

MEDIA RELEASE



Lifestyle and opportunity @ your doorstep

Friday 10 May 2013

Brush Farm House Opens Up

Open Day Wednesday 22 May - find out what's happening

Changes are afoot at Brush Farm House as it transforms from an 'historical object' to a community hub of learning, development and exhibition.

As the new campus of Macquarie Community College, the sedate quiet of the colonial House has been replaced with a lively buzz of school leavers, professionals and members of the community taking advantage of day and evening courses, including Business & Marketing, nationally recognised Management Courses, and dozens of popular lifestyle courses from art and DIY to fitness and languages.

Mayor, Clr Ivan Petch, said: "In welcoming Macquarie Community College as a new tenant/manager of Brush Farm House, we are securing its future as a 'community hub' and ensuring its unique legacy and ambience is maintained for the enjoyment of all.

"Restoring Brush Farm House to its former glory was a labour of love for the Council, but rather than have it viewed as a kind of historical object, we want greater access for all members of the community and we're holding an Open Day so people can see what's happening."

On a more intimate level, Brush Farm House is a popular location for memorable family and business events. The individual rooms of the House, such as the *Blaxland*, *Forster*, *Carpenter* and *Wallumetta*, are also hired by groups and individuals for meetings, exhibitions and gallery showings.

Brush Farm House, built by explorer Gregory Blaxland circa 1820, was fully restored and reopened by Council in 2007 for the community's enjoyment. Learn about its colourful past from members of the Brush Farm House Historical Society and see how you can be part of its future at the Open Day celebration. Wednesday 22 May, 4.00 – 6.00pm. 19 Lawson Street, Eastwood. Parking available.

Open Day Celebration program includes:

- MCC course details
- *Blaxland and Daughter* – an extract from "Crossing" a musical celebration of the crossing of the Blue Mountains, by explorers Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson, 200 years ago.
- Memorandum of Understanding signing between City of Ryde and tenants Macquarie Community College, Corrective Services NSW and Brush Farm House Historical Society
- Guest Speakers – City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Ivan Petch; Member for Bennelong, The Hon John Alexander, OAM
- Explore Brush Farm House
- Refreshments

For more information on Brush Farm House go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/bfh For information on Macquarie Community Courses or for Brush Farm House venue bookings go to www.macquarie.nsw.edu.au
Media contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083