



2025 City of Hobart Christmas Pageant

Saturday, November 22 2025 – 10.30 AM to 12:00 PM

Information and Guidelines for Expressions of Interest



City of **HOBART**

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KEY DATES:

Expressions of Interest Open: Monday, 14 July 2025

Expressions of Interest Close: Monday, 18 August 2025

Expression of Interest Outcomes: Late August

Due date for participation confirmation: Monday, 1 September 2025

Safety Briefing 1: Sunday, 14 September 2025

Safety Briefing 2: Sunday, 21 September 2025

Creative Workshop 1: Saturday, 27 September 2025

Creative Workshop 2: Saturday, 11 October 2025

Creative Workshop 3: Saturday, 25 October 2025

Driver Safety Briefing: Wednesday, 12 November 2025

2025 Hobart Christmas Pageant: Saturday, November 22 2025

Award Ceremony: Thursday, 27 November 2025

Post-event feedback surveys close: Friday, 28 November 2025



Terrapin's King and Queen Ubu during the 2024 Pageant. Image by Richard J. Ho.

JOIN THE 43RD CITY OF HOBART CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!

Here's your guide to the Expression of Interest process for the 43rd City of Hobart Christmas Pageant. Please read this information with care before you submit your Expression of Interest.

The City of Hobart Christmas Pageant is Tasmania's biggest Christmas event. Each year the Pageant brings thousands of people into the city to watch the colourful, festive parade.

You can Express Interest in joining the Pageant to show off your group, community, culture, activity, or hobby.

If you have questions or need help with your Expression of Interest, you can email events@hobartcity.com.au or call 6238 2491.

What We Provide:

- 1) A fair and clear review of submitted Expressions of Interest. The outcome of your Expression of Interest will be sent via email. The decisions are final.
- 2) General entry design and logistical support.

- 3) Safety and event management.
- 4) Assigned positions in the pageant, which are final.
- 5) Creative Workshops with the Lead Artist of the Christmas Pageant, which include:
 - Design and materials advice
 - Construction help and advice
 - Tips for recycling and upcycling props and decorations
 - Help with wardrobe and costume design
- 6) Management and oversight of all entries. Please note that we can ask for reasonable changes to entries.

What You Need to Do:

- 1) Create a Pageant parade entry that connects to Christmas or celebrates your community or activity.
- 2) Provide a nominated Responsible Person.
- 3) Provide two Drivers for any vehicles, excluding motorcycles, you plan to use.
- 4) Provide two banner carriers to carry your branded Christmas Pageant banner provided by the City of Hobart.
- 4) Attend one mandatory Safety Briefing and the Drivers Meeting.
- 5) Use the correct safety gear and management practices.
- 6) Follow the movement control rules from Tasmania Police and the event marshals.
- 7) Use your imagination, creativity, and community to spread joy to make the event special!

What Is Not Permitted:

- 1) Pageant entries can't promote businesses or politics.
- 2) Some items are not permitted to be used including food and beverage give aways, prizes and handouts, balloons, glitter and bubble blowing/machines.
- 3) The City of Hobart has a Santa Float. No other entries can have a Santa Claus or Father Christmas character.
- 4) Petrol powered generators are not permitted. Please use battery power banks or battery devices for any appliances you plan to use.

Thinking of Including Animals?

Animal participation requires approval. We need to review any entries that plan to include animals for safety and welfare. Let us know if you plan to include animals in your Expression of Interest. You need an animal welfare plan. All pets must be on a leash and cleaned up after.

AWARDS FOR ENTRIES

Judges award prizes for the best pageant entries in these categories:

- Best Christmas-Themed Entry
- Best Community Entry
- Best Costumed Entry
- Best Children's Entry
- Best Dance Entry
- Best Musical Entry
- Best Band Entry
- The Lord Mayor's Award
- The Myer Award



Salista Kids Colombian Tour entry during the 2023 Pageant. Image by Al Bett.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Entry Specifications

- The Expression of Interest is open to community groups, cultural organisations, dance and performance groups, individuals, artists, sporting clubs, and anyone who wants to celebrate the season and their community.
- Entries must be viewed in public areas, and any themes or messages must be family-friendly.
- Entries must not exceed 4.1m in height.
- There is a limit to the number of people per entry and entries overall. This is usually around 100 people. We will review each Expression of Interest. If changes are needed to the size of your idea, we'll give feedback. Consider the scale of your idea carefully.

In your online Expression of Interest, please share how your group will:

- Highlight the Christmas spirit.
- Celebrate your community.
- Entertain and engage spectators.

We encourage everyone to be creative and have fun with your design!

Entry Criteria

Expressions of Interest will be assessed using these criteria:

- The theme of your entry and your reasons you want to take part.
- How your entry shows the Christmas spirit or celebrates your community.
- How your entry grabs the attention of spectators, especially young people and their families. We love creative and colourful designs!

Please note that the event has a limit on the number of entries. This depends on scale and complexity. This limit is usually around 50 entries.

CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

We provide a Lead Artist to help participants design and build their entries. Three Creative Workshops will be held on these dates:

- Creative Workshop 1: Saturday, 27 September 2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Creative Workshop 2: Saturday, 11 October 2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- Creative Workshop 3: Saturday, 25 October 2025 - 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM

If you are included in the Pageant, you can book a one-on-one meeting with the Lead Artist during the workshops. Please book your appointment early. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare.

There are some free materials available at the workshops.



Tasmania Fire Museum entry during the 2024 Pageant. Image by Richard J. Ho.

ENTRY AND PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Responsible Person

Each group taking part must choose a Responsible Person to be the main contact. This person makes sure safety and other rules are followed. They also relay the instructions from the City of Hobart or Tasmania Police.

The Responsible Person must be over 18. They should also share event and safety details with all group members. The Responsible Person will help with inspections on pageant day. They need to attend a mandatory Safety Briefing on one of the dates listed below.

- Safety Briefing 1: Sunday, 14 September 2025 - 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
- Safety Briefing 2: Sunday, 21 September 2025 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Use of Vehicles

Vehicles are often used to carry Pageant floats. Floats can be attached to a trailer, utility vehicle, or a flat-tray truck. Cars, utility vehicles and motorcycles are permitted. A four wheeled trolley or trailer can be hand towed.

Think carefully about using vehicles. Fewer vehicles help reduce emissions, promote sustainability, and ensure pedestrian safety. You can also use bikes, tricycles, skates, skateboards, or scooters.

Guidelines for Vehicles

- We prefer walking entries instead of those that use vehicles.
- Only vehicles and rigid trucks with a maximum of two to three axles can take part. Semi-trailers and large trucks are not allowed.
- Entries must select on vehicle category with the maximum numbers for vehicles as follows:
 - o A maximum of two large vehicles, or one large and one small vehicle, including trucks or vehicles towing trailers, is permitted per entry.
 - o A maximum of 3 smaller vehicles including cars and utility vehicles is permitted per entry. No trailer towing is permitted in this category.
 - o A maximum of 6 motorcycles is permitted per entry.
- All vehicles must be roadworthy and registered or permitted. You can get permits for special vehicles from Service Tasmania (www.transport.tas.gov.au).
- Tasmania Police will verify drivers, registrations and permits on event day.
- The Responsible Person must make sure safety measures are in place and followed. Participants standing on vehicles must always hold a stable part of the vehicle at all times. They should avoid actions that could lead to falls or accidents.
- The City of Hobart is not responsible for injuries to participants in vehicles.

Driver Requirements

If you plan to use vehicles, you must nominate two drivers per vehicle, excluding motorcycles. Both drivers need valid, unrestricted Australian driver's license. On the event day, a second driver must be present in each vehicle in case the primary driver is unable to drive. Drivers with a learner or provisional license are not permitted.

Both drivers must attend the mandatory Drivers Briefing. They will get key safety information and have their licenses checked.

- Drivers Briefing: Wednesday, 12 November 2025 - 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Tasmania Police will check licenses on event day. City of Hobart Officers will inspect vehicles to make sure all nominated drivers are present.

Balloons and Glitter

At the Pageant we care for the environment. Balloons and glitter are not environmentally friendly, so you cannot use them in your entry.

Activities and Items that are Unsafe

Some activities and items cause safety issues. Young people might run after thrown sweets or bubbles into the path of vehicles. Giveaway items may be unwelcome by parents. Food and drink giveaways could lead to diet problems and handling issues.

- No bubble blowing or bubble machines in your entry.
- No thrown items or give aways.
- No handing out of sweets or food and beverage.

General Safety

City of Hobart Officers will inspect all entries on Pageant day. We can change or remove entries if they are unsafe before or during the Pageant.

Insurance

All entries must have Public Liability Insurance.

If your group has Public Liability Insurance, please check with your insurer to confirm that you're covered for events like the Pageant. You will need to supply a copy of your Certificate of Currency.

If your group doesn't have insurance, please note that in your application. The City of Hobart has limited capacity to cover some participating groups. We will be in contact if we can help.

The City of Hobart does not have insurance for entry vehicles, decorations, and personal items.

Assembling on the Day

If your entry is included in the Pageant, you will receive details about your assembly area and the route to take prior to the event day.

Some roads will be closed from 8 AM on Pageant day so groups can set up their entries. Roads will remain closed until 12:30 PM to assist with entries leaving.

All entrants must follow the assembly instructions for the event. This ensures safety checks and proper organisation. It also keeps pathways open for emergency services.

Children and Vulnerable People

Children in your entry need adult supervision. Unless they are the parent of the Child these adults must have current Working With Vulnerable People checks. Make sure

your group keeps a good adult-to-child ratio. We suggest having 1 adult for every 10 children.

Children and vulnerable people that will be walking, skating or riding bikes must be able to cover the 2-kilometre Pageant route.

Animal Welfare

A welfare plan must be made if animals are to be used in your entry. This includes providing shade, food, water and high heat plans - especially for potentially hot tarmac. You will need to ensure crowd safety.

All groups with animals must clean up after them before, during, and after the Pageant. Please bring plastic bags and pooper scoopers for your animals.

Photography and Video Footage

By joining the 2025 Hobart Christmas Pageant, you agree to let the City of Hobart take photos and videos of your entry and group. This includes images of anyone under 18.

You also agree that the City of Hobart can publish and use this material in full or in part. We may do this for advertising or marketing for this event and future events. It can also be part of our general marketing and communication.

CONTACTS US

If you have questions or need help with your Expression of Interest, you can email events@hobartcity.com.au or call 6238 2491.



City of Hobart Highland Pipe Band entry during the 2023 Pageant. Image by Al Bett.

IMPORTANT SAFETY AND ENTRY INFORMATION AND CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to help plan your entry. On Pageant day our team will check each entry for safety concerns using this checklist.

CHECKLIST

Item	Notes	Check
Responsible Person	You have identified your nominated responsible person.	
Vehicles		
Size Limits	All motorised vehicles meet size limits.	
Exhaust System	All flammable items are free from the entire exhaust system. Nothing is secured to any part of the exhaust system.	

Drivers' Access/Vision	The driver has a clear view through the front windscreen. Rear and side mirrors give a clear view of what's behind and around the vehicle. The drivers must be able to enter and exit the vehicle without difficulty.	
Steering	Nothing is restricting the steering wheel movement.	
Moving Vehicle Parts	Nothing is attached to moving parts of the vehicle. This includes the tail shaft or competent of the drive train. Nothing is hanging in the tail shaft or drive train areas or near moving vehicle parts.	
Wheels	All wheels are free from any hanging objects and are not obstructed.	
Leaks	There are no fuel, oil, or gas leaks.	
Float/Truck/Trailer	All items are firmly attached to the float, truck, or trailer.	
	Safety railings/fall protection is provided.	
	The float, truck, or trailer is in good shape. There are no visible faults or dangerous parts.	
	Electrical cables and appliances are safe, weatherproof, and carry current test tags.	
	Residual Current Devices (RCDs) are installed where generators are used.	
Passenger Safety	All passengers in vehicles are safely secured. Fall protection is adequate and meets AS 1657 standards.	
The Drivers	One of the two nominated drivers is driving the vehicle.	
	A second nominated driver is present in the vehicle with a mobile phone.	
	Both drivers have attended the driver's briefing.	
Small Vehicles	People on small vehicles, like bikes, scooters, or skateboards, must wear safety gear. This includes helmets.	
Entries with Walking Participants		
Supervision Of Participants	Children and vulnerable participants must be supervised.	
Carried Items	Participants must not bring any items that could harm themselves or spectators. This includes items such as large sticks or items that protrude into the crowd.	
Health and Hygiene	All participants are practicing good hygiene. This means: - Wash and sanitise your hands.	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cough into your elbow. - Don't share water bottles. - Clean vehicles and shared surfaces. 	
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