



### 2024 Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards

The schedule for this year's Awards is now available on the Hobart Showground website. Entries opened earlier this month for a series of streamlined sections that will be judged between April and August.

The Awards schedule can be found at

[https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/files/ugd/806250\\_9448f39de4074cc7b57423295fcf40dc.pdf](https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/files/ugd/806250_9448f39de4074cc7b57423295fcf40dc.pdf).

The schedule provides information for entrants, including opening and closing dates for entries, and covers the exhaustive range of food products and beverages which will be judged this year. 337 different classes of food and beverages will be judged over the next few months in 12 different sections.

Judging Date	Sections
April 17-19	Baked Goods Preserves Pantry Items – cereals, culinary oils, nuts, dried fruit Sweet and spicy – herbs and spices, honey, chocolate & confectionary.
May 9-10	Cider
May 28-31	Dairy and Ice Cream Plant based Products Tea and Tisanes
August 7-9	Seafood Smallgoods and Delicatessen
August 22-23	Coffee
August 29-30	Olive Products
August 30	Richard Langton trophy judging

Celebrating 29 years in 2024, these are the oldest and one of the finest food awards programs in Australia.

### Leading Stories

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#### Vale Life Member Richard Bowden

The President of RAST, Directors, Councillors and members have expressed their sincere condolences to Judith and the family of Richard Bowden who passed away recently.

Richard was a Life Member of the Society and longtime exhibitor and supporter, having won many Champion Fleece awards since first entering the Royal Hobart Show over 70 years ago.

Richard began Junior Stewarding at the Show in the 1940s. His father, Major Richard Bowden, was a strong supporter of the Show, and this interest continued into the younger Bowden generation.

The Bowden family began showing Corriedale sheep in the 1950's and have won numerous Fleece prizes over many decades. In 2014 Richard was awarded an Outstanding Achievement award, and in 2018, the Bowden family was awarded the Outstanding Family Achievement award.

When Richard first exhibited at the Show Sir Robert Menzies was Prime Minister, and you could travel around Hobart by tram or trolley bus. Over all the many intervening years, Richard and his family continued to support the Show. Thankyou Richard for your contribution. As part of our community for so many years you have greatly enriched the Society.



Bowden family receiving the Outstanding Family Achievement Award in 2018 from former Governor, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC.



## Date change for Royal Hobart Wine Show

One of Australia's most respected wine shows, the Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show, will be held from this year (2024) in November, instead of September.

More than 50 years old, the Wine Show was traditionally held in November until a recent switch on a trial basis to a September date.

After a review and extensive industry consultation, the organising committee of the Show has decided to take the event back to November.

Tasmanian wine producers told the organisers that a September date was creating challenges, given that harvesting and wine making were still often underway when entries to the wine show were due to close.

So the event will be moved back to its original date to ensure Tasmanian producers can complete their harvest and production cycle in time to assess what products they would like to enter in one of Australia's leading wine shows.

The 2024 Royal Hobart Wine Show will be held between Nov 11 and Nov 14 with a trade tasting on Nov 15.

Mark O'Callaghan, Managing Director of Wine Network Consulting, has been appointed Chair of Judges (Chief Judge) for the Wine Show this year. Mark has spent many years as a wine maker at various locations around Australia and was the recipient of the 2023 ASVO Winemaker of the Year award. He has also been involved in several different Royal Wine Shows, particularly Royal Melbourne Wine Show.

Former Chair of Judges and award winning winemaker Jeremy Dineen has been appointed Chair of the Wine Show's organising committee, following the retirement from the position of Greg Melick AO. "We want to thank Greg Melick for stepping up to the position of Chairman, given his other commitments," said Scott Gadd, CEO of the RAST.

"I'm pleased Greg will remain involved moving ahead, because his involvement in the wine show, together with his deep knowledge of the event, go back to the earliest days of the Royal Hobart Wine Show more than 50 years ago."



## Royal Hobart Show 2024

Readers may remember from last month's edition that RAST has been seeking clarity on the availability of the Regatta Grounds at Macquarie Point as the venues for the 2024 Royal Hobart Show in October this year.

Until now, neither the City of Hobart or the Macquarie Point Development Corporation were able to enlighten us as to the availability of the precinct for the Show. So, we wrote to the Minister for Stadia and Events, Nic Street, seeking his advice.

Unfortunately, the Government called an early state election the same day they received our letter, and advised they had passed the letter to the Department.

Now we have finally received news from the Macquarie Point Development Corporation that car parking for showgoers will not be available this year at one major site on their land because of construction work by TasWater to support the relocation of the wastewater treatment plant at Macquarie Point.

This site was our main car park at last year's Show. It provided ample parking and was well received by people going to the Show. The Society is now reaching some critical calendar deadlines as it undertakes planning for this year's Show, now just 7 months away, and we are assessing our options when it comes to the matter of patron's parking, and whether or not we can provide sufficient parking to support the event.

Receiving this late advice is a blow, but we are moving quickly to assess our options. We need safe and extensive parking in close proximity to the venue, and unfortunately, at this late stage, we have no viable options for alternative Show sites.

We will continue to provide our members further information on how the Show will look for 2024 as we move forward with planning for the event.





## Showground Redevelopment

Construction is expected to commence sometime in May on the new Showground Pavilion and Arena.

Which brings us to the fit-out requirements.

The Board of the RAST has made the fit-out a standing agenda item for ongoing consideration and decisions, so that it is time for committees to think seriously about what you will need for your Section. The Society will be talking to everyone about your priorities.

But we ask that committees come back with realistic key priorities for the next five years, that do not fall into the category of “ambit claims”. Our budget is limited and the fit-out will need to reflect this.

### *Preparing for construction*

Two more hoops to jump through in the next few weeks and then we are hopeful that construction will commence on the new Showground pavilion and arena.

Following a new DA approval and building approval, concreting and foundations will be laid for the new Pavilion, followed by the erection of tilt-up concrete panels to make the walls of the Pavilion.

The Pavilion includes a sheltered animal area, event and meeting spaces, commercial kitchen, a large auditorium and theatre space, an Administration wing and in the centre, a large plaza. When you see the tilt-up concrete panels being trucked in, you will know that construction is seriously underway.





## Emerging Leaders

RAST Operations Coordinator McKinley Garwood has been appointed to the Emerging Leaders Group of ASA (Agricultural Shows Australia) which represents Australian Agricultural Shows at the national level.

The ASA Emerging Leaders Group is a Committee of the ASA Board, providing co-ordination of national Next Gen programs and activities. It operates as an advisory committee to the ASA Board of Directors, providing a next generation input to the Board.

One of McKinley's first projects as part of the group is the organisation of the 2025 Agricultural Shows Australia National Conference which held on the Gold Coast from Thursday 13 February to Sunday 16 February 2025.

The conference will bring together the national agricultural shows movement to explore the theme 'Re-imagining an Icon'. There will be many guest speakers, presentations, and discussion of issues central to the sustainability of shows. Many volunteers on show committees around Australia travel hundreds of kilometres to attend the ASA conference, which last year was held in Adelaide.

More information about the conference will be released in due course. You can read more about the emerging leaders of the Show movement here:

<https://agshowsaustralia.org.au/youth-in-agriculture/emerging-leaders/>

## Tas Agricultural Shows

RAST President Peter Spotswood has been appointed President of Tasmania's state-wide Tasmanian Agricultural Shows which is the parent body for more than 20 affiliated Agricultural Shows in the state.

Peter has also been nominated as a Director of the national shows' umbrella group, Agricultural Shows Australia. ASA evolved out of a coming together of royal shows and country shows around Australia. It promotes the role and significance of Australian agricultural shows to the wider community with a vision to provide a strong and vibrant network of agricultural shows working together to engage, influence and promote the essential value of Australian agriculture.