



Rex Thomas

Rex Thomas, the Showground's long term and adored cleaner and groundsman, died this month after a short illness.

Rex spent nearly two decades in the role and was a much-loved member of our team. He will be remembered as the welcoming face you saw at the start of your day and always had a story to tell about his life and his time at the RAST. He loved spending time talking to Motorhome Park visitors and any of our volunteers who visited the office up until his retirement last year.

Staff turned out for Rex's wake in large numbers, and swapped yarns about one of RAST's great characters.



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You Heard Right. The Show Starts in July.

The first event in the 2024 Royal Hobart Show commences this month with judging in Poultry Pigeons and Canaries at the Bob Scott Pavilion at the Brighton Showground on July 27.

Entries have been very buoyant, so please come along and enjoy the spectacle.

This year, one of the greats in the Tasmanian pigeon world is being honoured with the pigeon section renamed the Phillip Young Testimonial Show. Phillip is a larger than life character and many pigeon fanciers have entered the Show this year as a mark of respect for him.

This year, the competition has taken precautionary measures against the threat of bird flu, which is circulating on the mainland, by banning any entries that have come into contact with interstate poultry in the three weeks before the Show, as well as some other purely precautionary measures.

Entries are up in all three areas to be judged.

	2023	2024
Poultry	430	531
Pigeons	96	142
Canaries	61	87



Pictured above: Phillip Young



BESS

BESS stands for Battery Energy Storage System, and RAST has now leased land at the Showground to Sustainable Tasmania which will install and operate an energy storage system to provide power grid support services.

The system can be used to supply power into the local energy grid at times of high electricity consumption. Energy will be bought and stored at periods when low consumption means energy prices are low, and is sold back into the system when demand and prices are higher.

It is the first of what AEMO, the Australian Energy Market Operator, believes are five such storage systems needed around Tasmania to ensure power grid integrity in what is essentially an ageing network.

RAST receives several benefits from this new arrangement, including a fee from AEMO for hosting the battery system and having it ready to inject electricity into the grid at times of need.

Sustainable Tasmania will also be able to trade electricity on the market, buying at low prices and selling at high. Prices on the market fluctuate over a wide range on any given day, depending on power demand. You may find the AEMO website an interesting insight: <https://aemo.com.au/en>

RAST Office Bearers

As mentioned last month in this publication, the RAST Annual Report is now available to read on the RAST website.

The financials show a surplus of a little over \$5 million, but this is somewhat inflated because it includes income from the redevelopment grant deed.

The Society's AGM last month saw the re-election of three directors, including President Peter Spotswood and Vice President Helen Geard. Following their re-election a Board meeting on July 17 re-elected Peter as the Society's President, Helen as Vice President, and Russell Cripps as Company Secretary.



Pictured above: RAST President Peter Spotswood



Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards

Entries are closing ahead of another big round of judging in the 2024 Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards.

Smallgoods and Delicatessen and Seafood closed on July 8 (Judging August 7-9). Entries for the coffee section close July 29, (Judging August 22-23) as do the entries for the Olive Products section (Judging August 29-30).

The month of August will see products judged in a huge range of foods eaten by Australians from five separate classes of Cappuccino to edible seaweed and ham and corned beef.

Trophy winners

RAST has been busy delivering winners' trophies around Tasmania in sections so far judged in this year's Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards. Below are photos of some of the presentations made in recent weeks.



Pictured above: Rod Wyker, Fine Food Awards Chairman, presenting to Allison and Tim Mason (left) of Rocky Gardens Fine Food and Richard Bennett (right) Managing Director - Ashgrove Cheese.



Entries Open in 2024 Royal Hobart Wine Show

Entries have opened in the 2024 Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show, one of Australia's foremost wine shows.

A 10% early bird entry discount has been introduced this year to encourage earlier entries, rather than the last minute flurry of entries experienced in previous years. The early bird entries will last until August 26.

In order to make the show more accessible to a wider range of producers, the minimum volume requirements for all entries have also been reduced this year. This will make the Show easier to enter for smaller producers.

There are 43 classes of wine to be judged this year as well as three classes of No to Low Alcohol grape products, and two classes of brandy.

Entries will close on September 23, with judging over four days (11-14 November). The event has attracted strong commercial support with more than 20 major and minor sponsors this year.

Entries Now Open for The Royal Hobart Show Rural Ambassador Award

The Rural Ambassador is open to young people aged between 20 and 30 years of age and full details are on the RAST website. The winner of the Royal Hobart Show Rural Ambassador will represent the Royal Hobart Show at the State Final at the Scottsdale Show. It is a fantastic opportunity for you to meet other like-minded young people and we strongly encourage young people to nominate for this award.

There has been a rule change this year which will see Staff and Councillors of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania and children of the staff of the RAST being eligible to enter, provided that they are not involved in any discussion regarding the result during the period of the Competition. This condition of entry is in line with the Tasmanian Agricultural Shows and Agricultural Shows Australia.

Entries close Friday 4th October 2024. For more information, please contact Mckinley Garwood via email mckinley@hobartshowground.com.au or phone 62726812.



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