

## **CAMDEN ELECTORATE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS**

**Mr PETER SIDGREAVES (18:44- 22 February 2022):** On 26 January we celebrate all the things we love about Australia. It is a day to reflect on our lifestyle in the "Lucky Country" and our history. In Camden we are blessed to have strong and caring community members, all with unique experiences, who make a real difference to our community. Australia Day is the perfect time to acknowledge those individuals, and I am delighted to speak about a number of them today.

Camden South resident Margret Bell was a 2022 recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia for her service to the community. It is a great privilege to have Margret, who is a worthy and caring volunteer, living in the Camden electorate. Margret is a passionate local who has served on the boards of the Falcons soccer club and the Camden RSL Sub-Branch, and has helped to organise Camden's ANZAC Day parade. I offer my sincerest congratulations to Margret on her outstanding acknowledgment.

I also recognise Schwarz Family Practice doctor Matthew Gray, who was also a 2022 recipient of the Medal of the Order Australia for his contribution to community health. Dr Gray has been living and working in Camden for nearly 25 years. He has admired the area's growth and seen access to quality health care improve.

Dr Gray was also recognised for his work with the African AIDS Foundation, providing health care to South Africa. What a tremendous privilege it is to have Dr Matthew Gray continually providing and caring for the people of Camden and those across the world. I offer my sincerest congratulations to him on his achievements.

Many in Camden were also recognised for their contributions to making our community a great place to live. We are blessed to have so many community-minded and dedicated individuals living amongst us in Camden. I am proud to recognise some of those who received an award at the Australia Day online event.

Camden's Citizen of the Year was awarded to Brooke Murray, who is a passionate advocate for mental health and regularly speaks out for those with mental illness. Since 2015 Brooke has raised over \$3,000 for various mental

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health charities, including Beyond Blue, Black Dog Institute and Liptember beneficiaries such as Lifeline and R U OK? Day. Brooke is to be commended on this outstanding honour.

Camden's Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Alana Bailey, who has been a member of the Camden Youth Council for the past three to four years, working on several projects to support young people in Camden, including the Camden Multicultural Festival and the Camden Youth Week programs. Alana's drive to support young people in the community is encouraging to see.

The Community Group of the Year was awarded to Big Yellow Umbrella and the Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living. The team at Big Yellow Umbrella run amazing services such as free food hampers for locals, mums and bubs groups, playgroups, parenting services, and bill assistance. They also run seasonal programs such as Christmas gifts for those in need. The Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living is a registered charity and a community-focused organisation that is an educational facility and model for the promotion of sustainable technology and living practices for homes and businesses in the Macarthur region, including all residents in the Camden local government area. I thank and congratulate each of the volunteers who assist in the operations of Big Yellow Umbrella and Macarthur Centre for Sustainable Living.

The Arts and Culture Award was presented to Bob Gurney, who has served the Camden arts community for over 20 years, playing integral roles in the development of Camden's arts scene, encouraging both established and emerging artists to engage in art. Over the years Bob has volunteered in many ways, including by holding the titles of activities coordinator and committee member of the Camden Society of Artists. I thank Bob for his faithful service to the Camden community.

Again, I congratulate all winners of the Australia Day Awards and thank them for their contributions to our community.