

Old Bus Depot Markets – Canberra’s Sunday Best!

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Canberra is a sleepy city. I entered the tree lined streets for the umpteenth time last weekend and was as always surprised by just how quiet a place it is in comparison to Sydney.

The trees whisper a calming influence and the people walk about without a care in the world. Even the traffic lights mock my hurry to get from one place to another as the old fashioned timed lights teach me patience.

My sister tells me about the Sunday markets and I envision a miniature replica of Paddy’s markets full of fresh fish and vegetables. The Sunday Markets at the Old Bus Depot just off Wentworth Avenue is a lively experience.

The Markets are an eclectic collection of foodstuffs and quirky collectibles, clothes and plants, flowers and coasters. I was amazed at the wide variety of natural, fresh food available and the sheer creativity of the artwork on offer.

From earrings to vases, bonsai to handbags, handmade mosaics to handmade moisturiser, the sounds and colours are a rainbow of pleasantries that shines a new light on the cultural capital. The stall owners are proud artists who are keen to tell the stories behind their wares and the amicable customer can wander around in blissful curiosity, taste testing the macadamia nuts and the spiced olives to their hearts content.

The markets are symbolic of the collective cultural experience of being Australian. Each stall, whether selling clothes or hand-blown glass is manned by a proud and knowledgeable owner whose friendly repartee with his customer is verification of the open and friendly good humour of the typical Aussie.

The markets are a unique experience. The incredible display of creativity and art, the unique pieces and quirky finds and the collective knowledge of vendors makes the markets a must visit before Christmas!

My personal recommendation is to taste the Canberra mud fudge and the honey macadamia! And buy yourself some hand-blown glass while you’re at it or at least go to the Canberra glassworks next door and have a look at the live demonstrations!

For more information on how to get there and where to park visit:
<http://www.obdm.com.au/>