

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA



FIRST MEETING ARTICLE

1822 JANUARY 1ST

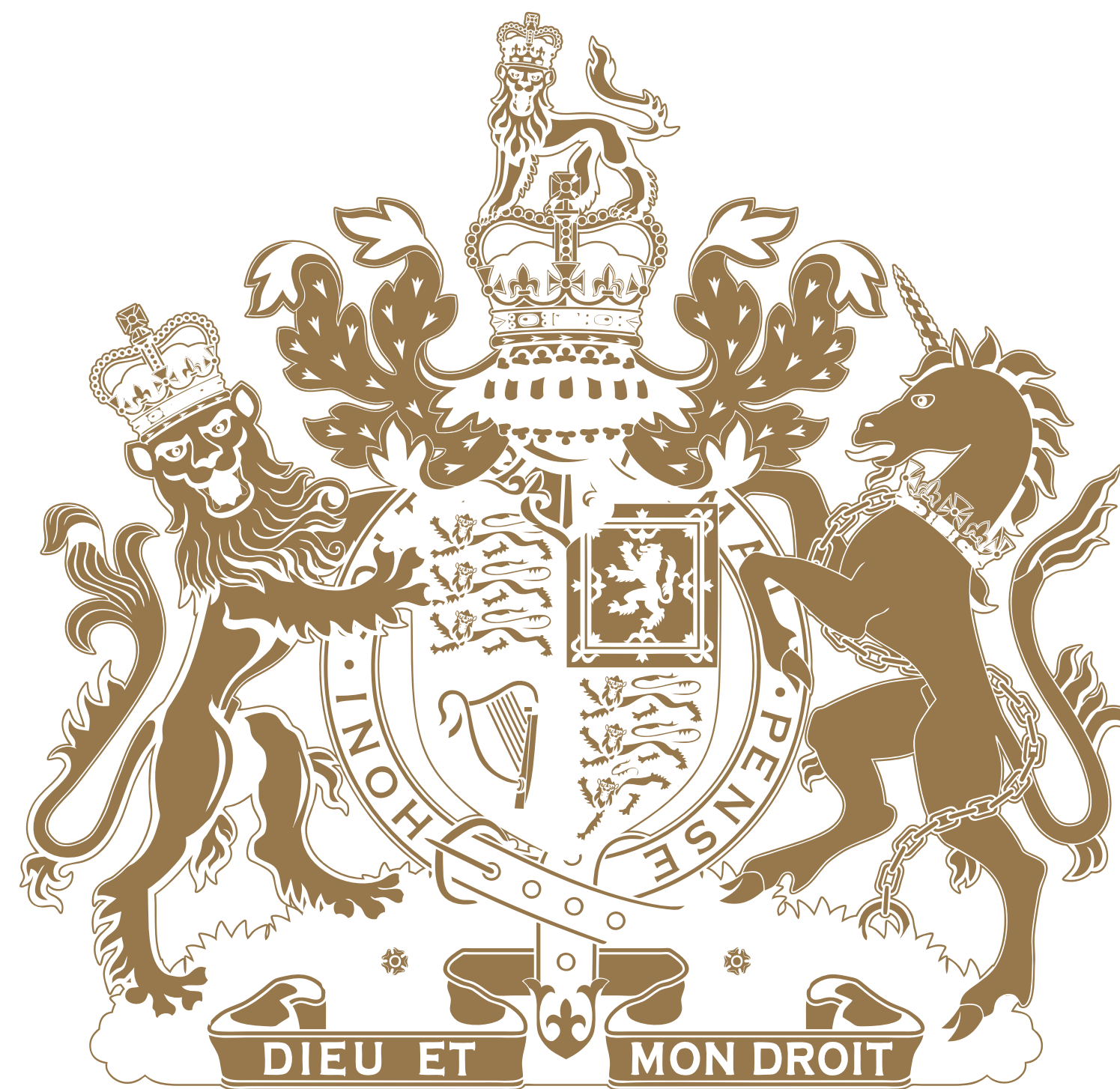
A public meeting was held where Edward Foord Bromley Esq was in the chair and resolved that an Agricultural Society be formed. The Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society was established for the protection of stock and the principle of the society was to prevent rather than punish crime. It was decided at the meeting that the first Annual Stock Show be held in Hobart Town on the first Wednesday in December 1822.



CIRCA 1880 NEW TOWN SHOWGROUND

DECEMBER 4TH 1822

The first Show was held at the at the Old Marketplace in Hobart Town, now known as Parliament Lawns. There were awards for fine woolled rams, ewes, finest bulls, finest pair of working oxen, best 10 acres of wheat, greatest quantity of turnips, carrots, best sheep shearers and the best ploughmen with a pair of bullocks. A suit of clothes and one guinea was also awarded to 10 male and 10 female servants (convicts) who had conducted themselves in the most exemplary manner.



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CIRCA LATE 1800S SHOW GRAND PARADE



CIRCA 1880 GRAND PARADE AT HOBART SHOWGROUNDS

1862

The Society changed their name from The Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society to The Southern Tasmanian Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society.

1874

SEPTEMBER 3RD

A meeting is held and the Society is reformed and renamed as Tasmania Agricultural, Pastoral and Horticultural Society.



CIRCA 1873 GRAND PARADE

1875

NOVEMBER 3RD

The Society held its Annual Show at The Elwick Racecourse. This was the first Show held on these grounds, they showcased draught horses, light horses, cattle, sheep, wool, swine (pigs), dogs, machinery, ploughs (implements) and ploughing matches. Nearly 2000 patrons gathered on the grounds for the Show.



CIRCA 1900s SHOW DAY

1876

The Annual Stock Show was held at The Elwick Racecourse again.

1874

NOVEMBER 12TH

The first spring exhibition Show of the Society was held at the Hobart Town Hall.



CIRCA 1859 SHEEP AT SHOW

1877

A meeting is held and the Society renames itself to The Southern Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society.



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

1877

OCTOBER 31ST

The Society attempted to hold its Annual Show at the Hobart Domain. The Government withdrew their permission for use of the grounds after a public outcry. The Honorary James Lord Esq offered his property at Hobartville to the Society for the use of the show. The Society held their Shows here for two years in a row, the grounds are now known as The Friends School.

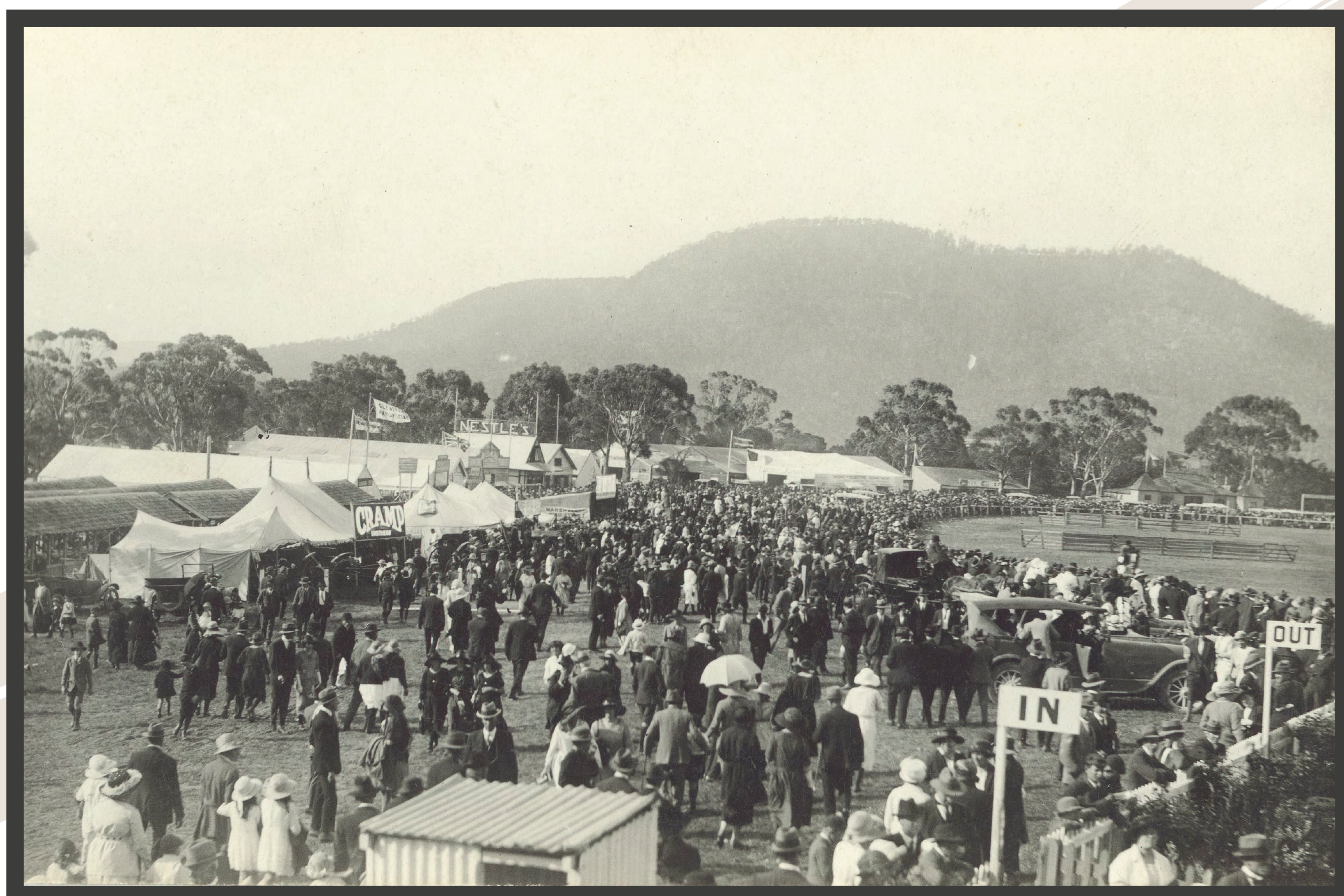


CIRCA 1900 SHOW BULL

1879

OCTOBER 22ND

Since the Society's name change, they acquired their first 'home' and held their Show on the newly acquired New Town Showgrounds, which is now home to Ogilvie High School.



CIRCA 1920'S SHOW

1884

OCTOBER 15TH

The Society celebrated their 10th Annual Exhibition of Stock since 1877 which was held on the New Town Showground. It was reported that there were 6000 patrons on the ground. The society provided a luncheon for the Governor in the committee tent to which 100 gentlemen sat down to, including the President of the Society (Hon. N. J. Brown), the Premier (Hon. Adye Douglas) and the Mayor of Hobart (Aldermen Belbin). The luncheon was followed by a Grand Parade that had an immense turnout of patrons. There were many animal exhibits and numerous sideshows.



1898

APRIL 28TH

Two new buildings were built at the New Town Showground, one being the current old grandstand, which put the Society into debt. The Society also celebrated their 25th Annual Exhibition with a one-day Show event.

1897

APRIL 28TH

The Society held their Autumn Produce Show at the Hobart Town Hall. The Show went over two days.



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1903

OCTOBER

The Society hosted a Special General Meeting of members to discuss the proposal to purchase land in Glenorchy for use as permanent ground. The land, now known as The Hobart Showgrounds, was purchased for £2500.



CIRCA 1917 HOBART SHOW

1913

The people of Hobart were officially granted two half day holidays to attend the Show.

1914

SEPTEMBER 12TH

The first flight in Tasmania takes off from the Showgrounds, about 2000 spectators gathered on the grounds to see Delfosse Badgery's exhibition of flying.



CIRCA 1914 FIRST FLIGHT

1904

OCTOBER 19TH

The Society held its first Show on the new Showground, the 50th Annual Spring Stock Show went over two days. The Show also held the very first poultry exhibit at an Agricultural Show in Tasmania.



CIRCA 1900S SHOW



1922

The Society was granted the Royal Prefix by his Majesty King George V.



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1923

JANUARY 24TH

A Special Meeting of members of The Southern Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society was held at the Hobart Town Hall where they passed the resolution to change the Society's name to The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania.

1940

The Society continued to hold their Annual Show despite war times.



1971 CHAIR LIFT

1968

LAS Flying Devils stuntman, Adrian Labans, fell 50ft to his death during their high wire act at the Royal Hobart Show.

1973

RAST Director C.F Trappes sat down with Claudio Alcorso, Archie Page and Eric Gray and discussed the possibility of having a Wine Show.



OCTOBER 1974, PRINCE CHARLES WITH THE PRESIDENT ARCHIE PAGE

1974

With the help of Jack Grey, Bill Geeves and Cliff Heard, the Society held their first Wine Show in the old Homecrafts Pavilion.

1974

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales attends the Royal Hobart Show.



PRIOR TO 1967, AERIAL SHOT OF SHOWGROUND

1949

The Annual Show was cancelled due to the Polio break out. The Government had passed legislation preventing large gatherings.

1950

The Society held 2 Shows, an Autumn Show in April and a Spring Show in October.



1979 SIDE SHOW



1977

The State Government announced that pacing in Southern Tasmania would be centralised at the Showground.

1980

The new (Main) Grandstand was built to facilitate the Inter-Dominion Pacing Championships.



CIRCA 2000S AERIAL SHOT

1997 OCTOBER

The Society celebrated their 175th Anniversary.

1999

A record 65,000 people attended the Royal Hobart Show.



CIRCA LATE 1990S

2001

The Society received their first Community Heritage Grant to undertake a preservation study of its archive material.

1989

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne attended the Australian Made Rural Festival, held at the Hobart Showground, as part of the World Sheep and Wool Congress.

1996

The Society held its first Fine Food Awards Show.



1989, PRINCESS ANNE WITH HENRY BURBURY, ROSS JONES, IK DOWNIE, JUDGE ROGER HANN



CIRCA 1990'S SHOW ARENA



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2005

The Society held the first Vineyard of The Year competition.

2014

Bunnings development signals financial security for the Society.



2014 CARNIVAL AT SHOW

2020

The Society cancelled the Show due to COVID-19.

2021

The Society celebrates their 200 Years of Showing.



2016 BURGESS RAWSON SHOT



2006 KENNEL JUDGING RING AND CHAIR LIFT

2020

Spotlight development paving the way for a major rejuvenation of the site, the Show, and the Society.



2016 ROYAL HOBART SHOW



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