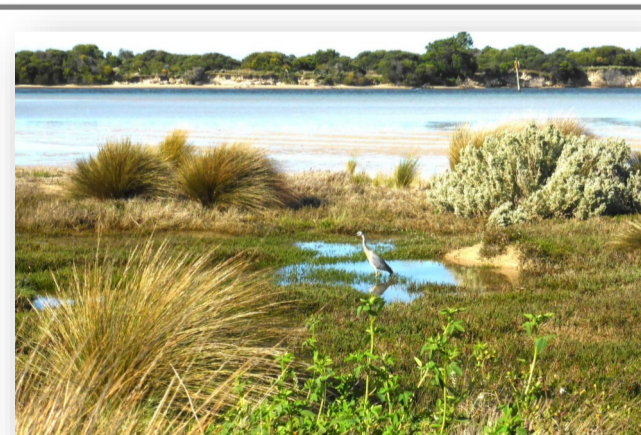
Apr 8	10 am	Meet	Apr 22	10 am	Meet
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11	Movie		11.00	Guest speaker Rayleen Glover
	12.30 pm	Lunch at Bay Inn followed by cards etc.		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.
Apr 15	10 am	Meet	Apr 29	10 am	Meet
	10.30	May not be any exercises		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11	Visit Cleone's Secret Garden		11.00	Who said that
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc,

Full of Life by Lou Brooker

Ten years ago, the patch of saltmarsh in the Trent Water didn't exist - Google Maps showed just a large expanse of sand. Since then, an amazing thing has happened. The samphire, which is the main plant making up the saltmarsh wetland, has spread and in so doing, a whole new ecosystem has developed made up not only of salt tolerant plants, but crabs, worms, molluscs, crustaceans, insects, small fish and all manner of microscopic organisms - all contained in that one hectare. So this explains why the bird population has swelled over those five years to the latest count of 24 different species. They have so much food to eat. See them roosting in the saltmarsh at the end of the day - oystercatchers, lapwings, pacific gulls and even the hooded plover.

What looks like a patch of weed to some, is important enough to be protected by Commonwealth law. In fact, it was listed as vulnerable in 2013 because much of what there was in Tasmania had been trashed, drained, filled in with rubbish or 'reclaimed' for agricultural purposes. It was only as recently as 2014 that studies showed that half the saltmarsh wetlands in Tasmania had been lost this way.

We desperately need work done shifting the sand in the channel nearby, but in order for the saltmarsh to stay healthy and vibrant, we need to care for it as well. Damage like that seen in the photo below could have been avoided.



Bridport Girl Guides



Five Bridport Guides, a leader and volunteer along with parents attended the Scout Guide Regatta on the recent long weekend at Snug.

Guides took part in lots of on water and on land activities and had a really great time. Two of our Guides (Brya Robinson and Lucy Atkinson) accompanied the Tasmanian Governor on the Mother Ship for the salute and sail past. No trophies were won but they all challenged themselves to try new things and had an awesome time.



Clean up Australia Day 2026



ANZAC DAY

Saturday April 25 2026

- 6am Dawn Service at the Cenotaph—Main street, followed by breakfast \$10 head at the Bunker. All invited.
- March at 11 am
 - Gather at the CWA top car park at 10.30 am. 10.45 am step off.
 - All veterans, family members and youth groups invited to attend the march.
- 11 am service in the Bridport Hall, followed by wreath laying at the Cenotaph.



Bridport Water and Sewerage



Another summer has passed and pleasingly Bridport was not subject to water restrictions. The last 3+ months restrictions were in 2023. Some N.E. and east coast residents have not been so fortunate with Stage 1 restrictions on Flinders Island and in Scamander, Triabunna, and Orford. Generally, Stage 1 restrictions do not cause serious problems, but as those who rely on tank water know, a shortage of water can certainly cause anxiety and inequity.

Taswater’s decision to buy water rights to supplement Bridport’s water supply, the Brid River, is therefore appreciated after many years of false hope. Though it is not Bridport Innovation’s preferred solution. Water drawn from the river requires a lot of cleaning – a combination of ozone and chlorine.

Unfortunately, better solutions are expensive. The recent intervention by the Office of the Economic Regulator to reduce Taswater’s Price and Service Plan (PSP5) for 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2030 by at least half, will improve water rates affordability, but defer worthwhile and ideal capital works even further. That is not ideal with Taswater’s General Manager Sustainable Infrastructure Services, Matt Derbyshire, acknowledging that down the track for Bridport, “a new treatment solution is likely to be required to meet future growth.”

Even more concerning though is the growing need for a significant upgrade to our sewerage treatment plant to more effectively cleanse Bridport’s waste-water and to increase capacity for future growth. A significant part of the facility at the end of Charles Street was built in 1978 – nearly 50 years ago. We appreciate that Taswater is doing its best to keep this plant operational with desludging, ultra-violet additional treatment, and upgraded aerators. Credit to them, as these have improved outcomes, e.g. odour abatement; but discharges are still well less than desired, e.g. e-coli and suspended solids output into Anderson Bay still only average 50% compliance with permit limits.

An ideal solution would seem to require heavy capital investment. That now looks improbable. So, if Council’s proposed Bridport structure plan identifies significant growth areas for Bridport, creative solutions are going to have to be found for adequate waste-water and sewerage solutions.



Bridport water plant



Brid River water intake



Bridport Innovations wishes you a fun and enjoyable Easter with loved ones.



Scottsdale Aquatic Centre

Open over Easter

Last day 6 April

Visit Scottsdale Aquatic Centre Facebook page or Dorset Council website for Timetable



Dragons on the Trent Water

A small group of southern enthusiasts was spotted last month racing their remote controlled Dragonforce 65 yachts on the Trent Water in perfect sailing conditions.



The yachts have become very popular worldwide because of their low cost (about A\$700) and being a strict one-design class, they are sailing against equal boats in every respect. Over 60,000 are now sailed in over 25 countries.

There are just two controls, the tiller and the sails. They race according to the Racing Rules of Sailing which apply to all classes of yacht racing. There was certainly plenty of good humour and banter between these sailors.

Hop on over for our

EASTER

@Tomahawk Caravan Park
Join us on

April 4th Starts @ 2:30pm

for some egg-citing fun activities!

Sand Castle Making, Face Painting, Egg Hunting, Egg Decorations & Games... Games... Games

Egg-citing prizes for all the winners

Residents and Campers are all welcome

Dorset Community Market

Craft, Car Boot and Produce
3rd Saturday of the month

First market 21st Feb held at Scottsdale Recreation Grounds,
George St Scottsdale.
8.30am – 1.30pm

FREE ENTRY!

Email: liane.darby@gmail.com or call **0403 420 311**

Daylight Saving Ends

5 Apr 2026



NORTHERN TAS PEST CONTROL

0439 943 232

info@northerntaspestcontrol.com.au

- 100% locally owned and operated•
- Commercial, industrial & domestic services
- Courteous, personalised, high quality services

Call Vaughan for a quote

Prestige Celebrations

Shirley Rootes Martin
Authorised Marriage Celebrant
Bridport and North East based

0407 055 473
shirleyrm55@gmail.com

Shirley Rootes Martin - Prestige Celebrations

HAPPY ROCK MOWING AND HOME SERVICES

Call Kieren
0457 342 249

for all your lawn, garden and home maintenance needs.

ADVERTISE HERE

Interested in advertising in the Bridreport?

Please contact us on:

Bridreport@gmail.com

Jamie Beaton

Bridport's new (age)nt,
Tasmania's new (age)ncy.

THIS SPACE REAL ESTATE

M. 0407 276 349
E. Jamie.Beaton@thisspace realestate.com

Make This Space, your space.

2/17-19 Abbott Steer, East Launceston Tasmania 7250

ST. MARKS BRIDPORT

ST. MARKS BRIDPORT
6356 1368

BRIGHT HEARTS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

FOR GIRLS IN GRADES 5-8

MAKE FRIENDS, HAVE FUN, EAT SNACKS AND LEARN NEW SKILLS

WITH A YOUTH WORKER

WEDNESDAYS 3:15 - 4:15
FEBRUARY 18TH - APRIL 8TH

DORSET COMMUNITY HOUSE
3 CAMERON STREET, SCOTTSDALE

CONTACT ZOE ON 0488 746 415

Bridport Lions Club presents

EASTER EGG DROP

Bridport Village Green

2 APRIL | Free event for all children under 10 years of age | **3:30 PM**
Sponsored by FC Management Pty Ltd

Join our Pilates class

PILATESPLUS

shape your health

Pilates Plus is a boutique reformer Pilates studio. Regular morning and evening classes are available and all skill levels are welcome.

You can also shape your health with these additional services available in our studio

- Podiatry 0474 593 365
- Osteopathy 0483 873 104
- Physiotherapy 0461 300 237
- Massage 0405 533 208

PILATESPLUS

Enquiries 0407 961 143
facebook.com/pilatesbridport

North East Paints

Painters

Scott Petterwood
0427 604 491

We use Australian made Haymes Paint
scottpetterwood@bigpond.com
Bridport, TAS, 7262

Caz MOZAIC CREATIONS

3/35 MAIN ST BRIDPORT
Ph 0417651918

Scan QR Code for our next workshop

Building + Interior Design

Forever Homes with Forme

Your Forever Home is unique and personal to you, your lifestyle, your stage of life.

0419 508 399
Launceston, Scottsdale Bridport and Surrounds

Bridport's Purest Water Guaranteed

- ◆ Whole House & Drinking Water Systems
- ◆ Expert Advice & Support
- ◆ Replacement Cartridges & Accessories
- ◆ Tassie Owned & Operated
- ◆ Utilising Local Bridport Plumber

PSI WATER FILTERS

03 6344 4635 sales@psifilters.com.au
28 Thistle Street West, South Launceston TAS 7249

Breakfast Buffet @ the Bridport Bay Inn

Join us for a Buffet Breakfast in the Bistro

Every Saturday and Sunday
from 7am - 10am

Selection of hot and continental breakfast food
Tea and coffee
Pastries

Call now and book today!
(03) 6356 1238

Adults \$29.95
Children (<12) \$19.95

The History of Bridport Library Services by the Dorset Tasmania History Society

Public libraries are generally less popular than they once were for several interconnected reasons. It is not that they are obsolete, as many still serve important roles, but technology and social changes have shifted how people access information and spend their time. The Bridport Library is a small public library serving Bridport and surrounding districts. The history of the Bridport Library is closely tied to the development of Bridport as a town and its community facilities. Early Bridport community facilities, such as the Bridport Hall, which was opened in 1915, has served as the main gathering place for meetings, events, and public services for decades. Whilst the Bridport Hall burned down in 1980, the replacement hall incorporated the Bridport Library, along with other public services. This arrangement reflects a common model in small Tasmanian towns where the library operates as part of a multi-use community centre.



Notwithstanding the Bridport Hall Library's history, the Bridport Library as a concept did not begin there. Indeed, Libraries Tasmania commenced mobile libraries that visited Bridport as early as the 1940s, as part of efforts to provide equal access to books and information for people living outside major towns. These "bookmobiles" were designed to bring library materials to smaller or remote communities that did not have a full-time library branch. These vehicles, often small buses or trucks fitted with shelves, carried hundreds of books and visited towns on a regular timetable (weekly or fortnightly). Communities such as Bridport were typical stops because they were small coastal settlements, some distance from larger regional libraries. The Bookmobile also visited nearby settlements and rural properties in North-East Tasmania, augmenting schools that did not have large book collections. The Libraries Tasmania service should not be confused with Mr T.D. Heazelwood's mobile book club of the 19th Century, which was not free, and only available to club members.

In 1947, a regular correspondent to the North-East Advertiser remarked on the new library at Scottsdale, which was both free to use and open to all. However, he further remarked that it was not so easy for anyone from Bridport to make selections of books in Scottsdale. The correspondent noted that sending for a book in the mail, based solely on the title, often did not deliver what was wanted. One example used was a book about H.V. Morton's book, In search of Wales. Upon receipt, the reader was disappointed to discover it was not about the Bridport angler of note, but someone else. He argued for a Bridport library to support local readers.

In 1950, the local branch of the CWA sought to establish an extension of State Library Facilities at Bridport, under the free library scheme. An officer from the State Library visited Bridport, and as a result of talks, a consignment of books would be sent to Bridport to service that town. The CWA generously offered their room for the storage and care of the books, and Mrs Kirkbride (CWA President) nominated to perform the function of Honorary Librarian. A committee was set up to consider opening hours and manage book lending services, with CWA members taking turns to perform the function of Librarian. By September 1950, arrangements were in place to extend the State Library Service from Scottsdale to Bridport, with the arrival of the first box of 50 books.

The Scottsdale Library Committee noted that the Bridport Library operated by the Bridport Branch of the CWA, had more than 50 borrowers' names listed. The committee noted the challenges to maintain book supplies, when the Scottsdale Library was also having difficulties obtaining them from the State Library in Hobart.

In 1953, the Bridport Library boasted over 120 borrowers listed. In 1954, the Scottsdale Council approved the sum of £25 to assist with the management of the Bridport Library. The Council noted that the facility in Bridport was becoming unsatisfactory, despite the superb work done by volunteers to date. The Council also asked that in light of the funding, that the library be relocated from the CWA room to Council facilities in the Bridport Hall. As noted earlier, the Bridport Library continues to operate in the Bridport Hall.

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

