

Mayoral Minute

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE - AUSCYCLING BMX RACING NATIONAL SERIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF INDIGENOUS FOOTBALL

FROM: The Mayor

EDMS #: 23/374476

I recently had the privilege of attending two incredible sporting events, and I wanted to share my experience at each.

The first was the third and fourth round of the 2023 AusCycling BMX Racing National Series, hosted by Macarthur BMX Club on Saturday, 8 and Sunday, 9 July. The event featured more than 700 talented riders from every state and territory of Australia, as well as a number of riders from New Zealand.

It was amazing seeing some of the top riders descending onto the Kirkham Park BMX Facility at Elderslie, including Queensland's Teya Rufus and Thomas Tucker, Victoria's Bella May and Max Carins, and South Australia's Imogen Healy.

It was fantastic to draw an event of this magnitude to our world-class facility, with the National Series being one of the major events in the calendar for this sport.

The second was the inaugural International Festival of Indigenous Football, co-hosted by Camden Tigers Indigenous Football Program and Maori Football Aotearoa at Ron Dine Reserve on Sunday 9 July. This event was a big celebration of the Indigenous cultures of both New Zealand and Australia through football, right as NAIDOC Week was drawing to a close.

The atmosphere was incredible, with an amazing welcome to country, smoking ceremonies and traditional dancing. The football games were preceded by the haka and Aboriginal war cry, which were just fantastic.

The showcase of the two cultures, so rich in history and storytelling, through the lens of the "World Game" during such a special week, right before the FIFA Women's World Cup begins, was just so special.

I'm so proud to be able to host events as incredible as these, right here in Camden. Welcoming people to our local government area that perhaps wouldn't have ventured here otherwise, to celebrate such incredible causes, made me really proud of our facilities, our community and our capacity.

I look forward to Camden hosting more sporting events and attending more events just like these in the future.

RECOMMENDED

That Council write to both event organisers congratulating them on their successful events.