

01 year in review

FIVE YEARS AT A GLANCE

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

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Vibrant local shopping hubs

five years at a glance

This annual report reflects the transition the City of Ryde has undergone over the past year and provides an overview of what has occurred over the past five years. It measures the City of Ryde's performance against the City Vision and Management Plan 2008-2012.

The City of Ryde has been growing and changing since the earliest days of settlement and the City strives to meet the needs of its citizens and to play a role in the wider Sydney Region. To achieve this, Council has developed major strategies over the past five years to ensure it is prepared to meet its challenges in providing infrastructure and services for an increasing (and increasingly diverse) population while minimising its ecological footprint and responding to the impacts of the global climate ensuring financial stability for the longer term.

In 2008/2009 we commenced the Ryde 2030 Community Strategic Plan project. This plan will provide a blueprint and the 'next steps' for the community and Council over the next 20 years. It will provide the strategic directions that will enable opportunities for the future of our City and make more of our strengths and advantages.

Partnerships

As our population increases and Council is called upon to provide both core infrastructure and adequate community services, we must not only have the vision to take the community forward, we must also constantly forge new relationships and strengthen existing partnerships to make these visions a reality.

The City of Ryde is committed to working in partnership with the community and other key stakeholders to provide quality, cost-effective services that are of real community value.

Scattered throughout the report are examples of how partnerships have created improvements for the community. Look out for the logo.

| | 2008/2009 | 2007/2008 | 2006/2007 | 2005/2006 | 2004/2005 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Estimated population | 103,597 | 102,536 | 100,962 | 100,188 | 99,774 |
| Number of new dwellings | 445 | 479 | 7 | 178 | - |
| Number of Council staff # | 486 | 481 | 475 | 479 | 475 |
| Annual budget (\$M) | 117 | 101 | 83 | 78 | 73 |
| Total capital expenditure (\$M) | 93 | 28 | 24 | 24 | 16 |

FTE – Full Time Equivalent

mayor's **message**

COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUTTERWORTH, MAYOR



At any one time, the City of Ryde is undertaking numerous projects, and offering a vast array of services for the benefit of our community.

2008/2009 was no different – if anything, the workload for the City increased as we started new projects designed to address emerging or long-standing needs.

This Annual Report shows you, as local residents and ratepayers, the progress we have made in the past year.

Some Council activities are straightforward and very visible, such as providing libraries, road and footpath maintenance, tree plantings, waste collection or one of our many local festivals.

Other services are not always associated with the work of the Council: for example, the child immunisation clinic, social education programs, or multi-lingual story time readings held at the local library.

Then there are those projects that are difficult and complex, and often involve balancing the interests of residents who may have very different opinions on how to address an issue.

Despite all these challenges, the Council strives to work with our citizens, ensuring that people are well informed and have an active role in our decision making. This is crucial to building trust in our organisation.

People want to feel that they belong and contribute to their local area. By taking a more flexible approach to engaging with the community – for example, during the consultation process for the Ryde 2030 community strategic plan – we have certainly learned that ‘one size doesn’t fit all’. So, effective communication is increasingly important to building successful, cohesive communities.

Council is also judged on how well we work with partners to improve the local area. Whether with other levels of government, private enterprise or community groups, the City of Ryde needs to be a good partner with improved management practices, transparency and a focus on good outcomes for our community.

As a resident myself, I am proud to call Ryde home and to lead this Council and the men and women who work for this City. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their efforts during this past year.

Clr Michael Butterworth

Mayor

general manager's review

MICHAEL WHITTAKER, GENERAL MANAGER



“TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE AND CAPACITY TO PLAN AND ACHIEVE, A COUNCIL NEEDS FINANCIAL STABILITY.”

Throughout the past year, the City of Ryde has worked hard to deliver projects across the city and improve day-to-day services that will benefit the City's residents and ratepayers.

Improving our responsiveness

Improving how we provide services to our customers and citizens continues to be a priority. We can expect by the year 2030 that our population will grow to 130,000 people and so we need to be prepared to manage that change.

This year we have improved our internal business systems with a new financial system, online system to track development applications (DAs), an upgraded telecommunications system, expansion of TRIM record system and commencement of the new web redesign project, due for completion in 2010. Our library network has maintained its number one reputation with over 800,000 visits annually and close to 800,000 people visited the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre. In addition, it was estimated there were over 5 million visits to our 207 beautiful parks and reserves for sport, leisure or just to reflect on how great Ryde is.

In 2008 the bi-annual Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted with the results showing an improvement in customer satisfaction to a pleasing 81% customer satisfaction, compared to 76% in 2004. Council has also installed a new Customer Request Management System to allow our dedicated Customer Service officers to continue to deliver on this result and to manage all our contacts/enquiries within established service standards.

An internal review has led to the development of a workforce plan that will focus on where our future workforce needs and priorities will be. To this end we continue to invest in high levels of skills training and development as well as the necessary technology to complement these skills. Investment in our staff is a priority and many of our officers attended a variety of awareness sessions or learning and development courses in the past year. Council has developed its own project management training program (PMCOR) and over 200 staff have undertaken this course. Council has also sold this course to other councils.

Delivering from a strong financial position

To have the confidence and capacity to plan and achieve, a Council needs financial stability. 2008/2009 was another sound year for the City of Ryde and our financial position continued to consolidate with an independently audited 5-Star Fiscal Rating

and a positive net operating result for the year of \$59 million, a \$60 million per annum positive turnaround from five years ago.

With assets of over \$2.5 billion, an annual turnover nearing \$230 million, investments totalling about \$95 million, and low debt of \$5 million, the City of Ryde has a solid financial platform and has made an impressive headway in implementing an extensive \$130 million four year capital works program.

In 2008/2009 we carried out a number of key projects including:

- Investment of over \$4 million in our town centre upgrade works and \$7.8million in our wonderful parks (see page 54)
- Investment in stormwater initiatives such as Ryde Park stormwater harvesting, saving approximately 7 million litres a year (see more on page 54)
- Initiating a five year upgrade program for our community buildings and public toilets (see page 56)
- Official opening of the Ryde Wharf Reserve and Ryde Riverwalk, a 10km walk that skirts the Parramatta River and provides a viable commuter pathway and major recreational resources
- Construction of 5km of new cycleways and upgrades to Shrimptons Creek cycleway and completion of over \$4 million in road improvement works
- Over \$1 million of works were undertaken on the Ryde Riverwalk, Shrimptons Creek Trail and Buffalo Creek Trail, including the completion of Stage 1 of the Buffalo Creek Trail.
- Plans for a new \$6 million Community and Sports Centre at ELS Hall Park are underway. The Federal Government has assisted in this project by providing a \$3.5 million grant.

Finally the City has received an extra \$58 million in infrastructure/assets built by third parties this year as a result of development obligations for the benefit and use by our community. A further \$60 million (estimated) of infrastructure/assets is under development and is anticipated to be delivered to the community over the next two years.

Providing a cleaner, greener city

As we continue to celebrate the diversity of our wonderful neighbourhoods, with substantial investment in our public spaces and our natural areas, we have also been working hard on our eco footprint.

Environmental initiatives such as the Sustainable Living Guide, a range of water saving initiatives including a 4-star rating in the Sydney Water 'Every Drop Counts' program, a new rain harvesting system at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, combined waste and recycling stations in public spaces, park recycling stations, 'Follow Your Waste' resident tours

and achieving Milestone 5 under the Cities for Climate Change Protection are some of the many ways our community can be involved in keeping our City sustainable.

Our award winning waste management service is now achieving recycling/reuse of over 60% of our waste stream. Also of note is that over 75% of our passenger vehicle fleet is now 4 cylinder or hybrid, reducing our carbon footprint significantly.

Our natural environment is well supported by our fabulous network of volunteers who during 2008/2009 provided over 6,200 volunteer hours to plant over 1,200 trees and understorey plants.

Health and Community

Council works in partnership with a large network of community groups to support services to our community. The City of Ryde has undergone a dramatic change in demographics with 37.7% of our population born overseas and 31.6% from non-English speaking backgrounds. This change offers challenges and opportunities for Council to work with many groups in the community to explore issues and propose solutions.

Council's solid financial platform also allows us to continue our program of community events and services that support a healthy and active community. These include our premier events: the Granny Smith Festival, which attracts over 85,000 attendees, the Cinema in the Park Festival, our award winning Child Immunisation Service, a Home Modification and Maintenance Service for the elderly, comprehensive school holiday activity programs and a Learn to Swim Program (114 lessons and 12,000 enrolments every year) at our multi-award winning Olympic venue, the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.

Strategic Framework and Council Recognition

Council has developed an excellent strategic framework to provide direction and governance for Council decision making including:

- Long Term Year Financial Strategy (20 year projections)
- Asset Management Strategy (for existing and new infrastructure)
- Environment Strategy (Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Energy Saving, Water Saving, Integrated Transport & Land Use, Sustainable Procurement)
- Social Planning Framework (Social Justice Charter, Access & Equity)
- Integrated Planning Framework (affecting our governance framework)
- Fraud & Corruption Prevention Policy
- Internal Audit Plan (internal controls, risk assessment and compliance with laws)
- Information & Technology Strategy

- Parks on Track for People 2025.
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Arts Development Strategy
- City Wide Local Environment Plan
- Enforcement Strategy
- Property Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy
- Enterprise Risk Strategy
- Business Continuity Plan.

It is also pleasing to note that the City of Ryde has received recognition for its work over the last 12 months with the following awards and recognition:

- 2007/2008 Annual Report was awarded a Bronze Award at the Australasian Reporting Awards
- LGSA Excellence in the Environment Awards for overall winner for Sustainable Purchasing Team
- LGSA Excellence in the Environment Awards finalist for the Energy & Water Savings category
- Milestone 5 of the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Program and also received an award for advancing to CCP Plus
- Finalist in the Local Government Sustainability Award, Green Globe Award, Department of Environment & Climate Change
- Sustainable Rating from independent local government rating agency, Fiscal Star Services (the highest 5 star rating for a second year in a row)
- OH&S Excellence Award for "Thinking Outside the Square" by State Cover
- Heart Foundation - Local Government Excellence Award - Ryde Riverwalk
- Keep Australia Beautiful - Sustainable Cities Awards 2009
- Winner - Brush Farm: Creativity in the Arts, Food and Wine
- Runner Up - Public Place Recycling Program
- Highly Commended - for Ryde: Safe, Clean & Green, a Sustainable Future
- A.R. Bluett Memorial Award finalist 2008/2009.

A year of transition and the next steps forward

The new Council was sworn in on 30 September 2008 and took a bold decision to develop a 20-year vision for our City - the Ryde 2030 Community Strategic Plan. The project was launched in May 2009 and commenced with an extensive community visioning process involving many different engagement initiatives. This undertaking will translate the aspirations for the future and hopes of our community into an effective strategy that will guide Council's actions. There have been many opportunities to contribute ideas and views over the past year

and there will be many more opportunities over the coming months as we continue the development of this exciting plan to a final form in July 2010.

The new Top Ryde City Shopping Centre will open in November 2009. This outstanding development has been an exciting journey of change and innovation for the City and brings an attractive new destination to our City. Council will receive over \$105 million in assets as a result of this innovative Public Private Partnership.

I would like to acknowledge the Mayor and all Councillors for their leadership, and thank our senior managers and hard working staff for their efforts during the year. Meeting the demands of a growing city, the needs of our community and stakeholders and planning for the future is an ongoing challenge. As I am leaving Council this will be my last Annual Report so I wish to thank the Council and the Community for giving me the opportunity to work for you over the last five years.



Michael Whittaker
General Manager

organisational highlights

2008/2009

The principles that guide the City of Ryde as it delivers its services and programs for the community are identified through the strategic outcomes outlined in City Vision 2026: The Vision for the City of Ryde. These strategic outcomes have been grouped into the four key pillars that equate to a quadruple bottom line.



People (page 47)

The City of Ryde is committed to maintaining a socially sustainable City through community participation in our products and services.



HIGHLIGHTS

- 125 volunteers plus 6,200 volunteer hours for the Bush Regeneration Program
- More than 750,000 visits to the RALC
- Just over 11,000 enrolments in Swim School at the RALC
- Developed a 10 year Business Plan for Brush Farm House
- Provided 827 instances of language support to library users
- 2,200 children attended immunisation clinic with 94% satisfaction rating
- Over 20,000 people attending 700 events at the library
- Developed Good Neighbour and New Resident Kit
- Over 93,000 people attended Community events and activities.

CHALLENGES

To develop the range of strategic planning and policy documents that meet the needs of all stakeholders.

The RALC is now 10 years old and facing increasing competition in the market place and impacts of the global financial crisis.

Keeping abreast of technological change in the delivery of library services and programs.

Development of new City of Ryde website.

Identification of service gaps to inform the Community Strategic Plan.

NEXT STEPS

- Identify opportunities for expansion both in program and capital areas at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre
- Review the vacation care program to ensure quality and efficiency
- Develop Public Art and Cultural Policies
- Development of a Library Technology Plan and opening of the new Ryde Library
- Development of Corporate Communications strategy
- Development of Management model for Ryde Community and Sports Centre at ELS Hall Park.



Assets (page 53)

The City of Ryde is committed to the delivery and maintenance of high quality public infrastructure and facilities.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Record capital expenditure program – 98.2% completed
- Design completed for the \$6M new Ryde Community and Sports Centre at ELS Hall Park. The Federal Government has assisted in this project by providing a \$3.5M grant under the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program
- Three new stations at Macquarie Park with new public domain granite paving provided by Council
- 70% of Council's vehicle fleet are 4 cylinder/hybrid
- \$1M footpath construction and over \$4M in road improvement works completed
- Achieving recycling/reuse of over 55% of our waste stream.

CHALLENGES

The global financial crisis has seen a drop in Section 94 income to Council. This has resulted in a reduction in capital and infrastructure replacement work in the near future. In 2008/2009, the value of asset renewal was greater than the depreciated amount. It will be a challenge for Council to maintain this trend in the near future.

NEXT STEPS

- Council has developed Asset Management Plans and sub-plans for roads, buildings, parks assets, plant and fleet, and stormwater drainage assets. These sub-plans will feed into the review of Council's long term financial strategy.



Environment (page 57)

The City of Ryde is committed to maintaining an ecologically sustainable City through the management of our City's natural and physical environment.



HIGHLIGHTS

- City-wide and Gladesville LEPs adopted
- Rainwater harvesting system installed at RALC
- Launch of online community Sustainable Living Guide
- Progression through CCP milestones to CCP Plus
- Achieved 4-star rating through Sydney Water Every Drop Counts Water Saving 5-Star Program
- Implemented mobile technology for inspection services
- Over 14,147 City of Ryde animals registered.

CHALLENGES

- Completing Comprehensive LEP and Local Strategies
- Adapting to Climate Change
- Providing for sustainable transport
- Adapting to planning reforms
- Meeting demands for urban growth
- Maintaining urban infrastructure
- Protecting and enhancing natural assets
- Managing intensification of private vehicle use and parking.

NEXT STEPS

- Completing studies as part of Local Strategy
- Best Value Review of Assessment process
- Introduction of building sustainability targets and water sensitive urban design
- Setting new environmental and carbon emissions targets
- Roll-out of ePlanning and simpler, more sophisticated development controls
- Greater enforcement role in construction and post construction process.



Governance (page 63)

The City of Ryde is committed to effective decision making processes that ensure transparency and the involvement of its community.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Achieved Sustainable (5 Star) rating on Council's financial position from independent rating agency Fiscal Star
- Working Capital: \$4.3 million as at 30 June 2009
- Maintained lowest residential rates for Category 3 Councils
- Completed 90% of 2008/2009 Management Plan Actions
- Customer Satisfaction up to 81% (2008) from 76% (2004)
- Implementation of Council's 'Your City Your Voice' Engagement Policy and Framework
- Implemented new information and telecommunication systems
- Major focus on risk management implementation of Fraud and Corruption Prevention Strategy, Business Continuity Plan and procurement initiatives
- Staff turnover down to 10.6%
- 12 awards across various areas of operations received by Council.

CHALLENGES

- Maintaining existing standards of services and facilities, whilst maintaining sound financial position
- Identifying additional funding sources to meet shortfall in maintaining infrastructure at 'satisfactory' condition
- Continue to improve transparency of Council's decision operations and financial performance
- Ensure all stakeholders/members of the community are appropriately engaged on critical projects/issues
- Continue to optimise technology in providing 'value added' services.

NEXT STEPS

- Implementation of Council's 'Your City Your Voice' Engagement Policy and Framework across all programs
- Updating Council's Long Term Financial Strategy and Resourcing Plan – Ryde 2030 Community Plan
- Introduction of Development Application tracking online together with other e-business initiatives
- Commence testing of Council's Business Continuity Plan
- Development and adoption of Council's Enterprise Risk Management Strategy.

chief financial officer's report

The City of Ryde's financial result for 2009 of an operating surplus of \$58.8 million reflects Council's continuing strong financial performance. This result represents an increase of \$28.9 million from the previous year.

Council's operating result before capital was a \$5.5 million deficit with the the main reasons for this year's deficit being:

- Depreciation increase \$2.2 million
- Loss on investments \$3.9 million
- Total \$6.1 million

Council owns and maintains over \$2.5 billion worth of infrastructure and has re-valued its assets to Fair Value. This is the first year since Council adopted Fair Value that the full impact of depreciation has been brought to account in Council's Financial Report resulting in Council's depreciation expense increasing by \$2.2 million.

Council was proactive in establishing an \$8 million Financial Security Reserve in October 2008 to protect Council against any fallout from the global financial crisis. This reserve was created from interest on investments that had been earned over the past six years that has assisted Council in the creation and building of its Reserve Funds.

Council's investments have been impacted by the current global financial crisis, as have superannuation funds, businesses and all levels of government and this has been fully reported to Council in both the monthly investment report and additional reports to Council.

The reserve has been used to offset investment losses and currently the reserve has a balance of \$4.1 million which is regarded as adequate in meeting any potential future loss of investments.

Council aims to produce an operating surplus before capital so that the regular costs incurred by Council in its normal day to day service delivery operations are less than revenue received from providing these services.

This allows Council to generate sufficient funds to provide for asset replacement and strategic service delivery projects and is key to Council's long term financial sustainability.

Whilst the Council's financial indicators, as attested to by its auditors Spencer Steer, reflect that it is in a sound financial position, the City of Ryde, similar to all Local Governments across Australia, will continue to face a number of challenges in the years ahead. One of the key challenges will be managing the ongoing impacts of the global financial crisis that has resulted in reduced development activity and declines in revenue.

Overall the most important challenge for Council will be to continue to address maintaining and upgrading of its \$2.5 billion of infrastructure.

Council has undertaken a comprehensive asset management program in order to improve asset management practices across the vast infrastructure assets within the City.

Council continues to address its long term financial sustainability, a major issue for Local Government across Australia, through its Long Term Financial Strategy (LTFS).

The City of Ryde has \$2.5 billion in essential infrastructure (roads, footpaths, drains, libraries, community buildings, etc) and it is estimated that the cost to bring these assets up to a satisfactory condition is in the order of \$79 million (\$74 million for 2007/2008).

The Council developed a LTFS in 2006 to obtain a financial projection that quantifies the operation of Council services for the next 20 years. The strategy forecasts a cash shortfall based on Council expending \$20 million on asset renewal each year to bring its infrastructure up to a satisfactory standard.

The 2009-2013 Management Plan details a four year capital works program of \$122 million, which provides for \$75 million for renewal of existing assets. Based on the LTFS requiring \$20 million being expended per year on asset

renewal over the ensuing four years, there is still a shortfall of expenditure in bringing Council's infrastructure assets up to a satisfactory condition of approximately \$5 million.

Council is continuing its proactive approach to Asset Management to ensure the community's assets are maintained.

Further information on Council's financial performance are contained in the Community Financial Report and Financial Report in Section 6 of this report.

ACHIEVED
SUSTAINABLE
(5 STAR) RATING
ON COUNCIL'S
FINANCIAL
POSITION FROM
INDEPENDENT
RATING AGENCY
FISCAL STAR

Key features of the 2008/2009 result are:

Council delivered \$35.4 million on capital expenditure, an increase of \$5.5 million from the previous year, with major projects including:

- Town Centre upgrades (\$4 million)
- Roadworks (\$5.4 million)
- Footpaths and Cycleways (\$1.7 million)
- Community Halls and Facility Upgrades (\$0.9 million)
- Catchments (\$3.6 million)
- Parks (\$7.8 million)
- Libraries (\$0.4 million)
- Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (\$0.4 million)
- Buildings (\$2.6 million)
- Property Acquisitions (\$2.3 million)
- Technology Systems (\$2.2 million)
- Plant and Fleet (\$4.1 million)

- Council received \$58 million of contributed public domain infrastructure assets associated with major developments within the City
- Working capital of \$4.3 million, to cover day to day operations and provide a buffer for unforeseen expenditures
- Council's debt service ratio has been steadily declining over the past 7 years with 1.4% of our total revenue committed to loan repayments in 2008/2009
- Council receives approximately 36.5% of its revenue from rates and annual charges and has consistently achieved an excellent recovery rate with only 3.9% of rates outstanding
- Council's unrestricted current ratio, which is a measure of its capacity to satisfy obligations in the short term, remained sound and is a healthy 3.45 :1
- Council's level of internal reserves (funds put aside for specific projects) is \$48.6 million.

Key Performance Indicators

| | 2008/2009 | 2007/2008 | 2006/2007 | 2005/2006 | 2004/2005 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Unrestricted Current Ratio | 3.45% | 3.65% | 1.71% | 1.82% | 1.70% |
| Debt Service Ratio | 1.42% | 1.98% | 2.59% | 3.16% | 3.20% |
| Rate Coverage Ratio | 36.47% | 47.90% | 57.20% | 58.00% | 57.90% |
| Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding | 3.94% | 2.82% | 2.49% | 2.59% | 2.70% |

sustainable living initiatives

As part of its commitment to the sustainability of our City and the areas that touch its boundaries, the City of Ryde continues to undertake a program of education and advocacy for sustainable living.

In 2008/2009 Council continued its focus not only on the environmental aspect of sustainability, but also on the broader social, cultural, economic and organisational impact our actions have today and on future generations.

The community's concern about the environment and willingness to take action to reduce impacts are vital elements in achieving sustainable outcomes. This is increasingly reflected in the facilitation role councils have adopted in organising and involving residential communities and business interests in environmental programs and actions.

Partnerships

The City of Ryde supports many partnership events which promote positive sustainability action across our community. Building on a successful workshop series in 2006, the Australian Conservation Foundation delivered another round of GreenHome sustainability workshops in November 2008, with over fifty residents attending the four-part program. The City of Ryde also launched its online Sustainable Living Guide on the eve of World Environment Day 2009. The guide contains a comprehensive list of easy and simple actions we can all take to minimise our impact on the environment. Go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Partnerships with Battery World, Lane Cove River Tourist Park, Keep Australia Beautiful, Clean Up Australia, Mobile Musters and Energy Efficient Light Recyclers have assisted in supporting our sustainability initiatives. Activities range from annual campaigns to specific recycling programs such as preventing heavy metals from going into landfill.

Council in Action

The Civic Centre is one of the largest energy and water consuming facilities the Council is responsible for. It contributes 15% of the total greenhouse gas emissions across all Council buildings and assets, and 14% of the annual energy expenditure. There have been measures in place over the past five years which have resulted in a continual downward trend in greenhouse gas emissions. In the last 12 months emissions from the Civic Centre have been cut by 7% and energy efficiency has improved by 17%.

What was done...

Daily use of energy, water consumption and waste generation have been assessed and systems have either been made more efficient or replaced completely. Some of the actions taken included changes to the air heating/cooling system, replacement of light fittings,

upgrading or replacement of hot water heating systems, replacement of inefficient fridges with 5-star rated fridges, recycling of old fridges and upgrading of old IT equipment.

Combined with all of this an education and behavioural change program was introduced for staff with actions not only for what happens at work but practical examples to follow in their own homes.

Community in Action

The City of Ryde has continued to deliver numerous waste education programs for its residents, including free on-site chipping and mulching, second-hand Saturday events, e-waste collections, recycling of mobile phones and composting and worm farming workshops. Council also installed 42 new stainless steel 'Butt Out' cigarette bins in high use locations and provided a free drop-off point for fluorescent light globes to ensure that dangerous mercury is properly collected and recycled.

Environmental Education

In 2008/2009 Council's Interactive Waste Education Trailer and Worm Farm Displays were used to enhance education at numerous functions such as gardening groups, community clubs and church groups. The 2009 Waste-to-Art competition for local schools and the Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge were also very successful in educating students on the importance of recycling.

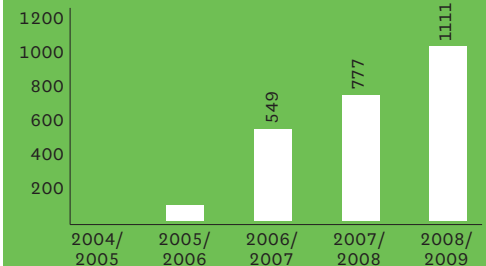
Educational bus trips to the Chullora Recycling Facility have assisted 60 students from three different schools to understand what happens to the materials from the recycling bin.

Catchment Connections

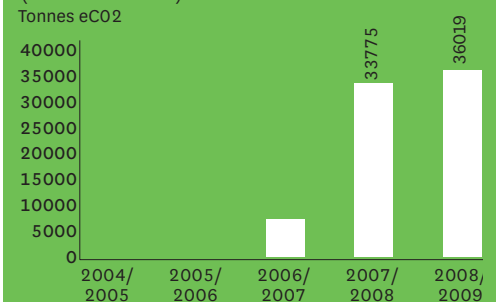
On 22 September 2008 the City of Ryde unveiled a 12-panel mural on the fence along Eastwood Canal. The mural, which was painted by local school children, is part of an ongoing community and local business education program designed to illustrate the problems posed by pollutants such as plastic bags, cooking oil and garden waste, the impacts they have on the natural environment and the easy solutions that can be employed.

This was part of the Catchment Connections program, a three-year project that aims to improve the water quality of local creeks, preserve and enhance remnant bushland areas, improve local biodiversity and increase community involvement in bushcare activities.

CORPORATE GREENHOUSE GAS SAVINGS (TONNES ECO2)



COMMUNITY GREENHOUSE GAS SAVINGS (TONNES ECO2)



OUR COMMUNITY HAS COLLECTED OVER 12,000 TONNES OF RECYCLABLE MATERIAL AND 9,455 TONNES OF GREEN WASTE IN 2008/2009

Calendar of events

2008-2009

JULY 2008



NAIDOC Week Film Screening
National Tree Day – community tree planting at Marsfield Park
Ryde Eisteddfod (July – August)
Winter School Holiday Program

AUGUST 2008



Ryde Business and Technology Expo
Community Prayer Breakfast
Ryde Riverwalk – opening celebrations
Art Exhibition at Brush Farm House Gallery – works by local artists

SEPTEMBER 2008



Spring Garden Competition
Small Business September
History Week: talks and seminars
NSW Bike Week: an event to promote bicycle safety and participation in cycling
Launch of Eastwood Canal Mural: educational mural created by local school students
'Helping Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers' workshop

JANUARY 2009



Summer School Holiday Program
Australia Day Awards and Celebrations
Lunar New Year Celebrations

FEBRUARY 2009



Cinema in the Park Festival
Clean Up Australia Day

MARCH 2009



Seniors Celebration
International Women's Day Community Sew-In
Community Information Expo
Harmony Festival
Child Restraint Safety Checks
'Neighbourhood Watch: suburban stories from the City of Ryde' – exhibition at Brush Farm House

OCTOBER 2008



Granny Smith Festival
Children's Festival – a celebration of
National Children's Week
Spring School Holiday Program

NOVEMBER 2008



Read Write Ryde: City of Ryde Writers Festival
National Recycling Week – activities
to promote a better understanding of
recycling practices and processes
Photomedia Exhibition at Brush Farm House
Brush Farm House Open Day
Ultimate Trivia Live – an opportunity for
local young and older people to socialise
together

DECEMBER 2008



Microchipping Open Day
NSW Stop Domestic Violence Day –
information day
Internet Training for Adults
Community Christmas Celebration
Carols in the Plaza

APRIL 2009



Heritage Festival
National Youth Week
Autumn School Holiday Program

MAY 2009



Volunteer Recognition Awards
Permaculture May Day
'Catchment Connections' community
workshops
Eastwood Park Upgrade – opening
celebrations
Council Expo 2009

JUNE 2009



World Environment Day Community
Celebration
Microchipping Open Day
Worldwide Knit in Public Day
'Catchment Connections' community
workshops
Open Day at Brush Farm House

awards and recognition

2008/2009

A number of our projects were recognised in the past year for exceptional work. We are proud of the contributions made by these excellent individuals and dedicated teams.

- LGSA Excellence in the Environment Awards for overall winner for Sustainable Purchasing Team
- LGSA Excellence in the Environment Awards finalist for the Energy and Water Savings category
- 2007/2008 Annual Report was awarded a Bronze Award at the Australasian Reporting Awards
- Milestone 5 of the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Program and also received award for advancing to CCP Plus
- Finalist in the Local Government Sustainability Award, Green Globe Award, Department of Environment & Climate Change
- Sustainable Rating from independent local government rating agency, Fiscal Star Services (second year in a row)
- OH&S Excellence Award for 'Thinking Outside the Square' by State Cover
- Heart Foundation – Local Government Excellence Award – Ryde Riverwalk
- Keep Australia Beautiful – Sustainable Cities Awards 2009
- A.R. Bluett Award – Finalist 2008/09

Community Awards

Volunteer Recognition Awards

The Volunteer Recognition Awards are held every year in conjunction with National Volunteer Week to honour the largely unseen army of volunteers who generously give their time and skills to uplift and benefit the lives of so many in our community.

Volunteer of the Year: Joseph Chan

Joseph's exceptional technical skills and teaching ability have assisted more than 600 students in the past decade to successfully complete the computer courses provided by Chinese Leisure Learning (Christian Community Aid).

Group Volunteer of the Year: Dementia Helpline Volunteers

Based at Macquarie Hospital, North Ryde, the Dementia Helpline provides support, advice and information for people with dementia, their carers, their families, service providers and the public. These volunteers, many of whom have been in



Clr Vic Tagg (Mayor) with Dementia Helpline Volunteers

service for up to 10 years, provide a link and lifeline between somebody feeling 'lost and alone' to feeling informed, empowered and supported.

Young Volunteer of the Year: James Black

James, as an advocate for local young people, has dedicated a great deal of time to creating successful youth projects and events for the Ryde Youth Council, including The Core at the Granny Smith Festival and the Battle of the Bands.

SNAPSHOT OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Did you know?

- 22.6% of people who live in the City of Ryde also work here
- The average household size in the City of Ryde is 2.51
- 37.7% of the City of Ryde population were born overseas
- 36.3% of the population speak a language other than English
- Over 16.8% of the City of Ryde population do volunteer work for an organisation or group.

Want to get involved?
Call 9952 8222 for more information.

Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year were announced at our annual Australia Day celebrations on 26 January 2009.

Congratulations to Citizen of the Year, Dr John Knight AM, and Young Citizen of the Year, Vanessa Corbridge, who are both fine examples of local citizens who have excelled in their undertakings to earn the admiration of the community and to be acknowledged as role models.



Dr John Knight AM (aka Dr James Wright)

Dr John Knight is chairman of the Medi-Aid Centre Foundation which he founded in 1973. Dr Knight has dedicated his life to the care of elderly, disabled and disadvantaged people through the provision of purpose-built accommodation such as Vimiera Village at Eastwood.

A graduate of Sydney University, Dr Knight is also well known as the Media Medic, dispensing advice and health tips in simple, easy to understand language via newspapers, magazines, television and radio for over 40 years.



Vanessa Corbridge

Vanessa Corbridge has lived all her 25 years in the City of Ryde and displays a commendable attitude to helping others in the community, both in her professional life and in her personal life.

She has received several merit certificates for her volunteer work and her desire to develop community leadership in other young people is evident in her work as a Rotary Youth Leader facilitator, as a telephone counsellor and counsellor-trainer for Lifeline, and as a camp leader for Carers NSW.

She represented the City of Ryde at a Rotary International Youth Conference in Birmingham, England in June this year.