## **CAMDEN COUNCIL** Media Release

15 June 2016

Paint the Town REaD, Camden

REaD alert, REaD alert – a magical reading egg will unearth an ancient creature (mascot)

at the Narellan Library Forecourt on Wednesday 22 June from 10.30am to 1.30pm as part

of Camden's Paint the Town REaD.

Paint the Town REaD is an early literacy community event that encourages all levels of the

community to read, talk, sing and rhyme with children from birth to help prepare them for

school. On the day, children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of reading

related activities, and every child will receive a book to take home and enjoy.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said this is the inaugural Paint the Town

REaD event in Camden.

"This is the first year that Paint the Town REaD has been held in the Camden area and

young children across the LGA have been reading and talking to the reading egg over the

past few weeks, helping it to grow."

"One of the most important things you can do with your child is to lay important

foundations for language development and reading. Learning to read is extremely

important and is a skill that children will use all their lives. Events such as Paint the Town

REaD provide a great opportunity to promote and encourage further reading in the

community".

"I am delighted that Council has been able to provide funding through its Community Small

Grants program to assist Sector Connect, in conjunction with the Camden For Children

group, to provide this early literacy program" said Cr Symkowiak.

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## CAMDEN COUNCIL





Cath Brennan, Families NSW Facilitator at Sector Connect, said learning basic literacy skills, including how to handle a book and attaching sound to some letters, is important in developing language skills and cognitive skills in children.

"I encourage young children and their carers to be part of this free community early literacy event to see what emerges from the reading Egg as it hatches into our reading mascot."

Those attending are asked to wear the colour red.

For further information please contact Cath Brennan at Sector Connect on 4868 5933, or Fiona Devine at Camden Council on 4645 5084

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