

Anna Leombruno

“Never doubt yourself, you can do more than you think you can”

Anna was elected to the Newton Ward of the Campbelltown City Council in 2010 and has remained a committed member of the Council ever since. She has been a member of, and chaired, several committees and school governing councils. She is currently the representative for the Eastern Councils on GAROC (Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils) and is also the President of the Campbelltown Historical Society Inc.

Early Life

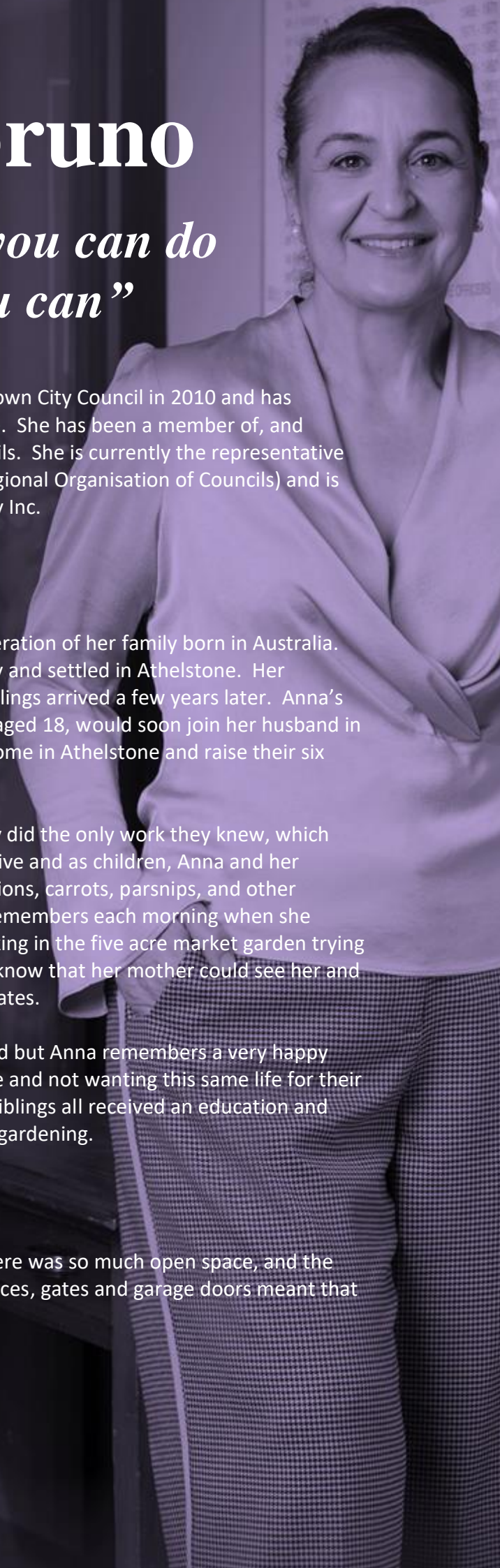
Anna is the youngest of six children, part of the first generation of her family born in Australia. Her grandfather had arrived in the early 1950's from Italy and settled in Athelstone. Her grandmother, Anna's father, Fiore Centofanti, and his siblings arrived a few years later. Anna's parents were married by proxy and Rosina, her mother, aged 18, would soon join her husband in Australia where they would eventually build their own home in Athelstone and raise their six children.

Having had little opportunity for an education, her family did the only work they knew, which was market gardening. This work was very labour intensive and as children, Anna and her siblings would often help to meet the large orders for onions, carrots, parsnips, and other produce that were sold at the East End Markets. Anna remembers each morning when she would walk to school, her mother would already be working in the five acre market garden trying to fulfil the day's orders. Anna was always reassured to know that her mother could see her and her siblings as they walked all the way up to the school gates.

Sunday afternoons were the only free time the family had but Anna remembers a very happy childhood. Anna's parents were a big influence in her life and not wanting this same life for their children, both Anna's parents ensured that she and her siblings all received an education and that they would go on to find careers away from market gardening.

Memories of Campbelltown

Anna's earliest memories of Campbelltown were that there was so much open space, and the homes weren't fenced off as they are today. No high fences, gates and garage doors meant that you actually got to know and talk to your neighbours.



Education and career

Anna attended local schools, Thorndon Park Primary School and Campbelltown High School (which merged with Thorndon High School to form the now Charles Campbell College). Anna loved school including the research required to complete assignments. After successfully completing her year 12 exams in 1985 she commenced her career with the CIC Insurance company in 1986. She originally joined the Claims teams but would go on to work in various departments which would give her a good overall grasp of the insurance industry. Over the years, she would go on to work for other insurance companies and dabble in other professions. Besides being a Councillor with the Campbelltown City Council since 2010, she is currently working in the Finance and Insurance industry. Anna enjoys the challenges the insurance industry provides and uses to advance her problem solving and dispute resolution skills. In 2003, she was awarded by her peers, the inaugural 'People's Choice Award Regional Winner' in South Australia for the Insurance Australia Group, for outstanding achievement in the Insurance industry.

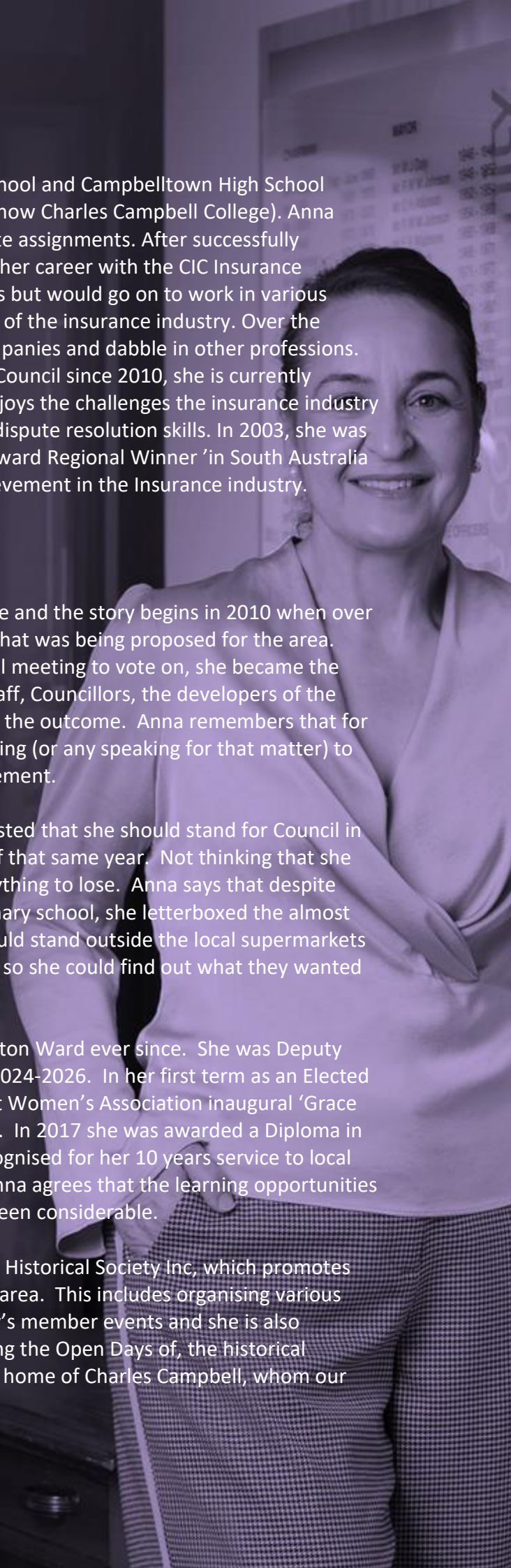
Community Involvement

Anna's introduction to Council life was an accidental one and the story begins in 2010 when over a hundred residents were against a local development that was being proposed for the area. When this matter was finally brought before the Council meeting to vote on, she became the reluctant spokesperson to face the Mayor, Executive Staff, Councillors, the developers of the land and all those that packed the public gallery to hear the outcome. Anna remembers that for someone who has always shied away from public speaking (or any speaking for that matter) to say it was an intimidating experience was an understatement.

She was contacted after that meeting, and it was suggested that she should stand for Council in the upcoming Local Government elections in October of that same year. Not thinking that she stood a chance, she also felt that she wouldn't have anything to lose. Anna says that despite working full time and having two young children in primary school, she letterboxed the almost 2000 properties in her Ward. On the weekends she would stand outside the local supermarkets to speak to anyone who was wanting to stop for a chat, so she could find out what they wanted for their council area.

She was elected and has remained a Councillor for Newton Ward ever since. She was Deputy Mayor in 2018-2020 and will hold that office again for 2024-2026. In her first term as an Elected Member, she received the Australian Local Government Women's Association inaugural 'Grace Benny Award', recognising females in local government. In 2017 she was awarded a Diploma in Local Government Association and in 2020 she was recognised for her 10 years service to local government by the LGA. Fast forward 13 years later, Anna agrees that the learning opportunities being an Elected Member has provided her with have been considerable.

In 2022 she became the President of the Campbelltown Historical Society Inc, which promotes and preserves the history of the Campbelltown Council area. This includes organising various guest speakers during the year for the Historical Society's member events and she is also responsible for maintaining the interior of, and managing the Open Days of, the historical Lochend house. Built in 1844, Lochend was the original home of Charles Campbell, whom our City is named after.



All these roles are very important to Anna along with meeting the needs of serving the community, her employer and still providing a home life for her family. “I think if the day ever came that I am no longer enjoying what I do, then I would step aside.”

Anna says that if she could go back in time she would encourage herself to take more risks and to have more confidence in herself. It is always easier to not do something to avoid the disappointment of failure, but without failure we don't learn, and we don't grow...stay away from those that are ready to put you down or are quick to discourage you.

“If you genuinely care about something, are passionate and are willing to work, then go for it”

Anna's Local Government and Community Experience:

2003 People's Choice Award Regional Winner (SA) - Insurance Australia Group
2010 to present Councillor, Campbelltown City Council
2010 to 2014, Outlook Publication Committee
2010 to 2014, Campbelltown Service Club Advisory Committee
2010 to 2014, Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee
2010 to 2014, Sister City Committee
2010 to 2016 (Chair from 2014), Campbelltown Leisure Centre Redevelopment Committee (now known as The ARC)
2011 ALGWA Inaugural Metropolitan Winner Grace Benny Award (recognising females in local government)
2011 to present, Community Representative, Charles Campbell College Governing Council
2011 to 2013 (Chair 2013), St Francis of Assisi School Governing Council
2014 to present, Member of Council Assessment Panel
2014 to 2016, CEO Panel Review Committee
2014 to 2018, Sesquicentennial Advisory Committee
2015 to 2016, Campbelltown Child Friendly Committee
2017 Diploma Local Government Association (LGA50712EM)
2018 to 2020, Deputy Mayor Campbelltown Council
2020 Awarded 10 Years of Service to Local Government by the LGA
2021 to 2022, Climate Solutions Advisory Committee
2021 to present, Chair, Service Clubs Advisory Committee
2022 to present, President, Campbelltown Historical Society Inc.
2023 to present, Chair, Ageing Well Advisory Committee
2023 to present, Member of GAROC (Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils)

