

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

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Bush Telegraph

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A Tough Year for Tasmanian Events

Your Society has been taking a leading role in advocating this year for a better deal from Tasmanian health authorities for events.

Scott Gadd, CEO of the Society, is also president of Tasmania Agricultural Shows which represents 23 different show societies in every corner of the state.



This year, only seven Tasmanian shows were able to proceed because of restrictions on events imposed by government agencies.

The Royal Hobart was only confirmed to proceed this year some 48 hours before the event was due. This was despite the Society reaching out to public health authorities in December 2020 seeking to establish a consultative working relationship so that shows could proceed, and proceed in a Covid-safe manner. What followed was months of uncertainty and frustration, and a lack of support or advice from government agencies.

In exasperation, Agricultural Shows Tasmania called a public forum for November as it stared at a 2022 calendar moving towards another year of chaos for the events sector.

All 23 show societies put up their hands to attend, as did several other events outside the agricultural sector. The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Health, and the Director of Public Health were all invited to attend for a round-table to establish a set of principles that would allow a safe go-ahead for Tasmanian events next year.

Days before the forum, a letter from the Deputy Premier said government ministers and public servants were all too busy to attend.

Story continued from previous page..

"MPs snub events summit" was how the Mercury and other media saw it.

One of the questions the summit was going to ask ministers was why their open air events were limited to 5,000 while the AFL was allowed crowds of 10,000 in a stadium. (We're still awaiting a lucid answer on this question).

The government did propose in November a meeting between Officer-Level Public Servants and the Agricultural shows. While this duly occurred, it was not a break-through occasion, and as we approach a new events year, many concerns remain.

As we approach Christmas, the events landscape in 2022 remains a big question mark. Decisions will need to be made by event organisers early in 2022 if some major events are to occur next year.

Thanks to our Retiring Directors

Paul Geard

Paul Geard recently indicated that he would be stepping down as a RAST Director. He 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.

As a couple, Paul and Elizabeth have spent countless hours at the Hobart Showground over many decades, volunteering time not just at the Show, but helping to keep the Showground in good condition year round.

Paul joined the Show Council around 30 years ago, and was elected President in 2005, holding 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 remained a director of the board to this day.

Paul and Elizabeth and their family, including Paul's father before him, regularly exhibit cattle not

only at Hobart but also Burnie, Launceston and the Huon.

The Geards have also supported the RAST in many other ways including through direct sponsorship, providing resources and machinery, supplying hay, undertaking work on the arena and donating a tractor to the woodchop section each year. They also commissioned and paid for the Life Members' Honour Board.

In 2019 the RAST honoured the couple with the title of Living Legends of the Show.



Paul & Elizabeth Geard, 2019 Living Legends of the Show

Story continued from previous page..

Paul Grubb

Paul comes from an illustrious farming family. His ancestors started farming around Launceston in the mid 1800's, and his great, great uncle was President of the Launceston Show for a number of years.

Paul's father moved to Hobart in the 1940s and developed a certified seed business, and Paul's first interest in the Hobart Show began in the mid 1960's as a member of Junior Farmers where he assisted in the cattle shed and later in junior judging.



In the early 1980's he began assisting with the Equestrian section, and after several years he became a junior steward in the Fleece Section. After qualifying as a Wool classer in the 1990's Paul became a judge of the Fleece Section.

About the year 2001, he became a Councillor and shortly after took over as Chairman of the Sheep Section. Since then, he has been Chairman of Fleece, Woodchopping, National Junior Judging and has been a member of the Equestrian, All About Animals, Animal Nursery, Executive, Audit, and Nominations committees.

He became a Director of the inaugural RAST Board and shortly after became President of the Society for a six year period. This bought with it a five year term as National President of the Australian Council of Agricultural Societies (ACAS), the non UK-based Trustee of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth for a three year term, and President of the National Council of Agricultural Societies for one year.

Did You Know?

While the Royal Hobart Show this year was restricted to 5,000 patrons at

any one time, the Royal Perth Show was underway in Western Australia. WA's health authorities capped attendance at 60,000 per day.

People attending the Royal Hobart Show were required to wear a mask. In Perth, masks were not required.

Consistency of approach to Covid-safe events is just one of the requirements if Tasmania is not to become an events wasteland.

What Lies Ahead in 2022

Will there be a Show?

The \$250 million redevelopment of the Hobart Showground is now the subject of a Development Application which is before the Glenorchy City Council. Some of the costs associated with this project require prudence of a high order.

For instance, GCC collects a fee of \$70,000 from the RAST for accepting and processing the Development Application.

It is likely the DA approval process will continue until about mid-2022. Because of this, the Showground Sunday Market will be operating as usual at least until next June. So will the Motorhome Park, and bookings for events and other activities will also be taken at least until next June.

Following DA approval, the first step will be demolition of the old structures on the Showground site. In the first half of next year, the Society will be calling for tenders from businesses and individuals who would like to salvage materials.

The next stage will see the building of a new Showground arena and ultra-modern pavilion, which will house many of the clubs and groups that currently use the Showground, as well as exhibition spaces, and flexible seating for people attending the Show and other events.

A decision on the staging of the Show won't be made until the first quarter of next year. There remains a great deal of uncertainty due to public health restrictions, many of them uniquely Tasmanian, and after running the Show at a financial loss this year the Society is keen to make sure that in future, the event returns to sustainability.

This year, on the one hand, saw the Show severely restricted by one arm of Government, public health officials, and on the other hand was given \$250,000 by the State Government which wanted the Show to proceed.

We did so, knowing the event would still take a financial hit, because we were keen to honour the generations of Tasmanians who had contributed their time and efforts to build an event that this year was able to celebrate 200 years of agricultural showing in Hobart, making us the oldest Agricultural Show in Australia.

Looking ahead, the Society must assess a number of factors leading to the 2022 Royal Hobart Show before committing to the event next year. They include the state government's restrictions on many events, including ours, although they apply a different set of health standards for other events, such as the AFL.

Options for the RAST range from no show to a show on another site, or a series of competitions without the big public event involving the public holiday and large crowd numbers.



How the Redevelopment Occurred

The redevelopment of the Showground has been a vision in the making for at least the last decade. It became a reality in March with a sudden phone call to the Society head Scott Gadd, from the Premier's office.

Only hours before, the Premier had called a snap election. At the time, the Society and State Treasury were still consulting about aspects of the proposed development.

The Premier advised Scott Gadd that the Government would provide funding for part of the redevelopment and he would like to come to the Showground to make the announcement.

The Society welcomed the decision, and at the official announcement, made the point that the project would become one of the largest redevelopment and revitalisation initiatives seen in the northern suburbs of Hobart in many decades.

It would, said Scott Gadd, reinvigorate the Showground, the Society, and the Royal Hobart Show. But more than that it would redefine the northern suburbs as a place to live and as a visitor destination.

The Showground development will capture an area equivalent to a third of the size of the Hobart CBD, and include an ultra-modern Showground, a mix of housing accommodation, an emergency centre for people and animals in times of natural disaster, and even a new visitor centre showcasing Tasmanian Agriculture, Food and Wine. 40% of the redevelopment includes green space.



Above: Images of the future Royal Hobart Showground.

Below: Day 2 of the election campaign and Premier Peter Gutwein and the Liberal team for Clark descend on the Showground to announce \$42M in funding for the new Showground development.

Current Board Members:

<u>President</u> Peter Spotswood

<u>Vice President</u> Helen Geard

Secretary Russell Cripps

<u>Directors</u> Margaret Brinckman

Paul Geard

Paul Grubb

Tim Lucas

Greg Melick AO SC

David Skinner OAM

<u>Chief Executive Officer</u> Scott Gadd

Operations Manager Mitch Spong

<u>Business</u> <u>Development &</u> <u>Strategy</u> Zak Douglas

Board Update

Two hundred years young, the RAST is planning for its next phase of growth. 2022 will be a big year, with the long-planned redevelopment of the Hobart Showground getting underway. This project provides the model to underpin a sustainable future for the Society.

The Board of the Society is bringing in relevant expertise to assist it as it deals with specialist issues surrounding the redevelopment. Tim Lucas, with a strong background in successful development projects, has been appointed to the Board as a consultant director, and will guide the Board in the redevelopment process. Also joining the Board is another well known Tasmanian, Damon Wise.

While the RAST is excited that these two business achievers are contributing their skills to the Society, it is with great sadness that we note the resignations of two long standing stalwarts, Paul Grubb and Paul Geard. Both have provided decades of selfless service to the Board and the RAST.

Tim Lucas joined the Board in recent months and brings with him an impressive resume and experience in property development. Tim worked for many years as Ali Sultan's right hand man in Sultan Holdings and was a key player managing all of their developments throughout that time.

He has recently branched out on his own and has already established an extensive portfolio of clients with tens of millions of dollars worth of developments on his desk.

Damon Wise, General Manager of The Mercury, will also soon join the RAST Board. Damon has had an impressive career in sales, marketing, and the media as well as other significant roles in the Arts sector including most recently as Chair of Festival of Voices. He is an experienced Director and Chair with an extensive network throughout Tasmania.

Damon is well regarded in Business circles and brings a wealth of varied experience to the RAST. The RAST is extremely fortunate to secure these two new skill sets and both will be invaluable in assisting us to navigate our way through the stage 3 redevelopment, the commissioning of the new facility and the future business activities that will eventuate.

Next the Board will be looking for someone with experience in developing and commissioning a major entertainment venue. Such a skill set will be critical once we start to contemplate the fit out options for the new pavilion.



A combination of RAST history photos

Events in Tasmania support of network of entertainers, production staff, hire companies, sound and lighting technicians, staging companies, musicians, caterers and food vendors, itinerant traders and so on.

Without a viable events sector the pain is felt far and wide. Many of these support people who are casual employees with very little or no income protection or insurance.

As far as shows go, we rely on the critical mass provided by the whole show circuit. As elements fall away it becomes that much harder for those that remain.

Events. What we need in 2022.

Simplified approvals for events:

At the urging of Agricultural Shows, the government is now working on a simplified approval system for events. Once they get it right – and it's not there yet – it should make covid-safe planning much simpler and straightforward.

Risk assessment frame work: Public Health has agreed to share with our societies its risk assessment frame work for deciding why some events are treated differently to others. However, this sharing has not occurred yet. The RAST will continue to press the Agency for an understanding of its apparently contradictory approach to different events.

For example, people can inter mingle in social settings such as Salamanca Place without direction or policing, but they cannot inter-mingle in an open field, such as the Hobart Showground, without masks and strict conditions. Recently Blundstone Arena were allowed to increase their capacity to 14,000 in a heightened risk environment due to borders opening and the emergence of the Omicron variant.

Underwriting: At the instigation of Tasmanian shows, the Government says it is working on an under writing mechanism for events that are planned, and for which costs are incurred, but are then cancelled or otherwise curtailed because of the late minute imposition of ruinous restrictions. Societies will continue to pursue the Government on this. We estimate that any Government exposure for such a scheme would be less than one game of AFL exposure.

Meetings with elected officials: In December 2020, the RAST sought to engage with public health officials so that the planning and execution of the 2021 Royal Hobart Show could occur in an orderly manner. This outcome was not achieved. We shall continue to work with these agencies, but we shall also demand access to elected ministers who are accountable to Tasmanian voters.

It is becoming quite clear at a national level that some elite events have special access to governments, and receive special consideration, compared to smaller, regional events.

Intermingling: In another example of contradictory restrictions, you can stroll through any entertainment district in Tasmania without a mask, with no social distancing, and without policing or any adherence to Covid-safety plans. Yet, if you attend an agricultural show in a large open area, you are subject to social distancing, crowd restrictions and masks, as well other curbs. Agricultural societies are determined to get an answer to this contradiction from the Government.









What a Show!

What began as an attempt 12 months ago to build a structured and consultative rapport with the Tasmanian Government so that the planning and execution of the Royal Hobart Show could proceed smoothly this year, turned into a last minute scramble to save the event.

In fact, the Society only finally decided it could proceed with a shortened, three day Show two days before it was due to start.

But first, the good news. Tasmanians responded magnificently to the decision to proceed with the Show. The vibe was great, and exhibitors reported a very appreciative crowd, happy to be experiencing some degree of normality during the Covid restrictions imposed by government agencies.

Now the bad news. The Show attracted, because of restrictions, about 23,000 people, when it could have easily topped 40,000 if Covid hesitancy hadn't been gripping Tasmania in the wake of a sudden three day lock down. The result? A financial loss.

For weeks before the Show, it was an on-again, off-again event, while organisers grappled with complex issues about crowd limits, mask wearing, public safety, the introduction of sessions to artificially suppress the number of attendees, and the need to write a large volume to be submitted to Government – the Covid safety plan.

It was less than two weeks before the Show that the safety plan was finally approved by government agencies, which throughout the planning process provided little advice or support to the Society.

Throughout the year, government agencies could not grasp the need for Agricultural shows to make planning and financial decisions well ahead of a Show, which necessarily involved major investment in an event which might well be called off by public health officers at the last moment.

Shows were critical that the Government adhered to a single Covid strategy, which assumed that Covid-19 was rife in the state, instead of using a scalable strategy that eased or increased restrictions as the threat environment changed.

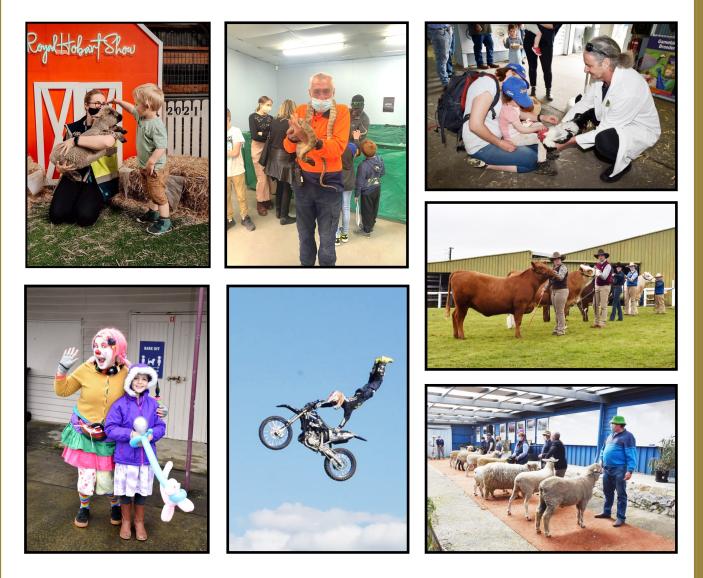


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By March this year, the Society was sending increasingly urgent letters to the Director of Public Health and receiving no reply whatsoever. The Show was organised in a complete vacuum of advice or support from government agencies, but always in the back or the Society's mind was the determination to honour the generations of Tasmanians who have delivered the Royal Hobart Show. This year, of course, celebrated 200 years of agricultural showing in Hobart, a national first for any Australian Show.

Three weeks after the Show, our Society and other Show societies sat down with government officials to attempt to build the necessary working relationship so that shows can occur in 2022. We have heard nothing of substance since.

But at least the Royal Hobart Show did proceed this year, and the Society is gratified by how well it was received by the local community.



Pictures above from left to right: The new Show Instagram photo booth; Rex the snake handler playing it safe; Dave Noonan, celebrity chook judge; Sammy Starr children's entertainment extraordinaire; WSM Freestyle Motocross; Beef Cattle Judging; Sheep Judging

Lights. Action

Agriculture Through the Ages

To celebrate 200 years of agricultural showing in Tasmania, the Society this year produced a special live event for showgoers to tell the story of agriculture in Tasmania.

Using a parade of farming memorabilia, against an audio visual program featuring interviews, the production received warm feed-back from showgoers.

The following link lets you see what our showgoers saw:

https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/basic-01



Our Agriculture Through the Ages production resident convicts: Toby Lawrence, Angus Gadd & Sam Free

Legend of the Show

Each year at the Show the Society announces its Living Legend of the Show. This award is the pre-eminent honour the Society can bestow on a living individual who has contributed to the success of the Society and the Royal Hobart Show.

The 2021 recipient, announced during the Show, was Henry Burbury, who first visited the Hobart Show in 1955 as a young school student. He was back the next year with his family as an exhibitor of cattle. In the mid 1970's Henry became involved in the peak Show Council. He became Chairman of the Beef Cattle Committee and in 1996 he was elected the Society's President.

During his tenure as President he oversaw a much-needed restructure and modernisation of the Society. He also oversaw the acquisition of a strategically important section of the Spurline Road, and was partly instrumental in attracting sponsorships for the Show from well known Tasmanian brands. Henry was also

at the helm during a period of intense debate about the establishment of a Tasmanian AFL side to be based at the Showground.

On a social level, Henry was also prominent in the Show's own cricket league. Every Friday night of the Show would find him in the cattle shed involved in a fierce annual cricket match played between beef cattle farmers and their supporters, and the dairy cattle community.



Henry Burbury receives the award from HE The Hon Barbara Baker AC and Peter Spotswood









200 Years of Agricultural Showing in Tasmania

This was a momentous year for the RAST. In April the Society took over the lawns of Parliament House in Hobart to mark 200 years of Agricultural Showing in Tasmania.

It was a national first. Not another Agricultural Show has been around for so long, and it all started in the precinct just outside Parliament House in 1822.

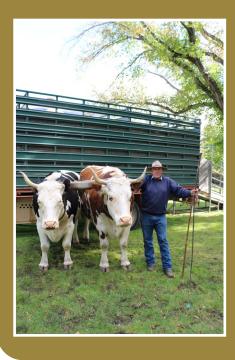
From 1822 right through to these tech-savvy days of the 21st century, one thing has not changed. Cities cannot exist without farmers.

Our return to where it all started drew large crowds to enjoy an animal petting zoo, bullocks, a mini-Carnival, vintage machinery, and a historical display.

"It was an occasion to acknowledge our debt to all those who started the Show 200 years ago, and the generations of Tasmanians who have maintained and built upon the tradition," Scott Gadd told the media.

"Most of the early organisers were volunteers, and that remains the case today, a striking example over two centuries of the people of the bush and the townies in Hobart who thought it important enough to come together and organise a showcase of the best that Tasmania has to offer the world.

"While the economic focus in modern times moves to hi-tech and service industries, the fact remains that a successful and vibrant agricultural sector, and the food it produces, are the bedrock of everything else our community achieves."







Our History in a Nut Shell

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania (RAST) is one of Australia's oldest entities. Its origins go back to 1821, the same year that the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte died.

Land and stock holders met at a Hobart hotel in 1821 to form what was originally called the Van Dieman's Land Agricultural Society, now the RAST.

At the time they described Tasmanian agriculture as the great Source of Colonial Prosperity.

Their initiative in founding an agricultural society received strong vice regal support, what we'd call "fast tracking" today.

The first Show, held on the Parliament lawns in 1822, was the first agricultural show in Australia.

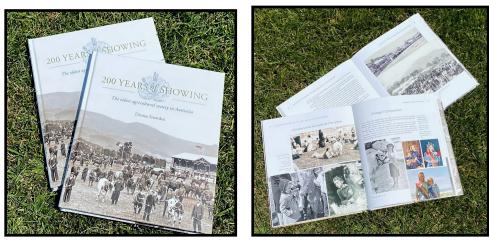
A Book to Commemorate 200 Years of the RAST

This year marks 200 Years of Showing for the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania and we are celebrating this important milestone with the publication of a book to share our history.

The book has been researched and written by Dr Diane Snowden.

It covers various versions of the society including name changes, locations, cups and trophies, Living Legends, Presidents, Life Members, Council and Board Members etc. A variety of photos are included throughout the book to illustrate the people, events and stories that make up our rich history.

The book is now available for purchase through the RAST office, please see the order form on the next page.





200 Years Book Order Form

First Name:	Last N	Name:
Postal Address:		
Postcode: State:		
Email:	_ Phone	Number:
COST: \$50 EA. (RAST Members) \$60.00 EA	A. (Non-me	embers)
Quantity:		
Please circle for your preferred option:		
To collect from RAST Office	To be	posted (postage is an extra \$10 per book)
Payment Details: please circle your preferred	d option:	Cash / Direct Deposit / Cheque / Card
Bank details: Please use your surname and b Account Name: Royal Agricultural Society of T	-	
BSB: 017-209 / Account Number: 836 724 957		
Card Number/ Expiry Date/ CVV Signature: Cardholder Name: Card Number:	:	
Expiry:/ CVV:		

Back to a Full Schedule Wine Show



While it wasn't possible to bring in International Judges, or some Interstate Judges, this year's Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show did return to a full schedule after the scaled back Show last year due to Covid-19.

In November, the Wine Show attracted a naming rights sponsor, Snap Printing, as well as three major sponsors 20 trophy donors and other sponsors. It was great to see Corporate support for an industry hard hit by Covid-19 and other factors.





The Show was judged in 44

classes of wine. For the first time, drinks in the no alcohol to low alcohol (0-4.5% alcohol content) range were included, responding to consumer trends which indicate a growing interest in low alcoholic beverages.

If you're looking for some mighty fine wines to add to your festive cellar, then check out our winners at: https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/royal-hobart-wine-show



Food Awards

A new approach to the Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards saw several firsts this year.

First of all, the name was changed from "Hobart" to "Tasmanian" to reflect the interest in the program from all over the state, as well as interstate.

For the first time this year, the Awards had an ambassador - one of Australia's best known chefs, Peter Kuruvita.

Another first: instead of one week-long event, the Awards were held this year in a series of categories over several months. This maximized a Covid-safe approach to the Awards, allowed for the seasonality of entries, and focused attention on each individual category.

And yet another first: winners in many of the categories were announced through live streaming events on the Showground's Face Book page. These events attracted substantial audiences and allowed judges and others to explain the attributes that led to the winning entries.



Story continued from previous page..

This year saw the Awards celebrate their 25th anniversary. The event has grown over the last quarter of a century to become a major date in the Australian food-making calendar.

Want something special for the Christmas hamper this year? Check out the winners in this year's awards in everything from seafood to bread:

https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/royal-tasmanian-fine-food-awards

The first category to be judged in the 2021 Awards was Bakery and Preserves, in May this year. It attracted entries such as Beetroot and Walnut Chutney from Tasmania, Native Pepperberry Harissa from NSW, and Sticky Balsamic Fig from Victoria.

The organising committee of the Awards, under the leadership of Annette Emmett, has this vision for the event: to be the pre-eminent go-to Food Awards in Australia, for Tasmanian and interstate producers and brand owners.

Carnival Time a Hit in Hobart



While this year was a fraught period for many events, some activities did manage to proceed. The Easter Carnival at the Hobart Showground was a great success, providing children with a rich choice of entertainment during the holiday period.

Covid-safe sessions at the Carnival were all but booked out and more than 4,000 people attended.

Staged by Xtreme Rides Tasmania, the Carnival was designed to be a Covid-safe event, which meant patrons had to book a session so that crowd numbers could be tightly controlled. There were two sessions per day.

As Christmas approaches the Showground has also played host to Santa's Fun Fair Christmas Carnival. This event was designed for the enjoyment of younger Tasmanians, and was booked out. The Society was happy to help stage this event as a way of supporting the Tasmanian carnival sector stay in business during very difficult times for the industry.

Cracker Night

It was great to be able to mount Cracker Night in May at the Showground after the event was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19. Attendances were good at about 3,000 people, and children enjoyed the occasion, complete with entertainment, a scarecrow, bonfire and fireworks.

The Society implemented its own Covid-safety plan for the event, as a trial run for the Royal Hobart Show later in the year. Public Health officials attended, but provided no feed-back after the event.

Glenorchy Masterplan

During the year, Glenorchy City Council was working on a masterplan for sport, recreation, and entertainment, and sought input from the RAST.

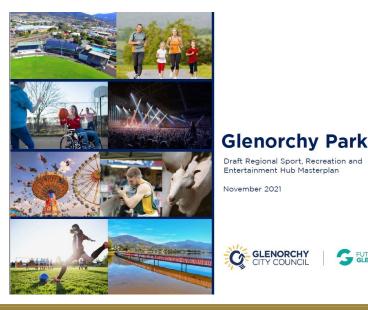
In its submission, the Society described the northern suburbs of Hobart, with proper strategic planning, as a potentially world class sporting, recreation and events precinct.

The Society's paper submitted that the region is strategically located on transport corridors, and is home to, not just the Showground, but Elwick Racecourse, GASP, DEC and Wilkinsons Point, MONA, YMCA and KGV.

The Society urged GCC to identify how connections between the Showground and other local event assets, and the Glenorchy CBD, should be established.

The Society said the plan should identify an overarching vision, suggest specific uses for undeveloped sites in the precinct, and plug remaining gaps in relation to moving people around the entire precinct.

The Showground sits strategically at the apex of all the major transit corridors servicing the Northern Suburbs including Main Road, Brooker Highway and the former rail corridor. The Showground can also provide the missing link connection between the existing infrastructure of the bike tracks and pedestrian pathway by allowing 24/7 access through our site to an overpass across the Brooker Highway.





FUTURE GLENORCHY

Showground Parking

One threat that dissipated during the year was to parking arrangements for the Royal Hobart Show and other events at the Showground.

RAST controls the Crown Land at 2 Goodwood Rd under a long-term Crown Land lease. That land is specifically restricted to parking only and is used by both the Society and the Thoroughbred Racing Club / Tasracing.

Before a state election was called in March, the state government re-activated a prior election promise to build a new ambulance depot at Glenorchy. The intention was to build it on two thirds of the Showground's leased car park.

This was potentially catastrophic for the Royal Hobart Show, representing the bulk of public parking for patrons during the Show.

Aided by extensive files on the land lease, including correspondence going back through many years, the Society suggested it was the responsibility of government to find similar parking facilities, close to the Showground, if the Goodwood Road lease was to be resumed by government.

Instead of off-road parking, the alternative would see the public forced to seek parking spots in public streets to the detriment of local neighbours and residents.

As the issue simmered, the Society was able to draw on correspondence dating as far back as the Gray Liberal Government when compensation and assistance was provided when the Government resumed a small portion of the land for a fire brigade depot.

It was clear throughout the subsequent discussions that Government officials no longer possessed the same trails of documents on the issue. The TRC also objected to the proposal.

The state election came and went, and government subsequently indicated it would look elsewhere for its new ambulance centre. The Society remains on the alert for any further government efforts in the direction of Goodwood Rd.

Have you noticed

our new logos?







ROYAL TASMANIAN FINE FOOD AWARDS



HOBART Showground Venue Hire













Spotlight on Spotlight

As we go to print, the new Spotlight retail centre, built on land leased from the RAST at the Showground, has just opened, just in time for Christmas.

The project has proceeded at a fast pace. It's a great achievement given that over the winter of 2020, the site lay idle during the darkest days of the Covid pandemic.

By March this year site clearing and construction was again well underway, and by June the concrete slab walls were going up.

The Spotlight centre was initially expected to open early next year, but the pace of construction has been such that a pre-Christmas opening became feasible.

The Spotlight centre includes an Anaconda store, Pet Stock, and Red Square Cafe.





Volunteers Appreciation

Volunteers are the life blood of the RAST.

At the end of the year we are celebrating their contribution with a BBQ at the Showground.

It has been a tough year for the Society's volunteers, and sometimes many of them wondered whether their selfless work on behalf of so many different committees was actually worth it. Would the Show and other events actually proceed? Would they be cancelled at the last minute due to government Covid restrictions?

Through these trying times they persevered and the Society can look back with pride on what they achieved for both the RAST family and the wider Tasmanian community in this most uncertain year. Indeed, the Show must go on!

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania MEETING CALENDAR 2022

Month	RAST Board	RAST Council	AGM	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards (Not finalised)	Royal Hobart Wine Show (Not finalised)	Finance & Audit Committee	Transition Committee (Not finalised)
January	Wednesday 19 th January 5.00pm Meeting	Thursday 20 th January 4:30pm					Monday 10 th January 4:00pm
February	Board Planning Meeting to be advised			FRUIT - Thursday 24 th and Friday 25 th February	Tuesday 1₅t February 4:30pm	Wednesday 16 th February 3.30 p.m.	Monday 14 th February 4:00pm
	Wednesday 16 th February 5.00p.m. Meeting						
March	Wednesday 16 th March 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 10 th March 4:30pm				Wednesday 16 th March 3.30pm Meeting	Monday 14 th March 4:00pm
April	Wednesday 20th April 5.00 p.m. Meeting			Bakery and Preserves – Thursday 21 st and Friday 22 nd April		Wednesday 20th April 3.30 p.m.	Monday 11 th April 4:00pm
May	Wednesday 18 th May 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 12 th May 4:30pm				Wednesday 18 th May 3.30 p.m.	Monday 9 th May 4:00pm
June	Wednesday 15 th June 5.00 p.m. Meeting		Wednesday 15 th June 6.30pm	Dairy and Plant Based – Thursday 2 nd and Friday 3 rd June		Wednesday 15 th June 3.30 p.m.	Monday 13 th June 4:00pm

2022 RAST Meeting Calendar

Annual General Meeting (TBC)

Month	RAST Board	RAST Council	AGM	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards	Royal Hobart Wine Show	Finance & Audit Committee	Transition Committee
July	Wednesday 20 th July 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 14 th July 4:30pm		Beverages (Inc. Tea & Coffee) – Thursday 7 th and Friday 8 th July		Wednesday 20 th July 3.30 p.m.	Monday 11 th July 4:00pm
August	Wednesday 17 th August 3.30 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 11 th August 4.30 p.m. * Risk Man Brief		Seafood & Delicatessen – Thursday 4 th and Friday 5 th August		Wednesday 17th August 3.30 p.m. Meeting	Monday 8 th August 4:00pm
September	Wednesday 21st September 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 8 th September 4.30 p.m.		Olive Oil, Other Products and Sweet/Spicey – Thursday 1 st and Friday 2 nd September		Wednesday 21 st September 3.30 p.m.	Monday 12 th September 4:00pm
October			Royal Hobart Show 19 - 22	Show 19 - 22			
November	Wednesday 16 th November 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 10 th November 4.30 p.m.				Wednesday 16 th November 3.30 p.m.	
December	Wednesday 21 st December 5.00 p.m. Meeting					Wednesday 21 st December 3.30 p.m.	
Royal I Royal I Volunti	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards Awards Dinner TBD Royal Hobart Wine Show Volunteers BBQ TBD	is Awards Dinner TBD Judging TBD	J TBD; Trade & Public	r TBD Judging TBD; Trade & Public Tasting TBD; Awards Dinner TBD TBD	Dinner TBD		

2022 RAST Meeting Calendar

<u>The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania</u> <u>MEETING CALENDAR 2022</u>

BUSH TELEGRAPH 200 YEARS OF SHOWING 2021

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On behalf of the RAST staff, we wish you all a lovely Christmas and New Year!