

ALPHINGTON



Textile artist Wendy Roche is inviting art lovers to visit her studio.

Picture: SARAH MATRAY

Trail leads to art studios

Julia Irwin

ARTISTS are busy sprucing up their studios to open them to the public this Saturday and Sunday.

The annual Alphington Open Studios Weekend will feature 11 artists, including marble mosaic master Cetta Pilati.

Ceramicist Bridget Foley, silk painter Jeanette Wilkins, jeweller Avis Gardner, sculptor Beatrice Magalotti and painter Andrew Sutton will also feature.

Felt and textiles artist Wendy Roche was among those making studio space

available for visitors when the *Leader* spoke to her last week. Roche said she fell in love with felting when she went away for a weekend in Daylesford in 2007.

She saw how fleece could be made into garments without any knitting involved, and booked herself into a neighbourhood house felting course.

“As soon as I started I just couldn’t stop. I quit my paid job in a primary school office and made hats, scarfs, bags and jewellery,” she said.

Roche said she had recently started experimenting with natural dyes and

was thrilled to see the beautiful green colour that was extracted from red hibiscus flowers.

She sells her works at craft markets. Her art – along with much of the other work at the Open Studio – will be on sale over the weekend.

Those planning to visit the Open Studios Weekend can download an artist’s trail map at alphingtonstudios.com, or pick up one from participating studios.

The annual Alphington Open Studio Weekend is on November 23-24, 11am-6pm.