

# BIG DAY ON BRUNY ISLAND



**Aircraft lined all the way down the side of the Bruny Airstrip**

organized the Bruny community for the day said, "The Atlantic Salmon were from the Dentrecaesteaux Channel and no where else, there's no Canadian salmon on our barby!" he laughed.

The Bruny community supported the day with over 150 people attending in addition to the 25 Aero Club members and other Pilots and crews. The day raising \$770. going to the Island community. The Airstrip built 50 years ago was the incentive of the then Bruny Island Council. The strip provides a valuable access for emergencies, medical assistance and is a good quality Strip heading to the Southwest Wilderness.

The Bruny Island Community Association was formed when the Bruny Island Council was amalgamated with the Kingborough Council. This association gave the community a voice and membership has flourished. "There is a lot of interest shown by the Community Association for the benefit of Bruny Island and it's 650 people and thousands of visitors." said Keith.

The Aero Club of Southern Tasmania and friends flew into Bruny Island for a Community Day to share their passion of flying. Fifteen aircraft took part in the Flyin with the Bruny Island Community Association really putting in an effort with a sausage sizzle and more with Salmon steaks and heaps of home made goodies including scones jam and cream. Keith Bill, who



**John & Ralph have Peter's Salmon steaks sizzling**



**Instructor Mike Strudwick & history room photos**

**THE AIRSTRIP HAS BEEN OPERATIONAL FOR 50 YEARS**

As part of the lunchtime entertainment The Aero Club arranged for "Early French" historian, Annick Thomas, to give the audience an understanding of the early European explorers to the area. Annick had the opportunity to fly with Peter Waite in VH-CKZ, a 1963 Cessna 182E, to see for the first time from the air the Channel area, Recherche Bay and many of the landmark sites she has photographed at ground level.

## HERE in 1963

Residents of Bruny are never adverse to providing volunteer labour if it can make a project viable. One such project was undertaken back in 1956 with the construction of the Bruny Island airstrip on land donated for the purpose at the top end of The Neck. Two days labour provided a surface which could be used by light aircraft, in an emergency.

Alan Bain was one of the people working on the strip he recalls "we worked on it with hoes and axes and one tractor with a drag chain, no bulldozers, no graders !"

Doreen, Alan's wife said "The strip was used a fair bit back then, we live just up the road and you see a lot of planes still coming in and out, not every day but they're about."



**Doreen & the kids Harold, Jenny, Robbie and Geoffrey with VH-AIF 6/7/1963 1919Jjuground,**

Even though the strip was built in 1956 it was not officially opened until July 6th 1963 by transport Minister Neilson. In October of '63 The Royal Flying Doctor Service started medical flights to Bruny, The Aero Club of Southern Tasmania



**Alan & Doreen back after 43 years**

Tasmania provided the aerial transport of a medical officer on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Bruny residents were able to use the spare seats for one pound (two dollars) to travel to Cambridge.

Lifetime resident Doreen Bain said "the opening day was cold, I had all the kids rugged up with their beanies. The pilots took us down to the lighthouse all over the place. Someone said to me today, one of the planes here is 45 years old, it might have been the same one!" Doreen laughed.