

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



27 August 2015

HISTORICAL ARTEFACT GETS PROMINENT RELOCATION

A piece of Australian history, the John Oxley commemorative anchor, will be relocated to Curry Reserve in Elderslie, providing greater access for the community and visitors to enjoy this special piece of our past.

Council will relocate the John Oxley commemorative anchor, which is currently located on private property, to a more prominent part of Camden to highlight the significance of John Oxley to the area.

Mayor of Camden, Cr Lara Symkowiak said that the anchor represents an important part of our history and is pleased that the community can now enjoy it in one of Camden's most popular parks.

"Camden is steeped in history, making it the great place it is today to live, work and visit. This little piece of our past recognises and honours explorer and surveyor John Oxley and his contributions to Camden". Cr Symkowiak said.

The Camden Historical Society will provide in-kind support through the provision of a story board depicting the history of the anchor and John Oxley which is to be installed near the anchor.

"We are pleased to work with Camden Historical Society in its relocation to Curry Reserve, which is part of the original Oxley land grant. The anchor will be a vital element of the planned upgrades for Curry Reserve and allow many people the opportunity to see and appreciate what is an important part of our local history." Cr Symkowiak said.

John Oxley was an explorer and surveyor of Australia in the early period of British colonisation and also served as Surveyor General of New South Wales. He received two properties in the Camden area from Governor Macquarie, naming them Kirkham and Elderslie.

In 1929, to recognise John Oxley, the British Admiralty presented three commemorative anchors to Australia to serve as memorials. The anchor from the Destroyer Tomahawk was sent to Kirkham, where the explorer died. The anchor is a symbolic memorial to his explorations and represents a time early in Australia's history when the foundations of modern Australia were being laid.

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