



# Launceston Historical Society Inc.

## Newsletter No 156

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PO BOX 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

*Bringing together people since 1988 with an interest in history*

### Annual General Meeting + Peter Richardson

**Sunday 19 February 2017 – 2.00pm at the Meeting Room, Queen Victoria Museum at Inveresk**

Welcome to another year of history! **The 2017 AGM** will be held at 2.00pm. See the separate notice of meeting which includes a nomination form for the committee. Nominations are sought to fill all eleven positions on the Executive: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and seven Committee Members. Nominations should reach the Executive on or before Friday, **10 February 2017**. Now is the time to join the Committee to help your Society run its active and vibrant program of talks, the John West Lecture, history prizes and excursions to help promote history.

The AGM notification is available on our website or is enclosed with the printed Newsletter.

A PowerPoint show of the past year's activities will be shown before the AGM starts. The Primary School History Prize entries will be on display in the meeting room during the afternoon. This is your chance to see how our young people interpret history in creative ways.

#### **Peter Richardson, *The Treasure within – The Launceston Mechanics' Institute Library***



The Launceston Mechanics' Institute building may have been demolished, but its treasures were not all lost. This is a story of survival – of a remarkable collection of old books that has lain undisturbed in our city, out of sight and mind for the last fifty years, and has now been recognised for its significance in our national cultural heritage.

#### **Peter Richardson**

Peter is well-known in local history circles and will be remembered by some of you as the manager of the Launceston Library prior to 2009. Now happily retired, Peter's lifelong obsession with books continues in his new role as president of the Friends of the Launceston Mechanics' Institute.

### Membership renewals

Annual subscriptions for the Launceston Historical Society were due on 31 December 2016.

A [membership form](#) is enclosed or can be accessed on the website. Payments can be made by cash, cheque or to the Society's bank account BSB 067 003 A/C No. 2804 8638. Please return the form to the Treasurer, Leonie Prevost, at the next meeting, or post to:

Treasurer, Launceston Historical Society, PO Box 1296, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250



# The 29<sup>th</sup> John West Memorial Lecture

**Saul Eslake**

## ***Education, Productivity and Economic Performance***

**Thursday 16 March 2017 – 8.00pm at the Sir Raymond Ferrall Centre,  
University of Tasmania, Newnham.**

A respected Tasmanian economist

Biographical information taken from Saul Eslake's website: <http://www.saul-eslake.com>

I was born in England in 1958 to parents originally from Sydney. In 1966, they returned with their four children to Australia, ending up in Tasmania. I went to school in Smithton and Hobart, and subsequently gained a First Class Honours degree in Economics from the University of Tasmania. I began my professional career in 1979 at the Australian Treasury in Canberra. Never having lived or worked in a foreign country is the only serious regret I have about my working life.



After a brief return to Tasmania in the early 1980s, in 1983 I moved to Melbourne to work as an economic advisor to Jeff Kennett, who had just been elected as Leader of the Opposition in the Victorian State Parliament. In mid-1984 I secured my first position as an economist in the Australian financial markets, with an investment banking joint venture between the National Australia Bank and the Australian subsidiary of Chase Manhattan Bank. I became Chief Economist of McIntosh Securities, a stockbroking firm, in 1986; Chief Economist (International) at National Mutual Funds Management in 1991; and Chief Economist of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group (ANZ) in 1995.

I left ANZ in 2009 to join a then newly-established 'think tank', the Grattan Institute, in a part-time role as Director of its Productivity Growth Program, whilst also seeing if it was possible to earn a reasonable living as an independent economist, writing and speaking about a range of contemporary economic issues.

I returned to the financial markets towards the end of 2011 as Chief Economist (Australia & New Zealand) for Bank of America Merrill Lynch. I returned to live in Tasmania at the end of 2014. In June 2015, I resigned from my role with the Bank to re-establish my own business, Corinna Economic Advisory Pty Ltd. In addition to running that business, since April 2016 I've also had a part-time role as a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Tasmania.

In addition to my paid employment, at different times over the 15 years I've been a member of the Howard Government's Foreign Affairs and Trade Policy Advisory Councils, the Rudd Government's Long Term Tourism Strategy Steering Committee, the Tasmanian Government's Digital Futures Advisory Council, and a steering Committee established by the Tasmanian Government to oversee the preparation of a business case for a Tasmanian team in the Australian Football League. I have also been Chair of the Tasmanian Arts Advisory Board (2005-11), a member of the Board of the Australian Business Arts Foundation (2010-12), a member of the previous Federal Government's National Housing Supply Council (2008-2013), and a Director of the University of Tasmania Foundation (2002-09).

I am a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Tasmania; a non-executive director of Hydro Tasmania; a non-executive director of Housing Choices Australia Ltd; and Chairman of Ten Days on the Island. I am also a member of the Advisory Board of Jamieson Coote Bonds.





Jenny Pearce and Guy Burns with speaker Marion Sargent.

### An Adventurous Nurse

On 16 October 2016 Marion Sargent presented an illustrated talk on the life and adventures of her great aunt Amy Sargent. She was the first student nurse at the Launceston Homeopathic Hospital in 1900. After studying midwifery in Melbourne, she returned as Matron before sailing back to England in 1910. Amy then nursed in Sydney and Wynyard. From 1915 to 1919 she was a staff nurse with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. After WWI, she spent 21 years as a school nurse on the North-West Coast. She travelled around Tasmania, took a cruise to the Furneaux Group and visited Cradle Mt.

### The City Park Fountain

On 20 November 2016, cultural historian Anne Neale gave a most enlightening talk on the fountain in City Park, Launceston. Tucked away in the senses garden, the dolphin fountain as it is sometimes called, is the second oldest fountain in Australia. Exhibited at the Dublin Exhibition in 1853, it was ordered at the same time as the Princes Square fountain. It was imported in 1858 and erected in 1861 in the Horticultural Society gardens on the spot where the chess board is today. It was the centre piece of the Avenue of Nations in the annexes used for the Tasmanian International Exhibition in 1891-92. The appearance of the fountain has changed over the years. Made from terracotta, it was painted a bronze colour in the 1940s. As there were problems with the water blowing out too far, decorative gardens were constructed around it. The fountain was designed by eminent Scottish architect Alexander "Greek" Thomson (1817-1875). It was manufactured at Heathfield near Glasgow. Many religious symbols have been incorporated into the design. The arum lilies have gone, but the cranes, dolphins, lion heads, scallop shells and pomegranates remain. This fountain is one of only two outside of Scotland surviving, and is of international significance!



Dr Anne Neale.



### History Prizes

Eighty-four entries were received from Glen Dhu, Riverside, Waverley and Mowbray Heights Primary Schools and St Thomas More's and Sacred Heart Catholic Schools for the LHS Primary School History Prize for 2016. Each entrant received a certificate, and sixteen book vouchers from Petrarch's Bookshop were awarded to those judged best by Carol Fuller and Rebecca Phillips. The award ceremony was held at the Town Hall on 24 November. President Marion Sargent was MC with the Mayor Albert van Zetten handing out the prizes. Thank you to Carol and Rebecca for organising the award and Jenny Gill for printing the certificates. The Mayor and some of the winners are pictured on the left.

The Ratcliff History Prize was awarded to six students: one each from Launceston College, Newstead College, Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston Church Grammar School, St Patrick's College and the Launceston Christian School. Each award of \$200 is given to a student selected by the school.

## Excursion to Chudleigh, Mole Creek and Deloraine



In the Anglican Cemetery at Chudleigh: Marion, Prue, Jenny, Judy, Catherine, Billie, Muriel, Joan, Betty & Richard.

On Friday 18 November 2016, a small group of members thoroughly enjoyed our annual excursion. The first stop was at Chudleigh where we had a morning snack and explored the old Anglican cemetery. At Mole Creek Shirley Stephens gave us a fascinating and informative talk on the history of the R. Stephens Honey Factory. After lunch at the Mole Creek Hotel we fossicked about 'Boy' Miles' Liena hut which has been relocated to the main street near the old railway station. At the Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre in Deloraine we admired the intricate Yarns Artwork in Silk and looked around the quaint Folk Museum and Pioneer Walk. The day was topped off with a Devonshire tea at the Deloraine Deli. Thank you to Terese Binns who once again drove the Veterans and Community Bus.

## Advance notice of LHS activities for 2017

**Launceston Historical Society meetings are held at the meeting room, Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk, on Sundays at 2.00pm, unless otherwise notified.**

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|---------------------|---|
| <b>9 April</b>      | <b>Bradley Wood</b> , <i>Digging in a Flanders Field</i>  |
| <b>21 May</b>       | <b>LHS Committee</b> , <i>Education, Flagellation and Recreation: The story of Royal Park</i><br>(Meet at Launceston College for a walk in the Park) An Australian Heritage Festival Tasmania event |
| <b>18 June</b>      | <b>Professor Milton Cohen</b> , Pugh Day Lecture, <i>Title to be advised</i>  |
| <b>16 July</b>      | <b>Jenny Gill</b> , <i>The controversial clock of St John's Anglican Church</i>   |
| <b>20 August</b>    | <b>Louise Zarmati</b> , <i>Opportunities for teaching Australian history and archaeology in the new Australian Curriculum</i>   |
| <b>17 September</b> | <b>Guy Burns &amp; Eric Sargent</b> , <i>Clytie &amp; Me</i> (Audio-visual presentation)  |
| <b>15 October</b>   | <b>Barbara Hatley</b> , <i>History of amateur theatre groups in Launceston</i>  |
| <b>19 November</b>  | <b>Christina Henri</b> , <i>Engaging the convict legacy: art's role as a means of understanding</i>   |

## The Launceston Family Album still holds surprises

The Launceston Family Album website ([www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au](http://www.launcestonfamilyalbum.org.au)) is still receiving thousands of hits a year from family history researchers and new information is still coming in, 10 years after the site was set up. The website began as part of a project by Friends of the Library and Launceston Library (now LINC) in 2006 to identify photographs of over 1000 people who had season tickets to the Tasmanian Exhibition of 1891-92. It was supported by a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund. Two books and a CD relating to the project have been published.

The website remains active and can be updated, so new information can be added as it comes to hand. Many identifications were initially tentative and some have since been modified. An interesting change came to light recently.

Tony Wilson, a gentleman in his eighties from Victoria contacted us, pointing out that the photograph identified as possibly being of Dr John Thomas Wilson of Launceston, was in fact Tony's uncle, John Wilson. He told us John Wilson had an identical twin brother, William (known as Willy). Willy also appears in the album but had remained unidentified!



John and William Wilson, a Richard J Nicholas photo.

Tony Wilson remembers his uncle John and was able to provide us with biographical information about both brothers and also a copy of a photo of them which is a larger photo by the Exhibition photographer RJ Nicholas, from which the passport photos were taken. This practice has been noticed with other album portraits.

Tony also told us of the family story that the brothers shared a ticket with the initial defaced so that either brother could use it!

John and Willy Wilson were born in Crosthwaite, near Kendal,

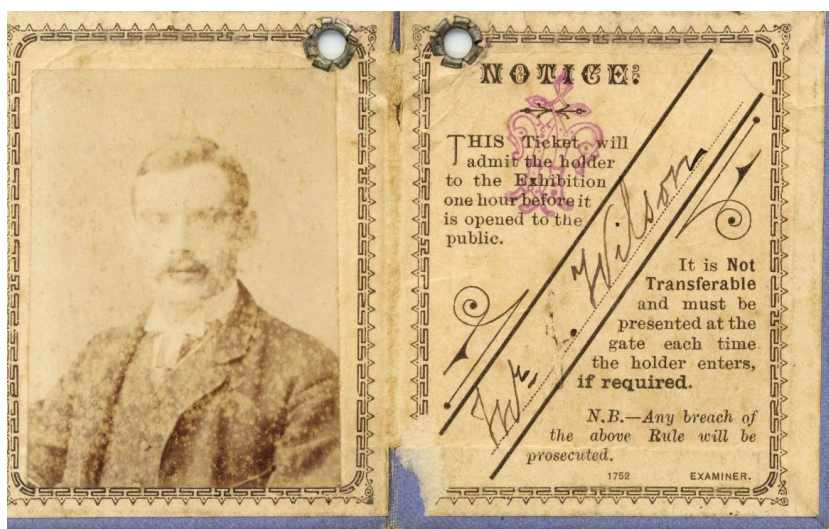
Westmoreland, England. They came to Tasmania in 1890 and

other members of their family also settled here. Both men were carpenters, as were their brothers James and Thomas. Between them, they worked in Launceston, the West Coast and the North-West of Tasmania.

25 November 2016 marked 125 years since the opening of the Exhibition. Keep a look out for celebrations for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing ceremony in March 2017.

Copies of the book *The Tasmanian Exhibition of 1891-92 with over 1000 photographs from the Launceston Family Album*, compiled by Prue McCausland and Marion Sargent are available from booksellers in Launceston.

Prue McCausland



Passport for Mr J Wilson, Tasmanian Exhibition 1891-92.

## Members' Column

### New members:

The President and Executive welcome to our Society the following new members: Noel Christensen and Wendy Roberts.

### Missing Papers & Proceedings and Occasional Papers:

The president would appreciate copies of the following Papers, as we do not have a complete collection!

*Papers and Proceedings*: Vol 9, 1997; Vol 15, 2003; Vol 16, 2004 and Vol 18, 2006.

*Occasional Papers*: Vol. 4, 1997, '150 years of anaesthesia'.

The last four years of *Papers and Proceedings* (2008-2011) can be accessed through our website:

<http://launcestonhistory.org.au/publications/papers-and-proceedings>

If anyone who has presented an earlier Paper would like to have it online, please send the editor an electronic copy so that it can be uploaded to our website. Email: [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com)

### Archaeology Group:

Please Note: The proposed dig at the Kerry Lodge site at Easter time has been postponed.

Email enquiries to John Dent: [john.dent@pda.com.au](mailto:john.dent@pda.com.au).

## Other items and events of interest

**FOLL Book Fair:** Saturday 4 March, 9am – 1pm at St Ailbe's Hall, 46 Margaret Street, Launceston. Come and join us at Launceston's best book sale! A wide range of good quality, donated books – crime, thrillers, fantasy, science fiction, romance, children's, cooking, health, history, travel, crafts, gardening, sports, war, DVDs, collectables and Tasmaniana. Special sale of old agricultural books.

*All at rock bottom prices.*

**George Town & District Historical Society:** Meetings, 20 Feb 2017, Hillwood Garden Club, *Gardens of Port Arthur*; 20 Mar 2017, Pipers River, TBA. Email: [info@qtdhs.com](mailto:info@qtdhs.com).

**Tasmanian Historical Research Association:** Meetings take place in the Royal Society Room, Custom House, TMAG, Hobart, starting at 8.00pm. <http://www.thra.org.au>; Email: [info@thra.org.au](mailto:info@thra.org.au).

### Launceston Historical Society

President	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Vice-President	Catherine Pearce	
Minute Secretary	Catherine Pearce	
Correspondence Secretary	Prue McCausland	6327 2540
Treasurer	Leonie Prevost	6391 5511
Newsletter Editor	Marion Sargent	6331 4890
Publicity Officer	Terry Neal	0414 199 276
		6343 7940

Postal address: PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

Email: [launcestonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:launcestonhistory@gmail.com) Website: [www.launcestonhistory.org.au](http://www.launcestonhistory.org.au)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/launcestonhistory>

## Deadline

Items for the next *Newsletter* should be sent to the editor by **1 Apr 2017** at [marionsargent@bigpond.com](mailto:marionsargent@bigpond.com) or PO Box 1296 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250.