

# Media release

November 4, 2011

## TASMANIAN CRAFT FAIR OPENS TO PUBLIC, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER



The picturesque township of Deloraine today welcomed thousands of patrons to the opening day of the Tasmanian Craft Fair, showcasing a stunningly diverse array of local and international arts and crafts, as well as a host of great entertainment options.

The four-day event will feature nearly 250 stalls at 16 different venues, more than ever before. As Australia's largest working arts and crafts event, the Fair features stallholders across a wide range of arts and crafts disciplines who will sell their work on-site and also demonstrate how their craft is performed.

Up to 25,000 patrons from Tasmania, interstate and abroad are expected to pass through the gates over the next four days. No effort has been spared to provide them with a fun and vibrant experience that will provide something of interest for every family member. Free shuttle buses between venues make the experience convenient as well.

This year's feature exhibition is Tasmanian Contemporary Furniture Design, featuring the best Tasmanian designers and their work. Pete Mattila, the Fair's Emerging Artist, will showcase the power and elegance of art fashioned from forged steel, while Visiting Artist Anaïs Pitalier from France will demonstrate her Illumination and icon painting techniques at the Deloraine studio of internationally known Tasmanian artist Tony Smibert.

Finalists in the 2011 Rotary Hoffman Challenge for quilting and the annual New Zealand Hoffman Challenge will be exhibited. These works will include "Drift Net" by the winner of the Rotary Hoffman Challenge, Diana Eaton of Hobart.

This year will see the introduction of a Gourmet Festival, focussing on hand-made products, demonstrations and tastings, including fine food, Tasmanian wines and Tasmanian micro-brewers. Also not to be missed are the delights of the Gourmet Pantry - clean, green Tasmanian cuisine including raspberry and blueberry products, honey, chocolates and fudges, cheeses and wines, gourmet mustards, jams and sauces.

For keen gardeners, the specialist plant exhibition at the Showgrounds venue has been expanded. For kids there will be play areas, face painting, trout fishing, hands-on science activities and much more. While the kids play, parents can relax to the beat of live jazz, rock and blues music, or stroll Deloraine's main street where shopkeepers will display the works of 160 artists in their store windows.

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Club of Deloraine

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The Fair is open from 9am until 5pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and from 9am until 4pm on Monday. Adult tickets cost \$15 a day, or \$20 for a weekend pass, while tickets for children between 10 and 16 years are \$7. Weekend passes for children cost \$10. Tickets may be purchased at any gate during the event.

A not-for-profit event run by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, the Tasmanian Craft Fair involves more than 1000 community volunteers. All funds raised 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](http://www.tascraftfair.com.au)

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