

Lindisfarne

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No.1/2025

Lindisfarne Congregational (Uniting) Church 1903-2025



LIVING AT EAST RISDON AFTER THE BRIDGE COLLAPSE

By Geoffrey Cashion (President L.H.S.)

We built our first family home at 74 Grass Tree Hill Road, now Saundersons Road, in 1972.

In 1974 we spent Christmas in Sydney having travelled with our car on the Empress of Australia and staying at my in-laws home at Merrylands in the western suburbs about 12 miles from Sydney.

Two weeks after the Bridge Disaster we came home on the Empress, and as we entered the Derwent River we could see our bridge cut in two, a sad sight.

We drove past Government House, no car on the road, and found a huge gate at the entrance to the Bridge to stop the traffic. We lived not far from the Risdon Punt so we drove along Risdon Road to the Zinc works to find cars, buses etc parked everywhere at the point so we joined the queue. Our son was only 3, and our daughter was 6 months old and in a carry basket, so Maree took them with her and went on the Punt as a passenger and walked home. I stayed with the car and 2 hours later drove onto the punt and home. When I drove up our driveway we had 8 cars parked on vacant land in front of our house, cars were left there for the next 8 months until the Bailey Bridge was built.

The road to the Punt was very narrow and was unsealed. Cars could only park on one side of the road and it was later widened to allow cars to park on either side. We always knew when the punt

had arrived as there would be a great amount of cars leaving the area and then there was no noise for the next 20 minutes.

A new punt called the Bowen was built and the Risdon was taken out of service having done a great job for many years. We watched the building of the Bailey Bridge and could tell when cars were traveling faster than they were allowed as the timber planks on the road way would make more noise.

We all walked to the end of our road to see the royal cars drive past with the Queen and the Duke – we all got a wave!

The Bowen Bridge began to take shape and the Old Beach Road works finished to become the East Derwent Highway.

Our little area had changed for the better where we lived. The next big thing to happen was when Clifford put his boat up on the rocks over Easter.

L.H.S. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Just a reminder that it is that time of year again! Subscriptions are now due and remain at \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. Payments can be made in cash at any of our meetings, or by direct deposit to the Society's bank account.

For any enquiries please contact the Treasurer, Lyn Winters, on 0402 063 179.

FRONT PAGE: Lindisfarne Congregational (Uniting) Church, pictured c. 1912 and 2000. The church will sadly be decommissioned next month. See pages 6-7.

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Committee

President: Geoffrey Cashion (PH: 6243 7740)

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: John Counsell, Dorothy Cuthill, Margaret Harrison, Bernadette Peck & Alan Townsend

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

Facebook Administrator: Fran Read

Society Meetings for 2025

Monday March 31st @ 2pm (AGM included)

Monday April 28th @ 2pm

Monday May 26th @ 2pm

Monday June 30th @ 2pm

Monday July 28th @ 2pm

Monday August 25th @ 2pm

Monday September 29th @ 2pm

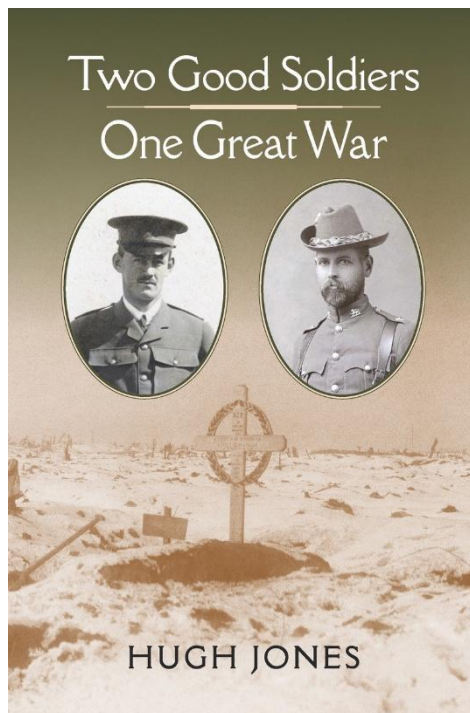
Monday October 27th @ 2pm

Monday November 24th @ 2pm

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

All are welcome to attend and afternoon tea will be provided.

HUGH JONES



“Two Good Soldiers, One Great War” is the true story of two Tasmanian soldiers caught up in the horrors of World War I.

Using long lost letters sent home from Australian soldiers at Gallipoli and on the Western Front, author Hugh Jones has pieced together a tale of remarkable friendship between two men separated by half a world during the First World War. The book tells the story of young Tasmanian teacher Ivor Margetts, a popular and talented footballer (good enough to represent Tasmania at the 1914 Australian National Football Carnival in Sydney), and his military mentor and landlord Major Charles Simmons.

As lieutenant with the 12th Battalion, Margetts was one of the first Australians ashore at Gallipoli on 25th April 1915. Too old to enlist, militia stalwart Simmons was hastily appointed to run the dilapidated Hobart gaol, with fateful consequences.

Margetts became of Tasmania’s best known and loved soldiers. Simmons was lost to history.

Author Hugh Jones is a sixth generation Tasmanian, born in Hobart in 1959, who has spent more than 30 years in print journalism, working for newspapers in Tasmania, London, Oxford and Melbourne. As a boy growing up in Hobart, Hugh heard the story of Ivor Margetts and Charlie Simmons from his great aunt, Jean, Charlie’s daughter, who lived alone in the old family house in Lindisfarne where she had been born before Federation.

Jean, who was unmarried, died in 1984 and the house was sold and her belongings dispersed. More than 30 years later, when Jean’s nephew Robin died and his home was packed up, a trove of letters and other memorabilia dating to WWI was discovered among his belongings. Most of the letters were written to Charlie Simmons by Tasmanian soldiers fighting a war on the other side of the world - many of them were from Ivor Margetts.

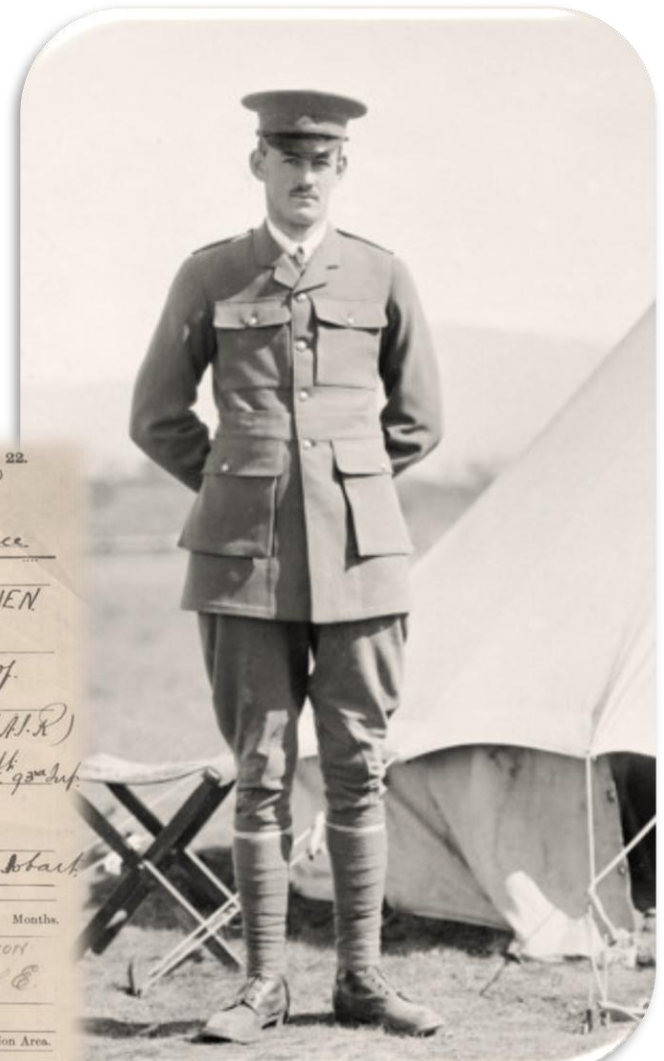
Intrigued, Hugh became determined to understand the link between these two men, and to discover the truth about Margetts war experiences.

Margetts and his 12th Battalion were amongst the first ANZACS on the beach at Gallipoli that fateful morning of 25th April 1915. He survived the first day, despite his battalion commander being killed and his company commander badly wounded. A few weeks later he wrote a short account of that landing day which was published in a number of Australian newspapers.

Margetts was the only Australian officer to remain on the peninsula throughout the entire campaign, being neither wounded nor sick enough to warrant evacuation.

Although he dearly wanted to go to war, Charlie Simmons was too old to enlist. He was given the job in Hobart of managing the city's gaol, a structure that dated to convict times and was totally unsuited for modern penology. Prisoners found it easy to escape and Charlie became the scapegoat for years of inaction and incompetence.

The war would claim both their lives, even if Charlie lived for another 12 years after the Armistice. Their families were affected for generations.



Captain Ivor Margetts standing outside his tent, c.1914.

Source: Australian War Memorial (H15808)

C.M. Form A. 22.
(Revised 1.7.14.)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

Application for a Commission in the *Aush. Imp. Ex. Force*

No.	Particulars.	
1.	Surname ... Other names (in full) ...	<i>MARGETTS IVOR STEPHEN</i> <i>(Ivor Stephen)</i>
2.	Educational Qualifications... (Certificate to be attached for notation at District Headquarters.)	
3.	Military Qualifications (previous Military Service, if any, to be stated) (Attention is directed to third sub-para. of G.M. Regulation 66.) Present rank and corps to be stated.	
4.	Date on which applicant qualified at a competitive examination for first appointment as 2nd Lieutenant (U.T. Regulation 132)	
5.	Present Civil Employment	
6.	Date of Birth, and Age ...	Date of Birth. Age.
7.	If a British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject ... (In the case of the latter, date and place of Naturalization to be stated.)	<i>British Subject</i> RELIGION <i>Ep. & E.</i>
8.	Married or Single	<i>Single</i>
9.	Postal Address ...	Battalion Area.
10.	Next of Kin ...	<i>91</i>

Date *28/8/14* (Signature of Applicant) *I. Margetts*

Note.—Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces are required to attach a satisfactory certificate of moral character, or, if they are serving in the Permanent or Citizen Forces, to be recommended by their Commanding Officer. (They are also to state on the back of this form the subjects in which they desire to be examined in Part II., and where exemptions are claimed for educational subjects, the authority for same is to be stated, and where necessary to be supported by certificates.)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

In the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces, Proceedings of Medical Board, in accordance with instructions contained in "Standing Orders for the Army Medical Services," will be substituted for this Certificate; such Board, however, will not be assembled until after the nomination of the Candidate to undergo examination has been approved by the Military Board of Administration.

I, *Richard Dugan Capt.* do hereby certify to the correctness of the following particulars respecting the above-named applicant. I further certify that the applicant is not ruptured, has not been operated on for Hernia, and is capable of bearing the fatigue incident to the performance of military duty.

Height *6. 3* Weight *13. 3*
Chest Measurement *37. 39* Eyesight *good*

(Signature of the Examining Medical Officer) *R. Dugan Capt.*

RECOMMENDATION AND CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

(Not required in the cases of Candidates for Commissions in the Permanent Forces.)

I recommend that the candidate above named be appointed a _____ in the Corps under my command, and I certify:—

1. That such appointment will be within the authorized establishment for the current year.
2. (a) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 33 have been fully complied with, or
- (b) That the provisions of U.T. Reg. 132 have been fully complied with.
- (c) That all candidates higher in order of merit, by competitive examination, have been absorbed.

On appointment the candidate will be posted to _____ Squadron, Battery, or Coy., &c.

Date _____ Commanding _____ Regt. or Corps.

RECOMMENDATION OF DISTRICT COMMANDANT.

Recommended, candidate considered suitable.

Date *4th September 1914* *M. J. Clark Colonel*
Commandant *6th* Military District.

† Sub-para. not applicable to be struck out.

N.B.—Record of War Service (if any) to be shown on back of Form.
Seniority of Candidates as determined by competitive examination to be stated when two or more applications are forwarded on the same date.

We look forward to having
Hugh Jones as our Guest
Speaker this month – don't
miss this one!

Mark your dairies for
Monday, 31st March at 2pm!

LINDISFARNE UNITING CHURCH
DECOMMISSIONING SERVICE



**The decommissioning service for the Lindisfarne Uniting Church will be held
on Sunday 6th April @ 2pm,
198 East Derwent Highway, Lindisfarne.**

**You are invited to attend, if you are interested, especially if you have had association with the
church in the past.**

THE LINDISFARNE UNITING CHURCH

Lindisfarne grew slowly from its early days, when it was more of a picnic/holiday destination for residents of the Western Shore, to become the beautiful, thriving place it is today.

In those early days Bellerive was the main settlement on the Eastern Shore, and most services, including Ministers of the Churches, were based there.

Congregational worship in Beltana, as Lindisfarne was called in the late 1800's, was held in the "Old School House" (21 Lincoln St) with Rev Gann, the Minister in Bellerive driving over by sulky to conduct the afternoon services. At the time this school building was shared for worship with the

Anglicans whose services were held there in the morning.

Matthew Wilkes Simmons, son of a Congregational Minister who came to Van Dieman's Land in 1860, was a prominent early resident of Lindisfarne. He offered land to both churches so that they could build their own Church buildings. The Congregational Church accepted land on the corner of Derwent Ave and the now East Derwent Highway.

The Church was built by Jonas Cranston (grandfather of the late Noeline Heaven), a member of the congregation and a Stonemason who had his own quarry in Malunna Road with the Foundation Stone for the church being laid by Rev Percy, Chairman of Congregational Union, on 27th

May 1903. The church was officially opened on the 4th November 1903. In 1908 a front porch and a small at the back were added.

A Manse was constructed behind the church in 1960 and, over the years, many Ministers have resided there.

In 1963 a large hall was built on land across from the church and this was regularly used for Church and community activities.

This Church became the first United Church in Australia when it successfully joined with the Methodists and the Presbyterians in 1956.

(The Uniting Church in Australia was formed on the 22nd June 1977 when a large percentage of these three churches joined together nationwide.)

Sadly, times have changed and this beautiful little church will hold its final service on 6th April 2025. Many of us who live in Lindisfarne will have fond memories connected to this church. Maybe it is to have attended the Sunday School or to have sung in the Choir, certainly many will have strong family connections and it is sad that this is happening. The service takes place Sunday 6th April at 2pm.

LINDISFARNE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

OPENING SERVICES.

The opening services of the new Congregational Church at Lindisfarne commenced with a dedication service on Wednesday afternoon, November 4, 1903. The building was well filled with an enthusiastic congregation. The service began with the hymn "Jesus, where'er Thy people meet," announced by the Rev. W. A. Gann, who also led the worshippers in the Lord's Prayer and Psalm cxiii. The Rev. J. W. Roberts read the lesson (Isaiah lx.), and offered the dedicatory prayer. The Chairman of the Tasmanian Union of the Congregational denomination (Rev. W. Perry Hart) preached an excellent sermon from the text "Upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew xvii. 18. At the close of his sermon the preacher declared the new church open for the purpose of Christian worship, and for the spiritual and moral welfare of the people of Lindisfarne.

The offertory amounted to £27, which is devoted to the building fund. An exceedingly interesting service closed with the singing of the "Old Hundredth" and the pronouncing of the benediction. Mrs. Gann presided at the new organ.

After the service adjournment was made to the Lindisfarne-hall, where an excellent repast had been prepared by Mr. North Rees, and of which a large number partook. The expenses of the tea were met by a kind friend, to whom the congregation's heartiest thanks are accorded. In the evening a public meeting was held, presided over by the Hon. James Murdoch, M.L.C., who, in an interesting address, complimented the people of Lindisfarne upon having such a rightly building in which to worship God.

Mr. J. Marsh provided a musical programme, which was, as usual, highly appreciated. Miss Henry, Miss Amy Vautin, and Mr. Paton sang, and Miss Andrews recited, all to the great pleasure of the audience, the hall being packed.

The Revs. J. W. Roberts and G. W. Sharp rendered good service by delivering inspiring addresses. The latter, in his address, referred in graceful terms to the late Revs. R. Ricards and J. W. Simmons, and the noble work they had done. The Rev. W. A. Gann read apologies from the Revs. H. Worrall, J. Wilson, and W. Perry Hart (who had to return home on account of suffering from a severe cold), and also from Mr.

Flack Ricards, the architect. He also moved a comprehensive vote of thanks to all the friends and helpers who had generously assisted in making the event pre-eminently successful.

On Sunday, November 8, the Rev. G. W. Sharp conducted the morning service, taking as his text the "Apostolic Benediction." In the afternoon a children's service was held, and in the evening a public service, conducted by the Rev. W. A. Gann. Good congregations assembled on each occasion, and the services were much enjoyed. Mrs. Gann acted as organist for the day. Offerings were liberally contributed to the funds of the church.

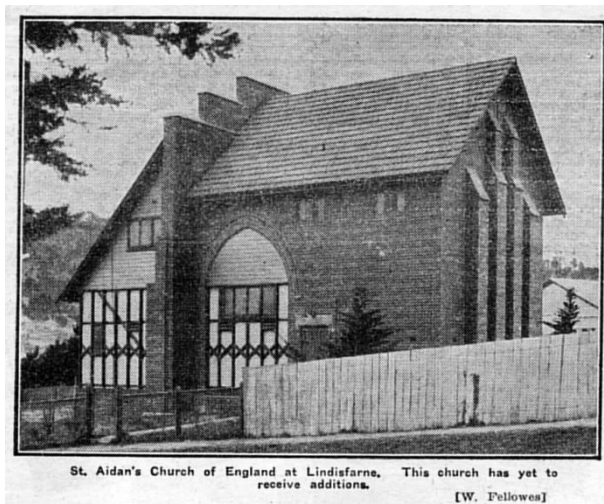
The building which was designed by Mr. Flack Ricards, and built by Mr. W. Cooper, is constructed of brick, with stone foundation and facings, and is an ornamental acquisition to the pretty suburb of Lindisfarne. The church, for the present, will be under the care of the Rev. W. Austen Gann, of Belle-rive.

THE LINDISFARNE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The first Anglican services in Lindisfarne were held in the recreational pavilion before being moved to the old school house (21 Lincoln St) in the late 1890's. In 1907 the Mission Hall (known as St Aidan's Hall), built on the corner of Lincoln St and the now East Derwent Highway, was opened providing regular Church services and Sunday School for the local parishioners. In the mid 1920's land was purchased on the corner of Amelia and Lincoln Streets for the building of the current church. Bishop Hay laid the Foundation Stone for St Aidan's on Anzac Day 1925 and the Church was dedicated on 7th March 1926, again by Bishop Hay.

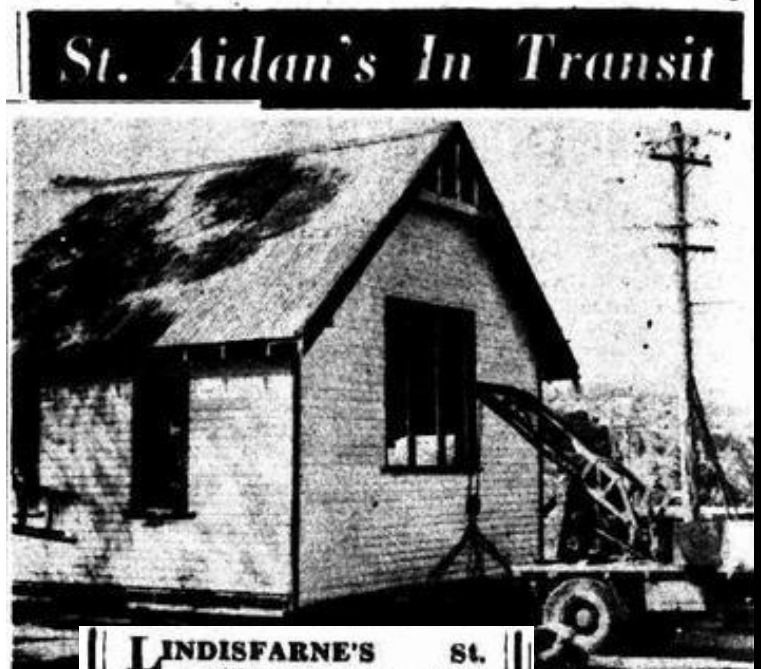
The Church was constructed by Jonas Cranston and Bill Tanner, with a temporary wall constructed that would last for 36 years.

In March 1953 the Mission Hall was moved to its current location next to the Church. This was a major operation, involving disconnection of power supplies, traffic diversions etc. In more recent years, further additions have been made and the Hall is now connected to the Church. The church extension was added in 1962 and dedicated by Bishop Cranswick.



St. Aidan's Church of England at Lindisfarne. This church has yet to receive additions. [W. Fellowes]

This year therefore marks 100 years since the opening of St Aidan's Church, now known as the Lindisfarne Anglican Church. A special **Centenary Service**, with the Bishop the Right Rev Dr Richard Condie in attendance, will be held on **Sunday April 27th at 10am** and all are invited to attend. A special concert will also be held on **Saturday April 26th at 2pm**.



LINDISFARNE'S St. Aidan's Hall — 45ft. long, 27ft. wide, and 21ft. high—was moved a quarter of a mile by road yesterday to its new site beside St. Aidan's Church of England.

Two powerful diesel trucks negotiated the hall on a special low-load 50ft. x 14ft. trailer around a sharp bend to get it from the corner of Lincoln St. and Risdon main road to the corner of Lincoln and Amelia Sts.

P.M.G. Department and H.E.C. linesmen had to remove power and telephone lines. Schoolchildren, who took about an hour off from school, were among the big crowd which watched the operation.

The building is believed to be the biggest single unit transported by road in Tasmania, but it changed sites in less than 12 hours. The hall was built in 1907.

The Mercury, 5th March 1953, page 6



Lindisfarne Anglican Church today

100 YEAR WEEKEND

CELEBRATING 100
YEARS OF CHURCH IN
LINDISFARNE



SAT 26 APRIL
CENTENARY CONCERT
2 PM
\$10



www.lindisfarne.church/concert

SUN 27 APRIL
CELBRATION SERVICE
10 AM

FREE EVENT
INCL. LUNCH AFTERWARDS
No tickets required, just turn up!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WWW.LINDISFARNE.CHURCH/100YEARS

LINDISFARNE HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

(continued)

by ROSS BUTLER

This is the fourth snippet from "An Outline of the Development of Lindisfarne" by Audrey Hudspeth.

Hudspeth says that the precise date of the founding of Lindisfarne is not clear.

Under the name of "Beltana" there was clearly by 1890 a locality. The name was an aboriginal word meaning "running water" and was allegedly chosen by Mathew Simmons. In 1892, Hudspeth says, Beltana appears as a subdivision of the Clarence Municipality and, also in that year, it received recognition as a separate postal district with the establishment of its own Post Office.

By 1892-93 it had the status of a town under the Town Boards act of 1891 which enabled applications for government funding to assist with land acquisitions and town improvements. It was not until 2nd November 1894 that it was officially proclaimed as a town under the municipality of Hobart for broad administrative purposes. But the passing of a new Local Government Act in October 1906 led in 1907 to Lindisfarne coming again under the Clarence municipality.

The name of "Beltana" was dropped in 1903 for that of "Lindisfarne". Hudspeth says that one possible reason was that the by then federally controlled Post office objected that there could be confusion with the South Australian Beltana.

Nevertheless, the duly elected Beltana Town Board, which had its first meeting in 1894, continued its activities until 31st December 1907.

Hudspeth stresses the importance of the work of the Board in these early years in formulating principles which ensured the "establishment and enhancement of the most attractive features of present-day Lindisfarne.

These were, she says, a determination to maintain the recreational attractions of the Township by acquiring and administering recreational grounds, establishing an Esplanade by the purchase or donation of land and strict control of minimal house size to discourage substandard housing.

Residential settlement was encouraged by the provision of a large number of quarter acre blocks.

The Alan Sealy Butler family of 24 Esplanade benefited mightily from the huge prolific vegetable plots of their parents' quarter acre block and easy access over the Esplanade and down the bank to a lovely clean 30 metre long sandy beach bordered by sandstone outcrops and small ponds. What a delightful childhood playground!

See next page for an interesting take on Beltana's name change which appeared in The Tasmanian News newspaper....

Have a question? Perhaps you would like to contribute something to the newsletter?

Please feel free to contact us at:

lindisfarne.history@gmail.com

THE TOWNSHIP OF BELTANA

A CHANGE OF NAME.

The popular seaside resort of Beltana (says the Hobart correspondent of the *Launceston Daily Telegraph*) has changed its name. Beltana was once Lindisfarne; now, according to a proclamation issued under the hand and seal of the Governor, it is to be Lindisfarne again. Thirteen years ago Beltana was abolished. One well remembers the day. The land which now forms the township was purchased by a syndicate, who cut it into lots, and expressed a desire to form a town. The late Chief Justice, Sir Lambert Dobson, was invited to take a part in a tree-planting ceremony, and all the notables of the city and members of the Corporation were also guests. Mr George Beedham was the shining light of the early Beltana. Where Mr Beedham has buried himself awaysince then goodness only knows. One knows that he was alive about three years ago, because one saw him waving a flag to a train conveying the second Tasmanian contingent on their way to South Africa, somewhere in the vicinity of Bridgewater. Mr Beedham over

the wine and walnuts made a big speech. He said the new suburb was one of the most picturesque places in the world, and had a water frontage of over four miles. Then he said a number of other things, all complimentary to Beltana; after which Sir Lambert took up the running. His late Honor was extremely flowery. He said they were met in an Arcadia, one of the most lovely spots in the world, where they could live on bright sunshine, where there need be no sanitary laws, no crime, but where all could live with an inclination to do right. All the trees planted on that occasion have died, but Beltana is very much alive. About eight years ago building became so extreme that a Town Board was formed, and, on top of this came the sanitary laws and various other

laws similar to those administered on the mainland. Beltana at present has over three hundred inhabitants, and is becoming a fruitgrowing area, and has a golf links second to none in the State to boot.

Sixty odd years ago the late John Price was king of Beltana, which was then known as Lindisfarne. The remains of some of the old buildings put up in Price's day by prison labor, may still be seen at the head of the bay. The Beltana residents, without in any way wishing to pay a compliment to the departed Price, met in solemn conclave the other day, and came to the conclusion that Lindisfarne was a more euphonious term than Beltana, and they made an application to the Government to alter the name. The Government did not say no to the request, and Launceston residents, who have visited Beltana from time to time, and will probably take a run over there on many occasions in the near future, will please remember that Beltana is no longer Beltana, but is now Lindisfarne. The chief pillar of Lindisfarne is Mr M. W. Simmons. There are other pillars, of course, which all help to support the superstructure, and when they feel a trifle tottery, they ask the big pillar to bear the burden, and he does so. Mat Simmons is one of the best fellows in creation, when one knows him properly.

Tasmanian News, 14th August 1903, page 3



Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Notice of Annual General Meeting:

Monday 31st March 2025 @ 2pm

**Where: Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre
37a Lincoln St, Lindisfarne**

Come along and have your say on the future of our Society.

All positions on the Committee will be declared vacant and the Committee for 2025 will be elected.

If you are interested in nominating yourself, or another, for the Committee please contact the Secretary, Susan Gardner on

0418 289 732 or email: lindisfarne.history@gmail.com

All members are urged to attend.

Following the AGM our Guest Speaker will be

Hugh Jones

**Author of "Two Good Soldiers – One Great War" -
the story of Ivor Margetts and Major Charles Simmons**

Afternoon Tea will follow the meeting.

Geoffrey Cashion, President

Susan Gardner, Secretary

**This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of**

Julie Collins M.P.