

Media release

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TASMANIAN CRAFT FAIR SET TO SHOWCASE A FEAST OF ARTISTRY FOR ALL AGES



The finishing touches are being applied to Australia's largest working crafts fair to be held at picturesque Deloraine this week, with locals gearing up for a world-class celebration of artistic excellence that will offer something of interest for every family member.

With nearly 250 stalls spread over 16 venues, this year's Tasmanian Craft Fair is bigger than ever, and features a stunning array of world-class arts and crafts ranging from blacksmithing to painting, jewellery, ceramics, paper-making, woodwork, and even graffiti art.

John Dare, the Fair's director, says the event has grown from a one-venue Fair three decades ago into a significant date in the national arts and crafts calendar today.

"This year's Fair really shows the benefits of our push for greater quality of exhibits, a wider variety of arts and crafts, and more involvement by exciting young artists from Australia and abroad," he said. "It will be four days of fun and learning for mums, dads, and kids as well."

Mr Dare attributed the Fair's success to the thousands of hours put in by the organizing committee and more than 1,000 volunteers over the course of the year. In keeping with a strong focus on visitor needs, this year's preparations include a new mobile TCF website to keep patrons updated with the latest information and enhance their enjoyment of the experience.

The Fair's feature exhibition this year is Tasmanian Contemporary Furniture Design, with Tasmanian designers exhibiting their works and demonstrating their expertise. There will be an international flavour, with French artist Anaïs Pitalier to be the Visiting Artist. She will demonstrate her illumination and icon painting techniques at the Deloraine studio of internationally known Tasmanian artist, Tony Smibert.

Preparations have also focused on providing a unique and hands-on user experience, and there will be a range of classes for people of all ages as well as working demonstrations. "Patrons will be able to enjoy the finished products, but they'll also come away with an understanding of how they are made," says Mr Dare.

There will be a wide range of children's entertainment, live music, and a Gourmet Festival for anyone wishing to try boutique Tasmanian food, wine and micro-brewed beer. Even local shopkeepers will get in on the act, with more than 60 stores on Emu Bay Rd to exhibit the works of 160 artists in their shop-windows, giving visitors the chance to take in Deloraine's special ambience while enjoying the art.

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All funds raised through the Fair are put back into the community, with a variety of local, national and international development projects, projects to aid the disadvantaged and community improvement projects completed in the past 30 years.

For further details, visit www.tascraftfair.com.au

For further media information please contact:

John Larkin

0427 494790; john.larkin1966@gmail.com

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