

# THE RASTUS

## JULY 2019

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA UPDATE SERVICE



## DEC and Wilkinsons Point

Now that the RAST is in a healthy financial position it is keen to continue with its master plan and vision for the development of the Showground. But the Society has been forced to put the brakes on its plans until it knows the outcome of the private and exclusive negotiations between the Glenorchy City Council and an interstate developer over the ageing Derwent Entertainment Centre and associated Wilkinsons Point.

While the Society remains committed to its master plan and vision for our presence in the Glenorchy precinct, and we remain keen to proceed with most of our development plans, we can't do so until we can be assured that the interstate development bid does not conflict with our own long standing plans.

Many readers will be aware that the Council has entered an exclusive negotiation period with the proposed developer. This was not known to the RAST when it expressed an interest in acquiring the same site, and the Council organized a site inspection for the Society, which was then cancelled by the Council at the last moment.

### Leading Stories

- RAST Financial Turnaround
- Show Update
- New Pavilion Update
- Solar Generation at the Showground



### RAST Financial Turnaround

The Society has just held its Annual General Meeting which was an occasion to celebrate a big turnaround in its financial situation.

For the first time in decades, the Society has significant funds in surplus, thanks to the sale in December last year of surplus Showground land occupied by Bunnings. It shows what an enormous asset the Showground represents to the Society and the wisdom of an earlier generation of Society leaders who bought the site back in 1905 when it was a semi-rural location.

From a deficit last year of \$46,000, at the end of this financial year the Society had an \$8.4 million surplus. It makes us a sustainable operation into the future together with an asset base in the Showground which we intend to make the basis for future growth in southern Tasmania.

### Events

With entries now rolling in for the Royal Hobart Fine Food Show and the Royal Hobart Wine Show tickets are now available online for the big celebration dinner when the major awards are announced. Only the finest wine and the fine food are on offer on Awards night.

Food Show entries will be judged from Thursday 25 July to Sunday 28 July at the Hobart Showground. Wine judging, including a Japanese judge, will occur between August 12 and 16.

The Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards Dinner and the Royal Hobart Wine Show Dinner will be held together on the 17th August. Diners will get to taste Gold Medal Food and Wine from the 2018 competitions.

If you would like to join other fine wine and food lovers, then go to the website to book: <https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/fine-wine-dine-dinner>

### Human Cannonball

Some of this year's major acts for the Royal Hobart Show have now been signed up. For something completely different showgoers this year can watch a human cannon ball being shot from a specially designed cannon.

All going well, the human cannon ball will land in a net up to 40 metres across the Showground arena. With the performer experiencing up to 6G's of force on take-off, the act is sure to leave Hobartians on the edge of their seats.

Also confirmed for the Show this year is the Wheel of Steel where the performer executes acrobatics while running in a rotating steel pendulum that reaches a height of 11 metres.



### New Pavilion Update

As readers would be aware the Tasmanian Government has contributed \$1.5 million towards the cost of a new multi-purpose facility at the Showground. While most plans are on hold until the Society knows what is happening with the property redevelopment under exclusive negotiation between GCC and interstate property developers, the Society is pressing ahead with design considerations for our new pavilion.

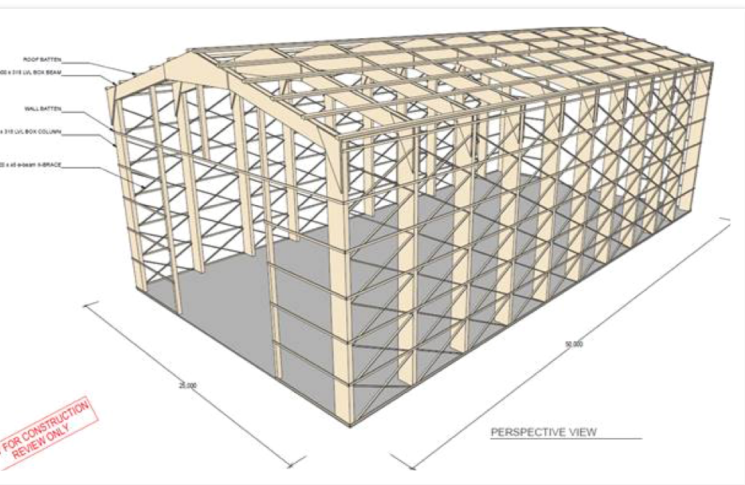
Story continued on next page...





Story continued...

One of the designs under consideration includes the innovative use of timber in an all-wooden structure. If the final design goes ahead along these lines, the RAST would like to make the structure a showcase for this renewable material, one which has played a major part in the Tasmanian rural sector.



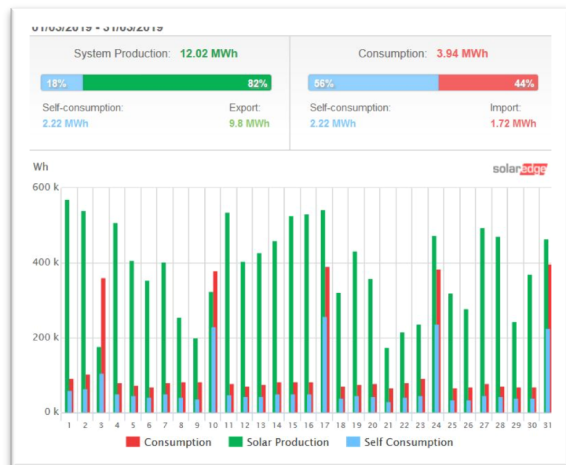
## Solar Generation at the Showground

The Showground's new solar power scheme is up and running and saving the Society considerably on its power bills.

Generating its own power from the new roof top arrays has saved the Society up to \$7,000 in power bills in just the last two months, even though we're into winter. Savings should be greater as Hobart moves into summer.

200kw panel arrays were installed on the roofs of two of the Showground's largest buildings. Excess capacity will be sold into an agricultural co-operative, Sustainable Tasmania, which has been established by Gravitas Energy and the RAST.

Taking into account the loan to undertake this project, it still remains in a healthy cash-flow positive position.



## Bounce Around

Bounce Around, our jumping castle heaven for children, has been getting a fairly strenuous work out since it was launched a month or so ago. There are multiple jumping castles, inflatable play equipment, and other activities for children.

Approaching school holiday time, bookings are on the uptake. So if you're looking for something completely different to do in Hobart that's indoor and weather proof then go online and book a session at [www.showgroundbouncearound.com](http://www.showgroundbouncearound.com).

