

MEDIA RELEASE

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CANBERRA, ACT

A meaningful Christmas is a Handmade Christmas

Handmade Canberra's huge Christmas market is coming to Canberra again on December 7, 8 & 9 at EPIC in Mitchell. That's two days and a bonus night market for Canberrans to really enjoy all that Handmade brings to their doorstep.

With free entry and onsite parking, shopping for Christmas gifts is easy at Handmade with over 260 stalls of food, drinks, gifts, homewares, fashion, accessories, art and much more. With stallholders bringing specialty Christmas products and produce such as gourmet hams, puddings, gingerbread houses, and tree decorations, shopping at the market takes hosting Christmas to a whole new level!

Finding a meaningful gift in this fast-paced, consumerist society is increasingly challenging, but Handmade Canberra founder and owner Julie Nichols has the answer – "shopping for Christmas at Handmade means purchasing directly from the person who made or produced the item. All products are made in Australia, and made by hand. You can chat to the maker and find out the story behind the product – that's something a chain store just can't do".

It's also more environmentally sustainable to shop locally from a small business who produces things in small batches, from local materials or ingredients. "It's a decision we all have as consumers – to shop the way we used to, buying thoughtfully handmade items from a local person, or to support huge companies and mass production" says Nichols.

There is an extra trading night for Christmas, from 5pm to 9pm on Friday 7 December. Whether you want to be first to find the best Christmas gifts, or you want a fun after-work Friday night outing, the night market is perfect. The gourmet food hall and bar area will be in full swing, along with all the other stallholders open for trading, so you can combine a Friday night out together with your market shopping!

The extra trading day also helps distribute the crowds as the Christmas market is the largest event of the year for Handmade Canberra. "We're used to crowds of 20,000 plus at each of our markets, but that's nothing compared to our Christmas market!" says Nichols. Holding the Friday night event means more shoppers can enjoy the market without having to worry about it being too crowded.

In the true spirit of Christmas, and in keeping with their charity policy, Handmade Canberra have invited local charity ACT Together to collect donations from shoppers upon entry to the market in lieu of an entry fee. "Our shoppers are so generous and we're always blown away by the amounts collected by our door greeters" says Nichols who again, asks Canberrans to dig deep on their way into the market.

There's no need to shop anywhere else this Christmas. Handmade Canberra has everything you could want, all indoors, under one air-conditioned roof! Make a date for December 7, 8 & 9 and make your Christmas a meaningful one in 2018.

ABOUT HANDMADE CANBERRA

Handmade Canberra is Canberra's largest indoor market. It's held 5 times a year at Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC), with 260 stallholders selling handmade products and produce ranging from homewares, fashion, jewellery, art, design, food and beverages. Attracting 120,000 visitors a year and generating an estimated \$15 million, the market is a large contributor to the Canberra economy. The market also supports local charities, raising an estimated \$80,000 dollars per year through market entry donations.

MARKET INFORMATION

What: The Handmade Market - Canberra

When: Special Christmas night market - 5pm-9pm Friday 7th December; and 10am-4pm Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December 2018

Where: Exhibition Park in Canberra (EPIC)

Entry: Free but donations to charity collectors are encouraged

Web: <http://www.handmadecanberra.com.au/>

For information and media opportunities, please contact Julie Nichols via email at market@handmadecanberra.com.au or call 0402 247 532.