



CAMPBELLTOWN

# COMPASS

Campbelltown City Council  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

**SPRING 2022**



Like and follow us  
[@campbelltowncity](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Return of Fisher's Ghost

Feast festival

Art in our streets

Community and Justice Precinct





## CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON CANCER CENTRE

**Campbelltown will soon be home to a new world-class \$52 million integrated cancer centre.**

Mayor George Greiss joined our project partners GenesisCare, Erilyan and Northwest HealthCare Properties to turn the first sod and mark the start of construction.

The development will expand the capacity of local health and cancer care services alongside the nearby public health precinct and increase access and availability of important treatments, therapies and global clinical trials.

The first stage of the project is being built on Council-owned land on Hurley Street and will create 60 high-quality long-term healthcare jobs with the capacity to deliver more than 30,000 treatments annually.

Construction is expected to be complete in late 2023.

# HAVE YOUR SAY

**What you say guides what we do. And right now, we want to know how satisfied you are with various aspects of Campbelltown so that we can use this to shape the future and meet your expectations.**

This survey includes questions about community and belonging, open spaces and parks, facilities and the natural environment, just to name a few.

We also want to know if you feel involved in decision making and any suggestions you have for how we can consult with you better.

Tell us what you think before Friday 9 September.

Details on our website.

## NOMINATE A LOCAL LEGEND

**Give our local heroes the recognition they deserve by nominating a friend, neighbour, community group, business or sporting team for the 2023 Australia Day Awards.**

Categories include:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Sportsperson of the Year
- Community Group Initiative of the Year
- Diversity and Inclusion Award
- Environmental Citizen of the Year

Details on our website.



## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

We encourage community participation and consultation. Contact your Councillors by mobile or write to them at [council@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au) or by mail to PO Box 57, Campbelltown NSW 2560.



Campbelltown Compass is printed in Australia using soy based inks on PEFC certified recycled paper made from 30% post-consumer waste.



Cr George Greiss  
Mayor  
M: 0427 325 940



Cr Warren Morrison  
Deputy Mayor  
M: 0437 045 802



Cr George Brticevic  
M: 0408 219 865



Cr John Chew  
M: 0408 965 218



Cr Margaret Chivers  
M: 0408 182 248



Cr Masood Chowdhury  
M: 0419 183 600



Cr Joshua Cotter  
M: 0408 946 592



Cr Marian George  
M: 0408 940 419



Cr Karen Hunt  
M: 0458 783 257



Cr Masud Khalil  
M: 0408 974 248



Cr Darcy Lound  
M: 0409 829 103



Cr Rey Manoto  
M: 0408 449 981



Cr Riley Munro  
M: 0408 967 871



Cr Meg Oates  
M: 0419 467 885



Cr Matt Stellino  
M: 0408 955 940



## WHAT YOU TOLD US

**Designing the South West Sydney Community and Justice Precinct master plan is being done with the wishes of our community in mind.**

Feedback from the 542 survey responses and the workshops held with school students has provided some interesting insights that will help to shape the master plan and guide the future use of the site.

Some of the overwhelming responses were that it should have beautiful trees and gardens, a lot of separate spaces to meet and include a city library and outdoor dining to visit alongside any proposed government and justice services, educational facilities and other commercial buildings.

We'll be engaging you on the draft master plan when it's ready later this year.

More details about this project and the community consultation are on our website.

## MAJOR INVESTMENT ON ITS WAY

**Thirty four projects, community facilities and open space improvements are among those we've put forward for a share of the NSW Government's \$5 billion WestInvest program.**

Some of the projects put forward include town centre beautification works, playspaces, community and sporting facilities, outdoor fitness facilities and urban bike paths.

Alongside these exciting projects, we've supported a number of applications from our community.

The full list of projects and details are on our website.

## LAGOON DIGGING BEGINS

**The iconic lagoon that will sit as the centrepiece of the Campbelltown Billabong Parklands will start to take shape over the coming months as construction ramps up.**

Our appointed contractor, Crystal Pools, are now on-site and construction on the four pools has started.

Each pool will cater to different age groups and vary in depth, from the zero-depth splash play area to the 1.8-metre deep and 1077m<sup>2</sup> main billabong pool.

We've also been successful in applying for a \$3.65 million grant from the NSW Public Legacy Program, which will be used to enhance the public open space at Apex Park adjoining the Billabong Parklands. This is in addition to funding from the NSW State Government and Federal Government through the Western Sydney City Deal Liveability Fund and Council, bringing the total value to \$34.65 million.



## GET READY TO FEAST

**Embrace the diverse flavours, sights and sounds of Campbelltown, with the return of our multicultural food and dance festival, Feast, on Saturday 17 September.**

From 2pm to 9pm, Redfern Park in Minto will host traditional food stalls and trucks, cultural dance performances, live cooking demonstrations and an interactive activity trail for kids.

Details on our website.







## VIBRANT ART ON DISPLAY

**Public spaces across Queen Street have been brought to life with the installation of new murals throughout the streetscape.**

Danielle Mate's *Raw Undoings*, near Ralph's Chemist on Carberry Lane, is an abstract perspective of Country with a focus on the deep crevices within the landscape.

Jason Wing's *Three Mobs*, painted on the Dumaresq Street wall of 7Eleven, celebrates the diversity of people across the Macarthur region, represented by an entanglement of rainbow serpents.

*Spinning the Fire Sutra I*, based on the Buddhist fire sermon of the same name, was painted in Anzac Lane by Savanhdy Vongpoothorn.

All artworks have been created in collaboration with local businesses and property owners and were funded by the NSW Government Festival of Place grant program and the CBD Revitalisation Program grant.

Details on our website.



## MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL NOW OPEN

**Experience the jumps and bumps of the new Ingleburn Reserve Mountain Bike Trial Loop.**

The family-friendly track is designed with a range of jumps, berms and obstacles to help new mountain bike riders to develop their skills.

There's a 250m easy loop for learners and a longer 450m intermediate loop for those who are ready for the extra challenge.

There's plenty more to come at Ingleburn Reserve, with more upgrades planned over the coming months.



## IMPROVING OUR CBDs

**As we head into the warmer months, we'll be starting a new program to keep our CBDs clean and improve the everyday aesthetic.**

As part of a new \$350,000 cleansing program, we'll have extra staff out and about to sweep the roads, pick litter, clean bins and maintain trees and vegetation in the Campbelltown and Ingleburn CBDs.

A new hot water pressure cleaner will more regularly ensure the streetscape is kept clean as part of the program.

Details on our website.



## LITTLE ORANGE GOES BIG

**Little Orange Studio artists have taken over the Campbelltown Arts Centre gallery for the *Little Orange Goes Big* exhibition.**

Expect an immersion of mysticism and magic, psychedelic colour, zentangle patterns and scenes populated with confectionery, butterflies and picnics among the works on display until 16 October.

The exhibition is accompanied by a public program of workshops and events.

Little Orange is a working studio at Campbelltown Arts Centre for artists who identify as a person with disability, d/Deaf and hard of hearing and/or disabled creatives.

Details at [c-a-c.com.au](http://c-a-c.com.au).



# FESTIVAL OF FISHER'S GHOST

## WELCOMING THE RETURN OF FISHER'S GHOST

After two years away, the Festival of Fisher's Ghost returns to our city in a new format.

While COVID disrupted our past two festivals, we used the time to revamp the event and return with some exciting new ideas.

The highlight of the festival will be the first weekend that contains a packed program of events from Thursday 3 November to Sunday 6 November that will bring the Campbelltown CBD to life with a variety of events to appeal to families with kids or friends looking for a good time.

There'll be plenty of other events held around the festival including old favourites like the carnival and the 60th anniversary of the prestigious Fisher's Ghost Art Award.

The history and legend of Fisher's Ghost remains an integral part of the festival story and will be celebrated throughout.

While the street parade was previously a much-loved and popular part of the



festival, in recent years attendance and participation had dropped significantly which is why we made the difficult decision not to go ahead with the parade this year and instead focus on delivering a larger program.

We're looking forward to seeing the revamped festival light up our CBD and bring plenty of fun and entertainment to the heart of our city.

## CARNIVAL FUN RETURNS

**Get your thrills at the Fisher's Ghost Carnival at Bradbury Oval with a variety of rides, attractions and sideshows for all ages.**

**CARNIVAL DATES:** Thursday 3 November to Sunday 6 November and Thursday 10 November to Sunday 13 November

There will be a range of free family entertainment daily and a quiet session will be held during the event for adults, young people and children with disability and their carers to enjoy.

Stay tuned to C91.3 in the lead up to the carnival for a range of giveaways.

Details on our website.



## ART AWARD CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

**The works of talented artists from across Australia and the region will be on display at the Fisher's Ghost Art Award exhibition from Saturday 29 October to Friday 8 December.**

Entries are open until Friday 2 September in the Open, Contemporary, Traditional, Primary Students and Secondary Students categories with \$72,000 available in prizes.

Now in its 60th year, the Fisher's Ghost Art Award has attracted works from some of Australia's best contemporary artists.

Stay tuned for the finalist announcement on Monday 26 September. Details at [c-a-c.com.au](http://c-a-c.com.au)

# THE LEGEND OF FISHER'S GHOST

**Late one night in October 1826, a farmer named John Farley ran into the local hotel, 'The Harrow', in a state of shock claiming he had seen the ghost of Fred Fisher. This began the legend of Australia's most famous ghost.**

## Origins of the legend

On the evening of 17 June 1826, convict and local farmer Frederick George James Fisher, disappeared. His friend and neighbour, George Worrall, told locals that Fisher had sailed back to England. In the past, Worrall had managed Fisher's farm while he was in prison for an assault charge and Worrall had been heard boasting about the land he now controlled.

Knowing that Fisher wasn't allowed to leave Australia as he still had three years to serve in the colony, locals became suspicious and Worrall was arrested on 17 September.

## Sighting Fisher's Ghost

Campbelltown farmer John Farley was returning home from Patrick's Inn when he passed one of Fisher's paddocks. Seeing the figure of a man sitting on the fence of a bridge, Farley recognised it as Fred Fisher and became horror-struck as he realised he was looking at a ghost.

Bathed in an eerie light and blood dripping from a wound in his head, the spectre released a loud moan, beckoned to him, and raised his arm pointing to a creek back towards George Worrall's farm before fading away.

Shocked, Farley stumbled into The Harrow then told the police and local magistrate.

## A murder investigation

On 25 October 1826, two young boys discovered a lock of hair and a tooth after noticing bloodstains on a fence at Fisher's farm. After searching the area and finding nothing, police called in Namut Gilbert, a Darug man and leader in the Cabrogal clan, as a tracker.

On testing the water from puddles in the area, Namut announced "white fellow's fat there". They followed the puddles along the creek and discovered Fisher's body in a shallow grave, just where Farley claimed the ghost had pointed.

While the body was too decomposed to identify him, the plum-coloured jacket, shirt and buckles on the braces were easily recognised as Fred Fisher's.

## Worrall's confession

George Worrall went on trial for Fred's murder in February 1827 and it took a jury 15 minutes to find him guilty. He was sentenced to death and executed three days later.

Worrall maintained his innocence until the morning of his execution before claiming he had mistaken Fisher for a horse and struck him with a fence paling.



**A sketch of Fisher's Ghost, drawn by Norman Lindsay.**





### The legend continues

John Farley never wavered in his recounting of his experience and the legend of Fisher's Ghost became famous worldwide, inspiring many famous artists, writers, poets and film producers.

RM Martin referred to Namut, the Aboriginal tracker in his *History of the British Colonies* (1836) while Charles Dickens' magazine, *Household Words* (1855), included a version of the ghost story.

A silent film titled *Fisher's Ghost*, was directed by Raymond Longford in 1924 and is considered one of the earliest Australian horror films.

In 1960, poet Douglas Stewart, wrote an historical comedy based on the story illustrated by acclaimed artist Norman Lindsay.

### The Festival of Fisher's Ghost is born

The Campbelltown City Festival of Fisher's Ghost is one of the longest running community events in Australia.

Originally conceived in 1956 as an annual celebration to raise funds for new facilities and services, the festival went through several names.

During that same period, the legend of Fisher's Ghost experienced an unexpected rise in popularity, fuelled by Sydney radio stations and crowds gathered at Fisher's Ghost Creek hoping to spot the famous ghost.

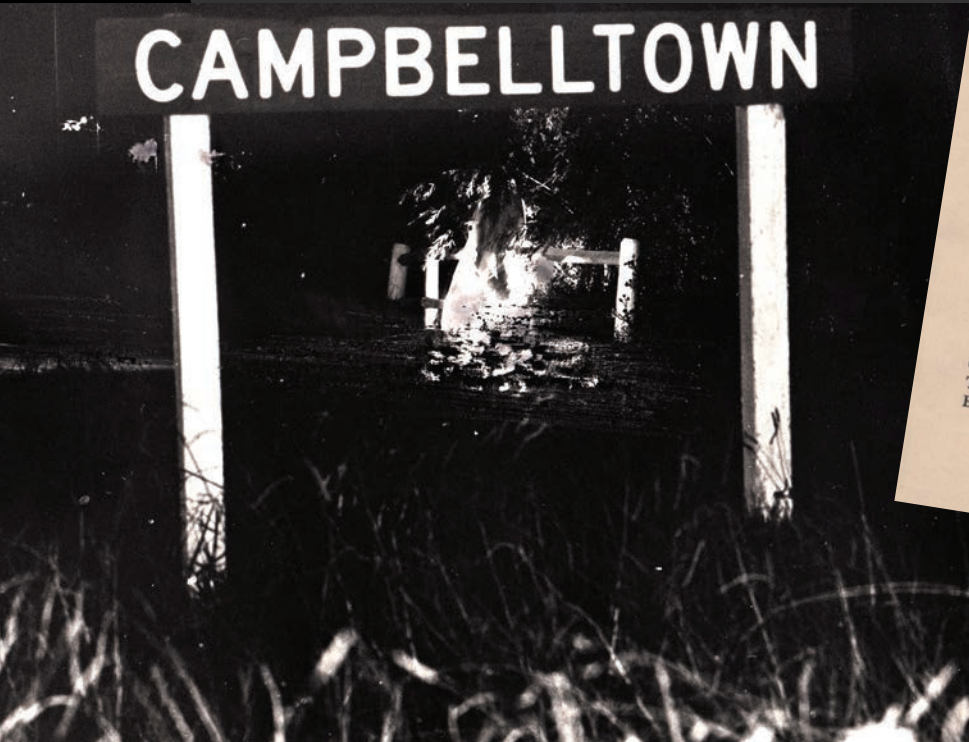
Campbelltown Councillor, Greg Percival suggested combining the festival and the legend and in 1960, the Festival of Fisher's Ghost was born.



The poster for the 1924 silent film - Fisher's Ghost.



## CAMPBELLTOWN





## FISHER'S GHOST FUN RUN

Lace up your running shoes for the Fisher's Ghost Fun Run on Sunday 13 November from 8am to 11am.

Held on the grounds of the Western Sydney University campus across a 5km and 10km course, the popular fun run caters to all ages and abilities.

There are also plenty of great prizes on offer in the barrel draw for all entrants as well as individual and team prizes.

Registration details available soon on our website.



## FISHER'S TWILIGHT FAIR

Pick up delicious foods and artisan crafts while enjoying roving entertainment and games when the revamped street fair hits Mawson Park and Queen Street for Fisher's Fair on Friday 4 November from 4pm to 10pm.

Kids Lane will feature a range of old school games such as hand ball, hula hoops, face painting, balloon twisting while there'll also be live performances from local community groups.

Details on our website.

## SHOW N' SHINE

Motoring enthusiasts will be able to see and hear the sounds of cars and bikes of all ages, models and makes on show in the Hurley Street car park on Sunday 6 November from 9am to 2pm.

Cars Under the Stars at Fisher's Ghost will feature a wide variety cars, bikes, utes and even trucks.

You can even enter your unique vehicle by registering to enter the event online. Tickets also available now on our website.

## SUNSET SOUNDS

Grab your picnic rugs or camping chairs and kick back while you listen to some great jazz, country and rock music from local artists at Sunset Sounds.

Mawson Park is the venue from 3pm to 10pm on Saturday 5 November, featuring a wide variety of local artists, food, dessert and a pop up bar.

Details on our website.

## ROOFTOP ROLLIN'

Get your skates on at Rooftop Rollin' - the funky new roller skating event on the upper rooftop car park at Campbelltown Mall.

Whether you're an experienced skater or a beginner, we cater for all skill levels.

There'll be tunes from our DJ, great food and desserts and hula hoop performances in the evening sessions.

Details and event timings on our website.





## CAPTURING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Enter your stunning images of the region's beautiful natural landscape, native flora and wildlife when the 2022 Macarthur Nature Photography Competition opens on Friday 9 September.

Hosted by the Macarthur councils, the competition is open to everyone in the Macarthur region and includes special categories for school students with \$3,000 in prizes up for grabs.

2021 Native Fauna Open winner Melissa Brennan

Competition themes include flora, fauna, waterways and landscapes of Macarthur. Details on our website.



## WATCH OUT, KOALAS ARE ABOUT

Local koalas will be out looking for love during koala breeding season from August to February. Living with koalas here in Koalatown, we're all responsible for keeping them safe, so here's some things you can do to make sure that happens:

- Keep dogs secured at home and preferably indoors at night
- Walk your dog on a lead
- Drive safely and monitor for koalas crossing the road
- Plant koala food trees on your property
- Install koala safe fencing if you back onto bushland
- Drape a secured piece of rope into your swimming pool to enable koalas to climb out if they fall in.

You can report all koala sightings to 4645 4601 or [koalatown@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:koalatown@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au) or download the I Spy Koala app on Android or Apple.

Report all sick or injured wildlife to WIRES 0466 318 688 or Sydney Wildlife 9413 4300

## COUNTING KOALAS

If you love our local koalas then we want your help with our new citizen science project to survey where they are across Campbelltown.

This project will be part of a long-term monitoring strategy in partnership with koala experts, universities, wildlife organisations and the community and is a key action of our Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management.

Register as a Koalatown supporter now to be part of opportunities like this. Details on our website.



## KEEP SAFE IN OUR BUSHLAND

Enjoy Campbelltown's natural beauty by taking a kayak on the Georges River, take a bush walk or join one of our guided Bush Explorer walks to learn more about our flora and fauna.

As we head into spring and summer, think ahead before getting out and about and check out a range of safety tips from the It's Our Backyard section of our website.

We have plenty of information available in English, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Filipino/Tagalog, Samoan, Spanish, Mandarin, Urdu, Nepali and Vietnamese.

Details on our website.







## BOOK YOUR OWN STUDIO TIME

**Record your own podcast, edit videos and images or create your own digital masterpieces at HJ Daley Library's new Creative Studio.**

The studio has a range of equipment to use including Adobe Creative Suite software, a green screen lighting and tripods, microphones, Wacom graphics tablet, scanner, 3D printer and Cameo silhouette cutting machine.

Book now at [campbelltown.spydus.com](http://campbelltown.spydus.com)

## STREETSCAPE REVAMP

**Work is underway now to refurbish the streetscape of Oxford Road between Cumberland Road and Carlisle Street to create a more welcoming entrance to the Ingleburn Town Centre.**

The works include new pavements and vegetation installed along the pathways alongside new tree plantings to improve the aesthetic of the area.



## LOCAL STUDENTS' STORIES SHOWCASED

**The stories of Aboriginal students from Macquarie Fields High School have been featured in a new book Blacklight: Ten Years of First Nations Storytelling, now available at our libraries.**

The anthology collection brings together creative writing and art produced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across Western Sydney which we produced in partnership with the Sweatshop Literacy Movement.

The book is now available to borrow from local libraries.

## INCLUSIVE SPACE AT THE LIBRARY

**Children of all abilities can now enjoy new sensory features at the Eagle Vale Library in the first stage of a roll out across our library service.**

A range of new features have been installed including a sensory wall in the children's space, calm down kits, noise cancelling ear muffs, hi-viz clocks and key boards, Lego sets, games and technologies for people with vision impairment.





## COUNCIL VEHICLES GOING ELECTRIC

**Our first electric fleet vehicle, a Nissan Leaf nicknamed Evie, has been trialled by our Assets team for the past 12 months.**

As well as cutting emissions, Evie saved over \$2,000 in costs meaning we can put more money back into the community.

We've now added a second electric vehicle to the fleet as part of our commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

We'll continue to roll out electric vehicles in our fleet as existing petrol vehicles reach the end of their life cycle.



## HOW WE'RE GOING GREEN

**We're committed to reducing our carbon emissions and creating a healthier, greener environment for the future of our city.**

Since July this year, 70% of our electricity has been purchased from three NSW solar farms in Moree Hillston and Nevertire, including the electricity that powers our civic centre, street lights and council facilities.

The initiative is part of a joint-partnership with 24 other councils and has saved \$1 million since 2019, which is re-invested back into our community.



## BIN IT PROPERLY

**How you dispose of items at home makes a world of difference to all of us. Recycling what you can saves precious resources being buried as landfill. But if it's done wrong, it all goes to waste.**

A few simple things will make sure what you put in your yellow-lid bin doesn't go to landfill:

- Keep your recyclables clean by rinsing containers and removing all food and liquid remnants
- Keep your recycling loose – don't box or bag them
- Separate your soft plastics and drop them off at your nearest Coles or Woolworth store in a REDCYCLE bin
- If in doubt, leave it out. Accidentally putting incorrect items in your recycling bin could mean that it all goes to landfill.

Download our My Waste Bin App for more information.







# HANDMADE AND HOMEGROWN

• Fresh produce • Artisan foods • Handmade goods • Live music • Free face painting • Workshops

Explore locally handcrafted produce and artisan goods.

Indulge in tasty treats and kick back with  
live entertainment for the whole family.

**Lithgow Street mall, Campbelltown**

**8:30am - 1pm**

The third Sunday of each month,  
August to December.



For more information or to check out our events and programs  
online, head to [campbelltown.nsw.gov.au](http://campbelltown.nsw.gov.au)



**CAMPBELLTOWN**