



## Showground Update

The Showground redevelopment is now underway. A completely new, modern, and up-to-date Showground will replace our old site, Fairbrother Construction is now undertaking foundation works for the new pavilion, and associated structures. The work involves a lot of digging in this preliminary stage.

At the same time, trench digging and excavation continues in preparation for the Sustainable Tasmania (ST) energy capacitors which are to be operated at the Showground to provide a local electricity grid support service.

ST was established by the RAST to provide power grid support in Hobart's northern suburbs and at the same time generate revenue to assist the Society in its many programs and activities.

The capacitors will require extensive cabling which means the trench works are also extensive. The capacitors themselves are already in Tasmania and will be installed at the Showground once the preliminary and preparatory works are complete.

## Leading Stories

- **Pressing Matters:**  
**Vineyard of the Year Field Day**
- **Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards**
- **Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show**
- **Betta® Milk Royal Hobart Show**





## Pressing Matters: Vineyard of the Year Field Day

Cold weather in Tassie cleared for a wonderful, even sunny, field day recently at Pressing Matters Winery, winner of the 2024 Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year, a program run by the RAST in conjunction with the Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show.

Approximately 50 industry people attended the lunch and information sharing event, which included a tour of the vineyard and gave the winery the opportunity to explain the viticultural practices it employs to produce its many award winning wines.

“The secret to any vineyard is that you can’t make good wine out of bad grapes,” Pressing Matters winemaker Luke Andree told his guests.

“The terroir here is important in assisting our work. We have a rich calcareous soil which is much sought after for wine growing. It’s not a frosty area and not overly wet, while a relatively steep slope provides maximum expose to sunshine.”

Pressing Matters was established by Greg Melick and his wife Michelle in 2002 with the first vintage in 2006. In 2011, Pressing Matters purchased the neighbouring Morningside Vineyard which had been established in 1980.

The winery’s produce has gone on to perform very well at wine shows around Australia, and Luke says the Vineyard of the Year Award underpins the entire endeavour. “You can’t have a successful wine without a disciplined and careful approach to your vineyard management. We have a very good wine growing environment here, and we put a great deal of effort into ensuring we get the best, sustainable results from the site”.

Aiding the on-farm management is a philosophy Luke says is being adopted by more vineyards. “Vineyard practices are now trending towards less intervention on the ground, such as less chemical interventions, less ploughing, and a gentle approach to managing diseases and pests”.







## Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards

Busy times at the Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards. The Awards are being judged in several, distinct categories over the course of this year, right up until September.

The second round of judging occurred earlier this month when Dairy and Ice Cream, Plant Based Products, and Tea and Tisanes were all judged. Now we're gearing up for Coffee, to be judged in Hobart in early July.

Entries in the coffee section this year are the biggest since 2017. Last year there were 102 entries in Coffee, but this year they are up to 148. That's a 45% increase on last year.

There's also been a 100% increase in Filter Coffee Class entries; a 45% increase in Espresso Class entries and a 20% increase in Cappuccino Class entries with entries coming from Qld, NSW, Tas, Vic, and WA.

If you want to check out the winners in various categories at any time, go to the website at <https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/royal-tasmanian-fine-food-awards>

The Awards celebrate the pursuit of excellence in Australian food and beverages.





## Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show

Entries for the 2025 Wine Show will open on July 28. The Schedule will be available on the website in the days prior to entries opening.

Entries are due to close on September 22, with judging to take place between November 10 and 13 inclusive.

This is one of Australia's top wine shows and is constantly evolving to meet consumer and industry trends. Last year there were 1010 entries from around Australia in 48 different classes of wine and brandy, ranging from vintage dry whites and sparkling wines to fortified wines, no and low alcohol products, and brandy.

Entries last year were led by South Australia (377 entries), followed by Tasmania (224) then NSW, WA and Victoria.

## Betta® Milk Royal Hobart Show

Planning is on track for the 2025 Betta® Milk Royal Hobart Show which will take place at the Regatta Grounds in October, together with other hubs, including the Showground which will host Cats, Cattle and Alpaca judging, despite the construction work elsewhere on site.

Major entertainment is now being finalised while showgoers this year should expect a new horticultural experience as well. Details in coming editions.

Meanwhile work has commenced on the Show Mag, the yearly magazine which gives Tasmanians all the information they need for each year's Show.

The Show's Kennel section invites an overseas judge to the Show each year, and this year it has secured Torchai Chantrakum from Thailand.

Born in 1958, he has taken an interest in dogs since his childhood. Mr Chantrakum has shown and bred English Cocker Spaniels, German Shepherds, Golden Retrievers, and Doberman. But his special interest is in the Gundog breeds.

In 1999 he commenced ring stewardship activities and later undertook a judge traineeship of the Kennel Club of Thailand. Later, he became a fully licensed judge.