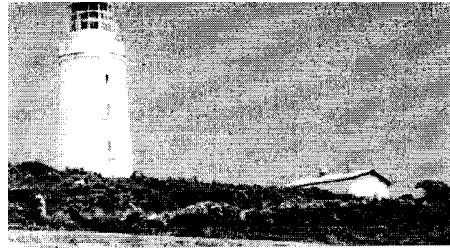


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## Bruny Island Historical Society

Heritage Inquiry Productivity Commission P.O. Box 80  
Belconnen ACT 2616

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Mrs. Beverley Davis OAM  
"Cheverton", 2160 Great Bay,  
Bruny Island 7150  
Phone: (03) 62606366

28<sup>th</sup> July 2005

Our Society tells the story of life on Bruny island in south-east Tasmania. We operate from a History Room/Museum, which is open to the public throughout the year and has many objects on display. (refer leaflet enclosed)

The Society, established in 1987, is funded by subscriptions and proceeds from the sale of locally produced publications. Members meet monthly for excursions or discussion group meetings scheduled on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

Projects that we have undertaken in the past include:

- Compiling plans, transcriptions and photographs of headstones in the four cemeteries on Bruny.
- We contributed 101 articles to the State Library of Tasmania for the online eHeritage database.
- Organised major events, and published a relevant history article for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bruny District School in 1999 and the Vehicular Ferry Service in 2004.

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- Management of the Variety Bay Historic sites (initiated by the Society in 1997) and subsequently the Commonwealth Cultural Heritage Projects Programme Grant in 2002 for conservation work involving countless hours of work by volunteers for, preparation of the site, during the conservation work period and the ongoing maintenance to this day. (refer leaflet enclosed)
- Assisted Forestry Tasmania and Parks & Wildlife Department to interpret Historic sites on the Island.
- Society members regularly act as guides for bus tours and visiting school group excursions etc.

The Society are pleased that the Productivity Commission is inquiring into the conservation of Historic Heritage Places in Australia.

We consider that the role of historical societies is extremely important in preserving and promoting Australia's cultural heritage.

We believe that the following key issues deserve consideration by your Commission:

- Importance of historic heritage in the community
- Need for government involvement in developing policies for heritage protection nationally, and market issues, private property rights issue, economic spin off of government funding, private sector involvement v private sector contributions;
- Lack of resources for undertaking heritage studies. Ours and other historical societies are all researching and collecting data to record local history;
- Evaluate the extent of income in regional Australia derived from cultural tourism, when the integrity of the natural heritage sites are actually dwindling through drought, and the general downturn of the economy in rural districts;
- Assess the economic value of the work of volunteers in historical societies in Australia. Our society undertakes thousands of hours per year of voluntary work promoting our region to Australian and International visitors;
- Volunteers at Historical Societies invest their social capital into the local community. This role is extremely valuable in uplifting cultural values locally and the mental and physical health of the volunteers. (This has already been demonstrated in the United Kingdom)
- The level of government grants and support for historical societies and community organizations and owners of cultural heritage places in regional Australia;

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- Opportunities for implementing a Heritage Care Programme across Australia, complementing the Land-care and Bush-care programs, by inputting the historical context of the local environmental management and rehabilitation.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. Beverley Davis OAM - Coordinator of the Bruny Island Historical Society