

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No.3/2024



*Season's
Greetings*



REG WATSON MEMORIAL



On Friday 18th October, The Australians for Constitutional Monarchy, Tasmania Group, held a Memorial Service for the late Reg Watson at the Lindisfarne RSL and a plaque was placed on the wall outside their office. A rose “Remember Me” was planted opposite the plaque in memory of Reg. Among the Speakers were Chris Parker, President of Lindisfarne RSL, Brendan Blomeley, Mayor of Clarence and Jacqui Petrusma representing the Government.

Reg was involved with many historical groups over the years, amongst them the Hobart Town First Settlers Association, the Parramatta and District Historic Society and our own Lindisfarne Historical Society. He was President and Founder of the Anglo-Keltic Society and the Tasmanian Branch of the Australian National Flag Association, and was Tasmanian Convenor for Australians for Constitutional Monarchy.

He was also involved with the Naval, Military and Air Force Club of Tasmania, the Royal Air Force Association, plus the Boer War Study Group, the Soldiers Walk (Hobart), was a “Friend of Legacy” and a member of the Lindisfarne RSL and the Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania amongst others.

Reg was an author of many books – many of which are to be found at the Lindisfarne Community Library – and over the years he had many articles published in the Mercury and other publications. He also had a radio presence for many years. He spoke regularly, on many topics, to many different groups in Hobart and beyond.

Reg was an active member of our Lindisfarne Historical Society for many years. He was on the Committee for several years, edited the first edition of our book “Lindisfarne Heritage”, wrote articles regularly for our Newsletter and was a Speaker at our Society Meetings on many an occasion.

Several members of our Society attended the Memorial event, along with members of Reg’s family and members of other groups he was involved with.





L.H.S. President Geoffrey Cashion with Clarence Mayor Brendan Blomeley planting the Remember Me rose in memory of Reg at the Lindisfarne RSL.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Society continues to be well served by a variety of members playing a contributing part in maintaining an on-going active organisation. And a big thank you to the Committee members for their work behind the scenes in keeping the meetings going.

As this year is fast coming to an end we can look back on the excellent speakers at our monthly meetings. Our afternoon teas are a great way to have a talk over a cuppa, and appreciation is given to the people who bring something along to eat.

Thank you to the team for the excellent Calendar for 2025. The photo of the snow-fall on East

Risdon Road in 1951 was taken by my mother with her Box Brownie. I do remember the snow fall – it was the first time I had seen snow to touch. I was only 3 years old.

On behalf of the L.H.S. Committee I wish all our members a Happy Christmas and a good New Year, and we look forward to ongoing social engagement, talks, excursions and enjoyable social meetings for you in 2025. The first meeting will be the last Monday in January 2025 with Ann Hopkins giving her views of teaching at Rose Bay High School.

Geoffrey Cashion (President L.H.S.)

Image Front Cover: Geilston Bay as it looked over 100 years ago. This photograph, entitled 'View of part of Lindisfarne and Limekiln Bay', was pictured in the Tasmanian Mail, 10 January 1918, page 20.

EXCURSION TO SOUTH LEA

On Monday 18 November, 22 members of the Lindisfarne Historical Society and the First Settlers Association met at The Lea turn off and made our way on 1km of road to South Lea, the former property of William Proctor and owned since 1960 by the Walch family.

Robert Walch and his twin sister Anna welcomed us and told us of their plans for the afternoon. Robert would inform and show us about the roads built on the property by William Proctor and Ferdinand Fitzroy. He handed out copies of photos taken in the 1880's for us to compare with the present.

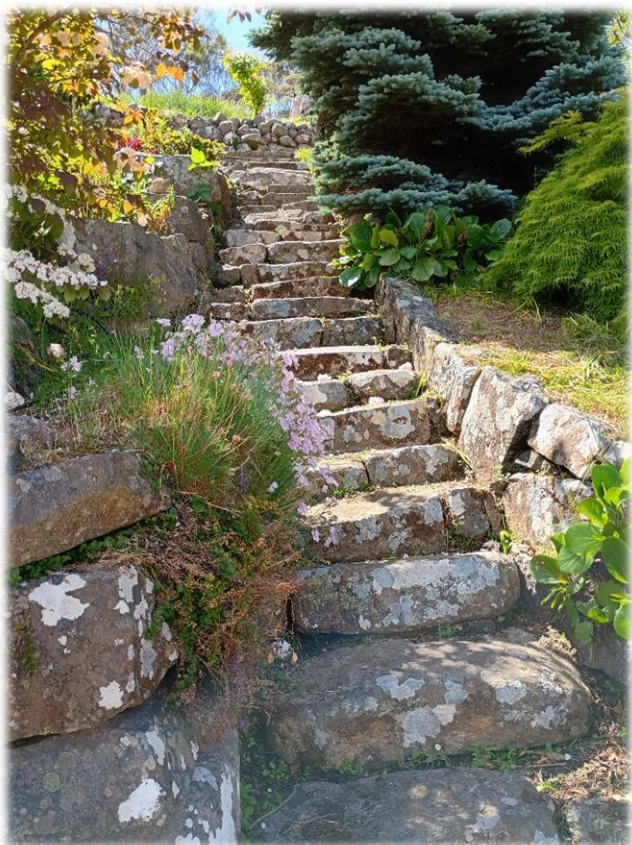
18 people followed Robert on old roads and tracks around the property where he showed us where old bridges used to span the two creeks. One was an arched rock bridge which collapsed not long after the 1967 bushfires.

A wooden bridge is now in place. We all admired the marvelous rock wall terraces on the photos which continue to be the bones of the garden. There were great views of the garden and the three houses on the property.





After negotiating a stick-strewn track we came to the garden and climbing a stile, made our way to the bottom terrace. The other 6 people stayed with Anna and from inside the house watched our progress through the windows. Despite a short shower, the sun came out and bathed the pretty gardens in lovely sunlight.



Afternoon tea goodies were brought down from the cars to the flat lower section where tables and chairs were set up. Robert, Anna and another sister, Penny provided tea and coffee in pretty mugs while we listened to Anna speak on the previous owners of the house. Penny spoke to us about the garden and work that has been done over the last 64 years.

We then imbibed in our usual sumptuous afternoon tea, relaxing and socialising while asking questions of Robert, Anna and Penny. A marvellous afternoon and wonderful to have another historical group join us.

Thank you to the Walches for their generous guided tour.



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)

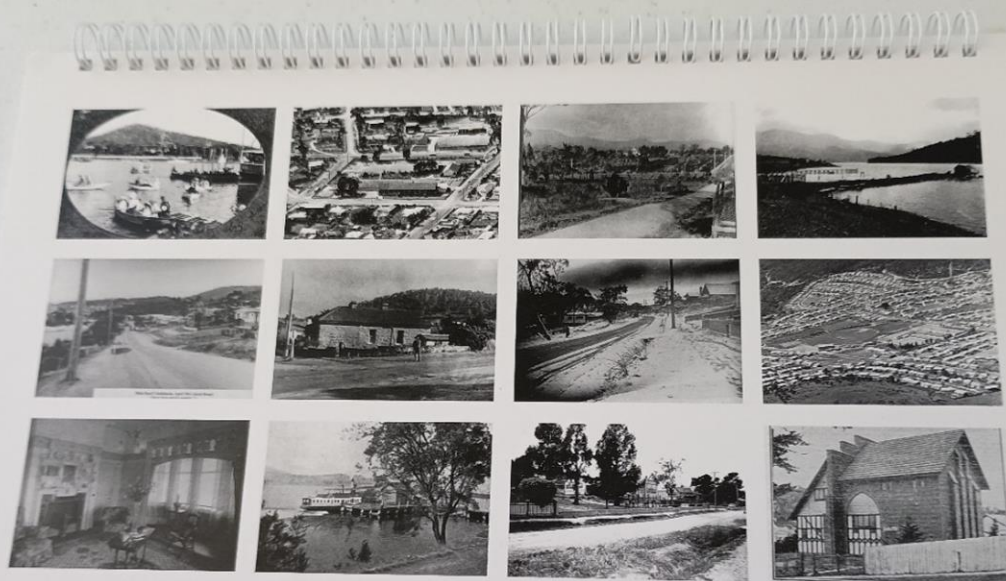
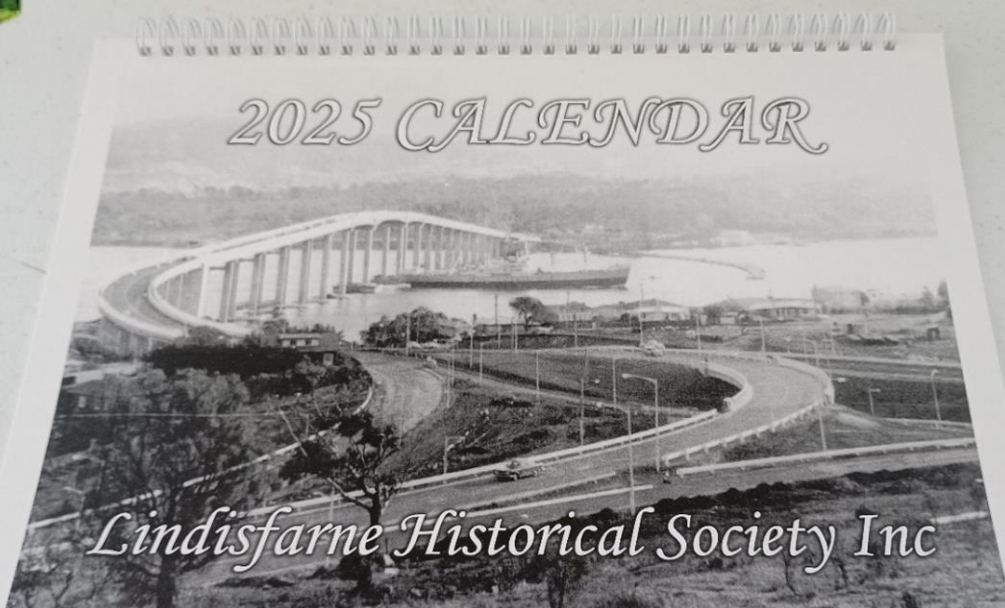
Archive Officer/Display Manager: Ann Curran

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

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

Facebook Administrator: Fran Read

LHS Calendar 2025 - Out Now!



The Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc. was formed in 1992, and works to foster interest in our local history. Meetings are held monthly. The photos in this calendar have been sourced from items privately donated to the Society since its inception in 1992 and date from many years ago. We are unable to contact original owners but believe that the images are all copyright free.

Find us on www.lindisfarnehistory.org or on Facebook.

Front cover photo: "Galway" First ship to pass through the Tasman Bridge 18th August 1964 Photo courtesy of Ann Hopkins

Calendars are available for purchase from the Lindisfarne Library (situated at the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre), or at our meetings.

Cost \$15.

LINDISFARNE HISTORICAL SNIPPETS

CONTINUED

By Ross Butler

This is the third snippet from “An Outline of the Development of Lindisfarne” by Audrey Hudspeth.

The major early landholder of the Derwent's eastern shore, Thomas Gregson, died in 1874. His death initiated major land transfers which would enable subdivision and settlement. Among the subsequent buyers in the 1880's was Mathew Wilkes Simmons, the son of the Minister of the Congregational Church in Hobart.



**Mathew Wilkes Simmons
1862-1930**

Here photographed c. 1894

Hudspeth describes Simmons as “a guiding spirit behind the development of Beltana” who “took a personal hand in organising the subdivisions and naming the embryo streets”. While he actually lived for most of his life in Hobart, she says, he was only in his twenties when he acquired considerable real estate property. He retained orchards in Lindisfarne which he visited regularly,

staying in a cottage at the end of the present Llenroc Street.

He is probably best known for building his still existing house, Salamis, which, Hudspeth says, “initiated a new wave of increased usage of the area by the well-heeled and professional classes who would always be a significant component of the population”.

A further land acquisition in June 1890 by him and George Beedham, probably, Hudspeth says, in consort with the Beltana Land Company, was the present two sports ovals. They built a pavilion on it (the dilapidated remains of which were, probably, what many of us remember as change rooms in the 1940's and 50's before demolition and the building of new facilities.) The “Picnic Grounds” became a popular destination for steamer excursions, then a major feature of Hobart life.

Nearby Natone Hill was an additional attraction with its wildflowers, in particular, orchids. A newspaper article in 1912 said that 50 acres, including the top of Natone Hill, had been donated by Simmons as a reserve on which he also provided a pathway and seats. The reserve was later acquired by the Beltana Town Board.

Simmons and his colleagues involved in the development of the township realised, that without a frequent and viable ferry service, there could be little residential development. Hudspeth emphasises that the link between housing development and ferry services was to be repeated over the years and is a major theme running through the history of Lindisfarne.

The Beltana Land Company subsidised the ferry operations of the O'May family. The "Success" was the first on the Lindisfarne run, followed by the "Endeavour" purchased from the Maria Island Company, which, in turn was replaced by the "Victory".



S.S. Endeavour c.1894(?) pictured at the jetty in Lindisfarne. L.H.S. donated photograph



TRACK ROUND NATONE HILL, LINDISFARNE.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

A lawyer's letter is not always received with applause, but hearty approval greeted the reading of a letter from Mr. M. W. Simmons, the senior partner in the well-known Hobart firm of solicitors, Messrs. Simmons, Wolfhagen, Simmons, and Walch, at yesterday's meeting of the Clarence Municipal Council. Mr. Simmons generously offered 27 acres of land at Natone Hill, Lindisfarne, adjoining the municipal reserve, for the public, the transfer to be made free of cost to the Council. Mr. Simmons has previously donated over 40 acres of land in the vicinity for public reserve purposes, and his latest act of generosity was accepted with thanks. Would that there were more such public-spirited gifts from the landowners in our midst.

News article from the Daily Post (Hobart),
16 September 1915, page 4

Natone Hill track photographed about the time Mathew Simmons generously gifted the land to the people of Lindisfarne.

This image appeared in The Tasmanian Mail, 12 Feb 1914, page 22

L.H.S. Society Meetings 2025

Monday January 27th @ 2pm

Monday February 24th @ 2pm

Monday March 31st @ 2pm (AGM)

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 will be held at the Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37A Lincoln Street, Lindisfarne unless otherwise notified.

**Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year –
we look forward to seeing you in 2025!**



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This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of

Julie Collins M.P.

Member for Franklin

