

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
EDITION ONE 2024



# LET'S CONNECT

SEE WHAT MAJOR  
PROJECTS ARE  
UNDERWAY NEAR  
YOU

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CHECK OUT  
WHAT'S ON  
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Paws in the Park is back on 5 May.



Free mobile app available from  
the App and Google Play Stores

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF  
CAMDEN, CR ASHLEIGH CAGNEY



Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of Let's Connect for 2024!

I hope you all had an amazing and restful Christmas and New Year period, and this year has started positively and strongly for you all.

As always, we've started the year raring to go, with so much to celebrate already! Our Australia Day celebrations kicked off our yearly event schedule fantastically, with the beautiful parade, inspiring words from our incredible ambassador and crowning all the terrific award winners.

Over the summer, we launched our Summer Safe campaign across our social media and at our two water play spaces in Oran Park and Elderslie. The campaign encouraged the use of sun protection and proper hygiene measures, which allowed our water play spaces to be enjoyed by all. Our water play spaces have now closed and will re-open in September.

There are some incredible developments happening around the Camden area and some exciting events taking place this year, some of which you can read about in this edition of Let's Connect.

I'm looking forward to a great 2024, where Camden continues to go from strength to strength. We had a fantastic year last year and I'm looking forward to an even better year this year!

Mayor of Camden



## AUSTRALIA DAY

**The year started with a bang, with Council's Australia Day celebrations. Thousands of residents and visitors lined Argyle Street in the Camden Town Centre for the annual parade, all sharing in the excitement of what being Australian meant to them.**

Residents enjoyed roving entertainment and the much-loved Macarthur Lions Australia Day Street Parade, as more than 100 residents made their pledge to be true-blue Aussies in Council's first Citizenship Ceremony for the year.

Of special note are the incredible 2024 Australia Day Award winners, which included:

- Citizen of the Year, Denise Pritchard;
- Young Citizen of the Year, Brydie Meredith;
- Sports Achievement Award, Beverley Batros and Garry Clarke;
- Arts and Cultural Award, Patricia Johnson; and
- Community Group of the Year Award, Camden West Rural Fire Station.

# WHAT WE'VE BEEN CELEBRATING



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY GALA 2024

For the third year in a row, Council's International Women's Day (IWD) Gala evening celebrated women's achievements, especially those of local women, raised awareness of issues of women's equality and promoted the message that we all have a role to play in accelerating the gender parity journey.

The event, which took place on Thursday 7 March at Gledswood Homestead & Winery, was headlined by keynote speaker and renowned 2021 Sports Hall of Fame inductee, two-time World Champion and four-time Commonwealth Champion, Jana Pittman.

All of the proceeds from ticket sales were donated to local organisation, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, which was selected as the main beneficiary of the event. The organisation has indicated the funds will go towards the provision of beds and linen for the women they help.

Council would like to express its gratitude to everyone who attended and supported the event, with particular thanks to the Gala's sponsors:

### Platinum

- PNP Constructions

### Gold

- Danali Events

### Silver

- Embedded Blooms
- Macarthur BMW
- McDonalds
- Watson Law

### Bronze

- Jones XL Pty Ltd
- Politech Air Conditioning
- Start Fresh Accounting
- Greater Narellan Chamber
- Tony Wolf & Sons Printing
- Plus Fitness



# WORK ACROSS CAMDEN



Artist impression of the future of Leppington.

## COMMUNITY SHARES THOUGHTS ON FUTURE OF LEPPINGTON TOWN CENTRE

**Camden and Liverpool Councils recently wrapped up their three-month public exhibition period of the draft Leppington Town Centre Planning Proposal. Camden Council engaged with the community through its Your Voice Camden online platform, as well as at several pop-up engagement sessions and meetings by appointment.**

The draft plan outlines a vision to transform Leppington into a thriving, integrated and lively town centre less than 20km from the future Western Sydney International Airport. Tall buildings, town squares and sports fields are just some of the features of the proposal.

The draft proposal also paves the way for:

- Up to 11,000 new apartments and townhouses over the next 20 years;
- Up to 11,000 jobs;
- New and expanded community facilities and schools; and
- New urban streets and plazas, cycleways, busways and pedestrian laneways.

Council officers are currently reviewing the feedback from submissions and will prepare a report back to Council.

For more information, visit [bit.ly/LeppingtonTC](https://bit.ly/LeppingtonTC).



## LITTLE SANDY BRIDGE REPAIR

The repair of Little Sandy Bridge, which connects Camden and Elderslie over the Nepean River, is moving along after Camden Council accepted almost \$2.5 million, co-funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.

The bridge and the surrounding riverbank was left significantly damaged after the Camden area was devastated by four floods in just five months in 2022. Each flooding event worsened the riverbank erosion, requiring a complete bank restoration and new approach to the redesign and rebuild.

The funding was granted from the Community Assets Program, administered by the Department of Regional NSW. The grants program awarded \$70 million to successful applicants for the repair, restoration or betterment of community infrastructure that was damaged by the February and June 2022 floods.

The funding will help Council deliver the design and construction of the project, including the repair and betterment of path access on Little Sandy Bridge and the enhancement of the embankments to resist future flood events. The design is scheduled to be completed in the later part of 2024 and quotations for construction completed by the end of 2024.

# WORK ACROSS CAMDEN



## FIELD UPGRADE CATERS FOR GROWTH IN FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

**Construction at Kirkham Oval valued at \$2.8 million is set to start later this year, thanks to funding from Camden Council and the NSW Government.**

Local rugby league club, Camden Rams RLFC, successfully secured \$1 million towards the project through the Office of Sport's Greater Cities and Regional Sport Facility Fund and Camden Council is contributing an additional \$1.75 million in funding.

As part of the project, Council will build female-friendly changerooms and supporting amenities for rugby league facilities at the field to cater for the Camden Rams' 150 female players – a number which is only continuing to grow.

## HAVE AN OPINION?

There's no better way for Council to provide for the Camden community than knowing exactly what our residents think and want.

How can you make sure we're seeing and hearing your thoughts and opinions? Through our online consultation platform, Your Voice Camden, of course! It offers locals regular opportunities to be involved in the development of strategies, comment on exhibitions and complete surveys.

If you'd like to help shape the future of your neighbourhood and those around you, scan the QR code and be sure to register for the items and areas that are applicable to you.



## WANT MORE INFO?

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



# OUR COMMUNITY



## CAMDEN IS THE PLACE TO BE

The 'secret' everyone already knew – that Camden is a fantastic place to live – has been confirmed, following the conclusion of two surveys.

Council engaged consultant Micromex to give residents the chance to comment on their level of satisfaction with Council services and facilities, the importance of services and much more.

The survey found that 97% of respondents said they had an 'excellent', 'very good' or 'good' quality of life in the Camden area. This was in comparison to Micromex's benchmark with other metropolitan councils and growth councils, which were both only 93%. Similarly, 96% of Camden residents reported being 'very satisfied', 'satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with Council's overall performance, compared with the metropolitan council benchmark of 90%.

Earlier, the Liveability Census by PlaceScore, which polled residents of Local Government Areas across the country, found Camden was ahead of the NSW and Australian averages in seven of the nine categories. The Camden area beat the average on Character, Environmental Sustainability, Movement, Community, Housing & Development, Open Space and Management & Safety.

Council will utilise the data of both surveys to inform future improvements.



## SUMMER SAFE

Over the summer, we launched our Summer Safe campaign across our social media and at our two water play spaces in Oran Park and Elderslie. The campaign encouraged the use of sun protection and proper hygiene measures, which allowed our water play spaces to be enjoyed by all. Dozens of kids were lucky enough to score themselves a free 'Stay Cool' bucket hat, as part of the campaign.

## DID YOU KNOW?

We have a selection of four-legged friends ready to find their paw-ever home. Scan to find your fur baby today.



# OUR COMMUNITY

## PUSH FOR BETTER SOLUTION FOR WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT

Camden Council has put forward a submission to the Australian Government on the Western Sydney International Airport's draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), advocating for a more suitable solution for the Camden area.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Ashleigh Cagney, said while Council acknowledged the significant economic benefits, additional transport systems and improved business links the future airport will deliver to the Western Parkland City region, Council's submission aimed to highlight points of concern, implications and recommendations for further action on the part of the Australian Government.

"The Western Sydney International Airport is going to change the face of Sydney and provide us here in Camden with an incredible range of opportunities by way of local tourism and better connections," she said.

"But what we see from the preliminary flight paths and draft EIS raises some concerns and we think there are improvements that can be made in the best interests of the people of Camden."

Council's submission lays out key concerns and recommendations to solve them under each of the 14 categories provided in the technical papers within the draft EIS:

- Noise impacts;
- Impacts to air quality;
- Greenhouse gas emissions;
- Hazard and risk;
- Wildlife strike risk;
- Land use and planning;
- Landscape and visual amenity;
- Biodiversity;
- Heritage;
- Social;
- Economic;
- Human health;
- Facilitated changes; and
- Cumulative impacts.

Cr Cagney said Council will continue to advocate for the best outcomes for the Camden area.

"Council has made multiple representations to the Australian Government over a period of more than 25 years, raising concerns on behalf of residents about the potential adverse impacts of the future airport," she said.

"We will continue to make those representations and push for solutions that best serve the people of Camden."

To view a summary of Council's submission, as well as the submission in full, scan the QR code.



## WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?

Don't forget our number has changed – you can reach us by dialling 13CAMDEN (that's 13 226 336).

Council changed its main line phone number last year to improve serviceability by making it more memorable for anyone looking to get in touch.

Six Camden Council facilities have also received new numbers, including:

- Civic Centre 4653 3333
- Alan Baker Art Gallery 4653 3111
- Family Day Care 4653 3000
- Camden Library 4653 3100
- Narellan Library 4653 3101
- Oran Park Library 4653 3102

13CAMDEN (13 226 336)

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE LATEST NEWS FROM ACROSS CAMDEN?

Scan the QR code to stay in the know!



# SUSTAINABLE LIVING



## SAVING VULNERABLE WHITE GUMS

**Council is incredibly proud to announce its Connecting Camden White Gum project took home the Local Government NSW's Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement Award for On Ground Works.**

The award recognises outstanding "on-ground" initiatives to conserve, protect and enhance the local environment on public and/or private land, which perfectly suits the ground-breaking project.

This project has established 500 genetically diverse, local provenance tube stock at Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve, within the Nepean River corridor, to increase gene flow, connect other isolated subpopulations throughout the riparian corridor and increase the canopy cover with a species adapted to flooding. The increased genetic diversity will help the vulnerable species adapt to pressures such as flooding, drought and disease.

It's a terrific demonstration of how urban forestry can have multiple outcomes, including restructuring urban heat loads, creating local amenity and significantly contributing to conservation and restoration outcomes.



## WATT A WIN

**Council recently installed on-site solar and battery storage at Jack Brabham Reserve in Oran Park. The 10 kilowatt solar system is expected to generate around 15.13 megawatt hours of energy per year – that's around 13 tonnes of carbon dioxide or 385,227 kilometres driven by an average car!**

The new system not only saves money on costly energy bills but helps to make our community more resilient, with safeguards against power outages.

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.

Interested in how Council tracks solar generation? Check out our dashboard at: [bit.ly/camdensolardashboard](https://bit.ly/camdensolardashboard)



## FAMILY FUN

**The community had a blast when the Live it Up, Live it Green Sustainability Festival returned last month. The event, at Julia Reserve Community Centre, Oran Park on 8 March included:**

- Snake and reptile show;
- Free bike check and tune-up with Revolve Recycle;
- Gardening workshops;
- Alan Baker Art Gallery art workshops;
- Sustainable living and waste information;
- Sydney Water 'Wonders of Water' Discovery Van;
- Waste truck experience;
- Second-hand book giveaway;
- Free face painting; and
- Much more.

## SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Late last year, Council hosted two webinars on All-Electric Homes and Electric Vehicles. Both are available for you to view online now. The All-Electric Homes webinar explores the ways you can move towards an all-electric home and discusses the benefits of ditching gas. The Electric Vehicles webinar gives an overview of how to integrate EV charging into your home and tips for choosing the right EV. Scan the QR code to check out these helpful videos!





# ARTS AND CULTURE



## CAMDEN'S CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

We were thrilled to see Camden Civic Centre and its surrounding grounds come alive for the Cultural Fusion events over the past few months.

Residents were able to immerse themselves in a multi-faceted cultural extravaganza that combined live performance, inspiring art, bustling markets and soul-stirring music.

The events took place on 28 September 2023, 26 October 2023, 23 November 2023, 21 December 2023, 20 January 2024 and 24 February 2024.

## CAMDEN ART COLLECTION

An exciting new exhibition is coming to Alan Baker Art Gallery from 4 May!

Camden Art Collection will present works from the Camden Council Public Art Collection and the Alan Baker Art Gallery. The exhibition will showcase Camden's rich art history by opening the collections for viewing within the historic walls of Macaria.

The featured works will include artwork from Alan Baker, the Camden Art Prize and much more. The exhibition will run until November 2024.



## PRESTIGIOUS ART COMPETITION RETURNS

The Camden Art Prize, now in its 46th year, is an art competition, exhibition and sale held each year to promote the visual arts within the Camden area and the Macarthur region.

The exhibition will run from 10-17 May at Camden Civic Centre. For more information, visit [www.camdenciviccentre.com.au](http://www.camdenciviccentre.com.au)

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are a number of laugh-out-loud events coming up at Camden Civic Centre. Scan the QR code and see what's on!



# EVENTS AND BUSINESS



## CAMDEN CLEANED OUT

**Hundreds of residents dropped off more than 24 tonnes of chemical waste at Council's annual Chemical CleanOut in February, making it one of the most successful events yet.**

The annual event gives residents the chance to dispose of their unwanted hazardous chemicals around their homes or garages including household cleaners, pesticides and herbicides, poisons, pool chemicals and much more.

Want more information on how to safely dispose of rubbish you might still have around the house? Scan the QR code.



## CAMDEN CAREERS EXPO

**Save Tuesday 14 May 2024 in your calendar for the next Camden Careers Expo!**

Hosted by Camden Council in partnership with Training Services NSW, the Expo welcomes job seekers, including school students or anyone wanting a career change, to connect with a range of industries offering tangible career pathways, study and training opportunities.

This year's expo will feature a range of services, training providers and local and multi-national businesses, exhibiting a program of information to enhance attendees' knowledge moving into the workforce.

Scan the QR code for more information.



# WHAT'S ON

## WHAT'S COMING UP IN CAMDEN?



### Youth Week

Thursday 11 to Sunday 21 April  
Various locations

Get involved in a range of events, all part of Council's annual celebration of young people.



### ANZAC Day

Thursday 25 April  
Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park

Council is proud to support the Camden RSL Sub-Branch with their 5am Dawn Service, 10.30am march and 11.15am ANZAC Day Commemoration Service.

For more information, visit  
[www.camdenrslsubbranch.com.au](http://www.camdenrslsubbranch.com.au)



### Camden Careers Expo

Tuesday 14 May  
Julia Reserve Youth Precinct

An event connecting job seekers with a range of industries offering tangible career pathways, study and training opportunities.

### Paws in the Park

Sunday 5 May  
Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park

Enjoy a FREE and fun community day out, made especially for dog owners and their four-legged friends.

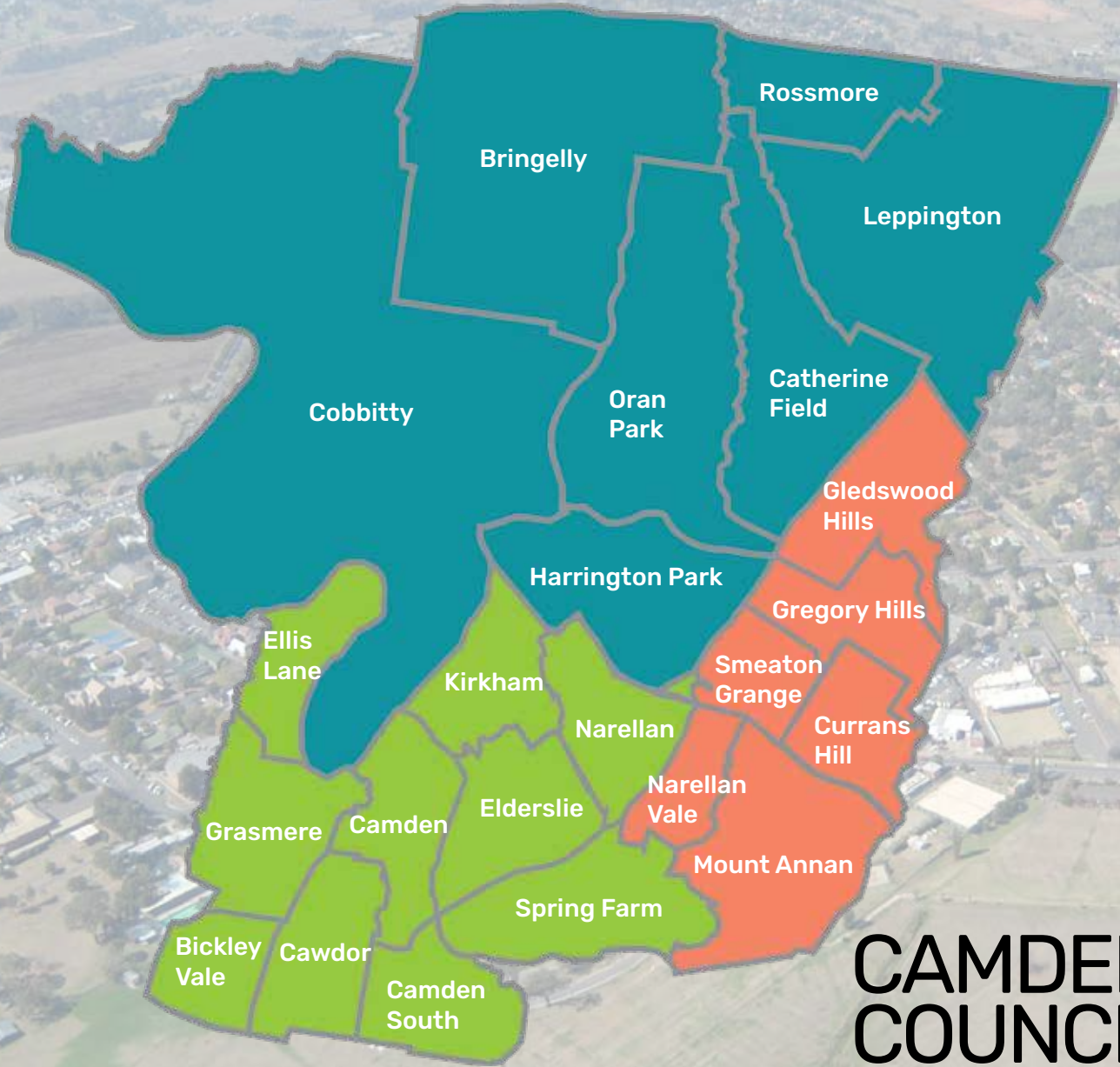


Scan the QR code for more information about these events and to see what else is happening near you!

# 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 **13 CAMDEN (13 226 336)**;
- 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](http://camden.nsw.gov.au/contact-us/report);
- Download the **OurCamden** app; or
- Visit our Customer Service Centre at **70 Central Avenue, Oran Park**.



# CAMDEN COUNCIL

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