

LET'S CONNECT

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Professional animal behaviourist, Farmer Dave, with his dog, Jimmy, at this year's Paws in the Park event



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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF CAMDEN, CR ASHLEIGH CAGNEY



Hello everyone and welcome to another edition of Let's Connect.

It was an honour to be elected the 35th Mayor of Camden in May, and I can't wait to work alongside Camden's new Deputy Mayor, Cr Therese Fedeli.

Camden is one of the fastest growing local government areas in the country and it's vital that we continue to make the right decisions and go from strength to strength. It's a great privilege to lead my fellow Councillors as we continue to make Camden a great place to live and work in.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Cr Fedeli for her four years as Mayor. It has been an honour to work alongside her as we tackled the challenging circumstances of bushfires, floods and COVID-19.

In this edition of Let's Connect, you'll find exciting details on a record amount of grant funding received by Council in this first half of this year – more than \$160 million to be exact!

You'll also read about some fantastic projects being delivered across the Camden area, the events and programs we've celebrated over the past few months and everything we have scheduled to celebrate over the next few months.

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage you to connect with Council's social media channels, which are the best places to find out what's happening around you in a timely manner. We have Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages for you to connect with and stay up-to-date.

Mayor of Camden

Council had a big six months of receiving funding from the State and Federal Governments, all to go towards delivering game-changing projects for the Camden community.

This funding includes:

- Almost \$132 million awarded through the NSW Government's WestInvest program, which will enable Council to deliver 11 transformational infrastructure projects;
- \$21.77 million under the third round of the Department of Planning and Environment's Accelerated Infrastructure Fund. This funding will assist in progressing two projects within Leppington – Dickson Road and Woolgen Park Road;
- \$8,242,962 as part of the NSW Government's Regional and Local Roads Repair Program (RLRRP), administered by Transport for NSW, which will help repair Council's road network;
- \$6,409,049 as part of the fourth round of the Federal Government's Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan – Local Roads Package. The funding will go towards upgrading Camden Valley Way and Hilder Street, where Council will reconstruct the existing intersection as a two-lane roundabout with modifications;
- \$950,000 as part of the Department Planning and Environment's Greening our City Program, administered through Local Government NSW, to increase the tree canopy in the Camden area;
- \$500,000 through the NSW Government's Female Friendly Community Sport Facilities and Lighting Upgrades Program. This funding will go towards for improvement works at Rotary Cowpasture Reserve;
- \$368,811 as part of the Department of Planning and Environment's 2022/23 Places to Roam Grant Program for Regional Trails, to support the development of the John Oxley Trail;
- \$210,000 from the Department of Planning and Environment, to provide resources to assist with precinct planning in the South-West Growth Area;
- \$200,000 under the Department Planning and Environment's Metropolitan Greenspace Grant, to undertake Nepean River Corridor Study;

SIX MONTHS OF FUNDING



- \$125,000 through the NSW Government's Football Legacy Fund for field and drainage improvement works at Nugget Beames Reserve;
- \$100,000 through the Department of Communities and Justice's Graffiti Management Grant, to undertake graffiti management and prevention works at Nugget Beames Reserve;
- \$59,663 through the NSW Government's Creative Capital Funding Program for Minor Works and Equipment Round Two, to fund the replacement of the Grand Piano at the Camden Civic Centre;
- \$20,000 as part of the Crown Lands Flood Recovery Program administered by the Department of Planning and Environment to perform road repairs at Camden Cemetery;
- \$12,500 from the NSW Government's Saving our Species program to undertake conservation works of Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest in Spring Farm and another \$15,000 from the same program to undertake conservation works for Camden White Gum at six Council reserves;
- \$4,781 through the NSW Government's Youth Week Grants Program to support the Camden Youth Week Program; and
- \$4,000 through the NSW Government's Children and Young People Wellbeing Recovery Small Grants Program to support the Camden Swirls program.
- \$1,660 through the NSW Government's Local Sport Defibrillator Grant Program 2022/23, which will fund the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator for the Narellan Sports Hub multi-purpose sports fields.



Scan the QR code for more information on these projects and others being delivered across Camden.

WORK ACROSS CAMDEN



SWIMMING TO THE FINISH LINE

We're making a splash towards the completion of the Oran Park Leisure Centre!

Earlier this year, work started on the leisure and learn to swim pools and continued concrete work on the basement carpark.

The \$63.3 million project, to delivered in partnership with Greenfields Development Company (GDC), will be a multi-purpose community facility incorporating aquatic, indoor sports, health and fitness areas.

NEW CARPARK COMPLETE

The construction of a new carpark at the world-class Kirkham Park BMX Facility has now been completed, as part of the second stage of work.

It includes more than 200 new car spaces with accessible parking, a realigned access road and a new pedestrian bridge.

BRIDGES REOPENED

Both Cobbitty and Macquarie Grove Bridges were reopened earlier this year, after repair work was complete.

Both bridges sustained significant damage following the four flooding events last year, particularly after July's flooding event.



WORK ACROSS CAMDEN



WORK AT PORRENDE STREET COMPLETE

The Narellan Sports Hub has a newly upgraded entry, with the second stage of the reconstruction of Porrende Street recently completed.

The work complemented the recently completed roundabout in Porrende Street, at the entry to Bunnings and the Narellan Sports Hub, and included the construction of new footpaths, reconstructing of the road pavement, realignment of kerbs and gutters, improved drainage and related landscaping.



USE YOUR VOICE



Your Voice Camden is Council's online community engagement tool, supporting the community to shape proposals and strategies by sharing their thoughts on matters regarding the Camden area, to help Council make decisions.

The portal is a game-changer when it comes to two-way communications with residents, including the ability to search matters by topic and suburb; the option to receive email alerts on topics of interest; 24/7 access to ensure convenience of participation; and so much more.

Scan the QR code to see what items are currently on public exhibition, as well as read a bit more about the ongoing projects you can have your say on.



WANT MORE INFO?



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

OUR COMMUNITY



YOUTH WEEK

Age is just a number, you're only as old as you feel... yeah sure, but how good was celebrating locals aged between 12 and 24 years for Youth Week!

The national annual celebration ran from Thursday 20 to Sunday 30 April and was all about giving young people an opportunity to share ideas, have their voices heard on issues that concern them, showcase their talents, celebrate their contributions and, above all, have fun.

This year's program included a range of activities offered by Council and community groups from right across the Macarthur region, including a pasta making workshop, a basketball competition, a multicultural festival and so much more.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than \$14,000 was raised for Big Yellow Umbrella through ticket sales to Council's International Women's Day Gala and donations. This year's event was a huge success, with 250 people in attendance.



DOGS AT THE BEP

Do you know when and where your dog can be off their leash at the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park (BEP)?

To keep all users of the BEP – humans, dogs and horses – safe, there are rules which all visitors need to follow. There are two sections of the BEP – an on-leash area and a time specific off-leash area.

As the name suggests, all dogs must remain on their leashes at all times in the on-leash area whereas, in the off-leash area, dogs may be let off their leashes before 10am and after 5pm. The only exception to this is on equestrian event days, where dogs are not to be permitted off their leashes in the off-leash section at any time of the day.

OUR COMMUNITY



CAMDEN WELCOMES NEW MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Cr Ashleigh Cagney was elected the 35th Mayor of Camden and Cr Therese Fedeli was elected Deputy Mayor at May's Ordinary Meeting.

Mayor Cagney, who lives in Currans Hill with her husband John and four children, said she was active in the community through her involvement with Camden Rotary, Camden Youth Council and Camden Rotary's Relay for Life Committee. She is also a board member of the Macarthur Football Association and South West Sydney Academy of Sport.

"The absolute honour that it is being elected Mayor of this amazing place has not been lost on me," she said.

"I'm excited to continue to work hard and continue to make Camden a great place to live and work in. Being a local, I'm as proud of the Camden area as we all are, and I'm as eager as ever to help make it the best place it can be."

Deputy Mayor Fedeli said she was excited to continue working on delivering a great range of initiatives, events and projects for the Camden area.

"It has been an absolute honour and privilege to serve the Camden community as Mayor over the last four years and I'm extremely proud of everything we have achieved together for our fantastic community," Cr Fedeli said.

CHANGES TO YOUR WASTE COLLECTION

Due to the rapid growth of the Camden area, Council has changed its waste collection routes to better serve the community.

For some residents, it has meant a change in collection day for their weekly pick up.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Ashleigh Cagney, said the changes were put in place following an extensive review of Council's waste collection.

"We are one of the fastest growing areas in Australia, and so it's important that we continuously look at how we are doing things and see where we can improve in the context of that growth," she said.

"We know, for some, this has meant a change in their habitual weekly routine of taking the bins out, and we appreciate you working with us as we make these improvements for the entire Camden area."

For information specific to your address, scan the QR code below on the left.

If you've experienced a missed waste collection, scan the QR below on the right to arrange a make-up collection.



**NEW BIN
COLLECTION
DAY**



**MISSED BIN
COLLECTION**



WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE LATEST FROM ACROSS COUNCIL?

Scan the QR code to keep informed!



SUSTAINABLE LIVING



A NEW BUSHCARE GROUP IS COMING

Our newest Bushcare group will be launching soon, providing you with a great opportunity to get involved with important restoration work right in the centre of Camden.

Council will be hosting an introductory session to give you a taste of just how rewarding Bushcare can be. Places will be limited so, if you're interested, email sustainability@camden.nsw.gov.au to secure your spot.

CARING FOR BIODIVERSITY

Council's recently adopted Biodiversity Strategy 2023 sets out the framework for biodiversity conservation in Camden.

It reflects the significant changes in land use and legislation that have occurred, and the challenges and pressures related to the ongoing development in the Camden area.

Actions and strategies fall under the four key themes of caring for biodiversity; planning to protect biodiversity; community and stewardship; and improving knowledge.

For more information, scan the QR code above.



NEED TO RECYCLE?

The Community Recycling Centre provides residents with a free and convenient way to drop off their household problem waste for recycling.

Located at 5 Millwood Avenue in Narellan, the centre is open on every Saturday and Sunday, 9am-2pm. It accepts up to 20 kilograms or 20 litres of the following problem wastes for free:

- Water and oil based paint;
- Gas bottles;
- Fire extinguishers;
- Motor and other oils;
- Car and household
- batteries;
- Smoke detectors;
- Fluoro globes and tubes; and
- Aerosols.

For more information on the NSW Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) initiative, scan the QR code.



ARTS AND CULTURE

THE ARTIST, THE INFLUENCER

Residents are invited to enjoy the latest exhibition at Alan Baker Art Gallery, titled **Baker - The Artist, The Influencer**.

This exhibition, which is on display until November, explores the influence of Baker on the careers of students engaged in the Camden Art Group through the 1970s and 1980s. It celebrates and honours the Camden Art School students by featuring the artworks executed over the years, depicting the timeless influence of Baker on the artistic journeys that followed.



WHO AM I? AND WHO ARE YOU?

Earlier this year, the 'Who I Am' curated street exhibition displayed artworks on guard rails, planter boxes, bus shelters, and bins along Argyle, Mitchell, Murray and Oxley Streets in Camden.

The colourful exhibition featured artworks created by the local community that explore themes of identity and individuality expressed by unique factors that are important to and shape one's perception of self. They included factors like age, gender, culture, relationships, beliefs, values, experiences, traits, passions, appearance, even social roles.



ART AFTER DARK

On Friday nights in April, visitors to Alan Baker Art Gallery enjoyed live music, artisan displays, and extended hours of the exhibition on display at the time, Baker's Bouquets, which wrapped up in May.



DID YOU KNOW?

Alan Baker Art Gallery offers a full program of workshops, classes and events, catering to both children and adults. For more information, scan the QR code.



EVENTS



WE PAW-TIED AT PAWS IN THE PARK

Camden's much-loved, four-legged festival, Paws in the Park, was held last month – and what a celebration it was!

The event, which was made up of a combination of live and online activities, included a two-kilometre dog walk, pet information and product stalls, activities and professional demonstrations, doggy competitions and so much more.

This year's special guest was farmer and professional animal behaviourist, Farmer Dave!

A big thank you to everyone who came down to Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park and enjoyed the day.

CAMDEN CAREERS EXPO

Job seekers were able to take their careers to new heights, with Camden Careers Expo returning for the second year in a row on Thursday 27 April.

The event connected local young people and job seekers with the jobs of the future. Delivered in partnership with the Regional Industry Education Partnerships, it provided relevant and interactive information relating to post-school education, upskilling and professional development opportunities, as well as tangible career pathways into a range of local and regional industries.

With 40 exhibitors on display and more than 450 attendees, Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre was abuzz with networking and learning.



CAMDEN SHORTS

Camden celebrated emerging artists in theatre, art, dance and music at its highly-anticipated Camden Shorts event.

The Festival of Young Creatives was held on Thursday 27 April at the Camden Civic Centre, and proudly shone the spotlight on the next generation of home-grown talent for people aged between 12 and 25 years.



CAMDEN and SHORTS

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S COMING UP IN CAMDEN?



Winterfest Camden | 7-9 July

This amazing event offers a jam-packed program over a massive three days with fun for the entire family.

Enjoy winter-themed activities and entertainment from Friday 7 July until Sunday 9 July at Onslow Oval in Camden.



Kath and Kim Drag Bingo | 29 July

Get your stamps ready for Kath & Kim Drag Bingo, coming to Camden Civic Centre on 29 July.

Hosted by Prada Clutch and Conchita Grande, you'll have the opportunity to win \$1,000 in cash and prizes on Saturday 29 July, 8-10pm.



The Robertson Brothers 1960s Variety Show | 18 August

Following their sold-out National Tour in 2022, Australia's new 'Kings of Variety Television' are back in 2023 with a brand-new show.

The Robertson Brothers are thrilled to be bringing their new heart-warming and uplifting 1960s Variety TV Show to Camden Civic Centre on Friday 18 August, 8-10.30pm.



The Beatles - 50 Years On | 25 August

Come to Camden Civic Centre on Friday 25 August, 8-10.30pm, and relive all the Beatles classic hits in a sensational concert experience, presented by the world's premier 'Beatles' band, The Sensational Beatle Boys.

They'll be recreating the magic of The Beatles and Beatlemania including the timeless hits of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr!



Camden Festival - September

This incredible series of events celebrates the Camden area and all it has to offer. It's made up of Picnic in the Park (Sunday 10 September), Kids Fun Day (Wednesday 13 September) and the iconic TASTE Camden (Sunday 24 September).

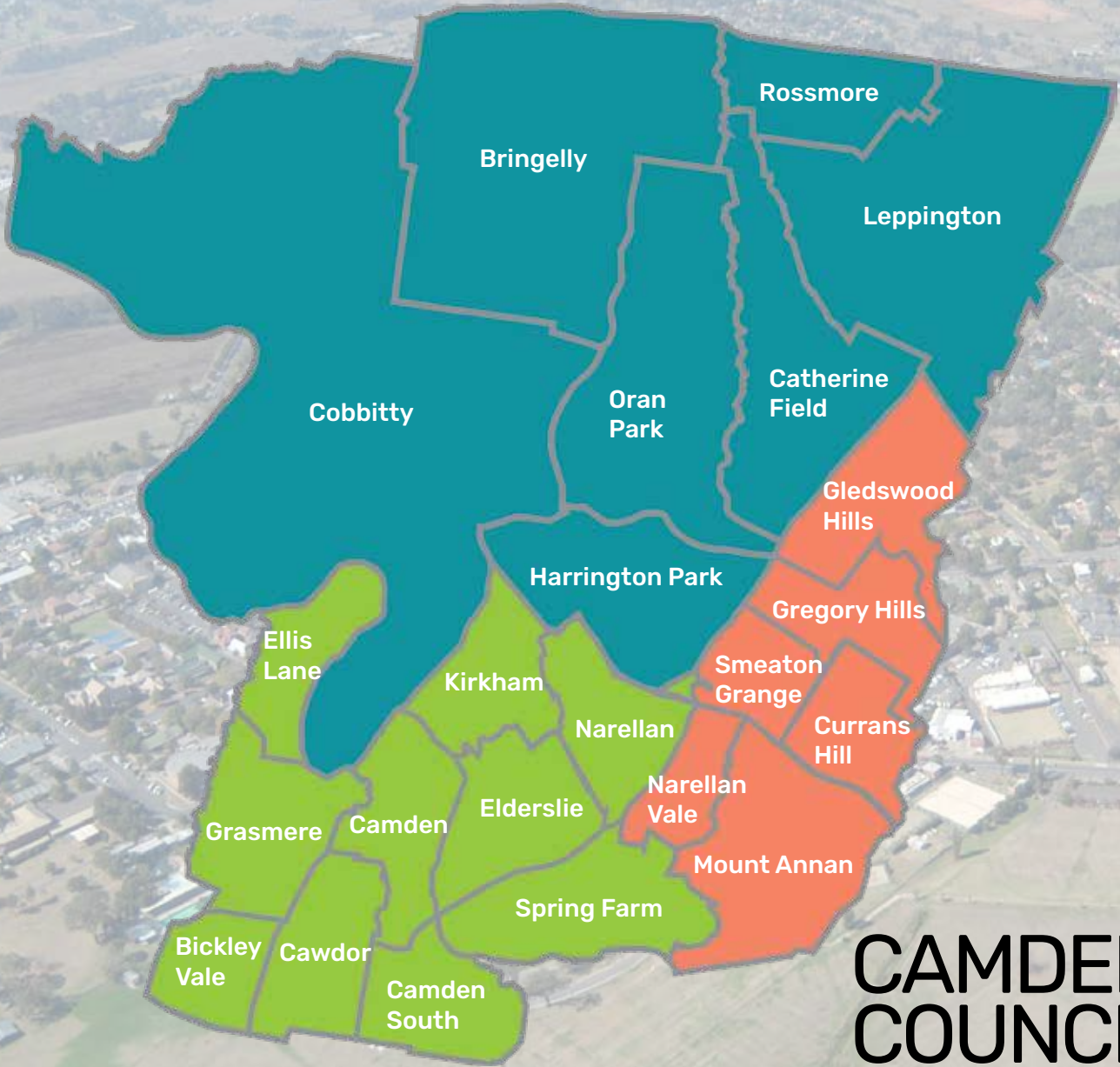


Scan the QR code for more information about these events and to see what else is happening near you!

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 4654 7777;
- 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.



COUNCILLORS

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