

Granny Smith Survey Results are In!

Published on 30 October 2015

Thank you to all the participants of our Granny Smith Event Survey! Your feedback is very valuable in helping us plan for future events in the City of Ryde.

Overall, 93% of participants were very satisfied or satisfied with the event. And it appears the food stalls were most popular – with at least 82% of you visiting these on the day!

Congratulations to the winner from our Granny Smith Survey – Sheryl L. Your \$200 Woolworths Wish Gift Card is on it's way!

Parliamentary Inquiry Vindicates JRA as a Superior Model for Councils

Published on 29 October 2015

Today, the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government in NSW, General Purpose Standing Committee Number 6, released its report which strongly supported City of Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils proposed Joint Regional Authority (JRA).

Recommendations 16 and 17 of the report stated: *“that the NSW Government make Joint Organisations available to all Councils in New South Wales”* and,

“That the NSW Government work with local government on a statutory model for Joint Organisations based on the Hunters Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove Council model as a cooperative and consensus model for local council reform in Metropolitan Sydney”.

This report absolutely vindicates the strong position we have held from its inception, that the City of Ryde, Hunter’s Hill and Lane Cove Councils’ proposal of a Joint Regional Authority (JRA) is a bold, visionary and a superior alternative to the NSW Government’s Fit for the Future proposals.

It is a sophisticated and contemporary model which breaks the traditional mould of amalgamations. The amalgamation option lacks innovation and the flexibility to move with the changing demands of our communities.

Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale said: *“This is a significant development, which vindicates our City’s position on amalgamations as not being the answer to Local Government reform in NSW.*

“We now call on the NSW Premier, Minister for Local Government and our Local Members to support our visionary proposal and allow us to enter into a 12 month pilot of the JRA so we can prove its effectiveness. It is now time for the State government to step up and accept that there is a viable alternative to amalgamations”.

Hunter’s Hill Mayor Clr Richard Quinn said: *“This report clearly confirms that our JRA model is the superior option to forced amalgamations, and has bipartisan support for and acknowledgement of its very real merit. I now look forward to restoring a more genuine and open dialogue with the NSW Government as we seek to ensure grassroots democracy for our local communities”.*

Lane Cove Mayor Clr Deborah Hutchens said: *“Today’s recommendations by the Upper House clearly show that communities do not need to lose their access to local democracy in order to satisfy the State Government’s current ideology that bigger is better.*

“The Upper House has clearly given genuine consideration to the Joint Regional Authority as a well-researched, merit-based solution that addresses the areas of improvement the State Government claims to be seeking. I urge the State Government to heed the advice of this Inquiry or, if not, publically address why every Council in Sydney should be denied the opportunity to use the Joint Regional Authority model”.

As distinct from the State Government, the Parliamentary Inquiry has actually listened to our communities. This is supported by the fact that out of a total of 401 submissions sent to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government in NSW, 199 of those submissions were from Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove, representing over 49% of the total submissions received. In addition, of the 199 submissions from our region, 169 were in support of our proposed Joint Regional Authority, another clear demonstration from our communities of their support for the formation of a JRA.

Using the State government's own criteria, the City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Council met all financial requirements. We are all financially fit councils, yet the NSW Premier is hell bent on merging Councils into oblivion. It is shameful that the Premier is pushing through with a plan that has no support from our communities. It is refreshing to hear that someone is actually listening to us and can finally see the sense and value of the JRA and its applicability throughout NSW.

Our residents have clearly shown their preference for us to work together which was demonstrated by their 92% level of support of our JRA as their first or second preference, which is a very clear mandate from our communities on this issue.

It is disgraceful that the State Government is locking out our communities in having a final opportunity to respond to the content of the IPART report by requiring all Councils to respond in 50 words or less by 18 November 2015! The State government is completely disregarding our communities' views on this matter and the timeframes and process they are dictating to us is farcical.

The decision to amalgamate Councils demonstrates the State government's rigidity and a lack of innovative thinking. The JRA by comparison is a strong and unique model that we are convinced would meet our communities' needs and allow them to have a say in their future together in working with the State government in the strategic planning of Greater Sydney.

What was announced recently in the IPART report was a slap in the face to our local communities and clearly demonstrates that the State government went into this process with a predetermined outcome.

We will continue to keep fighting hard for the residents of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove who clearly have pride in their history and unique identity, have confidence in their Council's financial and governance performance and have a strong desire to be in control of their future.

Winners of Spring Garden Competition Announced

Published on 23 October 2015



Eden Gardens, North Ryde

Winners of 2015 City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition were praised for their creativity, hard work and sustainable gardening practices at a Gala Event last night (Thursday 22 October) at Eden Gardens, North Ryde.

Announcing the awards for the annual competition, City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "This is a competition that involves the whole community – from the youngest budding green thumbs to the most experienced garden gurus. In fact, entrants' ages range from just four years old, right through to octogenarians.

"The Spring Garden Competition brings together people from all walks of life who share a common interest in gardening, a sense of pride in their community and a genuine desire to share their passion for gardening with others.

"While the creators of these beautiful gardens and spaces are singled out for praise, it's the neighbours, visitors and passers-by, not to mention our City's green reputation, who are the overall winners in this competition."

With 87 category entries in this year's event, the new Native and Habitat-Friendly Garden category helped to boost the overall number of entries by 35%. The Large Gardens and Small Gardens were the most hotly contested categories.

Entries ranged in style from simple to decorative, family projects to grand solo efforts. Community groups and commercial gardens were also congratulated.

The judging panel of Meredith Kirton, Beth Chapman, Judith Sleijpen, Anna Ainsworth, Andy Sutherland and Judy Christie all praised the passion and enthusiasm of the gardeners and commented on the high standard and presentation of all entries

The City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition is one of a handful of Council-managed garden competitions run for the benefit of the community. The support of sponsors Eden Gardens, Snowden Parkes Real Estate, Top Ryde City, SUEZ Environnement and Sam the Paving Man is greatly appreciated.

To see a list of winners and view the photos, visit the [2015 Spring Garden Competition](#) page.

Ryde Financially Fit – Yet Still Slated For Merger

Published on 20 October 2015

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Councillor Jerome Laxale, slammed the announcement by the State Government today that the City of Ryde is 'unfit' in relation to IPART's *Fit For The Future* assessment. Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils were also deemed as 'unfit'.

Mayor Laxale will hold urgent discussions with the Mayors of both Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils to discuss options in preparing each Council's response to today's announcement.

Mayor Laxale stated: "I am clearly disappointed and amazed with the State Government's response to declare that the City of Ryde is 'unfit'.

"Using the State Government's own criteria, we have met all three financial requirements. We are a financially fit council: yet Mike Baird is hell bent on merging Ryde into oblivion.

"It is shameful that the NSW Premier, Mike Baird is pushing through with a plan that has next to no support in our community."

Mayor Laxale continued: "Our residents have clearly shown their preference against amalgamation, demonstrated by their 92% level of support of our JRA as their first or second preference. This is a very clear mandate.

"Despite the talk of consultation and community representation, it is clear that Mike Baird went into this process with a predetermined outcome.

"Unlike the Premier, I want to ensure that we represent our community, that's why I'll be seeking their input on the way forward. We have until 18 November 2015 to respond, and I'll ensure that our citizens are at the front and centre of our decision making.

"I'll also be writing to local MP's seeking their support. After all, our loyalty is to our community, not to the Premier."

Granny Smith 30th Festival Goes Off With a Bang

Published on 19 October 2015



The 30th Anniversary Granny Smith Festival has been hailed a major success by festival goers, organisers and participants.

City of Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale, said there was a real buzz in the air. “The Granny Smith festival has stood the test of time and is now a wonderful event for the whole family. I am delighted that the festival has a real family focus – and a record crowd of 90,000 shows that our city loves it too!”

The annual event held on the third Saturday in October saw a record crowd in excess of 90,000, the biggest in the Festival’s history.

The unique mix of live music, market stalls, great food, carnival rides and community pride added up to a perfect day of fun under a brilliant blue sky.

Highlights included the 2,000 strong street parade, led by the NSW Mounted Police and the Batmobile, the Orange Farmers Market, the family chill-out zone and more than sixty live acts including dancers and a ukulele orchestra. As the sun went down, R&B band *Soul Empire* grooved the crowd and then fireworks exploded in a fitting tribute to a great community celebration.

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LGNSW Delegates Support Joint Organisations for Metro Sydney

Published on 15 October 2015

KEEP COUNCILS LOCAL

LGNSW Delegates Demonstrate Overwhelming Support for the Formation of Joint Organisations for Metropolitan Sydney

This week, Local Government NSW Delegates at their annual conference in Sydney, demonstrated their overwhelming support for the formation of Joint Organisations for Metropolitan Councils in Sydney.

A motion put forward by the delegates from the City of Ryde and Lane Cove Council, supported by the delegates from Hunters Hill Council, asked for the Premier of NSW, The Hon. Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Paul Toole, to allow one set of rules to equally apply to all local government in NSW and allow regional joint organisations to be an option in the Sydney metropolitan area, in addition to rural and regional NSW.

When the motion was considered at the conference, there was an overwhelming demonstration of support for the motion, as it was adopted without debate.

On 30 June this year, the City of Ryde, Lane Cove and Hunter's Hill Councils made a joint submission to the State Government for the formation of a Joint Regional Authority (JRA) as a superior alternative to that of the Independent Local Government Review Panel's (ILGRP) merger proposals. The JRA is considered to be a more viable and advantageous model to that of amalgamation for metropolitan Sydney.

The core benefits of the JRA model proposed by the City of Ryde, Lane Cove and Hunter's Hill Councils includes:

- It is fit for purpose;
- It is a more functional and integrated approach to inter-government relations;
- It is well positioned to provide strategic decision making, service delivery and advocacy; and
- It is an option that avoids the huge cost of amalgamations.

From the research and studies conducted, it is apparent that disadvantages of mergers include the following:

- There is no evidence that forced mergers result in cost savings;
- That a 'one size fits all approach' of mergers is misplaced;
- Empirical evidence of the 2000-2004 NSW Council mergers, shows no difference in performance between merged and unmerged Councils;
- Empirical evidence of the 2008 Queensland amalgamations shows that most amalgamated Councils are operating under diseconomies of scale;

- The proposed mergers do not represent 'a common community interest';
- Local representations severely diminish; and
- A loss of 'local' in Local Government.

The motion highlighted the benefits of Council's proposed Joint Regional Authority (JRA) option for northern Sydney and it being a superior option over mergers, thereby enhancing the Local Government sector. It reinforces the recommendations of the ILGRP that Joint Organisations are a viable option for Councils across NSW and should be considered as an option for all Sydney metropolitan Councils.

City of Ryde Art Society Exhibition

Published on 15 October 2015

City of Ryde Council is proud to once again support the City of Ryde Art Society Exhibition, now celebrating its 55th year.

The total prize value is \$7,250 and this year 92 artists will exhibit including well-known artists John Perkins, Kasey Sealy, Paul McCarthy, Colina Grant, Noeline Millar, and Melissa Read Devine.

The Society provides opportunities for all levels of artists to develop their skills and exhibit their work whilst also providing the community with the opportunity to experience art and culture locally.

Entry is free and all paintings will be for sale at the exhibition and two paintings will be raffled. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the Hope Street Charity, a Christian organisation serving the aged and people living with disadvantage, such as homelessness and mental health.

The exhibition opens on Friday 23 October and runs to Friday 30 October. It is open daily from 10.00am – 5.00pm (Thursday to 08.00pm). www.cityofrydeartsociety.com.au

Opening Night: Friday 30 October 2015, 7.00pm, North Ryde Community Hall, Cox's Road, North Ryde.

Categories Art and Exhibitions

Ryde Heritage Trail Launch Event

Published on 15 October 2015



Willandra House

St Anne's Church, Willandra House, Hatton's Cottage and Ryde Park Rotunda are all must-see stops on a new Ryde Heritage Walking Trail being launched by Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale, on Friday 6 November.

The 44-page walking trail booklet features 28 locations within a 500m radius of Top Ryde, including some of the most significant and historic landmarks of post-European settlement in the area. It takes a leisurely two hours to complete the walk, or it can be done in stages.

The booklet was created by the Ryde Heritage Advisory Committee and Council's heritage staff.

"This guide will be of interest to both locals and visitors who are keen to understand our local heritage and history," Cllr Laxale said.

"We're lucky in our city to be able to see the different phases of post-European settlement in the streets and buildings around us. Sometimes we just need to be reminded they're there. After all, I bet I'm not the only one who didn't realise we had so many interesting architectural styles here, from Old Colonial Georgian to Free Gothic, or that the Police Watch House on Victoria Road built in 1837 is possibly the oldest functioning police station building in NSW."

View or download the brochure on the [Ryde Heritage Walking Trail Publication](#) page.

"We live in a beautiful city and it's important we value and protect it. This includes preserving heritage sites and celebrating the role they've played in Ryde's past and present," Cllr Laxale said.

To mark the launch of the Ryde Heritage Walking Trail Guide, there will be a morning tea and an exclusive glimpse inside the historic Wesley Uniting Church and Oddfellows Hall (opposite St Anne's Church) where the Heritage Walking Trail begins. An optional 1-hour walking tour will follow (walking shoes, hat and water advisable).

People interested in attending the launch can book by contacting Council by Friday 30 October.

[View the event listing for more details.](#)

Ryde River Walk's New Gladesville Section Reveals Hidden Gems

Published on 14 October 2015

Some of Ryde's 'hidden gems' were revealed when the new Gladesville Section of the Ryde River Walk officially opened on Sunday 11 October.

Residents were invited to a community celebration to mark the completion of the works connecting a string of beautiful parks and natural areas between Banjo Paterson Park and Bill Mitchell Park.

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "We have worked hard to preserve the foreshore environment and improve public access to this picturesque and historically significant stretch of the Ryde River Walk.

"The new works, recently completed by the Council at a cost of \$1.8 million using Federal, State and City of Ryde funding, is the culmination of years of planning and negotiation and the community is invited to join the celebration."

The new 2km section, running through Bill Mitchell Park, Glades Bay and Looking Glass Bay to Banjo Paterson Park, replaces dirt tracks and unconnected walks with well-defined and signed allweather pathways, a mangrove boardwalk, stairs, bridges and landscaping.

Ryde River Walk is a \$5 million City of Ryde project, in partnership with Federal and State Governments, creating a continuous green reserve along a 10km stretch of the Parramatta River, from Kissing Point to the western boundary of Meadowbank Park. It was created to improve the community's enjoyment of the unique attractions along the famous waterway with improved public access and enhanced recreational facilities. The shared pedestrian highway runs along the northern foreshore of the River, linking a network of parks, playgrounds, sports fields, historic sites and natural areas.

Mayor TV: Episode 2

Published on 11 October 2015



A fantastic piece of social infrastructure available for all. Come and enjoy the waterfront along Parramatta River. See the latest addition to the Ryde River Walk complete with mangrove boardwalk.

Say goodbye to paper bills!

Published on 07 October 2015

Register for BPAY View® and receive, pay and store your rate notices in your online banking.

The City of Ryde is now offering you a new, more convenient, way to manage your rate notices. BPAY View sends your rate notices straight to the same online bank you use to pay them.

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 - your name exactly as it appears in the first line from the address block on your rate notice.

Note: Paper rate notices will no longer be issued to you once you've registered with BPAY View®.

For further information, visit bpay.com.au/bpayview or contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 9552 8222 or email: cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au.

*Notification may vary for each Financial Institution. Contact your Financial Institution for and terms and conditions.

Do you know someone who makes our community a better place?

Published on 06 October 2015



Every year the City of Ryde publicly acknowledges and recognises the outstanding accomplishments by individuals in our community who have excelled in their chosen field.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said: “These Awards are a way for our community to acknowledge citizens who have served our City. I encourage anyone that knows someone who makes a real difference in Ryde to nominate them for these Awards.”

Winners and nominations in the past have come from fields as diverse as sporting administrators, business leaders, educators, fire fighters, church leaders, school captains, writers, youth workers and other entrepreneurs.

There are two categories:

- **Citizen of the Year 2016**
Recognises outstanding service to the community over an extended period.
- **Young Citizen of the Year 2016**
Recognises outstanding service to the community over an extended period by a young person aged 16 -25yrs.

The awards are open to all Australian citizens living in the City of Ryde. The Young Citizen of the Year Award is open to Australian citizens between the ages of 16 and 25 years (as at 26 January 2016). The awards are held under the auspices of the Australia Day Council of NSW and judging is conducted by a local selection panel. Winners are announced at City of Ryde’s Council’s Australia Day Celebrations on 26 January 2016.

To nominate a person or view the guidelines go to the [Citizen of the Year](#) page.

Nominations open on Tuesday 6 October 2015 and close Friday 13 November 2015.

Phone lines down at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre

Published on 01 October 2015

Phone lines are currently down at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre. We are resolving this issue and we apologise for any inconvenience.

Mayor TV: Episode 1

Published on 01 October 2015



Recently opened with brand new play equipment, the Mayor - Clr Jerome Laxale - visited Carara Reserve in West Ryde to check out some of the new facilities for children and families.