**11 June 2019**

### Save the date for 2019 Surf Coast Arts Trail

The start of winter means the countdown for the Surf Coast Arts Trail is well-and-truly on, with people encouraged to mark 10 and 11 August in their calendar.

The creative community is abuzz with artists, studios and galleries preparing their artwork and art spaces for the annual event. This year, the Surf Coast Arts Trail will run the weekend of 10 and 11 August, from 10am to 4pm each day.

It will showcase around 50 venues that will take you through the beautiful hinterland and along the coast. With 10 new venues joining favourites from previous years, the Surf Coast Arts Trail has it all – from pottery wheels to blacksmithing, painting easels to jeweller’s benches, printmaking studios to woodworking sheds and so much more.

With many artists only opening their doors to the public during the Arts Trail event, the weekend provides a rare opportunity for the public to see artists and studios demonstrating their crafts.

"Over the past eight years, the Arts Trail has provided a unique experience for art lovers,” Mayor Rose Hodge said.

“There’s something special about visiting an artist in their creative space, not to mention being able to speak personally with them about what drives their work. Many people gain inspiration and insight into an artwork by seeing the artist in their studio. There's also often a chance to share a friendly chat with the artist while you visit."

This year will also see the launch of an exciting interactive digital map, as an addition to the tried-and-true printed version that will be available from early July. The new digital map will allow each visitor to design their own trail, and discover artists based on location, artwork medium or other nearby attractions. The digital map will be available beyond the event, providing artists an extra opportunity to promote their work and studios throughout the year.

"Council is pleased to be able to support the creators of this region through events such as the Arts Trail, and with the addition of a digital map, we're hoping to improve the experiences of both artists and visitors," Cr Hodge said.

For more information and to stay up-to-date with the artists featured in this year’s event, visit [www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/artstrail](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/artstrail).

**Not for publication:**

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