

BRIDREPORT

Tassie Scallop Fiesta Guest Chef

The Tassie Scallop Fiesta Committee are extremely pleased to announce Meg Jessup as the first in the line-up of guest chefs demonstrating at this year's Fiesta on Sunday August 2.

Currently in her third year as an apprentice chef at Country Club Tasmania, Meg grew up in the north east and did her early schooling at Scottsdale Primary before moving to Launceston with her family.

'By sixteen I knew I wanted to be a chef, and spent the last two years of school committing to attaining my qualifications.'

Meg was recommended to the Fiesta Committee by her TAFE tutor as an up-and-coming young chef, which was demonstrated when in her second year, she was selected as the Tasmanian representative at the prestigious Nestle Golden Chef's Hat competition held annually in Melbourne. She won bronze for her entrée, main and dessert but most importantly to Meg were the experiences she had and connections made at such a high-level event.

This will be the first time an apprentice has been invited to demonstrate at the Fiesta; the Committee are delighted to give this opportunity to a local young person with such a promising career ahead of them.

Meg is really looking forward to sharing her passion for food with the North East community. 'I am very excited to be a part of the Scallop Fiesta this year, and hope I can bring something unique to my demonstration. I am just so grateful to be recognised by the community I grew up with and look forward to sharing my growth with everyone.'



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**Bridport Village
Market**

Mother's Day Market

9:30am - 1:00pm

**Bridport Community Hall
Saturday, 9th May 2026**

*Goods proudly Crafted, Baked & Grown here in Tassie!!
Live music, Sausage Sizzle, Bric a Brac & much more ...*

*Convert your Trash n' Treasure
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To book a stall or site call Viv: 0457 622 221

Facebook: Bridport Village Market

Brought to you by CWA Bridport members & Friends!

"Join us, supporting our community since 1938"

Lions Club of Bridport

Fireworks Display From The Lighthouse

FREE Family Event

Saturday 30 May 2026 from 5.00 pm

Lions Club of Bridport are teaming with Spark Fireworks Tasmania to organize a Fireworks from the Lighthouse Event on Saturday 30th May.

Fireworks from the Lighthouse is an opportunity for Lions Club of Bridport to support our community, bringing families, residents and visitors in a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment. The fireworks display serves as the highlight of the evening, creating a shared experience that fosters community connection, well-being and local pride in our community.

Our Fireworks Event will include:

- Music to entertain families
- Children’s Games
- BBQ – Sausages and Hamburgers, Hot Soup and soft drinks for sale
- Bloom Coffee Van
- Marine Flare Demonstration
- Fireworks Display organized by Spark Fireworks Tasmania

Come along and enjoy a fun night watching the Marine Flare Demonstration with Paul Hawkins, Recreational Boat Safety Officer for MAST, as well as a spectacular Fireworks Display with Sparks Fireworks Tasmania.



Easter Egg Drop

Bridport Foreshore, Thu 2 April

Lions Club of Bridport hosted our Annual Easter Egg Drop on the Foreshore at Bridport on 2nd April. Our event was very well attended by children from Bridport Primary School, Explore Learning Education Care, visitors to Bridport and local families.

The anticipation of waiting for the Easter eggs – so much fun and a perfect beginning to the Easter holidays. Bridport Lions Club are very grateful to Matthew and Shannon Bayles from FC Management who donated all the Easter Eggs.

Our amazing volunteers from our Lions Club worked hard to set up for this event and were overjoyed watching the smiles and laughter on the faces of children and parents/grandparents.

Leonie Johnston
Secretary
Lions Club of Bridport
Mobile 0438 281 352



Mobile Pincushions by Mike Douglas

The spiny anteater or echidna is found on the fringes of Bridport. It visits gardens connected by grassy street verges to the wildflower reserve and other bush areas.

Every so often one of these endearing creatures turns up in my garden, wanders around with a peculiar rolling gait and checks out the place for ant nests.

A powerful digger and capable of shifting large rocks, the echidna can rapidly bury itself when feeling threatened so only the spiny surface is visible. The animal is toothless and has a long sticky tongue to lick up the ants.

Early settlers erroneously called it a porcupine, a name that persists in rural Tasmania. Found only in Australia and New Guinea, the echidna is that rarity, an egg-laying mammal whereas the porcupine is a rodent. The only other such mammal is the platypus.

An occasional visitor is a three-legged female christened Tripod by local golfers. Missing a hind leg, Tripod’s rolling gait is accentuated so that the animal always seems on the verge of a capsise.

Echidnas are long-lived and known to attain an age of 50 years in a zoo situation. Favourite foods in captivity are milk, eggs and mince—a far cry from ants and termites.



A garden visitor

U3A Bridport Seniors Social Group

All seniors welcome
 Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm
 Bridport Hall



May 6	10 am	Meet	May 20	10 am	Meet
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Bingo		11.00	More quizzies
	12.30 pm	Lunch at The Bridge		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.
May 13	10 am	Meet	May 27	10 am	Meet
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Guest speaker Judy Barnett		11.00	That very special thing
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards etc.

Vale Simon Hirst

Members of both organisations, Probus Club of Bridport and the Bridport RSL Sub-Branch, acknowledge the loss of their past President and colleague Simon Hirst.

Simon transferred from Hobart to Winnaleah and later Scottsdale High School as an English teacher, retiring to Bridport where he became involved in the community through the Bridport Ex-Services Community and Bowls Club, RSL, Seaview Village, weather reader, Bridport Football Club, Bridport 2000 Plus and Probus club.

An avid South Melbourne come Sydney Swans supporter, he was a great cat lover and enjoyed his race horses as an owner and punter and race caller.

Simon was a founding member of the Bridport Probus Club, he was a returned serviceman and a RSL and ‘Community Club’ member. He held the Presidency in all three clubs at various stages.

He was cook and social entrepreneur being involved in many plays and recitals conducted at the ‘Community Club’. His big love was Theatre.

Photo: Simon celebrating his 80th Birthday, revealing his pate.



A True Plover by Lou Brooker

You'll hear birders talking about all sorts of plovers, most of them shore birds. There's a Golden Plover, a Grey Plover, a Hooded Plover, a Double Banded Plover and a Red Capped Plover.

Strangely though, the bird every Tasmanian knows as a plover, a bird we see just about everywhere, is actually *not a plover*!! Its official name is Masked Lapwing.

We tend not to notice these other plovers; they're tiny, they're inconspicuous, and there are fewer of them as they tend to hang around in pairs, rather than flocks like the lapwings often do.

The smallest and most common of these true plovers is the Red capped plover. It's about 15cms long, by comparison, the Masked Lapwing is a whopping 35cms.

Standing still, the Red Capped Plover is hardly noticeable, its colours blending with its surroundings - white, fawn, grey, brown. Words like dull and pale are often used to describe it.

Red capped? Well, that explains the colour of the head feathers of the adult male, but they are rather more chestnut brown than red. Spindly black legs and short fine bill.

In the binoculars, I can see this tiny pale coloured bird darting along the edge of the saltmarsh on the high tide-mark. It's using the "stop, run, peck" method of feeding, turning over bits of seaweed and feeding on worms, small crabs and sand hoppers. I don't know where it's nest is - probably out on Barnbogle Beach in the soft sand above the high tide mark. At least I hope that's where it's nesting.



BRIDPORT COMMUNITY MENS SHED

April has been busy splitting sticks which will be for sale soon.

We need more old fence palings.

We need more active members.

Interested? Please contact:

Jonathon (Jake) Frost

Treasurer

0427 026 493

jonathonfrost56@gmail.com



Dorset Community Market

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

To be held at Scottsdale Recreation Grounds,
George St Scottsdale
8.30am – 1.30pm

FREE ENTRY!

Email: dorsetcommunitymarkets@gmail.com Phone: 0403 420 311

The Bridport Bowls Club

Invites you to enjoy a



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In the Bunker Club

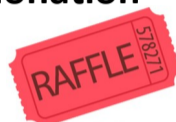
67 Main Street, Bridport

Thursday 28 May 2026

10 am to Noon

Admission by a generous donation

Rolling Raffle



A plate to share will be much appreciated

(food left will be sold—proceeds to the day's balance)

All Welcome



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



UPCOMING EVENTS

<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>MAY 2 LAST MAN STANDING</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>MAY 23 A NIGHT WITH ZACH MERRETT</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>JUNE 13 SHIT KIT BEER PONG TOURNAMENT</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>JULY 25 FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB BLUE & WHITE BALL <small>Feat. Gypsy Rose</small></p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>AUG 1 SPONSORS DAY</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>AUG 15 LADIES DAY</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>AUG 22 AFL DAY</p> </div>	






LAST MAN STANDING

\$50.00 per ticket

2nd May 2026 | 7:30pm

Bridport Football Club

2 hours free beer, wine & cider between 7:30 - 9:30pm

Contact: Steve McKillop
0488 091 557

Prizes

1st - \$1,000

2nd - \$500

3rd - \$300

WOMEN'S DAY ART WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN IN DORSET

**Art workshop exploring women's stories
All art skills welcome**

**Wednesday May 27th
10.30am - 1.00pm
Scottsdale Library**

Morning Tea & Lunch Provided

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town halls between available*

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Fiesta King crowned



A new Tassie Scallop Fiesta monarch has assumed the throne for 2026 King Andrew dispensed with the need for a princely apprenticeship (thus avoiding any potential confusion with an unfortunate namesake) to go straight to the top.

He is of course well known and recognisable as half of the long-running TV fishing show Hook Line and Sinker and more recently a champion of the best local food at independent grocers.

A regular recreational fisher out of Bridport, King Andrew is looking forward to his role in the wider Fiesta after being one of the guest speakers at the lead-up Mariners Muse storytelling session last year.

The King's duties will involve a few appearances up to and including the Fiesta on Sunday 2 August, where he'll undoubtedly delight in mingling with loyal subjects.



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Joseph, Thomas and Jake busy tapping in ANZAC poppies along the Main St, a combined CWA and Bridport Men's Shed activity.

The poppies will reappear for Remembrance Day in November.



Sadly on Saturday night (ANZAC day) about 15 poppies were removed opposite the newsagency. Hoping security cameras in the main street will help Police.



Happy Mother's Day to all the mums, in every shape and form. Your care, strength and everyday love make such a difference.

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History of Bridport Sport by the Dorset Tasmania History Society

Bridport Croquet Circa 1940s

The early history of sport in Bridport is closely tied to its identity as a small coastal settlement. However, when people think of sport at Bridport, they mostly think about cricket, fishing and shooting. In the early days, this was not too far from the truth, however, after the turn of the 19th-20th centuries, sport broadened significantly. Notwithstanding, the early days of Bridport, before it gained notoriety as a seaside resort, sporting interests were catered for in most quarters. As early as 1884, sport was reported by newspapers of the day. Indeed, on one occasion, the Hobart Mercury reported that, 'All the world and his wife mustered on the convincing ground, about half way between Bowood and Ferny Hill, to witness the struggle between bat and ball



between the residents of Lower-Piper and Ferny Hill.' The day did not end with the game of cricket, as Mr Coplestone entertained many at his residence with refreshments and dancing until daylight the next morning.

The reporter continues with a comment on why people from as far as Scottsdale make it a practice of coming to Bridport on Boxing Day each year for the variety of sporting events, such as horse and foot racing, wood-chopping, among other amusements. The reporter noted that if it was not for the many sporting interests available, then 'scandal and biliousness' would result. After a sumptuous Christmas Meal was passed off on an outdoor sofa, as their stomachs were too heavy for anything more active, Boxing Day was all that could be wished for to regale the end of the year. The year was 1884, and people began arriving at Bridport from Scottsdale from 8 o'clock in the morning, with the Scottsdale road being lively with horse, carriage and foot traffic, until 10 o'clock, when the day's activities commenced. By 11 o'clock, there were about 500 people in attendance at the Bridport sports area, coming from everywhere within a radius of 30 miles. The racecourse was heavy due to recent wet weather, however it all went very smoothly. The two Bridport Publicans had betting booths on site, and did a fair business. Drunkenness was the exception, rather than the rule, and everyone seemed to both, enjoy and behave themselves.

The Bridport Plate was a good race from beginning to end, and was won by 'New Chum' from 'Gladstone'. The Cart Horse race was very entertaining, particularly as the horses wore Winkers, and use of the whip was not well received. The handicap foot race was won by Pierce, who seemed to be unchallenged by the competition, winning all heats and the final easily. The only accident was on the way home, when the Cordial Van broke down three miles from Bridport, and one cart load of spectators was spilt a few yards further on. The Boxing Day Sports Carnival was an annual event for Bridport, and continued for many years.

It was not until Bridport became a popular seaside resort that sport grew in earnest. The Bridport Progress Association and the Hall Fundraising Committee both contributed effort to the growing popularity in the town, with events to raise money for various projects. In 1917, there was a very successful sports day at Bridport, with foot racing and wood-chopping on hand. After the event, at a meeting of the Hall and Sports Committee, the ledger of fundraising for the day was presented. Entry Fees were in excess of £41, and after prizes and refreshment costs, the final profit was £9/18/3, which was to go to reducing hall debt. The day wound up with a concert and dance in the evening until the early hours. The Bridport Hall and Sports Committee held many annual sports days throughout the year in order to raise funds for the hall. Other regular sporting events introduced during the early to mid-20th century included Croquet, tennis, skating and football. More formal, organised, sporting events, grew in Bridport from the 1960s, with the rise of club and community sport, such as Australian Rules Football, Sailing, Surf Life Saving and Golf.

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.

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

