CAMDEN COUNCIL Media Release



27 July 2016

Camden Council Demonstrates Ongoing Commitment to Youth

Camden Council will soon find out if it has taken out a major youth award for the third year in a row, as it continues its strong commitment to services and activities for young people in the local government area.

Council is offering a busy program through its Local Youth Week and Youth OutReach programs, whilst the recently opened Birriwa Reserve Outdoor Youth Space at Mount Annan is also drawing younger residents to diverse activities.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said she was proud of the programs, events and initiatives Camden Council provides for the youth in the Camden Local Government Area.

"I'm very pleased that Council continues to receive recognition for excellence in empowering youth, with nominations for both 'Best Local Youth Week Program' and 'Best On-going Commitment to Local Youth Week Programs' at the 2016 NSW Local Government Awards."

"If Council takes out an award it will be the third year of accolades for its youth programs. Camden won the 2014 and 2015 awards for its youth week activities."

"The 2016 Youth Week program continues to reflect the diversity in skills and interests that local youth bring to the Camden community."

"Activities included Beach Sports at Camden Sports Club, the Songwriting and Music Making Workshop at Narellan Library, the Mount Annan Leisure Centre Nutrition & Fitness Clinic, the Rockwave Youth Dance Party at Camden Civic Centre, online challenges and more."

"In May 2016, Council completed the \$1.67 million Birriwa Reserve Outdoor Youth Space to accommodate the area's growing youth population, and serves as both an outdoor play space and a venue for events, activities and barbeques."

"With young people making up a fifth of our population, Council is committed to continually utilising the Birriwa Reserve Outdoor Youth Space to engage with youth."

"We recently hosted an 'Open Mic' at the facility, where 12 to 24-year-olds were invited to sing and play instruments, socialise, enjoy other performances and treat themselves to free refreshments."

"We also partnered with Raise Fitness to promote personal wellbeing by providing free 'Garden Yoga' clinics for 11 to 25-year-olds every Wednesday afternoon in July."

Camden Council also demonstrates its commitment to youth programs throughout the year with its Youth OutReach Program including:

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- Skate Clinics at Kirkham Skate Park
- The 'Winter Youth Outreach Program'
- The 'Summer Youth Outreach Program'
- Free School Holiday Fitness Camp
- Free Bus Transport Vouchers

For more information on Camden Council's youth programs, services and support, please visit the following link: <u>www.camden.nsw.gov.au/community/support/youth/supportservices/</u>

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