

Minutes

Events Reference Group Meeting

Camden Council
Administration Centre
70 Central Avenue, Oran Park

Wednesday 7 February 2024



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INFORMAL MEETING COMMENCED AT 5:31PM

PRESENT

Mr Ted Gillroy, Ms Jo Martin, Ms Aileen Fernandez, Mr Syd Hyett

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Kristy Finlayson – Acting Manager Public Affairs
Caitlin Burns – Acting Senior Events Officer
Brooke Johnson - Events Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Mr Ted Gillroy read the Acknowledgement of Country.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVES OF ABSENCES

Cr Ashleigh Cagney – Mayor of Camden
Cr Paul Farrow
Cr Usha Dommaraju
Cr Lara Symkowiak
Mr Keith Maddock
Ms Melissa Musgrave

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Moved: N/A, Seconded: N/A

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes for the Events Reference Group Meeting held on Wednesday 6 December 2023, copies of which have been circulated, be confirmed and adopted.

Moved: N/A Seconded: N/A

BUSINESS ARISING

Action items from business arising from December minutes:

- **NOTE**

N/A

1. Australia Day – 2024 – Debrief

- Council representative provided a verbal update on the Australia Day Parade and community aspect.
- The Macarthur Lions club held the Australia Day Parade on Friday 26 January with Camden Council assisting with the Traffic Management Plan and Security Management.
- Traffic Management was successful with minor hiccups on the day being addressed and resolved in a timely manner.
- The Parade route was changed for 2024 after a debrief and assessment of the route challenges the previous year. Due to the route change, the Traffic Management Plan was amended from previous years.
- Mr Ted Gillroy asked if the new parade route mitigated the challenges of the large crowd gathering and/or dispersing at the end of the march.
- Council representative advised there were a few large groups who took photos at the end of the street which caused a small amount of congestion on pathways. This however did not cause traffic issues for the open streets.
- Having the 'soft closure' at the intersection of John and Elizabeth Street to let minimal number of cars through towards the Woolworths and Civic Centre Parking was ideal. A line of traffic did occur at the peak arrival time of Civic Centre patrons however the traffic team placed extra controllers on the intersection to manage the flow of incoming cars and parade participants safely. These controllers were able to manage the cars and pedestrians to improve the safety issues that were flagged in 2023.
- From a Civic perspective the new route worked well with getting the Civic Centre visitors into the venue.
- Mr Ted Gilroy advise the Macarthur Lions have had nothing but positive feedback on the Australia Day Parade from participant's, spectators and workers. He agreed it was a great idea to change the route going up Argyle Street and down John Street.
- Mr Ted Gillroy sent out a thank you to the parade participant's which was very well received.
- The Camden Council waste truck was good to have in parade. This worked well for having the Camden Council Platypus mascot in the passenger seat as it was too hot for the Mascot to walk in the parade.
- Overall the Traffic Management, security management and parade worked very well.
- Camden Council has received negative feedback from community members about the parade announcers and has addressed this directly with the Macarthur Lions club.
- Kristy Finlayson mentioned if we receive any feedback related to the parade announcers to let Council know.

Actions:

- N/A

2. Australia Day Awards 2024 - Debrief

- Council representative provided a verbal update on the Australia Day Award Ceremony which was held at the Camden Civic Centre on Friday 26 January.

Citizen of the year: Denise Pritchard

Young Citizen of the year: Brydie Meredith

Sports Achievement Award: Beverley Batros & Garry Clarke

Community Group Award: Camden west Rural Fire Station

Arts & Cultural Award: Patricia Johnson

- Council thanked those members of the Events Reference Group who were on the judging panel for the Australia Day Awards.
- Ms Jo Martin provided feedback on the Award ceremony noting that there were a lot of political people in attendance who all performed a speech which took a while. Suggested in future that the official speakers are reduced.
- Council advised it is protocol that the guests are invited to speak and that they were all requested to speak within a two minute time frame.
- Overall the Australia Day Awards Ceremony was well implemented and enjoyable for the attendees.
- The Australia Day Ambassador was in attendance for both the Australia Day Awards Ceremony and the Parade.
- There were 94 new citizens taking the oath at the ceremony.
- The Events Reference Group asked how often these citizenship ceremonies are held.
- Council advised there are usually Citizenship Ceremonies held each year however it is dependent on the numbers provided by the Department of Home Affairs. The next citizenship ceremony will be held on Tuesday 20 February at the Camden Civic Centre.

Actions:

- N/A

3. Paws in the Park 2024

- Council representative advised that the Events Team are beginning to plan and organise the annual Paws in the Park event.
- Council suggested that the event time be changed from 9am-1pm to 10am-2pm based on event feedback from the previous year (2023). The suggestion was put forward to consider if it would allow families who attend sport on Sunday mornings to still make the event over lunch time. Given the event is held during May where the weather is typically cooler this should not have an impact on animals being out in the heat.
- The Events Reference Group supported the new proposed time and advised it is a good idea to see if it helps increase numbers at the event.
- Camden Council will propose the new time 10am-2pm to the Animal Companion Committee to request their feedback as well.

- A special guest will be in attendance, the Council events team are continuing to seek availability and quotes for special guests that fit the brief. The events team are looking into guests such as Dr Katrina and The Wonderdogs or even a kids character such as Bluey or Paw Patrol.
- Mr Syd Hyett mentioned that council has had paw patrol before at past events which would give a good guide on costings.
- The event will include kids activities, dog agility course, demonstrations on the main stage and a self-guided 2km walk.
- Post floods there has been works conducted around the Equestrian Park to create walking paths which can be used for the 2km walk. Council will work with the Macarthur Lions Club on their involvement with this.
- There will be information, product, food and drinks stalls at Paws in the Park event.
- The Macarthur Lions has been involved with the planning and implementation of this event. Council will contact the club to propose their involvement again in 2024.
- Mr Ted Gillroy said The Macarthur Lions Club are happy to assist again this year and will await correspondence.
- Ms Jo Martin asked for clarification on the agility course proposed.
- Council advised the agility course would be set up with an organization providing some demonstrations and the public will be given the opportunity throughout the day to take their own dogs through the course.
- Ms Jo Martin advised there is a good flyball company that does demonstrations (Southerncross flyball) that Council could approach.
- Mr Syd Hyett mentioned there is a Sydney scent dogs company that Council could have at the Paws in the Park event.
- Suggestion to have Greyhound rescue attend as a stallholder.
- Potentially reaching out to the Dingo Sanctuary at Bargo to see if they wanted to attend the Paws in the Park Event.

Actions:

- Council to seek feedback from the Animal Companion Committee on the proposed event time change
- Councils event team to contact the Macarthur Lions Club to propose their involvement of the event again in 2024
- Council to contact a flyball association about conducting a demonstration
- Council to contact Greyhound Rescue
- Council to research a Dog scent company
- Council to contact Dingo Sanctuary at Bargo

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Council advised there is an Event Review in progress which will determine the calendar of events for the new financial year of 2024-2025. At this stage Paws in the Park is the only event confirmed for the remainder of this financial year.
- The Events Reference Group sought information on whether the meetings will continue through 2024. Council advised that the process will continue as in and will be reviewed after the elections later in the year.

MEETING CLOSED AT 5:55pm

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD Wednesday, 3 April 10.30am