



CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Wednesday, 17 June 2026 at 6:30 PM

Cumberland City Council Chambers

Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

Councillor Contact Details

Granville Ward

Clr Ola Hamed (Mayor)	0405 070 007	Ola.Hamed@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Steve Christou	0419 651 187	Steve.Christou@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Joseph Rahme	0418 995 471	Joseph.Rahme@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Greystanes Ward

Clr Nadima Kafrouni-Saba (Deputy Mayor)	0447 605 158	Nadima.KafrouniSaba@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Eddy Sarkis	0425 348 000	Eddy.Sarkis@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Dr Diane Colman	0400 279 200	Diane.Colman@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Regents Park Ward

Clr Enver Yasar	0497 428 929	Enver.Yasar@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Helen Hughes	0400 264 534	Helen.Hughes@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Steve Yang	0448 836 197	Steve.Yang@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

South Granville Ward

Clr Paul Garrard	0414 504 504	Paul.Garrard@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Ahmed Ouf	0449 877 141	Ahmed.Ouf@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Glenn Elmore	0418 459 527	Glenn.Elmore@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Wentworthville Ward

Clr Michael Zaiter	0418 432 797	Michael.Zaiter@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Suman Saha	0419 546 950	Suman.Saha@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Sujan Selventhiran	0427 104 940	Sujan.Selventhiran@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Statement of Ethical Obligations

Oath or Affirmation of Office

In taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office, each Councillor has made a commitment to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Cumberland and Cumberland City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

Conflicts of Interest

A councillor who has a conflict of interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council when the matter is being considered, must disclose the interest and the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. Both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting where the conflict of interest arises. Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with the Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

For information on Council services and facilities please visit www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au

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1 Confidential Attachments from Open Reports

Item No: MM06/26-53

MAYORAL MINUTE - KING'S BIRTHDAY 2026 HONOURS LIST

Author: Mayor Ola Hamed

SUMMARY

I am pleased to acknowledge and congratulate Mr Dean de Haas on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours List for his service to the community through social welfare organisations.

The King's Birthday Honours celebrate Australians who have made significant contributions to their communities and to our nation, recognising those who make a real and lasting difference through their service.

Mr de Haas' recognition reflects a long and distinguished career in the community sector, spanning more than two decades of senior leadership and service. He is currently the Executive Officer at Auburn Youth Centre, where he has led the organisation since 2015, overseeing its strategic direction, programs and services supporting young people and families across Western Sydney. The Centre offers programs and activities ranging from sports and arts to job clubs, cultural programs, counselling and charity fundraising, all helping to strengthen community connection and opportunity.

Through this role, he has helped deliver initiatives that support vulnerable and disengaged young people, particularly those from culturally and linguistically diverse, refugee and migrant backgrounds, helping them build skills, confidence and pathways into education and employment.

Notably, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Auburn Youth Centre continued its commitment to supporting young people and their families by shifting to remote services and providing over 1900 free meals and grocery packs to families in need during very difficult times.

Prior to his role at Auburn Youth Centre, Mr de Haas held several significant leadership positions across the community sector across Sydney.

In addition, Mr de Haas has contributed his expertise through advisory and consultative roles with Federal and State Government bodies, TAFE NSW, Local Area Police Commands and Local Government, demonstrating a strong commitment to collaborative, whole-of-community outcomes.

Across his career, he has shown a deep commitment to social justice, equity and inclusion, with a particular focus on supporting young people, families and communities experiencing disadvantage.

The Medal of the Order of Australia is a well-deserved acknowledgement of Mr de Haas' dedication, leadership and the real difference he has made in our community. His work embodies the spirit of service, compassion and commitment that defines the Australian honours system.

On behalf of Council and the broader community, I extend our sincere congratulations to Mr Dean de Haas OAM on this well deserved honour.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I move:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Mayoral Minute; and**
- 2. Write to Mr Dean de Haas OAM congratulating him on his significant and well deserved recognition.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM06/26-54

MAYORAL MINUTE - DOCUMENTARY ON THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF DARWIN

Author: Mayor Ola Hamed

SUMMARY

The bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942 remains a defining moment in Australia's history. As the first and largest military attack on Australian soil, it marked a significant turning point in the Second World War and profoundly shaped the nation's identity, resilience, and defence preparedness. The events of that day, and the subsequent period of sustained attacks, stand as a testament to the courage of Australian service men and women, as well as civilians, in the face of unprecedented adversity.

The 85th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin in 2027 provides an important opportunity to honour those who served, acknowledge their sacrifice, and ensure that their stories continue to be recognised and shared with future generations.

This commemorative milestone holds particular significance for the Cumberland community through the story of Wilbert "Darky" Hudson, a decorated veteran born in Merrylands. Mr Hudson served as a gunner in the 2nd Anti Aircraft Battery during the Darwin bombings and was the first recipient of the Military Medal for bravery against the enemy on Australian soil. His extraordinary actions during the attack, which earned him the nickname "The Naked Gunner," reflect the courage and character of those who defended the nation.

Council will be attending a plaque unveiling with Merrylands RSL in early August this year at the precise location in Darwin where Mr Hudson shot down enemy aircraft during the bombing raids. This further reinforces the direct and tangible connection between this nationally significant event and the Cumberland community.

Council has also been made aware of a documentary project being developed to coincide with the 85th anniversary of the bombing of Darwin in 2027. The documentary focuses on the events of the bombing and prominently features the story and legacy of Wilbert "Darky" Hudson. Given Mr Hudson's connection to Merrylands and his central role in the narrative, the project holds clear cultural and historical significance to the Cumberland Local Government Area and aligns with Council's commitment to recognising and preserving local stories of national importance.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I move:

RECOMMENDATION

That:

- 1. Council endorse the Mayoral Minute;**

2. Council provide a contribution of \$15,000 from the operational budget to support the production of the Darwin bombing documentary for the 85th anniversary in 2027, recognising its significance to Cumberland through the story and legacy of Wilbert “Darky” Hudson; and
3. Councillors wishing to attend the plaque unveiling notify the Mayor and General Manager of their interest.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM06/26-55

MAYORAL MINUTE - HOLROYD RANGERS SOCCER CLUB - SINGA CUP PARTICIPATION

Author: Mayor Ola Hamed

SUMMARY

I'm pleased to bring to Council's attention one of our local junior sporting teams, the Holroyd Rangers Under 12 Division 1 team, who are set to represent our community on the international stage.

The team will compete in the Singa Cup in Singapore from 31st October to the 7th November 2026, a significant achievement and a testament to their dedication and performance. I'm advised that the team is currently undefeated and leading their local competition, reflecting both talent and commitment from their players, as well as the strong support and leadership provided by their coach and parents.

In preparing for this opportunity, the team has already demonstrated their own initiative by securing sponsorships to assist with costs. However, participation in an international tournament inevitably brings financial challenges for families.

This is not only a sporting endeavour, but an opportunity for these young players to experience personal growth, cultural exchange, and to act as ambassadors for our community abroad.

In recognition of their achievement and the positive representation they will bring, I propose that Council provide a donation of \$2,000 from the Community Reserve to assist with the costs associated with the Holroyd Rangers Under 12s team in attending the Singa Cup.

I commend the team, their families and supporters, and wish them every success.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I move:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Mayoral Minute;**
- 2. Approve a donation of \$2,000 to the Holroyd Rangers Soccer Club – Under 12, Division 1 team to assist with costs associated with attending the 2026 Singa Cup in Singapore, funded from the Community Reserve; and**
- 3. Acknowledge and commend the team's outstanding performance and achievement in representing the local community at an international tournament.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM06/26-56

MAYORAL MINUTE - MFA 2706 – GRANVILLE DISASTER MEMORIAL CARRIAGE

Author: Mayor Ola Hamed

SUMMARY

The Granville train disaster of 18 January 1977 remains one of the darkest days in Australia's transport history and is deeply engrained into the memory of our community. Occurring within what is now the Cumberland Local Government Area, the tragedy resulted in a devastating loss of life and injury and continues to shape the identity of Granville to this day.

The disaster showed us the importance of public and worker safety, displayed the strength and compassion shown in times of crisis, and of our collective responsibility to honour those impacted.

Among the wreckage was carriage number 2, the second car of the 6:09am service from Mount Victoria to Sydney Terminal. While the first and third carriages were destroyed with tragic loss of life, Carriage 2 came to rest at an angle against a retaining wall and, remarkably, saw no passenger fatalities. It has since been remembered as the "miracle carriage".

Importantly, this carriage was built locally by Clyde Engineering at Granville, further strengthening its connection to our community.

The "Miracle Carriage" represents more than a surviving train carriage. It is a powerful symbol of resilience, survival and the lived experience of that day, and it holds clear historical and local significance for Cumberland.

Recently, the General Manager and I were made aware, through discussions with Transport Heritage NSW, that this carriage may be obtained. This presents a unique opportunity to consider whether this important artefact could be returned to the Granville community with which it is so closely connected.

I note that while the carriage has undergone modifications over the last 49 years and is currently in private ownership, its core structure appears to remain intact. At this stage, Council has not yet undertaken a physical inspection, and further information is required to properly understand its condition, integrity, and any opportunities or challenges associated with its potential acquisition.

Given its significance, it is appropriate that Council gather the information required to determine an appropriate course of action. I believe Carriage 2, as an important part of our local history, should be brought back to Cumberland, where its story began.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I move:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the Mayoral Minute;**
- 2. Receive a report back to Council outlining the findings of an inspection of the 'Miracle Carriage', including considerations of heritage significance, condition, potential costs, and any opportunities for a heritage type public display associated with the carriage.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil