

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No.1/2024



Lindisfarne State School Students

1954

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Members, I hope 2024 turns out to be for you a year of good health, happiness and prosperity.

Cleaning out some of my filing cabinet folders recently I found a list of members of the L.H.S. of a few years after my return in 1995 to living in Lindisfarne. Sadly, as you would expect, the list has been considerably depleted.

Your words of mouth, recommendation and encouragement would be the best way for our membership to increase. Also, your advice to your Committee of interesting possible speakers at our monthly meetings and suggestions for excursions would be welcome. And, of course, your writing of articles for our Newsletter.

We have magnificently organised archives in the care of Ann Curran. You could find in the archives inspiration for the writing of Newsletter articles about past times in Lindisfarne.

I have enjoyed the honour of being President of the L.H.S. for two years. I believe jobs should be

passed around and you are encouraged to stand for a position at the upcoming A.G.M.

Ross Butler (President L.H.S.)

Cover Photo: Lindisfarne State School Students wearing the new school uniform, introduced by the Headmaster at the time, Mr Edward (Ted) Phillips, c.1954.

Standing (from left): Laurie Moody, Philip Sweetingham, David Wayne, Ronald Richardson, Steven Hawkins, John Pulfer, John Phillips, and Wesley Quinn

Sitting (from left): Sue Phillips, Dorothy Wright, Bronwyn Sculthorpe and Pam Bayes.

Send us your photos!

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Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc. Committee

President: Ross Butler (PH: 0438 436 862)

Vice-President: Penny O'Brien (PH: 0439 379 640)

Secretary: Susan Gardner (PH: 0418 289 732)

Treasurer: Lyn Winters (PH: 0402 063 179)

Archive Officer/Display Manager: Ann Curran

Committee: Geoffrey Cashion, Dorothy Cuthill, Margaret Harrison, Bernadette Peck & Alan Townsend

Newsletter/Publishing Sub-Committee: Rebecca Johnson & Penny O'Brien

Facebook Administrator: Fran Read

LINDISFARNE HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

I thank former Lindisfarne resident Dale Matheson, who remains passionate about life in, and history of, Lindisfarne, for drawing my attention to the research entitled "An Outline History of the Development of Lindisfarne" by Audrey Hudspeth.

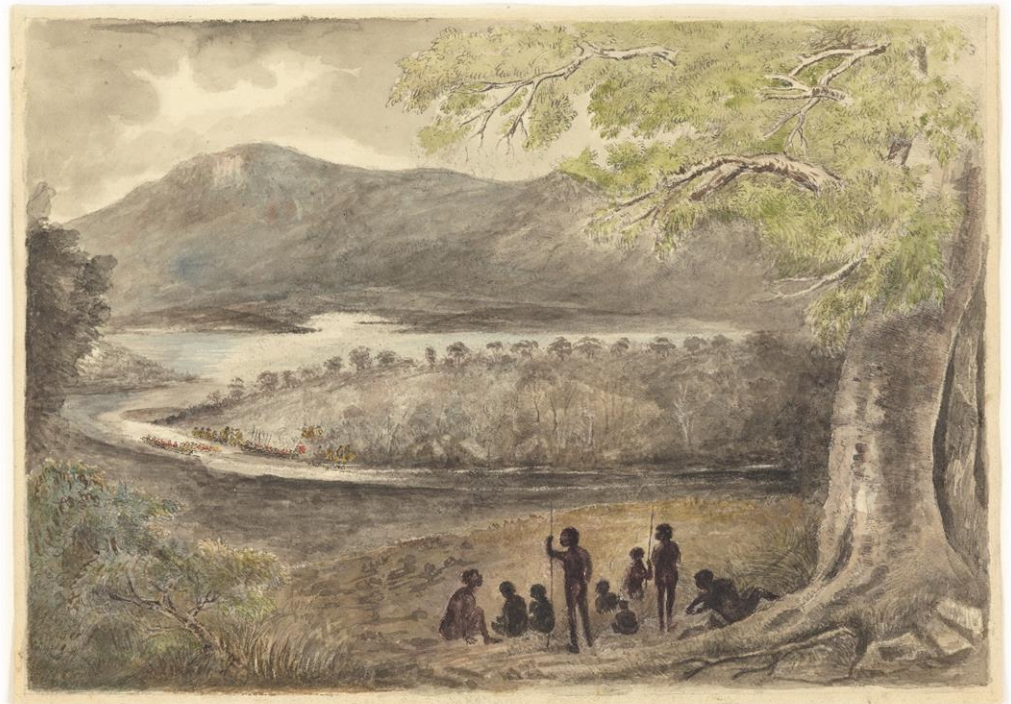
Hudspeth refers to the Clarence Municipality's bicentennial publication, "The Eastern Shore, a History of Clarence" by Alison Alexander that recognises that the first people to live in Clarence were the Moomairremener Aboriginal people, a band of the Oyster Bay people.

Alexander points out that Aboriginal tribes had co-operative arrangements with others to spend time in another's territory. Around October the Moomairremener people would hunt on the inland plains around Risdon and Pitt Water where they would fire the bush to maintain pasture for kangaroos.

In summer they went up the Derwent to hunt in the New Norfolk area before returning in autumn to the coast. Many middens along the shore, especially, Alexander says, at Droughty Point, Bedlam Walls and Shag Bay and Pipe Clay Lagoon are evidence of their catching shellfish and game. Ray.ghe.py.er.ren.ne was one name for the Derwent River.

Possibly the first contact of European explorers with Moomairremener people was that of Bass and Flinders in 1798 near Herdsman's Cove. When they met a man and two women, the latter ran away, but the man received from the explorers a black swan "with rapture" before they parted from him "in great friendship". Along the river Bass and Flinders saw huts, fireplaces and heaps of mussel-shells and bones of small animals.

Bass thought that Risdon Cove would be an excellent place for a settlement with a "fertile park-like valley, rich soil and thick juicy grass" - created, of course, by the firing of the bush by the Moomairremener people. This positive report led to the instructions by Governor King for the September 1803 settlement by Lieutenant Bowen.



T.G. Gregson, 'John Bowen and his party arriving at Risdon Cove', c.1860 (W.L. Crowther Library, State Library of Tasmania). The scene is watched on by the local Moomairremener people.

EGERIA CRUISE



The *ML Egeria*

The *ML Egeria* was built in 1941 by Purdon and Featherstone at Battery Point as an entertainment launch for the Master Warden of Hobart's Marine Board.

Shortly after, it was deployed for naval service during World War II and served on the River Derwent for just over two years. It was then returned to the Marine Board and for many years served as a VIP vessel carrying many distinguished guests, including HM Queen Elizabeth and the then Prince and Princess of Wales, Charles and Diana.

Sometimes known as the Governor's Launch it is used for Vice Regal events, and these days for the opening of the Wooden Boat Festival.

In 2007 ownership of the *Egeria* was transferred to the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania in Lindisfarne. Since then, volunteers have maintained the vessel, the only major work being the replacement of the decking.

To cover expenses, the *Egeria* now “works” as a charter vessel and many people have been fortunate enough, as we recently were, to enjoy a cruise on our beautiful Derwent river.



The *Egeria* leading the fleet up the Derwent at the Wooden Boat Festival, 2019.



View of Kunanyi (Mt Wellington) from aboard the *Egeria*.

The L.H.S.'s excursion aboard the *Egeria* took place on Monday 29th January.

Thank you to the captain and crew - a beautiful day on the River Derwent was had by all.

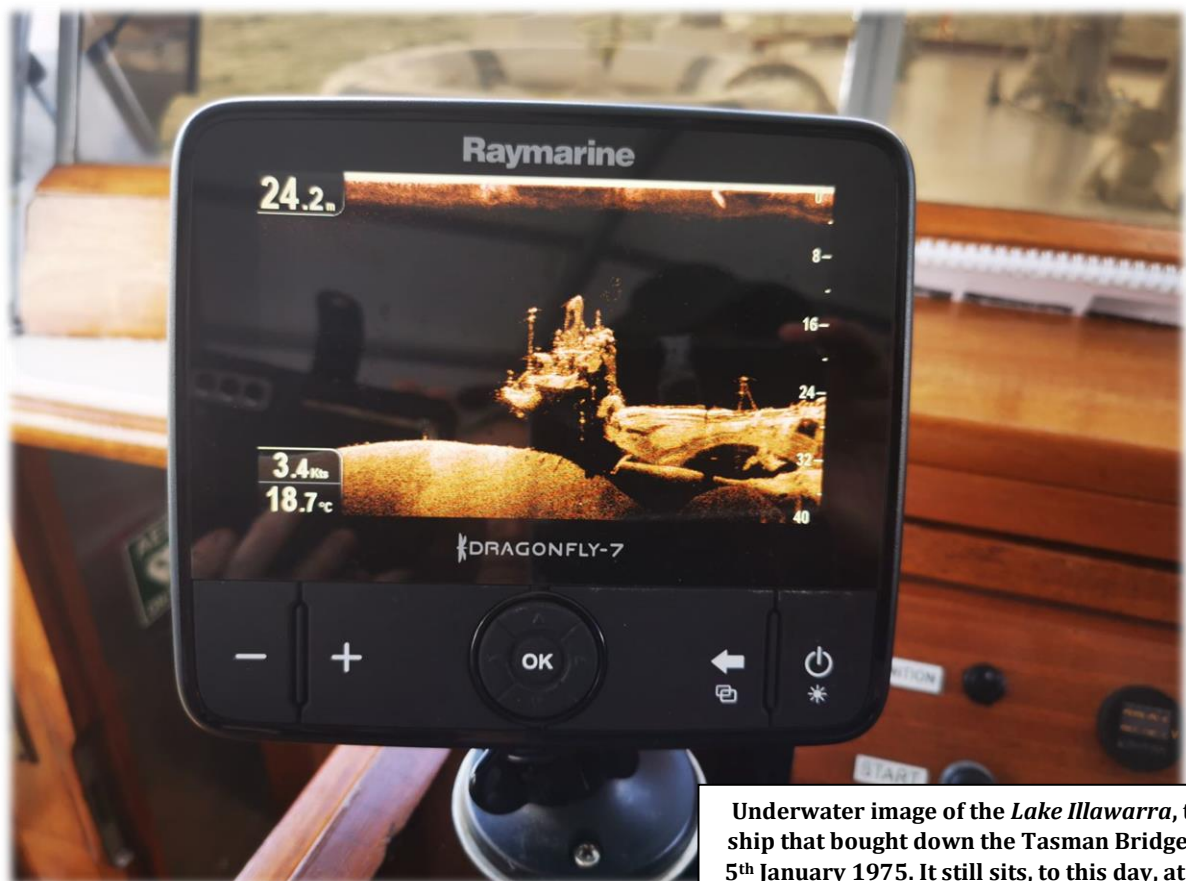


More snapshots from our excursion.

Top: Bedlam Walls near Shag Bay.

(See more on Shag Bay on next page.)

Right: View of the Zinc Works (Nyrstar Hobart)
at Lutana.



Underwater image of the *Lake Illawarra*, the ship that bought down the Tasman Bridge on 5th January 1975. It still sits, to this day, at the bottom of the River Derwent.

SHAG BAY & BEDLAM WALLS

Bedlam Walls, as seen on our Egeria cruise, is in Oyster Bay country – where the Moomairremener people lived. Many middens have been found in the area, the shells largely from the mud oysters once plentiful in the area. Many stone tools have also been found here.

Takara Limuna (Sheoak Walk) is a new indigenous heritage trail that takes in the middens and ancient indigenous sites of Bedlam Walls. It is accessed from the Shag Bay Track which continues round to Shag Bay where the site, and remains, of the old fertiliser factory can be seen.

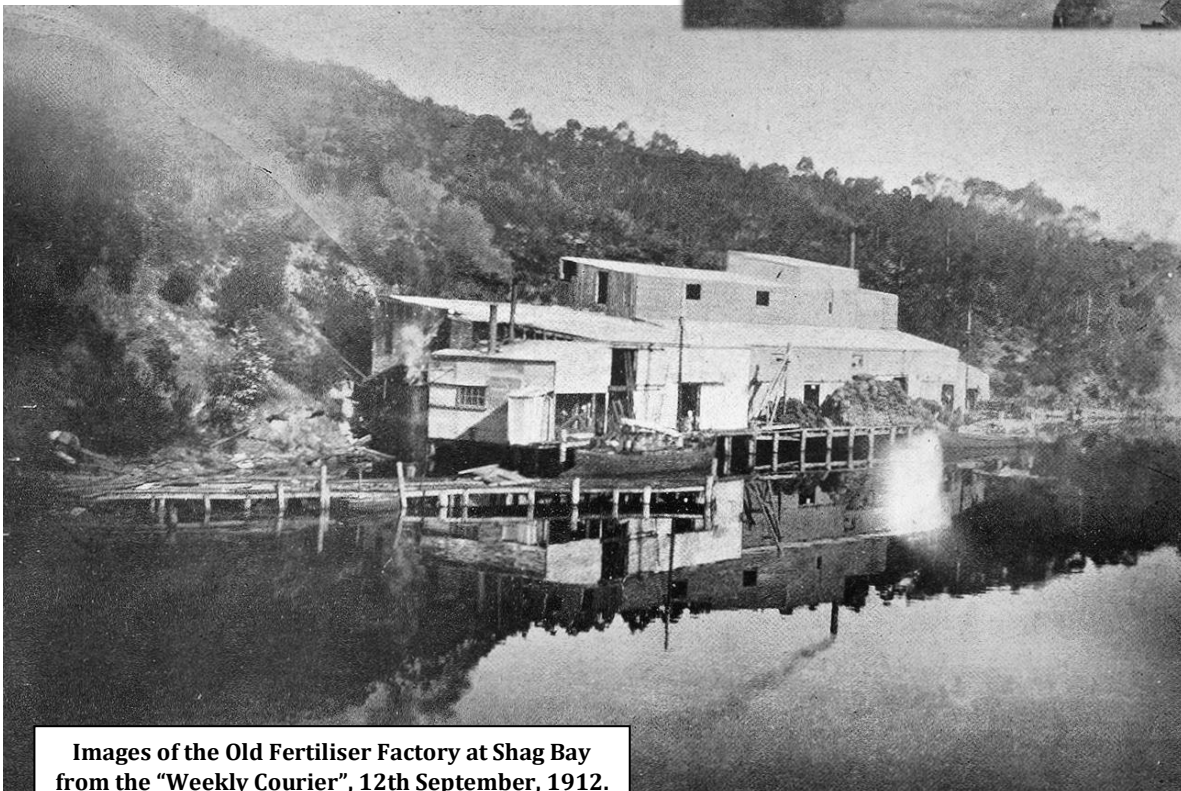
This factory, established in the late 19th century, was destroyed by an explosion in 1915, which killed two men. John and Maria Grist have written an excellent article “Recycling at Shag Bay”* and we were fortunate to have them as our Guest Speakers some time ago.

From here the Track continues on into the East Risdon State Reserve.

This peace and tranquility of the area is in stark contrast to the Zinc works, the Oil Wharf and other busy industrial sites on the river’s opposite side.

If you have not previously been on this walk now is the time to go and experience the serenity and discover the rich heritage of the area.

* See John & Maria’s article at the following website:
<https://tasmaniangeographic.com/early-recycling-at-shag-bay/>

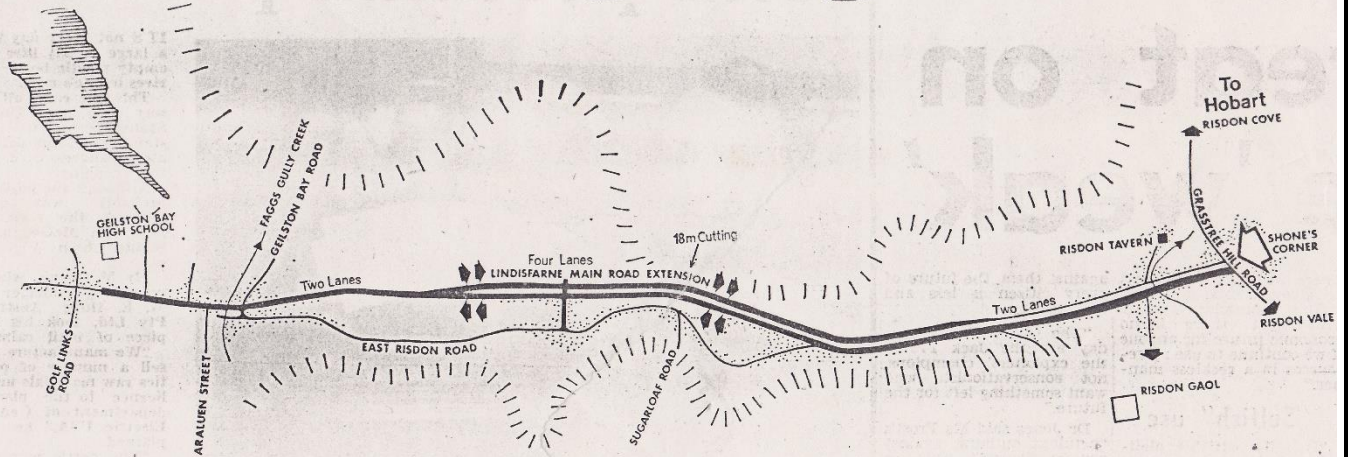


Images of the Old Fertiliser Factory at Shag Bay
from the “Weekly Courier”, 12th September, 1912.

EAST DERWENT HIGHWAY ROADWORKS

Following the major roadworks which have recently taken place on the East Derwent Highway, we thought this article from "The Mercury", 23rd September, 1975, would be of interest.

\$2m road gets go-ahead



A \$2,034,417 tender for the construction of the Lindisfarne Main Rd has been awarded to a Melbourne firm, Roche Bros Pty Ltd.

● **An artist's impression of the new extension to the Lindisfarne Main Rd.**

The Premier, Mr Neilson, said yesterday work was expected to start early next month and should be finished by the end of June next year.

The contract includes the construction of a new road, 3.5km long, from Golf Links Road to Shone's Corner, near the Risdon Tavern.

The new road will be a safer and quicker route for Eastern Shore traffic linking up with Old Beach Road.

Tenders were called for the work because the Public Works Department work force has been involved in the upgrading of the Old Beach Road.

Mr Neilson said the new road would cater for the large volume of traffic expected when the temporary bridge across the Derwent was opened early next year.

The road would ultimately be the main outlet from the Eastern Shore to the

second permanent river crossing at Dowsing Point.

About two thirds of the road will be divided by a central median, and the section near the Sugar Loaf Road junction will be in a cutting about 18 metres deep.

The design of the road has been completed by the Scott and Furphy Consulting Group in close liaison with engineers from the Public Works Department and other authorities.

A spokesman for Scott and Furphy said yesterday the road would be two lanes wide from East Risdon Rd to the start of the cutting.

Through the cutting it would be four lanes wide until it links up with east Risdon Rd near the Risdon Gaol.

It would then convert back to two lanes.

Mr Neilson appealed to motorists to be patient during the reconstruction

work, which would involve some delays during blasting operations.

Roche Bros has been involved in several big construction projects in Tasmania in the past.

They include the West Derwent pipeline from New Norfolk and a contract with the HEC for the construction of the Miena dam.

One of their more recent projects was the excavation of Garden Is in the Tamar estuary.

The manager for Roche Bros, Mr Allan Curry, said yesterday construction of the road would mean, at various stages, permanent employment for about 50 people.

He said the company would, where possible, use local plant and employ local people.

"We are confident work can be completed by June," he said.

EXCURSION TO GROTE REIBER MUSEUM

On Friday 23rd February, 23 eager L.H.S. members and friends met at the LCAC to carpool to our outing. The Grote Reiber Museum is situated at 90 Denholms Road, Cambridge and is part of the UTAS Radio Telescope site.

We were warmly welcomed by Warren, Pradyumna and Lemonthyme the dog. The group split in two with one group heading out with Warren and the dog to see the 26m radio telescope and control room. This dish was donated by NASA in the early 1980s, it cost over \$1,000,000 to get it to Tasmania. The control room looked like the one in the movie, *The Dish* and was full of old and new electronic gear including a panel from Space Ex.

Inside, Pradyumna told his group of the life and works of the man Grote Reiber himself. He was born in 1911 and died in 2002. He spent his early years in America and was the first person to build a 'big dish' antenna for mapping the sky radio frequencies. Profoundly deaf, he was a quiet man who enjoyed his own company. In the early 1950s he moved to Tasmania to take advantage of its unique position at high magnetic latitude in the Southern Hemisphere.

Grote, (his mother's maiden name, she also taught Edwin Hubble) lived in Sandy Bay but moved to Bothwell



where he built a solar passive home and radio shack to go with his radio telescope. He was well loved in Bothwell with the local children enjoying riding in his electric car called Pixie, designed by him and made in the US.

Grote spent 40 years studying low frequency emissions as well as many other accomplishments. The museum features his life's work as well as many of his other interests. It is

well set out and there are many interesting displays and information panels to read. A highlight was the electric car and a 1/5 model of the first dish.

We finished the morning by watching 3D short films about space matters. The day finished with a delicious lunch at The Richmond Arms Hotel where, judging by the noise, the conversation kept flowing.



UPCOMING SPEAKER - MARCH MEETING

MR GEOFFREY CASHION

Geoff will regale us with tales of "Old Lindisfarne" from the 1940's onwards.

Come along and share your memories with us!

UPCOMING SPEAKER - APRIL MEETING

MR KIM SMITH

2022 Tasmanian Local Hero Awardee & attendee at the State Funeral Service of

HM Queen Elizabeth II, 19th September 2022

Our AGM will be held prior to Geoff's talk and your attendance would be appreciated.

Kim will give an insight into the circumstances - why he was one of only ten people within Australia, selected by the Prime Minister, to be chosen to represent us.

WHEN: Monday 25th March @ 2pm

WHERE: Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln St. Lindisfarne.

WHEN: Monday 29th April @ 2pm

WHERE: Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln St. Lindisfarne.

All are to welcome to attend – bring a friend!

Afternoon tea provided.

L.H.S. Society Meetings 2024

Monday March 25th @ 2pm (AGM)

Monday April 29th @ 2pm

Monday May 27th @ 2pm

Monday June 24th @ 2pm

Monday July 29th @ 2pm

Monday August 26th @ 2pm

Monday September 30th @ 2pm

Monday October 28th @ 2pm

Monday November 25th @ 2pm

All meetings to be held at the **Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre (LCAC), 37a Lincoln St. Lindisfarne**, unless stated otherwise.

*** The Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre has been closed since 13th December for building works. We have been advised that the Centre will be operational from 25th March.**

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS – DERWENT
CHAPTER



**Fellowship of
First Fleeters**

To live on in the hearts
and minds of descendants
is never to die

Are you a descendant of someone who arrived with Governor Arthur Phillip in Botany Bay in 1788?

No matter whether you trace your lineage to a crew member of the eleven ships or a free settler or a convict or a member of the military you may be eligible to join as a certified First Fleeter descendant.

Friends and family who enjoy learning about Australian history are welcome also to attend talks and excursions and engage socially with members from many walks of life.

Help can be provided with ancestor research and paperwork for certification.

Make initial inquiries to Ross Butler on mobile 0438 436 862.

HELP NEEDED

Can you correctly identify this photo?



We used this photograph in our 2023 calendar believing it to be Geilston Bay in the 1950's.

Since then, some doubt has been cast on whether this is indeed correct. Can anyone please help us clarify the details in this photograph?

Contact us at lindisfarne.history@gmail.com



This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of

Julie Collins M.P.

Member for Franklin