

Media release



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EMBARGOED UNTIL 7PM - NOVEMBER 5, 2011

JEWELLERY DESIGNER AND CRAFTSMAN TIM PEEL WINS MAJOR AWARD AT TASMANIAN CRAFT FAIR

Tim Peel, a jewellery designer and craftsman from Victoria, last night won the Premier's Award for Excellence at the Tasmanian Craft Fair, as judges completed the difficult task of selecting winners from hundreds of world-class exhibits.

Mr Peel, of Silvermist Studio in Healesville, Victoria, won the award and \$10,000 prize money with his entry - a gold sculpted ring with a large pearl and four precious gems. "The work is as much a miniature sculpture as it is jewellery," the judges said. The Premier's Award for Excellence is sponsored by the State Government of Tasmania.

The award winners were announced on Saturday night by the judges, Larissa Bartlett, Ken Lockwood and Gerry King. Other winners were:

- Crafts Arts International Award - Artistic Excellence: **Anthony Hoffrichter of Longbeach Wood Design, Victoria**
- Working Exhibit Award: **Greg Porter of Head Heart Hands Art & Craft, Tasmania**
- Stand Presentation Award: **Dean Smith Ceramics, Victoria**
- First Time Exhibitor Award: **Sheryl Glassmith (kiln-worked glassware), South Australia**
- Provedores Award: **Southern Sky Dairy, Tasmania**

Tasmanian Craft Fair Director John Dare said the judging panel had faced an enormously difficult task this year, given the high calibre of the nearly 250 stalls over 16 venues at the event.

"We've really boosted the quality of stalls in recent years and this year we had some of the best I've seen," he said. "Competition was exceptionally tough. The winners showed all the attributes we seek - originality, passion, and skill."

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A not-for-profit event run by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, the Tasmanian Craft Fair is Australia's largest working craft fair and involves more than 1000 community volunteers. Crowds have strong at all venues, and up to 25,000 patrons from Tasmania, interstate and abroad are expected to pass through the gates before Monday afternoon's closing.

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 has demonstrated her Illumination and icon painting techniques at the Deloraine studio of internationally known Tasmanian artist Tony Smibert.

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

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