

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
EDITION TWO 2022

# LET'S CONNECT

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BACK, BABY!  
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Boots 'n' Beats Camden Country Music Festival



Free mobile app available from  
the App and Google Play Stores

# FLOODS



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

It's been a big few months here in Camden. I don't think there are many towns that can say they have endured four major floods in six months. As I have said previously, I sincerely applaud everyone on your resilience. We're a strong community and I was so proud to see everyone supporting each other as we all got back on our feet.

I'd like to say another big thank you to Council staff, the SES, RFS, Police and Resilience NSW for their hard work, support and assistance over such a challenging time.

It was incredible to be able to reinvigorate and relaunch our events in-person with Boots n' Beats. Council was incredibly proud to host this great event for the first time and bring such high calibre artists to such an iconic location in Camden.

We've also seen our local creatives take centre stage with initiatives like Camden Art Sale and Live 'n' Local. To the incredible talent that performed or displayed works at these events – I know how difficult and daunting it can be to put yourselves out there. I'd like to say how excited I was to see your amazing work and how thankful I am that you chose to share it with us.

I'm proud to see our online community engagement platform, Your Voice Camden, really grow as more and more residents register to have their say on issues that affect them. If you haven't already registered, I would encourage you to do so – your feedback helps us make decisions that are in your best interest. I look forward to continue working hard for you all, and delivering some truly fantastic projects and initiatives!

*Therese Fedeli*

Mayor of Camden



## CAMDEN IMPACTED BY FLOODS

### Severe weather and catastrophic floods hit Camden again!

For the fourth time this year, Camden was absolutely devastated with severe weather and catastrophic floods through our town centre in July.

Residents and local businesses were again impacted and asked to evacuate as they saw their homes and premises inundated with water.

Council staff worked around the clock to manage road and bridge closures, clear debris, make repairs and keep our community informed. A Flood Recovery Assistance Point was established to assist affected residents and business, with representatives from Council, Resilience NSW, Service NSW, Australian Red Cross, National Recovery and Resilience Agency, Services Australia and NSW Health in attendance.

**Residents and businesses impacted by the floods can access Council's website for more information on flood assistance as we continue to recover.**



# EVENTS ARE BACK



## EVENTS ARE BACK!

**We're thrilled to say events are back in a BIG way – finally!**

Camden's first-ever country music festival, Boots n' Beats, was held on Saturday 18 June, 3-9pm, at Camden Town Farm – the first major event for Council since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Residents were encouraged to grab their boot scootin' baby for an evening of hip bumpin', music thumpin', knee hitchin', heel and toe – and that's exactly what they did!

From food and drink stalls to line dancing, roving entertainment to animal nurseries and pony rides – the event had everyone partying 'til the cows came home.

The headline act, as well as supporting acts, truly were show-stoppers. Council was proud to present soulful Australian country songsmith, Adam Brand, along with beloved Australian singer-songwriter and runner-up of the first season of Australian Idol, Shannon Noll; all-female country band, Southbound XO; singer and songwriter Tori Darke; award-winning duo NeillyRich; and local singer and songwriter Grace Amos.

We're also pleased to announce over \$11,900 was raised at the event for flood relief efforts throughout the Camden area. The money was raised through the sale of the Boots n' Beats branded cowboy hats and the sausage sizzle on the night and was split evenly between three very special charity partners – Big Yellow Umbrella; Mother Hubbard's Cupboard; and Turning Point Camden.



# MAJOR PROJECTS



*Kirkham Park BMX Facility. Smaller image caption: Work continuing as Macarthur BMX aim to hold state titles at Kirkham Park BMX Facility in October*



## RIDING TO COMPLETION

**The second stage of the state-of-the-art Kirkham Park BMX Facility is nearing completion.**

The \$5.56 million project created an international-standard facility, just in time for Macarthur BMX to hold state titles there in October. It included:

- Constructing the new eight-metre start hill structure and elite straight, which will upgrade the BMX track to international standard;
- Recoating the existing track;
- Upgrading the marshalling area, with a new shade structure and asphalt pavement; and
- Creating a new international-standard pump track which includes a junior track section to cater for riders of all ages and experience. Council is incredibly proud this track will be one of the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

Following the completion of these works, which is set to be in the next few weeks, Council will commence the construction of a 207-space carpark where the old BMX track is. This work will involve a realignment of the Kirkham Park access road and a pedestrian bridge to access the pump track and BMX facility and is due to be complete later this year, weather permitting.

## HILDER RESERVE REDEVELOPMENT

**Hilder Reserve will be undergoing an extensive redevelopment to further enhance the sporting facilities in the Camden Local Government Area.**

Located behind Elderslie High School, Hilder Reserve will be transformed into a baseball precinct, with Stage 1 including:

- Construction of a Senior League baseball field;
- Two Little League baseball fields;
- Dugouts;
- Ballpens; and
- Pedestrian paths and landscaping.

Project budget: \$2.88 million

Expected completion date: Late 2023

## WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on these projects, and others happening around the Camden area, visit [camden.nsw.gov.au/major-developments](https://camden.nsw.gov.au/major-developments)

# MAJOR PROJECTS



## WANT TO HAVE YOUR SAY?

Council continues to encourage residents to sign up to Your Voice Camden, where you can easily and conveniently convey ideas, feelings and opinions about key projects, proposals and services.

You'll be able to have your say on a large range of items on public exhibition, including new strategies, the latest development applications and even being able to provide feedback on our services.

Signing up and having your say on topics and matters that are important to you will allow you to help shape the future of the Camden area.

To sign up, go to [yourvoice.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://yourvoice.camden.nsw.gov.au)

## CONNECTING CAMDEN

**The Connecting Camden Community Strategic Plan will guide our key planning, investment, operational and leadership decisions to 2036.**

Our vision is built on five key directions to make Camden welcoming, liveable, prosperous, balanced and leading.

These directions, together with the objectives and strategies that support them, give our community, Council staff, residents and other partners, a shared and united approach to shaping Camden's future.

Over the next 12 months, we'll be working hard to make Camden an even better place to live, work and play. We'll be investing \$16.5 million into sportsground projects including amenities upgrades to Nugget Beames Reserve in Narellan Vale and Fairfax Reserve in Harrington Park; \$2 million into the domestic waste services; almost \$200 million into Capital Works Program including road and transport infrastructure projects; the continuation of Council's \$130.6 million Community Support Package and much more.

We'll also continue delivering our \$5.1 million Community Infrastructure Renewal Program 2019/20 – 2023/24.

**For more information, visit [yourvoice.camden.nsw.gov.au/CSP](http://yourvoice.camden.nsw.gov.au/CSP)**



**CONNECTING CAMDEN**  
Community Strategic Plan 2036



# OUR COMMUNITY



Aerial shot of Narellan Sports Hub

## WHERE YOUR RATES ARE INVESTED

**Council is committed to working hard for the Camden community and delivering fantastic projects, services and initiatives.**

Over the next few years, residents will see their rates invested into a range of projects including:

- \$16.5 million invested into sportsground projects;
- Almost \$200 million invested as part of our Capital Works Program;
- Delivering Council's \$5.1 million Community Infrastructure Renewal Program; and
- \$130.6 million stage three COVID-19 Support Package.



18%

Construction & Maintenance of Roads, Drainage & Footpaths



20%

Waste Services



3%

Planning & Development Management



17%

Parks & Playground Maintenance



15%

Community Support, Cultural & Economic Development



13%

Local Traffic Management, Road Safety & Emergency Services Levy



9%

Protection of the Natural Environment



5%

Library Services

## IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU(TH)

Council's celebration of Youth Week, which ran from Monday 4 until Thursday 14 April, gave locals aged between 12 and 24 years an opportunity to share ideas, have their voices heard, showcase their talents, celebrate their contributions and, above all, have fun.

Local youth enjoyed comedy workshops, movie deals, the inaugural Camden Careers Expo, a games night, a volleyball competition and so much more.



# OUR COMMUNITY

CAMDEN COUNCIL CELEBRATES

## 2022 SENIORS FESTIVAL

It's time to reconnect



## CELEBRATING OUR YOUNG AT HEART

**Council proudly celebrated Seniors Festival in March and April, shining a spotlight on our young-at-heart community members.**

Local seniors from right across Camden were encouraged to enjoy new experiences, continue learning, impart their skills and have fun during the annual celebration. With a number of exciting events scheduled, local seniors enjoyed free pool entry at Mount Annan Leisure Centre; classes at The Pit Martial Arts Defence and Fitness Centre; Chair Yoga; a Virtual Seniors Concert and so much more.

## EYES ON THE ROAD

**In a joint initiative between Camden and Campbelltown Councils as well as the NSW Police Force – Macarthur Highway Patrol, a monthly road safety campaign was recently launched.**

Published the second Monday of the month on Camden and Campbelltown Council's Facebook pages and websites, Eyes on the Road highlights local, timely and relevant road safety issues.

Camden Council has a long and proud working history with Macarthur Highway Patrol and Camden Police Area Command addressing community and road safety issues and facilitating a number of community programs including Logbook Runs for Learners, Drive to Stay Alive and graffiti education.



A ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE OF  
CAMDEN COUNCIL, CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL AND NSW POLICE – MACARTHUR HIGHWAY PATROL



## DID YOU KNOW?

Council celebrated the Paint the Town REaD initiative from Monday 28 March to Friday 1 April. It was all about encouraging children up to 12 years to read, talk, sing, rhyme and play.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Council has rolled out a new sportsground and facility booking software, called Bookable. You'll now be able to choose and book venues on Council's website.

# SUSTAINABLE LIVING

## THE AIR IS ELECTRIC

**Council is powering forward in the sustainable energy space, with the roll-out of two exciting initiatives this year.**

The first is Council's Parks and Gardens Team brand-new wheels – the bright green, fully electric commercial ride-on lawn mower.

Council is one of the first local government organisations in greater Sydney to introduce an electric commercial lawn mower in its fleet. The lawn mower has seven to eight hours of continuous run time and will charge overnight at Council's Depot.

The second is the installation of three dual electric vehicle charging stations across the area – at Camden's Oxley Street carpark, Oran Park Library and Narellan Library.

Delivered under stage three of Council's COVID-19 Support Package, the charging facilities are free of charge and are suitable for most electric vehicles. Electric vehicles are the way of the future and Council is committed to building a cleaner and more sustainable community for our residents to enjoy.

**For more information on Council's sustainability efforts, visit <https://bit.ly/sustainable-council>**



*Mayor of Camden, Cr Therese Fedeli with a Council staff member and the new electric lawn mower*



*Electric vehicle charging stations at Narellan Library*

## COUNCIL POWERS AHEAD WITH SOLAR

**Almost 40 kilowatts of solar photovoltaics (solar panels) have been installed on community centres across the Camden area, helping to create a more sustainable community.**

The project received grant funding from the Australian Government under their Stronger Communities Program and will significantly reduce electricity costs as well as reduce the environmental impact of these important community facilities.

The panels, installed on Julia Reserve, Catherine Park, Harrington Park and Gregory Hills community facilities, are expected to generate more than 55 megawatt hours of energy each year, that's enough to boil a kettle 310,000 times, and save around \$10,000 per year.

**Want to find out what sustainability programs Council is running? Visit [camden.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainable-living/](https://camden.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainable-living/)**



*Julia Reserve Youth Precinct*

## ADOPT YOUR STREET TREE

**Show the world you 'Love Your Tree' by adopting a park or street tree!**



The first 300 residents who adopt their tree will receive a care package to use to help ensure their tree thrives. The care package includes:

- A Love Your Tree bucket;
- Gloves;
- Native plants for your garden;
- Information on how to Love Your Tree; and
- A certificate to recognise your commitment.

This project is part of the Greening our City grant program, funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.



*Street tree in Camden*



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## CULTURE ON SHOW IN CAMDEN

Residents took a trip around the world, watched art come to life, learnt traditional dances and ate amazing food – all without ever leaving Camden!

Council's four-part Camden Culture Club series of events saw Alan Baker Art Gallery come to life earlier this year.

Each week focused on a different theme, with the musical and dance performances and culinary temptations focusing on India, the Mediterranean, Australiana and Southeast Asia. The special live public art installations, makers' markets and art demonstrations put a spotlight on Camden's amazing local artists.



## CAMDEN WAS LIVE 'N' LOCAL

## LIVE n LOCAL

LIVE MUSIC & ART

The creatives of Camden took to Argyle Street in celebration of Live 'n' Local, which ran from Saturday 18 to Sunday 26 June.

The week-long activation included busking and performances on the streets, musicians performing in local cafés and restaurants and local creatives offering works for sale in local businesses.

With more than 20 talented locals involved, including the likes of singer and songwriter, Grace Amos, and ceramic and clay artist extraordinaire, Soraya Nematollahi of Clay by Soraya, the week-long event was a huge success.



Local artist performing at Squeeze and Grind

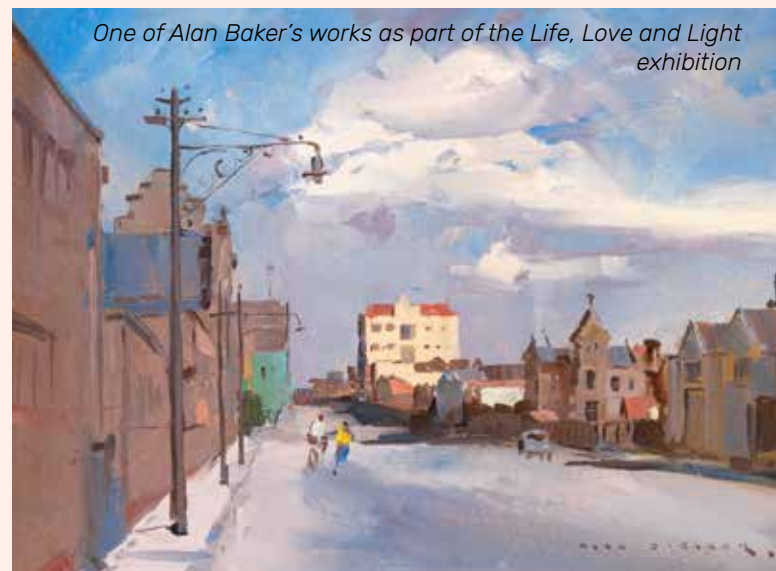
## LIFE, LOVE AND LIGHT

Alan Baker Art Gallery in Camden is hosting an exhibition that follows Alan. D. Baker's story of Life, Love and Light.

Within the historic walls of Macaria, join Baker as he begins his artistic training at the illustrious J.S. Watkins Art School. Follow him to Papua New Guinea as he unearths beauty in the tropical banana plants, continuing his artistic passion through the chaos of the Second World War.

Be transported back to Baker's return from war, when he reunites with the love of his life, Marjorie. See their marriage and family life through Baker's vibrant portraits. Experience the beauty of the local region's landscapes through Baker's trained eye, and appreciate the light that Baker found after surviving personal tragedy through his bright still lifes.

Open now until October, this unmissable exhibition is a touching tribute to the Gallery's namesake and promises a moving experience for its visitors.



One of Alan Baker's works as part of the Life, Love and Light exhibition

# EVENTS

Students enjoying Camden's Careers Expo



Service provider at Careers Expo



## LOCALS FIND THEIR DREAM JOB

**Council was proud to host its inaugural Camden Careers Expo on Tuesday 5 April at Julia Reserve Community Centre, Oran Park.**

Delivered in partnership with the Regional Industry Education Partnerships, the event coincided with Youth Week and gave local students, as well as other job seekers, a chance to connect with career information, employment and service providers in and around the Camden area.

There were more than 20 exhibitors there on the day, including:

- Western Sydney International Airport;
- Australian Defence Force;
- TAFE NSW;
- WISE Employment;
- Women in Transport;
- The Y NSW;
- Apprenticeship Careers Australia; and
- CSIRO.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can sign up to receive Council's monthly Business E-News to keep you informed of relevant business news, updates and opportunities available to local businesses. Go to [camden.nsw.gov.au/business/](https://camden.nsw.gov.au/business/)

## CAMDEN'S SMALL AND MIGHTY BUSINESSES

**From social media workshops to weekly video case studies, this year's Small Business Month gave local small business owners and staff the opportunity to learn new skills, connect with peers and potential customers and grow their profile in the community.**

The program highlight was Council's first Pop-Up Panel event on Thursday 24 March. The event saw three local businesses, Burger Frank, Help2u Pty Ltd and Performance Personal Training, share how a range of adaptations and innovations benefited their businesses over the last two years.



Networking at Small Business Month Pop-up Event



Local business owner shares his experiences

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE EVENTS SPACE?



Julia Reserve Skate Comp Series



Camden Festival



Jacaranda Festival

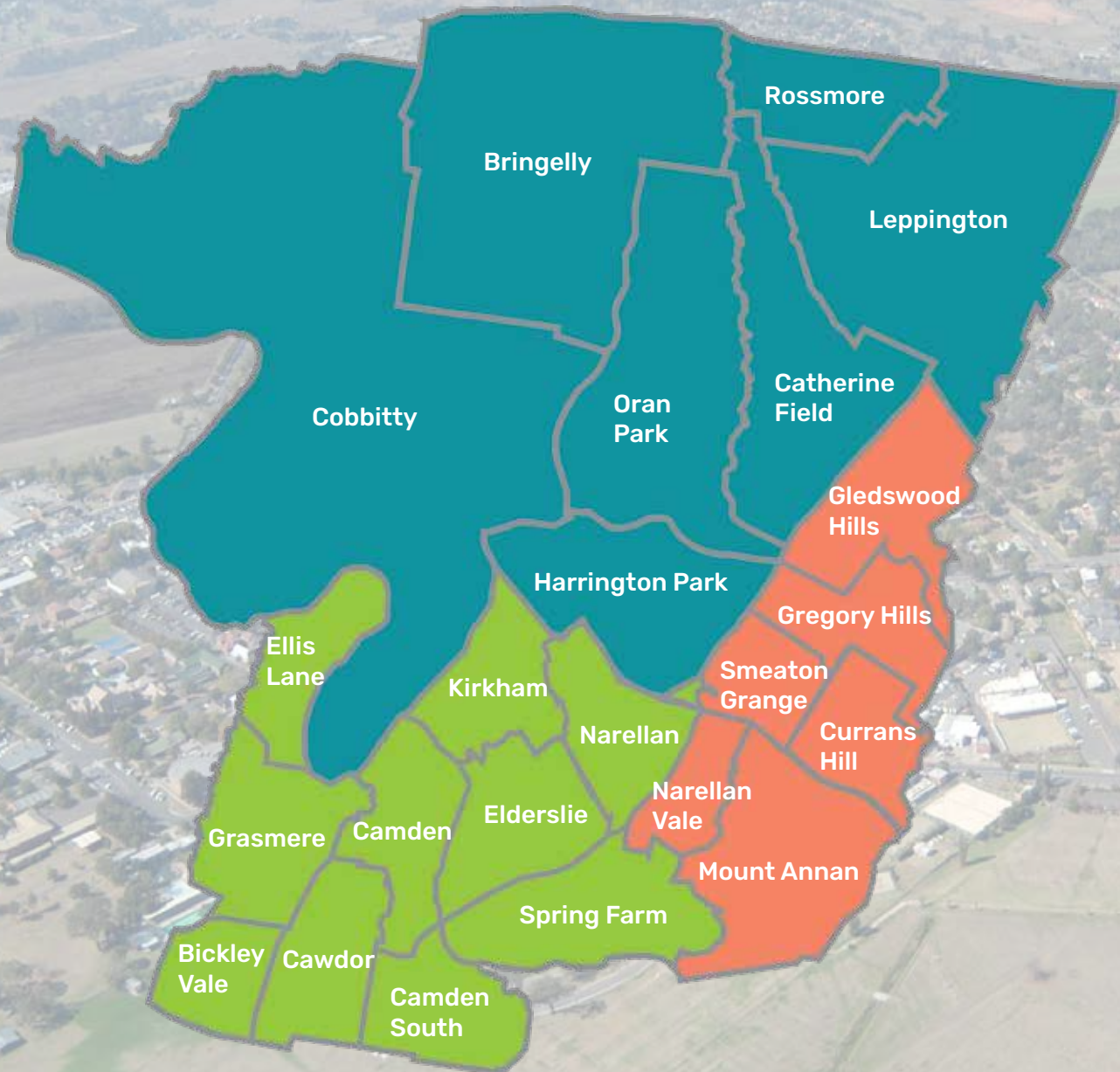


## HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH COUNCIL

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

- Call our Customer Service Centre on 4654 7777;
- Email us at [mail@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@camden.nsw.gov.au);
- Lodge it online at [camden.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/report](https://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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