

Lindisfarne

# Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No.2/2024

## Lindisfarne Stores – Drive-in Style!



PHOTOS: Tasmanian Archives

### FROM THE PRESIDENT – GEOFF CASHION

As a history group we should know about people of Lindisfarne who served in WW2. One such person was Kenneth Hudspeth - Lieutenant Ken Hudspeth (Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve).



Lt. Kenneth Hudspeth (RANVR)  
Photo: seapower.navy.gov.au

500 RAN personnel served on attachment to the Royal Navy on D Day, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944. Lieutenant Commander Hudspeth was in command of Submarine X20 mooring off Juno Beach as a navigation beacon to guide landing craft to the beach. For this mission he was awarded a second bar to his Distinguished Service Cross (DSC).

His DSC had been awarded for the famed submarine raid on the German Battleship the Tirpitz in 1943 and the First Bar to his DSC had been awarded for commanding X20 Midget Submarine on a survey mission to the Normandy Beaches.

He returned to Tasmania after the war and resumed his teaching career and became the first Head Master of Rose Bay High School of which I was a pupil in 1961.

He lived at Rose Bay with his wife and family and he passed away in December 2000, aged 82.

Lest We Forget



## Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

[Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a newspaper.]

No. 247.]

CANBERRA, THURSDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER.

[1944.

**T**HE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH HAS RECEIVED ADVICE THAT HIS MAJESTY THE KING HAS APPROVED OF THE FOLLOWING AWARDS—28th November, 1944:—

### ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY.

*For gallantry, skill, determination and undaunted devotion to duty during the landing of Allied Forces on the coast of Normandy:*

**SECOND BAR TO DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.**  
**Lieutenant K. R. Hudspeth, R.A.N.V.R.**

## **LINDISFARNE HISTORICAL SNIPPETS**

**By Ross Butler**

In "An Outline History of the Development of Lindisfarne", Audrey Hudspeth says that "the charms of residence on the shores of Lindisfarne were soon appreciated" in early colonial times.

Hezekiah Harrison, who arrived in 1823 as a free settler, had a 500acre grant of land and occupied for four years a house on or near the site of the Queen Victoria Home. He came from Northumbria near England's Holy Island, or Lindisfarne.

Another Northumbrian, Thomas Gregson, a friend of Robert Knopwood, had a house at "Restdown" Risdon, but later owned and used Harrison's property. Hudspeth says Harrison is reputed to have named the district, but urges that this claim be treated with caution. Knopwood was in the habit of riding along the track from Kangaroo Point (Bellerive) to visit Gregson at "Restdown".

On occasion he met Gregson halfway at what was spelt in his Diary as "Lyndhurst" or "Lyndhurst

Town". Another diary reference of Knopwood's is of Gregson loading sheep on a boat at "Lyndhurst". [Lyndhurst referring to Lindisfarne.]

From 1839 for several years the "notorious John Price" former reputedly tyrannical Governor of Norfolk Island lived in Harrison's house.

In the assessment rolls from 1860 the property is described by Hudspeth as "house and farm" belonging to Gregson and occupied by various tenants and "listed as Lindisferne". And, she says, this spelling appears on maps and charts.

Until the early 1870's, Hudspeth says, virtually the whole of present-day Lindisfarne as far as Shore Street Point was owned by Gregson.

I wonder if any descendants of Gregson are still alive and contemplate what their wealth would be had Gregson's land been held by him and descendants into present times?

**Drawing by George Hawthorn from 1839 of  
John Price's residence at Lindisfarne.  
Image: Allport Library & Museum of Fine Arts, State  
Library of Tasmania**



## **SOME OLD BRICKS - LINDISFARNE**

By Midj Jones

(July 2024)

Which came first – the kiln or the brick? I recently rediscovered some old bricks.

In 1904 the Lane family, including brothers Alfred, Norman, Albert and Denis Lane, purchased land in Lindisfarne on which they intended to build a farm with a stately farm house. To mark this turning point in their lives, they called the property “The Turning”. They started to build a brick house, so they needed bricks. There was suitable clay under the thin white sand of the property so they decided to make their own.

They built a kiln (out of bricks) in which to fire the new bricks - but how did they fire the bricks for the kiln?

The pit from which clay had been extracted soon became a pond after rain, and rarely, if ever, became dry. Up to the 1950s local children still played in the Clay Pond, catching tadpoles, making clay models and kicking loose bricks off the remains of the kiln. A photo of the site of the “Clay Pond” where the Lanes’ excavated clay is below, along with a photo of the few scattered brick remains from the kiln.

**BELOW: Brick-making pond site and kiln site.**



The Lanes were not the only people in Lindisfarne to make bricks. The Stabb Brothers, who were in the building business and lived in Malunna Road, also made bricks. Below are photos of a Lane Bros brick (L Bros Lindisfarne),

a Stabb brick (Stabb Brs), a convict brick with two thumb prints to indicate it was the 1000th brick in that production run (or the 2000th or 3000th etc.), and a modern brick for comparison.





## Happy 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday Graham!



Members of the Lindisfarne Historical Society met at the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania for lunch on Thursday, 11th July and a most enjoyable time was had by all.

Amongst those attending was founding member, past President and Life Member Mr Graham Burgess, who attended with his son Stephen.

Graham recently celebrated his 98th birthday.

### **Senior Citizen of the Year – Barry Ford**

Barry's contribution to the Clarence community has been extensive and impactful. As an active member of the Freemasons, he has played a vital role in fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among its members.

Through his involvement in the Lindisfarne Scouts, Barry has helped shape the lives of young individuals, instilling important values and skills.

His dedication to the Lindisfarne Garden Club has not only beautified the local area but also created a space for gardening enthusiasts to come together and share their passion.

Additionally, as a member of the Eastern Shore Ramblers Club, Barry has organised regular walks and outdoor activities, encouraging community members to embrace an active and healthy lifestyle. His involvement in the Clarence Tracks and Trails Committee has been instrumental in the development of new trails in the region.

INFO: Clarence City Council -  
<https://www.ccc.tas.gov.au/the-champions-of-clarence-city-honoured/>

### **CONGRATULATIONS BARRY FORD**

Congratulations to L.H.S. member Barry Ford who was awarded Senior Citizen of the Year at the annual Clarence Community Spirit Gala & Citizenship Awards ceremony held at Blundstone Arena on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

Congratulations Barry!



Barry receiving his award from Clarence City Council Mayor Brendan Bromeley at the awards ceremony.  
Photo: Clarence City Council

### **UPCOMING SPEAKER - JULY MEETING**

**The Double Act of**

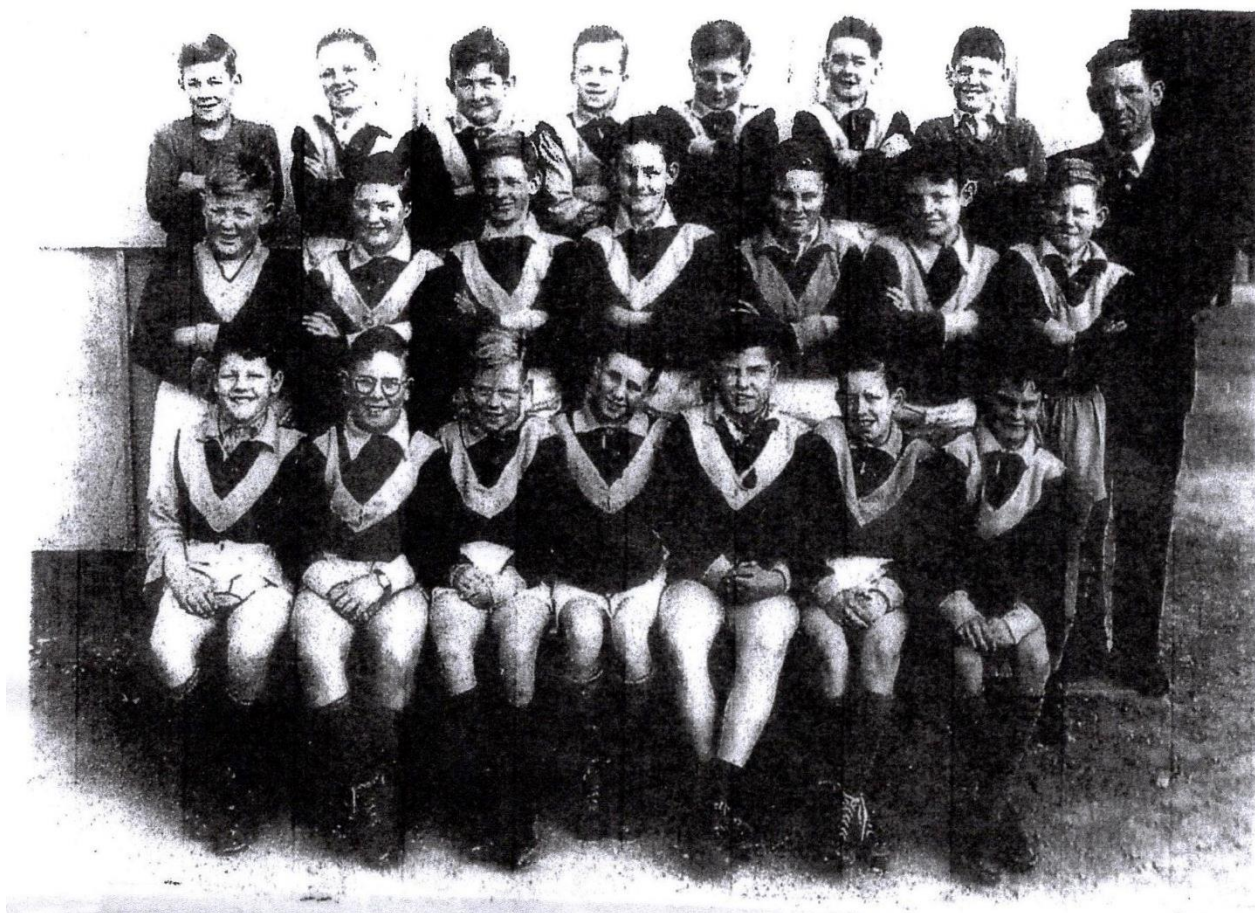
**MR. PETER OLDHAM & MR. JOHN SARGENT**

Peter will be presenting a half hour video on the Corinna River Punt and the history of the Risdon Punt, whilst John will present his latest fictional book titled, 'Dare to Risk' set in the 1840's Wapping area of Hobart.

**WHEN: 2pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2024**

**WHERE: At the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln Street, Lindisfarne**

**ALL WELCOME – PLEASE BRING A FRIEND**



## **Lindisfarne State School Football Team, 1954**

Back Row L to R:

Chris Guesdon, Laurie Dillon, David Wilson, David Gibson, Wayne Ransley, Bernard Freeman,  
Angus McCulloch, Mr Ted Phillips (Headmaster)

Middle Row L to R:

Ross Butler, Wayne Paynter, Stephen Wastell, John Phillips, Stanley Shields, Stephen Hawkins,  
Robert Brownell

Front Row L to R:

Barry Parker, Lance Turner, Bruce Clarke, Ron Cashion (captain) Peter Van Schie, Les Etherington,  
Bill Wellington

This photo was supplied to the L.H.S. by Barry Parker. Ross Butler recalls the team playing a one-off match against Kingston State School – it was the first time Ross had ever been to Kingston.

### **YOUR HELP NEEDED!**

Can you help identify the children in this photograph? It was taken in 1924. Ross Butler's father Alan is the chap seated in front but the other children are unidentified. Please get in touch if you can help shed some light on this - email [lindisfarne.history@gmail.com](mailto:lindisfarne.history@gmail.com)



Alan Sealy Butler (aged 14)

### **L.H.S. Society Meetings**

**Remaining Meetings for 2024:**

**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.

## **TALE OF A TEASPOON**

### **or Be Careful What You Pick Up In The Bush**

By Elizabeth Barsham

(July 2024)



Many years ago I picked up a teaspoon on Pilchers Hill, not far from my home. It was half buried in a bit of rocky ground and had obviously been there a very long time as it was a furry green colour. Curious about its origin, I brought it home and began cleaning it up before it dawned on me that the patina was important; you can still see traces inside the bowl.



This is the mark on the back. Was it simply a brand name, or was there a connection with the Mt Lyell mine in Tasmania?

A search on *Trove* brought up advertisements placed by James McEwan and Co, Elizabeth St,

Melbourne in Melbourne newspapers *The Age* and *The Herald*, for cutlery and tableware “Lyell Silver spoons and forks – will wear white throughout” There are two grades of table spoons, table forks, dessert spoons, dessert forks and teaspoons, priced by the dozen.

Further internet search led me to *silvercollection.it*, a British page listing silver marks and sure enough, there it was, with the totally unhelpful identification “UNIDENTIFIED MAKER (Lyell is a historic gold mining town in the Buller Gorge in the South Island of New Zealand; possibly an Australian maker)” I discounted the New Zealand connection immediately and turned to *The Peaks of Lyell*, (Geoffrey Blainey, Melbourne University Press, 1954) for information.

With the successful discovery of gold in Victoria in the mid-nineteenth century, prospecting activity in Tasmania intensified and some gold was found at Mt Lyell on the west coast. There wasn't a great deposit, and ore sent to Broken Hill for assay contained little gold. Broken Hill investors saw a different potential, and purchased the struggling Mt Lyell gold mine - for its copper ore. They formed the Mt Lyell Mining Company in 1892.

Unfortunately, this was in the middle of the Australian financial crisis. The Bank of Van Diemens Land failed after advancing large sums of money to dubious silver mining companies in Zeehan, all over Australia banks were collapsing and investors were nervous. Despite good reports on the ore body, the directors were unable to raise enough capital to develop the mine. They liquidated their company and in 1893 formed the new Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company, hoping to raise money in Britain.

Their envoy to the UK was unsuccessful, but later the same year a rich deposit of silver was discovered at Mt Lyell. Although this ran out early in 1895, it was richer than any of the Zeehan silver mines and was the sole source of income for the mine during that period.

In *MT REID* [sic] *NOTES* in *The Mercury* of 24 March 1897 the author is promoting the Hercules mine, which he claims shows promise of rivalling mines at Rosebery and Mt Lyell and towards the end of a long and tedious article declares “English manufacturers are now sending out table electroplated goods marked Lyell – Rosebery Silver. The next name to be used will be “Hercules””.

On this slender mention, I will hazard a guess that “Lyell silver” was a big thing in the mid-1890s and some clever entrepreneur cashed in on the phrase to sell mass-manufactured tableware. Was it perhaps part of a campaign to promote the mine? Was any genuine Mt Lyell silver used in the electroplating?

McEwan’s advertisement appeared every so often from 1904 to 1906. I suspect they may have been desperately trying to move some old stock.

By 1895 the markets had recovered and the Mt Lyell Mining and Railway Company was able to raise the capital it required to develop smelters and build the Abt railway from Strahan. In fact, between 1895 and July 1897, when the first dividends were paid, the mine had absorbed the massive amount of £400,000. In this period, however, share prices had risen from £1/16/- to £16/10/-. To quote Geoffrey Blainey “Perhaps no mine had so taken the Australian public by

storm”. The railway and smelters officially opened in March 1897 with huge celebrations at Mt Lyell and Strahan, followed by banquets in Hobart and Melbourne.

In all the excitement of the copper boom at Mt Lyell little mines popped up all over the west coast, most including “Lyell” somewhere in the name. Despite many of them grossly exaggerating their potential and warnings from wiser heads who had seen it all before, share trading in Launceston and elsewhere boomed.

Following the mention in *MT REID NOTES* I consulted *silvercollection.it* again and found a photograph of the Rosebery mark, again labelled “unidentified maker”. It simply consists of the word “Rosebery”.

In June 1891 gold was discovered at Mt Read, batteries were established and mining operations began. Alluvial gold and zinc lead-sulphide was found at Mt Black and Jimmy McDonald floated the Rosebery Prospecting Association named after Lord Rosebery, at the time British prime minister. Twelve months later more deposits of gold, silver, lead and zinc were found nearby and he optimistically renamed it the Rosebery Gold Mining Co. At that stage the technology didn’t exist to separate zinc from lead and it was considered a contaminant that detracted from the value of the ore.

By 1895 the mine was in urgent need of capital to continue operation and was struggling to survive. Rosebery company directors must have been delighted when they broke into what appeared to be a good lode of copper. They re-floated their company as the Tasmanian Copper Company to

take advantage of the thriving share market and raised enough money to keep going a bit longer.

Unfortunately, the high proportion of zinc in the ore continued to be a problem and the mine closed a couple of years later. All those optimistic investors had lost everything. The Rosebery tableware line probably became instantly unpopular. On 7 December 1897 Burns Mart offered for auction 174 dozen Rosebery Silver tea, dessert and table spoons, egg spoons, dessert and table forks.

Some lead-free ore was found at Hercules and Mt Read mines and they struggled on until Mt Read closed in 1901 with no dividend to shareholders. They don't appear to have issued teaspoons.

In the early twentieth century an electrolytic process to separate out zinc was developed and the Electrolytic Zinc Works was established at Risdon to process ore from the re-opened and now prosperous Rosebery mine. But that is another story.

\*\*\*\*

#### **MOTOR YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA (MYCT)**



Recently the Lindisfarne Historical Society had lunch at the MYCT as it has done many times before. The dining room has a beautiful outlook

and is a fine place to enjoy a good meal with friends.

Earlier this year the MYCT celebrated its centenary.

Following the first powerboat race, which was held between Hobart and New Norfolk on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1924, a meeting was held and the decision to form a club was made. The following year this club became known as the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania. In 1929 the first Commemoration Day race was held, followed by the first Powerboat Championship race in 1930. The first Australian Powerboat Championships races to be held in Tasmania were held at Franklin in 1935.

In 1927 a Ladies Social Committee was formed – social activities were always part of the club - and they were responsible for a host of social events. This has always been important in financial as well as social aspects.

Around this time some land was leased on the Queen's Domain to build a clubhouse, but this did not eventuate. Then some rooms in Collins St were acquired for the club in the early 30's. In 1939 a larger property was purchased in Victoria St, a liquor licence was granted and the club was officially opened by the then Lord Mayor of Hobart, John Soundy. For some time, a branch of the club also operated in Huonville.

During WW2 petrol restrictions limited the use of recreational power-driven craft which led, inevitably, to a decline in the Club's activities.

Post war the club recovered and in 1950 land was purchased in Lindisfarne. Volunteers worked at the foreshore site to develop jetties, a launching

ramp and, eventually, the clubhouse. Volunteers have been the backbone of many of the Club's areas of development over the years. In 1973 the premises in Victoria St were sold to the RSL which helped fund the construction of a new clubhouse at Lindisfarne which was opened in 1974.

By the 1960's complaints from residents about the noise from the racing boats led to the purchase of a site at Granton for powerboat racing. Once again many volunteers were involved in developing the site. Races continue to be held there and in March this year the MYCT hosted the National Powerboat Championships at Granton.

In the 1980's cruising boats were becoming more popular and in the 1990's ski races were held between the Tasman Bridge and Bridgewater.

A Committee decided on the need for a 123 berth marina to cater for the growing number of larger cruisers. An ambitious plan for one of the first floating marinas in Southern Tasmania was laid and this was completed in 2000, and this is still operating successfully today.

In 2007 the Governor's Launch "Egeria" was purchased from the State government. Once again many volunteers worked on restoring the vessel, and it is now used as a charter vessel. (LHS members thoroughly enjoyed a 2 hour cruise aboard the "Egeria" earlier this year)

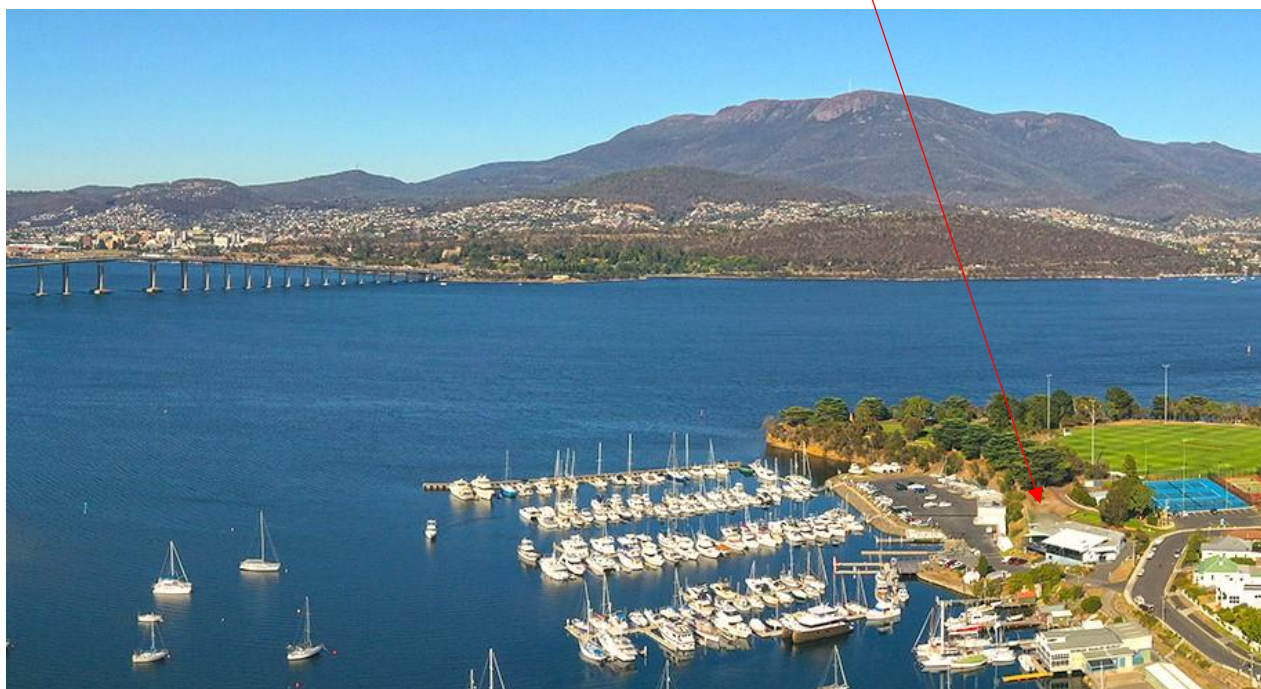
In 2008 an agreement was made between the RSL and the MYCT to amalgamate and share some facilities, and this arrangement has proved a success. The latest development at the club has been the enclosure of an outdoor area to form another dining area.

The MYCT has put together a virtual book to mark its centenary and we have used information from this excellent production for information.

The L.H.S. congratulates the MYCT for a century of achievements.

**The MYCT sits between the Lindisfarne Sailing Club (bottom right) and the Lindisfarne Tennis Club at the end of Ford Parade on Lindisfarne Bay's foreshore.**

**You can never tire of this view! We are spoiled with our river and mountain views**

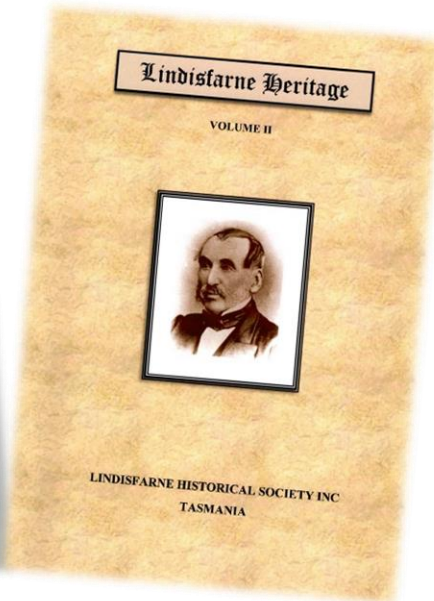
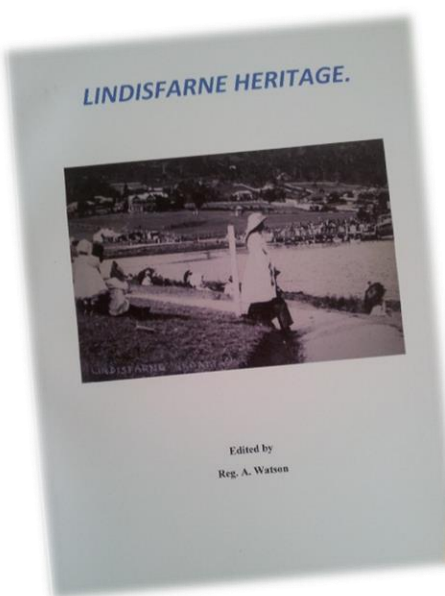


### **BOOK REPRINTS**

Our books are being reprinted and will be soon available for sale from the Community Library at the LCAC (Lindisfarne Community & Activities Centre.) Stay Tuned!

**Email us at:**

[lindisfarne.history@gmail.com](mailto:lindisfarne.history@gmail.com)



### **FRONT COVER:**

Lindisfarne Drive-In Stores  
121 East Derwent Highway  
c. late 1950's.

Some 60+ years later and this location is still servicing the needs of Lindisfarne residents, led by an expanded and refurbished IGA supermarket.

**PHOTOS:** Tasmanian Archives

## **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



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printed by the office of

Julie Collins M.P.

