

LET'S CONNECT

SEE WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN
CAMDEN'S ARTS
AND CULTURE
SPACE
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STAGE THREE OF
COUNCIL'S COVID-19
COMMUNITY
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the App and Google Play Stores

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another edition of Let's Connect.

The highlight from the past few months has definitely been announcing the third stage of Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package. I'm so proud Camden Council is able to offer its community, businesses and visitors an amazing \$113 million worth of value, to help everyone get back on their feet and forge forward.

You can read about the robust package on the first few pages of this edition. It is focused on getting the Camden community back on its feet, with a range of exciting projects and programs that will improve the physical amenity of the area; boost local employment opportunities; give grants and financial assistance to those who need it; and promote connectivity through a new events schedule.

We have celebrated some really terrific things in Camden over the past few months. International Women's Day, Youth Week, Seniors Festival and ANZAC Day, just to name a few. It's been so lovely seeing our community begin to connect again through events and celebrations, while still being respectful of distancing and maintaining healthy hygiene practises.

I look forward to going from strength to strength over the next few months and working closely with this fantastic community to continue to better the Camden area.

Theresa Fedeli
Mayor of Camden



\$113 MILLION FOR STAGE THREE

Council is setting records to be proud of after it announced the \$113.8 million third stage of its COVID-19 Community Support Package. The significant value packed into Stage Three, or the recovery phase, makes it the biggest package offered to a community by a local council in the country.

Stage Three includes 65 projects and initiatives to be delivered across the next four years that fit into six categories, including:



Infrastructure

Infrastructure, with more than \$108 million worth of value to be delivered;



Events

Events, with \$320,000 to be delivered;



Grants and financial assistance

Grants and financial assistance, with more than \$350,000 available to residents and businesses;



Local employment

Local employment, with \$675,000 committed;



Programs

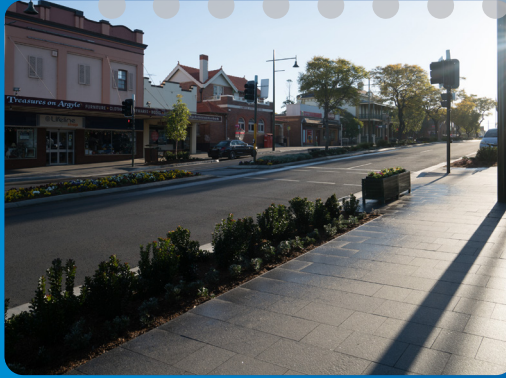
Programs, where \$248,000 has been committed; and



City beautification

City beautification, with almost \$3 million to be delivered.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



Stage Three, or the recovery phase, is estimated to help boost Camden's local and regional economy by up to \$195 million as well as generate 437 full-time equivalent jobs.

In fact, all three stages of this package will boost Camden's economy by up to \$221.7 million and generate up to 507 new jobs.

In the first 12 months alone, you'll see more than 30 projects from this package get underway. They include:

Upgrades to play equipment at the McCrae Drive Playground, at Ron Dine Reserve; Macarthur Park; Yandel'Ora Reserve; Tredinnick Park in Harrington Park; and Royal George Drive playground in Harrington Park

The extension of the walking track at Camden's Bicentennial Equestrian Park

A virtual employment and education expo

Camden Businesses Recovery marketing campaign, which will support local business

Grants and financial assistance for the community, including Cultural Activation Grants, Sports Grants and Expanded Community Grants

A Program of Activations to bring the Camden Town Centre, Oran Park Town Park and Birriwa Reserve to life with activities and events

WANT MORE INFO? Visit www.camdenrecoverypackage.com.au

MAJOR PROJECTS



Aerial shot of Narellan Sports Hub

NARELLAN SPORTS HUB CONTINUES TO PROGRESS

Work on Stage Two of Macarthur's state-of-the-art sporting mecca, the Narellan Sports Hub, has been progressing.

The work, which started in September 2020, includes additional netball courts, a synthetic athletics track, a full-size rugby league field, a criterium cycling track and a pedestrian and cycle path network. It is due to be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

ORAN PARK ROVERS NEW HOME GROUND

The Mayor, together with representatives from the Oran Park Rovers Football Club, officially opened the Doohan Sportsfields and Clubhouse in April.

The facilities are part of a larger \$6.7 million sporting complex being delivered by Landcom under the Oran Park Urban Release Planning Agreement.

The complex comprises of multiple playing fields, eight tennis courts, two clubhouses, 10 multi-purpose sports courts, four cricket practice nets and an inclusive playground.

Works are expected to be completed mid-year.

WANT MORE INFO?

Would you like to find out more about these projects, and see what else is happening across Camden? Visit camden.nsw.gov.au



Mayor Theresa Fedeli with Oran Park Rovers President, Michael Guisti

MAJOR PROJECTS

The amenities building at Fergusons Land being constructed



CRICKET WORKS SMASHED OUT OF THE PARK

Work on the new cricket centre of excellence at Fergusons Land has been progressing, with Stage One due for completion by the end of the year.

Council has completed the bulk earthworks; installed walls at the amenities building, started bridge construction and have nearly finished the road pavement.

When complete, the \$8.4 million first stage of the state-of-the-art facility will include:

- A cricket oval with turf centre wickets, irrigation and picket fencing;
- Amenities building with toilets, changerooms and storage;
- Carparking facilities;
- Five synthetic practice cricket nets;
- New bridge access over Matahil Creek;
- Maintenance shed;
- Electrical substation; and
- Landscaping.

WORK CONTINUES ON KIRKHAM PARK BMX FACILITY

Work is progressing on the second stage of the much-loved Kirkham Park BMX Facility.

Stage 2A, which is due to commence in August, will include extensions to the BMX facility and the construction of a high-quality pump track, which will be accessible to the public. The Stage 2A works will also include:

- An eight-metre start hill;
- Elite First Straight;
- Access ramps;
- Warm-up track;
- Marshalling area;
- All weather pump track;
- A storage shed; and
- Associated civil, structural, building and landscaping works.

The design of Stage 2B is nearing completed, with construction expected to begin in early 2022 and be complete by September 2022. It will include:

- Removal of the old BMX track;
- A pedestrian bridge over the drainage channel;
- A new car park; and
- Associated civil, electrical, lighting and landscaping work.

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of Council's Community Support Package Stage Three, there will be more than \$108 million spent on infrastructure projects and almost \$3 million delivered in city beautification projects.

OUR COMMUNITY



JULIA RESERVE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE IS OFFICIALLY OPEN

It was Council's pleasure to officially open the doors at Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre, during Council's Youth Week celebrations.

One of the first events in the facility was Spotlight, which saw local musicians aged up to 24 years hit the stage and amp up to share a night of music, friendship, and support.

Proudly supported by Traxside and Headspace, the night was enjoyed by many.

ARE YOU A PENSIONER WITH A PET?

Council offers free microchipping and reduced pet desexing for pensioners. For more information, contact Council's Companion Animal Ranger on 4654 7777.



CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY WITH YOUTH WEEK AND SENIORS FESTIVAL

In April, Council celebrated both Youth Week and Seniors Festival with an exciting line-up of activities dedicated to Camden's young and older people.

Youth Week, which ran from Friday 16 to Saturday 24 April, saw young residents across the Camden area enjoy wellness sessions, including Mindful Monday and Wellness Wednesday; physical activities, including boot camp; information sessions and the much-loved Camden Shorts.

Seniors Festival, which ran from Tuesday 13 to Saturday 24 April, celebrated our older residents with technology workshops; outdoor activities, including free pool entry; Café Connect sessions, with Tai Chi and meditation classes; and education sessions.



OUR COMMUNITY



Panel discussion with (L-R) host, Sarah Ryan; Sara Mansour; Rosemary Kariuki-Fyfe; and Scott Taylor.

CELEBRATING CAMDEN'S WOMEN

It was fantastic to welcome a number of notable guests for Council's International Women's Day Gala Evening event, including award-winning journalist, Tracey Spicer; 2021 NSW Local Hero of the Year, Rosemary Kariuki-Fyfe; lawyer and poet, Sara Mansour; and Chair of Blue Wren House, Scott Taylor.

The evening was inspiring, motivating and heart-warming as it celebrated local women's achievements; raised awareness of women's equality and the gender parity journey; and raised more than \$16,000 for the incredibly deserving Blue Wren House - Camden's Women's Shelter.



Mayor Theresa Fedeli with award-winning journalist, Tracey Spicer.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can subscribe to the Camden Kids eNewsletter, to stay up-to-date with important information relating to Camden's children and families? For more information, visit camdenkids.com.au



AGED CARE CONNECT

In partnership with Macarthur Disability Services and Camden Meals on Wheels, Council is providing support to older residents, their carers and families through Aged Care Connect. This project helps residents in the Camden area navigate the aged care system and connects residents to services available in the region.

To make an appointment, call 0492 817 853 or email agedcare@camdenconnect.org.au

SUSTAINABLE LIVING



PLATYPUSES IN CAMDEN

In February, Council took its first water samples as part of a Platypus Monitoring Program for the Nepean River. The program will help us to better understand the platypus population within the Camden area.

The program uses environmental DNA (eDNA) technology to determine the presence and distribution of the elusive animal. eDNA technology can detect the presence of platypus by analysing water samples collected at various points along the Nepean River.

Council has obtained exciting preliminary results that indicate the presence of platypus in the Cobbitty area. To find out more, and keep up to date with the results of the Platypus Monitoring Program, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/native-animals



BE THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION PLEDGE

Did you know water that runs off our roads, car parks, footpaths and gardens travels via our stormwater system to our local creeks and waterways?

By working together and pledging to small changes in our everyday lives, we can improve the quality of water that ends up in our beautiful waterways.

You can show your support by taking the Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution pledge on Council's website. There are lots of small things we can all do, including:

- Sweep leaves and grass clippings and place them in the green bin;
- Limit fertiliser and pesticide use;
- Keep soil, sediment, and mulch on site; and
- Put rubbish in the bin.

For more information, and to make a pledge, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/environment/waterways/strategy

ENHANCING CAMDEN'S CANOPY

Council has recently planted more than 180 street trees in Narellan, Ellis Lane and Grasmere as part of its commitment to increasing the amount of tree canopy across the Camden area.

Trees not only look great, they are an important part of the urban environment and provide shade, reduce temperatures and provide habitat for native birds and animals.



NEPEAN RIVER LANDHOLDER GUIDE

A landholder guide is available for residents and businesses along the Nepean River to help preserve important remnant native vegetation.

The Nepean River is a significant biodiversity corridor supporting a wide diversity of plants, animals including threatened and endangered species.

The guide has been developed to provide practical information to landowners to help protect, enhance and restore native vegetation on their property as well as information on generating income through conservation.

For more information, or to download your copy, visit Council's website or call Council's Sustainability Team on 4654 7777.

ARTS AND CULTURE

BUSKING REIMAGINED THANKS TO #CAMDENLIVE

When you think of busking, does your mind automatically think of musicians? Not in Camden – Council is proudly redefining the term to include all creatives, including dancers, chalk artists, live art, performers and entertainers!

Council recently shone the spotlight on this new definition and local creatives of all kinds, as part of its inaugural #camdenlive event in late March. It was fantastic to see so many residents out and about, enjoying the busking, live art and digital imagery on display and taking advantage of the NSW Government's Dine and Discover Voucher at local venues.



BAKER'S FACE TO FACE EXHIBITION

This new exhibition celebrates Baker's early involvement with the Archibald Prize between 1936 and 1972. As a young artist, Baker proudly submitted 27 works over 36 years, the first at a grand age of 21 years. Known for his controversial critique of the emerging modernist movement, Baker's works reflect a change in his technique that was fluid, vibrant and energetic.

Face to Face will feature Baker's 1936 Archibald entry alongside the self-portrait study painted by Normand Baker, Alan's brother in development of his 1937 winning Archibald entry.

The exhibition will remain in place until September 2021.

For more information visit alanbakerartgallery.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are an artist, musician, entertainer or chalk artist, you can register to busk in Camden? For more information, visit bit.ly/buskingincamden.

ART PROGRAMS ARE BACK

The Alan Baker Art Gallery's Public and Pop-Up Program is back, with a series of art workshops for art enthusiasts of all eras!

Modelled upon Alan Baker's artwork and practices, the workshops explore Baker's influences, tone, colour, and composition through the traditions of portraiture, still life, and seascape.

For more information, and to unleash your budding talent, visit alanbakerartgallery.com.au

LET THE CIVIC CENTRE ENTERTAIN YOU!

The Camden Civic Centre is hosting a range of fabulous upcoming entertainment, including the Sydney Comedy Festival and Effie's *Hello Good Thanks – Better Out Than In*.

For more information, and to secure your spot, visit camdenciviccentre.com.au



EVENTS

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATED ONLINE

While Australia Day celebrations looked a little bit different this year, Council was delighted to offer an exciting program of events for the community.

Residents took part in a number of online activities, including colouring-in sheets; an historical look at the much-loved parade; a cork hat making workshop; and an Australian music performance.

The community also took the time to recognise some truly inspirational people. Residents tuned in to watch a message from Camden's Australia Day 2021 Ambassador, George Tonna, who is using his own experience of cerebral palsy as a catalyst for positive action and creating opportunities for others living with disability.

Local foster parent, Silvana Lofaro, was crowned Citizen of the Year at Council's annual Australia Day Awards event, for her selflessness in fostering more than 25 children over the past five years, while also heading the Harrington Park local playgroup Pixies and Munchkins.

Other Australia Day Award winners included:

- Seven-year-old Madison Sillett, who was crowned Young Citizen of the Year for her tenacity in starting her own baking business despite numerous chronic health issues;
- Shining Stars Foundation, which won the Community Group Award for their dedication to providing much-needed supplies to those in need in the Camden community; and
- Heather Bieman, who won the Arts and Cultural Award, for her commitment to the support and tuition of others as they sought to develop their musical skills.

Council was also honoured to welcome 19 valued members of our growing community, from 10 different countries around the world, who officially started their lives as Australians.



Camden's Australia Day 2021 Ambassador, George Tonna



From left to right: Australia Day Award winners Heather Bieman, Silvana Lofaro, Mayor Theresa Fedeli, Madison Sillett and representatives from Shining Stars Foundation.

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of the third stage of Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package, staff will be developing a brand-new program of events for all ages, aimed at getting people out and about in our open space and utilising our exciting spaces and re-connecting with friends?

INSTALLATIONS IN THE TOWN CENTRE

Did you see the exciting installations on the corner of Argyle and John Streets in Camden earlier this year?

We've celebrated love in the lead up to Valentine's Day; equality and inclusivity on the final weekend of the Mardi Gras Festival; and, most recently, an egg-citing Easter display!

Council is looking forward to dressing this corner of the Camden Town Centre up more often this year, to celebrate some of the big and exciting occasions across the area. Stay tuned for what comes next!



WHAT'S ON



DID YOU KNOW?

Camden will be celebrating Book Week in August? To find out what's on, visit library.camden.nsw.gov.au/children/book-week/

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE AROUND THE CORNER

With the winter school holidays right around the corner, residents are urged to keep an eye out for some exciting events and activities taking place across the Camden area!

To see what's happening at our libraries, visit library.camden.nsw.gov.au/children/school-holidays/

To see what's happening at Alan Baker Art Gallery, visit alanbakerartgallery.com.au



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; or
- Download the **OurCamden** app.

POP-UP LOCAL BUSINESS CONCIERGE

Camden's local, free and dedicated Business Concierge of Service NSW for Business will be available monthly at Oran Park Library and Narellan Library.

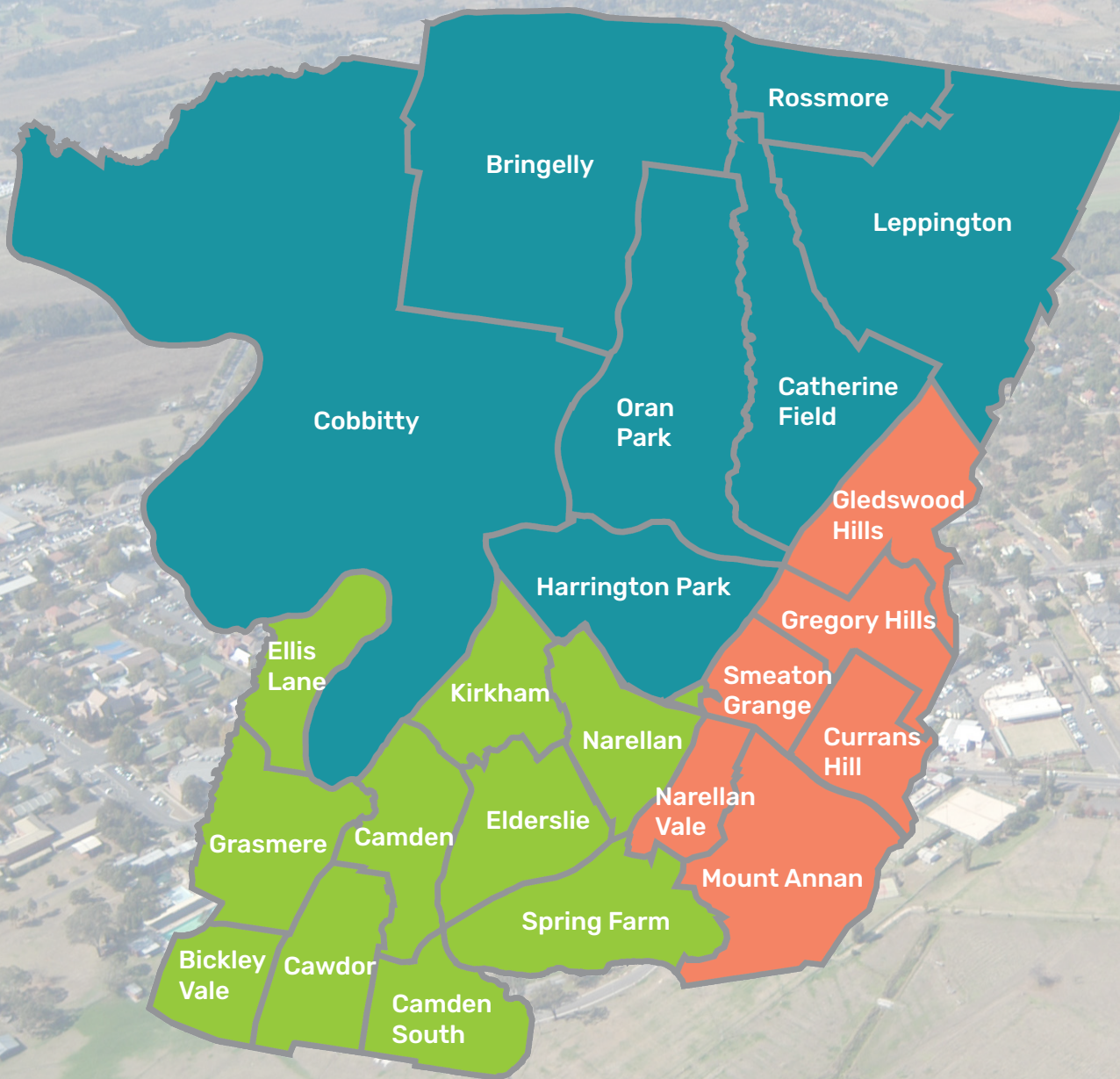
Local businesses are invited to come along for free advice to navigate government requirements to help grow and expand.

The sessions are scheduled at Oran Park Library every second Monday of the month, 10am-12.30pm; and at Narellan Library every second Tuesday of the month, 10am-12.30pm.

CAMDEN COUNCIL

CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL

For more information about Camden Council's services, visit Council's customer service desk at the administration building, Oran Park 8.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. You can also phone on 4654 7777 or visit camden.nsw.gov.au



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