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Bush Telegraph

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Vineyard Field Day: you are invited!

Last month, a family run vineyard on the state's lower East Coast was named Vineyard of the Year by the RAST. This month – Thursday May 20 – it hosts a field day so that vineyard managers from around the State and other industry people can hear about its winning practices.

Cape Bernier Vineyard's Field Day will be hosted by the RAST and the vineyard's owner/vineyard manager, Alastair Christie. If you're interested in how great vines make great wines, then come along. It will be a fascinating day.

The field day is usually limited to wine industry operators, but because so many RAST members are interested in wine, this year the Society is also inviting members to attend at a modest cost.

The Vineyard of the Year is chosen on the basis of excellence in vineyard management. Good management of a vineyard is fundamental to the production of great grapes.

One of the Tasmanian wine industry's most prestigious trophies, the RAST's Richard Langdon Trophy, will be presented to Alastair Christie at the field day. It's a bronze sculpture by noted Tasmanian sculptor Stephen Walker.



A proud Alastair Christie showing his vineyard at Bream Creek

Interested in attending?

You can download an information sheet about the Field Day at www.hobartshowground.com.au

The day begins at 10.30am at Cape Bernier Vineyard (230 Bream Creek Rd, Bream Creek), and includes presentations from the judges, from Alastair Christie, industry specialists, as well as a panel discussion and tour of the vineyard. Also making presentations will be Viticulturist Paul Townsend and Fred Peacock, owner and vineyard manager of Bream Creek Vineyard.

Contact Janice at the Showground if you would like to attend on 62 726812, or at janice@hobartshowground.com.au - \$36 includes lunch.

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Follow on from front page

Cape Bernier Vineyard is a small but successful family owned vineyard on Tasmania's lower East coast.

Cape Bernier's owner and Vineyard Manager, Alastair Christie (see photo on front page), is a former government policy adviser and strategy consultant who bought what was a Bream Creek paddock 12 years ago. He said the idea of a vineyard started as a "romantic dream" and after much experimentation his label is now sold in Tasmania and interstate, particularly Sydney and Melbourne.

Cape Bernier Vineyard overlooks Marion Bay. It's surrounded by properties involved in traditional grazing uses. Some 15,000 vines are managed on just 4ha. Pinot Noir is the predominant grape under cultivation but the vineyard also produces chardonnay and pinot gris.

"All my fruit goes into the Cape Bernier label," says Alastair, "and is distributed to high end destinations in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Tasmania. "Because we're located at the southern, cooler end of the East Coast, our growing and harvesting season is later than other parts of the State. Typically we're about two weeks later than the Coal River Valley."

Alastair says the key to good viticulture on his vineyard is understanding his land and what it can deliver within the context of location and climate. "We want to work with our 'terroir' and produce fruit and hence wine which displays these characteristics.

"Pinot gris thrives here, but each variety requires different canopy management. Some like the shade of the leaves and others prefer more direct sun and as a result we can be leaf plucking some parts of the vineyard in January, but leaving others untouched."

Alastair says canopy management and use of fertilisers are keys to his vineyard's strength. "We've done a lot of research and observation of our fertiliser techniques and now we've settled on a system of long lasting, slow release, organic materials which seem to work very well in our soil."

The Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year Award is designed to encourage excellence in grape growing and vineyard management and focuses on viticulture as the single most important element in producing great wines. Entries in the Awards are judged on a number of criteria, including soil management, weed control, disease control, pruning, forming of the vine, trellising and water management.



A 6lb gun on display at the Arms & Militaria Fair

Showground in full stride

Showground facilities were stretched in April due to a wide range of events hosted onsite, and came through with flying colours.

Over just one weekend everything from military weapons to cats were on show and large numbers of the public made their way to the Showground to take it all in.

On the weekend of April 17/18, the Arms and Militaria Fair in the Grandstand Hall shared the limelight with a Cavy Club Show, a Bantam information day, an Aviculture sale, a Short and Curly Cat Show, 2 rounds of soccer on the Saturday and Sunday and of course, on the Sunday, the popular Showground Sunday Market.

The busy month certainly demonstrated the Showground's role as a multi event hub for southern Tasmania.

Renewal of membership

Thank you to those members who so promptly renewed their annual subscription to the Society and also to those who have returned the membership survey which was included with our membership renewal letter. Many members took the time to complete the survey and it will assist us greatly in our forward planning.

We've also had a tremendous response to our offer to members to refer a friend or associate to the Society as a potential new member. Where the referral results in a new membership, both the original member and the new member receive a complimentary bottle of gold medal wine from the Royal Hobart Wine Show.

STOP PRESS

Members who renewed their Society membership before the end of April went into the draw for two packs each of six gold medal wines from the Wine Show. The draw has just been done and the two winners are:

R. Macdonald – Bonnet Hill and A. Harradine – Lindisfarne. Congratulations to both of you. Enjoy the wine.

Motor Home Park enjoys strong season

It has been an outstanding summer season for the Showground Motor Home Park, with a 41% increase in visitors using the Park compared to the previous 12 months. The news comes soon after the release of an upbeat Tasmanian Government "market snapshot" of the State's caravan and holiday parks.

The Government paper makes clear that campers, caravans and motorhomes are increasingly important to the Tasmanian tourism market, and the long term trend suggests they will continue to grow in market share.

Snapshot of the Motor home market



Tourism Tasmania recently undertook a market "snapshot", which provides a picture of a buoyant and growing market in the motor home sector. Here are some of its findings:

The caravan and holiday park sector is one of the fastest growing tourism sectors in Australia, with growth rates of more than 10% in the past 12 years.

The economic contribution of the caravan and camping sector is estimated to have risen in this state in the last four years from \$265 million to \$316 million.

Caravan visitors to Tasmania stay an average 30 days. Campervan visitors stay an average 15 days. The average stay in a single location is two nights, indicating a high level of regional dispersal and touring. (RAST's experience at the Motor Home Park is an average of over 4 nights per stay)

Mature age travellers dominate the market, mostly from Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

Trends suggest strong growth will continue in this market segment over the next 10-15 years, with retiring baby boomers showing a propensity for this type of travel.

Travel Research Australia predicts that caravans and camping will be the main growth in accommodation between now and 2020.

There has been an increase of 278% in the manufacture of caravans in Australia since 1995 and the Campervan and Motor Home Club of Australia reports a growth rate of 500 new members per month.

Recently, Bush Telegraph spoke to tourists using the Showground Motor Home Park:

"We like it here because it's so central and there's a bus stop just a short stroll from the front entrance." Roy and Debbie (pictured below) had just arrived at the Park. "We've come down on a two month campervan holiday from Tamworth. We've done the north and the west of the State and now we're in the south before we head up the East Coast on our way home."

Favourite destinations in Tasmania so far have been the fishing village of Stanley, the Mole Creek Caves and Southport, together with an annual Irish festival at Westbury which happened to be underway when Roy and Debbie visited the town.

In Hobart, a bus stop at the front entrance to the Showground gives them a convenient bus ride into the city centre, while for trips further afield, such as Richmond and Port Arthur, they plan on travelling in their compact 5.5 metre motor home.

Thousands of motor homers stay at the Showground Motor Home Park each year. Just a ten minutes' stroll away is Glenorchy, where they can stock up on all they need, visit a doctor, go to a restaurant, or take in a movie.

Roy and Debbie, like many visitors, are staying in Tasmania longer than they expected. For them, a two week visit has turned into three. "There is a lot to see and do here and after Hobart, we'll slowly start heading home via the East Coast. Other motorhomers have told us not to miss Swansea, Bicheno and Coles Bay."

The Showground Park has worked in close association with the peak Campervan and Motor Home Club of Australia in developing the facility, which includes showers, toilets and dump points. The Showground is licenced for self-contained caravans and motor homes only and motorhomers can stay on site for up to 14 days.

"We like to think it provides low cost and quality camping in a family friendly environment. Pets are most welcome and unlike some other facilities, we can easily accommodate big rigs," says the Operations Manager at the Showground, Peter Derkley



Showground venue for safe driving

The Showground has been busy over recent weeks hosting Rotary's Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) road safety education program for Year 10 Students.

The RYDA program is a community based initiative to help stop the tragic loss of young people in road crashes. Young people aged 16-25 represent less than 15% of the population yet account for over a quarter of deaths and injuries on our roads.

The RYDA program involves six sessions that are designed to be interactive and cover a broad range of topics including hazard perception, stopping distances, driver distraction and fatigue, as well as financial and safety responsibilities.

Students get to meet and speak with a person who has experienced a devastating road accident; to see the distance it takes to stop a vehicle travelling at different speeds and to realise that an extra 10 km/h can in some circumstances have tragic consequences.



News@Showground

FOR SALE . One chairlift in full working order. The Showground Chairlift was installed some 30 years ago, and the entrepreneur who installed it was given a lease to operate it. With the death of the installer, the lease has passed back to the RAST. The chairlift meets all current technical and safety standards.

MEMBERS are reminded that they are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Society, which will be held at the Showground on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 5.30pm.

EVERY Saturday the Society takes out an advertisement on page 2 of the Mercury newspaper. Originally the advertisement told readers what was happening at the Showground Sunday Market. Now it has been expanded to include all events occurring at the Showground It is still on page two and still appears every Saturday. Check it out.

THE Society also sends an advisory to media newsrooms once a month to let them know what's on at the Showground. Based on the advisory, news crews are often at the Showground, especially on a weekend, covering events taking place.



For Sale - one chairlift

Fine Food Awards not that far away

The event itself might not be until August, but planning is all but complete for this year's Wrest Point Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards, with entries due to close midway through July.

The Awards are one of Tasmania's key events in the culinary calendar. Organised by the RAST, they are an important promoter of excellence in the production of different food types.

Entries in the Awards have grown continuously since 1996. They come from all over Australia, and include well known makers and producers as well as cottage craft producers, whose recognition through the Awards helps to build business, sales and marketing opportunities.

Last year 932 entries were received from every State and the ACT. The Awards always reveal interesting new foods and last year was no exception. Melon and star anise jam, wild hibiscus premium cordial and duck and orange sausages were among the products assessed by the national judging panel.

The 2010 Wrest Point Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards will be held from 13 – 15 August 2010. The Presentation Awards Dinner with a menu of gold-medal winning product from 2009 is held on Sunday 15 August 2010 and all members are invited to attend. Tickets available from the RAST Office.



Caroline Matterson presenting the Richard Langdon Trophy to the 2009 winners, Tant Pour Tant

New RAST Constitution

A Special General Meeting of the RAST recently adopted a new Constitution to modernise the governance of the Society.

Some 40 members met at the Showground and adopted the new governance structure unanimously. The reforms are designed to support the Society's vision to build a strong and vibrant business which is more adaptable to modern day challenges.

It will also make the Society more flexible and responsive to the business environment that exists today.

Under the new Constitution an additional director may be appointed in the event that the Board believes it is facing issues which require specialist input.

The new Constitution also brings the RAST more broadly into line with the constitutions of similar mutual organisations. It also brings the RAST into line with the Corporations Act 2001, which replaced long standing state-based corporations laws.

The ongoing development of the Showground and associated businesses, as well as an increasingly sophisticated operating environment, mean the Society needs the ability to respond quickly and effectively to matters which may present threats and opportunities.

Wine scholarship to Hobart PhD student

A PhD student in Hobart has won this year's prestigious Oenology scholarship, which is awarded annually by the RAST. Oenology is the science of wine.

The scholarship, worth \$2,500, is awarded to a Tasmanian wine industry student to assist them in their studies, as a practical measure in the development of excellence in the Tasmanian wine industry.

Katie Dunn is into the third year of her PhD at the University of Tasmania, studying the dynamics of botrytis bunch rot and management in Tasmania.

She is a Bachelor of Applied Science in Viticulture from Charles Sturt University who, since moving to Tasmania, has developed "a greater appreciation for cool climate viticulture and winemaking, and the issues growers face each season".

Katie plans to work either in the Tasmanian wine industry, or in research in Tasmania, once she finishes her PhD at the end of this year.



Katie with CEO Philip Le Grove (L) and Wine Show Chairman David Johnstone

Winners of the RAST's Oenology scholarship must be able to demonstrate a good working knowledge of the Tasmanian wine industry and viticultural practices, as well as demonstrating practical experience in aspects of viticulture and wine making. They must also be able to demonstrate a capacity to contribute to the development of the wine industry, and be undertaking a course of study.

The RAST scholarship commemorates Colin Richardson who worked tirelessly to further the operations of the Royal International Hobart Wine Show. A judge for many years, Colin was widely respected throughout the Australasian wine industry

The passing of a stalwart

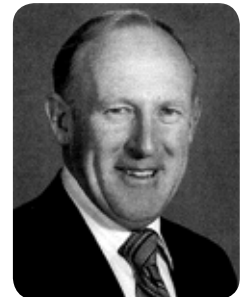
The Society lost one of its strongest supporters earlier this year with the passing of Campbell Gunn at the age of 82.

Appointed a Honorary Life Councillor in 2002, Campbell was first appointed to the Council in 1982 to fill a vacancy.

He served on six different Show committees as Councillor in Charge, including Commercial Lambs, Stud Sheep, Cavies, Rabbits, Fleece and Cats.

His tenure on the Commercial Lambs Committee lasted a remarkable 17 years, from 1981 to 1998, while he served seven years in Stud Sheep, Fleece and Cats.

Also a strong supporter of Rotary, Campbell died in March this year and is greatly missed.



Market News

The Hobart Showground Sunday Market has entered its annual winter phase with a smaller outside stall contingent but a stronger than ever undercover market in the Market Pavilion.

The indoor market comprises well over 80 diverse and entertaining stalls, all in the one big building. Everything from a sit down coffee and lunch, through to coins, collectables, clothing, home wares, gifts, crafts, tools, books, hobby supplies, food products and dry goods. You name it, you will most probably find it.

The outside market, which surrounds the Market Pavilion, is working in a somewhat more concentrated area this winter with major works being undertaken to level and beautify the area. New lawns have been established and advanced trees will be planted soon to lift the ambience and usability of the area connecting with the Main Gate on Howard Road.

The market provides an avenue for trade where a strong cohort of regular stallholders ply their goods intermingled with the many occasional stallholders who frequent the market to trade in household goods, fruit and vegetables, fundraising activities. This all contributes to the buzz and excitement of our Sunday Market.

To be involved in the Market, contact the Society's office on 6272 6812, or join in on the market experience any Sunday between 8am and 2pm.



2010 ROYAL HOBART SHOW SCHEDULE CLOSING DATES

Section	Closing Date
Alpaca	17 September
Art On Show (18yrs & over)	17 September
Cat	17 September
Cattle - Beef	17 September
Cattle - Dairy	17 September
Cavies	17 September
Commercial Cattle	24 September
Commercial Lambs	17 September
Creative Crafts	17 September
Creative Crafts - Schools	24 September
Dogs	27 August
Equestrian - ASCOT	17 September
Equestrian	17 September
Fleece	01 October
Goats – Angora	17 September
Goats – Boer	17 September
Goats – Dairy	17 September
Photography (Snr) - (4th Tas National Super Circuit)	16 July
Photography (under 19yrs as at 1 Oct 2010)	03 September
Pigs	17 September
Poultry & Caged Birds	17 September
Budgerigar	17 September
Canaries	17 September
Rabbits	24 September
Sheep	03 September
Sheep Dogs	24 September
Ute Muster	23 October
Woodchopping	17 September
Yard Dogs	24 September
Youth Art (Grades 3 -12)	01 October



*Photos from
previous shows
by Alan Jennison*



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Notice is hereby given that the 147th
Annual General Meeting of members of
The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania will be held in the
Administration Building
Royal Hobart Showground, Glenorchy on
Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 5.30pm

BUSINESS

- Confirmation of minutes of the AGM held on 17 June 2009 and the SGM held on 25 March 2010.
- To receive and consider the annual report, balance sheet and auditors report for the 12 months ended 31 March 2010.
- Election of 3 Directors for the ensuing 3 years. There are 3 retiring Directors: Mr B. Ellims, Claremont; Mr W. Hazell, Judbury; Mr C. Mathias, Orielson; who all offer themselves for re-election.
- Appointment of Auditors (retiring Auditors are Wise, Lord and Ferguson)

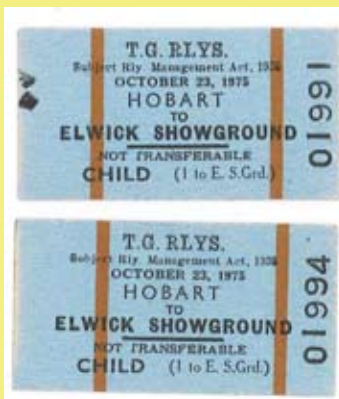
Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors must be in writing and include the full name and address of the candidate and the candidate's signed consent. Such nominations must be signed by two Members and lodged with the Company Secretary no later than Wednesday 19 May 2010.

Philip Le Grove
Chief Executive Officer

Memorabilia is just the ticket!

A member of the public recently presented the Society with an old train ticket for travel by rail to the Show. We've added it to our growing collection of Society memorabilia.

The RAST includes a very active group of curators who are cataloguing a vast array of photographs, articles, and publications that mark the progress of the Society over more than 150 years. If you come across any Society or Show-related memorabilia that you feel you would like to pass on us, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania
Hobart Showground
2 Howard Road, Glenorchy TAS 7010
Postal: PO Box 94, Glenorchy TAS 7010

Tel: (03) 6272 6812
Fax: (03) 6273 0524

Email: admin@hobartshowground.com.au
Web: www.hobartshowground.com.au

*Bush Telegraph design and photography
by Alan Jennison - 0409 935 139*