



OFFICIAL
PUBLICATION OF
THE ROYAL
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
TASMANIA
SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- PETSTOCK ROYAL HOBART SHOW
- LIVING LEGEND OF THE SHOW
- ADELAIDE SHOW CHIEF RETIRES
- SHOWGROUND REDEVELOPMENT
- SNAP PRINTING ROYAL HOBART WINE SHOW
- ROYAL TASMANIAN FINE FOOD AWARDS
- FINE WINE + DINE
- MOTORHOME PARK
- SUNDAY MARKET
- CRACKER NIGHT AT THE SHOWGROUND
- PASSING OF HER MAJESTY
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bush Telegraph

ISSUE 18

DECEMBER 2022

PETstock Royal Hobart Show

To readers who visited the Royal Hobart Show in October, the RAST hopes you enjoyed the experience. The public feedback has certainly been very encouraging.

The Regatta Ground proved a popular temporary venue while the redevelopment proceeds at the Showground, and the other hubs for Show activities also performed well.

This will be the model for the Show for the next two years, until the new pavilion and showground arena open in 2025.

This year's very positive result for the event came after a period of intense consideration as to whether there should be a Show at all. In February this year, the landscape was still bleak because of Covid restrictions and the Society was asking itself: Will there be a Royal Hobart Show this year?

By May restrictions were easing and the look of the Show was beginning to take shape. Finally, in July, RAST was in a position to announce the 2022 Show would proceed commencing with the first competitive stages on July 30-31. It was great to see many Society members coming along to the Showground to watch the judging of poultry, covies, pigeons and canaries.



Photos taken from the Poultry Judging in July earlier this year.

Story continued from previous page..

Later in the year, in October, it was also a pleasure and an honour to welcome the Governor General to officially open the Show at the Regatta Ground. His Excellency the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC, and his wife, Mrs Linda Hurley, flew to Hobart especially for the occasion. In fact, he was keen to attend the Show in 2021, but Covid restrictions meant he was unable to fly in.

His Excellency was met at the Regatta Ground by an Army band. There was a Welcome to Country by Rodney Dillon, a Palawa elder, and the Governor General then toured the Show on a sparkling Thursday public holiday.

While crowd numbers are estimates only, the first two days of the Show were probably the best in a decade. Perfect weather brought in crowds of about 35,000 to the Regatta Ground, and this doesn't include attendance numbers at other venues.

But the good weather, in a spring season marked by rainy days, couldn't last. Soon after the traditional Friday night fireworks display, the rain moved in. Overnight Friday into Saturday, more than 100mm of rain fell at Great Lake although in Hobart, the rain was not so heavy. Enough though, to dampen the spirits of show goers on the last day of the show.

There were, of course, the usual hiccups in preparing for the Show. A local group was to provide water skiing demonstrations on the Derwent River. But a key member of their organisation suffered an injury just prior to the Show, and they had to cancel.



Photos taken from the 2022 Royal Hobart Show

Story continued from previous page..

Then the rain that was such a part of this spring caused river levels to rise, and meant the Spirit of Tasmania couldn't operate into or out of Devonport for several days. It left one of the Show's favourite acts, Noahs Racing Pigs, stranded in Victoria. A series of urgent phone calls to a sympathetic TT-Line resulted in the Queensland-based act making the Show just in time.

The logistics involved in organising the Show were much more challenging this year because the event spanned five different locations. This was because the Regatta Ground was not suitable for all activities, especially much of the animal judging and the equestrian program.

While the three day Show centred on the Hobart Regatta Ground, there were also events at Hobart City Hall, the Showground, the Coal Valley Equestrian Centre, and the Campbell Town Showground where sheep and goats were judged.

Photos below taken from the 2022 Royal Hobart Show.



Show Naming Rights Sponsor

The Show attracted a new naming rights sponsor this year. Leading pet retailer PETstock is a 100 per cent Australian, family owned and operated business built on family values and a passion for pets.

PETstock's Regional Manager for Tasmania, Travis Britton, said at the well-attended media launch of the partnership with the Show that he was thrilled to be a part of the 2022 event.

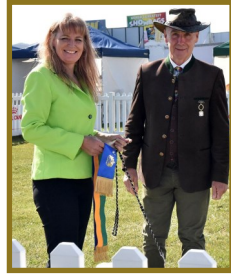
"Supporting an event that celebrates all things Australian and the local community is incredibly important to us, which is why we're excited to partner with The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania for the 2022 Royal Hobart Show," said Travis.

As part of the sponsorship, PETstock provided prizes for a family pet parade organised by RAST during the Show, attracting some interesting entries, including pet owners who dressed like their pets. Very entertaining!



Show Highlights

This year the Kennel section attracted as Chief Judge, an Italian expert, Claudio de Giuliani. Claudio has judged at many prestigious dog shows, including Crufts.



Competitive entries in the Show were generally good. For instance, there were nearly 400 entries in the Show's wood chopping carnival, compared to 355 last year.



Youth Art & Student Photography and Artery Art on Show (entries up 10% on last year) saw Hobart City Hall hosting one of Tasmania's biggest annual art exhibitions. Hobart Lord Mayor, Councillor Anna Reynolds, officially opened the Show.



At Campbell Town a busy schedule of judging attracted a strong number of northern exhibitors. There were 222 stud sheep entries at Campbell Town this year, compared to 139 entries last year, and 165 dairy goat entries, up from 77 last year



Living Legend of the Show

Each year at the Show the Living Legend of the Show is announced for someone who has contributed to the success of the Society and the Royal Hobart Show.

The 2022 recipient is Ken Gatehouse who this year celebrated 60 years of Show involvement. Ken has been involved in stewarding, organising, running and representing the sheep section, one of the oldest sections of the Show.

He started in 1962 as a steward with commercial lambs, and went on to become the head steward of the section, then Chair.

In 2004 Ken was appointed an Honorary Life Member, and in 2005 he joined the RAST Council as the Stud Sheep Chair. In his 59th year, 2021, he was presented with an Outstanding Achievement award.



Pictured left is RAST President Peter Spotswood with Living Legend Ken Gatehouse and the Honourable Barbara Baker AC. Pictured right is Ken and Dawn Gatehouse.

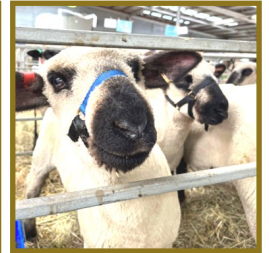
Adelaide Show Chief Retires

Australia's capital city agricultural show CEOs (apart from Darwin) and some Presidents descended on Hobart for the Show this year. One of them was the retiring head of the Adelaide Show, John Rothwell. John is a former northern Tasmanian (Tamar Valley), and has been a great mentor and supporter of the Royal Hobart Show.

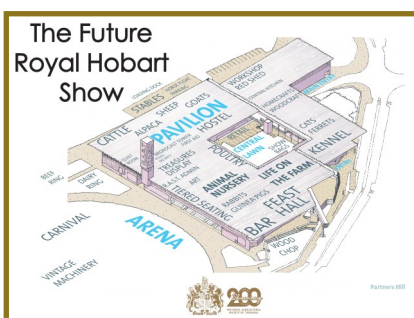
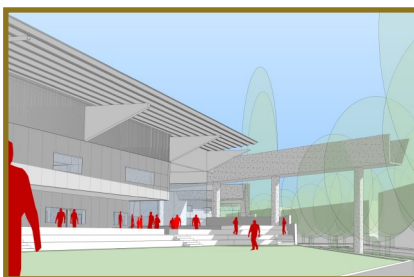
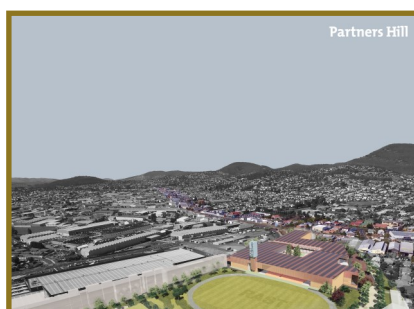
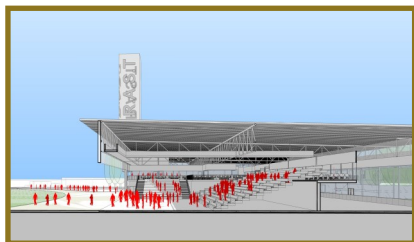
RAST made a small presentation to John to mark his achievements on behalf of the agricultural show movement.



L-R; Brad Jenkins (Melbourne); Brandan Christou (Ekka); Robyn Sermon (Perth); John Rothwell (Adelaide); Scott Gadd (Hobart); Brian Bennett (Launceston); Brock Gilmour (Sydney).



A combination of photos from the 2022 Royal Hobart Show



Showground Redevelopment

The RAST signed a Deed of Grant earlier this year to proceed in partnership with the state government on the redevelopment of the Showground. Work is now scheduled to commence at the end of February 2023, with RAST re-occupying the site in December 2024.

This is a complex project. So a Project Management Team was appointed during the year, and our DA was approved by Glenorchy City Council after no public objections were received. This reflects highly on our team and the plans they have put together for the redevelopment.

As the year progressed, challenges constantly arose, but nothing of a magnitude that could jeopardise the project. It was just a matter of detailed, hard work.

One of the areas working on the Society's mind was how to power the redeveloped site. Last month, after much consideration, the Board of the Society provided seed funding for a detailed investigation and recommendations to go back to the Board.

Earlier this year a Board sub-committee was appointed to look at current and future energy options with the aim of making the site self-sufficient in renewable power.

The sub-committee is investigating clean solutions to the Showground's power needs that will allow us to collect our own electricity, store it, use it, and sell surplus supplies into the Tasmanian grid.

The impetus to achieve self-sufficiency in power was highlighted a few weeks ago when the extent of power price inflation in Tasmania was made evident.

The Showground's power contract ends soon and the Society is being asked to pay 105% more for a new, one year contract, or 91% more for a two year contract.



Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show

After the Covid pandemic of the last two years, wine entries recovered this year in one of Australia's top wine shows – the Snap Printing Royal Hobart Wine Show.

Some 1,165 entries this year came from all over Australia, compared to 1,057 last year, and about 500 in the first year of the pandemic, in 2020.

This year, due to the approaching redevelopment of the Hobart Showground, the Wine Show was moved to Iron Creek Farm Stay at Sorell – a newly constructed tourism accommodation centre with sweeping views back towards Hobart - where a national judging panel spent four days deciding the winners.

The Wine Show Schedule became available in May, and entries rolled in steadily after that. Judging occurred in September with some winners being announced at the time, although major winners were held over until last month when the Fine Wine + Dine dinner was held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

The Chair of the organising committee this year was Tasmanian wine producer, Greg Melick, and the Chair of the Judging panels was Jeremy Dineen. A total of 46 classes of wine were judged over three days, ranging from vintage dry whites and vintage dry reds, to fortified wines, sparkling wines, no-to-low alcohol grape beverages, and brandy.



Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards

Instead of several hectic days of judging, the Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards are now judged in different, specific categories over several months. Entries in all five sections opened in March this year and the program concluded last month with the announcement of major winners at the combined Fine Wine + Dine dinner at the Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Here's how the judging occurred:

- Tasmanian Flour Mills Bakery & Preserves April 21/22
- Dairy and Plant based June 2/3
- Beverages: July 7/8
- Seafood, Small Goods and Delicatessen: 4/5 August
- Olive oil, Pantry items, Other Products, and Sweet and Spicy: September 1/2

Tasmanian entries performed well against interstate food and beverage makers. For instance, the Tasmanian Baking Studio at Westbury took out two awards in the Bakery and Preserves section. Businesses at Launceston, Hobart and Bruny Island were also winners in this section. All the winners are available on the Showground website: www.hobartshowground.com.au

For the second year, renowned chef, restaurateur, and television celebrity Peter Kuruvita was the Awards' Brand Ambassador.



Group photo taken from the Seafood, Small Goods and Delicatessen section.



Pictured above is Peter Kuruvita



A combination of photos from the 2022 Royal Tasmanian Fine Food Awards

Fine Wine and Dine

The dance floor was heaving at the Fine Wine+Dine awards dinner last month at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. It was one of the biggest turn-outs in recent years for the annual awards dinner, which announces and celebrates the major winners in the Society's wine and food shows.

The Awards dinner also included the announcement of the Society's Tasmania Award which goes to an individual for outstanding service to the Tasmanian wine industry.

This year's recipient was wine industry figure Mark Brewer. Mark is originally from a rural background in Victoria and NSW. He worked extensively in agriculture in locations as diverse as Saudi Arabia and Montana.

In the mid 1980's he developed an interest in Tasmania's new cool climate wine industry and in 1986 he was appointed vineyard manager of Pipers Brook Vineyard, under Andrew Pirie.

Andrew says Mark has had "a deep and pervasive influence on the Tasmanian wine industry." As an industry consultant he helped lay the foundations for some significant players in the industry. Josef Chromy is high on that list which Mark helped design when the forerunner Glenwood Vineyard was being developed.

Through Mark's role at TasTAFE he inducted many new players into the industry with an emphasis on practical training over theoretical book learning. Mark also played a central role in developing a new vineyard at Lilydale to train students.

"He has helped the Tasmanian industry to grow and his professional manner has set a high standard in both teaching and viticultural practice," says Andrew.

Mark's accomplishments on behalf of the Tasmanian wine industry come despite the diagnosis of a significant heart condition at the early age of 32. After several challenging years on the medical front, Mark underwent a successful heart transplant



Motorhome and Caravan Park

Despite Covid-19 and Omicron, Australians have still been on the move this year.

The Showground Motorhome Park enjoyed a buoyant period over last Christmas and well into this year.

The pace began to pick up again after winter with October being a record month for visitors, and forward bookings show the park at almost capacity during the Wooden Boat Festival in February next year.

Over 50% of all visitors come from Queensland and NSW/ACT, but all other states and territories are also well represented, while this year, our figures showed that 0.4 of visitors came from overseas.

With Redevelopment Day approaching, the decision has been taken to limit stays to 10 days from February 2023. This is unlikely to affect visitors because 7-10 days is their average stay.

But it may affect some locals who are turning our tourist facility into a convenient semi-permanent home base. With construction commencing next year, the park will be relocated within the Showground on a smaller scale, and will not be suitable for long term stays, with heavy construction vehicles constantly on site, together with dust and noise.

For years some local people have been camping at the Showground on a semi to permanent basis Where this is a result of genuine housing stress, RAST has worked with various agencies to find proper accommodation for people.

But some people not in housing stress have used the Showground Motorhome Park as a cheap alternative to other forms of permanent housing. They've now been notified of the 10-day cap and advised of other facilities that may be able to accommodate them. Subsidisation of such visitors has been a drain on staffing resources and the financial operation of the Motorhome Park, with longer term users taking spaces around their allocated parking spots to store household goods, recreational boats, and to even run their own businesses out of the Park.

The new Showground will ultimately include a state of the art, modern motorhome park exclusively for the use of intra and interstate tourists.





200 Years Book Order Form

First Name: _____ **Last Name:** _____

Postal Address:

Postcode: _____ **State:** _____

Email: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

COST: \$50 EA. (RAST Members) \$60.00 EA. (Non-members)

Quantity: _____

Please circle for your preferred option:

To collect from RAST Office

To be posted (postage is an extra \$10 per book)

Payment Details: please circle your preferred option: Cash / Direct Deposit / Cheque / Card

Bank details: Please use your surname and book as your reference

Account Name: Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania

BSB: 017-209 / Account Number: 836 724 957

Card Number/ Expiry Date/ CVV Signature:

Cardholder Name: _____

Card Number:

Expiry: ____ / ____ CVV: ____

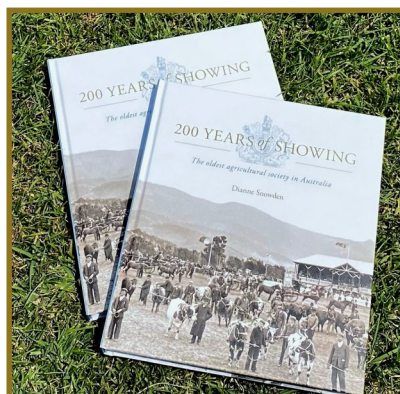
Good Christmas reading

Looking for a Christmas gift? A reminder that members of the RAST can access a special members' discount for purchase of our history, 200 years of Showing.

The book has been selling well in Tasmanian book stores this year. At 222 pages, and complete with many illustrations, it's the definitive history of Australia's oldest agricultural society.

Its story starts in the convict era in 1822 when the first Hobart Show included 7 classes, including (Class 6) a prize of a suit of clothing awarded to well behaved convicts.

Class 7 included a suit of clothes and one guinea for the best sheep shearer at the Show, and: "that two guineas be given to the ploughman who shall, in the shortest space of time, plough a certain quantity of land, with a plough and a pair of bullocks, without a driver, in the most workman-like manner."

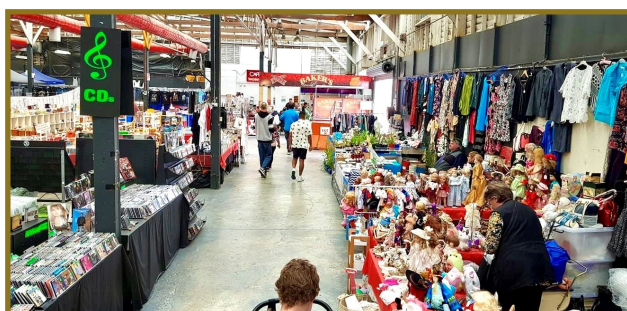


Sunday Market

The Showground Sunday Market operated satisfactorily during this year after the Covid-19 restrictions of the last two years, which saw it - at one stage - stopped entirely.

With the redevelopment of the Showground due to occur next year, the Market is not able to be relocated on site. So the decision has been made to run it over the summer season and close it at Easter next year.

Plans for a modern new market are included in the redevelopment and it is expected the weekly event will recommence in 2025.



Cracker Night at the Showground

Cracker night at the Showground in May was another great community occasion.

What began in Australia as a family bonfire and fireworks display to commemorate the old Empire Day tradition has now grown at the Showground to include more entertainment and other attractions.

This year, WSM Freestyle Motocross were at the fireworks together with a clown and amusement acts, indoor jumping castles, carnival rides and food vans.



Photos taken from Cracker Night 2022

Judging for the Future

Agricultural Shows Australia this year developed an important educational initiative called Judging for the Future which comprises three short, free video-based courses providing education in the proper handling of cattle, sheep, poultry and alpacas by students and young competitors at our shows.

RAST is a member of ASA which acts as our umbrella organisation at the federal level, and it hopes these training videos will be used by Tasmanian primary and secondary schools, and agricultural colleges. They are particularly relevant for entrants in Young Judges and Paraders competitions.

Agricultural shows, Show competitors and exhibitors all have a responsibility to provide proper and humane care and treatment for animals. Animal welfare is at the heart of what we do. You can find these free resources at <https://agshowsaustralia.thinkific.com/>

Passing of Her Majesty

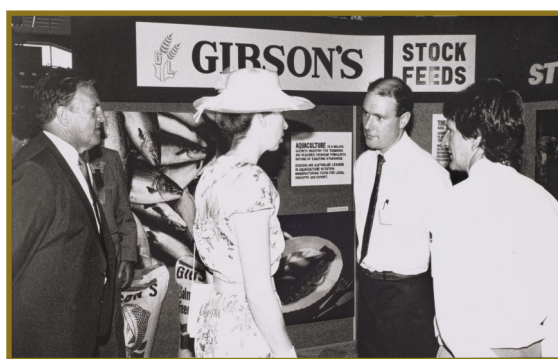
One of the biggest and saddest moments this year was the sudden death of Her Majesty, the Queen. One day she was receiving the new British Prime Minister, Liz Truss, at Balmoral in Scotland, and two days later the world was shocked to hear she had died.

Following her death RAST posted a message on social media to express its sadness. "The Society conveys its most heartfelt sympathies to the Royal family and the British people. Her Majesty's life was one of extraordinary dedication and service, which earned her respect and admiration all across the world, including here in Tasmania".

A portrait of the young Queen was displayed in the foyer of the main administration building at the Showground and flags were flown at half mast.

Royal Visits

In 1887, the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon visited the Southern Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society Show, taking a particular interest in the jumping events. Nearly 90 years later, the 1974 Royal Hobart Show had a fleeting four-hour visit from Prince Charles (now King Charles), and in 1989, Princess Anne visited the Show during her visit to Tasmania.



Top Left: Princess Anne with RAST CEO Jack Rheinberger. Top Right: Prince Charles (now King) with RAST President Archie Page.
Bottom Left: Princess Anne with RAST President Henry Burbury. Bottom Right: Princess Anne and RAST CEO Jack Rheinberger.

2023 RAST Meeting Calendar

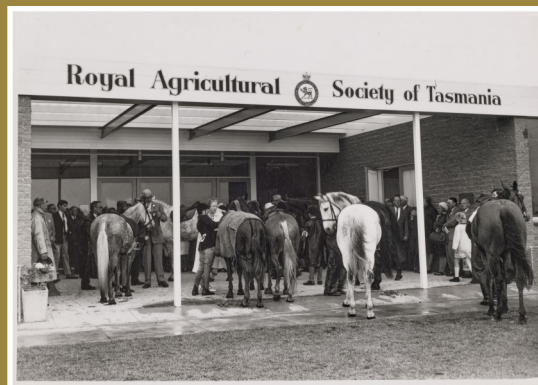
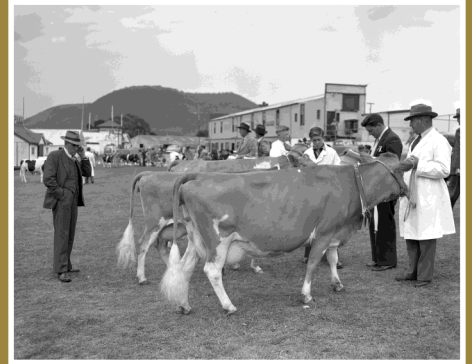
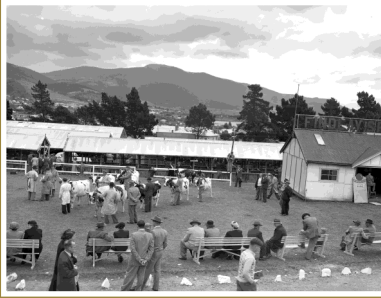
The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania MEETING CALENDAR 2023

Month	RAST Board	RAST Council	AGM	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards (Not Finalised)	Royal Hobart Wine Show (Not finalised)	Finance & Audit Committee
January	Wednesday 19 th January 5.00pm Meeting	Thursday 20 th January 4:30pm				
February	Board Planning Meeting to be advised Wednesday 16 th February 5.00p.m. Meeting				Tuesday 1 st February 4:30pm	Wednesday 16 th February 3.30 p.m.
March	Wednesday 16 th March 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 10 th March 4:30pm				Wednesday 16 th March 3.30pm Meeting
April	Wednesday 27 th April 5.00 p.m. Meeting			Bakery and Preserves		Wednesday 27 th April 3.30 p.m.
May	Wednesday 18 th May 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 12 th May 4:30pm			Entries open - 30 th May	Wednesday 18 th May 3.30 p.m.
June	Wednesday 15 th June 5.00 p.m. Meeting		Wednesday 15 th June 6.30pm	Dairy and Plant Based		Wednesday 15 th June 3.30 p.m.

Annual General Meeting Wednesday 21st June from 6.30pm
Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards Dinner TBD

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania MEETING CALENDAR 2023

Month	RAST Board	RAST Council	AGM	Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards	Royal Hobart Wine Show	Finance & Audit Committee
July	Wednesday 19 th July 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 12 th July 4.30pm		Beverages (Inc. Tea & Coffee)		Wednesday 19 th July 3.30 p.m.
August	Wednesday 16 th August 3.30 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 9 th August 4.30 p.m. * Risk Man Brief		Seafood & Delicatessen		Wednesday 16 th August 3.30 p.m. Meeting
September	Wednesday 20 th September 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 14 th September 4.30 p.m.		Olive Oil, Other Products and Sweet/Spicy Major Awards Judging		Wednesday 20 th September 3.30 p.m.
October	Royal Hobart Show 26 – 28 and (Dates and Venues TBD)					
November	Wednesday 15 th November 5.00 p.m. Meeting	Thursday 8 th November 4.30 p.m.				Wednesday 15 th November 3.30 p.m.
December	Wednesday 20 th December 5.00 p.m. Meeting					Wednesday 20 th December 3.30 p.m.
Royal Hobart Wine Show Volunteers BBQ		Judging TBD; Trade & Public Tasting TBD; Awards Dinner TBD				



On behalf of the RAST staff, we wish you all a lovely
Christmas and New Year!