

Meet your new neighbours! Wagga Wagga Zoo and Aviary welcome camels

Wagga Wagga is now home to two camels with the Zoo and Aviary expanding their list of animal residents.

Our new fuzzy friends arrived safely at the zoo earlier this week and are settling into their new enclosure with quality care from zookeepers.

Wagga Wagga City Council Zoo Curator Wendy McNamara says staff are excited to have the camels amongst the animals staying at the zoo.

“We have here a variety of local and non-local animals and the camels certainly add to the zoo experience,” Ms McNamara said.

“Camels are fascinating animals that are very resilient and stubborn. They love to scratch themselves and you will often catch them rolling on their backs in the dirt or sand or rubbing against a tree.

“The two camels we have with us are male dromedary camels. They are around two years old but can live as old as fifty.

“When you come to visit the camels, you will notice one is bigger than the other with a lightly coloured coat, his name is Dune Buggy.

“The other one is a bit smaller with a darker coat and his name is Safari. They are extremely excited to meet the Wagga Wagga community.”

Dune Buggy and Safari have travelled to Wagga Wagga from The Camel Milk Co. which is a camel dairy in Kyabram Victoria.

“We have been expecting them for some time now, but we wanted to make sure everything was ready for their arrival. They travelled quite the distance, and we made certain they were as comfortable as possible when they got here.

“We are working on their training in the hopes they can be part of public interactions in the future.”

Dromedary camels have one single hump and are typically brown or sandy in colour.

You can find the camels located near the alpaca and deer enclosures. The Zoo and Aviary's normal opening hours are Thursday to Monday, 9am to 4pm (no entry after 3.45pm).

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

What: Find out about the new camels residing at the Wagga Wagga Zoo and Aviary

Who: Wagga Wagga City Council Zoo Curator Wendy McNamara and camels Dune Buggy and Safari.

When: Thursday 7 September, at 12.00pm

Where: Wagga Wagga Zoo & Aviary, Located in Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens (meet at Zoo entrance)

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports.'

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