

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
EDITION ONE 2023

LET'S CONNECT

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF CAMDEN, CR THERESE FEDELI



Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of Let's Connect for 2023!

I hope you all had an amazing Christmas and New Year period, and this year has started positively and strongly for you all. We have definitely started the new year with a bang here at Council, with so much to celebrate already.

Our Australia Day celebrations always kick-off our yearly event roster so fantastically, and this year was no exception. Seeing so many smiling faces at the parade, hearing from our incredible ambassador and crowning all the terrific award winners was truly heart-warming. It was a pleasure to have Jason Sotiris as our Australia Day Ambassador this year. Jason is the founder of Supertee, an incredible organisation that produces a superhero t-shirt for sick kids in hospital.

We also welcomed residents and visitors back to our much-loved Camden War Memorial Pool at the beginning of this year, after the completion of significant repair and remedial work to the facility as a result of the damage sustained across multiple flooding events in 2022. I'm so pleased we can all cool off from this hot weather at this fantastic facility.

We're working on some fantastic projects, like the link between the Camden Town Centre and the Nepean River which you can read about in this edition. We're calling on our community to provide their feedback on projects like this one, and many more in the pipeline, via our online community engagement platform, Your Voice Camden.

We've also taken large strides in the sustainability space, thanks to our ground-breaking Power Purchasing Agreement. It's fantastic to say we've secured 100 per cent renewable energy from the beginning of this year, meaning approximately 90 per cent of Council's electricity usage is now from renewable sources. The remaining 10 per cent will be transitioned to renewable sources in the near future.

I'm looking forward to a bright 2023, where Camden continues to go from strength to strength. I'm proud of how far we've come, and I can't wait to see where we'll go.

Therese Fedeli

Mayor of Camden



With more than the desired number of cancellations due to COVID-19 and unprecedented rain and flooding events over the past two years, events are back in a big way in 2023!

We ended 2022 with a festive bang after celebrating the inaugural Camden Christmas Festival and the Oran Park Christmas Concert.

The Camden Christmas Festival saw Argyle Street in Camden turn into a Christmas wonderland and included the lighting of the community Christmas tree, live music, market stalls, amusements and a very special visit from Santa himself. The Oran Park Christmas Concert saw thousands of people gather at Oran Park Civic Precinct to see the lighting of the Oran Park Christmas Tree as well as Christmas entertainment, markets and activities and another visit from Santa.

LET'S CELEBRATE



Council also crowned a number of winners after residents decked their streets full of joy as part of the Christmas Lights Competition.

A big congratulations to the following winners whose dazzling displays won them a share of \$1,300 in gift cards:

- Best Lit House – Rochester Street, Gregory Hills (above left);
- Best Novelty Display – Donahue Circuit, Harrington Park;
- Best Commercial/Non-Residential – Macarthur Automotive Service; and
- Best Street – Walseley Crescent, Gledswood Hills (above right).



Council's Australia Day celebrations have kicked off this year's event line-up fantastically, with thousands lining Argyle Street in Camden Town Centre for the annual parade. Of special note are the incredible 2023 Australia Day Award winners, which included:

- Citizen of the Year, Kylee Bentham;
- Young Citizen of the Year, Ebony-Rose Mangion;
- Arts and Cultural Award, Melissa Musgrave;
- Sports Achievement Award, Group 6 Rugby League Referees; and
- Community Group of the Year had joint award winners this year, Camden Community Garden and Macarthur Storm Chasers.

Residents enjoyed roving entertainment and the much-loved Macarthur Lions Australia Day Street Parade down at Argyle Street in Camden, as more than 60 residents made their pledge to be true-blue Aussies in Council's first Citizenship Ceremony for the year. Camden's Australia Day Ambassador for 2023 was Jason Sotiris (pictured bottom middle and bottom right.). Jason is the founder of Supertee, an organisation that produces superhero t-shirts for sick kids in hospital.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS CAMDEN



MAKING A SPLASH IN CAMDEN

Council was thrilled to reopen Camden War Memorial Pool on Saturday 7 January.

The facility underwent extensive repair work as a result of damage caused by several flooding events throughout the year. Work included the emptying, repairing and refilling of the 50-metre and leisure pools; repairs to the plant room roof, roof framework and cavity; the replacement of solar heating roof lines and pool heat pumps; and much more.

The facility has had its season extended to 30 April 2023, so there's still plenty of time to enjoy it!

It's now Mount Annan Leisure Centre's turn to have a face-lift, with a number of repair works currently underway to fix the pool hall roof. This work includes replacing box gutters and deteriorated roof flashings and fixings; remedial work to corroded steel structures; and much more.

This work is due to be completed in late August 2023.



NEW PARK TO ENJOY

Residents have a new park to enjoy in Catherine Field.

Located at 15 Passmore Avenue, Clarence Park officially opened earlier this year. The park consists of more than 4,000 square metres of open space as well as two shelters, shade sails and a playground.

Developer Harrington Estates representing Hixson Pty Ltd, Dandaloo Pty Ltd and Edgewater Homes Pty Ltd delivered the park as part of their commitment to open space and recreation works.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS CAMDEN

**your
voice**
camden



USE YOUR VOICE

We celebrated **Community Engagement Day** earlier this year but Council continues to encourage residents to use their voice all year-round to help better the Camden area.

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 above 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.

WE'RE LINKING CAMDEN TOWN CENTRE TO THE NEPEAN RIVER

Council is working to enhance our community's connection with the iconic Nepean River.

We'll be providing a recreational network that will complete missing links and create several new route options that connect the Nepean River to Camden's main street; creating a public art trail; working to support the agricultural operations at the Camden Town Farm; and so much more.

Scan the QR code below to find out more about this project and to provide your thoughts and feedback.



WANT MORE INFO?



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

OUR COMMUNITY



WERE YOU AT THE PLACE TO BE?

The temporarily transformed Larkin Place was the place to be this summer.

The trial project, funded by the NSW Government's 2022 Streets as Shared Spaces initiative, saw temporary work transform the site into a multi-use space. This allowed for the roll-out of the Larkin Place Activation Pilot, an exciting line-up of events and activities to activate the new space and allow different people and groups to enjoy the space.

Hundreds of people enjoyed the Twilight Christmas Markets, where a selection of stalls from local businesses, artisans and artists offered something for everyone. Residents also had a great time at Christmas Bauble Decorating workshop, Lunch Time Jams and Storytime with Camden Library.

The project is now being evaluated, with next steps to be decided in the coming months.

Scan the QR code to keep up to date with this project.

SENIORS FESTIVAL

Locals enjoyed Seniors Festival last month.

The focus was on 'celebrating together' through a range of activities, including health and wellbeing sessions, creative and information technology workshops and even a fashion parade and concert.

Local seniors had a ball enjoying new experiences, learning and developing their skills and having fun.



DID YOU KNOW?

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



NOT JUST A GALLERY!

Alan Baker Art Gallery offers self-directed online drawing lessons, which are accessible for all ages.

You can follow along step by step in four different workshops - cottage, still life, landscape and gum tree drawing.



OUR COMMUNITY

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW THE LATEST FROM ACROSS COUNCIL?

Scan the QR code to keep informed!



LAST FEW WEEKS TO SPLASH AROUND!

As the summer months draw to a close, residents still have a few more weeks to squeeze in some fun at the area's two water play spaces.

Dawson-Damer Park, which is located at the corner of Dick Johnson Drive and O'Toole Avenue in Oran Park, along with Curry Reserve in Elderslie are open every day from 10am to 7pm until April.

They're both inclusive facilities with wet play wheelchairs available for hire and adult change facilities.

Scan the QR code on the left for more information on these spaces, as well as other halls, parks and playgrounds across the Camden area.

CAFE CONNECT

New year, new me!

Well, sort of – Café Connect is expanding this year, with more locations to choose from and double the activities and cafés.

Activities will include lifelong learning, creative and culture workshops, health and wellbeing programs and much more. Residents can participate in the activities and then attend the café afterwards or simply come along, meet new people and have a chat with services about what Camden has to offer.

If you're aged 55 years and over, and this sounds like something you'd like to be involved in, scan the QR code on the right to find out how.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our three libraries hold regular events and activities for residents to enjoy. Scan if you'd like to find something to get involved in, such as the popular Parent and Bub Yoga.



SUSTAINABLE LIVING

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR COUNCIL

Council has taken a large step towards meeting its target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050, thanks to the game-changing Power Purchase Agreement signed back in November 2022.

Camden has joined Penrith, Wollongong, Wingecarribee, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Albury and Bega Councils in the 10-year deal with Snowy Hydro through Red Energy, using the Metz Solar farm near Armidale in the New England region of New South Wales.

The agreement has secured 100 per cent renewable energy, meaning that, at the moment, approximately 90 per cent of Council's electricity usage is from renewable sources. The remaining 10 per cent will be transitioned to renewable sources in the near future.

From the beginning of this year, the deal saw renewable energy used in a staged approach starting with all street lighting as well as seven large Council sites across the Camden area, including:

- Oran Park Administration Building and Oran Park Library;
- Camden Library, Narellan Library;
- Council's Narellan Depot;
- Council's Smeaton Grange Depot;
- Mount Annan Leisure Centre; and
- Camden War Memorial Pool.

STATE'S NEWEST RECYCLING CENTRE OPENS IN CAMDEN

Recycling in NSW reached a significant milestone when the 100th Community Recycling Centre officially opened late last year at 5 Millwood Avenue in Narellan.

The centre 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.

The facility is open every Saturday and Sunday, 9am-2pm.

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



PORTABLE WATER STATIONS FOR HIRE

Are you planning a community or sporting event?

We have portable water units available to hire for FREE! They're quick and easy to set up.

Scan the QR code below for more information.



ARTS AND CULTURE

LIVE, LOCAL AND INCREDIBLE

Each year, local Camden businesses open their doors in celebration of Live 'n' Local.

After the success of June activations, Camden Council announced a second series of instalments, held each Saturday from 3 December to 17 December.

Check out a few of the local performers who tore up the stage at six of our local businesses!



CONNECTING WITH NATURE

The local environment took centre stage in Camden Town Centre recently, with the incredible Connecting with Nature exhibition.

The curated street exhibition featured winning and highly commended works from the 2021 Macarthur Nature Photography and 2021 and 2022 Threatened Species Art and Writing Competitions.

Check out the works which were displayed on guard rails, planter boxes, bus shelters and bins along Argyle, Mitchell and Murray Streets.

DID YOU KNOW?

We're seeking musicians, street performers and pavement artists to busk in Camden. You can register to busk at one of 11 available locations around the Camden area by scanning this QR code!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

THERE'S NO SLOWING DOWN ON THE EVENT FRONT



Youth Week | 20-30 April

Council has a robust program of activities to celebrate this week-long initiative. It encourages young people, aged between 12 and 24 years, to share ideas, attend events, showcase their talents, connect with their peers and community and have fun.



ANZAC Day | 25 April

Join the Camden RSL Sub-Branch for a touching Dawn Service in Camden to commemorate all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who have served.



Camden Careers Expo | 27 April

Delivered in partnership with the Regional Industry Education Partnerships, this exciting event provides relevant and interactive information relating to post-school education, upskilling and professional development opportunities, as well as tangible career pathways. This event will be held at Julia Reserve Youth and Community Centre in Oran Park.



Paws in the Park | 7 May

Everyone's favourite celebration of their paw-feet four-legged friends is making a come-back this year, with the much-loved competitions, stalls and activities. This event will be held at Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park.



National Families Week | 15-21 May

Council's program of activities throughout this week celebrates the vital role that families play in Australian society.



Volunteer Week | 15-21 May

Council's week-long celebration of local volunteers shines a spotlight on those who selflessly contribute to our community and make it a better place.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Child Restraint Fitting | 1 June

This free event helps residents have their child car restraints, harnesses and booster seats installed and/or checked for safety and correct fit.



Learner Log Book Run | 11 June

This organised drive is based on a route from the Drivers for Learners in Macarthur booklet, with learner drivers and their supervisors invited to attend.



Winterfest Camden

This jam-packed event spread over a massive three days turns Camden into a winter wonderland, with fun and activities for the entire family to enjoy. This event will be held at Onslow Oval in Camden.



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



DID YOU KNOW?

We're always looking for businesses and organisations, from near and far, to help bring our fantastic events to life.

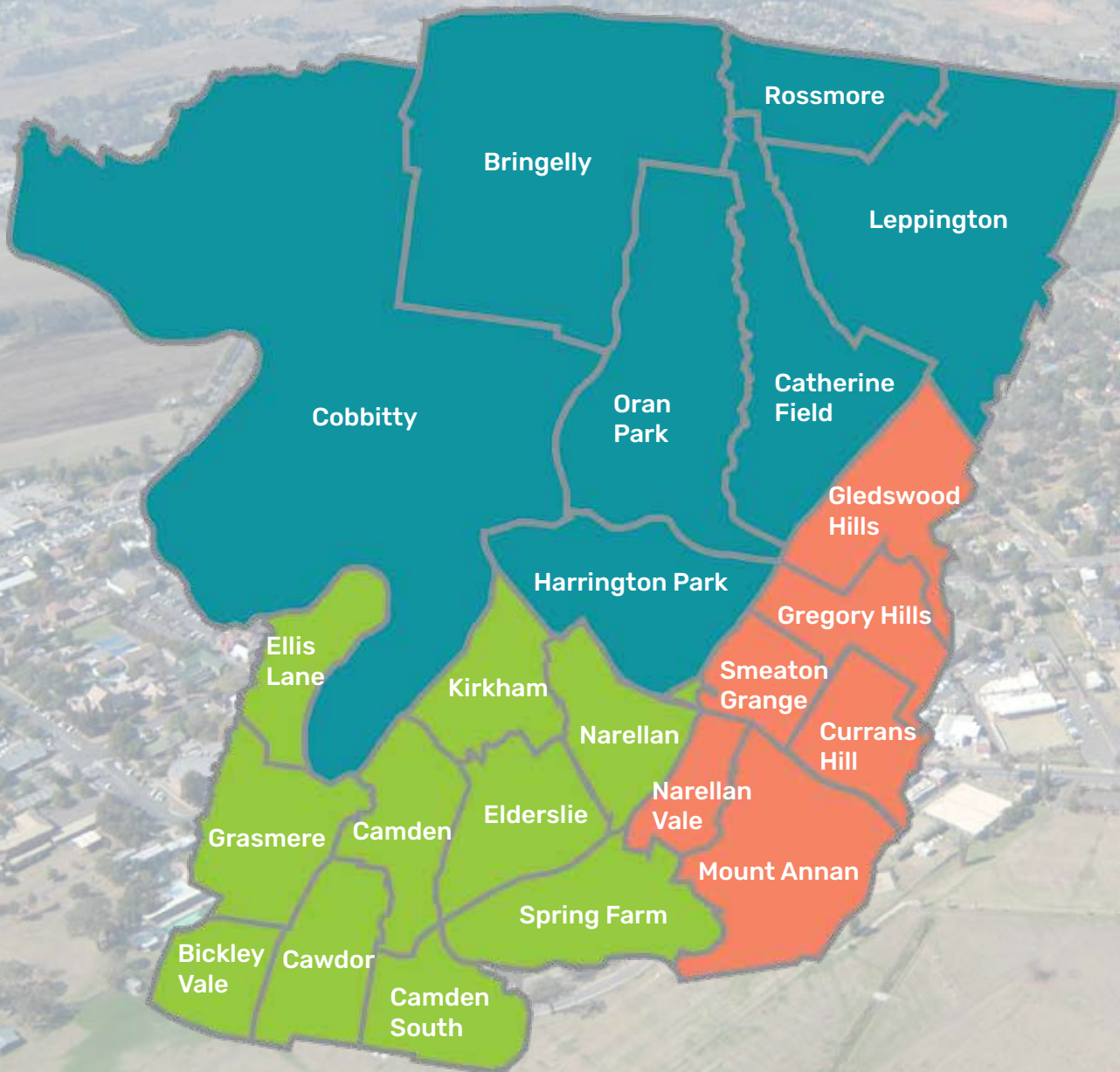
You can register your details and be part of the stallholder database to be notified when applications are being accepted for upcoming events by scanning this QR code.

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.

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