



OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF
THE ROYAL
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Show Closes
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Graham Hughes,
Christopher Long
and Lola Smith
- Show Photos
- 2020 Meeting Calendar



Bush Telegraph

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DECEMBER 2019



Storm Closes Show but....it's still a winner

Something unprecedented happened at this year's Royal Hobart Show. For the first time in memory it was forced to close for an afternoon due to the weather.

The four-hour shut down on the Friday afternoon came as gale force winds swept over Hobart. The storm conditions had been threatening all day, and when the winds hit, the Society's CEO, Scott Gadd, decided that public safety had to come first.

The wind moderated in the late afternoon, allowing the Show to reopen for the evening's entertainment. However, crowd numbers were still strong on the evening, and the traditional Friday night fireworks had to be cancelled because of the continuing stiff breeze.

Despite this interruption the Show still came in on budget for the Society. Up until the weather interruption, it had been looking like the Show would make a healthy profit. Despite the shut-down, crowd numbers over the course of the event were on par with last year, thanks to a strong Wednesday and a 20,000 plus crowd on the Thursday public holiday.

Show Entertainment

The Show got into its stride very quickly with two fine days before the storm hit. Entertainment from interstate included a Human Cannonball who lent a touch of old-time carnival to the Show, and the acrobatic Wheel of Steel. Children had dozens of opportunities to immerse themselves in the Show, whether it was meeting baby animals, trying their hand at woodwork, or digging for potatoes.

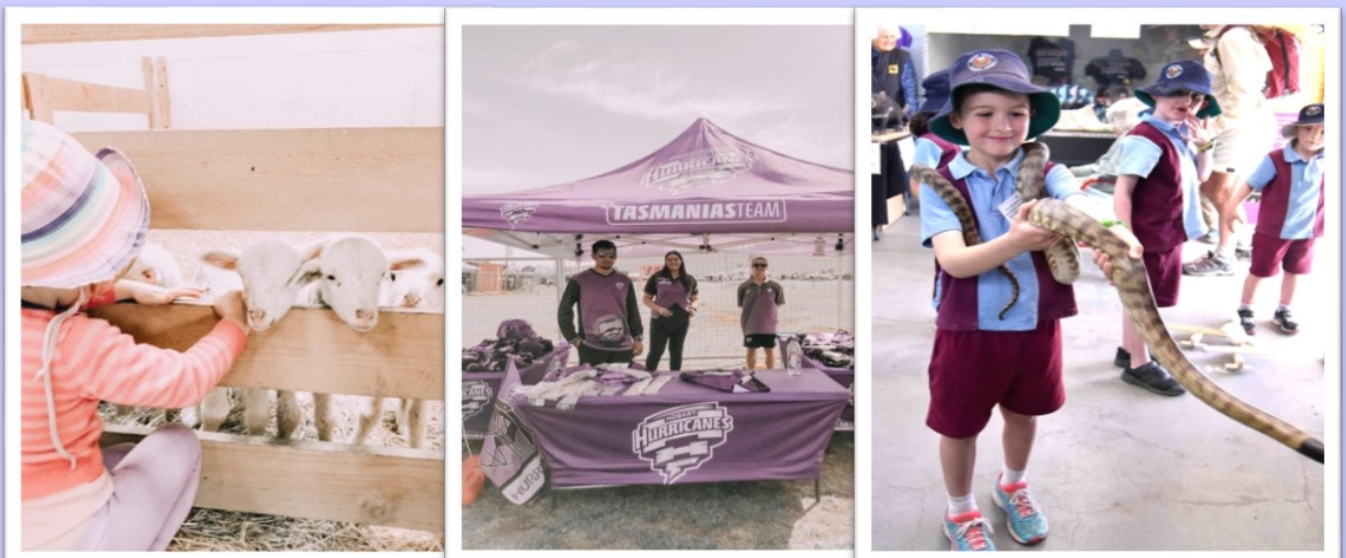
A virtual reality farm allowed showgoers to experience a real working farm environment in virtual reality. The Tasmanian Government mounted a major display of its agencies and services, and Cricket Tasmania was one of several sporting codes at the Show, promoting the T20 ahead of the World Cup next year.

There was flash dancing, and fascinating displays of bee keeping. Lori Lakos told show goers that the world of bees is in crisis. She has lost seven hives in just the last year. As she put it to showgoers: if bees won't pollinate, you won't get apples.

In Home crafts, committee members were busy making scones for their café. "People like to see the scones coming fresh out of the oven, so we bake them on the spot," according to committee member Rosemary Kerrison.

There was a children's charity pageant this year at the Show and a major new sponsor, First National Real Estate, partnered the Society to bring entertainment acts to the arena.

There were chook washing demonstrations throughout the Show, a glamping display, yoga sessions, and Reptile Rescue was on hand to educate Tasmanians about snakes, just at the time of year they're emerging from their winter hibernation. Meanwhile, over in the Vintage Machinery display mechanics and engineers were excited to be displaying a 1952 Ferguson Tractor which had long ceased working until a V8 Range Rover engine was installed.



Story continued from previous page...

The huge kennel section moved into the Market Pavilion this year because of preparations for the construction of the Spotlight retail outlet on Showground land facing onto Howard Rd, next to Bunnings.

This year, the Society engaged UTAS to undertake research during the Show to inform us of how the community would like to see the Show develop in the years leading up to and following its 200th year of showing.

Again, this year, the Society produced The Show Mag, a comprehensive guide to the Show which was contained in the Mercury newspaper as a lift-out.

At the Show this year were two visiting Rural Ambassadors from South Australia: Karl Milde and Amy Doeke. They awarded ribbons to the best commercial spaces at the Show and undertook other duties. The Rural Ambassador program is about identifying and supporting young people who want to work in the rural sector. The role as Ambassador is a career step-up for young people who are considering a working life in the sector.

The last day of the Show, Saturday, October 26, saw a number of major events take place. The Show was proud to host the National Junior Dog Handlers competition, with entrants attending from every state to show their skills in parading and handling dogs. Saturday also saw the Show hosting the Tasmanian Whip cracking championships, a miniature horses' competition, and the Static Monsters Strongman competition.



Above: The SA Rural Ambassadors, Karl Milde & Amy Doeke presenting space awards.



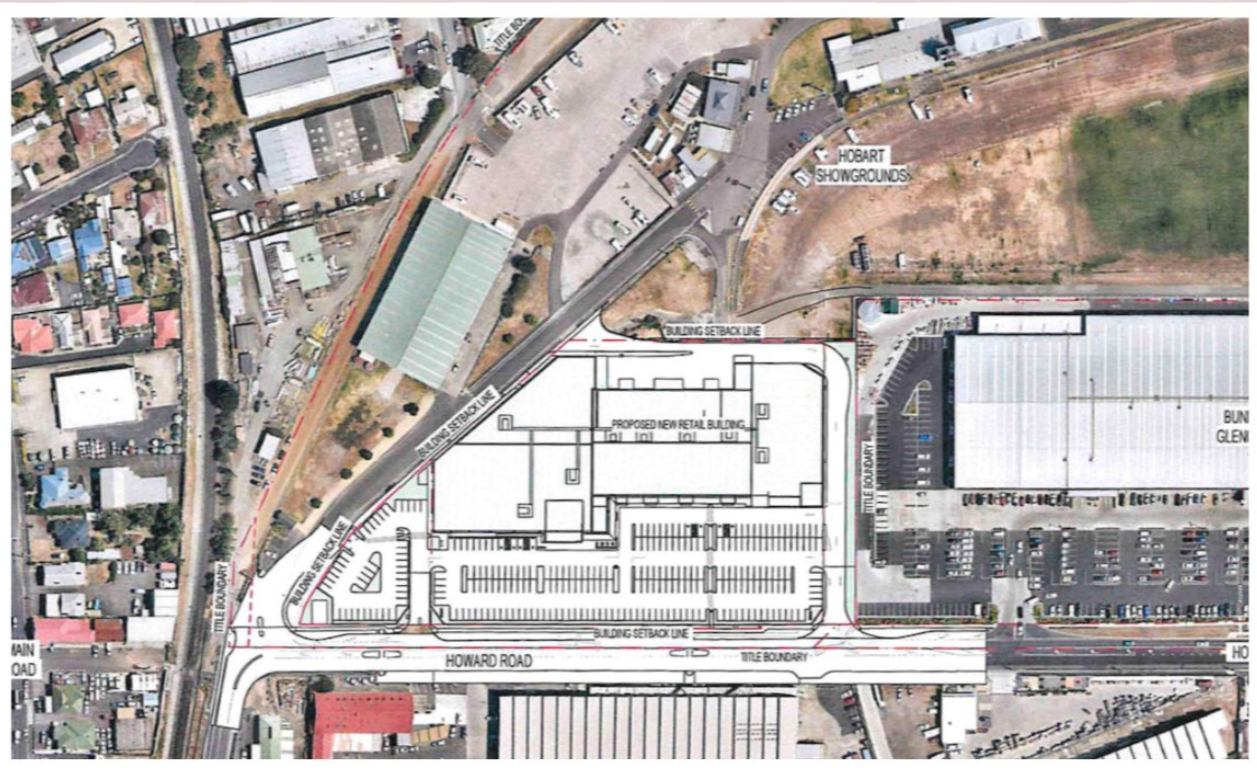
The Human Cannonball in flight

Spotlight Development

Construction of the new Spotlight retail outlet on Showground land fronting Howard Rd is imminent.

Planning for this project took into account that construction would not be complete by the time of the 2020 Royal Hobart Show. This year's show was therefore modelled with a footprint similar to next year's Show when construction is underway. It was a dummy run for the construction period next year so as to iron out any issues for the show going public ahead of next year's Show.

It worked well and confirms that the 2020 Show won't be affected by construction activities on Howard Rd.



Can you help? Royal Hobart Show 2021

The Society is seeking community input to the 2021 Royal Hobart Show which will mark 200 years of agricultural Showing in Hobart. In fact, Hobart had the first agricultural show in Australia.

The Society – a not for profit organisation – has set up a committee to plan the 2021 Show, which RAST CEO Scott Gadd says will be a landmark for agricultural shows in Australia, and for Hobart in particular.

The Society is seeking people who may:

- be interested in an involvement with organising aspects of the 2021 Show
- community members who have show related memorabilia they can donate or lend for display in 2021

The Show has gone through several evolutions since it started on the grounds of Parliament House.

From a farmers' market and an event for promoting excellence in farming, the Show broadened into a wider exhibition and entertainment experience ranging from home crafts to carnival rides and show bags.

As it approaches the landmark year of 2021, the Show is focusing more strongly on education. "There remains a huge gulf between an increasingly urbanised Tasmania and the rural sector which feeds and sustains it" says Scott Gadd. "We want to show young Tasmanians why the rural sector is so important to them, and why they should consider the many great careers that exist in agriculture – from veterinary sciences to farm management – so that our primary industries remain a strong contributor to the Australian economy"

Would you be interested in joining one of our organising committees or providing memorabilia? If so, contact us on 0362 726 812.



Show Season Starts with Artery Art on Show

The biggest annual community art exhibition in Tasmania officially inaugurated the 2019 Royal Hobart Show week. Entrants in this year's Artery Art on Show were aged from 15 to 90. Nearly 200 entries were received.

Entry subject matter ranged from orange bellied parrots to rainbow lorikeets and industrial landscapes, such as Nyrstar, to landscapes of the Huon River and the Blue Mountains.

There are five sections in the competition: Work in Oil and/or Acrylic; Work in Water Media; Drawing and other media; Miniatures; and Photography.

Awards included: - Overall Winner; Emerging Artist (aged 16 to 25); Margaret Gunn Perpetual Trophy; RAST award for an entry that best depicts an agricultural theme; the People's Choice award – decided by votes from the viewing public; and the Portrait Prize.

Miniature Art is a category for art works less than 100 square centimetres. This year one of the entries was a painting of a kingfisher, executed on the ivory of a single piano key, not much larger than a postage stamp.

Bill and the Whisky Thief was a portrait of Bill Lark by Elizabeth Hunn. The painting is framed in French oak, and when it was finished, an exuberant artist and sitter poured whisky over it! The portrait was also an entry in the Archibald Prize.

Entrant Chris Waiczek has lived in a caravan for eight years touring Australia and painting our nation. She paints on canvas using satay sticks.

Steve Gearman is an artist and committee member who's bought a bus to turn into a home. At \$9,000, he says it is less expensive than getting a home loan, and he can take it away on painting trips.

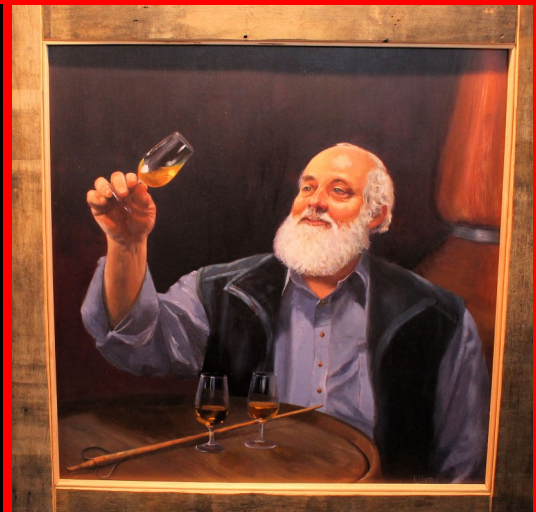
Well known and talented young Tasmanian artists making their names in the art world, Effie Pryer and Felicity Lovett, were both involved in the Art on Show committee this year.

Entrant Margaret Kay, aged 90, is a well-respected member of the Tasmanian arts scene. She describes herself as the oldest emerging artist in Australia.

Jenny Miller was an entry this year. She is the illustrator of several popular books with the title "Why dogs...."



Some of the winners

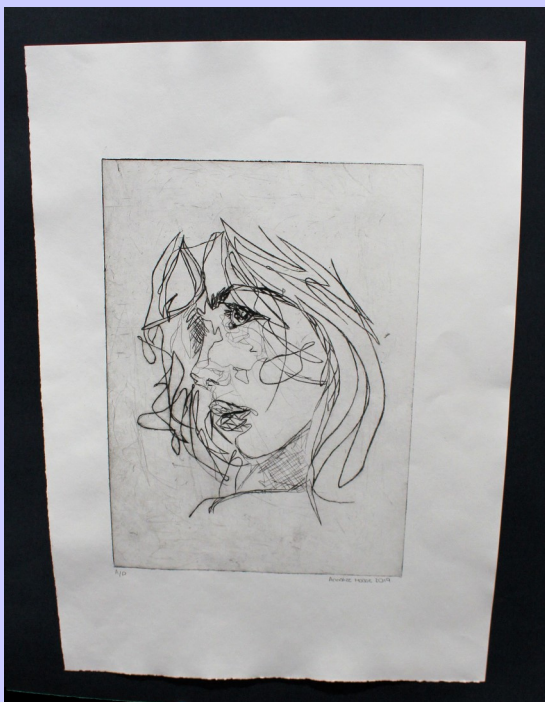


Youth Art & Student Photography — a stand out success

Our Youth Art and Student Photography competition has again continued its spectacular year on year growth experiencing a 33% (or 130) increase in entries from 2018.

A new overall winner or grand champion prize was introduced with the winner receiving \$500 cash courtesy of our sponsors Josh Willie MLC and Ella Haddad MP. Remi Sherman-Noth, Grade 9-10 Ogilvie was the inaugural Overall Winner with her exceptional oil painting titled 'Bobbing Boats'.

Several of our young entrants were also elevated to the adult Artery Art on Show Emerging Artist competition where two successfully took out the top award. Nina Tuarian, Grade 9-10 Ogilvie High and Annalize Moase, Grade 9-10 Dominic College jointly shared the prestigious Emerging Artist award.



Pretty Girl by Annalize Moase



Bobbing Boats by Remi Sherman-Noth

Living Legends of The Show

The annual Living Legend of the Show is announced each year during a Vice Regal luncheon at the Show.

This year, the recipients honoured were Paul and Elizabeth Geard. Paul started showing with his parents back in 1954, exhibiting Tamworth Pigs and Jersey cows. He first exhibited Holstein Friesian cattle two years later in 1956 when he won champion dairy cow. He's won countless broad ribbons in the 63 years since.

Paul and Elizabeth have spent many hours at the Hobart showground, volunteering time not just at Show time, but in between, helping to develop the ground, building judging rings, redeveloping the central arena, and general ground maintenance.

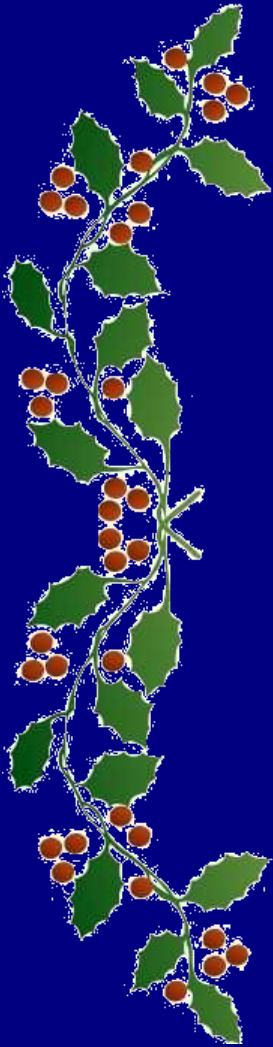
Paul started on the show council around 30 years ago and was elected President in 2005 and held this position for six years. He has been on the RAST Board since its inception in 2010. He has been a Councillor since the 1980's and is an Honorary Life Member and Honorary Life Councillor. He remains a Director of the board to this day.

Show time has also been an extremely busy time for Elizabeth. In the early days helping Paul prepare and clean the team of dairy cattle, while also tending to their five children, and in recent times grandchildren. She has also been involved with the Show ambassador awards as a judge and with the functions committee. Paul and Elizabeth and their family, including Paul's father before him, have a long and varied association with the Royal Hobart Show.

They regularly exhibit their cattle not only at Hobart but also Burnie, Launceston and the Huon.



Paul & Elizabeth Geard accepting their Living Legends award



An Eventful Year

Part of the Society's business model for the years moving ahead is to stimulate greater use of the Showground, and this year proved that it's the most versatile event site in the state capital.

March kicked off the year with the Showground hosting two major events toward the end of the month. There was the enormously popular Hobart Gem Show, the Showground Sunday Market and also the very popular My Kids Market.

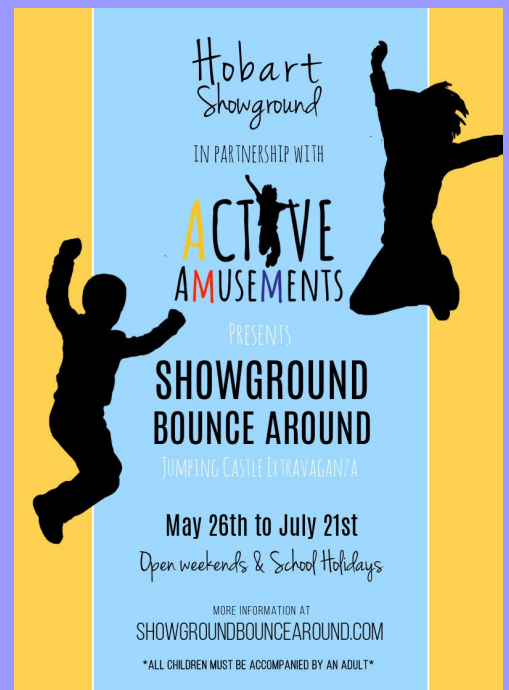
This year the Showground also hosted the AEVA Elektrikhana which proved to be a big success. This free expo was a chance for the public to inspect electric vehicles and even do a test drive. As the car manufacturing industry focuses more strongly on electric and hybrid vehicles, Elektrikhana at the Showground is likely to become an annual event.

During the year the Showground welcomed a new tenant - Every Dog Pty Ltd. Operating out of the CWA Pavilion, Every Dog offers canine day care, training and socialisation of dogs for the people of Hobart.

Cracker night in May also saw the launch of Bounce Around, a jumping castle heaven for children. There were multiple jumping castles, inflatable play equipment, and other activities for children.

One of the other events worth mentioning was the weightlifting Hobart Hit Out. Competition occurred in four divisions for both males and females. Competitors took part in three fast-paced workouts leading up to a final for the top placed athletes in each division.

Together with other events and the Society's own activities, such as the Wine and Food Shows and the Royal Hobart Show, it was an event packed schedule at the Showground in 2019.



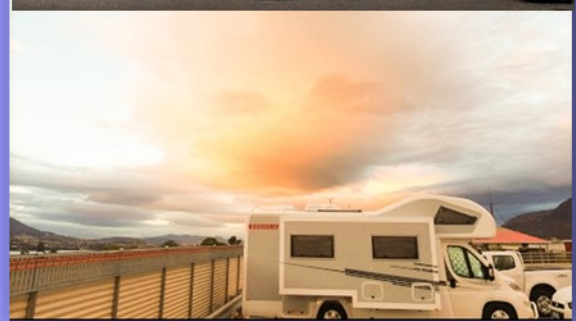
Motorhome Park

It has been another strong year for the Showground Motorhome Park.

The Wooden Boat Festival earlier in the year brought in many visitors to Tasmania and saw the Motorhome Park completely booked out. Most guests came from Queensland, but the other states were well represented too.

Visitors staying at the Showground were widely representative of different age groups and ranged from the grey nomad community to young families. Feedback received in terms of the Showground's hosting role was very complimentary, but not so good in terms of the Spirit of Tasmania. Many of our guests complained of the costs of bringing their rigs across Bass Strait.

This year's visitors were also very engaged with Tasmania. They were hungry for information about Mona, Bruny Island and other activities in Hobart.



HOBART
SHOWGROUND
MORE THAN YOU THINK!

Vineyard of the Year

Stargazer Vineyard at Tea Tree in the Coal River Valley was the winner of the 2019 Gravitas Vineyard of the Year. This program is an initiative of the Society to promote excellence in Tasmanian viticultural management.

Judges Paul Smart, Matthew Pooley, Frank Walker and Jen Doyle undertook vineyard inspections as part of their judging process. Everything from soil management and pruning to canopy management and spray programs were assessed.

Stargazer's winemaker, Samantha Connew, is also the vineyard's owner. An accomplished industry professional, Samantha was named International Red Winemaker of the Year at the International Wine Challenge, London, in 2007.

As part of the Award of Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year, Stargazer hosted a field day for wine professionals and lovers of wine alike so that they could learn about the vineyard's winning techniques. Vineyard of the Year is sponsored by Gravitas Energy in conjunction with Bennetts Petroleum, Geotas, and Wine Tasmania.



Generating Our Own Power

The Showground's new solar power generating scheme became operational recently, saving the Society considerably on its power bills. Generating its own power from the Showground roof top solar arrays has saved the Society up to \$7,000 in power bills in just the first two months of operation.

200kw panel arrays were installed on the roofs of two of the Showground's largest buildings. Excess capacity is being sold into an agricultural co-operative, Sustainable Tasmania, which has been established by Gravitass Energy and the RAST. One of the many great features of the new system is the ability for the Society to monitor the performance of the power system in real time.



A Long Association

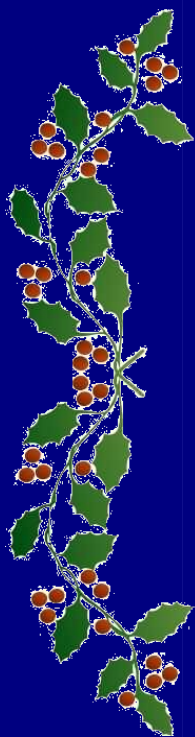
The Southern Tasmanian Bantam Club this year held its 70th Anniversary Show with 36 exhibitors entering 542 birds. The Club was established in 1949 and has been resident at the Hobart Showground Poultry Pavilion ever since.

Throughout those years the Club has maintained a strong association with the Society and Society CEO Scott Gadd is Patron of the Club.

The Club won international recognition when it launched its rooster round-up campaign three years ago in association with the RAST. Not only did this initiative attract national news but was also covered by Reuters and the Huffington Post.

The rooster round-up aims to lessen the problem of stray and feral roosters which inhabit the bush environs close to Hobart.





Expanding Food Awards

The Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards this year moved into new territory with the addition of an olive oil workshop led by two experts in the field. Increasingly, food industry partnerships such as this will become a feature of the Awards. The Awards are a major event in the Australian food calendar, and judging this year saw a great result for Tasmanian food products. Forty percent of all entrants were Tasmanian, but 76% of Champions and Reserve Champions turned out to be Tasmanian. It shows that Tasmania's food reputation is well deserved.

There were big increases in entries in Delicatessen products (up 85% on last year); olive oil (up 49%), seafood (up 24%), beverages –ranging from ciders to fruit liqueurs (up 21%), and the catch-all section Any Other Product, ranging from rice to cereals and any entry not categorised (up 58%).

In all, there were 18 categories in the Awards with each category divided into classes. For instance, this year's Cheese category consisted of some 30 classes, ranging from cheddar to vegan cheese.

Flying into Hobart for the judging of tea and tisanes this year was Cathy Zhang, who holds a degree in Tea from a Chinese university. She's an international tea judge and a Tea Ambassador. Tea judging at the Awards occurs under international standards, even to the point of using ISO-compliant crockery from China.

The Royal Hobart Fine Food awards night was held in conjunction with the awards for the Royal Hobart Wine Show which was held soon after the fine food judging program. The dinner attracted a sell-out 200 participants.



A Good Year for Tasmanian Wines

Tasmanian wines put in another strong performance at this year's Royal Hobart Wine Show. Of particular note was the performance of Riversdale Estate wines which was awarded an unprecedented eight trophies by the national and international judging panel. Riversdale Estate is based in the Coal River Valley near Cambridge.

More broadly, Chief Judge Sue Bell of Bellwether Wines described the Show as a stand-out for 2018 vintages. "In multiple varieties from Shiraz to Chardonnay, 2018 was clearly a very good vintage in Australia. Consumers should be fairly confident that 2018 wines will be particularly good," she told the media after the judges had finalised their tastings.

Rod Cuthbert: 2019 Tas Wine Industry Award

At the combined Food and Wine Awards Dinner held at the Showground and attended by some 200 people, Rod Cuthbert won the annual Tasmanian Wine Industry Award for an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to the Tasmanian wine industry.

An engineer by trade, a keen yachtsman and accomplished vigneron, Rod established Iron Pot Bay Vineyard at Rowella near the Tamar in the late 1980's. Significantly, he produced the first unwooded Chardonnay in Tasmania, and supplied the chardonnay grapes for Andrew Hood's first Wellington wooded Chardonnay.

Rod was also involved in the establishment of the Tamar Valley Wine Route, and later ran the Iron Pot Bay cellar door from his home at Retreat Cove.

His engineering skills came to the fore when he developed a netting clip which eventually went into commercial production, and a "frost fan" which he made from an old warehouse ventilation fan, after having done the calculations on power requirements and just how long an extension cord could be run out into the vineyard!

Aside from grape and wine industry matters, Rod also designed the fountain at the old railway (now ABC) roundabout in Hobart.



Roderick Cuthbert accepts the award from Bill Geeves

Cracker Night

The Showground hosted what has become a popular annual cracker night just before winter set in. A big crowd attended, and organisers noted an increase in what could be described as unattended adults. Perhaps we never actually grow up!

Designed as a family night to let children safely enjoy the great Australian tradition of cracker night, this year the event also drew couples and groups who came along without children to enjoy the evening of entertainment and the food and beverages on offer.

The Society's thanks go to the Wellington Volunteer Fire Brigade, and St. John's Ambulance. THF Fencing also assisted by providing some infrastructure for the entertainment and fireworks.



In Memory of:-

Graham Paul Hughes, who was a Life Member of the Society, passed away this year.

He was immensely proud of his association with the RAST both as a Life Member and for his involvement with the Show as a Stock Inspector with the then Department of Agriculture.

Graham's Life Membership was purchased for him 74 years ago for his 21st Birthday as a present from his parents.

Christopher Achalen Long

The Society also notes the passing of Christopher Achalen Long, a member of the Stud Sheep committee.

The Long family has had strong ties to the Royal Hobart Show – with Chris serving 50 plus years on the Stud Sheep committee. A proud memory for Chris was in 1968, winning his first championship at the Hobart Show with a Poll Dorset ram from his “Orden” stud. Chris' other love, apart from his family and farm, was flying. He held a pilot's license for many years and enjoyed flying with family and friends, often flying to the mainland.



Vale Lola Smith

6th January 1945 – 28 September 2019

The RAST is deeply saddened by the passing of Lola Smith who was a tireless volunteer for Home crafts as well as the food and wine shows.

The success of our Home crafts café in recent years was due to her efforts and her countless hours of baking fresh sponges and scones that were offered for sale.

Lola was a great character known for her fantastic sense of humour. She was particularly liked by the CEO and staff whom she always ensured were supplied with goodies during the Royal Hobart Show. Lola also spent many hours cooking for our food and wine judges, and many have commented that the food has never been as good as when she cooked for them.

Her funeral saw over 500 people attend which was a mark of the great community citizen that she was and a reflection on the sheer number of people that she had an impact on.

Lola was a true champion and we were hoping to honour her contribution at this year's show by presenting her with an outstanding achievement award in recognition of her contribution to RAST. We named one of our golf buggies at this year's Royal Hobart Show after her.

Lola insisted that recipes be published in her order of service and able to share them be sadly missed.



her sponge and scone published in her funerals we are proud to be with you here. She will May she rest in peace.

Lola's Sponge Cake

3 Large Eggs

½ cup of Sugar

½ cup of Self Raising Flour

Beat eggs & sugar until thick & creamy.

Fold in sifted Self Raising Flour.

Place in 8" greased & lined on base sponge tin.

Cook on 170-180°C in centre of oven.

Cook for around 20-25 minutes or until cake starts to move away from the side on the tin. When lightly touched in the middle, the cake should spring back.

Lola's Scones

3 heaped cups of Self Raising Flour

Pinch of Salt

1 cup of Cream

1 cup of Lemonade

Sift flour & salt, add cream & lemonade until moist.

Tip onto board with flour, press down and cut out with scone cutter.

Cook on 230°C for 12 minutes.

Variations:

cheese, bacon, chives can be added.

Milk may be used instead of lemonade.



The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania

MEETING CALENDAR 2020

Month	RAST Board	RAST Council	AGM	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards (not finalised)	Royal Hobart Wine Show (not finalised)	Finance & Audit Committee
January						
February	Board Planning Meeting to be advised Wednesday 19 February 5.00p.m. Meeting	Council Planning Day 27 Feb 2020 from 1pm		Tuesday 4 February 4.30 p.m.	Tuesday 11 February 4.00pm	Wednesday 19 February 3.30 p.m.
March	Wednesday 18 March 5.00 p.m. Meeting			Wednesday 4 March 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday 10 March 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 18 March 3.30pm Meeting
April	Wednesday 15 April 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 9 April 4.30 p.m.		Tuesday 7 April 4.00 p.m.	Tuesday 14 April 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 15 April 3.30 p.m.
May	Wednesday 13 May 5.00 p.m. Meeting			Tuesday 5 May 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday 12 May 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 13 May 3.30 p.m.
June	Wednesday 17 June 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 11 June 4.30 p.m.	Wednesday 17 June 5.30 p.m.	Tuesday 2 June 4.00 p.m.	Tuesday 9 June 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 17 June 3.30 p.m.

Vineyard of the Year Field Day (TBC)
Annual General Meeting (TBC)

Thursday 31 May 2020 (May be replaced with focus groups)
Wednesday 17 June 2020 from 5.30pm

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania

MEETING CALENDAR 2020

Month	RAST Board	RAST Council	AGM	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards	Royal Hobart Wine Show	Finance & Audit Committee
July	Wednesday 15 July 5.00 p.m. Meeting			Tuesday 7 July 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday 14 July 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 15 July 3.30 p.m.
August	Wednesday 19 August 3.30 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 13 August 4.30 p.m. * Risk Man Brief		Tuesday 4 August (Review) 4.00 p.m.	Tuesday 11 August 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 19 August 3.30 p.m. Meeting
September	Wednesday 16 September 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 10 September 4.30 p.m.		Tuesday 1 September 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday 8 September 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 16 September 3.30 p.m.
October	Royal Hobart Show 21 - 24					
November	Wednesday 18 November 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 12 November 4.30 p.m.		Tuesday 3 November 4.00pm	Tuesday 11 November 4.00 p.m.	Wednesday 18 November 3.30 p.m.
December	Wednesday 16 December 5.00 p.m. Meeting			Tuesday 1 December 9.30 a.m.	Tuesday 8 December 4.00pm	Wednesday 16 December 3.30 p.m.

Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards (TBC)

Royal Hobart Show

Royal Hobart Wine Show (TBC)

Volunteers BBQ

Council Christmas Dinner

Judging 20 July – 23 July 2020 – Awards Dinner, Saturday 22 August 2020 (TBC)

21 – 24 October 2020

Judging 10 Aug – 15 Aug 2020; Trade & Public Tasting 14 Aug 2020; Awards Dinner 22 Aug 2019 (TBC)

26 November 2020

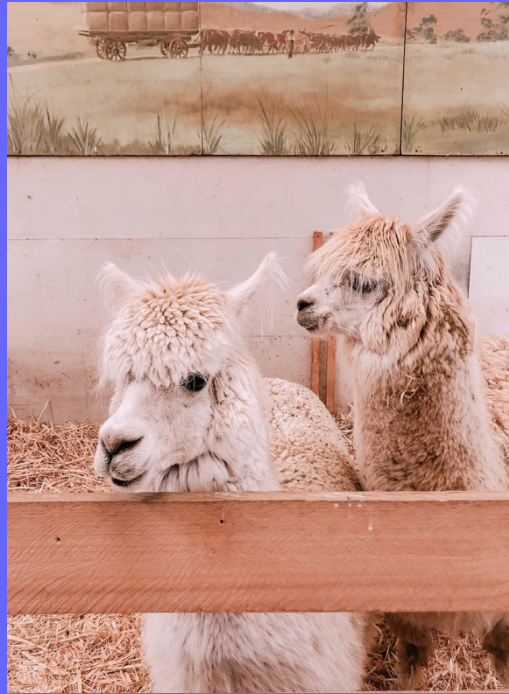
TBC



BBX ROYAL HOBART SHOW

PHOTOS





The Directors, Councillors and staff of the RAST would like to thank all our members, friends, sponsors and volunteers for their efforts in supporting our many activities throughout the year. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Please stay safe and look after yourselves as we need your support again in 2020 and as we head toward our 200 years of showing celebrations in 2021.



**The Royal
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Society of
Tasmania**

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