

RASTUS

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA UPDATE SERVICE



The Hobart Showground is a busy, multi-functional, versatile and affordable site covering 17ha at the northern approaches to Hobart city centre. It is owned by the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, one of Australia's oldest institutions. This regular newsletter is designed to keep our many friends and associates up to date with activities at the Showground.

Easter Pageant at the Showground Sunday Market

The Showground Sunday Market will be doing something special for Easter Sunday, April 16. A market festival will include an Easter pageant for boys and girls, Easter hamper raffles, a vintage machinery and sausage sizzle, a petting zoo, \$2 rides, face painting, free music, entertainment, and a jumping castle among other activities.

If your children would like to enter the pageant, you can get a registration form during the Sunday market or from our Showground administration office.



Membership

Members of the RAST should have received their membership renewal notice by now. Remember that three year options are now available which cap your subscription. If you have any queries please contact Debbie in the RAST administration office on 62 726812 or debbie@hobartshowground.com.au

New Strategy Group

A proud claim of the Society is that every year we mount a Royal Hobart Show which is always different to previous years. Of course, some popular activities, such as show bags, don't change. But we move with the times in lot of different areas.

To assist us, we're forming a strategy committee which will report directly to the CEO. It will be a wide ranging group - not just including representatives of the immediate RAST family - but also the wider community and especially younger people. The group will particularly look at the big picture for the Show in five, 10 and 15 years' time.

Showground Venue Hire

The Showground is the most versatile venue in Hobart, whether it's a book sale, an exhibition, a conference or a concert. We've been reviewing our venue hire business and we've now introduced a completely new pricing structure designed to make the Showground even more competitive as a venue to hold your next private or public activity.

Contact Nicci on 62 726812 or nicci@hobartshowground.com.au to learn more. The last few weeks have seen the Showground hosting a series of birthday parties, weddings, a movie production office, a large cat show, a big annual gems show and just a couple of weekends ago, two big concerts - an INXS and Cold Chisel show, followed the day after by an Indoor Country Music Jamboree. A very versatile venue indeed.



Vineyard of the Year Winner Announced

The 13ha Milton Vineyard on the Tasman Highway north of Swansea has been named Roberts Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year. An initiative of the RAST, this Award aims at promoting a high level of viticultural management which is the foundation block for the production of great wines.

Entries are judged over two rounds by wine industry experts to decide the best managed vineyard of the year.

Milton Vineyard was first farmed in 1826 initially for fine Tasmanian wool but is now producing fine cool climate wines. It will hold a field day for the industry in 18 May 2017 and invites to the event will be sent to members of the industry in the coming weeks. To read more about it or book your tickets head to our website: www.hobartshowground.com.au or email assistant@hobartshowground.com.au.



Campervans at bumper levels

It has been another strong season for the Showground Motorhome Park. Together with last year, the Showground has had its two best seasons on record.

This year, use of the Motorhome Park surged in February, spurred by the Wooden Boats Festival in Hobart. March was another very busy month and bookings remain strong in April. We anticipate that our nomad visitors won't depart our shores until the chill of May sets in.

We've certainly learnt a lot during this busy period and continue to fine tune the business to better cater for customer needs, such as better signage and provision for out of hours arrivals.



Solar to offset energy bills

On a big site such as the Showground, energy bills are a major cost component. We're now exploring options to offset our energy bills, and we've had some interesting discussions with solar experts. One suggestion is that we build structures a bit like car ports on parts of the Showground, which would have solar panels on their roofs. At the same time they would provide shelter from the sun and rain while generating solar energy into the Showground's grid.