

Mayoral Minute

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE - RECENT AWARD WINS
FROM: The Mayor
EDMS #: 23/660565

I'd like to take a moment to shine the spotlight on some fantastic award wins we've had recently.

Earlier this month, Council's Open Space and Sustainability Team was successful in winning the Natural Environment Protection and Enhancement Award for On Ground Works, as part of the Local Government NSW Awards.

This award, which recognises outstanding "on-ground" initiatives to conserve, protect and enhance the local environment on public and/or private land, was secured for the Connecting Camden White Gum project.

The innovative project was delivered in collaboration with the CSIRO Australian Tree Seed Centre, The Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, Australian Institute of Botanical Science, The University of Sydney and Sydney Metro Airports (Camden Airport). It saw the creation of a seed orchard of 437 genetically diverse Camden White Gum, which has been listed as critically endangered, in a one-hectare area along the Nepean River at Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve in Camden South. Once established, the trees will increase the tree canopy cover of the Reserve by 38 per cent and also strengthen the resilience of the species by increasing gene flow and connect other isolated subpopulations of Camden White Gum throughout the Nepean River riparian corridor.

Council's Heritage Advisory Committee also won the Jill Roe Regional Award at the annual NSW History Council Awards Event earlier this month, for their Unlock Camden initiative.

Unlock Camden was recognised for its exploration of regional Australian history, helping to increase academic and public engagement in Australian history, specifically Camden's rich Colonial and European history.

As we'd all remember, Unlock Camden, which was held on 2 September 2023, was an event that incorporated historical enthusiasts, community groups, historic vehicles, architectural heritage and a wide array of engaging activities, including traditional art workshops, and local cuisine offerings. It served as a powerful platform for capturing and celebrating Camden's rich heritage.

While winning awards is never our primary objective, being recognised for innovative and exciting work is always special and worth celebrating.

I'd like to offer a big congratulations to everyone who worked on these projects and thank them for their dedication to making the Camden area an even better place to live, work and play.

RECOMMENDED

That Council note the information.

