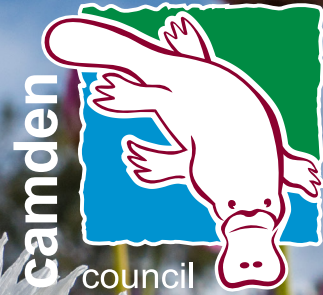


# LET'S CONNECT

CAMDEN'S QUARTERLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



## Get Appy with Council's New Smartphone App for Residents

If you want to access Council information and services while on the go, you can now do so via our new mobile app. Connecting with us is easier than ever. App features:



### REPORT

Issues such as potholes, graffiti and missed bins instantly



### WHAT'S ON

Discover local events and activities in your area



### WASTE SERVICES

Find out general waste information, including your bin night



### POSITIONS VACANT

See details on positions currently advertised



### SPORTING FIELDS

Check the wet weather status of Council sporting fields



### INSPECTION REPORT

Book a Building or Driveway Inspection quickly and easily



### COUNCILLORS

Contact Councillors directly via the app



## Highlights

Value for Ratepayers

Council Delivering Quality Projects

Outdoor Youth Space in Mount Annan

Young People in Camden are Winners

Council is Small Business Friendly

Little Sandy Bridge Gets Striking Artwork

## Contact Us



02 4654 7777



[camden.nsw.gov.au](http://camden.nsw.gov.au)



[mail@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@camden.nsw.gov.au)



[facebook.com/camdecouncil](https://facebook.com/camdecouncil)

Available for free





# Council Delivering Quality Projects

Council will deliver a range of exciting major projects. Here's a snapshot:

## Camden Town Centre Enhancements

- Upgrade of street furniture and footpath pavers
- Drainage improvements
- Pedestrian signals to replace the zebra crossing between John and Hill Streets
- Increased footpath widths by 1m to improve footpath levels
- Installation of traffic lights at the Oxley Street intersection
- One deck addition to the Civic Centre Car Park in Oxley Street

The next stage of works (1B) between Hill and John Streets is expected to commence in early 2016 as planned.

**Project value: \$8 million**

## Narellan Sports Hub, The Northern Road

- 44 court netball complex and athletics facility
- Multi-code sportsground and 1,000 car spaces
- Potential walking and cycling network and playground

Construction of Stage 1 expected to commence in mid-2016.

**Stage 1 value: \$7.7 million**

## Birriwa Outdoor Youth Space, Mount Annan

- Adventure equipment for older children aged 12-17 years old
- Passive open space and upgrade of multi-purpose sports courts
- Covered BBQ area, amenities block and landscaping
- Potential additional parking and refurbishment of the underpass across Waterworth Drive

Expected completion March 2016.

**Project value: \$1.4 million**

## Mount Annan Leisure Centre Expansion

- Expansion of the health, fitness and creche facilities
- Upgrade of service desk, entry foyer and kiosk servery
- New two court indoor sports hall and multi-purpose community space

Construction to commence in mid-2016.

**Project value: \$13.65 million**

## Expanded Core Services

- Additional mowing of parks and playgrounds - extra \$500,000
- Additional footpath construction for high demand areas - extra \$300,000
- High impact plantings across the LGA - \$153,000
- Additional opening hours at Narellan Library and Camden Pool - extra \$13,000

**Project value: \$966,000**



## John Peat Reserve Revamped

John Peat Reserve, next to the bike track in Camden, has been upgraded with a range of adventure style equipment for older children and improved infrastructure for all residents to enjoy.

The revamped playground features:

- A 4m x 4m picnic shelter
- Six-way swing
- Cable ride
- Rodeo board
- Air glide
- Improved landscaping

The fitness equipment has been retained and a new basket swing for younger children will ensure this much-loved space provides a quality experience for the entire family.

**The cost of this project was \$101,000.**

## Have Your Say on the Appearance of the Oxley Street Car Park

Council is seeking your feedback on the appearance of the one deck car park extension in Oxley Street, Camden.

Council consulted extensively with the community between July and September 2014 on the need and preferred location for extra parking in the Camden Town Centre.

The majority of responses stated there was a need for more parking and supported the Oxley Street/ Civic Centre Car Park as the preferred location.

Council would love to hear your feedback on the appearance of the car park.

**Have your say before 16 December by visiting [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)**

Community feedback will be collated and a final design will be submitted as part of an official development application in 2016.



Visualisation of Mount Annan Leisure Centre upgrade

## Value for Ratepayers

Council is in a strong financial position with a balanced budget, a result of responsible financial management.

Unlike some other Councils, we haven't increased rates above the minimum rate peg amount of 2.4% set by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Council continues to find savings without impacting on delivering our core services.

Savings include:

- Conducting an insurance review and moving to a mutual pool - **\$240,000** saving per annum
- Improved Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) management - **\$160,000** saving per annum
- Review of telephone system resulting in higher capability and savings of **\$64,000** per annum

- Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) interest savings of more than **\$700,000** over the life of the loans.

In total, almost **\$500,000** each year is currently being saved by seeking more competitive prices and packages for our ratepayers.

Additional savings means Council can deliver more projects and services and ensure value for money for ratepayers.

## Additional Funding for Birriwa Outdoor Youth Space, Mount Annan

**Additional funding of \$900,000 has been allocated to expand the scope of an exciting new outdoor youth space project.**

A sunken garden, public art and exciting adventure style equipment are just some of the things that our young people will be able to enjoy at their new outdoor youth space. An additional funding allocation will bring the total value of this project to **\$1.4 million**.

Council's 2013 Recreation Demand Study identified adventure playgrounds for older children as one of the top 10 priorities.

Birriwa Reserve was selected as the location for a new youth space for older children due to its high youth demographic, visibility and close location to other recreation facilities, shopping and food outlets.





## Young People in Camden are Winners

Young people in Camden have a lot to celebrate - the best youth program in the State and great programs and facilities.

We work in partnership with young people and the community organisations that support them in the delivery of a range of youth-led activities, events and projects.

Camden's Youth Week recently picked up the award for the best program in the State out of 152 Councils at the NSW Local Government Awards for the second consecutive year.

The 2015 Camden Youth Outreach Program is now in full swing with plenty of activities and events on offer for young people aged 12 to 25.

Find out more on services and events for young people in the Camden LGA on our website.



Mayor, Cr Lara Symkowiak with members of Camden Youth Council

## Funding for Road Safety Improvements gets the Green Light

Council is continuously improving road safety across the Camden LGA.

Council has secured funding of \$295,000 from the State and Federal Governments for a range of high priority projects to improve road safety and increase active transport within the Camden LGA.

### State Government Funding

- For the Active Transport and Safer Roads Program to improve walking and cycling connections
- Council has committed \$90,000 to match dollar for dollar
- Pedestrian crossing upgrade outside Mount Annan Public School

- Narellan CBD Public Domain Plan and Camden Council Bike Plan

### Federal Government Funding

- For the Black Spot Funding Program. Eligibility is based on recorded accident history and its severity
- New roundabout at the intersection of Elizabeth and Mitchell Streets, Camden and shoulder improvements
- Allenby Road, Rossmore road shoulder improvements



Pedestrian crossing outside Mount Annan Public School before being upgraded

## Local Roads Package to Benefit Camden

Council has received \$2.3 million for road projects in Camden under the first round of the Australian Government funded Local Roads Package for Western Sydney.

This funding is part of the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.

Projects in Camden that have been identified for funding include:

- Argyle Street/Camden Valley Way Corridor upgrade (Stage 1) for traffic and related road improvements within Camden Town Centre - \$2.1million
- Argyle Street/Camden Valley Way Corridor Upgrade (Stage 2) for development of a route strategy for Camden Valley Way between Camden and Narellan - \$150,000
- Argyle Street/Camden Valley Way Corridor Upgrade (Macarthur Road intersection) for a funding contribution for design of the intersection - \$50,000

Council is working proactively with all levels of government to ensure the best outcomes for our community.

Find out more on Council's website.

## Driving Education Innovation and Economic Growth

Council and the Western Sydney University (WSU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the potential establishment of a WSU Launch Pad: Smart Business Centre.

The Centre would give students, businesses, industry bodies and employees access to a range of business and education resources.

Operating in partnership with government, business and the community, the Centre would develop initiatives to build on education, innovation and economic growth in our region and help secure more employment opportunities for residents.

Find out more by contacting Council's Economic Development Officer on 4645 7614.



From left: Western Sydney University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Barney Glover with Deputy Mayor, Cr Peter Sidgreaves

## Improved Plantings for Key Locations

Camden residents and visitors can now enjoy new and improved plantings at key locations around our LGA.

High impact plantings and embellishments at specific roundabouts and corner locations have taken place in Camden, Elderslie, Narellan, Mount Annan, Harrington Park, Catherine Field and Currans Hill.

Council has allocated \$153,000 in the 2015/16 Budget for this project.



New plantings at corner of Camden Valley Way and Narellan Road



# Great Report Card for Council Development Applications

**When compared to other similar Councils in Greater Western Sydney, Camden has one of the fastest Development Application (DA) processes.**

Camden Council determined 1,058 DAs and approved \$513 million worth of development within Camden during the reporting period, ranking the 9th highest LGA in the State for the value of development (Local Development Performance Monitoring Report) released by the Department of Planning and Environment.

**Council determined development with a mean gross determination time of only 36 days.**

The gross determination time is the time taken from the day the DA is lodged to the day the DA is determined – with no days excluded.

For single dwelling DAs, Camden took an average of 39 days to process compared with Blacktown at 49 days, Campbelltown at 59 days, The Hills at 71 days and Liverpool at 82 days.

For Commercial/Retail/Office DAs, Camden took an average of 81 days, Campbelltown 98 days, Blacktown 114 days and Liverpool 125 days.

Despite the pressures that development and population growth places on it, Council is constantly seeking to improve its service delivery and efficiency to manage the growth, comply with legislation and meet the needs of our customers in a timely manner.

Council has introduced:

- a user-friendly DA information section on its website
- a pre-DA service
- a paperless process in the assessment of DAs.

## Council is Small Business Friendly

**Council is committed to fostering and supporting local small businesses.**

Camden Council is one of more than 60 Councils that have committed to the ground-breaking Small Business Friendly Councils Program (SBFC) developed by the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner in partnership with the NSW Business Chamber.

Camden Council has achieved significant progress in making small business a priority through this program.

Council hosted the first SBFC Conference in Camden in May, bringing together other program members from Greater Western Sydney.

Camden Council's commitment through the SBFC Program includes:

- Establishment of the Camden Region Economic Taskforce to foster economic growth and development



Mayor, Cr Lara Symkowiak with David Waudby, CEO South West Sydney BEC and Tina Vella, Owner of Miss Lushes Lashes Beauty Salon, Camden

- Development of an On-time Payment Policy which has been adopted by Council
- Implementation of an online DA information package and guide for local business owners
- Inclusion of a Business Page on Council's website
- Implementation of new initiatives for engaging with small businesses in Camden.

For the second time, Camden Council organised Business Month in September, offering a range of business related events, workshops and training for businesses in the Camden Local Government Area.

For more information contact Council's Economic Development Officer on 4654 7614.

## Help Us Recognise Our Community Heroes

**Do you know someone who makes our community a better place or someone who has excelled in the sporting field?**

Why not nominate them in the 2015 Camden Australia Day Civic Awards?

Council is calling for nominations in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Young Sportsperson of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

The Awards recognise individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to our community.

These achievements can be through areas such as education, health, fundraising, voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment and community events.

Nominations close 10 December.

Winners are announced on Australia Day 2016.

Download the nomination form from our website.



Mayor, Cr Lara Symkowiak with 2015 Citizen of the Year, Ted Gillroy and Camden's Australia Day Ambassador, Donny Gallea

## Council to Establish Economic Taskforce

**Council is a step closer in the establishment of the Camden Region Economic Taskforce.**

A key Council initiative, the Taskforce will:

- Develop strategies to increase the types of employment in the area, providing more opportunities for residents to work closer to home

- Bring together key local business leaders and experts to support local business and help ensure a vibrant and flourishing local economy
- Play an integral role in driving economic growth and maximising opportunities associated with growth.

The Taskforce will be a company limited by guarantee and will be a separate entity from Council with a priority focus on economic growth across the region.

Council will seek Ministerial approval for the Taskforce to be established. The Taskforce is a key component of our Small Business Friendly Councils program.

## Oran Park House on State Heritage Register

Oran Park House, now known as Catherine Park House, has been listed on the State Heritage Register.

The State listing recognises the heritage significance of the property to the people of NSW as well as to the people and visitors of the Camden LGA.

The house is on part of a 2,000 acre land grant awarded by Governor Lachlan Macquarie to William Douglas Campbell in 1815.

Oran Park House represents the colonial development of the Cowpastures district in the early to mid 19th century.

Restoration of Oran Park House, the silo, Coach House, carriage loop and surrounding gardens are soon to commence.



## Little Sandy Bridge Gets Striking Artwork

A community art project at Little Sandy Bridge, on the Nepean River, is complete and ready for the community and visitors to enjoy.

The striking artwork, which can be seen on the stairway leading up to Chellaston Reserve in Camden, was created by local Aboriginal artist Danielle Mate in collaboration with the Aboriginal community.

Inspired by the colours and design of the natural environment, the artwork celebrates the flora and fauna of this popular site and pays tribute to Camden Council's mascot, the Platypus.

As part of the design process, Danielle consulted with the Aboriginal community and Mygunyah Camden Aboriginal Residents Group about place and connection and held art workshops to combine ideas to create this vibrant artwork.

Little Sandy Bridge is a place where residents and visitors can enjoy and appreciate the natural environment.



## Cool Off for Longer this Summer

Following community feedback, Council has extended weekend opening hours of the Camden War Memorial Pool.

Camden War Memorial Pool will now open until 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays (instead of closing at 5pm previously), throughout the opening season.

For more on this great facility visit [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)



## Council Hosts a visit from Kashiwa Students

The Mayor recently welcomed students from Camden's Sister City, Kashiwa in Japan.

The Camden International Friendship Association (CIFA) was founded in 1993 following an initiative to establish a link with a town in Japan to promote international friendship.

The two towns were formally linked in 1997 when Shonan's Mayor Fujikawa and Camden's Mayor Brooking, signed a friendship agreement.

The original agreement was with the town of Shonan, however in 2005 Shonan and the city of Kashiwa merged and as such the friendship agreement was continued with Kashiwa.

The delegation:

- Was hosted by local families
- Included 12 students aged between 13 and 17 years and two leaders



Mayor, Cr Lara Symkowiak with 2015 Japanese Delegation Students

- Visited Mawarra Public School, local high schools, Featherdale Wildlife Park, Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, the Blue Mountains and Belgenny Farm

If you're a high school student in the Camden LGA and interested in finding out more about an exciting CIFA sponsored tour to Japan in 2016, phone CIFA on 4655 2065.

## Sporting Facilities Upgrade



Narellan Jets Junior Rugby League Football Club and the Mets Baseball Club will soon enjoy much-needed improvements to their facilities.

As we grow, it is important for residents to have access to a range of quality sporting facilities. These much needed upgrades will provide real benefits for current and future residents.

### New Clubhouse for Narellan Jets

Narellan Jets Junior Rugby League Football Club will soon enjoy a new clubhouse at Narellan Park thanks to receiving \$200,000 from the Federal Government's Community Development Grants Program and an allocation of \$47,000 from Council's Capital Works Program.

A new clubhouse will provide a range of benefits to current and future residents, is consistent with Council's Sports Ground Strategy, and will complement the proposed Narellan Sports Hub Development.

### Lighting Upgrade for Mets Baseball Club home ground

The Mets Baseball Club was successful in obtaining a grant of \$26,850 through the State Government's Community Building Partnership Program to complete the floodlighting upgrade for their home ground at Catherine Field Reserve, Catherine Field. The Club will also contribute to the project and the remaining funding of \$26,850 will be contributed by Council.



## Local Government Week Celebrated

Year 6 students across Camden entered the Mayor for the Day competition to celebrate Local Government Week.

Students were judged on presentation skills, knowledge of Local Government and Camden and their innovative ideas to make our community a better place.

Key topics included improving traffic, making roads and footpaths safer and more sporting, recreation and cultural facilities.

This year's winner was **Mackenzie Curtis** of Mount Annan Public School and the runner-up was **Alex Frankum** from Macarthur Anglican College.



Image: Mayor, Cr Lara Symkowiak and 2015 Camden Citizen of the Year, Ted Gillroy with 2015 Mayor for a Day participants.

## Save the Date for Paws in the Park 2016

The much-loved Paws in the Park event will return to Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park on Sunday 15 May 2016.

Jam-packed with activities, entertainment and stalls, the 2016 Paws in the Park event is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever!

All the favourites such as the Jack-Russell races, obedience demonstrations, the 3km and 5km walk, doggy high jump and Royal Canin showbags will be back.

The event offers plenty of fun for the whole family and their four-legged friends.

Save the date in your calendar as this is an event not to be missed.



## A Little Piece of History to be Relocated

A piece of Australian history will be relocated to Curry Reserve in Elderslie, providing greater access for the community and visitors to enjoy this special piece of our past.

Council will relocate the John Oxley commemorative anchor to a more prominent part of Camden, which is also part of the original Oxley land grant, to highlight the significance of John Oxley to the area.

John Oxley was an explorer and surveyor of Australia in the early period of British colonisation and also served as Surveyor General of New South Wales. He received two properties in the Camden area from Governor Macquarie.



## New Civic Precinct in Oran Park

An impressive civic precinct in the heart of the Camden LGA is starting to take shape.

A vibrant and exciting new civic precinct is underway with the commencement of the construction of Council's new administration building in Oran Park.

The new precinct will offer a range of quality recreation and community facilities and spaces.

The Council administration building and the Town Park is expected to be completed by mid 2016.

A Library/Community Centre and Leisure Centre and will be delivered to our community over the coming years.

Find out more on our website.



Visualisation of Civic Precinct in Oran Park



# EnviroMentors Visit Local Schools

Council engaged Keep Australia Beautiful to deliver two modules of its EnviroMentors program to local primary schools.

A total of 707 K-6 students participated in the 'Catchment Action' and 'Drip, Drop, Splash!' modules, raising awareness of catchment health and water conservation related solutions.

Students from Narellan, Leppington, Camden, Cobbitty and Currans Hill Public Schools participated in the Drip, Drop, Splash module about the water cycle, learning how scarce usable water there is and the need for strategies to save water.

Students from St Paul's and St Clare's Primary Schools explored the concept of a catchment, highlighting the Hawkesbury-Nepean and observed the effects of contaminants and the need to protect our fragile waterways.

EnviroMentors was funded through Council's Stormwater Education and Awareness Program 2014/15.



## Funding Available to Support Community Projects

Council's Donations for Charitable Purposes Program offers financial and in-kind support for individuals and organisations of up to \$500.

This is a one-off payment for projects that can demonstrate long-term benefits for residents of the Camden Local Government Area.

Applications are open now, find out more on Council's website.

## See What's On in Camden

Looking for something to do in the Camden area?

Visit the Events section on Council's website to see a full list of events, activities and workshops, many of which are free.

Take a look today at [www.camden.nsw.gov.au/events](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/events)



## Councillors

### South Ward



Councillor  
Debby Dewbery  
0438 454 955  
debby.dewbery@bigpond.com.au



Councillor  
Eva Campbell  
0419 638 733  
cr.campbell@camden.nsw.gov.au



Councillor  
Greg Copeland  
0413 235 235  
cr.copeland@camden.nsw.gov.au

### Central Ward



Councillor  
Greg Warren  
gregowarren@gmail.com



Councillor  
Therese Fedeli  
0419 423 525  
gia@ispdr.net.au



Councillor  
Penny Fischer  
0411 110 675  
penfisch@hotmail.com

### North Ward



Mayor  
Lara Symkowiak  
0413 485 142  
larasym@gmail.com



Deputy Mayor  
Peter Sidgreaves  
0427 648 033  
psidgreaves@gmail.com



Councillor  
David Bligh  
0428 243 070  
cr.bligh@camden.nsw.gov.au