

'BUY LOCAL' APPEAL CALLS FOR DONORS TO SUPPORT BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES THIS CHRISTMAS

Almost a year on from the devastating Black Summer Bushfires, national online charity [GIVIT](#) has partnered with [Handmade Canberra](#) for its 2020 Christmas Appeal to gift some much needed cheer to bushfire-affected families still recovering and in need this festive season.

Through the contactless ['A Very GIVIT Christmas'](#) directory of more than 1,200 handmade items, generous donors can purchase gifts starting at \$20 from hundreds of Aussie small businesses.

These gifts will then be packaged up and sent, free of charge, to bushfire-affected New South Wales communities, from Batlow to Bega and Cooma to Cobargo.

GIVIT Regional Manager, Caroline Odgers said not even the intense bushfire season coupled with a global pandemic can phase the Christmas spirit of our regional communities.

"Thousands of households who felt the brunt of the bushfires and COVID-19 will be gifted thoughtful, Australian made, sustainable, quality presents," said Ms Odgers.

"It's exciting to think this could be Canberra's biggest ever Secret Santa, with almost 20,000 ACT workers on-board who will be able to gift beautiful presents through the Appeal."

Coordinator of South Coast Donations Logistics Team and Moruya's Guerrilla Roasters, Aymee Wise said the Appeal is supporting locals and businesses severely impacted by last summer's bushfires.

"Not so long ago we couldn't even access our coffee roastery due to the bushfires and road closures. But thanks to the nationwide compassion shown to our little business, we're getting back on our feet and are stoked to be a part of the Christmas Appeal," said Ms Wise.

Aymee also believes coffee is a fantastic gift to give as, "giving the gift of coffee is really about giving the gift of a chat and connection with a loved one – which is the best gift of all".

['A Very GIVIT Christmas'](#) runs from now until 24 December 2020. To purchase a gift and support bushfire-affected communities, visit handmadecanberra.com.au/givit.

High-res media images and video: Please click [HERE](#)

***For more information or to arrange an interview please contact
E: media@givit.org.au M: 0444 503 759***

About GIVIT

GIVIT has coordinated more than 150,000 items to support NSW communities still rebuilding, from gas ovens and converted shipping containers for families camping on their properties, hardware equipment, as well as Snake Bite First Aid Kits for those towns hours away from medical assistance.

GIVIT Regional Manager, Caroline Odgers says the charity's key focus is to continue coordinating the generosity of donors to ensure no resident or bushfire-affected community is forgotten.

"From Kiah to Queanbeyan, Broulee to Batlow and the dozens of incredible bushfire-hit communities across New South Wales, generous donations allow GIVIT to provide exactly what's needed by stoic locals doing it tough," said Ms Odgers.



To donate or more information about GIVIT's NSW Bushfires Appeal, visit [GIVIT.org.au/nsw-bushfires](https://givit.org.au/nsw-bushfires). 100% of donated funds GIVIT receives are used to purchase items for people in need.

GIVIT is the smart way to give. Through [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au), we channel generosity where it is needed to support vulnerable people and communities in Australia.

Working with more than 3,800 support organisations, we ensure people get what they need when they need it most – whether recovering from a disaster event, or experiencing hardship due to circumstances such as drought, domestic and family violence, homelessness, disability, and mental health.

GIVIT captures all offers of goods and services online, removing the need for charities and services to sort, store and dispose of unsolicited donations, saving valuable resources. 100% of donated funds received by GIVIT to support people in need are used to purchase essential items. We buy locally, wherever possible, to support local businesses. GIVIT's operational costs are covered by government contracts and our amazing corporate partners.

About Handmade Canberra

Handmade Canberra started small 12 years ago and has become a nationally recognised design market and an accredited partner of the Australian made Campaign.

With a passion for supporting independent, small and creative businesses and connecting them to their target customers, Handmade Canberra has a nurturing relationship with its designers and producers who bring a high standard in quality, workmanship and sensational customer service, and an interactive relationship with its customers. 4 times a year the market regularly attracts over 20,000 visitors from Canberra and further afield.

Find out what makes Handmade unique, including our Australian made and handmade policies, as well as our commitment to connecting Australian makers to people seeking quality, handmade, Australian made goods. [Handmadecanberra.com.au](https://handmadecanberra.com.au)