

Wealth from creativity

Ten Days on the Island is with us again and we welcome the artists who bring us their culture from the islands of the world as they join with Tasmanian artists in participating in this rich festival. Ten Days is the culmination of a summer that has spoiled us with choices – we have had so many opportunities to enjoy life during the last few months. With much more to come ...

There was our usual plethora of regular festivals in population centres – large and small – throughout the state, providing feasts for mind, body and soul.

The Australian Wooden Boat Festival is a case in point. For this event, everything from replica Viking vessels and tall ships to boats constructed using the latest in wood technologies was assembled.

Those of us who enjoy the sporting life were treated to excellence across a range of sports including international cricket, whitewater paddling, summer football, the equine sport of kings, and the traditional carnivals of bikes and spikes throughout the state. And congratulations are due to our cricketers for winning the national limited overs competition.

That we now enjoy such a range of pleasures is due to foresight and hard work – of various community organisations, governmental agencies and those in the corporate sector. Most if not all of these events depend on dedicated volunteers who make their annual massive contribution to enriching the life we enjoy. It must be remembered that the economic as well as cultural value to the state of these people is enormous.

There is now widespread acceptance that much of our wealth, now and in the future, depends on the ‘creative classes’. In this issue distinguished economist Saul Eslake supports the view that it is engineers, scientists, architects, educators, artists, musicians, entertainers, health care professionals and technicians who are the people who will determine our real wealth and consequent standard of living in the succeeding decades.

