

Media release



November 6, 2011

DRAGON BOATS PLY THE MEANDER RIVER AS TASMANIAN CRAFT FAIR ENTERS THIRD DAY

Dragon boat racing down the gentle Meander River is just one of the attractions today at the Tasmanian Craft Fair, as patrons continue to surge through the gates to experience a feast of artistic originality and excellence.

As the boats cruise the river, sheep dog trials will be run at the nearby Deloraine Showgrounds, and at the same venue young and old alike can enjoy glass blowing demonstrations by noted glass artist Keith Dougall. Hands-on science activities conducted by the Science Teachers Association of Tasmania and the University of Tasmania will demonstrate the science behind colour - ensuring any trip to the Fair is educational as well as cultural.

Organizers are delighted with the crowds attending this year's Fair, and it isn't all due to the sunny weather since the event began on November 4.

"The weather has been kind to us, but people have been drawn to the Fair by the exceedingly high quality of the stalls and artworks here," said John Dare, the Director of the Tasmanian Craft Fair. "I can't recall ever seeing such enthusiastic crowds, and we've had many compliments from people about how much fun they've had."

The four-day event features 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 by the Fair's closing tomorrow afternoon. 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, is showcasing the power and elegance of art fashioned from forged steel, while Visiting Artist Anaïs Pitalier from France demonstrates her Illumination and icon painting techniques at the Deloraine studio of internationally known Tasmanian artist Tony Smibert.

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Club of Deloraine

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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 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

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