

2011 Perth Royal Beer Show

After a hard day there is nothing like quenching a thirst with a cold beer. Finding the perfect beer with a kick will be a whole lot easier following the judging of the 2011 Perth Royal Beer Show.

The competition, set to be fiercely contested as local brewers go head to head with those from interstate, will run from June 13 to June 18 at The Royal Agricultural Society of WA's Claremont Showground.

Competition will be brewing amongst the 267 entrants as they vie for the prestigious medals and trophies. The commercial brewers will be battling it out for one of 10 trophies for categories including wheat beer, best stout, lager and ale draught as well as reduced alcohol draught.

Amateur brewers will be competing for the five trophies up for grabs including best stout, lager, reduced alcohol and ale for which they stand to win gold, silver and bronze medals in each category.

The most 'flavoursome' award entrants will be seeking is - The Premier's Trophy for the best WA Beer of the Show – one of six overall Special Trophies in the Commercial and Amateur sections.

Of the 20 accredited judges who will be tantalising their taste buds in a bid to find the most auspicious beers is Chief Judge of the event, Sean Symons, brewing manager of acclaimed Swan Brewery. A maximum of 20 points is awarded to each beer, taking into account factors such as flavour, technical quality, aroma, colour and whether its style is appropriate for its class.

"The great thing about the Perth Royal Beer show is that brewers and breweries across the country get to showcase their quintessential interpretation of what is a balance of science and art. An increase in consumer choice drives a need for improved quality, or point of difference and the show is a great forum for a health competition, where you are judged by both your peers and industry experts," says Sean.

Interstate judges include Jayne Lewis who is no stranger to WA beers having worked with Matilda Bay and Little Creatures as well as the Victorian-based Mountain Goat Brewery.

"There are a lot of amazing beers coming out of the West," according to Jayne. "I am really excited to get home and judge at the Show for the first time. I'm also looking forward to drinking many of these beers at their source!"

Ian Kingham, a commercial buyer of beer for hotels and the hospital industry within Australia and editor of the bi-monthly 'Drinks' magazines and consulting editor for 'Beer and Brewing' magazines will, once again, be taking a 'tipple' in the quest to find the perfect, award-winning beers.

Judging takes place across two days - Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14. Awards will be given out at a Presentation Dinner on Friday, June 17 at the Mercure Hotel, Perth.

The public has an opportunity to taste test many of the award-winning beers at the Beer Royale event which runs from June 25 to June 26 at the Sail and Anchor in Fremantle.

Media opportunities: Judges will be available for interviews and photo opportunities are available at 12pm on Monday, June 13 and Tuesday, June 14.

Pic opps:

Jayne Lewis (31) – former Penhros pupil, Jayne lived at Como – took a year long hospitality course at Bentley TAFE before studying viticulture and oenology at Curtin Uni. She worked at Palandri Winery, Margaret River for three years. Wanting to move back to the City Jayne, a self-confessed ‘punter’ at a local brewery, applied for a job at Little Creatures and made the switch from wine to beer.

When her husband, Louis Bucci (geologist in WA for x10 years) was transferred to Melbourne, Jayne worked for a cider brewer, initially developing Pip Squeak Cider before moving to Matalida Bay and Mountain Goat Brewery.

This enterprising woman, together with a girlfriend, is set to launch her own beer titled: ‘Two Birds Brewing’ and brewery in Victoria, shortly.

Jayne has judged for the past three years at the Australian International Beer Awards and was a judge at the BrewNZ, held in Wellington in 2009 and will again be judging at the 2011 show. This will be her first Perth Royal Beer Show.

She is the Victorian Regional Co-ordinator for the Institute of Brewing and Distilling (IBD), and heads the Australian chapter of the Pink Boots Society, an organisation set up to inspire, encourage and empower women to advance their careers within the beer industry.

Sean Symons, Chief Judge at this year’s PRBS, has an illustrious background in the brewing world. Having studied geology and geophysics at Sydney University and confessing he probably spent more time at the bar than any lectures, Sean moved on to the Hahn Brewing Company under the auspices of brew master, Chuck Hahn before switching to Lion Nathan.

Following his stint at Lion Nathan, Sean established his own micro brewery on a beach in Vietnam for three years training Vietnamese brewmasters in craft beer production. Once the brewery was self-sufficient, Sean came back to Australia to work for Lion Nathan XXXX in Brisbane as the processing improvement leader before being transferred to sandgroper territory at the Swan Brewery, Canning Vale where he is brewing manager.

Sean has a seasoned palate and is well qualified for beer tasting having spent the past 12 years as a regional and international judge.

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