

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
EDITION THREE 2023

LET'S CONNECT

SEE WHAT
PROJECTS HAVE
BEEN DELIVERED
RECENTLY
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WE'VE GOT LOTS
OF EVENTS
COMING UP
PAGE 11



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the App and Google Play Stores

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF
CAMDEN, CR ASHLEIGH CAGNEY



Welcome to the third edition of Let's Connect for 2023 – can you believe we're three down and only one to go!

In this edition you'll find exciting details on a number of projects which have recently been delivered across the Camden area. From restoring walkways and bridges to completing the work being done at Mount Annan Leisure Centre, we're committed to continuously improving facilities and infrastructure for residents, workers and visitors.

You'll also read about some fantastic events and programs we've celebrated recently and everything we have scheduled to celebrate over the next few months. As this year races by, we're now officially counting down to our Christmas events – Camden Christmas Festival and Oran Park Christmas Concert. We held these two events for the first time last year and they were big hits – and I can't wait to see everyone's smiling faces there again this year!

A highlight for me over the past three months has been the establishment of my newest initiative, Mobile Mayor's Office. This initiative has been all about getting out and about, meeting people across the area and connecting in meaningful ways. I have loved all the conversations shared to date, and am really looking forward to continuing to hear your ideas, priorities and concerns. There are a few more details on page six, so be sure to check it out.

Enjoy the read!

Mayor of Camden



As winter draws to a close for another year and we say hello to spring, we're taking a look back at the fabulous and frosty events held across Camden over the past few months.

Winterfest Camden took the area by snowstorm, taking place from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 July. The return of this frosty event was something we had waited a long time for, after COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the event in both 2020 and 2021 and the severe flooding events of 2022 cancelled last year's event.

All these false starts made it so much more special to see more than 7,000 people make their way down to Onslow Oval in Camden to enjoy the fun-filled winter themed activities and entertainment which took place at the winter wonderland.

Families from near and far enjoyed ice-skating and the ice slide; the mechanical snowboard and snow globe; activities for kids and the inclusive space; live entertainment and ice performances; and the incredible food and beverage stalls that turned up the flavour at the event.

SPECTACULAR EVENTS



On the same weekend, Mayor of Camden, Cr Ashleigh Cagney, attended two incredible sporting events. The first was the third and fourth round of the 2023 AusCycling BMX Racing National Series, hosted by Macarthur BMX Club on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 July. The event featured more than 700 talented riders from every state and territory of Australia, as well as a number of riders from New Zealand.

Some of the country's top riders descended onto the Kirkham Park BMX Facility at Elderslie, including Queensland's Teya Rufus and Thomas Tucker, Victoria's Bella May and Max Carins and South Australia's Imogen Healy.

The second was the inaugural International Festival of Indigenous Football, co-hosted by Camden Tigers Indigenous Football Program and Maori Football Aotearoa at Ron Dine Reserve on Sunday 9 July. This event was a big celebration of the Indigenous cultures of both New Zealand and Australia through football, right as NAIDOC Week was drawing to a close.

The atmosphere was incredible, with an amazing welcome to country, smoking ceremonies and traditional dancing. The football games were preceded by the haka and Aboriginal war cry, which went a long way in showcasing the two cultures, so rich in history and storytelling.

Now that the weather is heating up, you can expect our events to heat up too. Make sure you check out what's coming up near you on page 11!



WORK ACROSS CAMDEN



POPULAR WALKWAY COMES BACK TO LIFE

Council was excited to re-open the popular Miss Llewella Davies Pioneer Walkway at Camden Town Farm recently, following last year's damaging floods.

Council repaired and replaced parts of the pathway surface, reconstructed fences; removed flood debris; and replaced lost and damaged signage.

We look forward to seeing you enjoy the different loops again!

DID YOU KNOW?

Dawson-Damer Park earned the NSW Award of Excellence in the play spaces category of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards. Scan the QR for more information on its latest accolade.



BRIDGES UPDATE

Last year's floods have significantly impacted a number of Camden's bridges.

We know these assets are vital in keeping our community moving in, out and around the Camden area smoothly, so we have been working to investigate the scale of damage, undertake repair works and reopen them as soon as possible.

LITTLE SANDY BRIDGE

Damage to the riverbank on the Elderslie side of Little Sandy Bridge worsened with each flooding event and Council has been working with specialist consultants to investigate and design suitable repair options, including possible improvements.

At time of writing (September 2023), Council has completed concept design options for the rectification of the damage to Little Sandy Bridge. A peer review of the options is being undertaken before detail design commences.

Further updates on timing will be provided once detailed design commences.

COWPASTURE BRIDGE

The pedestrian rail on Cowpasture Bridge was significantly damaged in the floods by displaced trees traveling down the river.

The damaged pedestrian rail was replaced last month, with no interruption to pedestrian or vehicle access.

WORK ACROSS CAMDEN



WORK AT MOUNT ANNAN LEISURE CENTRE COMPLETE

Improvements and remediation work to Mount Annan Leisure Centre (MALC) are now complete and the facility has re-opened to the public in full.

The \$1.75 million project was needed to address deteriorated roofing elements and repair work to corroded steel within the building.

Work included restoration work to the roof above the 25-metre and leisure pools as well as:

- Restoration of rusting structural steel members/purlins;
- Corroded structural column repairs;
- Replacement of water damaged plasterboard/bulkheads;
- Visual painting improvements;
- Replacement of leaking/aged box gutters; and
- External roof flashing replacements/repairs.

AN ALPHA PLAYGROUND

The playground at Alpha Park in Camden has recently been upgraded.

The \$180,000 project has seen:

- A new swing set, including an inclusive two-seater nest;
- A new slide;
- An upgrade of the seating area; and
- Landscaping.



CAMDEN CIVIC CENTRE IS GETTING A MAKEOVER

Camden Civic Centre hosts a multitude of local, state and national events each year and is one of our most used facilities.

The venue is incredibly versatile and has served the community well for many years – but needs a facelift and improvements for improved community use.

The proposed upgrade works will create a new entry and foyer space; provide better connection from John Street to the Civic Centre; increase the amount of affordable multipurpose art making and community spaces available; create outdoor areas suitable for multi-purpose use; attract visitors to Camden; and so much more.

WANT MORE INFO?

Scan the QR code to find more information on these projects and others.



OUR COMMUNITY



GO TILLIES

Camden had Matildas fever in August, getting swept up in the hype that was the FIFA Women's World Cup.

Council's goal was to make sure the Matildas could feel the love and pride all the way from Camden, so went hard in our celebrations of the incredible team.

You may have seen the Matildas activation on the corner of Argyle and John Streets in Camden (pictured above), the Waste Truck donning support messages for the Matildas, lots of social media posts and even our Mayor, Cr Ashleigh Cagney, and Camden Council mascot, Patty, making appearances all over the Camden area.

The pièce de resistance was the live viewing event of the Matildas v England game at Onslow Oval, which saw almost 1,000 people come along to cheer our girls on. Although the result wasn't what we had hoped, all of Camden was incredibly proud of our talented players and how far the team went.

DID YOU KNOW?

We have a document to help property owners and developers choose the most appropriate materials and colours for works in Camden's heritage areas. Scan the QR below to access the Camden Material and Colour Guide.



ADOPT LOCAL

Looking for your new forever friend?

Come and visit Camden Council's Animal Care Facility located in Rossmore!



Scan the code for more information and to see our available furry friends!



OUR COMMUNITY



PLAY LIKE A GIRL

Congratulations to Camden resident, Lily Hreszczuk, and Currans Hill resident, Hannah Bennetts, who have been awarded a scholarship each for the upcoming Play Like a Girl program.

The program, offered by Play Like a Girl Australia, is designed to empower and inspire girls to reach their full potential by helping to guide their personal and professional journey through a sports lens.

Both candidates are 16 years old, with Lily a Camden Cricket Club member and Hannah a member of Girls on Track pathways.

There were more than 20 applications for the two scholarships offered to girls across the Camden area, which are fully funded by Camden Council.



WANT TO MEET THE MAYOR?

Mayor of Camden, Cr Ashleigh Cagney, recently launched her newest initiative, Mobile Mayor's Office, which saw her set up in locations across the Camden area to connect with the community.

The sessions are a great opportunity to meet the Mayor, talk about any ideas or concerns you may have for the Camden area and find out what's happening around you.

The Mobile Mayor's Office will continue over the coming months, so be sure to keep an eye on Council's socials to see upcoming dates.

IT'S AS SIMPLE AS SPELLING CAMDEN

Calling Camden Council is now simpler and easier than ever, with Council's new phone number – 13 CAMDEN (13 226 336).

Council changed its main line phone number to improve serviceability by making it more memorable for residents, visitors and anyone else looking to get in touch by phone.

Council's existing number – 4654 7777 – will divert to 13 CAMDEN over the next 12 months.

Six Camden Council facilities have also received new numbers, including:

- Civic Centre 4653 3333;
- Alan Baker Art Gallery 4653 3111;
- Family Day Care 4653 3000;
- Camden Library 4653 3100;
- Narellan Library 4653 3101; and
- Oran Park Library 4653 3102.

WANT TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH NEWS FROM ACROSS COUNCIL?

Scan the QR code to keep informed!



SUSTAINABLE LIVING



RESTORING ELIZABETH MACARTHUR RESERVE

Camden Council teamed up with Sydney Water and Downer BMD Joint Venture to remove weeds and restore native vegetation along the creek line in Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve.

Approximately 3,000 native species from the River Flat Eucalypt Forest plant community, which is identified as a Critically Endangered Ecological Community, were planted in July and August, significantly improving the biodiversity value of the reserve.

BANK STABILISATION PROJECT

Bank stabilisation works have been undertaken on the Nepean River at Ferguson's Land through a partnership project with Sydney Water.

The pilot project has included:

- Removal of woody weeds;
- Regrading of the bank;
- Installation of large woody debris structures to slow water flow and provide aquatic habitat; and
- Replanting local native vegetation.

The project, which is nearing completion, has successfully restored a section of the eroding bank of the Nepean River, preventing further erosion and soil loss which, in turn will prevent excess nutrients entering the River and degrading water quality.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN BUSHCARE?

A new Bushcare Group was launched at Camden Town Farm on Sunday 9 July. The launch event was a great success, with residents enjoying a guided walk and talk, bird spotting and even a mini beast hunt followed by a well-deserved morning tea.

We have a number of Bushcare groups looking for new volunteers, including Camden Town Farm, Harrington Forest, Kings Bush Reserve, Parrott Farm Reserve, Ron Dine Reserve, Sickles Creek Reserve and Spring Farm Bush Corridor.

Volunteers help manage and maintain the remnant urban bushland areas by controlling weeds, participating in revegetation, restoring bushlands, rivers and creeks and collecting seeds. All this while staying fit, meeting new people and making a difference to our local environment!

Scan the QR code for more information and to join in.

ARTS AND CULTURE



SOMETHING TO SAY

Earlier this year, Council's Youth Participation Public Art Program saw 12 emerging artists aged between 12 and 24 years mentored by local artist, Michele Arentz, to paint and exhibit a series of ARTangle display boxes in Oran Park.

The artworks which were produced as part of the program, entitled Something To Say, were then reproduced on 45 bus shelters across the Camden area. Participants also created several small-scale mural artworks.

CAMDEN ART PRIZE

The 45th annual Camden Art Prize was held in June, attracting more than 200 entries.

Judged by Amanda McLean and Hamish Ta-Me, the winners for 2023 are as follows:

- Overall Winner – 'Intrepid Challenger' by Deborah Heeley;
- The Bruce Cunningham Works on Paper Section – 'Shorebirds' by Doreen Lyon;
- The Bob Baker Memorial Traditional Section – 'Old Man Saltbush – Lightning Ridge' by David Lake;
- The Marjory Baker Memorial Youth Award – Keira as Elizabeth by Jade Stein;
- The Liz Kernohan AM Memorial Local Artist Section – 'Intrepid Challenger' by Deborah Heeley;
- The Bruce Ferguson OAM Open Section – 'Keira as Elizabeth' by Jade Stein;
- Photography Section – 'Alone' by Edwin Lim;
- Watercolour Section – 'Vincentia Shoreline' by Brian Stratton;
- Sculpture Section – 'Piscine' by Patrice Cooke; and
- Committee Choice Award – 'Vase of Flowers' by Paula Holliday.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can receive information about upcoming programs and cultural events by signing up to Alan Baker Art Gallery's mailing list. Scan the QR on the left to sign up, or the QR on the right to explore all current programs.



MAILING LIST



PROGRAMS



CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HEROES

The most recent Camden Kerbside Exhibition, **Celebrating Our Local Heroes**, recognised the people in our lives and throughout history that have been integral in shaping our culture, community and us as individuals.

People such as parents, leaders, Elders, historic characters and friends are amongst those who have inspired, shared tradition and culture and helped us to understand our ancestry, values, and heritage, leading us to grow as individuals.

The curated streetside exhibition featured artworks created by the local community on guard rails, planter boxes, bus shelters, and bins along Argyle, Mitchell, Murray and Oxley Streets in Camden in August and September 2023.

EVENTS



BUSINESS HEALTH CHECKS

Over the past few months, Council collaborated with Business Connect to provide FREE Business Health Checks.

These one-on-one sessions provided business owners with useful insights to support them in prioritising the next steps for their business.

UNLOCK CAMDEN

On Saturday 2 September, Unlock Camden offered a glimpse into Camden's past as Council celebrated and explored local heritage.

This jam-packed, fun-filled family day out at John Street and Camden Town Farm in Camden included an all-ages art display; tours of Alan Baker Art Gallery, Camden Museum and Camden's heritage sites; workshops, talks and dances by First Nations artists; displays of vintage and veteran vehicles, drop-in activities and games; and so much more.



CAMDEN FESTIVAL

Last month we celebrated an incredible series of events, all part of Council's signature Camden Festival. Picnic in the Park (Sunday 10 September), Kids Fun Day (Wednesday 13 September) and the iconic TASTE Camden (Sunday 24 September)



WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S COMING UP IN CAMDEN?



Camden United Resilience Basketball (CURB)

Every Tuesday afternoon until 28 November | Julia Reserve Youth Precinct

The program, delivered in partnership between Camden Council, Big Yellow Umbrella and The Y NSW, is completely free, with food and drink provided.



Creative Collab

Thursday 12 October | Camden Civic Centre

This quarterly forum connects emerging and established arts and creative professionals from the Macarthur region. Join artist and Artistic Director at Peter Day Environmental Art and Design, Peter Day, for a discussion about pricing and packaging artworks.



Camden Wedding Expo

15 October | Camden Civic Centre

In love and looking for the right way to celebrate your engagement, or plan for an unforgettable wedding day? With more than 40 exhibitors, this event is for you!



Camden Christmas Festival

Saturday 25 November | Argyle Street, Camden

Get ready to celebrate the Christmas season in Camden. This event will feature the lighting of the Camden community Christmas tree, market stalls, live music and performances, amusements, activities for kids and a visit from Santa.



Oran Park Christmas Concert

Friday 1 December | 70 Central Avenue, Oran Park

The Christmas celebrations will continue in Oran Park, where we'll be lighting the Oran Park community Christmas tree, enjoying market stalls and entertainment and, of course, get to see Santa again.



Cultural Fusion

28 September, 26 October, 23 November and 21 December | Camden Civic Centre

Immerse yourself in a multi-faceted cultural extravaganza that combines live performance, inspiring art, bustling markets and soul-stirring music.

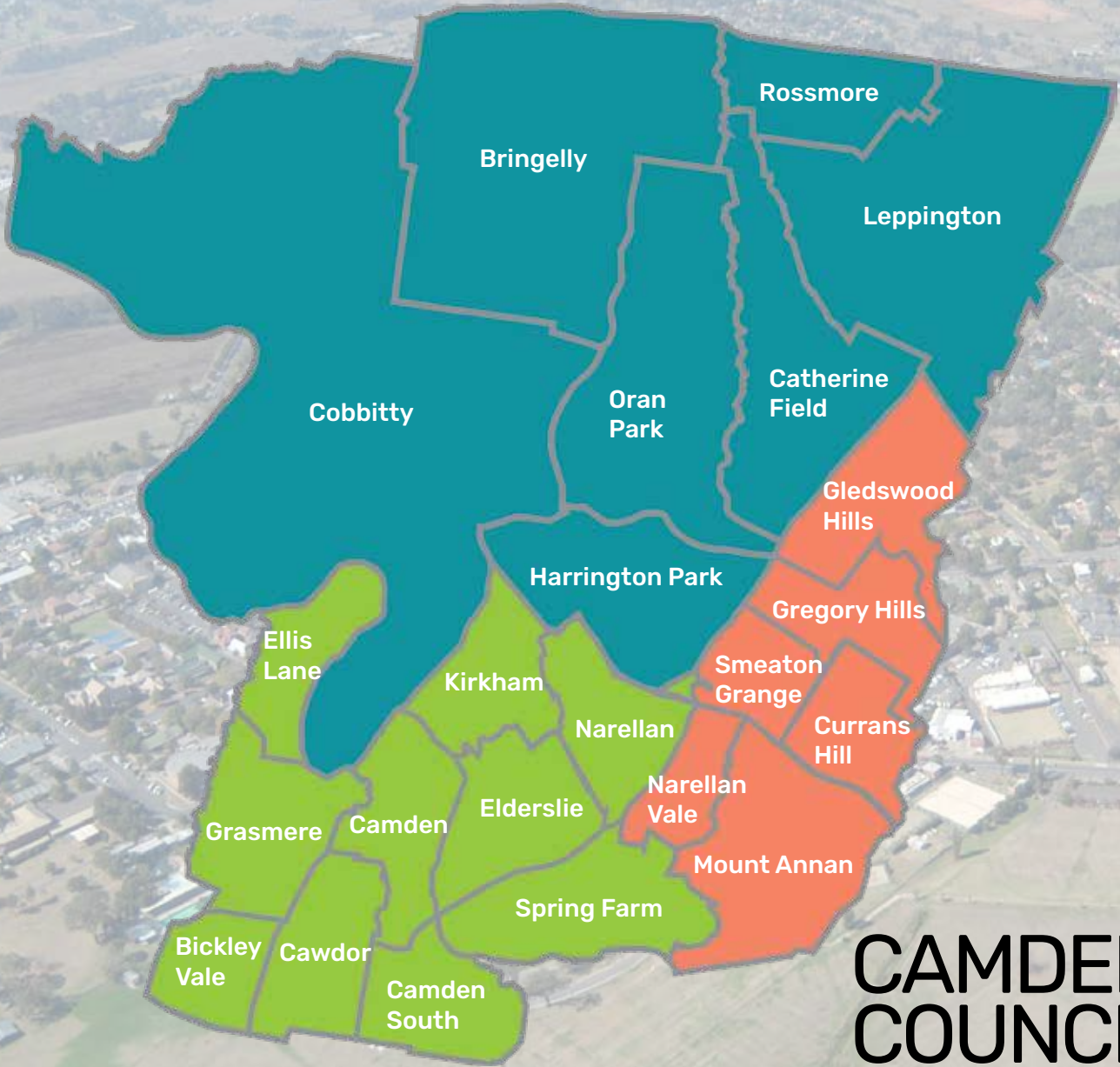


Scan the QR code for more information about these events and to see what else is happening near you!

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH COUNCIL

If you have a matter you wish to raise with us, please:

- Call our Customer Service Centre on **13 CAMDEN (13 226 336)**;
- Email us at mail@camden.nsw.gov.au;
- Lodge it online at camden.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/report;
- Download the **OurCamden** app; or
- Visit our Customer Service Centre at **70 Central Avenue, Oran Park**.



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