

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No. 2/2021

Apr-May-Jun 2021



HRH, Prince Philip,
The Duke of Edinburgh
1921- 2021

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc. Committee

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Newsletter/Publishing Sub-Committee: Angela Coutts, Rebecca Johnson, Penny O'Brien

& Reg Watson

Public Officer: Mr Ross Butler

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT PENNY

2021 has begun well for the Society. We have had healthy numbers at our meetings, including the AGM, at which we were delighted to welcome two new members to our Management Committee. We are very glad that Bernadette Peck and Susan Gardner put their names forward to join the Committee and we look forward to a successful year ahead.

For the Society to thrive it is important that we maintain a healthy membership. At recent meetings I have noted the absence of many familiar faces but have noted, with pleasure, many new faces. This is encouraging for the future of the Society. Membership remains at \$25, or \$40 per couple. If you have not paid your subs this year, or would like to join, please see our Treasurer, Noeline, at an upcoming meeting.

2022 will mark 30 years since the formation of the Lindisfarne Historical Society. There have been many, many people involved over the years, indeed several who were there in the early days of the Society are still actively involved. We are busy planning a special event to take place next year to mark this occasion.

The Society will be at the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre on Saturday 15th May with a display of our material and Society members available to assist with any enquiries. The Centre is now our "home" and our material is kept there.

Also happening on the same day will be the Book Sale held by the Community Library and The Trash and Treasure Stall held by The Dog's Home people. It promises to be a good day. So do come along and see us.

We look forward to a really good year for the Society.

Society Meetings For 2021

Monday 31st May @ 2pm

Friday 25th June @ 7.30pm

Monday 26th July @ 2pm

Friday 27th August @ 7.30pm

Monday 27th September @ 2pm

Friday 29th October @ 7.30pm

Monday 29th November @ 2pm

All meetings to be held at the **Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln St.**

Lindisfarne, unless stated otherwise.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

MAY SOCIETY MEETING

Guest Speaker:

Rex Cox

Rex is a long-time member of the Maritime Museum of Hobart and is author of the book:

"SHIPS OF HOBART HARBOUR"

A significant number of ships from many nations have visited Hobart for more than 200 years for exploration, whaling, trade and military purposes - and more recently tourism.

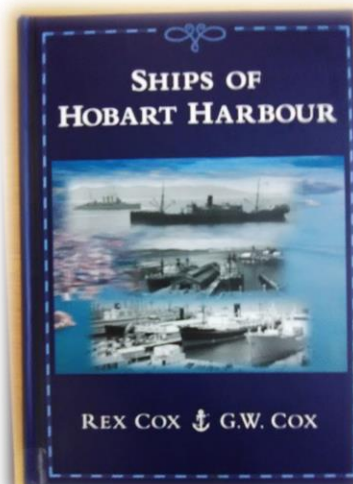
Let's enjoy an informative presentation by Rex. For many it will be a nostalgic trip. Remember the apple export ships of the 1950's?

WHEN: Monday 31st May 2021 @ 2pm

WHERE: Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, Lincoln Street, Lindisfarne

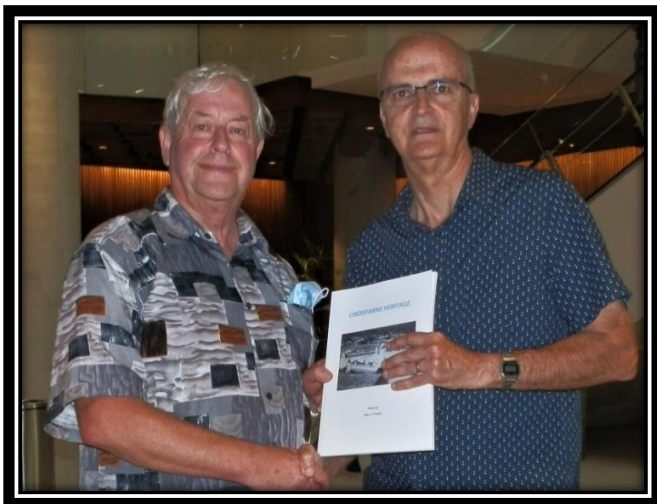
Afternoon Tea will be provided

All are invited to attend (members and non-members alike), so please feel free to bring along a friend.



BOOK PRESENTED FROM ONE HISTORIC SOCIETY TO ANOTHER

On behalf of the Lindisfarne Historic Society (Tasmania), long term member Reg Watson, presented a copy of "*Lindisfarne Heritage Volume I*" to the President of the Parramatta & District Historic Society (P.D.H.S.), Jeff Allen. Reg was visiting Parramatta and is also a member of the P.D.H.S., to formulate matters pertaining to the future launch of his new book in the NSW city in November.



Reg Watson, left, presenting P.D.H.S. President Jeff Allen with "*Lindisfarne Heritage Vol. I.*"

Reg was the editor and contributor of the heritage Lindisfarne book as were many other locals of Lindisfarne. A volume II has since been released.

Reg launched his "*Parramatta – Tasmania Colonial Connections Volume I*" on Parramatta's Foundation Day, November 2nd in 2017. It was launched by then Lord Mayor of the city, Andrew Wilson.

Reg has now completed "*Volume II of Parramatta-Tasmania Colonial Connections*" which hopefully

will be launched later this year. There will also be a launch in Hobart.

Being a member of both historic groups Reg took the opportunity to present the Lindisfarne volume to President Jeff, who gratefully accepted the contribution to the P.D.H.S. library.



Reg, left, with Parramatta Mayor Andrew Wilson at the launch of his book "*Parramatta – Tasmania Colonial Connections, Volume 1*" in 2017.

Reg has a daughter who lives in Parramatta and visits the city twice a year. While doing so, he thought he would take an interest in its history and found many common interests, happenings, personalities and events between the two communities, both being settled early in the nation's colonial past; Parramatta, soon after the 1788 settlement at Sydney Cove and Tasmania in 1803.

"It has been a satisfying journey for me. Hopefully it highlights the similarities of the two settlements and my humble efforts may help others to become aware of our joint heritage," said Reg.

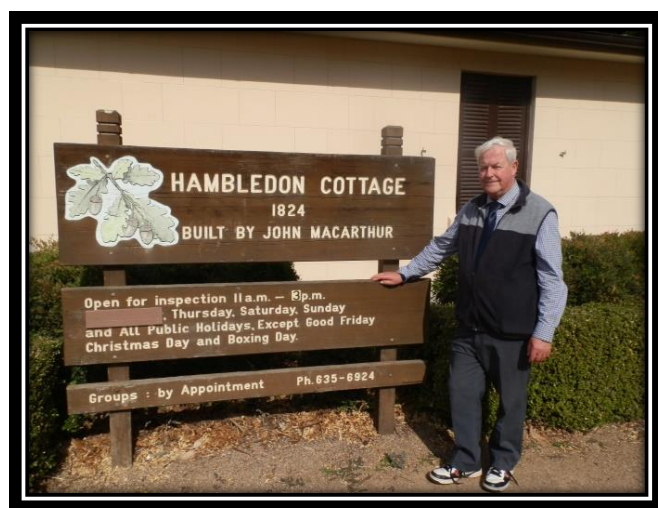
Forewords to the latest publication have been penned by the past president of the Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association, Gwen Hardstaff and current president of the P.D.H.S. Jeff Allen. Subjects contained in the book include scientist Charles Darwin, Rocky Whelan, bushranger, The Reverend Benjamin Carvosso, the Sisters of Charity, the female factories of Parramatta and Tasmania, Matthew Flinders – and lots more.

Taking the opportunity while in Parramatta, Reg also contributed another of his books, titled “*Historic Snippets of Tasmania’s Colonial Past*” to the general Parramatta Library.

“Parramatta is a fast-changing city and it is important to record every aspect of its heritage which is of course important for Tasmania to do the same,” Reg said.

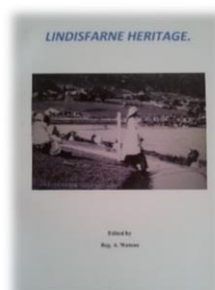
“I hope the presentation to the book to Jeff Allen will give the opportunity for friends of Parramatta to learn of Lindisfarne in Tasmania. Indeed, Lt John Bowen RN who settled at Risdon Cove in 1803, located near Lindisfarne, is a subject contained in Volume I as Bowen previously spent time at Parramatta,” Reg added.

The P.D.H.S. have the facilities of historic *Hambledon Cottage* (pictured at right) which was built by John Macarthur in 1824 on the grounds of his Elizabeth Farm Estate.



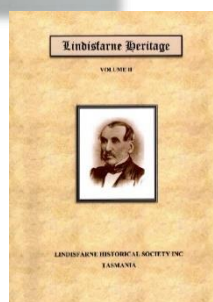
Reg pictured outside *Hambledon Cottage* in Parramatta

L.H.S. PUBLICATIONS



Lindisfarne Heritage, \$30

Special - \$25 ea



Lindisfarne Heritage
Vol. II, \$35

**L.H.S Publications are available for purchase from
the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre
Library, (opening times 10am – 2pm Mon-Fri,
10am – 12pm Sat), or at our meetings.**

APRIL MEETING RE-CAP

ROSIE SEVERS – “KEENS CURRY”



Hands up if you have a tin of this on your spice rack or in the pantry?

I know I certainly do. In fact, it is the only curry powder I ever use.

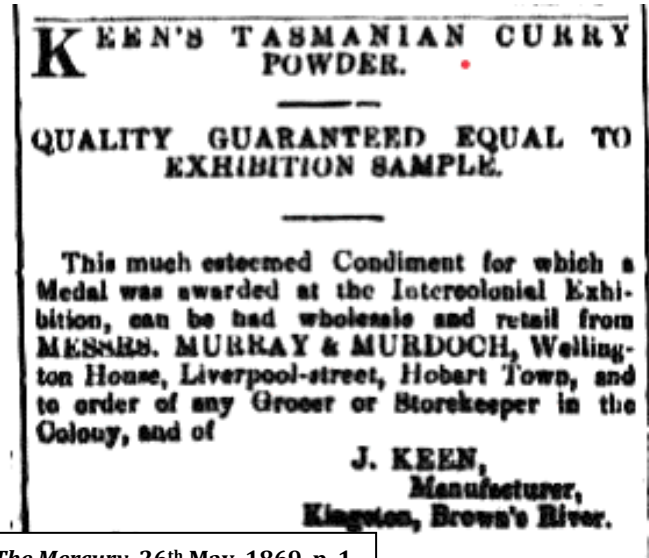
Well, did you happen to know that it was invented in Tasmania? I certainly didn't until Rosie Sever's talk. (*No wonder I love the stuff then!*)

Rosie is from the Browns River History Group and was guest speaker at our April meeting. She fascinated us with the story of Joseph Keen (1819-1892), the creator of Keen's Curry Powder.

Joseph led an interesting life and achieved much in his lifetime. Originally from Reading, England, he arrived in Sydney in 1842 as a bounty immigrant, engaged to work as a carpenter. However, following the death of his wife a year later, Joseph moved to Tasmania. It was here he met and married his second wife Annie (Burrows) with the couple settling in Brown's River, Kingston, where they ran a general store and bakery - and brought 16 children into the world along the way! (Not to mention Joseph was also the district's Post Master.)

Joseph created his award-winning condiments, his sauces and curry powder, on-site at his Kingston store, importing the spices from warmer overseas climes. In 1866, he entered Keen's Curry Powder in the Intercolonial Exhibition of Australasia in Melbourne where it won a medal.

Advertising of Keen's Curry:



Joseph Keen died in 1892, though his legacy lived on. Annie Keen continued on with her husband's business until 1903 when it passed to daughter Louisa and son-in-law Horace Watson.

Keens' popularity continued to grow.

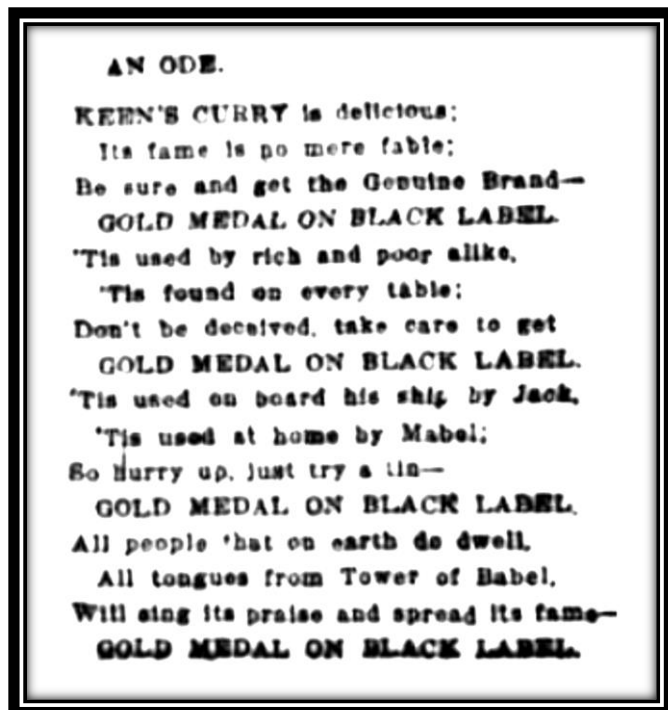
Unmissable - this time advertising was, quite literally, set in stone in the foothills of Mt Wellington:



Keen's Curry advertisement set in the foothills of Mt Wellington, est. 1905., and the brainchild of Horace Watson. It still exists today, though somewhat harder to spot amidst the modern-day urban sprawl.

(Image: Facebook: Keens)

'Tis found on every table:



Daily Post (Hobart), 20th May 1914, p. 7

Annie Keen died in 1915 and was laid to rest alongside her husband Joseph at St Clements Anglican Cemetery in Kingston.

No price increase – war wasn't getting the better of Keens:



Daily Post (Hobart), 25th Jan 1916, p.3

Keen's Curry Powder remained Tasmanian owned (and largely Tasmanian known) until the 1950's when in 1954 the formula and rights were sold to Reckitt & Colman Australia Ltd., long-time manufacturers of a similarly named product, Keen's Mustard. (This was created in England by an entirely different family of Keens!)

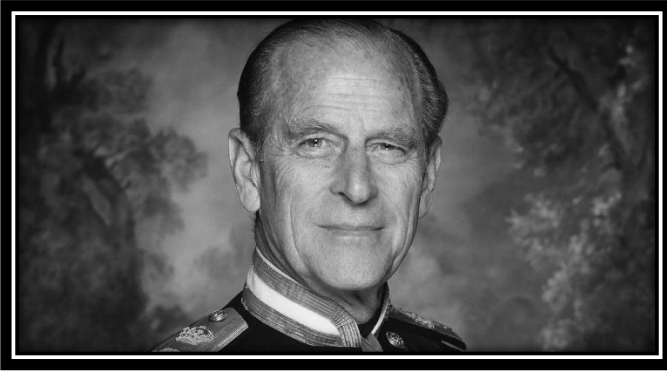
From then on, Keen's Curry Powder become known and loved Australia-wide with ads such as this one:



(Image: Australianfoodtimeline.com.au)

In 1998, Keen's Curry Powder, as well as (the unrelated) Keen's Mustard were acquired by McCormicks Foods Australia who still manufacture them to this day.

ROYAL VISIT TO LINDISFARNE



As you are all well aware by now, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, died at Windsor Castle on the 9th April 2021, just two months shy of his 100th birthday. But were you aware that he paid a visit to our humble little village back in 2000?

As the Patron in Chief of the H.M.A.S. Canberra-H.M.A.S. Shropshire Association, Prince Philip was in Lindisfarne on the 28th March 2000 to unveil two naval service plaques at ANZAC Park.

One plaque (see below) was in honour of the heavy cruiser *H.M.A.S. Canberra* that was severely damaged during the Battle of Savo Island in the Solomon Islands on the 9th August 1942.



Unveiled by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh,
Patron-in-Chief,
HMAS Canberra / HMAS Shropshire Association (Australia)
28th March, 2000

On that day, the *Canberra* lost 84 crewmen including its captain, Frank Getting, during a ferocious Japanese onslaught which saw it hit some 24 times in less than two minutes. (After abandoning ship, the *Canberra* was scuttled the next day by a torpedo from a US destroyer.)



Sinking of the *H.M.A.S. Canberra* after it was severely damaged by the Japanese off the Solomon Islands, 1942.
(Image: The Australian Naval Institute)

After this devastating blow to the Australian Navy the UK announced that it would transfer the H.M.S. *Shropshire* to the Royal Australian Naval fleet.

The following announcement was made by then British P.M. Winston Churchill;

"His Majesty's Government consider that the Commonwealth should not bear this grievous loss following the sinking of other gallant Australian ships. We have therefore decided to offer, freely and unconditionally, to transfer His Majesty's 8-inch gun cruiser Shropshire to the Commonwealth Government, this offer has been most warmly received."

After being recalled from service in the Atlantic and re-fitted, the *Shropshire* was formally handed

over to the R.A.N. in June of 1943. In August of that same year she officially set sail for her new home in Australia, but not before she was paid a visit by none other than Prince Philip's future father-in-law, King George VI.



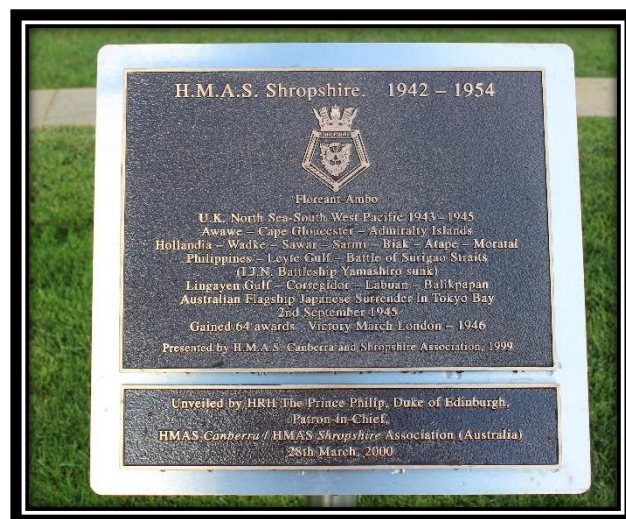
King George VI's visit to *H.M.A.S. Shropshire* at Scapa Flow, Scotland before it left the UK bound for Australia.

(Image: www.navy.gov.au)

Most of the crew of the *Shropshire* were former members of the *H.M.A.S. Canberra* ship's company that had seen action in the Battle of Savo Island.

For the rest of the Second World War the *Shropshire* saw action in the Pacific and was paid off in 1949, spending its final years sitting in Sydney Harbour before being sold off for scrap in 1954.

Therefore, the second naval plaque unveiled by Prince Philip was in honour of the *Canberra's* replacement, the *H.M.A.S. Shropshire*, (below).



Do you recall the Duke's visit to Lindisfarne?

Unfortunately, we have no records or photos of the occasion in our Archives which is quite a pity. If any of our readers have any memories or photographs of the Duke's visit to Lindisfarne, we would love to hear from you.

Feel free to email us at:

lindisfarne.history@gmail.com



H.M.A.S. Shropshire carrying out a bombardment c. 1944.

(Image: www.navy.gov.au)

WHEN THE LATE DUKE VISITED LINDISFARNE

by

Reg. A. Watson

With the recent passing of The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, it may be well worth recording that his last visit to Tasmania was to Lindisfarne. It was not a formal visit as such. He came alone to unveil two plaques which are to be found in ANZAC PARK, Lindisfarne. They are both naval, he Philip, being a naval man.

It was on the 28th March 2000 that he did the honours for two vessels, *H.M.A.S. Canberra* and *H.M.A.S. Shropshire*. They are to be found with other naval plaques.

The Duke visited Tasmania on numerous occasions either alone, such as the 1967 bushfires, or with Her Majesty. He actually visited Tasmania twice before marrying Her Majesty, once during the war and once before the war, both in a private capacity. The latter was while he was serving with the Royal Navy in the South Pacific.

On the 28th March 2000 I was there at the time. Some where I have a photograph of the occasion, but like everything else, when one tries to find something in particular, one has no success. There was an irony on the day and I remember it well. I along with many others, including the late Michael Hodgman were kept behind barriers, while the

official party, led by Paul Lennon, then Member for Franklin and later Premier were all Republicans. The Duke, it is my belief, must have been very aware of this irony, i.e. Constitutional Monarchists behind the barrier, whilst he was being entertained by Republicans. The first thing the Duke did after alighting from the official car was to turn to those who were prevented from meeting him and gave a hearty wave. This is what is shown on the photo I have somewhere.

The Duke of course was never to return to Tasmania and it is historically significant that his last visit to our State was to Lindisfarne.



**The two naval plaques unveiled by Prince Philip
can be seen in this picture (standing at rear)
ANZAC Park, Lindisfarne**

Photographed by Reg Watson 2021

LINDISFARNE REGATTA

Reader's Comments

Following the item in our last Newsletter concerning the Lindisfarne Regatta days (Newsletter 1/2021, "Regatta Time" p.4) reader Bob Richardson has gotten in touch with us and made the following comments.

1928 was not such a memorable event. The Mercury branded it a fiasco after two fractious ferries, the *Morgana* and *Excella* disrupted the racing by mooring at the "top jetty". To make matters worse a sharp shower of rain sent large crowds to the shelter afforded by ferry boats thus blocking the view of rowing events from spectators on the shore.

1951-52

The regatta was run by the Rowing Club rather than the Regatta Association.

1955-56

The Rowing Club kept running the regatta, featuring speed boats & side shows in a carnival atmosphere.

1956-57

This regatta was on a bigger scale, introducing a Regatta Girl competition, sailing etc. The 'Ocean Wave' (amusement ride) was popular with the young.

1957-58

Regatta still being organised by Rowing Club.

1958-59

31st January: The Rowing Club Committee decided to scale down the regatta. Profit was down – there was lack of support. After that just the rowing happened.



Lindisfarne Boys Coxed 4, Winners of First Knight Cup Race, Lindisfarne Regatta 1958. The boys were coached by Alan Richardson, and are Robert Brownell (Cox), Nick Mason (Stroke), Peter Van Schie (3), John Phillips (2) and Ross Butler (Bow).

We highly encourage our readers to get in touch with us if they happen to have any comments to make concerning any of our articles.

Perhaps *you* happen to have information to share, memories, photographs etc.?

Please, don't hold back as we would love to hear from you!

REG WATSON



*Reg
Watson*

Reg Watson on Community Radio – 96.1FM

Rich & Colourful Tasmanian History

Reg's show is aired on Community Radio 96.1 FM once a month, on the third Saturday, from 3pm.

The programme consists of interesting historical snippets, interviews, book reviews, notices of what is going on around town in art and historic circles and great music.

Be sure to tune in!

Contact: regawatson@gmail.com.

ALSO: Don't miss Reg's history column in the 'Eastern Shore Star' monthly newspaper.

BOOK SALE

SATURDAY
15th, May 2021
9.00am to 1.00pm

COVID-19 restrictions apply

Need books—come and browse
Our range of fiction and non-fiction

Check out—the Dogs Home stalls & the
Lindisfarne Historical Society display

LINDISFARNE COMMUNITY
ACTIVITY CENTRE LIBRARY

37A LINCOLN STREET

You can email the L.H.S. at:
lindisfarne.history@gmail.com



This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of

Julie Collins M.P.

Member for Franklin

