



LET'S CONNECT

CAMDEN'S COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



Celebrate Australia Day in Camden

'Aussie, Aussie, Aussie' will echo through the streets of Camden this Australia Day, Thursday 26 January, when the Camden community unite in celebration of our national day of pride.

The Australia Day activities will kick off at 8am in John Street, Camden with a range of free activities including face painting, roving entertainment, mini putt putt golf, jumping castle, a thong throwing competition and market stalls.

There will be an Australia Day Thanksgiving Service at the Camden Civic Centre from 8.15am.

Council's Official Civic Awards and Citizenship Ceremony will follow at 9.15am where Camden's Australia Day Ambassador will join the Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak in welcoming new citizens to Camden.

The 2017 Citizen, Young Citizen, Sportsperson, Young Sportsperson, Community Event and Community Group of the Year winners will also be announced.

At the conclusion of the Official Ceremony, make your way to Argyle Street, Camden and wave your Australian flag in anticipation of the Macarthur Lions Street Parade at 11.15am.

Join us in Camden for a great morning out the whole family will enjoy. Best of all, activities are free.



Highlights

Inaugural Community Representatives Morning Tea

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Exciting New Events are Coming to Town

Camden's No-Kill Plan

Narellan Sports Hub on Schedule

Contact Us

☎ 02 4654 7777

🌐 camden.nsw.gov.au

✉ mail@camden.nsw.gov.au

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Stay connected with Camden Council when ever, where ever you are:

- Phone number: 4654 7777
- Website: www.camden.nsw.gov.au
- Email: mail@camden.nsw.gov.au
- Facebook page: [facebook.com/camdenCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/camdenCouncil)
- 'OurCamden' app available from the App Store and Google Play
- Customer contact points are available at Council's Administration Building, 70 Central Ave, Oran Park as well as Camden and Narellan Libraries.

Leasing of Council Owned Buildings

Camden Council is progressing into leases for the properties vacated at Camden and Narellan, with both to become medical centres.

The historic *Macaria* building on John Street in Camden will be transformed into an art gallery named after the late local Camden artist Alan Baker and become an art space for the public to access.

In the near future, lease income of around \$800,000 per year from the Camden and Narellan buildings will be generated for ratepayers.



Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak (front right) with State Member for Camden, Chris Patterson MP; Councillor Rob Mills; 2016 Australia Day Citizen, Keith Maddock and Community Representatives.

Inaugural Community Representative Morning Tea

Community representatives gathered at the inaugural Community Representative Morning Tea on Friday 25 November and joined Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak to discuss plans for the new Council term.

The purpose of the morning tea was for community representatives and school leaders to hear about Council's projects and plans for the new term but more importantly for Council to hear their feedback on what is being done well and what can be improved on.

The event provided an opportunity for community members to engage in a casual discussion and was a great way to connect locals and gauge feedback on what Council can do to enhance the local area.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said representatives from across the LGA joined a collaborative conversation and shared ideas to build on Camden's growth and potential.

"It was great to hear insightful feedback and questions from community representatives as well as school leaders. Representatives raised issues that will affect all of us such as community growth, availability of services, bike path planning, environmental sustainability, pedestrian crossings outside schools, the need for more car parking in Camden and much more."



Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak with winner of the 2016 Mayor's Christmas Card Competition Zoe Wegener, Year 5 of St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Camden.

Christmas Celebrated in Camden

Christmas is a busy and exciting time in the Camden Local Government Area with residents lucky to have many opportunities to celebrate.

Christmas in Narellan kick started the Christmas celebrations on Saturday 12 November at Narellan Town Centre in the forecourt of the new North Building.

Presented by the Greater Narellan Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with Event Partner Narellan Town Centre, the night was bursting with performances, Christmas Carols, a visit from Santa and the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

'Justice Crew' headlined the night singing both a selection of their hit songs and your favourite Christmas Carols. The night also featured fireworks at the conclusion of the night.

A new addition to the event was the Ice Skating Rink installed next to the new Town Centre building.

Light Up Camden Festival on Saturday 19 November presented by the Camden Chamber of Commerce was again well attended.

There were street performers, stalls, rides, stage entertainment, festive fare and culinary delights. Santa interacted with the crowd and the night concluded with the lighting of the Christmas Tree and fireworks.

Camden residents were also very fortunate to have a variety of carols events held throughout the Local Government Area including:

- The annual carols in Macarthur Park event organised by St John's Anglican Church Camden on Saturday 10 December;
- Harrington Park Community Carols organised by Harrington Park Anglican Church also on Saturday 10 December;
- Oran Park Community Carols held at Wayne Gardner Reserve from 5.30pm organised by NewLife Anglican Church.
- Carols in the Garden held at The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan on Saturday 17 December.

Camden Council and Camden Mitre 10's Christmas Light Competition



Donna and Ian Moore's Christmas light display in Mount Annan, winners of the Best Lit House category in the 2016 Camden Council and Camden Mitre 10 Christmas Light Competition.

Council Waste Vehicles Spreading the Message Against Domestic and Family Violence

Camden Council has added to its strong stance against domestic and family violence, approving a campaign that now sees Council use its waste vehicles to communicate anti-domestic violence messages.

This campaign builds on work already underway to raise awareness of domestic and family violence in the Camden Local Government Area.

In partnership with the Camden-Wollondilly Domestic Violence Committee, the campaign involves signage being placed on Council's four white waste vehicles as well as media releases and promotional activities.

Through this initiative, Council is giving a clear message to the community that domestic and family violence is not acceptable.

Council has been involved for a number of years in the Domestic Violence Committee and has provided funding to the Committee through Council's Small Grants Program.

Council's waste vehicles were recently present at the White Ribbon Day Community Breakfast held on 30 November at the Camden Civic Centre.

For more information and resources on Domestic Violence visit sayno2dv.org.au



Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak (front left) with State Member for Camden, Chris Patterson MP; Deputy Mayor, Councillor Theresa Fedeli; ex-Commissioner of the NSW Police Force, Ken Moroney (back left); guest speaker Angela Barker (front); Camden Superintendent Ward Hanson and Camden Local Area Command Police Officers; event organiser Tanya Whitehouse and members from Camden-Wollondilly Domestic Violence Committee and Camden Cats AFL players and committee members.

Pioneers Walkway at Camden Town Farm

Council has been successful in receiving \$351,000 in grant funding under the NSW Government's Metropolitan Greenspace Program to develop the Miss Llewella Davies Pioneers Walkway at Camden Town Farm.

The Miss Llewella Davies Pioneers Walkway (Trail), will allow visitors to access points of historic cultural and natural interest within the Town Farm.

The project includes a new entry feature for the Town Farm, pathways and the creation of new viewing platforms from which visitors can enjoy the sights of the heritage area.

Interpretative signage, educational worksheets and augmented reality smart phone technology will educate visitors on the history of the site.

It is anticipated that the Miss Llewella Davies Pioneers Walkway and associated works will be completed by June 2018.



Exciting new events are coming to town!

Camden Council will host two brand new events in Oran Park during February and April 2017.

The first event, a gourmet food and movie night held Saturday 11 February 2017 (at a venue to be announced shortly), will bring to life the modern **Date Night** and include:

- an array of mouth watering food choices
- room to enjoy a picnic under the stars
- festoon lighting
- relaxed atmosphere
- live acoustic music
- a sunset screening of a new release movie

With the event being held the weekend before Valentines Day, this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate locally. Keep a look out on Council's Facebook page for more exciting details in the lead up, including the announcement of the movie title and a list of tempting gourmet food providers.



The second event held Sunday 9th April 2017 will see Jack Brabham Reserve transformed into an **Inflatable Wonderland** for all ages and best of all it's free! Features will include:

- slides, obstacles and sensory play equipment
- a DJ playing all your favourite hits
- hydration and sunscreen stations
- food, beverage and ice cream providers

There will be three age-specific zones including **Kids Town** for children aged 3 - 12 years and will include a mini obstacle inflatable called the Kiddiepillar.

Teen Town for teenagers 13 - 17 years will include Bubble Soccer and two obstacle courses.

Thrill Town is open to all ages. Featuring the Screamer Slide and Mammoth Mountain Drop, it's sure to please the adrenaline seekers.

For more information on these events and many more, visit Council's website, Facebook page or phone 4654 7822.





Camden's 'no-kill' plan for animals

Camden Council will now operate its local animal holding facility as a 'no kill' shelter.

Councillors unanimously passed the motion at the meeting held on 22 November 2016.

A 'no kill' facility is defined as an animal shelter that does not kill healthy or treatable animals and where euthanasia is reserved for terminally ill animals or those considered dangerous to public safety.

Camden Council already has a low euthanasia rate of impounded animals due to Council's current responsible pet ownership program.

In the last financial year no cats or dogs were euthanased that were rehoming. This policy formalises positive practices Council is already undertaking.

Council's current responsible pet ownership program has implemented a number of initiatives over the past few years including:

- Responsible Pet Ownership program run in local schools by Council rangers;
- Independent breed and temperament assessment of impounded animals;
- Attempt to return stray dogs and cats home immediately if microchipped and registered rather than impounding;
- Free name tags for animals released;
- Working with rescue organisations to rehome animals that haven't been adopted;
- Free microchipping events for dogs and cats;
- Paws in the Park fundraising event;
- The recent appointment of a dedicated Camden Council Companion Animal Ranger.

If you'd like to adopt a pet, contact Renbury Farm Animal Shelter on 9606 6118.

Sydney Weekender comes to Camden

The spotlight was on Camden when iconic travel program Sydney Weekender filmed a Camden segment, which aired on Sunday 23 October on Channel 7 reaching more than 300,000 viewers.

Sydney Weekender hosts Jason and Beck Stevens along with a producer and film crew visited four local businesses around the Camden CBD to showcase local food and retail offerings and the newly revitalised town centre.

The segment themed 'A Day in Camden' saw the hosts having a morning coffee at R Coffee Co, lunch at Burger Frank, indulging in some retail therapy at Mind Over Manor and finished for dinner and drinks at Upstairs at Fred's.

Sydney Weekender has visited Camden a number of times over the past few years. In 2013 an entire episode was dedicated to the Macarthur region which was the highest rating episode of the year.

In 2014 a segment was filmed at the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living showcasing their workshops.

Camden's 2016 Citizens of the Year

Each Australia Day, Camden Council awards members of the community for the outstanding contributions they have made in past year.

In 2016, Keith Maddock was awarded Citizen of the Year. Mr Maddock has been an active member of the Camden Lions Club for over a decade serving as President on three separate occasions.

He is also on a number of community committees including the Camden Seniors, Camden Festival, Community Safety Precinct and Friends of Belgenny to name a few.

When asked of his experience Mr Maddock said "I have learnt a lot about the Camden community since being awarded Citizen of the Year."

He said "It has been a privilege to attend numerous events as a community representative allowing myself to meet many new people and hear of the wonderful achievements people in the Camden community are making."

Camden's Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Kirilly White who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in 2010 and has since then taken it upon herself to start a support group at Campbelltown Hospital for those patients with diabetes from Liverpool to Bowral.

She also used her knowledge of diabetes to start an orientation program from those transitioning to Elizabeth Macarthur High School with Type 1 Diabetes.

"Throughout the past year I have been able to help raise awareness of Type 1 Diabetes with my aim to host a ball in the Macarthur area in 2017. It has been a wonderful opportunity to share my own personal experiences with so many people from the Camden community with the hope of creating more awareness" said Miss White.

Camden Council would like to thank both Keith and Kirilly for their contributions and wish them well for their future endeavours.



Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak (front right) with 2016 Citizen of the Year, Keith Maddock and Melissa Eustace from the Special Olympics Dance Performance Group, Camden's 2016 Australian Day Ambassador.



Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak (front right) with 2016 Young Citizen of the Year, Kirilly White and Melissa Eustace from the Special Olympics Dance Performance Group, Camden's 2016 Australian Day Ambassador.

Camden Council's Sports Forum

Council hosted its second Sports Forum in November at Council's Administration building with representatives from 17 sporting clubs and associations attending the evening.

The Sports Forum was a great opportunity for local clubs and associations to discuss the priorities for sport in Camden and to strengthen existing relationships and build new ones.

Another two forums will be held in 2017.

For further information or to register your interest, please contact Council's Recreation Team on 4645 5045.





New Plans to Guide Tourism Growth

Camden Council has demonstrated its commitment to boosting local tourism by adopting the first ever Camden-specific Destination Management Plan along with the Macarthur Destination Management Plan

These Plans set the framework for how Camden and Macarthur tourism will be managed in the future, providing Council with an insight into areas such as:

- Key visitor markets
- Visitor preference experiences
- Forecasting visitor growth
- Existing and potential tourism strengths of the region
- Economic benefits

Several actions in the Camden Destination Management Plan have either commenced or progressed, including the proposed relocation of the Aviation Museum to Camden Airport, the conversion of the Macaria Building into a public art gallery, Gateway Landscaping and the Narellan Sports Hub.

The Camden-specific Destination Management Plan identifies positive outcomes that Council can facilitate exclusively for the Camden LGA.

Examples include:

- growth in tourism related employment
- greater visitor spend and stay time
- a stronger relationship between Council and tourism operators

- A higher profile brand identity that better emphasises Camden's uniqueness within greater Sydney.

The Plan complements other Council plans and strategies, such as Camden 2040, the Economic Development Strategy and the Camden Town Centre Vision.

Since 2005, Camden Council has collaborated with Campbelltown City Council to promote tourism in Macarthur. This partnership will be solidified by the Macarthur Destination Management Plan, which proposes to strengthen the Macarthur region.

The Destination Management Plans are vital to economic growth in both the Camden LGA and the entire Macarthur region.

Other key focuses in the Macarthur Destination Management Plan include:

- Stimulating regional investment
- Developing a Tourism Industry Taskforce
- The Regional Sports Centre Precinct, the Regional Food Precincts and Hubs, and improving the Regional Arts Hub

Council, tourism industry stakeholders and industry operators all participated in the development of the Plans to ensure they captured the region's vision for the future.



Construction of the new amenities building

Narellan Sports Hub

Stage 1 of the Narellan Sports Hub is on schedule with the bulk of the earthworks completed in August 2016.

Following extensive consultation with Camden Netball Association and Camden Little Athletics, a larger, state-of-the-art amenities/clubroom facility will now be built to accommodate future growth of both codes in the Camden Local Government Area.

The construction is currently underway and progressing in line with the agreed program.

Council has been able to bring forward, as part of the Stage 1 works, an additional four netball courts and the construction of an internal access road.

Ultimately the new internal road will link netball and athletics to the existing rugby league and hockey precinct and will improve traffic circulation on the site and to the surrounding road network.

Council recently appointed a contractor to construct the first 30 courts, access road and car parking areas. Works in these areas commenced in early January 2017.



Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak (front left) with Councillor Theresa Fedeli; Councillor Rob Mills; State Member for Camden Chris Patterson MP; Narellan Rangers Soccer Club President Steve Holzer and club members.

Nott Oval Amenities

The new Nott Oval Amenities Building was officially opened on Friday 7 October.

Last year Council allocated \$650,000 for a new amenities building to replace the old dilapidated 1970s building.

The project took place between May and October 2016. Features include:

- Shower and change rooms
- A Referees room
- Store rooms for the Club's equipment
- A footpath connected to the Club's building
- A fully accessible ramp to amenities
- Public toilets (male, female and unisex disabled).



Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak with 2016 Citizen of the Year, Keith Maddock (left); 2016 Young Citizen of the Year Kirilly White and new citizen Masoud Ameri.

New Citizens Welcomed to Camden

Council held its fourth Citizenship Ceremony for 2016 in October where 60 residents became Australian Citizens.

The Ceremony, held at the Camden Civic Centre, was the final one for the year bringing the total number of new Citizens in the Camden Local Government Area for 2016 to 169.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak along with Camden's Citizen of the Year, Keith Maddock and Young Citizen of the Year, Kirilly White addressed the candidates on the night and encouraged them to become part of their community.

Council currently holds four Citizenship Ceremonies each year with the next one to take place on Australia Day, 26 January 2017.

Any residents interested in applying for Australian Citizenship are invited to visit Council's website where information is available or visit the Department of Immigration and Border Protection site www.border.gov.au.

Council Remains in a Strong Financial Position

The result of the budget for the year ending 30 June 2016 saw Camden Council return a budget surplus of \$1.5 million.

The surplus is predominately a result of increased rates income, workers compensation savings as well as significant savings in street lighting costs, electricity expenditure and utility savings.

The \$1.5 million has been transferred to Council's Capital Works, Asset Renewal, Technology Improvements and Risk Management Reserves to be spent on projects and services during this Council term (2016 - 2020).

Council's liquidity position remains very strong, if all sources of revenue ceased tomorrow, Council could continue trading for 17 months. The industry benchmark is 3 months, with Council far exceeding this.

Council is also in a strong position to meet its current commitments. For every dollar of liability, Council has \$2.50 to meet that liability. Council has also contained debt and is not overly geared despite enormous growth in our local government area.

Council's financial position reinforces the decision of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to name Camden Council as 1 of only 7 Sydney Metropolitan Councils (out of 38) as Fit for the Future.



After the Argyle Street enhancement works

Council Recognised at Award Ceremonies

Camden Council has been recognised at a number of awards ceremonies in the past few months.

Camden Council, together with JBA and AEC Group, were presented the Commendation Award for Best Planning Ideas – Small Project for the Camden Town Centre Vision Project at the Planning Institute Australia (PIA) NSW Awards for Planning Excellence.

The Vision was developed in 2014 in consultation with the community of Camden and outlines an exciting program of initiatives.

The judging panel for the PIA NSW Awards acknowledged that Council wasn't trying to overhaul or change the fabric of Camden, rather adopt a strategy approach of incremental change and gradual evolution so that the character of the town centre is maintained and strengthened.

In November, Council won an award in the Local Sustainability category at the Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards for works to deliver Sustainable Camden in 2015/16 financial year.

Council demonstrated its environmental leadership in constructing a new central administration building which incorporates a number of sustainability initiatives.

Council was also awarded highly commended in the Invasive Species Management category for the Australia White Ibis Management initiative at Lake Annan.

In early December, Camden Council attended the Australian Multicultural Marketing Awards and was awarded Highly Commended for creative and innovative work to promote 'Light up the Libraries' for Harmony Day and Multicultural March event.

Council is proud to be working hard to deliver high quality programs, services and events to the community and be recognised for these efforts at a state and national level.

International Day of People with Disability

Council held a free community event on Saturday 3 December at the Birriwa Outdoor Youth Space to celebrate International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD).

The event featured laughter workshops, drumming workshops, activities, stalls, a range of entertainment and a free BBQ.

Birriwa Outdoor Youth Space was the perfect place to celebrate and was chosen because of its accessibility focus with a range of playground equipment and picnic furniture designed to be inclusive of disabled users.

IDPwD is a United Nations sanctioned day that celebrates progress in breaking down barriers, opening doors, and realising an inclusive society for all.

Live and Local Camden

Camden Council and the Live Music Office have partnered to deliver Live and Local Camden, an opportunity to support local love music and musicians and continue to grow a thriving local music culture in Camden.

Camden Council is one of five Councils to have successfully received a grant to further develop a live music scene.

The initiative will include the delivery of two new micro local music festivals, with the first festival to be held in Argyle Street in 2017 and the second within the Camden local government area in 2018.

Keep an eye out for news and updates in 2017 on how to get involved in the upcoming events.



Expansion of Green Waste Service

Camden Council's Green Waste Service will be expanding to Ellis Lane, Grasmere and Kirkham in early 2017 following a unanimous decision of Council.

In February 2016 Camden Council consulted with residents of Ellis Lane, Grasmere and Kirkham to gain an understanding of their green waste disposal needs and current practices.

The cost for residents to add a green waste service to their weekly waste collection will be approximately \$60 per year which is roughly the cost of taking one trailer-load of garden waste to the tip.

Each resident will have a 240L green waste bin delivered which will be collected weekly. Residents who are able to manage their green waste onsite are able to exercise an opt-out option.

AROUND OUR PLACE

Councillors

South Ward



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



Councillor
Paul Farrow
0419 754 192
cr.farrow@camden.nsw.gov.au



Councillor
Peter Sidgreaves
0427 648 033
psidgreaves@gmail.com

Central Ward



Councillor
Rob Mills
0428 721 321
cr.mills@camden.nsw.gov.au



Councillor
Ashleigh Cagney
0427 406 434
cr.acagney@camden.nsw.gov.au



Deputy Mayor
Therese Fedeli
0419 423 525
cr.fedeli@camden.nsw.gov.au

North Ward



Mayor
Lara Symkowiak
0413 485 142
larasym@gmail.com



Councillor
Cindy Cagney
0428 680 840
cr.ccagney@camden.nsw.gov.au



Councillor
Michael Morrison
0419 147 810
cr.morrison@camden.nsw.gov.au