

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
EDITION ONE 2021

LET'S CONNECT

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Free mobile app available from
the App and Google Play Stores

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of Let's Connect for 2021.

Last year was a hard year for all of us. We started the year with devastating fires, then we saw communities near and far affected by terrible floods and then the rest of the year was disrupted by COVID-19. I'd like to acknowledge the amazing resilience each and every one of you showed through these uncertain times. I'm excited for a fresh start this year and I am looking forward to all the positive things this year has in store for us.

The restrictions didn't stop us from celebrating Australia Day last month, with residents getting involved in a range of online activities in the week leading up to Australia Day. It was great to see so many of you enjoy the online Australiana Music Performance; Camden Australia Day Playlist; and so much more.

A special thank you to our 2020 Citizen of the Year, Brett Atkins, and Young Citizen of the Year, Rebecca Halcomb for their service, and a big congratulations to 2021 Citizen of the Year, Silvana Lofaro, and Young Citizen of the Year, Madison Sillett.

We'll soon be celebrating Youth Week, which runs Wednesday 1 to Thursday 9 April, as well as a number of other exciting events coming up. We have a fantastic line-up of events and activities, so be sure to stay up-to-date with what's happening online and near you.

I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead, with lots happening across the Camden area. Let's all remember to maintain social distancing, keep up our personal hygiene, follow the rules and regulations in regards to COVID-19 and help keep each other safe.

Theresa Fedeli
Mayor of Camden



LIMITED EDITION REUSABLE #CAMDENBOUGHT BAGS A SUCCESS

Businesses in the Camden Town Centre gave away more than 4,500 limited edition #camdenbought bags over the holiday season.

The campaign was part of Council's commitment to supporting local businesses, particularly during a difficult 2020.

Lots of residents entered the social media competition which formed part of the campaign and saw them take a picture of what they purchased, along with their bag, and share it to social media using the hashtag #camdenbought.

COVID-19 SUPPORT – WHAT'S HAPPENED AND WHAT'S COMING

Last year, Camden Council was proud to provide its \$16.8 million support package to residents and local businesses suffering the shock of COVID-19.

The first two stages had something for everyone – from rate rebates to grants; fee waivers to digital campaigns; and accelerated infrastructure work to online events.

Council is now finalising a multi-million-dollar third stage of this package. Stage Three, or the recovery phase of the package, will include a mix of infrastructure projects, events and activations and grants for the Camden community. Details will be available shortly.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Camden area is home to almost 10,000 businesses? For more business information, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/business

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



#CAMDENLOVE BEARS

Some deserving residents received a limited edition #camdenlove Collectable Bear, as a thank you for going above and beyond in showing love and commitment during what was a difficult 2020.

Each was nominated by friends and family for one of the five bears available, including the Generosity Bear; Inspiration Bear; Love Bear; Bravery Bear; and Sustainability Bear.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said the popularity of the campaign highlighted how fantastic it is to be living in a community where so many residents truly support each other in every way possible.

Nominations for the #camdenlove bears are open and will be accepted while stocks last. For more information and to nominate your hero, go to bit.ly/camdenlovebears

BUSINESS AS NEW USUAL

Council is thrilled to be slowly opening back up, in a COVID-safe and responsible way. While things may not be 'business as usual', we welcome the opportunities to give our residents more spaces and places to enjoy.

If you're wondering what you can do near you, here is a summary of the facilities that are open and their new conditions of use.



Water Play Spaces – Curry Reserve and Dawson-Damer Water Play Spaces are open, with mandatory sign-in via a QR code for all visitors and increased cleaning to ensure public safety.



Libraries – Oran Park, Narellan and Camden Libraries are open, with some restrictions; mandatory sign in and out; and social distancing measures introduced.



Camden Civic Centre – Open as a function centre, with restrictions on the maximum number of users for each of the individual spaces.



Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park – Available for use by equestrian and community groups, with restrictions in place.



Oran Park Customer Service Hub – Open, with restrictions on the number of people present; mandatory sign in and out; separate entry and exit points; and increased cleaning introduced.



Community facilities – Open to regular and casual hirers with COVID-safe guidelines, such as QR check-ins, in place.



Local sports grounds – Open for normal operations, with COVID-safe guidelines in place.



Alan Baker Art Gallery – Open, with restrictions on the number of people present and mandatory sign in and out.



Camden Visitor Information Centre – Open, with restrictions on the number of people present and mandatory sign in and out.

Information regarding conditions in relation to COVID-19 is changing daily. While this information is valid at the time of printing, in January 2021, Council recommends you check the website for the most accurate information. To do this, and see a comprehensive list of restrictions, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/covid-19-support

WANT MORE INFO? Visit camdenCOVIDsupport.com.au

MAJOR PROJECTS



CAMDEN'S SECOND WATER PLAY SPACE IS OPEN

Cooling off in the hot summer months has been a breeze, with Camden's second water play space, Dawson-Damer Park, officially open.

The \$9 million facility has a range of water and non-water activities, including water slides, spinners and features; a ninja warrior course; swings; trampolines; basketball facilities; and so much more.

Dawson-Damer Park, delivered in partnership between Camden Council and Greenfields Development Company is located at the corner of Dick Johnson Drive and O'Toole Avenue, Oran Park and will be open between 10am-7pm daily through spring and summer.

WANT MORE INFO?
You can find more information on these projects, and many others, by visiting camden.nsw.gov.au

CAMDEN TO BE THE HOME OF CRICKET

Prepare to be bowled over – work to create Camden's multi-million-dollar cricket facility on Ferguson's Land in Camden is underway!

Under the Western Sydney City Deal, \$8.35 million will be invested to complete Stage One of the project, which is expected to be complete by December 2021 (weather permitting). This work will include:

- One premium cricket field with turf pitches and picket fencing;
- An amenities block with changerooms and storage;
- Carparking; and
- Five synthetic training nets.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, turned the first sod with Member for Hume, the Hon Angus Taylor MP, late last year

and said the facility will go a long way in servicing one of the country's fastest growing sports and communities when complete.

This project is funded as part of the Western Sydney City Deal Liveability Program.



MAJOR PROJECTS



NEW FIELD OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Work on the Camden area's first synthetic football field, at Nott Oval in Narellan, is now complete.

In addition to constructing the new synthetic football field over the existing turf pitch, the Nott Oval project also saw Camden Council:

- Upgrade the existing parking facilities;
- Produce field marking, to accommodate winter and summer football competitions;
- Reserve bench booths; and
- Complete landscaping, fencing and footpath works.

This project is funded as part of the Western Sydney City Deal Liveability Program.

LOCAL SPORTING FACILITIES RECEIVE UPGRADES

Community sport has received even more assistance, with a number of facilities receiving recent upgrades.

The most recent local facilities to have benefited are Cuthill Reserve in Cobbitty; Wandarrah Oval in Mount Annan; and Camden War Memorial Pool.

BIGGER AND BETTER BMX FACILITY

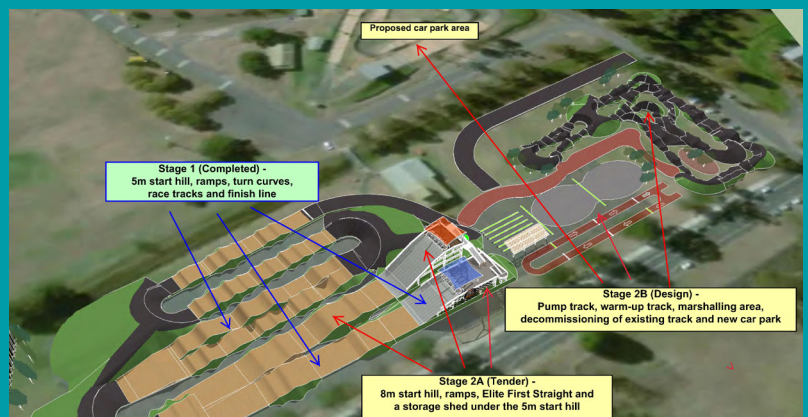
Council is about to begin Stage Two works at the Kirkham Park BMX Facility.

The \$5.56 million project will be split into two parts. Part 2A, which is due to be complete by September 2021, will include:

- An eight-metre start hill;
- Ramp;
- Elite First Straight; and
- Associated civil, structural, building and electrical works.

Part 2B, which is due to be complete by September 2022, will include:

- A pump track, which will be publicly accessible;
- Warm-up track;
- Marshalling area;
- Decommissioning of existing, publicly-available track, which will remain open until the new pump track is open.
- A storage shed;
- A new car park; and
- Associated civil, electrical, lighting and landscaping works.



The image above shows a concept plan and the final design may differ. 5

OUR COMMUNITY



COUNCIL FLEET SPORTING A MO

You may have seen Council's vehicles sporting a very fashionable moustache late last year – and all for a very important cause!

Council was honoured to support the Movember campaign yet again and remains dedicated to focusing on issues and opportunities that are faced by our community. We hope the moustaches helped raise some much-needed awareness of prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

Internally, there were 42 staff members that either grew a mo or walked at least 60 kilometres and saw more than \$6,000 raised!

DID YOU KNOW?

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

ONLINE DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS MANDATORY

The NSW Government has made it mandatory to lodge development applications online, via the NSW Planning Portal – which means Council is no longer accepting printed development applications.

Applicants will need to register for a NSW Planning Portal account before logging in and uploading application documents. For more information, go to camden.nsw.gov.au and search 'Online Development Application'. If you require assistance, call Council on 4654 7777.



HELP KEEP OUR WATER PLAY SPACES CLEAN

Over the last few weeks, we have had to close our water play spaces a number of times to deal with water quality and contamination incidents.

This photo is of the filtration system at Dawson-Damer Water Play Space and shows food and tissue paper caught in the system that is causing the water quality to be affected.

Council would like to remind all residents to follow the below rules while enjoying these facilities:

1. Sign in with the QR code on entry;
2. Toddlers must be wearing swim nappies at all times;
3. No food or drinks allowed on the water play area;
4. No dogs allowed within the playground and water play area; and
5. Put rubbish into the bins provided.

OUR COMMUNITY

COUNCIL DOCUMENTARY CELEBRATES ALL ABILITIES

Council acknowledged International Day of People with Disability on 3 December 2020 by creating a special documentary.

The short documentary features Macarthur's own Stacey Copas speaking about the importance of the day, as well as providing information on how to use the inclusive infrastructure located within Camden. The fantastic facilities featured includes Curry Reserve Water Play Space in Elderslie and Dawson-Damer Park in Oran Park.

To watch the video, visit bit.ly/IDPWd-documentary



DID YOU KNOW?

Camden Libraries are running online Tech Savvy Seniors trial sessions? If you're aged 60 years or over, and interested in learning from home, call Oran Park Library on 4645 5645.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Council delivered more than 1,500 puddings to volunteers of more than 50 organisations, that give up their time to help make Camden a better place throughout 2020.

Council's volunteers are usually thanked at the annual Mayors Volunteer Thank You Reception but, with COVID-19 restrictions still in place, they were thanked in a different, but just as sweet, way.

For opportunities to volunteer, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/community/participation-opportunities/volunteers/

GET COMFORTABLE IN YOUR NEW HOME

If you're looking to rebuild or renovate, make sure you look into Council's Built for Comfort initiative.

A detailed guide, along with five short videos, has been developed as part of the program, to help residents future-proof their homes. They contain simple and cost-effective design principles that will help to build a comfortable home that is suited to Camden's climate. Also available is the opportunity to receive a free 45-minute session with a specialist consultant to help incorporate these principles into a specific build or renovation.

For more information, visit bit.ly/builtforcomfort

BUILT FOR COMFORT

Your guide to building your new home or retrofitting your existing home in Camden's climate.

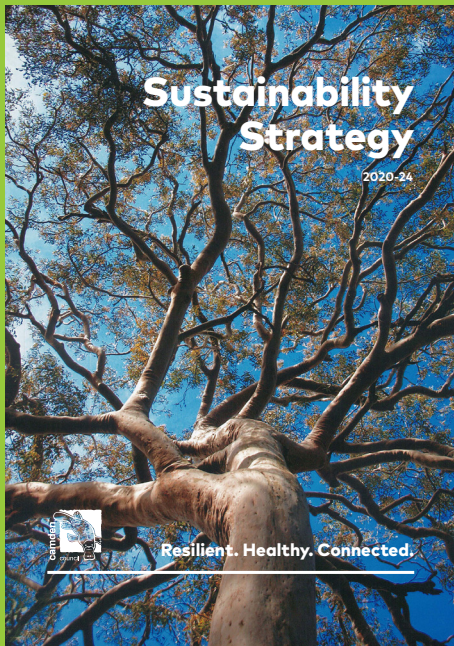
- Improves thermal comfort
- Increases the value of your property
- Better for the environment
- A quieter home
- Cheaper to operate
- Improves resilience

Book your **FREE*** design consultation to make sure your new home is built for comfort

www.camden.nsw.gov.au

*Conditions apply see website for details

SUSTAINABLE LIVING



CAMDEN'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT

Creating a sustainable Camden is high on the agenda for Council, after it endorsed the Sustainability Strategy 2020-24 late last year.

The strategy focuses on building sustainable communities; creating sustainable urban environments; improving resilience to climate change; protecting our natural environments; and leading by example to build a resilient, healthy and connected Camden.

For more information, and to read the strategy, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/environment/sustainable-living

BUILDING CAMDEN'S CANOPY

Council has been successful in securing almost \$500,000 in grant funding through the NSW Government's Greening our City grants program.

The funding will be used to increase tree canopy coverage across Camden through the delivery of four tree planting projects that will see 4,500 trees planted, including 500 iconic and Nationally Threatened Camden White Gum.

Increasing canopy coverage through providing additional urban trees has a range of environmental and social benefits for the community. Trees provide important shade and cooling, they provide habitats for native birds and animals and they also remove pollutants from the air and stormwater runoff.



WATCH OUT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INVADERS IN CAMDEN

Residents across the Camden area have been alerted by NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) to be on the lookout for frogbit.

It's an invasive, smothering waterweed which poses a serious threat to Camden's lakes, creeks, dams and the Nepean River, as well as the rest of NSW.

All species of Frogbit are classified as 'Prohibited Matter' under the Biosecurity Act and, if found, must be reported immediately to Council's Noxious Weed Officer on 4654 7777 or NSW DPI Biosecurity Helpline on 1800 680 244.

EXPLORE YOUR BACKYARD

Camden Council has developed a video series, called **Connect with Nature**, in partnership with Penrith City Council, to help you explore local plants and animals.

Residents are invited to join Hooked on Nature's Tom Covell as he explores the unique plants and animals found in Camden's local bushland. He'll also give some great tips on how to safely spot wildlife, even in your own backyard.

To view the series, go to camden.nsw.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/connect-with-nature

FUN FACT

Council's Bushcare Program has officially returned! To find out how you can get involved, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/community/participation-opportunities

DID YOU KNOW?

Water Wise Guidelines replaced Level One water restrictions, as of 1 December 2020? For more information, visit sydneywater.com.au

ARTS AND CULTURE



Amelia Mackay – second place in the Native Fauna – Primary School category



Olivia Hooton – winner of the Waterways – High School category

PICTURE PERFECT

Last year's Macarthur Nature Photography Competition, hosted by Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils, saw a record-breaking 800 photos entered by 372 entrants, with 160 of those entrants calling Camden home!

On the front cover of this edition, you'll see Elderslie resident Petrina Greenwood's beautiful picture of the paper daisies at the Botanic Gardens. Above you'll find two more pictures from our talented locals – the first by Amelia Mackay and the second by Olivia Hooton.

To see all the entries to the 2020 competition, visit bit.ly/MNPC2020

CIVIC CENTRE TO BE UPGRADED

Council secured more than \$12,000 in NSW Government funding to upgrade the Camden Civic Centre. The funding, part of the NSW Government's Community Building Partnership program, will involve installation of new multi-purpose flooring on the lower level of the Civic Centre to expand the community spaces.

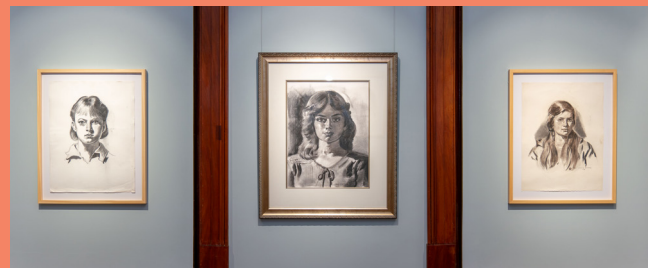
PORTRAITS OF CAMDEN EXHIBITION

Throughout the 1970's and 1980's, Alan Baker played an influential role in the establishment of the Camden Art Group, assisting to activate an arts movement in Camden.

The small group initially met at Camden Public School on Wednesday evenings, free for anyone to attend. It was at these meetings that Alan imparted his artistic knowledge and skills to fellow artists, demonstrating his techniques. The group of likeminded participants, who were very serious about their art, began sketching and painting each other, bringing in family and friends to pose.

The Portraits of Camden exhibition presents 40 delightful Charcoal drawings executed by Alan D. Baker during the Camden Art Group sessions. The exhibition will remain open until the end of March 2021.

For more information or to view a virtual tour please visit alanbakerartgallery.com.au



IMPROVE YOUR DRAWING SKILLS

Alan Baker Art Gallery is proud to bring you a series of foundational drawing workshops, which you can watch and practise from your home.

Residents are encouraged to be inspired by Alan Baker's pencil drawings, as the four-part series explores light and shade in still life composition, techniques of drawing in perspective, developing observation and drawing skills.

The videos are suitable for all ages and are available at camden.nsw.gov.au/community/alan-baker-art-gallery-at-macaria

EVENTS



CAMDEN CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

'Twas definitely the season to be jolly, with Camden coming alive to celebrate Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who tuned in to see Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, officially light Camden's beautiful tree, took part in all the digital activities and enjoyed local spaces and places over the festive period.

COVID SAFE EVENTS

Local event organisers are responsible for ensuring their event is run in accordance with the NSW Government COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines for public gatherings. All applicants will be required to submit a COVID-19 Safety Plan with their event application on Council's website and will be responsible for managing and monitoring compliance with any current COVID-19 restrictions.

DID YOU KNOW?

There were more than 150 virtual letters submitted to Santa as part of Council's #christmasincamden campaign. He, of course, had plenty of time to go through them all before his big night on Christmas eve!

AUS DAY

A big congratulations to local foster parent, Silvana Lofaro, and young author and baker extraordinaire, Madison Sillett, for being crowned 2021 Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, respectively.

There were two additional awards given out on Australia Day, including:

- Arts and Culture Award – Heather Bieman; and
- Community Group of the Year Award – Shining Stars Foundation.

It was fantastic to see so many residents enjoy the online activities organised to celebrate Australia Day digitally this year. From the Australiana Music Performance to the online Cork Hat Making Workshop and all the Australian flags on display throughout the Camden area, there was something for everyone to enjoy.



WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE EVENT SPACE?

We're looking forward to running exciting events in 2021, with a combination of traditional and online events coming up.

Over the next few months, we'll be acknowledging Clean Up Australia Day; International Women's Day; Harmony Week; Youth Week; ANZAC Day; and National Families Week.



To see what has been organised, visit camden.nsw.gov.au/whats-on/event-calendar/



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.



LEARNER DRIVER LOGBOOK RUN

The next Learner Drive Logbook Run event is scheduled for Sunday 14 March 2021. It will give learner drivers the opportunity to gain on road experience and assists them to acquire their required logbook hours.

Bookings are essential. For more information, contact Council on 4654 7777 or roadsafety@camden.nsw.gov.au

POP-UP LOCAL BUSINESS CONCIERGE

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

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

The sessions will be held at:

- Oran Park Library, every second Monday of the month, 10am-4pm. The next scheduled sessions are 8 March and 12 April; and
- Narellan Library, every second Tuesday of the month, 10am-4pm. The next scheduled sessions are 9 March and 13 April.

CHILD RESTRAINT FITTING AND CHECKING DAY

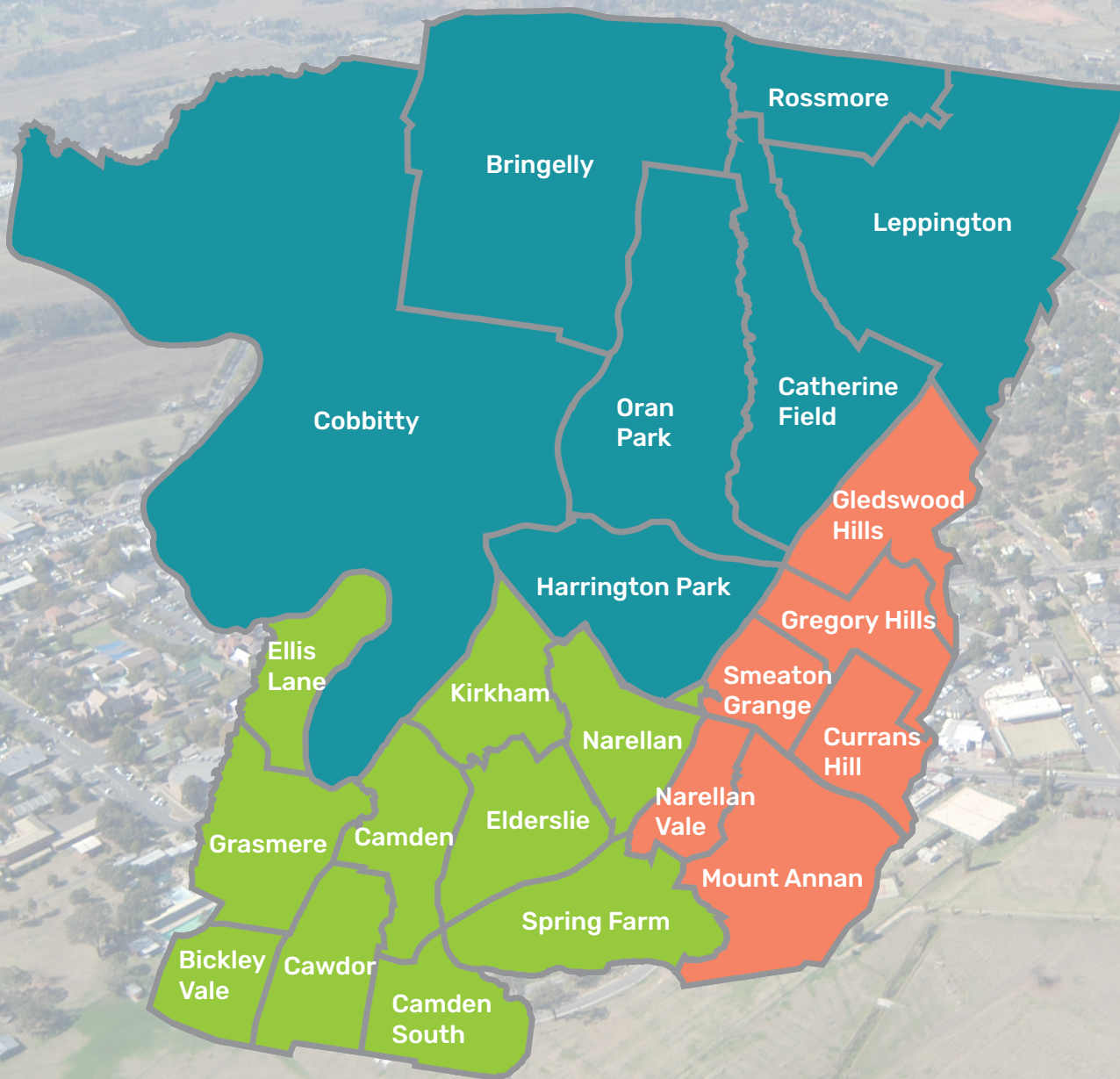
The next much-loved Child Restraint Fitting and Checking Day is scheduled for Thursday 11 March 2021 and may have some availability. The one after this is Thursday 10 June 2021, with bookings open for this event from Monday 15 March.

Bookings are essential for these incredibly popular events and are open to Camden local government area residents only. To book, contact Council on 4654 7777 or roadsafety@camden.nsw.gov.au

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



COUNCILLORS

CENTRAL WARD



Mayor
Theresa Fedeli
0419 180 183
cr.fedeli@camden.nsw.gov.au



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



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

SOUTH WARD



Councillor
Peter Sidgreaves
0417 449 929
cr.sidgreaves@camden.nsw.gov.au



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



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

NORTH WARD



Councillor
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