

Hungry for Art Festival is Back

Published on 27 April 2015

City of Ryde is serving up a feast for the senses in a program of visual arts and community creative events to celebrate the return of **Hungry for Art Festival** - 7 May to 13 June 2015.

Hungry for Art Festival unlocks the artistic talent of the creative community in the Northern Districts with events that take you in and out of the gallery experience, online and into surprisingly different spaces and sites to look, learn, take part and be inspired. And best of all its FREE!

Now in its third year, **Hungry for Art** runs for six weeks and draws on local talent and the wider artistic community giving you free-ranging access to art and photo exhibitions, open artist studios, free workshops and DrawFest (large scale art making event), pop up art market, and an art trail that takes you to all the cool local art places, plus the City of Ryde's premier arts event - the Women's Art Prize.

If you are **Hungry for Art** this is your invitation to try something new, explore cool places and satisfy your taste for art. Make a booking in your diary now!

FESTIVAL PROGRAM

Hungry for Art Mobile Phone PhotoComp

Enter now! Entries close 30 April

We need your pic – all you need is a mobile phone.

Hungry for Art Festival Launch

Thursday 7 May 6.00 – 8.00pm, See Street Gallery, Meadowbank

Be part of the buzz at the Official Launch of the 2015 Hungry for Art Festival.

Market PopUp with Artisans Ryde and Australian Cartoonists' Association

Saturday 9 May 10.00 am – 3.00pm, Top Ryde City shopping centre

Discover the unique beauty of glass, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, cartoons and more

Drawfest & Open Day @ Sydney Gallery School, Meadowbank - all ages all day!

Saturday 16 May, 10.00am – 4.00pm

Be part of Sydney's biggest drawing and art making event

Join the Art Trail for an all-day art Adventure

Sunday 24 May 10.00am – 5.00pm, various locations throughout the City of Ryde

Discover Ryde's creative community – make art in cool places, meet artists in their studios, check out exhibitions and galleries and cafes.

Women's Art Prize

Applications close 11 May

The City of Ryde Women's Art Prize is gaining a reputation as one of the most important art prizes for women in the state and is a highlight of **Hungry for Art**.

2015 Hungry for Art promises to be an engaging, inspiring and very satisfying experience. So whether you're a curious local, an aspiring artist, a group of friends, or family looking to get creative - head to City of Ryde for an art adventure. It's Free and everyone's invited.

For festival event program and details visit [Hungry for Art](#).

Hungry for Art is presented by the City of Ryde and led by independent artist, curator and HFA Festival Director, Cassandra Hard Lawrie.

The Festival is supported by The Northern Sydney Institute part of TAFE NSW and the Sydney Gallery School, Derivan, Cie-elle, Top Ryde City shopping centre.

Flanders' Poppies Bloom in Ryde

Published on 21 April 2015



The story of how red poppies from the Somme made their way to Ryde and bloomed has come full circle this week when 2,000 handmade Poppies will adorn a display of 2-metre high R-Y-D-E letters at an Anzac Tribute on Friday 24 April at the Ryde Cenotaph, Ryde Park, Blaxland Road, starting at 9.30am.

The story of how real red poppies from the Somme bloomed in Ryde gardens was uncovered by Ryde Local Studies Librarian, Angela Phippen, when researching for the Ryde Remembers Centenary of ANZAC (1914-18) commemorations.

It began when she found a "letter to the editor of The Herald" dated June 1920 from the Director of the Botanic Gardens Sydney who had received a packet of red poppy seeds gathered by children from Villers Bretonneux for "the relatives of Australian ... soldiers who fell fighting on the battlefields of the Somme".

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POPPY SEEDS FROM VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Sir.—In common with my colleagues in Melbourne and Christchurch, I have received from Miss Rout, the honorary secretary of the New Zealand Volunteer Sisters at the above town, a small quantity of poppy seeds gathered in the Somme Valley by the school children of Villers Bretonneux. The sender asks me to distribute a few of the seeds "to the relatives of Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fell fighting on the battlefields of the Somme, and convey to the recipients the deepest gratitude and loving sympathy of the school children of Villers Bretonneux."

As Miss Rout points out, the seeds were gathered very late, and the fruits had but little seed in them when they arrived, but I shall be very pleased indeed to send a tiny packet to the relatives of New South Wales soldiers, in accordance with this lady's wishes. I shall be glad if written applications be made to me, and they will be attended to in the order of receipt, and if there is not enough seed to go round I will endeavour to get an additional quantity next season. Poppy seed being a fine powder, recipients must be careful not to cover it up with soil. Sow in pots.

I am, etc.,
J. H. MAIDEN, Director,
Botanic Gardens.

Sydney, Jan. 2.

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Letter No. 1 Transcript ... Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 15 June 1920

POPPY SEEDS FROM VILLERS BRETONNEUX

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I am, etc., J. H. Maiden, Director, Botanic Gardens Sydney, Jan 15

Note: Ettie Rout was a remarkable Tasmanian born New Zealander honoured by the French as a war hero.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ettie_Annie_Rout

Letter No. 2 Transcript ... Sydney Morning Herald Thursday 18 November 1920.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Sir. The above are the first two stanzas of Colonel McCrae's famous poem connecting the poppies with our hallowed dead on the battle fields of Europe. At the beginning of the year I wrote to you and told you that Miss Ettie Rout (now Mrs Hornabrook) who was in charge of the New Zealand Red Cross at Villers Bretonneux, had sent me some poppy seeds from the neighbourhood, and I offered to send a small packet to the relatives of fallen soldiers. My offer was promptly taken up, and the supply was exhausted in a few days. I then got into touch with Miss Rout, and through the kindness of the mother superior of an orphanage on the Somme, who does not wish her name or the name of the town to be mentioned, I received last September an additional quantity of poppy seeds of the new crop. In the meantime I had received 234 additional applications for this new seed. Every application was satisfied, and the supply was exhausted.

I only kept back for the Botanic Gardens the same amount that had been given to correspondents, and a member of the staff who had himself lost a son in the war, lovingly sowed those seeds in a pot, and last week they flowered. They turned out to be a mixture of two poppies – the ordinary common red or cornfield poppy, *Papaver rhoeas* (there was most of this), and the long, smooth-headed poppy, *Papaver dubium*, which has an orange or orange-red flower.

I expect that a number of my correspondents have also flowered these poppies and most/many of them will save the seed in order that they may replant them every year as an affectionate memorial.

I am, etc., J. H. Maiden, Director, Botanic Gardens Sydney, Nov 18

On a follow up visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens Library, Ms Phippen discovered the register of "Seeds Received and Despatched 1899 – 1922" that contained the names of twenty-one households in the Ryde/Hunters Hill area who received the seeds in memory of their loved ones in 1920.

As the story began to unfold, Ms Phippen, said: "It was such an exciting moment to see the lists of names and suburbs. I started to cry and I had to move away for fear of damaging the register. Just imagine what the local residents thought when those poppies first bloomed."

The story of the Ryde Red Poppies has now returned thanks to the efforts of the local community who have been knitting, crocheting, felting and sewing 2,000 red poppies representing the 2,000 locals who went to the First World War.

The red poppy encrusted R-Y-D-E letters are on display at Ryde Library before they are moved to Ryde Park for the Anzac Tribute on Friday 24 April, beginning at 9.30am.

Ryde Civic Centre to seek Design Input

Published on 20 April 2015

The City of Ryde at its Council meeting of 14 April 2015 resolved to hold an international design competition as part of the future vision for its Civic Centre site.

The decision to hold an international design competition provides Council and the community with an opportunity to move forward in a positive way. This approach will attract design excellence from around the world with submissions that will help Council shape the City's future vision. Council anticipates that the submissions will provide exciting and inspirational concepts for the community to consider.

Council's willingness to adopt a new approach to the site also demonstrates its ability to respond to the NSW Government's Fit for Future program in a dynamic and flexible manner. The City of Ryde is taking a proactive approach to the State Government's requirements to demonstrate strategic scale and capacity. This will help establish a strong case for Council to continue to stand alone as leaders of a thriving and growing City.

City of Ryde Mayor, Councillor Pickering stated "We have strong support from our community to do everything in our power to avoid being split apart and forcibly amalgamated into two mega councils. The decision to withdraw the current planning proposal and hold an international design competition gives Council the opportunity to develop an original and innovative vision for the site. I look forward to receiving community input at all stages of the process so that we can achieve a joint vision shared by both the community and Council".

Council is confident that through this process, the community will see creative and inspirational designs that both pay tribute to the rich history of Ryde and reflect the City's positive future. This project will provide Council and the community with a unique and important opportunity to develop and bring to life a vision that meets the needs of the existing community and future generations of the City of Ryde.

LEP 2014 Amendment 2

Published on 16 April 2015

The housekeeping LEP was made on **10 April 2015**. This made changes to the City of Ryde's principle LEP 2014.

For details, view the [Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014 - Amendment No 2](#) and the Ryde [LEP 2014 Map Index](#).

New bigger playground at Memorial Park

Published on 15 April 2015

The new playground at Memorial Park, Meadowbank, will be officially opened by the Mayor on Friday 17 April, 2.30pm, following a \$278,000 makeover by the Council.

The new playground has roughly doubled in size and has been expanded to the upper terraces of the park. The new features include:

- The latest play equipment with swings, large climbing net, sand pit, high bridge and tunnel slide
- Insect-themed play obstacle course to encourage adventurous play
- Water pump and rock watercourse
- New electric BBQs and taps to complement the existing picnic facilities
- Comfortable seating conveniently located around the play areas
- New tree plantings adding extra shade to the impressive stand of gum trees that are a feature of the park
- Large leaf sculpture atop a 4.5m pedestal
- Well defined paths for easy access.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: “This lovely park overlooking Parramatta River has always been a popular spot for local families and children during the day, as well as joggers, picnickers, bird watchers and nature lovers.

“The new, larger playground adds to the appeal and amenity of the area and responds to feedback from local residents and to future needs of nearby residential developments,” he said.

Memorial Park Playground is part of the Council’s \$1.8M playground upgrade program that has seen three playgrounds (Granny Smith Memorial Park, Monash Park and Memorial Park) delivered in the last nine months. Upgrades at Lions Park and Gannan Park are expected to be completed by the end of April, while Irene Park, Carara Reserve and Girraween Reserve are expected to be completed by the end of the financial year.

Memorial Park Playground is located just north of Ryde Bridge and is close to Meadowbank Wharf, Meadowbank Station and the Meadowbank Park Netball Courts. It forms part of the award-winning Ryde River Walk. It has a public toilet and convenient parking in Meadow Crescent.

R-Y-D-E's Red Letter Anzac Day

Published on 08 April 2015



RYDE letters at Ryde Library

Two-thousand handmade red poppies will adorn giant letters spelling out “R Y D E” in an Anzac Day tribute to the 2,000 Ryde locals who went to the First World War, between 1914 – 1918.

Since November last year, individuals and groups have been busy knitting, crocheting, felting or stitching woollen red poppies as part of the Ryde Remembers Centenary of Anzac commemoration. It is estimated that 200 balls of wool and over 1,500 hours of work has gone into the creation of the poppies.

This grand community effort will culminate in a giant red poppy “R Y D E” display at a special Ryde Remembers Anzac Tribute and Morning Tea on Friday 24 April at the Cenotaph in Ryde Park starting at 9.30am.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said the community had responded magnificently to the call to create a memorable and meaningful Anzac Day display. “We hope that many of those who contributed red poppies will attend our special Anzac Day tribute and morning tea in Ryde Park so the Council can say ‘thank you’ for their efforts.”

Be part of Ryde's Red Letter ANZAC Day

There is still time for you to be part of this great community project.

- Make a red woollen poppy – pick up a pattern from your local library or download from the [Ryde Remembers](#) page.

- Dedicate an already-made poppy to a local WWI soldier or nurse, or to a member of your family who served in WWI, with a gold coin donation. All money goes to Legacy.
- Be part of our special Anzac Tribute and Morning Tea on Friday 24 April, 9.30am.
- The giant 2m high R Y D E letters are on display at Ryde, West Ryde, Eastwood and North Ryde Libraries where you can attach your handmade poppy to remember a WWI Digger.

Keep Councils Local: Expert Says Forced Mergers won't deliver Benefits

Published on 08 April 2015

The Keep Councils Local campaign has welcomed independent economic analysis which confirms that forced council amalgamations won't deliver cost-savings or other efficiencies to ratepayers and businesses in Sydney's north.

After meeting with representatives of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils this week, Professor Brian Dollery from the University of New England, said that forced mergers are "not only very expensive but have seldom achieved their proclaimed outcomes," pointing to the failure of council mergers in Queensland.

Professor Dollery's comments coincide with costings released from the NSW Parliamentary Budget Office showing a reduction in the number of NSW councils will cost \$445 million, with forced amalgamations "significantly higher".

"We know from the 2008 Queensland experience of compulsory amalgamation that the average cost of a council merger was about \$8.1 million in current value after the first two years," Professor Dollery explained.

"This has to be paid for by ratepayers of merged municipalities and comes at the price of either higher rates, fees and charges, or fewer services.

"We also know from hard-won experience that while advocates of amalgamation make all sorts of grand claims about cost savings, efficient improvements, and enhanced council financial viability from mergers, these are almost never met in practice," Professor Dollery said.

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Bill Pickering said that Professor Dollery's comments were a dire warning to communities in Sydney's north about the true impact of forced council mergers under the State Government's Fit for the Future package.

"The rationale for forced mergers is that councils are supposedly losing money, but Professor Dollery's analysis clearly shows that amalgamating councils won't achieve any cost savings and actually have the opposite effect, costing ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars to implement," said Mayor Pickering.

"Whilst our councils are committed to working together to deliver shared services and programs, the mounting evidence demonstrates that forced amalgamations simply don't work," Mayor Quinn said.