

# *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.

## All set for Food Show judging

The Royal Hobart Fine Food awards will be judged at the end of this month. Tickets are now on sale for the Awards dinner on August 4. [CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS.](#)

You can get a "flavour" for entries this year on our Face Book site Fantasy Menu which Society staff have put together based on entries received from all over Australia. This year, entered foods have come as far afield as Narromine in NSW and even Germany.

As Australian food trends continue to evolve so do the Awards. Recently we introduced a new class for "Heat and Eat" foods, and this year, reflecting the growing Asian influence on our cuisine, we've added fresh and edible seaweed to the judging list.

Recently at the Showground our Homecrafts committee held a most successful "What the Judges are Looking For" session for food producers.

**ROYAL**  
**HOBART**  
**FINE FOOD**  
**AWARDS**



## Judges to Descend on Hobart

Did you know that judging the Fine Food awards is a major logistical undertaking? Some 46 judges will be in Hobart at the end of the month. They include 34 Tasmanian food specialists, with the rest coming from NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT.

A very busy Chair of the organising committee is Annette Emmett who this year replaces Robert Tanner who retired after long and sterling service to both the Food Awards and the Royal Hobart International Wine Show. Judging starts on July 27.

## Annual General Meeting

More than 60 people last month attended the Annual General Meeting of the RAST. They included members, associate members, directors and visitors. It was a great turn-out on a cold night.

Paul Grubb, the Society's President, announced at the AGM that he would stand down at the next Board meeting after six years as President. It's been a busy tenure for Paul, especially with the leasing of some Showground land to build the big Bunnings hardware store adjacent to the Main Arena.

New office bearers will be elected at the next Board meeting.

## Want to Know More About the Society's Performance Last Financial Year?

Our annual report is now up on our website at <http://hobartshowground.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/2016-17-FINAL-Annual-Report.pdf>.

We also have printed copies available from our main administration office at the Showground.



## Looking Back as We Look Forward

Here are some of the statistics reported at our AGM on the Royal Hobart Show last year:

- Nearly 48,000 attendees
- 10% increase in commercial space compared to 2015
- 16.8% increase in competitive entries
- More than 2.3m Showground website hits in Show month, October. Over 140,000 page views
- More than 350,000 people reached through Face Book in October 2016
- 2129 Face Book likes in October 2016, mostly from women.



## The Show to go on Show

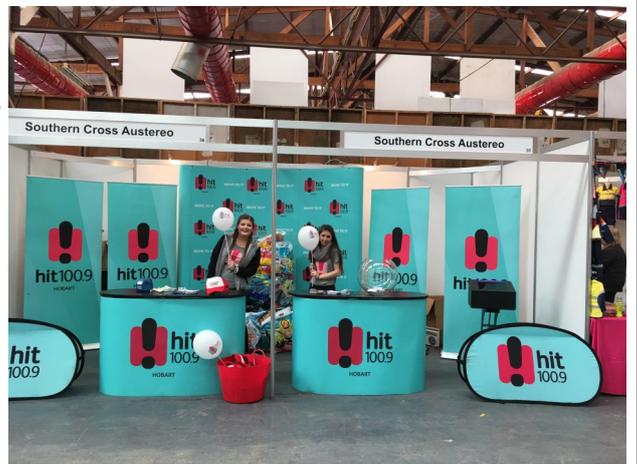
The Show will be on Show come this October! We'll be just five years short of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary Show when show time 2017 comes around in October, and our archives section is busily putting together an exhibition of Show memorabilia.

We're being assisted by the Mercury newspaper in building this exhibition of historic material that will include old photographs, catalogues, sound archives and oral histories...

When first established the Society was called the Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society. The first Show was held in 1822. Homes for the Show have been many and varied over the years, including Salamanca Place, the Hobart Town Hall, Elwick Racecourse, Brighton and New Town. Of course, that was before the current Showground was purchased by the Society in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## Join the Tassie Showcase

The Tassie Showcase is a new initiative for this year's Show which provides a discount on a Showcase Pavilion site for any business or organisation which manufactures, produces or sells Tasmanian product. This new area will have a designated section of the pavilion and will be heavily promoted as a new attraction at the Show in 2017. We believe this concept provides a significant and unique opportunity for Tasmanian businesses to reach potential customers and engage potential clients. If you would like more information around this section please email [nicci@hobartshowground.com.au](mailto:nicci@hobartshowground.com.au).



## Animal Nursery

The Society would like to welcome back the Mercury newspaper as a sponsor for the Animal Nursery, which is one of the most popular exhibits at the Show each year, especially with youngsters.

RAST Life Member Keven Davies, who passed away earlier this year, was very much the father of the Animal Nursery. It was Keven back in the 1970's who got the Savings Bank of Tasmania to invest the significant amount of \$53,000 in the construction of the Animal nursery Pavilion, and the SBT even gave children visiting the pavilion \$5 savings accounts.

Wouldn't it be great to see a modern day bank doing something like that?