

Mayoral Minute

SUBJECT: MAYORAL MINUTE - CAMDEN'S RECIPIENTS OF THE KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS 2023

FROM: The Mayor

EDMS #: 23/334385

I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate the 1,192 Australians who were recently announced as The King's Birthday 2023 Honours List recipients on Sunday, 11 June by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd).

These recipients boast achievements from across community service, science and research, industry, sport, the arts and so much more.

I would particularly like to acknowledge and congratulate the following four Camden recipients on their prestigious recognition; we thank you for your extraordinary contributions to our community and for all your hard work in your chosen areas of service and expertise:

Mrs Heather Bieman was awarded a **Medal of the Order of Australia** in the General Division for service to music through teaching. Mrs Bieman founded Agape Arts, formerly Amazing Grace Academy of Performing Excellence, back in 2004 and has been the Director and Head Music Teacher there ever since. In terms of music, Mrs Bieman was the coordinator of the Combined Schools Choir and annual Camden Community Carols for 20 years; taught music at Camden High School from 1973 to 1986 and again from 1963 to 1965; and was a pianist and teacher for 50 years.

In terms of her community contribution, Mrs Bieman is a former foster parent; she was Camden Citizen of the Year in 2005; she took home Camden's Australia Day Arts and Cultural Award in 2021; and was a Paul Harris Fellow at Rotary Club of Camden in 2017.

Mrs Valmai Ruth Stewart was also awarded a **Medal of the Order of Australia** in the General Division for service to communities of Camden and Dubbo. Mrs Stewart has been the Founding President of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard in Camden since 2008; is a member of the Women's Ministry at the Camden Baptist Church; has been a Bible Teacher and Presenter at Christian Women Communicating International since 1979; is a former Board Member of the Westhaven Association in Dubbo; and has been a Founding Member of the Emmanuel Care Centre in Dubbo since 1988.

Mr Andrew Duncan Macdonald was one of eight NSW Rural Fire Service members to receive an Australian Fire Service Medal. Mr Macdonald has exhibited outstanding dedication to the NSW Rural Fire Service since he joined in 1981 and is a leader, not only within his local Gledswood Brigade and Macarthur District but across the State.

Last but certainly not least is our own Director of Community Assets, **Ms Sandra Kubecka**, who was awarded a Public Service Medal for her exceptional efforts in responding to and aiding recovery after the 2022 floods in Camden. The outstanding dedication and efforts that Sandra and the broader Camden team exhibited during the difficult times of floods and recovery are truly commendable.

On behalf of Council, I thank Sandra and congratulate her on this very well-deserved recognition.

RECOMMENDED

That Council write to each of the recipients and congratulate them on their achievement.