



Showground Redevelopment

As you may know by now, Glenorchy City Council last month approved the Development Application for the new Hobart Showground, with 44 conditions.

RAST has accepted the conditions imposed by Council which mainly involve traffic management issues and noise control. This means we are closer to the end of a marathon planning process lasting nearly three years and clears the way for construction of the new Showground and associated pavilion and other Showground infrastructure.

Fairbrother has been appointed as the head contractor, and work is expected to commence next month, March. It is important that we quickly lock in contracts because labour costs are rising all the time. The first evidence of construction will be the laying of foundations, followed by the erection of precast concrete slab walls, and then services and fit-out.

As mentioned, labour costs have increased, not just for this project but for most development projects in Australia, and as a result, some elements of construction may have to be adjusted so that the final look of the new Showground could occur in staged phases.

RAST is certainly pleased that the project has finally emerged from the long drawn out planning phase. As someone recently pointed out, this project commenced two Premiers and three Glenorchy Mayors ago.

Housing component

Accompanying the redevelopment of the Showground is the provision of up to 450 new and affordable homes on site. This matter is still in the planning phase.

Because of delays, RAST is seeking an extension to the State Government Grant Deed which was put in place in 2021 to assist with the housing component.



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Prospects and Challenges for 2025 Show

We have now intensively exploring our options for the 2025 Royal Hobart Show in October this year.

We had hoped to be holding it at the brand new Hobart Showground, but a glacial pace of progress in the planning stages means we are looking for somewhere else this year.

The Macquarie Point Development Corporation tells us the Regatta Ground is available again, but Hobart City Hall, where we house the Art on Show and Creative Crafts during the Show, is not available.

So we are putting out feelers for locations nearby, and talking to various infrastructure managers in and around the Hobart CBD. If any readers know of an appropriate location, we would like to hear from you. We need a space about the size of City Hall, centrally located, and easily accessible to the public. If you know of suitable premises, contact General Manager Operations Mitch Spong on 6272 6812 or mitch@hobartshowground.com.au.



Vineyard of the Year Field Day

One for your diary.

Pressing Matters was named Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year in the 2024 Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show.

The Vineyard of the Year aims to recognise the viticultural excellence of high quality Tasmanian vineyards. As part of the Award, the winning vineyard hosts a field day for the wine industry and interested wine lovers.

Pressing Matters' field day will take place at Tea Tree on June 20 from 12.30pm. It will include presentations and a tour of the vineyard. More information and booking information in future editions of The RASTUS.



Motorhome Park

The Showground Motorhome Park continues to operate at peak levels.

Since before Christmas the park has been at or near capacity, and the recent Wooden Boat Festival continued the run of elevated bookings. Looking ahead, the Motorhome Park is in strong demand until after Easter.

Visitors using the Park spend an estimated combined \$20,000 a day in the local economy. For much of last year, the facility operated as a temporary location, while work continued towards establishing a permanent Park within the Showground precinct.

Towards the end of last year, the demolition of the old CWA building at the Showground allowed the new Motorhome Park location within the Showground to proceed to completion.



New Staff Member

Welcome Verity Davis to the RAST team. Verity joins us as Events and Competitions Manager after previously working at Hobart City Mission.

Verity will be working in the Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards and Royal Hobart Wine Show spaces, as well as taking on managing some of our Royal Hobart Show competitions.

Her appointment follows the resignation of McKinley Garwood to take up a position with the Derwent Valley Council.





Staff and Council Reviews into 2024 Show

Both RAST Staff and the Show Council have now conducted their reviews into the 2024 Betta® Milk Royal Hobart Show, looking at what went right and what went wrong.

The Council agreed that the overall show worked “extremely well”, with a very strong gate, especially online. The Council noted that Commercial space and Sponsorship were both strong, and the overall financial result appeared to be reasonably positive.

The staff review was also very positive, believing the entertainment, led by children’s favourite Bluey, drove the gate takings. Organisers were also happy with the official Vice Regal luncheon, and regarded the overall team work and preparation at the Show as positives for the conduct of the event.

What worked:

The Show Council has identified a series of positive outcomes as part of the 2024 Show in their debrief.

- Staff worked professionally: “all went above and beyond again.”
- An increase in art sales.
- Entries and display in Creative Crafts “the best in many years”.
- Several section entries up on 2023.
- Entries well up in the Woodchop carnival and a “fantastic” event.
- Peak performance by parking staff, volunteers, and gate staff.
- Bluey and the Dinosaur Petting Zoo noted as the best entertainment in recent memory.
- A very well run dog show.
- Visitor numbers to City Hall much improved.
- Praise for the Dairy and Beef Cattle sections, while the Tasmanian Equestrian Centre was an “ideal venue” for equestrian events.
- Strong entries in the Fleece competition, a very well attended pet parade, and a “great” Woolworths display.





Glenorchy: Electricity grid stabilisation

As mentioned last year RAST has established an energy company, Sustainable Tasmania Pty Ltd, as a for profit company to supply grid support services to the local electricity grid. It will also help underpin the operations of the RAST.

The energy infrastructure, a series of capacitors, have now arrived in Hobart and are being stored pending final approvals. They will be installed at the Showground and will initially have 12MW of capacity.

AEMO, Australia's peak organisation managing energy and electricity markets across Australia, has identified areas of the nation where the grid would benefit from a back-up service to ensure the stability and reliability of affordable power supplies. Glenorchy is one of those areas identified by AEMO.

Sustainable Tasmania is currently working with Tas Networks on connection dates to get the system up and running. A Development Application was recently approved by Glenorchy City Council. The power the Showground capacitors will store will be on tap for AEMO in the event of power disruptions in the network within the northern suburbs.

This will provide additional income for RAST which has for many years provided local recreational clubs with amenities at near cost rates. Revenue emanating from ST will be used to support the continuation of community programs into the future.

Australia Day Honours

A key staff member at the RAST for many years, Marion Woodward, was honoured with an Order of Australia in this year's Australia Day honours.

Mrs Woodward is the daughter of a Huon Valley dairy farmer. She worked as a senior staff member for our Society, and was a delegate to the Agricultural Show Council of Tasmania for more than 25 years.

She also spent 40 years as secretary of the Huon Agricultural Society. Her award honours her dedication to the agricultural sector and to her local Huon community.



Photo courtesy of the Tas Country