



**marymead**  
children • families • community

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Christmas Markets' 'Giving Tree' supports Canberra and region children through Marymead**

The Old Bus Depot Markets has two great reasons to visit throughout December – their popular annual Christmas Markets kick off on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, and you can also give a little back to the local community with the Giving Tree which will assist local charity, Marymead.

“From Saturday 3 December, our annual Christmas Markets will host a special Giving Tree onsite where you can buy gifts for children of Canberra and the surrounding areas who are less fortunate,” said Old Bus Depot Markets’ Director, Anthony Niravong.

“We encourage all visitors to the markets to dig deep and extend their festive spirit to those in need. Our markets’ Giving Tree will have gift tags for varying ages and people can have fun picking something out that they know will go to someone who really needs some extra love at this time of year,” Anthony continued.

Marymead is a well-respected local not-for-profit organisation servicing the ACT and surrounds, and will next year be celebrating 50 years in Canberra, having opened its doors in 1967. Marymead delivers a range of high quality, family support services to children, young people and their families. Jeff Griffiths from Marymead says he’s delighted that the markets are offering a chance for locals to donate at Christmas time.

“Marymead always works to assist children, young people and their families throughout Canberra and the surrounding NSW regions, and Christmas is the time a lot of them need extra support,” said Jeff Griffiths.

The gender and age of children and young people Marymead supports is broad, although low to mid-teens would slightly dominate the mix. Ideal ‘Giving Tree’ gifts are either a store gift card or voucher, or a specific present.

The Marymead Giving Tree will be at the markets for the special Christmas Markets which are held on both Saturdays and Sundays throughout December. Beginning on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the Christmas Markets will be open 10am to 4pm on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

“At our Christmas Markets you can stock up on everything you will need for the big day, choose from the large range of gift ideas for loved ones and select items to decorate your home for the festive season,” said Anthony Niravong.

Christmas themed goodies include wreaths, table centre pieces, candles, advent calendars, baubles and live Christmas trees. And what’s Christmas without all the yummy food?! A scrumptious range of flavours await in cakes, delightful gingerbread houses, mince tarts, puddings, shortbread, party dips, farmhouse cheeses, olives and more.

“We’ll also have a special family day called Christmas Kids on 3<sup>rd</sup> December where the kids can enjoy entertainment, a petting zoo, pony and donkey rides, face painting, a jumping castle, Christmas decorations and yummy food in the summer sunshine,” concluded Anthony.

Canberra’s Old Bus Depot Markets is open each Sunday 10am to 4pm, as well as on Saturdays in December in the lead up to Christmas. Entry is free, admission fees apply to some attractions at the Christmas Kids event on 3 December. More information at [www.obdm.com.au](http://www.obdm.com.au)

**For more information, images or to arrange an interview, please contact Lauren Griffiths at Threesides on 0417 409 264 or [lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au](mailto:lauren.griffiths@threesides.com.au)**