

THE RASTUS

FEBRUARY 2019

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA UPDATE SERVICE



Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year

Judging is underway in the 2019 Gravitas Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year.

An initiative of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, this awards program is aligned with the Wine Tasmania Vin Ø (Vin-Zero) program. Both the Vineyard of the Year competition and the Vin Ø program are aimed at developing the Tasmanian wine industry and assisting members in attaining best practice.

The program's mission is to promote a high level of viticultural management in Tasmania, leading to the production of quality fruit from sustainable management systems.

One of the judges, Fred Peacock, has stood aside this year because of a potential conflict of interest, and the RAST is most appreciative of Matt Pooley for stepping into the judging role at short notice. Matt is the Viticulturist at Pooley Wines.

Last year's winner of Vineyard of the Year, Jansz Parish Vineyard at Penna in the Coal River Valley, impressed the judging panel because of the vineyard's management, nutrition and disease control. This year's winning vineyard will host a Field Day in May.

Leading Stories

- Tasmanian Vineyard of the Year
- Generating Our Own Power
- Wooden Boat Festival
- Electric Vehicle Expo



Generating Our Own Power

Installation is now well underway for the Showground's own solar power generation scheme. We'll soon be generating our own power. 200kw panel arrays are being installed on the roofs of two of our largest buildings, and the roofs are being strengthened. The solar panels will produce more than enough energy for the Showground's needs.

Excess capacity will be sold into an agricultural co-operative, Sustainable Tasmania, which has been established by Gravitas Energy and the RAST. One of the many great features of the new system is the ability for the RAST to monitor the system's performance in real time.

Wooden Boat Festival

The recent Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart certainly brought in many visitors to the state. The Hobart Showground Motorhome Park was booked out during the Festival.

Most of our guests were from Queensland but the other states were well represented as well. Visitors staying at the Showground were widely representative of different age groups and ranged from the grey nomad community to young families.

Feedback we received in terms of our hosting role was great, but not so good in terms of the Spirit of Tasmania. Many of our guests complained of the costs of bringing their rigs across Bass Strait.

Electric Vehicle Expo at the Showground

The Tasmanian Branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association (AEVA), is conducting a free expo at the Showground from 9.00am on March 2. Called Elektrikhana, it's a chance for members of the public to inspect electric vehicles and even do a test drive. There will be a range of vehicles on hand, including currently available models. Electric car owners are bringing their own vehicles, and there will also be vehicles that have been converted to run electrically.

Organisers are also giving visitors the chance to try out an e-bike, but you will need to bring a helmet. Lots of other activities include information on where charging stations are located, and the different ways to charge an electric vehicle.

Doggy Day Care

Welcome to local business Every Dog Pty Ltd. The business is the newest tenant to take up residence on the Showground. Operating out of the CWA Pavilion, Every Dog will be offering canine day care, training and socialisation for the people of Hobart.

Peak Shows' Body Meets

The Society's CEO, Scott Gadd, recently attended a Board meeting of the peak Australian agricultural show's organisation, the ASA (Agricultural Shows Australia) in Sydney. He joined the Board last year. The ASA brings together the collective weight of agricultural shows around Australia in terms of their significant market reach, economic contribution, and employment.

The mission is to provide a single voice for all shows in Australia, both royal shows and regional shows. One issue already being actioned is a national conference for all agricultural shows to be held on 19th January 2020 on the Gold Coast. The conference will be hosted by the Queensland Next Generation group and is shaping up to be a very worthwhile yet relatively inexpensive event. More information will be available in the coming months.

Hobart Hit Out

There was a lot of interest a little earlier this month when the Hobart Hit Out came to the Showground on February 16.

It was weightlifting at its best with athletes working out in competition, lifting weights up to 35kg. Competition occurred in four divisions for both males and females. Competitors took part in three fast-paced work-outs leading up to a final for the top placed athletes in each division.