

Tuesday 12 August 2014



MAYOR LAUNCHES GRAND PIANO AT EISTEDDFOD

City of Ryde Mayor Clr Roy Maggio officially launched the new grand piano yesterday at the at Ryde Eisteddfod's multi-instrument scholarship.

The Yamaha Grand piano was purchased in a joint endeavour by the Ryde Eisteddfod and City of Ryde, with the Eisteddfod covering the purchase cost and the Council carrying out necessary restoration.

The Eisteddfod Chair, Edna Wilde OAM, handed a key to the piano to the Mayor before its use in the finals of the Multi-Instrument Scholarship. A former Councillor and Mayor, Mrs Wilde said: "The refurbishment of this piano is a great achievement for both the Ryde Eisteddfod and the City of Ryde Council. Our old piano had seen better days, so we were grateful for the opportunity to achieve this wonderful outcome for the community. This piano will now be enjoyed by many as a result of this initiative."

In launching the piano, the Mayor praised the expertise and dedication of the Eisteddfod Committee, saying: "The partnership between the Ryde Eisteddfod and the City of Ryde Council is a long and productive one, which supports and encourages culture and the arts in the area. The counsellors and council staff are great supporters of the Eisteddfod."

The piano was acquired by the Eisteddfod from local Bev Wilson, whose late husband Fred had been a well-known Jazz musician. As Bev was selling her house, the piano needed a new home, and she was happy to sell it to the Eisteddfod for use by talented young performers. Instrumental Coordinator Suzanne Maslen felt that the quality of the performers now competing in the Ryde Eisteddfod meant that a quality piano was essential for performers and audience alike.

Eisteddfod Adjudicator Gabriella Pusner gave a short recital on beautifully restored Yamaha Grand.

The Multi-Instrument finals require competitors to have successfully competed in qualifying sections of the Eisteddfod, and the Edna Wilde scholarship was presented to the overall winner of both Junior and Senior finals.

Winner of the Junior final was Jessica Tam of Turramurra with Runner-up Charlie Blomfield from Epping. Senior final winner was Rachael Sung of Eastwood, with runner-up Tom Spencer of Turramurra.

The overall winner, and recipient of the 2014 Scholarship, was Rachael Sung. Rachael says: "I have always enjoyed performing at Ryde Eisteddfod as it provides me a great opportunity to practise engaging with an audience, gaining great adjudicator feedback and it's also adrenaline pumping fun to perform on a stage."

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