

BRIDREPORT

Bird Flu

It was inevitable that Avian Bird flu or H5N1 would arrive in Tasmania, so now that it has, what can we all do to keep its impact at a minimum. The message from Biosecurity is if you see sick or dead birds or other wildlife:

- AVOID contact and keep pets away.
- RECORD what you see, including the type and number of animals and the location.
- REPORT it as soon as possible by calling the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or using the online reporting form.

Birds affected by bird flu may show signs including:

- swimming in circles
- coughing or sneezing
- being unable to stand or fly
- a twisted neck
- swelling around the head, neck or eyes
- changes in the colour or cloudiness of the eyes.

Some birds may die suddenly without showing any obvious symptoms. In other animals, signs can include seizures, tremors, lack of coordination, breathing difficulties, a runny nose and drooling.

You can help by:

- keeping cats away from wildlife and preventing them from roaming
- keeping dogs on leads in wildlife areas
- cleaning footwear, clothing and vehicles when travelling to and from national parks, reserves and farms avoiding contact with sick or dead wildlife.

For the latest information on the situation go to Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania - Biosecurity Tasmania - H5 Brid Flu.



This report is proudly sponsored by

U3A Bridport Seniors Social Group

All seniors welcome
Wednesday 10 am to 3 pm
Bridport Hall



2 Sept	10 am	Meet	23 Sept	10 am	Meet
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Bingo		11.00	Memories
	12.30 pm	Lunch at the Bridport Hotel followed by cards		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards
9 Sept	10 am	Meet	30 Sept	10 am	Meet
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee		10.30	Chair exercises with Dee
	11.00	Movie		11.00	Friendly Feud
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards		12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards
16 Sept	10 am	Meet	'Age is something that doesn't matter unless you are Cheese' Bille Burke		
	10.30	Chair exercises with Dee			
	11.00	Guest speaker - Willy Richards			
	12.30 pm	Lunch followed by cards			

Dry Eyes – Don't Let Them Drive You Crazy!



Dry, gritty, itchy or burning eyes? You're not alone! Dry eyes are incredibly common and can be particularly annoying when you're trying to read, work on a computer, watch TV or simply enjoy the Tasmanian outdoors.

Dry eye occurs when your eyes don't produce enough tears, or when your tears evaporate too quickly. Your tears form a protective film over the eye, made up of watery fluid, oils and mucus. If any part of this system isn't working properly, your eyes can become uncomfortable, irritated and sometimes blurry.

What causes dry eyes?

There are many possible triggers. Getting older, spending long periods looking at screens, wearing contact lenses, windy or dry conditions, smoke and air conditioning can all contribute. Problems with the tiny oil-producing glands in your eyelids can also cause tears to evaporate too quickly.

Some medicines may contribute to dry eyes too, including certain antihistamines, antidepressants and other medicines. Medical conditions such as autoimmune diseases can also be associated with dry eye.

How can Bridport Pharmacy help?

At Bridport Pharmacy, our staff can help you work out what may be causing your symptoms and recommend an appropriate treatment.

Lubricating eye drops, often called artificial tears, are available from the pharmacy and can provide relief from dryness, burning and that annoying gritty sensation. Depending on your symptoms, we may recommend drops, longer-lasting gels or an ointment for use at night. If you need eye drops regularly, preservative-free products may be a better option for some people.

There are also some simple things you can do yourself:

- Take regular breaks from screens and remember to blink!
- Protect your eyes from wind, smoke and dry air.
- Try warm compresses and gentle eyelid hygiene if your eyelids are irritated.
- Keep your eyes lubricated with suitable artificial tears.

And remember — not every red or irritated eye is simply dry eye! If your eye is painful and red, your vision changes, you're sensitive to light, you've had an eye injury, or symptoms aren't improving, it's important to see your doctor or optometrist promptly.

Got dry, gritty eyes? Pop into Bridport Pharmacy and have a chat with our friendly pharmacy team. We're here to help you see the brighter side of things!

Seal of Approval by Mike Douglas

Although Neil the elephant seal is unlikely to holiday at Bridport, we do have occasional visits from Australian fur seals.

The accompanying photo, taken a few years ago, shows a hefty specimen on the rocks at Granite Point, just around from Mermaids Pool, where it rested for a week, apparently happy to spend time at Bridport.



Small colonies exist on some rocky Bass Strait islands such as the nearby Ninth Island (Twenty Day Island) and Tenth Island (Barrenjoey).

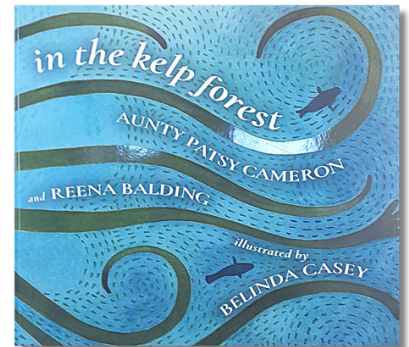
Australian fur seals are surprisingly mobile on land and sometimes venture a fair distance inland. One turned up on Boddingtons Road, presumably making some of the journey via Trent Water and Hurst Creek.

The parents of Neil the seal were probably Macquarie Islanders. It is salutary to remember that elephant seals were once common in Bass Strait with big colonies on King and Hunter Islands where the animals were hunted to extinction in the early 1800s.

For Sale in The Pavilion - In The Kelp Forest by Auntie Patsy Cameron

This is the third children's book Auntie Patsy Cameron has published, and this one has been written in conjunction with Reena Balding. *In The Kelp Forest* is aimed at an early childhood audience and is suitable to be read aloud or independently.

In it, the authors reveal the deep cultural knowledge of our first nations people, their respect for Sea Country and its creatures and an understanding of the balance of life under the sea. Some of the creatures in the story have provided food for the First Nations People for thousands of years.



In Auntie Patsy's signature style, the important characters have names that come from traditional languages, giving the story an authenticity, and are woven seamlessly into the narrative.

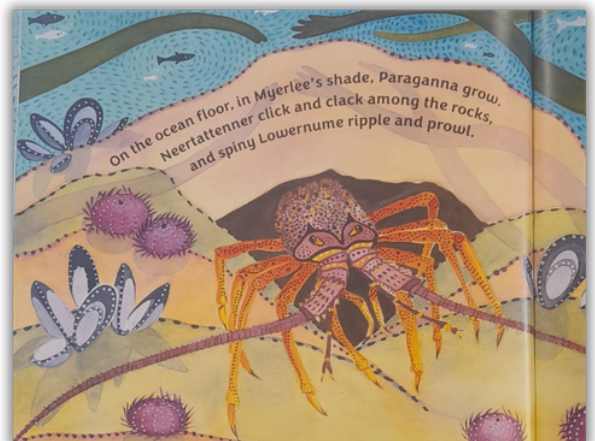
The language is beautifully creative and evocative, mirroring the illustrations: "the swash of the waves", "the whirling and swirling of the water", "the wind whipping up the sand". And then there's the magic of the calm contrasted with the storm. This narrative goes hand in hand with the illustrations fitting into the curvy nature of the kelp. It's the most stunning feature of the book - the way Belinda Casey, with her illustrations, has managed to capture the movement and flow of the kelp as it sways beneath the waves.

There are factual pages too, where we learn about the difference between the three types of kelp: bull kelp, golden kelp and giant kelp. On these pages, we learn about how scientists and seaweed farmers are restoring giant kelp in areas where the kelp forests have disappeared. This inclusion of factual knowledge helps children to learn about what is fact and what is fiction.

The book reflects another example of the quiet way Auntie Patsy uses her voice and perspective to promote an understanding of Tasmanian Aboriginal history, heritage and culture. She is encouraging us all to learn to love country as she does and in so doing, learn to care for it more.

This is one of my favourite illustrations from the book.

Book review by Louise Brooker



Lions Club of Bridport



Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Once again, the Lions Club of Bridport members have been packing boxes to donate to Operation Christmas Child. This project is run by Samaritan's Purse, a Christian humanitarian organisation. The goal is to bring joy, hope, and the message of God's love to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. This year the members packed 28 boxes for children ranging from ages 2-14 years.

Some of the items included in our shoe boxes were:

- Toys (stuffed, animal, ball, or doll).
- School supplies (pencils, notebooks).
- Personal care items (toothbrush, combs, brushes, face washer).
- Clothing (shorts, t-shirts, underwear, socks, beanies).

The boxes will be delivered to children in more than 100 countries, often through local churches or community groups. Operation Christmas Child has delivered over 200 million shoeboxes since 1993.

A very special thank you must go to the children and staff at Bridport Primary School for donating many items, and also to the students of Grade 5/6 Howard for writing thoughtful messages to be included in the boxes. These boxes often become a child's first ever gift and make a real difference to the children and families receiving them.



Exciting events coming up for Bridport Lions in September/October

- 15 September - RUOK Conversation Convoy- a breakfast at Winnaleah and lunch at Scottsdale, All welcome! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.
- 17 September - The 20th Anniversary Barnbogle Charity Golf Day. A wonderful event always supported by local businesses and this year we are working in partnership with Barnbogle Dunes. There is a raffle with great prizes and tickets will be sold locally, all proceeds will support our local community.
- 6 October - Providing the BBQ at the Family and Youth Event hosted by Dorset Community House near Bridport Skatepark.
- **Coming Soon** - Supporting the Domestic Violence Safe Phone initiative by setting up a local mobile phone collection spot with the assistance of Boris at the Bridport Pharmacy.

Cathy Purdon
President
Lions Club of Bridport

Shimmania World Dancers

In conjunction with Club Cario are having a dance celebration concert (Hafla)

Sunday 28 September, 2 pm, Mechanics Hall, Scottsdale

World, Fan ,Tribal, Bollywood, Line, Contemporary, and Golden oldies dance

Entry \$5, children free

All proceeds go to NE Animal Sanctuary and Red Dirt Cafe



Bridport Surf Life Saving Club



In August Surf Life Saving Tasmania held their annual Awards of Excellence. Bridport were nominated for seven awards and successfully took out Coach of the Year (Anita Howard), U15 Athlete of the Year (Tim Innes) and Volunteer of the Year (Stephen Blizzard).

Well done to all our amazing award nominees and winners, you make us so proud for all that you do for our little club.



Significant 19th Century Pastoralists of the Bridport District - Part One

Whilst many local farmers owned land and many were very successful in that enterprise, significant pastoralists did more than just farm their land, they were people whose agricultural enterprise, land holding, or influence on the pastoral industry was significant enough to affect long term development of the district. Further attributes that describe a successful pastoralist include their economic importance to the district, through wool, livestock, food production, employment, their contribution to the local economy, and their influence beyond the property through involvement in government and agricultural organisations.

A number of local examples clearly demonstrate that many pastoralists existed in the Bridport district in the 19th Century. These include Charles Hardwicke, who was recorded with about 3,000 sheep at Waterhouse in 1836, clearly qualifies because livestock grazing was central to his operation and the scale was exceptional for the pioneering district.

The Anderson family, who were among the first European settlers in the district from 1833, held about 1800 acres at Trent River, running sheep for wool production. Peter Brewer of Bowood was another significant pastoralist in the district, not just because he held large parcels of land, running sheep and cattle at Bowood, and Oak Hill near Waterhouse, but because he also made a substantial contribution to many other mercantile activities in the district. Martin Mowbray Stephenson acquired the Trent River run from the Anderson family, renaming it Barnbougale, developing it into a substantial mixed farming enterprise.

These four families, and their estates, became the most influential and important pastoral enterprises in the Bridport District in the 19th Century, earning them considerable notoriety for their socio-political influence and mercantile contribution to the district. Further, they were not simply individual pastoral dynasties, as they were inextricably linked through marriage and entwined mercantile interests.

There were about 10 to 20 lesser pastoralists from other districts (lesser because they were absentee landlords), particularly from the Tasmanian Midlands, who used the district for their excellent summer pasturage. Examples include John Foster of Cape Portland, who held some 12,000 acres from 1833, and possibly the largest early freehold pastoral holding in the district. If we ranked pastoralists by their land and livestock holdings alone, John Foster would be a clear leader, however he was an absentee farmer, whose other mercantile and political activities saw most of his pastoral influence delivered in Hobart.

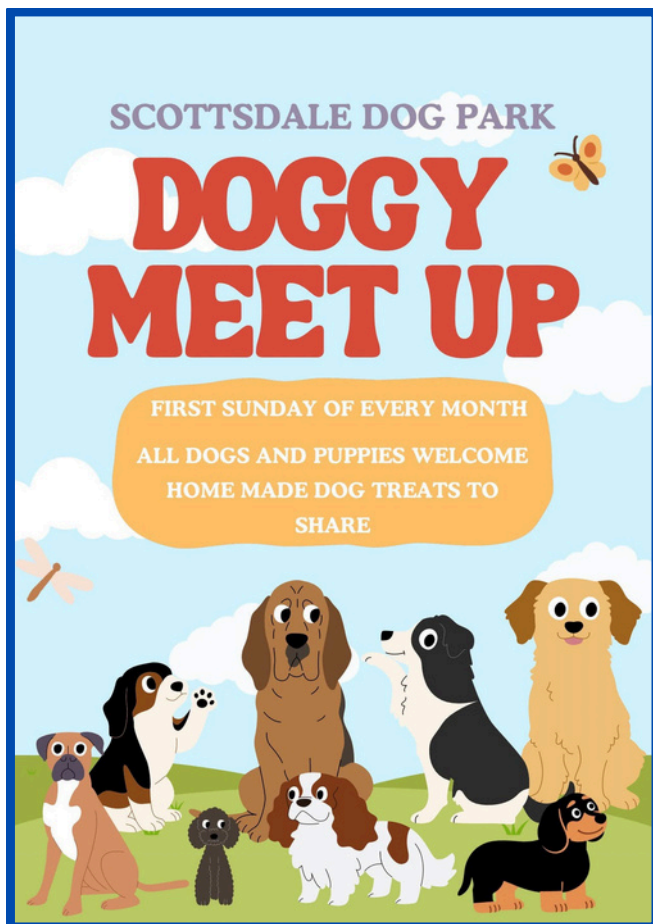
Another significant local pastoralist is Samuel Bowen of Tregaron, also at Cape Portland, who held about 1500 acres from about 1832, where he ran upwards of 2000 sheep. William Morgan of the Oak Hills district, operated a run with about 3000 sheep in the mid to late 19th Century. William Morgan also had sheep and cattle runs at Boobyalla from the 1840s. The government chief inspector of sheep returns indicated that Morgan ran one of the largest flocks of sheep in the district in the 1880s, exceeding 3000. Morgan was an important pastoralist because it demonstrates the continuity of pastoral occupation from Brewer's Oak Hills operation into the later Waterhouse-Boobyalla pastoral landscape.

Whilst not pastoralism in itself, but a major contributor, were the marriages of Ellen Brewer of Bowood to Martin Stephenson of Barnbougale, and their son, Charles Stephenson to his cousin, Edith Brewer, which ensured the Bowood and Barnbougale pastoral enterprises remained inextricably linked over a long period of time. When we consider that Stephenson acquired the Anderson Trent River property, that association further coalesces their close pastoral ties. Finally, the aggregation of the Foster and Bowen enterprises demonstrates that these two pastoralists delivered considerable agricultural and economic influence to the district.

Part Two will cover 20th Century significant Bridport pastoralists in next month's Bridreport.

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.





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0438 28 1352

Email: president@seaviewvillage.au

SEAVIEW VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER 2026

Bridport Uniting Church

Corner Bentley & Main Streets

COMMENCING AT 9.30 A.M.

ENQUIRIES LEONIE JOHNSTON

MOBILE 0438 281 352

President@Seaviewvillage.au

NETAC FESTIVAL 2026

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OUR THEME:
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What's hiding beneath your feet? What stories are hiding in old buildings, rocks, trees, farms or even in your own backyard? Look a little closer and see what you can discover!

WHO CAN ENTER?
JUNIOR ARTISTS: 8-12 years
TEEN ARTISTS: 13-18 years

ENTRIES WILL BE DISPLAYED...
The Scottsdale Mechanics' Hall, King St, Scottsdale will display all the artwork from **19-20 SEPTEMBER 2026.**

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ENTRIES CLOSE 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

ENTRY IS FREE!
There's no cost to enter - just bring your creativity!

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Ask Mum, Dad, a teacher or your favourite grown-up to help you find all the entry details at netacfestival.com.au

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Meet the Candidates Forum



Once nominations close, would-be members of the Dorset Council will be invited to put forward their policies and visions for the municipality at a Meet the Candidates Forum, open to an audience of all Dorset community members, to be held at the Bridport Multi-Function/Football Clubrooms on Sunday October 4 from 2 pm.

The forum is being organised by community group Bridport Innovations Inc. as a means of enabling prospective councillors to connect with voters and put their case for being elected.

Candidates will be allocated a strict three minutes to make their statements followed by a question-and-answer session. A moderator will be assigned to keep the forum on course.

Nominations for the seven seats on Dorset Council, including mayor and deputy mayor, will close on September 21.

The postal ballots packs will be delivered to households from October 5, with voting to close at 2 pm on Tuesday October 27. This is the second time voting has been through a postal ballot only; voting is compulsory.

A pre-voting Meet the Councillors Forum will be held from 2 pm on Sunday October 4 at the Bridport Multi-Function / Football Clubrooms

Election timetable

9 am

Monday 7 September

Nominations open

6 pm

Thursday 10 September

Enrolment closes

12 noon

Monday 21 September

Nominations close

12 noon

Tuesday 22 September

Nominations announced

From

Monday 5 October

Ballot packs delivered by post

2 pm

Tuesday 27 October

Close of poll

From 9 am

Wednesday 28 October

Counting commences



Local government elections 2026

Nominations open

9 am Monday 7 September

Enrolment closes

6 pm Thursday 10 September

Nominations close

12 noon Monday 21 September

Nominations announced

12 noon Tuesday 22 September

Ballot packs delivered by post

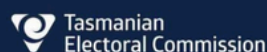
From Monday 5 October

Close of poll

2 pm Tuesday 27 October

Counting commences

Wednesday 28 October



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

Brought to you by



If you have an upcoming 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

