



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Schedule

19th Annual
President's
Medal 2026

Australia's Premier
Food & Beverage
Award

Sydney Showground
Sydney Olympic Park
www.rasnw.com.au



Tathra Oysters, NSW - Winner 18th Annual President's Medal



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Disclaimer

The information contained in this publication is for the purpose of providing information to our Exhibitors and Show patrons. The information is correct at the time of printing, however, the information may be subject to change or amendments. Please check our websites for the most recent up to date information.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW (RAS) ABN 69 793 644 351



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Welcome from the President



I am delighted to promote this schedule to competition entrants for the 19th Annual President's Medal competition.

To be eligible to enter you have already had outstanding success in our 2025 competitions and on behalf of all at the RAS I congratulate you once again.

I am so glad you are considering entering this prestigious competition. It truly is the flagship amongst the competitions that the RAS conducts and we are very proud of the example it sets and the statement it makes about sustainable Australian agriculture and food production. It is vital to Australia's global trade in the agriculture and food and beverage sectors that we tell our stories of success and that is exactly what we seek to do through this competition.

The Sydney Royal Wine, Beer & Cider, Distilled Spirits, Cheese & Dairy Produce and Fine Food competitions represent the pinnacle of Australian food and beverage excellence. Each year these competitions attract producers from across the nation all striving for the coveted Sydney Royal Champion or Trophy – the very achievements that place them in contention for the President's Medal.

Since its inception in 2006, the President's Medal has been awarded to producers whose excellence goes far beyond product quality. It is the only award of its kind in Australia to assess enterprises holistically, measuring their environmental sustainability, social responsibility, financial performance, innovation, resilience, governance and industry impact.

In 2026 we build on this legacy and have refined the judging criteria to ensure the Medal remains relevant and future-focused as it heads into its 20th year. These updates reflect the evolving challenges faced by Australian producers and reinforce the Medal's role in recognising businesses that lead with integrity, adapt to change and inspire others across the supply chain.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show continues to be a vibrant stage where our award-winning products and producers connect with hundreds of thousands of visitors. Through dedicated spaces such as the Sydney Royal Medal Winning display area and the Talk and Taste program, Showgoers have the opportunity to experience the stories, skill and innovation behind the country's most exceptional food and beverage offerings. For many finalists and winners the Show is where their success is celebrated by the public and industry alike.

We are also proud to introduce the President's Medal Hall of Fame, honouring past winners who have made an enduring contribution to Australian agriculture and the food and beverage industry. Our inaugural inductee will be presented at the 19th Annual President's Medal Awards Presentation.

I extend my deepest thanks to the judges, stewards and industry experts whose expertise ensures that our awards remain both rigorous and respected. To all entrants, finalists and winners your skill, dedication and innovation set the standard for excellence in Australian produce.

I look forward to celebrating the remarkable talent, passion and leadership that defines the President's Medal through its nominees, finalists and winner of the 19th Award.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Bennett".

John C. Bennett, OAM
President, Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

WHAT IS THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL?

Established in 2006, the President's Medal is the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW's most prestigious award, recognising Australia's leading food and beverage producers. Unlike traditional awards based solely on taste or presentation, the President's Medal celebrates holistic excellence, rewarding enterprises that demonstrate exceptional performance across environmental, social, and financial sustainability, as well as resilience, governance, and industry leadership.

Finalists are drawn from Sydney Royal Champions throughout the year and assessed on their integrity and impact across the entire production cycle, from gate to plate. The award honours producers who embody innovation, responsibility, resilience, and long term vision in Australian agriculture and food production.

WHY ENTER?

What it means to be a Finalist

Being named a President's Medal Finalist is a significant honour, recognising you as one of the top food and beverage producers in Australia. Finalists are leaders in their field, selected from Sydney Royal Champion and/or Trophy-winning exhibits across the year. As a Finalist, you will:

- Receive official 'President's Medal Finalist' medal artwork for year-round promotional use.
- Have the opportunity to exhibit for up to 4 days in the Sydney Royal Medal Winning display area within the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome during the Sydney Royal Easter Show (at the Exhibitor's expense), with RAS-provided signage identifying you as a Finalist.
- Have your product showcased in the Sydney Royal Talk and Taste activation during the Show.
- Benefit from RAS-led publicity in the lead-up to the Awards Presentation, including print, radio, digital and social platforms.
- An invitation to an intimate dinner hosted by the President of the RAS, exclusively for the 19th Annual President's Medal Finalists.
- Receive a President's Medal Finalist Trophy at the Awards Presentation.
- Have your exhibit featured in the customised Awards Presentation menu, alongside all other Finalists.

What it means to be the Winner

Winning the President's Medal is the pinnacle of achievement in Australian food and beverage production, recognising not just product excellence, but your leadership, innovation, and impact on the industry. The winner will receive:

- \$10,000 in prize money.
- In addition to an official President's Medal Trophy, a heritage President's Medal medallion.
- 'President's Medal Winner' medal artwork for year-round promotional use (in addition to Finalist artwork).
- The opportunity to operate a complimentary pop-up stand for the full 12 days of the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome (all operational costs borne by the Winner).
- Extensive media and trade exposure through RAS-led promotional campaigns across print, radio, digital, and social platforms, sustained throughout the year following the award.
- Recognition as the best of the best, joining an elite group of past recipients who have gone on to achieve national and international success.

TESTIMONIAL

18th (2025) President's Medal Winner, Tathra Oysters, NSW

"We are proud to share insights from the most recent recipient of the President's Medal winner. Their story exemplifies the values of innovation, sustainability and excellence that the Medal represents.

When we won the inaugural President's Medal back in 2006, we were overwhelmed that a small simple business like ours could be recognised in such a prestigious way.

The President's Medal values of striving for excellence in production as well as for an excellent end product has always been a natural fit when farming in a beautiful fragile lake inside a National Park.

To now win the President's Medal a second time, nearly 20 years later, is a testament to being able to maintain and strengthen these values through Floods, Fires and a Pandemic.

The recognition this award now has is staggering and the values of this award resonate deeply within the community.

We're so thankful to the RAS for having the foresight to bring these modern production values to the pinnacle of their award structures and are so proud to be recognised in this way. It is a truly life changing recognition."


Gary and Jo Rodely, Nelson Lagoon Cocktail Bag | 18th President's Medal Winner



For more stories and reflections from previous President's Medal recipients, visit: [President's Medal Alumni](#).

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL HALL OF FAME

Established in 2025 the Hall of Fame recognises and honours producers who have achieved sustained excellence and innovation within their industry, as evidenced by repeated success in the Sydney Royal President's Medal. Induction acknowledges not only product excellence but also leadership in sustainability, innovation, and contribution to Australia's premium food and beverage industry.

	Year of Induction	Producer	Winning Years	Product
	2026	Tathra Oysters, NSW	2006	Sydney Rock Oysters
			2025	Nelson Lagoon Cocktail Bag

KEY INFORMATION

OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEDAL	<p>(i) To undertake an annual and nationally focused Competition that recognises and rewards the highest levels of agricultural excellence, as demonstrated through the environmental, social, financial, resilience, governance and innovation credentials of Australian food and beverage producers.</p> <p>(ii) To promote the exceptional quality of President's Medal Nominee and Finalist Exhibits to consumers.</p> <p>(iii) To encourage the adoption and awareness of sustainable and future facing agricultural practices by showcasing the achievements of President's Medal Finalists to industry, government and the broader community.</p>
ELIGIBILITY OF EXHIBITS	<p>All Exhibits awarded a Champion or Trophy from the 2025 Sydney Royal Wine, Beer & Cider, Distilled Spirits, Cheese and Dairy Produce, and Fine Food Shows will be eligible to enter the 19th Annual President's Medal.</p> <p>Nominees must be Champion/Trophy winning Exhibits deemed to have been produced predominantly from Australian inputs. Discretion rests with the President's Medal Judges as to whether Exhibits meet this requirement.</p> <p>From the pool of Nominees, a maximum of six (6) will be selected as President's Medal Finalists. The following entry exclusions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The winner of the previous year's President's Medal (2025) is ineligible to enter the 2026 Competition. • Any inductee into the President's Medal Hall of Fame is ineligible to re-enter the President's Medal Competition for a period of 10 years, in accordance with the Hall of Fame policy. • Finalists from the previous year may enter again, provided they meet all current eligibility requirements. <p>Please note: If you have been awarded multiple 2025 Champion or Trophy Awards, you may only enter the 2026 President's Medal once. Winning a Champion or Trophy (or more than one) makes you eligible to enter; however, judging is undertaken on your business as a whole, not on the individual product(s).</p>
ENTRY AND SELECTION PROCESS	<p>a) All qualifying Champion/Trophy winners from the 2025 Competitions will be invited by email to participate in the President's Medal.</p> <p>b) Upon application, entrants will be required to complete an online questionnaire aligned to the six judging pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Sustainability • Social Sustainability • Financial Sustainability • Climate & Business Shock Resilience • Succession & Governance • Knowledge Sharing & Industry Impact <p>c) Entries will be assessed by the Judges based on questionnaire responses. A shortlist of Applicants will then proceed to virtual interviews, after which the Judges will determine the Finalists.</p> <p>Finalists then advance to the site visit phase, where Judges validate practices and assess alignment with all judging criteria</p>
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE	<p>This Competition is by invitation only. No Entry Fees are applicable for participation. Exhibitors selected as Finalist will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a selection of high-resolution Exhibit images and branding logos for use across the RAS social media platforms and promotional materials related to the 19th Annual President's Medal; and • Supply and sell a quantity of their Champion/Trophy winning Exhibit to be featured at the Award Presentation, also at a mutually agreed price, ideally reflecting 50% of the wholesale rate.

JUDGING DATES	<p>Judging for the 19th Annual President's Medal will take place as follows, beginning after the release of results from all relevant 2025 Sydney Royal Shows and concluding with the on-site judging stage in early 2026.</p> <p>Tuesday 16 September 2025</p> <p>Final Champion and Trophy results will be released, completing the 2025 qualifying season.</p> <p>Wednesday 17 September – Wednesday 15 October 2025</p> <p>Eligible Exhibitors will be invited to complete an online questionnaire addressing the six judging pillars.</p> <p>Alternative formats (e.g. audio or video responses) will be accepted by prior arrangement and submitted via email to presidentsmedal@rasnsw.com.au</p> <p>Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 November 2025</p> <p>A video conference interview will be scheduled with each shortlisted Nominee to further explore their questionnaire responses. Once all interviews have been completed, Judges will deliberate and select up to six (6) Finalists for site judging.</p> <p>Monday 12 January – Friday 6 February 2026</p> <p>On-site judging will be conducted at the location of each Finalist's business. These visits will assess consistency with application responses in relation to physical evidence of practices, stakeholder interviews or engagement with staff and/or community and demonstrated innovation or local/regional challenges and responses.</p>
SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW	<p>Thursday 2 to Monday 13 April 2026</p> <p>During the Sydney Royal Easter Show, each of the Finalists will have the opportunity to exhibit for up to four days in the Sydney Royal Medal Winning display area within the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome, at the Exhibitor's expense, with signage provided by the RAS to identify them as a President's Medal Finalist.</p> <p>Their product will also be showcased as part of the Sydney Royal Talk and Taste activation, offering direct engagement with Show visitors.</p> <p>In addition, each Finalist will be invited to an intimate dinner hosted by the President of the RAS, exclusively for the 19th Annual President's Medal Finalists, providing a unique opportunity to connect with other Finalists.</p>
AWARD NIGHT	<p>Monday 25 May 2026</p> <p>The President's Medal Award Presentation will be held at the Sydney Showground and will feature a specially curated menu showcasing each Finalist Exhibit.</p> <p>Each of the six Finalists will be formally invited to attend the Awards Presentation, with two complimentary tickets provided per Finalist. Additional tickets may be purchased at the Finalist's expense.</p>
PUBLICATION OF RESULTS	<p>The Finalist Exhibits for the 19th Annual President's Medal will be announced in late 2025. The winner will be formally announced at the Awards Presentation on Monday 25 May 2026, with results published online thereafter.</p>
SOCIAL MEDIA	<p>Follow the RAS on social media to stay up to date throughout the year.</p> <p>Facebook: @RASofNSW</p> <p>Twitter: @ras_nsw #presmedal</p> <p>Instagram: @ras_nsw</p>
CONTACT	<p>Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Locked Bag 4317, Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127 Telephone (02) 9704 1272 presidentsmedal@rasnsw.com.au</p>

PRESIDENT'S MEDAL SPECIAL REGULATIONS

These President's Medal Special Regulations apply specifically to this section of the Competition and should be read in conjunction with the RAS General Regulations. In the event of any inconsistency, the President's Medal Special Regulations will take precedence.

1. ELIGIBILITY OF EXHIBITS

Exhibits entered must first comply with the eligibility criteria stated in the Special Regulations of the relevant Wine, Beer & Cider, Distilled Spirits, Cheese and Dairy Produce, and Fine Food Show Schedules.

At the time of entry, each Exhibit entered by an Exhibitor must be the absolute property of an Exhibitor and must be available commercially in Australia or ready for export. Exhibits entered must have the same composition as those that are commercially available. The RAS may request details of the commercial availability of the Exhibit. Exhibits which do not meet the set criteria will not be judged.

Exhibitors are required to conform to the respective Acts of the Commonwealth and the State in which they are produced which relate to their production and to the Regulations made thereunder.

2. DEFINITION OF EXHIBITOR

An Exhibitor means a person, firm, partnership, company, or body corporate, which in the opinion of the RAS:

- (a) Manufactures or processes; or
- (b) Has product manufactured, packaged or processed under contract for the purpose of sale under the registered business name of the Exhibitor as stated on the original Competition Application for Entry.
- (c) At the time of the judging, the RAS may request details of the commercial availability of the Exhibit and may conduct an audit to compare Exhibit sample with those commercially available.

3. DEFINITION OF PRODUCER

A Producer means the registered premises that manufacture the Exhibit entered in the Competition.

4. DEFINITION OF NOMINEE

A President's Medal Nominee is an Exhibit that has been awarded a Championship/Trophy from one of the 2025 Sydney Royal Wine, Beer & Cider, Distilled Spirits, Cheese and Dairy Produce, and Fine Food Shows. The Winner of the President's Medal Competition from the previous year is ineligible for re-nomination in the subsequent year's Competition only. President's Medal Hall of Fame recipients are excluded from re-nomination for 10 years following their induction.

5. DEFINITION OF FINALIST

A President's Medal Finalist is a Nominee Exhibit deemed to meet the required standard based on an initial assessment of the questionnaire and interview, across the six judging pillars. Finalists are then selected to progress to the on-site judging stage.

6. QUALIFYING SHOWS FOR PARTICIPATION

The Sydney Royal Shows that qualify for the President's Medal Competition are the Wine, Beer & Cider, Distilled Spirits, Cheese and Dairy Produce, and Fine Food Shows held in the calendar year prior that the President's Medal judging takes place.

7. POWER TO CANCEL OR ALTER

The RAS may, without assigning a reason:

- (a) Alter the Closing Date for the Competition;
- (b) Remove any Exhibit from Sydney Showground or cause any Exhibit to be removed from Sydney Showground;
- (c) Alter the conditions of the Competition, including but not exclusive to the Judging conditions and process followed;
- (d) Rule that an Exhibit or Exhibitor may not compete or is ineligible to compete;
- (e) Alter the date, time or place on or at which the Judging or awards presentation is scheduled to take place;
- (f) Alter a Judge scheduled to assess the Competition.

Notification of any changes will be listed on the [President's Medal webpage](#).

Whilst every effort will be made to release results on the date indicated, the RAS reserves the right to:

- (g) Defer announcing results until the Judges' report is finalised;
- (h) Cancel the event.

The rights set out above apply notwithstanding:

- (i) The RAS' acceptance of an entry;
- (j) Inclusion of an entry in the Results Catalogue; or
- (k) The issue of any other document.

8. JUDGING CRITERIA

Upon submitting their application, Nominees will be required to update their contact details and complete the accompanying questionnaire.

1. What Champion / Trophy did you win?
2. For which product did you win a Champion/Trophy?
3. Confirm your availability to participate in an online interview on 5 and/or 6 November 2025 should your application be shortlisted for the selection of Finalists.
4. Site Details: If selected as a Finalist proceeding to the on-site judging stage, please confirm the location of your operation to be visited, and your availability to host a site visit during the judging period of 12 January to 6 February 2026.
5. Environmental Sustainability: Describe how your business manages natural resources (e.g. soil, water, land, air, biodiversity) both directly or within your supply chains. Include examples of circular practices (e.g., recycling, composting, regenerative or resource-efficient systems) and how these contribute to long-term environmental stewardship.
6. Social Sustainability: Outline your workforce structure, including health & safety practices, diversity and inclusion, and staff development. Describe how your business engages with and benefits your local community and broader industry.
7. Financial Sustainability: Provide an overview of your business's financial health and long-term viability. Include your approach to financial planning, risk management, key business exposures, and strategies for adapting to change.
8. Climate and Business Shock Resilience: Describe how your business responds to climate variability (e.g., drought, floods, fire), extreme weather events, and sudden disruptions such as market shocks, biosecurity risks, or supply chain breakdowns. Include any relevant risk preparedness system or innovations.
9. Succession and Governance: Detail your succession planning approach, leadership development and governance structure. How do you ensure continuity of leadership, especially in relation to key person risk, generational change, or collaborative decision making?
10. Knowledge Sharing and Industry Impact: Explain how your business contributes to industry learning or sector advancement. Include examples of mentoring, education, collaboration, public engagement, or open knowledge-sharing initiatives.

Nominee and Finalist Exhibits will then be assessed on the following criteria:

No.	Criterion	Description	Points
1	Environmental Sustainability	Management of environmental impacts through the use of natural resources within the business – including the supply chain. Natural resources include air, soil, water, land, biodiversity and nature. For example, closed-loop systems for energy, nutrients and waste; include reuse, recycling, composting and integrated resource planning.	10
		Efforts to quantify, reduce and manage greenhouse gases through practice changes, technology, or renewable adoption, including reporting and benchmarking.	10
2	Social Sustainability	Internal: Workforce management, health & safety, diversity, staff development.	10
		External: Community impact, stakeholder engagement.	10
3	Financial Sustainability	Business viability, adaptive risk management, financial transparency, and business exposure.	10
		Creative business models, novel technologies, consumer-led innovation, and sustainability-oriented products and services.	10
4	Climate and Business Shock Resilience	Strategies to manage and meet climate variability, such as resilience to extreme weather events, changes in long term weather and climate, land and water use planning, adaptive primary production systems directly or in your supply chain.	10
		Preparedness for sudden disruptions (e.g., market, pest/disease outbreaks, pandemics), with robust crisis and recovery systems.	10
5	Succession & Governance	Succession planning, leadership development, inclusive governance, youth engagement, mitigation of key person risk and long-term strategic planning.	10
6	Knowledge Sharing & Industry Impact	Willingness to contribute to industry learning through open days, education, mentoring, publications, or stakeholder collaboration.	10
TOTAL			100

9. AWARD ARTWORK

The winner of the President's Medal will receive Award artwork, permission to use the trademark licence, and an 'Award Regulations & Promotion Kit' for guidance on artwork usage and marketing of the Award won.

The use of the Award artwork is subject to the Trademark Terms & Conditions in accordance with the RAS General Regulations. An Exhibitor making improper use of medals or special awards for advertising purposes may be subject to disqualification from further Sydney Royal Shows conducted by the RAS. The Exhibitors of Finalist Exhibits will receive the equivalent testifying their achievements as a Finalist Exhibitor.

10. PRESIDENT'S MEDAL PRIZES

The winner of the President's Medal will receive \$10,000 prize money and the opportunity to activate a pop-up stand/stall in The Woolworths Fresh Food Dome during the following year's Sydney Royal Easter Show, a heritage President's Medal medallion and medal artwork for promotional use.

11. PRIZES AND GST

The Australian Taxation Office has deemed that GST is payable on prizes if an Exhibitor is registered for GST and enters an Exhibit as part of a business enterprise.

The information an Exhibitor provides on the Application for Entry determines whether GST is applicable.

Any prize stated in this Schedule does not include GST.

GST will not apply:

- if an Exhibitor enters an Exhibit as a hobby or private recreational pursuit; or
- if an Exhibitor enters an Exhibit as part of a business enterprise, the Exhibitor has an ABN, but the Exhibitor is NOT REGISTERED for GST.
- if an Exhibitor enters an Exhibit as part of a business enterprise, the Exhibitor is not entitled to an ABN as the business or enterprise is not operating in Australia.

GST will apply:

- if an Exhibitor enters an Exhibit as part of a business enterprise, the Exhibitor has an ABN, and the Exhibitor is REGISTERED for GST.

Where GST applies, the RAS will pay the prize money quoted in this Schedule plus 10% GST. The RAS will issue a recipient created tax invoice.

12. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Presentations to the Finalists and the winner will occur at the President's Medal Awards Presentation on Monday 25 May 2026. This public event is ticketed, and Finalist Exhibitors will receive two (2) complimentary tickets for the awards presentation. Additional tickets must be purchased.

13. PRESIDENT'S MEDAL HALL OF FAME

Any producer who has won the Sydney Royal President's Medal twice (not necessarily consecutively) will be automatically inducted into the President's Medal Hall of Fame for a period of 10 years. Inductees are ineligible to re-enter the Competition during this period but may continue to enter other RAS Competitions

GENERAL INFORMATION

14. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

A condition of entering the Competition is strict adherence to the following 'Regulations':

- [Conditions of Entry at Sydney Showground](#)
- [RAS General Regulations](#);
- President's Medal Special Regulations in this Schedule.

The Application for Entry and the 'Regulations' constitute the whole agreement upon which Entries are submitted and the Exhibitor agrees that all representations and statements not appearing on the Application for Entry or in the Regulations are excluded. The General Regulations apply to all sections of the Competition. The President's Medal Special Regulations apply to this section only. Unless expressly stated in the General Regulations, if there is any inconsistency between the General Regulations and these President's Medal Special Regulations, the President's Medal Special Regulations prevail. Copies of all Regulations are available from the administration office at the Showground.

15. WORKPLACE SURVEILLANCE ACT

The RAS operates surveillance cameras from Sydney Showground Security and these are located in and around facilities requiring security monitoring for the safety or security of individuals or property. The RAS also has access to Sydney Olympic Park security cameras and vice versa. Please note that security camera monitoring is continuous and ongoing and it is deemed that a person, by entering the Showground, consents to this photographing, filming or taping. The RAS strictly complies with the *Workplace Surveillance Act 2005 (NSW)*.