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**MM13/19 RECOGNITION OF 40 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE WEEKLY TIMES BY JOHN BOOTH - Mayor,  
Councillor Jerome Laxale**

**File Number: MYR/07/10/20 - BP19/726**

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On Friday, 21 June 2019, I attended an event to celebrate John Booth's 40<sup>th</sup> year as owner and managing editor of The Weekly Times newspaper.

There are few people in the local area who do not know the name John Booth and it safe to say that John has lived and breathed Ryde his entire life.

The weekly roundup of social events, birthday mentions and local stories provided in The Weekly Times provides the sort of information that gives an area such as The City of Ryde a real local community feel, with a sense of connection and community spirit. There is not an event either past or current that John does not have an intimate knowledge of and he is a great keeper of the area's history.

John grew up in a house on Blaxland Road and attended Ryde Public School.

A career in journalism took him to the bush but John was always destined to return to Ryde and in 1960 he was elected to Ryde Council.

During his time as an Alderman, Council oversaw an ambitious program, investing in infrastructure, roads and sporting fields.

While this undoubtedly helped set Ryde on the path to growth, John's decision in 1979 to purchase The Weekly Times also transformed the local community.

Single-handedly John turned The Weekly Times newspaper into a powerful voice, expanding its reach over the past 40 years.

There has never been a topic that John has been afraid to voice his opinion on.

John and The Weekly Times lead an extremely vocal campaign against council amalgamations and previous proposals to build residential apartments as part of a redevelopment of the Civic Centre. These two campaigns have had a positive and lasting impact on our city.

To recognise John's contribution to the City of Ryde, I would like to host a morning tea.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

(a) That the Mayor host a morning tea to recognise the contribution made by John Booth and the Weekly Times to the City of Ryde.

(b) That a plaque be presented to John Booth thanking him for his contribution to the

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Council, dated 25 June 2019, submitted on 25 June 2019.

**MM13/19 (continued)**

local area, with the plaque to be funded from General Revenue.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments for this report.

Report Prepared By:

**Councillor Jerome Laxale**  
**Mayor**

