

Thank you to National Tree Day Volunteers

Published on 25 July 2015



National Tree Day was celebrated with a mass planting attended by both community members and Council staff.

83 volunteers from the local community helped out at Ryde's own Olympic Park planting 600 shrubs and groundcovers and 10 established *Eucalyptus pilulari* to enhance the wildlife corridor.

Council staff prepared the site in advance with 70m³ of mulch and tree guards were also installed.

Lucky family members won Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre family passes and 1st Putney Scouts manned the barbeque.

Our friends at Planet Ark say a very big **thankyou** for being a part of National Tree Day - your help means the world to us.

High Winter Rainfall Disrupts Football Season

Published on 24 July 2015



Sportsground at Bill Mitchell Park

Over 11,000 men, women and children take to 57 playing fields across the City Ryde for the weekend Winter Sports Season running from April to August.

However, the 2015 Season has experienced unusual weather patterns, with heavy rainfall occurring in the lead up to several weekends causing ground closures across Ryde and most of the metropolitan area.

City of Ryde Mayor, Bill Pickering, said the decision to close grounds is not solely taken by the Council. "Only after inspection by Council staff and with the agreement of the various sporting associations is the decision made. Because this decision impacts on so many players, Council notifies the community of the grounds status on the Friday afternoon, which gives the clubs time to advise their members of the changes.

"We have a very robust relationship with the associations and this process has been fine-tuned over time. We continue to improve the process by introducing a trial whereby the clubs can make the call to play on Sundays should the conditions improve and the grounds become safe for players and the grounds will not badly damaged.

Factors such as ground softness, rainfall and forecast, type of soil, grass cover, and the amount and type of activity are all taken into account before a final decision is made.

The Mayor added: “The Council has a duty of care towards player safety and also a responsibility towards ratepayers that we don’t waste money on extensive repairs to football fields because we allowed play to occur on grounds that were waterlogged and not suitable for play.

“Ryde is not the only Council affected by this season’s weather. Most other Sydney metropolitan Councils are in the same position and have responded in a similar manner.”

Following a meeting between City of Ryde Council and local sporting associations this week regarding the remainder of the winter football season, the associations were given the option to extend their season as a result of the ground closures through the winter. Only the North Western Sydney Womens’ Football Association elected to extend for one week.

Rainfall 2015 Winter Football Season

- **25 & 26 April:** 200mm+ in the week prior. Hornsby and surrounding Council grounds closed
- **2 & 3 May:** 35mm in the 48 hrs prior to Saturday 9am. 50+mm rain on the Saturday
Ryde grounds closed. Hornsby grounds closed. Surrounding Councils grounds closed.
- **23 & 24* May:** 38mm in the 48hrs prior to Saturday 9am. Ryde partial ground closure. Hornsby Shire and surrounding Councils partial ground closure
- **20 & 21* June:** 45mm in the 48hrs prior to Saturday 9am. Ryde partial ground closure. All surrounding Councils ground closed other than Hornsby Shire
- **18 & 19* July:** 25mm in the 24hrs prior to Saturday 9am. All surrounding Council grounds closed other than Hornsby Shire.

**Highlighted Sunday dates left to the discretion of clubs and associations on the suitability of ground conditions for competition games.*

The Mayor continued: “More than \$800,000 has been allocated in the 2015/16 budget for renewal and upgrade works at Bremner Park, Eastwood Upper Oval, Peel Park, Meadowbank Park and Marsfield Park. These works include irrigation, returfing, releveling and drainage works.

“Last financial year over \$650,000 was spent on similar upgrades across Ryde Parks including Meadowbank and Morrison Bay Park.

This rolling program of surface upgrades ensures the ongoing provision of effective and sustainable playing surfaces within the City of Ryde.

Synthetic Turf

Council has recognised the benefits of synthetic turf as part of the mix of providing sustainable facilities for community sport at various levels.

City of Ryde has resolved to install a synthetic turf field at ELS Hall Park in 2015/16 (one of the three major sporting precincts in City of Ryde – others are Meadowbank and Morrison Bay). Council is also currently in discussion with key stakeholders for the potential installation of synthetic turf at Christie Park.

With 57 local sports fields, Council has to consider the high cost of installing synthetic turf on an average football field of more than \$1.5 million, plus ongoing maintenance. A Synthetic Turf Action Plan is currently being developed which will have input from a range of stakeholders.

The sustainable management of both turf fields and synthetic turf will always be necessary to cater for the increasing demand for community sport facilities created by greater participation numbers in organised sports.

Signing signifies Ryde is a better place for everyone, everyday

Published on 22 July 2015



City of Ryde Council and the Ryde Multicultural Centre will celebrate the signing of a **Racism. It Stops With Me** Australian Human Rights Commission agreement, at a community barbeque.

The barbeque will be held on Saturday 25 July, between 11.00am – 1.00pm, at the Ryde Multicultural Centre, Lions Park, West Ryde.

The agreement signing is an important milestone in the Council's social inclusion policy and promotes the City of Ryde as a welcoming community where everyone feels equal, safe and included.

It also acknowledges how Ryde's diversity enriches all aspects of our social and economic life and is an opportunity for everyone to come together to celebrate what has helped to shape the unique character of our city.

President of The Ryde Multicultural Centre, Clr Sarkis Yedellian said that the signing of the **Racism. It Stops With Me** agreement, "highlights the crucial role community organisations and their members have in making Ryde a welcoming place that is inclusive and harmonious."

Australian Human Rights Commission's Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Tim Soutphommasane, commended the Ryde Multicultural Centre for "taking a stand against bigotry and racism ... and sending a strong statement in support of multicultural tolerance."

The event will kick off with a fair dinkum Aussie barbeque, with a halal option, and includes multicultural performances with singing and dancing.

Some interesting statistics:

Of the City of Ryde's 110,000 population:

- 36% of residents come from non-English speaking backgrounds
- 7% of residents have limited English fluency
- In 35% of houses, at least two languages are spoken
- 42% of people speak a language other than English at home
- 60% of residents follow Christianity with a combined 11% following Buddhism Hinduism and Islam and the remainder stating no religion.

Research from 2011 shows that one in seven Australians say they experienced discrimination because of their colour or background. This figure has been increasing steadily in recent years.

Strategies and inclusive actions taken by City of Ryde Council:

- 2013 declared City of Ryde a Refugee Welcome Zone
- Community Migrant Resource Centre , Northern Region Eastwood offices open in 2013
- March 2014 joined the **Racism. It Stops With Me** campaign
- Anti-Racism Police and Community Leaders BBQ in 2014
- Multi-lingual Welcome Guide for Asylum Seekers and Refugees produced in 2014
- NAIDOC WEEK annual events
- Harmony Day annual events
- Annual program of inclusive activities for families, children and preschoolers – (Go4Fun, Preparing for Big School)

Crackdown on Illegal Dumping

Published on 22 July 2015



Illegal dumping of mulch on Cressy Road

City of Ryde Council is calling for public help following a growing number of incidents of illegal dumping of mulch.

The illegal dumping is happening on public and private property, in streets in front of homes, car parks, back lanes and quiet areas easily accessible by vehicle.

“Illegal dumping is not only an ugly scar on our landscape, it is also very harmful to the native environment that the Council and community work so hard to preserve,” Council’s Waste Manager, Jude Colechin, said.

“There are unscrupulous operators who charge people to clear trees and garden organics then simply dump the refuse on public or private land.”

In one brazen incident, a truck operator approached an elderly lady in her garden asking if she would like some mulch. She thought this was a very kind offer and said she would happily take a couple of buckets full for her garden. When she returned with a bag for the mulch the truck had dumped 2 – 3 tonnes of mulch on her nature strip.

Council relies on Ranger patrols and resident tip offs to catch perpetrators. Here is what you can do to help:

- When somebody takes rubbish away from your property you remain legally responsible for it until it is properly disposed of at a licensed facility.
- If somebody is transporting waste on your behalf make sure you keep records including details of the person who transported it and their vehicle, where the waste was taken and copies of any dockets or receipts.

- Report any incidents of illegal dumping as soon as possible by phoning Council's customer service on 9952 8222.
- Any details about the vehicle, including the registration number and company logo is very helpful.

"If you manage to get a photo with your phone of the vehicle with a clear registration plate we'll have the best possible chance of making these people pay for their crime against the community," Ms Colechin said.

In the past twelve months Council has spent nearly \$8,000 removing illegally dumped mulch from public land. Removal of mulch dumped on private property ultimately becomes the responsibility of the landowner.

Joint Regional Authority Update

Published on 22 July 2015



(L-R) Mayor of Hunters Hill Council - Clr Richard Quinn, Mayor of City of Ryde, - Clr Bill Pickering, Mayor of Lane Cove Council - Clr David Brooks-Horn

Last night, in an historic show of unity, the City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils celebrated the culmination of a collaborative process between the three Councils, through the official signing of their Joint Regional Authority (JRA), Memorandum of Understanding.

The process undertaken by the three Councils in the lead up to the Joint Response Submission to the State Government's Fit for the Future reform program, has included the rejection of forced amalgamations and details the formation of a Joint Regional Authority.

The submission outlined the robust community engagement process that was undertaken and the details of the extensive research and assessment process, demonstrating that the JRA proposal is a superior alternative to amalgamation and one that meets the State Government's scale and capacity criteria.

Ryde Mayor Clr Bill Pickering said our Councils are committed to working proactively with the State Government and were never opposed to local government reform: "This MOU sends a strong signal to the State Government that our three councils are working together for the benefit of our communities. We can immediately get a better, more efficient and financially beneficial result through co-operation rather than through any disruptive process of forced amalgamation, or in the case of Ryde the destructive splitting of our city.

"Our residents want proper local representation and to keep local government 'local'. We can preserve this important framework, but this memorandum also provides a stated and signed commitment by Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove

councils to deliver planning at a sub-regional level and greater efficiencies through joint service provision where appropriate.

“This MOU further strengthens our determination for a Joint Regional Authority model as being the best way forward as part of the State Government’s Fit for the Future agenda.”

Hunter’s Hill Mayor, Clr Richard Quinn, said: “The Joint Regional Authority model is a way for local councils to stay local, retain their close community representation and autonomy over local character and development. It will band us together as we work co-operatively on areas of common interest such as sharing services to gain efficiencies and working together on regional priorities and advocacy.”



Ryde Remembers: Battle of Lone Pine Service

Published on 20 July 2015

The City of Ryde Centenary of Anzac Committee invites members of the community to attend a commemoration ceremony of the WWI Battle of Lone Pine (6-9 August 1915) at the Ryde Cenotaph, on Thursday 6 August 2015.

The Ryde Historical Society has undertaken extensive research into the role of local servicemen and families in WWI and part of their work will be revealed in a tribute to the seventeen soldiers from the Ryde area who lost their lives in the famous Battle of Lone Pine.

The ceremony will be attended by local dignitaries and representatives of returned services and will include the laying of wreaths, the Last Post, a minute's silence and Reveille.

The Battle of Lone Pine was one of the bloodiest and hardest fought actions of the Gallipoli campaign that saw 2,277 Australian soldiers killed or wounded, almost half of those committed to fight.

The Battle was named after a solitary pine tree on the ridge near the Turkish trenches that was whittled away by shell fire in the early battle. Australian soldiers called it "Lonesome Pine" after a popular song of the time.

Members of the community are invited to attend the ceremony and to lay a wreath.

When: Thursday 6 August 2015

Time: Ceremony 9.30 – 10.15am

Where: Ryde Cenotaph, Ryde Park, Blaxland Road, Ryde

Call for Granny Smith Festival Volunteers

Published on 17 July 2015

The City of Ryde Events Team is looking for people to join our team of volunteers to help at this year's Granny Smith Festival on Saturday 17 October at Eastwood.

The Granny Smith Festival is Sydney's biggest and most colorful community celebration, attracting over 85,000 festival-goers every year. Locals are joined by people from all over Sydney to celebrate the culture, food and history of the area. The day starts with a good old fashion street parade and ends with a family concert and spectacular fireworks display.

We need people to help the Events Team in a range of different roles – including bump-in and setup, staffing the Information Stall, supporting operations staff, parade marshalling, assisting stage managers and more.

We are looking for friendly people of all ages, experience and backgrounds, who can read English and who feel confident talking to all sorts of people on the day. You will also be on your feet for most of the time so you'll need to be physically able to stand up for long periods.

Help is needed from 6.00am to 5.00pm, depending on the role. You don't have to be able to work the entire day, but we are looking for a minimum commitment of 2 hours. You will receive training on everything you need to know, get to meet and work with great people and have the opportunity to make your unique contribution to this great community event.

If you are interested, complete the [ONLINE FORM](#) by **Friday 14 August 2015**.

Make sure you select the 'Volunteering at City of Ryde Events' option.

For more information, contact the Events Team on 9952 8222 or events@ryde.nsw.gov.au

Granny Smith Festival Applications are now Open

Published on 16 July 2015

The City of Ryde's biggest and most popular festival is a true community carnival, full of colour, variety, entertainment and good old-fashioned fun.

We celebrate the life and legacy of one of our district's most famous citizens, Maria Ann Smith – aka Granny Smith – who, back in 1868, 'accidentally' grew the first batch of green apples that bear her name and are now grown all over the world.

The Festival kicks off with the ever-popular street parade, featuring marching bands, dancers, floats and stilt walkers.

Throughout the day there will be entertainment by local performing arts groups on six stages around the festival precinct in Eastwood.

There are hundreds of stalls selling everything from food to French linen, exotic plants to African art and much more!

Be Part of the Festival!

This year the Granny Smith Festival will take place on Saturday 17 October.

Applications are now open for Stallholder Expressions of Interest, as well as Performance and Parade participants.

Applications close on **Wednesday 5 August 2015**.

For more information and to register, visit the [Granny Smith Festival page](#).

Alternatively contact the events team on 9952 8222 or email events@ryde.nsw.gov.au.

Top Ryde Power Outage

Published on 14 July 2015

Power was cut to sections of the City of Ryde this morning, following a zone substation outage at Top Ryde.

Suburbs affected included Ryde, North Ryde, Gladesville, Denistone East, East Ryde, Macquarie Park, Putney, Tennyson Point and Marsfield.

Electricity supply, traffic lights and telephone services affecting Council services and an estimated 12,500 homes and businesses, were affected including:

- Top Ryde City shopping Centre
- Ryde Library
- North Ryde Library
- Gladesville Library
- Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre
- Ryde Hospital
- Macquarie Hospital

Services were returned at approximately 10.00am.

All enquiries should be directed to **Ausgrid 13 13 88**.

Skill Sharing Result from Cross-Council Cooperation

Published on 10 July 2015

In a demonstration of cross-Council cooperation, City of Ryde Group Manager Environment and Planning, Dominic Johnson, will take up a three-month secondment with Willoughby Council.

Ryde's General Manager Gail Connolly said the secondment represents the new era of collaboration between Northern Sydney Councils. "This secondment presents both Ryde and Willoughby with an opportunity to share knowledge, skills and resources.

"It demonstrates one of the core elements of our Joint Regional Authority (JRA) proposal for the Fit for the Future local government reform and I am sure this will be the first of many resource sharing and secondment opportunities."

Mr Johnson will assume the role of Director of Planning and Infrastructure in mid-July for three months. He will assist Willoughby's General Manager to implement an organisation change program with a focus on establishing strong customer relations and project management practices within the Planning and Infrastructure directorate.

"This is an exciting opportunity to share learnings from Ryde's experience of improving the way Council operates to deliver best value services to our customers, and learn from Willoughby's change program," Mr Johnson said.

Willoughby Council's General Manager, Debra Just, said the secondment represents a valuable gain for two NSROC Councils in working together. "Mr Johnson's leadership and regional planning experience will enable Willoughby's reform program to continue its momentum through the recruitment phase for the Director's role."

Executive Director of NSROC, Andrew Roach, said the outcome is an example of Councils in Northern Sydney working together to achieve mutual benefit through appropriate collaboration. "By working together, Councils consistently demonstrate that they have the capacity to deal with issues beyond their individual borders."

City of Ryde has joined forces with Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils to develop a collaborative model of a Joint Regional Authority in response to the State Government's Fit for the Future program. The JRA will centralise key functions across the three council areas, including strategic subregional planning, procurement, infrastructure delivery and other services where economies of scale exist. Under this option, each Council and its community retains their unique local identity and, most importantly, the City of Ryde is not split.

[View the submission here.](#)

Help create a wildlife corridor for National Tree Day

Published on 07 July 2015

Local families are invited to help create a wildlife corridor by improving habitat for native animals and birds to mark this year's National Tree Day on Sunday 26 July.

The Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Bill Pickering, will be rolling up his sleeves to take part in the mass planting and is urging local families to get involved.

"Improving the local environment and watching over time as the plants flourish into a haven for native birds is a great hands-on way to be part of creating a better community and future for our kids.

"You can bring the family along and join other members of the community to improve the local environment and see your work bloom over time.

"Your contribution will help to enhance a habitat corridor linking the Parramatta and Lane Cove Rivers, which is vital for a range of native birds and animals."

The activity will include planting a selection of locally indigenous trees, shrubs and groundcovers. A free BBQ and refreshments will be provided at the end of the activity. All participants will also go in the draw to win one of 20 family passes to the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.

National Tree Day Community Planting details:

Ryde's Olympic Park Tree Day event runs from 10.00am – 12.00 midday, on Sunday 26 July.

Ryde's Olympic Park is a small reserve located at the rear of the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, just below the tennis courts, on the corner of Margaret and Potts Streets. Parking is available in nearby streets. All tools, gloves and training provided. Please wear long pants, a long sleeved shirt, enclosed shoes and a hat.

[View the event listing here.](#)

All library locations will be closed on Wednesday 22 July

Published on 07 July 2015

All library locations will be closed for a staff development day on **Wednesday 22 July** and will reopen on Thursday 23 July at 10am.

After hours returns chutes will be available at all locations.

We apologise for the inconvenience.

Eastwood Plaza now a Smoke Free Zone

Published on 07 July 2015



Ryde Council will trial a 'No Smoking' ban in Eastwood Plaza as part of its ongoing campaign to address the adverse effects of smoking.

Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said Eastwood Plaza was a vibrant town centre with a well- established café culture.

“Ryde Council is committed to addressing both the health and environmental issues associated with smoking and this decision further endorses our philosophy of creating cleaner, healthier and happier spaces for people to visit, eat and shop.

“Smoking within four metres of any public building is already banned as well as a no-smoking zone around outdoor dining. Making the entire Plaza a smoke-free zone creates a consistent, positive health message in this busy community hub.”

City of Ryde was an early adopter of the Smoke Free campaign when it endorsed its Smoke Free Outdoor Dining Policy in 2010. More recently, No Smoking banners were erected at local sporting fields to promote the smoking ban for both covered and uncovered spectator areas while they are being used for organised sporting events.

The Eastwood Plaza trial has the support of the community through responds to a Council survey on the subject. Eighty-five percent of respondents supported a 'No Smoking Zone' either during designated hours or at all times in Eastwood Plaza. Seventy-five percent supported the Plaza being Smoke Free 'at all times'.

The six month trial will be promoted through signage and a community awareness campaign. During the trial, Rangers will request smokers to move out of the plaza if they wish to continue to smoke. Fines could apply if these requests are not followed.

The focus of the campaign will be on education and encouragement to butt-out. Council is looking to support the local community and help make Eastwood an even more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The trial coincides with new NSW Outdoor Dining Smoke Free Zone Laws which came into effect on July 1. Other Councils who have adopted similar smoking bans include Lane Cove, City of Sydney, Manly, Willoughby and Wollongong.

nbn coming to the City of Ryde

Published on 03 July 2015

nbn has released its quarterly update to the national construction plan, adding an additional 53,000 premises in cities, suburbs and towns in New South Wales to the rollout of the nbn™ network.

New areas that have been added to the rollout include 1900 premises in Denistone East, East Ryde, Macquarie Park, Marsfield, Meadowbank, North Ryde, Putney, Ryde, West Ryde, Denistone.

The construction plan provides an indicative schedule of work to commence before quarter-end December 2016, and now covers more than 620,000 New South Wales homes and businesses.

The expansion of the rollout reflects the company's new, flexible multi-technology approach and is an important step toward connecting 8 million premises to the nbn™ network by 2020.

For more information on the new construction schedule and to perform an address check, visit the [nbn website](#).

Have any questions?

Contact nbn™ on 1800 687 626 or email info@nbn.com.au.

Alternatively view the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the nbn website.

Superior alternative to Council Mergers

Published on 01 July 2015

Council, having previously endorsed the exploration of an alternative model for its 'Fit for the Future' submission, has collaborated with Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils to develop a proposal for a Joint Regional Authority model (JRA). The proposed model addresses the NSW Government's Fit for Future proposal by way of providing "a Superior Alternative" for consideration.

The JRA proposes to centralise key functions across the three council areas, including strategic subregional planning, procurement, infrastructure delivery and other services where economies of scale exist. Under this option each Council and its community retains their unique local identity and, most importantly the City of Ryde would not be split.

[Click here to view Council's submission](#)



High Price of Tree Vandalism

Published on 01 July 2015

Over the weekend (June 27-28), five newly planted trees and ten tree guards along Abuklea Road, Marsfield, between Herring Road and Kingsford Street, were vandalised.

The Banksia and Eucalyptus trees that were planted as part of the Council's ongoing Street Tree Planting Program were severely damaged, making them unfit for replanting.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said it was disappointing to see the wilful destruction of the environment. "Tree vandalism imposes a significant financial burden on local ratepayers and impacts our natural environment.

"In this instance, the loss to Council funds in tree stock alone is in excess of \$3000 and unfortunately there are no available funds to replace the vandalised trees.

"Council will do everything to identify the perpetrators of the crime," he said.

Residents of Abuklea Street have been notified by mail informing them of the vandalism and requesting any information that may assist in prosecuting the person or persons carrying out these illegal activities.

Two weeks ago, trees in Acacia Avenue, Putney, were destroyed in a similar attack by vandals. The total damage bill is estimated at \$1000.

Our new website is here!

Published on 01 July 2015

Updated: 31 August 2015

Designed with you in mind, we've taken on board your feedback over the past 18 months about your online experience and what you love and hate.

As such, we've developed a site that is smarter and friendlier to use, offering greater usability and accessibility, coupled with a more visually enticing experience.

The new site went live on Wednesday 5 August.

Tell us your thoughts on our new site & subscribe to our eNewsletter for your chance to win! - *Hurry, entries close midnight tonight!*



We are seeking your feedback for improvements in a form of an [online survey](#).

Also by completing the survey and subscribing to our eNewsletter you will go into the draw to win a bike up to the value of \$750.

[View the terms and conditions here.](#)