



New RAST President

As readers would be aware, RAST is rapidly evolving into the future, with interests ranging from power services to affordable housing, together with our traditional activities.

So, our Board is entering a new epoch which requires skills additional to our traditional expertise which has served us so well in the past.

As a result, RAST President Peter Spotswood decided at this month's Board meeting that he should ask fellow Director Greg Melick to step up to the role of President to use his national credentials as a AO SC legal, business and governance specialist, to help propel the Society's transition.

Peter will continue as Vice President, to lend Greg his support, and to represent those core and traditional activities of the Society.

Greg will bring to his new role a particular set of governance and business skills to help steer RAST into its expanded future. At this month's Board meeting, Peter noted that Greg was an asset that should be fully mobilised as the Board's responsibilities multiply.

Greg Melick is a distinguished Australian who has worked at the highest levels of business and government both nationally and in Tasmania. He has vast experience in governance and business relations.

"Our Board is facing an exciting, diverse and busy future, and my decision to ask Greg to step up underlines just how determined our Board is to exert all our professional skills to rise to the positive challenges ahead," Peter Spotswood told the Board meeting.



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RAST: the path ahead

- RAST is building a new Showground at Glenorchy on a very large site taking up the equivalent of several city blocks.
- RAST is adding a large affordable housing component to the site.
- It is running multiple business ventures from this site, including one of Tasmania's largest motorhome parks.
- It will also be providing grid stabilisation services to AEMO, which will extend the life of the current northern suburbs electricity grid.
- It has established a joint venture company, Sustainable Tasmania (ST), which will oversee its expansion in this space. ST is majority owned by the RAST.
- RAST is also providing power back up in Victoria, through a facility ST is developing on the Mornington Peninsula. ST may roll out even more in the future.
- The Society is also looking at expanding its entertainment and event activities, utilising the new, ultra-modern Hobart Showground.
- RAST's entry into the power sector is designed to future proof the organisation financially. Some of its current activities, such as the Royal Hobart Show, are staged at a financial loss to the RAST. The revenues from this new operation will secure these traditional areas of endeavour.

Betta® Milk Royal Hobart Show Update

Planning to enter one of the Royal Hobart Show competitive sections this year? Then keep an eye on the opening and closing dates for entries on our website.

For instance, the Artery Art on Show, one of Tasmania's biggest annual art exhibitions, is now open for entries. So are Alpacas, Beef Cattle, Cavies and Rabbits. The huge Creative Crafts section is also now open for entries, showcasing Tasmanians' best endeavours in everything from the culinary arts to crochet to knitting.

You can find each competition's schedule on the website:

<https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/show-sections>

Early bird tickets for this year's Show will open on September 1, and the Show itself will happen at the Hobart Regatta Grounds and associated sites on October 23 - 25.



Show Season Starts: Poultry

The first event on the 2025 Royal Hobart Show calendar, the Poultry Pigeons and Canaries section, was judged at the Brighton Showground recently. Judges came from Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.

The event, always a fascinating competition, included a North versus South challenge, and was free to the public.

Entries of 720 birds in 2024 increased to 758 this year, with particular increases in Canary and Pigeon entries. More than 12 sponsors supported the event, which included categories such as Frizzle hens and Plymouth Rock Pullets, Sussex Coronation Cockerels and Wyandotte Partridge Hens.

Waterfowl sections included Abacot Ranger Ducklings and Indian Runner Fawn Draklings, while Pigeons included over 40 different breeds, ranging from Australian Saddle Backs and Voorburg Shield Croppers, to English Trumpeters. Canaries fought it out for titles such as Champion Border and Champion Fife.

Champion Bird of Show was won by Tim Polley and Reserve Champion Bird of Show won by Luke Rosendale.

Snap Printing Wine Show Entries Open

Entries in the 2025 Royal Hobart Wine Show opened on July 28.

The wine schedule is now available on line at

<https://www.hobartshowground.com.au/royal-hobart-wine-show>

Last year, entries were up on the previous year, with 1009 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.





Food Awards latest: cider, coffee.

Coffee and cider are the latest focus of the Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards.

A Tasmanian business, Cult Logic Coffee (Jacob Booth) was named Champion after judging of the section a few weeks ago. Reserve Champion was a NSW entrant, Pine Tea & Coffee Pty Ltd. These awards were sponsored by Moccamaster.

The 7HOFM Cider Awards were judged in the last few days, and results will go up on the Showground website in the days ahead.

There were three classes to the cider awards: Apple Cider, Perry Cider and Other cider Classes.

Champion Cider was awarded to Plenty Cider for their 2022 Cornucopia and Reserve Champion Cider was awarded to Brady's Lookout Cider for their Wild Belle Cuvee 19.

Seafood and Smallgoods and Delicatessen will be judged on August 20-22, with Olive Products judged on September 4, followed by the Richard Langton trophy judging on September 5.



Showground's own Drone

Drone technology has come to the Showground with the purchase of a new drone.

RAST had wanted an archival record of the redevelopment now underway on the site, and after inquiries found it was much cheaper to buy a drone than to hire a drone and operator on a regular basis.

The new drone will take aerial photos of the Showground redevelopment on an ongoing basis, and may also be used to provide videos to Facebook and RAST website.

