



Yarra Valley Brewers Belgian Beerfest 2026

17th May 2026 at Hard Road Brewery, 31 Holloway Drive, Bayswater

Champion Beer of Show – Sponsored by Keg King

Richard Grant Merri Mashers Belgian Dark Strong Ale 125 points

Champion Brewer – Sponsored by The Full Brew

Daniel Horridge Merri Mashers 5 points

Best Novice Brewer - Sponsored by Vicbrew

Richard Grant Merri Mashers Belgian Dark Strong Ale 125 points

Best Club Award

Merri Mashers 19 points

Bayside Brewers 11 points

Melbourne Brewers 3 points

Yarra Valley Brewers 2 points

Cat 1 Light Coloured Ales**Sponsor: The Full Brew**

Judges: John Keske (BJCP), Charles Johnston (BJCP), Alex Garner (BJCP)

SubStyle	Entry No.	Entrant	Club	Score
1.3 Belgian Golden Strong Ale	44	Troy Poulter	Bayside Brewers	118
1.4 Belgian Tripel	2	Brian Murray	Merri Mashers	117
1.1 Trappist Single	25	David Harrison	Independent	116
1.4 Belgian Tripel	63	Jack Maccauley	Merri Mashers	112
1.1 Trappist Single	66	Todd Wade	Merri Mashers	112
1.2 Belgian Blond Ale	67	Todd Wade	Merri Mashers	112
1.1 Trappist Single	27	Jason Ayres	Bayside Brewers	109.5
1.4 Belgian Tripel	54	Steven Pouniotis	Thursty Brewers	107.5
1.4 Belgian Tripel	77	Christopher Holmes	Melbourne Brewers	107
1.4 Belgian Tripel	41	Adam Clark	Merri Mashers	106
1.1 Trappist Single	52	Neil Milne	Bayside Brewers	105.5
1.3 Belgian Golden Strong Ale	70	Chris Schwinghammer	Merri Mashers	104
1.1 Trappist Single	15	Richard Brown	Yarra Valley Brewers	103
1.2 Belgian Blond Ale	19	Andries Ellis	Independent	102
1.4 Belgian Tripel	4	Andries Ellis	Independent	99.5
1.1 Trappist Single	22	Nick Peers	Melbourne Brewers	97.5
1.1 Trappist Single	47	Mark Davis	Northern Rivers Brew Club	97
1.2 Belgian Blond Ale	7	Sam Culham	Independent	93.5
1.2 Belgian Blond Ale	49	Sean Dawson	Merri Mashers	92.5
1.4 Belgian Tripel	55	Eric Beck	Merri Mashers	91.5

1.1 Trappist Single 20 Andries Ellis Independent 86

Cat 2 Dark Coloured Ales

Sponsor: Bintani



Judges: Andrew Bulman (BJCP), Michael Guenzel (BJCP), Nathan Pierce-Boltec

SubStyle	Entry No.	Entrant	Club	Score
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	68	Richard Grant	Merri Mashers	125
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	17	John Sheehan	Bayside Brewers	120.5
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	79	Craig Bates	Melbourne Brewers	119
2.2 Bière de Garde	33	Jo Skuse	Thursty Brewers	111
2.1 Belgian Dubbel	62	Jack Maccauley	Merri Mashers	109
2.1 Belgian Dubbel	13	Richard Brown	Yarra Valley Brewers	106
2.2 Bière de Garde	72	Chris Schwinghammer	Merri Mashers	106
2.1 Belgian Dubbel	6	Jeremy Skuse	Thursty Brewers	104
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	53	Angus Robertson	Melbourne Brewers	97
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	48	Mark Davis	Northern Rivers Brew Club	91
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	45	Troy Poulter	Bayside Brewers	90
2.3 Belgian Dark Strong Ale	51	Sean Dawson	Merri Mashers	81
2.2 Bière de Garde	26	David Harrison	Independent	79

**Cat 3 Summer Ales
King**

Sponsor: Keg



Judges: Daniel Heiss (BJCP), Brian Murray (BJCP),
Mike Grant

SubStyle	Entry No.	Entrant	Club	Score
3.3 Belgian IPA	75	Marc Newbrook	Merri Mashers	121
3.1 Witbier	60	Tom Kurka	Yarra Valley Brewers	113.5
3.1 Witbier	80	Craig Bates	Melbourne Brewers	113
3.1 Witbier	3	Brian Murray	Merri Mashers	111
3.3 Belgian IPA	78	Christopher Holmes	Melbourne Brewers	109.5
3.2 Belgian Pale Ale	39	Alex Ritchie	Independent	108
3.3 Belgian IPA	73	Chris Schwinghammer	Merri Mashers	105
3.2 Belgian Pale Ale	23	Nick Peers	Melbourne Brewers	103.5
3.3 Belgian IPA	56	Eric Beck	Merri Mashers	101
3.3 Belgian IPA	43	Troy Poulier	Bayside Brewers	92
3.1 Witbier	30	Daniel Horridge	Merri Mashers	91.5
3.1 Witbier	31	Justin Manzano	Merri Mashers	87
3.3 Belgian IPA	42	Dave Lunt	Westgate Brewers	78
3.1 Witbier	18	Andries Ellis	Independent	73
3.1 Witbier	24	Nick Peers	Melbourne Brewers	73
3.2 Belgian Pale Ale	34	Jo Skuse	Thursty Brewers	67



Judges: Andrew Bulman (BJCP), *Michael Guenzel (BJCP)*, *Nathan Pierce-Boltec*

SubStyle	Entry No.	Entrant	Club	Score
4.1 Saison	50	Sean Dawson	Merri Mashers	122
4.1 Saison	16	John Sheehan	Bayside Brewers	118
4.1 Saison	12	Daniel Horridge	Merri Mashers	111*
4.1 Saison	59	Eric Beck	Merri Mashers	111*
4.1 Saison	46	Sharif Slamet	Merri Mashers	111*
4.1 Saison	76	Marc Newbrook	Merri Mashers	108
4.1 Saison	74	Brett Elliott	Bayside Brewers	106
4.1 Saison	37	Anthony Bradstreet	Merri Mashers	105
4.1 Saison	40	Bruno Schivinski	Merri Mashers	103
4.1 Saison	61	Tom Kurka	Yarra Valley Brewers	101
4.1 Saison	8	Anteneh Belachew	Independent	99
4.1 Saison	5	Brett Tyrell	Bayside Brewers	94
4.1 Saison	36	Matt Zuerrer	Merri Mashers	94
4.1 Saison	21	Nick Peers	Melbourne Brewers	92
4.1 Saison	71	Chris Schwinghammer	Merri Mashers	74

*** countback rules applied**

Cat 5 Wild beers**Sponsor: Hard Road Brewery****Judges:** Daniel Heiss (BJCP), Brian Murray (BJCP), Mike Grant

SubStyle	Entry No.	Entrant	Club	Score
5.4 Flanders Red Ale	57	Eric Beck	Merri Mashers	119
5.4 Flanders Red Ale	11	Daniel Horridge	Merri Mashers	111
5.2 Flanders Brown Ale/Oud Bruin	35	Stuart Fleming	Bayside Brewers	106.6
5.5 Fruit Lambic	38	Michael Horn	Merri Mashers	102
5.5 Fruit Lambic	64	Jack Maccauley	Merri Mashers	100
5.2 Flanders Brown Ale/Oud Bruin	58	Eric Beck	Merri Mashers	88
5.4 Flanders Red Ale	69	Chris Schwinghammer	Merri Mashers	75.5

Cat 6 Belgian Specialty beers**Sponsor: Llemand yeast**

Judges: Andrew Bulman (BJCP), Michael Guenzel (BJCP), Nathan Pierce-Boltec

SubStyle	Entry No.	Entrant	Club	Score	Description
6.1 Belgian Specialty	29	Jason Ayres	Bayside Brewers	115	Belgium single fermented with honey and a hint of citrus
6.1 Belgian Specialty	32	Daniel Horridge	Merri Mashers	111	Standard Strength Pale Saison, with Hibiscus & Brett added in Secondary
6.1 Belgian Specialty	81	Chris Holmes	Melbourne Brewers	110	This is a Brettet Belgian Pale Ale, inspired by Orval.
6.1 Belgian Specialty	65	Paul Gowers	Bayside Brewers	94	Belgium golden ale with raspberries and mixed berries in the secondary