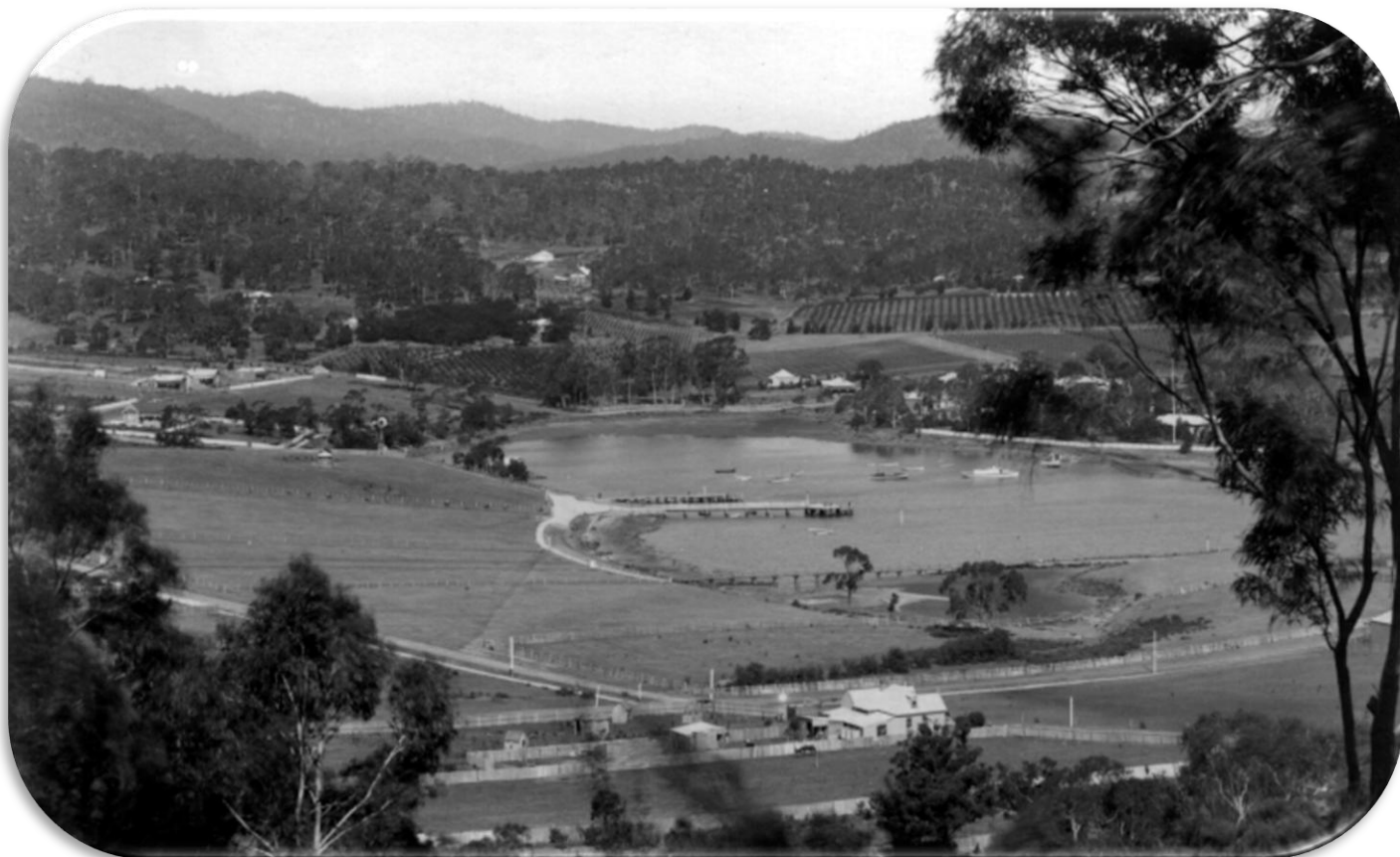


Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No.2/2025

Lindisfarne Bay c.1910

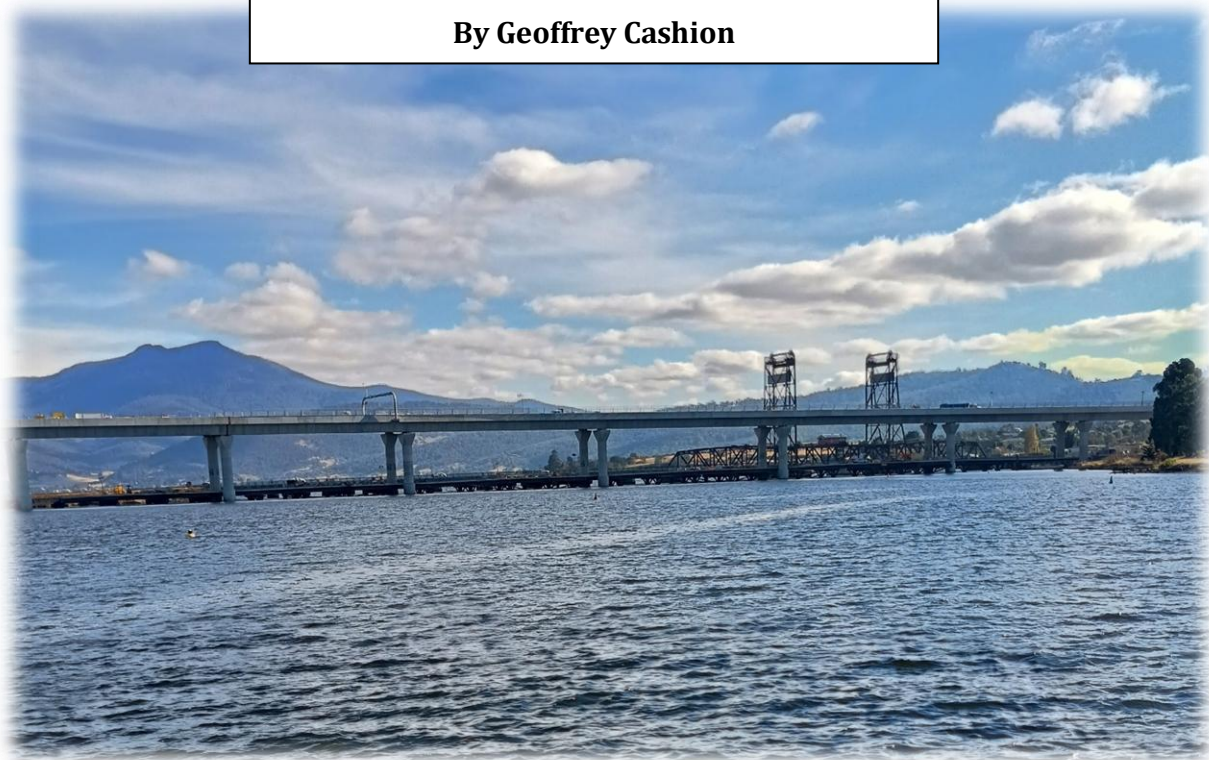


The “slopes which formed the amphitheatre to the bay was well wooded” and some areas had been cleared for orchards “creating a most attractive blend of natural and man-made landscape” – Audrey Hudspeth.

From Ross Butler's 'Lindisfarne Historical Snippets' - page 9.

TRIP TO THE NEW BRIDGEWATER BRIDGE

By Geoffrey Cashion



Lindisfarne Historical Society members and friends enjoyed a trip on the ML Egeria on the Derwent River on the 1st of May.

Once aboard we were shown how to put on our life jackets, if needed, and we left the mooring at the MYCT and travelled out of Lindisfarne Bay.

Having turned right out of the Bay we met a very cold wind. But we were prepared, we had our beanies, scarves and gloves on keeping us warm!

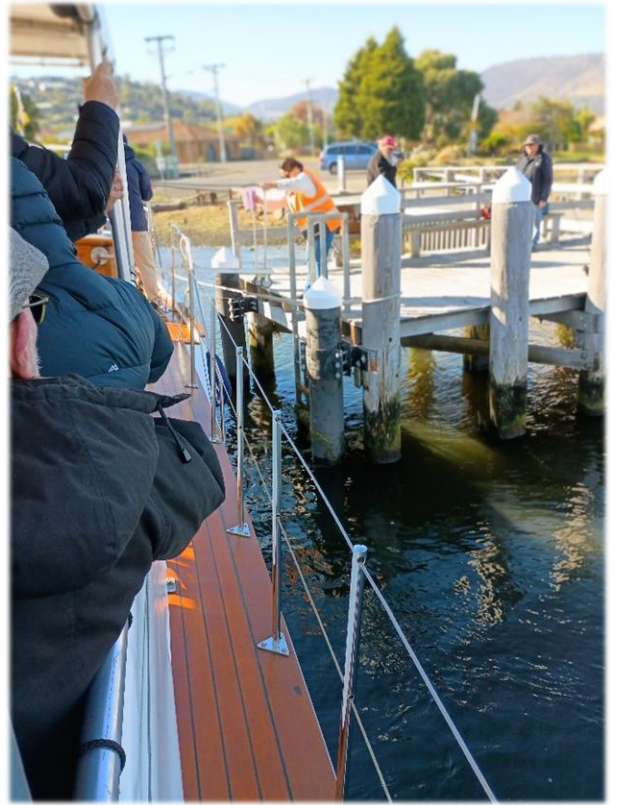
Morning tea was had on board to keep us warm

At Old Beach jetty we picked up the guide from the bridge construction company who spoke at length about the construction of the Bridge.

Sailing alongside the bridge we could see how large the construction of the Bridge is. Travelling home we dropped our guide back at Old Beach Jetty, and then saw the views of the East Derwent Highway and surrounds that you only see from the river.

The boat trip finished back at the Motor Yacht Club, and we then had lunch, a carvery enjoyed by all with no complaints, and a beautiful view of Lindisfarne Bay.





(Top & Bottom) Return trip views of Lindisfarne as the ML Egeria made its way down river approaching the entrance to Lindisfarne Bay.



THE BRIDGEWATER BRIDGE

The new Bridgewater bridge was officially opened on Sunday June 1st. More than 7000 residents made the journey to Bridgewater to celebrate this occasion by walking across the new bridge, which was then opened to vehicular traffic on Monday June 2nd. The old bridge, which was built in 1946 will be demolished, however the convict-built causeway will remain.

The new 4-lane bridge is over 1 kilometre in length and rises 16m above the water – making it close in height to the Bowen Bridge.

There is a long history of bridges crossing the Derwent at Bridgewater, the first being commissioned by Lt. Gov. George Arthur, who saw the need to enable easier access to Launceston and central agricultural lands to the north.

Construction of the convict- built causeway began in 1829 and a timber bridge was finally opened in 1849.

In the 1870's the Tasmanian Main Line Railway required a second bridge, parallel to the first, to enable a rail line to cross the river. Rail services ceased using the bridge in June 2014 with the establishment of the Brighton Transport Hub.

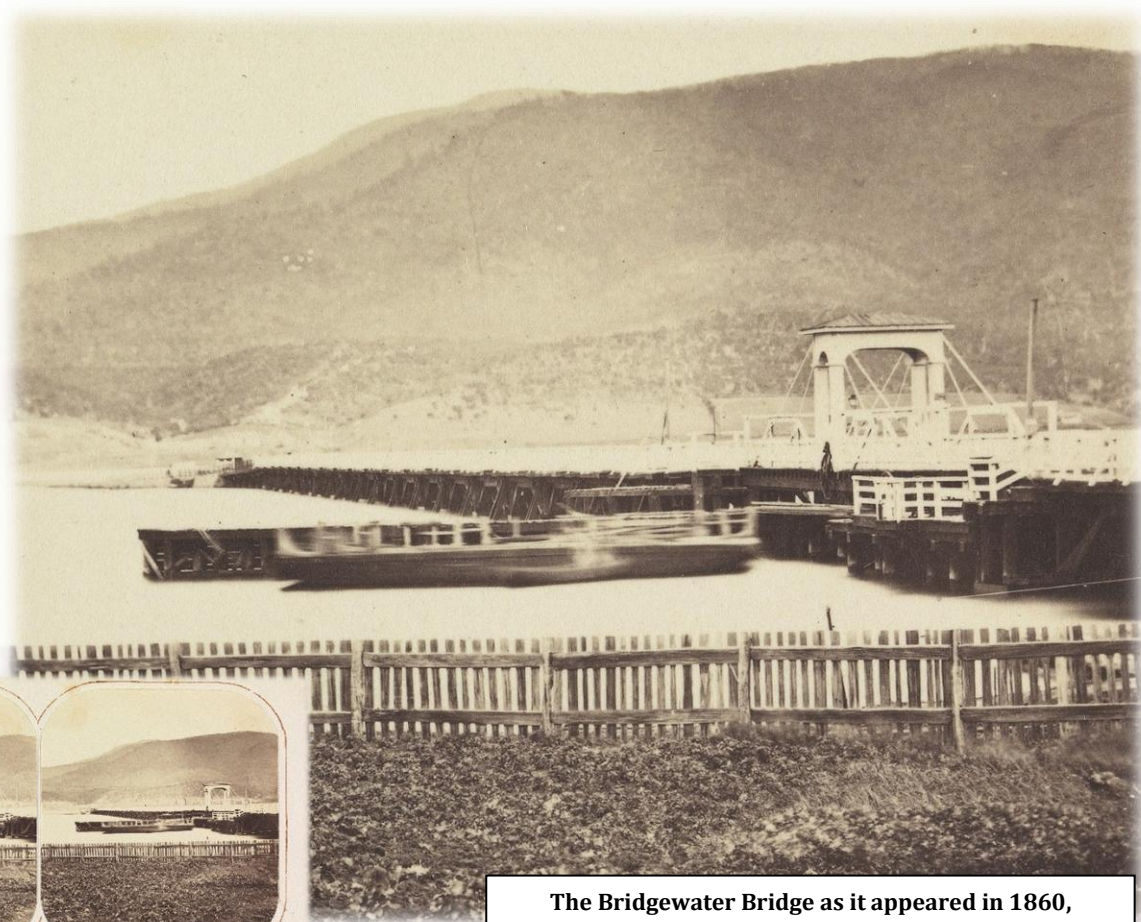
A third bridge was constructed in 1893 to replace the original which was deteriorating.

The steel vertical lift bridge that we knew was begun in 1939, but construction was delayed by WW2. It was finally opened to traffic in late 1946. It had been one of just a few remaining vertical lift bridges in the Southern Hemisphere and the largest remaining in the country.



The new bridge (left) alongside the old.
Photo: Tas Govt.

Bridgewater Bridge vertical lift in action, 1957.
Photo: Tasmanian Archives: AB713/1/5575



The Bridgewater Bridge as it appeared in 1860,
photographed by Alfred Abbott.

Photo: W L Crowther Library, State Library of Tasmania.



Bridgewater Bridge.

KINGS BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2025

REG WATSON OAM

On the 10th June 2025 it was announced that Reg Watson, long term member of the Lindisfarne Historical Society, was posthumously awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for his contribution to History.

Reg was a valued member of our Society, serving as a Committee Member for many years. As an author and historian he published, over the years, many books, plus articles in Newspapers and magazines.

Many of his books are to be found in the local Community Library situated at the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre.



Society Meetings for 2025

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.

DEATH OF JOHN COLRAIN – A LINDISFARNE IDENTITY

by ROSS BUTLER

In the daily press the Death Notices section (or, My Tributes, as it is now euphemistically called, along with the expunging of the word “death” replaced commonly by the inane “passed away”, or, simply “passed”) usually only brief family connections are mentioned.

Often, family and friends and even mere acquaintances of the deceased, would like to see in print more thoughts and memories to mark a person's death in addition to the traditional (and, increasingly, non-traditional) ceremonies.

I write of the late John Colrain who died 18th May, 2024 aged 84.

John lived on the corner of Hume St and the Esplanade in his youth equidistant between the Lindisfarne Rowing Club and the Rec, the popular name for the original recreation ground, the home of local football and cricket and picnic spot for sojourners by ferry.

Both sites were significant in the youthful upbringing of (mainly male) residents of Lindisfarne over several decades.

For many years John was a coxswain and later, rower for the Lindisfarne Rowing Club, one of the top two or three most successful clubs in Tasmanian regatta rowing of the twentieth century's decades into the 1980's before the Bay was choked with the nautical toys of the wealthy of Hobart.

John was also coxswain of the winning St. Virgil's College crew in the Head of the River of 1953.

After the Second World War the Tasmanian Football League established a competition for under 19 years of age players with four clubs across Hobart's central suburbs from Sandy Bay to New Town.

A significant part of the history of Lindisfarne was, of course, the great residential expansion and population growth from the October 1943 opening of the floating bridge. This led to the entry in 1959 of a Lindisfarne team in the under 19 TFL competition. John Colrain was the vice-captain of the inaugural team.

A few years younger than John, I was never a “bosom buddy” of him, but I knew and admired his sporting prowess and the strong appeal he had for teenage Lindisfarne girls in addition to his popularity among local boys. These qualities contributed, no doubt, to his later success selling cars at Motors.

As an adult I caught up with John in the early 1970's when I resumed umpiring football after three years' teaching in Canada. At the time, John was a senior T.F.L.U.A. Umpire whose greatest success was his appointment as the umpire (only one in those days apart from 2 goal and 2 boundary umpires) for the 1974 TFL Grand Final.

Tasmania has had citizens of greater repute in the worlds of sport, business, politics and the arts, but few would have been regarded in their local community with greater respect, admiration and affection than John Colrain was throughout his life.

JUNE MEETING

ABOUT GRAHAM

AN INTERVIEW WITH GRAHAM BURGESS



**Respected elder of the Lindisfarne
Community**

WHEN: Monday 30th June 2025 at 2pm

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

All Welcome – bring a friend

Afternoon Tea available

Enquiries: lindisfarne.history@gmail.com
or phone Bernadette on 0408 240 558

Graham was born on the north west coast and came to Hobart in 1946. Shortly after this he married Brenda and settled into a long and eventful life in Lindisfarne where his family was raised.

Graham soon became involved with many aspects of Lindisfarne life and was instrumental in the early years of much of what we, today, take for granted in our beautiful home suburb.

He was an early member of Lindisfarne Rotary, and through this was very much involved in the establishment of the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre (LCAC), of which he became Chairman of the Management Committee. He was also a founding member of the Lindisfarne Historical Society (L.H.S.) and the Lindisfarne Gardening Club.

BOOKS

For further information on Graham and earlier times in Lindisfarne please see our books: Lindisfarne Heritage Volume 1 and Volume 2, and also Sheila Spargo's book "From Vision to Reality".

These books are all available from the Community Library at the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre. Join the library, or purchase the book and have your own copy.

L.H.S. members are available at the library on Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.

LINDISFARNE HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

(continued)

by ROSS BUTLER

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

Hudspeth noted that beyond the first years of the legislative existence of Lindisfarne its residents, owners either of holiday cottages or permanent residences, actively pursued deliberate policies to maintain its charms and to effect improvements.

Progress Associations fought to establish satisfactory ferry services, and, indeed, a bridge. A sufficient supply of good water was also an aim.

In 1895 the Beltana Steamship and Land Company went into liquidation and the Beltana town Board was offered the first option on the "Picnic Grounds".

By 1900 there was a considerable number of quarter acre blocks, Hudspeth says, a small number of houses and the beginning of the Esplanade. Major streets had been levelled and surfaced. There was a butchery, a baker, a hotel and a public school in Rowitta Rd to replace the original school on the corner of Lincoln St and Park Rd.

At about this time Lindisfarne's beauty was enhanced by the many photographs taken by J.W. Beattie.

Hudspeth says that at this time the "slopes which formed the amphitheatre to the bay was well wooded" and some areas had been cleared

for orchards "creating a most attractive blend of natural and man-made landscape".

Transport to Town was regular with ferry boats calling every hour to the jetty where, now, Milford St meets the Esplanade. In the grounds of the Queen Victoria Home adjacent to the main carpark remains the attractive and quaint brick shelter shed for ferry passengers. The "Home" was originally established in 1899 as a convalescent hospital, and prior to this use, in 1896, part of the "Home's" buildings was used as a hotel.

Hudspeth says, further, that it is not clear what the hotel "incorporated or replaced" from "the ruins of a six-roomed cottage occupied" sixty years earlier by John Price and a later nearby building.

In summer Lindisfarne would see the arrival of many ferry loads of excursionists enjoying a swim from three small sandy beaches at the head of the bay and non-alcoholic drinks would be available in the pavilion of the "Picnic Grounds" (now, of course, the site of two football and cricket grounds, tennis courts, bowls club and the War Memorial).

Another attractive feature for excursionists was the half hour walk to the top of Natone Hill (350 feet above sea level) from the jetty for splendid views.

A publication called the "Imperial Tourist Handbook" also recommended longer walks to Flagstaff Hill, Sugarloaf Hill, Grasstree Hill and Mount Direction.



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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

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.

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

Please feel free to contact us at:

lindisfarne.history@gmail.com



This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of

Julie Collins M.P.

