

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**17 October 2001**

## **Box of cherries sells for \$17,000**

\$17,000 was paid this morning for a box of the season's first cherries at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Cherry Auction held at Sydney Markets, Flemington.

Celebrity guests including Kerry Chikarovski, Nicki Webster, George Piggins, Kerri Pottharst and Terry Hill joined a huge crowd of fruit and vegetable traders to help raise almost \$50,000 for CanTeen, the Australian Organisation for Young People Living with Cancer.

The successful bidder, Patrick Piromalli from the fruit and vegetable shop *Patricks on Bellevue* at Bellevue Hill, was delighted to have secured the prized box of cherries.

"It's quite an honour to be this year's Cherry King. The Cherry Auction is always such an exciting and vibrant event, and it's great to be a part of it. "

"I've been supporting Sydney Markets and the Cherry Auction for some time now and this \$17,000 could not go to a better cause. The Members of CanTeen are such inspiring young people."

"I'm taking some of the cherries to The Children's Hospital at Westmead while the rest will be given to our customers at our shop in Bellevue Hill."

The Cherry Auction is the third and final of the annual auctions held at Sydney Markets each September/October. The season's first mangoes and the rare white waratah were auctioned off last month, raising over \$40,000 for worthy causes."

CanTeen spokesperson, Cath James, said the funds would be very well received by the organization. "\$48,000 is a fantastic result and it will go a long way to helping CanTeen programs."

CanTeen provides recreational support and educational camps to allow young people living with cancer to have fun, learn new skills and make new friends.

**For further information, please contact**

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## **Sydney Produce Market**

Sydney Produce Market is the largest fresh fruit and vegetable wholesale market in Australia and one of the largest in the world. These markets play a significant role in the horticultural industry and the economy of New South Wales. This market primarily caters to professional buyers from supermarkets, restaurants, greengrocers, exporters and food processors.

## **CanTeen**

CanTeen was founded in Sydney in 1985. The idea for a national young cancer patient support group emanated from the personal and professional experience of Michael Carr-Gregg. It was embraced and developed by a group of young cancer patients and supported by a number of key health professionals.

Since its inception CanTeen has, with the help of many individuals and organisations, developed a clear focus on the needs of young people with cancer and their brothers and sisters, and provided the network to ensure they can share their experiences and have fun, while offering resources and promoting understanding, well-being and leadership.