

# *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.

### **Cracker Night a Success**

Our second cracker night at the Showground was an enormous success. Nearly 4,500 people attended which is 1,000 more than for cracker night last year, the first time we staged it.

Good weather helped the attendance figures, and the carnival rides and food outlets were well supported. All in all, it was a great family night.



### **Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards**

Entries are now rolling in for the 2017 Royal Hobart Fine Food Awards, one of the largest annual food award programs in Australia.

Last year, nearly 1,600 entries came from every state and the ACT. More than 500 of these entries came from cities and towns around Tasmania.



Entries close on June 24. Nearly 500 classes will be judged in sections that range from sausage rolls and cordials, to coffee, seafood and herbs and spices. Judging occurs at the Hobart Showground between July 27 and July 30.

To enter or for further information go to the Hobart Showground website by clicking [here](#).

## Vineyard of the Year Field Day Attracts Big Crowd

About 100 people enjoyed the 2017 Roberts Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year field day which was held recently at Milton Vineyard outside Swansea on the East Coast.

It was the biggest turn out for a field day in the history of the Vineyard of the Year program, which is an initiative of the Society to encourage excellence in viticulture management - a basic requirement for producing premium quality wine grapes.

Greg Bennett from Dupont, representing Roberts, called on all Tasmanian vineyards to enter the program: "The industry will be better for it," he told the field day.

"It increases your profile; you get greater brand awareness and it increases your sales," Alex Van Driel, last year's winner from Tea Tree Clover Hill Vineyard, told the audience.

The two hectare Bridestowe Ridge Vineyard, at Lilydale in North Eastern Tasmania, also accepted its prize at the field day after being named 2017 Best Small Vineyard of the Year. The day included briefings, a networking lunch featuring Milton wines and medal winning wines from the Royal Hobart International Wine Show, together with a vineyard tour.



## RAST AGM

The RAST AGM is being held on Wednesday 21 June from 5.30pm.

All members are more than welcome and a dinner will be provided by RAST following the meeting.

To RSVP please contact RAST Admin as soon as possible and for further details please see the advertisement placed in The Mercury last month (right).



## THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

Notice is hereby given that the 154th Annual General Meeting of members of The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania will be held in the Administration Building Royal Hobart Showground, Glenorchy on Wednesday 21 June, 2017 at 5:30pm

### BUSINESS

- Confirmation of minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 22 June, 2016.
- To receive and consider the annual report, balance sheet and auditors report for the 12 months ended 31 March, 2017.
- Election of 3 Directors for the ensuing 3 years.  
There are 3 retiring Directors: Mr P Grubb, Sorell Creek, Mr P Geard, Broadmarsh & Miss H Geard, Brighton who offer themselves for re-election.
- Appointment of Auditors (retiring Auditors are Wise, Lord and Ferguson).

Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors must be in writing and include the full name and address of the candidate and the candidate's signed consent. Such nominations must be signed by two Members and lodged with the President no later than Monday 12 June, 2017.

Scott Gadd  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## **First 2017 Show Entertainment Act Booked**

The Society has booked its first major act for the 2017 Royal Hobart Show. Animal Wranglers last appeared at the Show in 2012 and were a big hit with families.

Lachie Cosser will be bringing his collection of trained farm animals to the Show from Victoria. Families are guaranteed to see something they've never seen before. Animal Wranglers, by the way, featured in the 2004 Paul Hogan movie, *Strange Bedfellows*.

You can get a feel for the act here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UeE45cR5oFw>

## **Grant for Arena Upgrading**

The Society has received a \$50,000 grant from the Department of State Growth to upgrade the surface of the Showground arena.

The money comes from the Community Infrastructure Fund and will allow the Society to level and improve a section of the arena for equestrian events during the Show and children's soccer games during winter.

## **FUNDING GRANTS FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across Australia's agriculture sector.

The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to enable participation in a range of leadership development programs.

The leadership development programs are part-time and delivered nationally via WLA's blended learning model. Scholarship funding is strictly limited and has to be allocated prior to the end of this financial year (June 30).

### **Expressions of Interest**

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to June 16, 2017: <http://www.wla.edu.au/assoc-june17.html>