

2016 Citizen of the Year Winners Announced!

Published on 26 January 2016



(L-R) Greg McClure, Rebecca Ho, Alexander Mangano, Joy Piotrowski, Nicholas Purcell, Erik Horrie (Australia Day Ambassador), Tennyson Brazier

At an Australia Day ceremony today, the Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, announced the 2016 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, in recognition of their service to the local community. The recipients are:

- **Mrs Joy Piotrowski** – Citizen of the Year
- **Nicholas Purcell** – Young Citizen of the Year

In acknowledging their outstanding contributions, the Mayor said the two winners exemplified the character and fine qualities of the people who make up the City of Ryde.

“Both Joy and Nicholas deserve the admiration of the community and to be acknowledged as role models,” the Mayor said.

“Through their deeds and actions, both winners have added enormous value to our city and to the lives of so many in our local community. They lead by example and show that community spirit is thriving in the City of Ryde.”

To read more about our winners, go to the [Citizen of the Year](#) page.

Opportunity for NSW Government to Purchase a School Site in Macquarie Park

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Local schools in the City of Ryde are at or near capacity, with some reports suggesting that lower North Shore schools have seen up to a 40 percent increase in enrolments over recent years.

Mayor Laxale said that “Council remains concerned that current education infrastructure will not meet the demand arising from significant population growth across the City of Ryde.”

The State Government’s two Priority Precincts at Macquarie Park and North Ryde will see the residential population in the immediate area increase from approximately 6,000 to more than 21,000 (an estimated population increase of 15,000). The area is a highly sought after location for families and there is already an increased demand for quality, local public schools.

Following the announcement from Woolworths that it intends to close its doors on Masters, the recently approved Masters Development Application at 144 Wicks Road, Macquarie Park, the former site of Peter Board High School, is now in question and the answer could be a new school.

“This is a great opportunity for the State Government to purchase the land of the proposed

Masters Store and meet the increasing need for schools in this area that it did not address in its *‘Plan for Growing Sydney’*” Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said.

“With work well underway at the North Ryde Station Precinct and the Herring Road Precinct in the near future, the need for adequate regional infrastructure funding is critical. Developments in those precincts should contribute towards the cost of providing new schools in Ryde.”

The State Government’s 2013-14 budget allocated \$70 million to new School Buildings on the North Shore, and in 2014-15 a further \$400 million had been set aside for schools infrastructure across NSW.

Mayor Laxale said “This would be a great use of these funds and Ryde Council has identified an immediate opportunity for the State Government to get ahead of the development industry and purchase the site for the benefit of future generations.

I call on the local member, Victor Dominello MP to immediately put this opportunity before the Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli MP for his urgent consideration.”

Design Competition announced for Ryde Civic Hub site

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The City of Ryde is inviting the world's most talented and creative architects to enter *Design our Ryde*, an international design competition to reimagine the iconic Ryde Civic Hub site (1 Devlin Street, Ryde).

Design our Ryde aims to transform the gateway site as the premier civic, commercial and cultural heart of the City and will include community involvement in choosing the winning concept and the site name, plus attractive prize money for the finalists.

City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale says the site presents great possibilities to enhance the civic and cultural qualities of Ryde. "It is pleasing to see that community involvement is one of the key objectives of this competition. On such an iconic site for our City, it is vital that our citizens are involved in choosing a design for the site."

Design our Ryde will be conducted in 2 Stages with the general public asked to identify its preferred design to add to an independent jury's selection. In Stage 2, three or four shortlisted concepts will be exhibited for public comment and site name suggestions.

The Mayor also hopes the scope of the competition will attract younger, emerging architects to test their ideas against more established industry figures.

The Ryde Civic Hub site is located on a prominent ridgeline running through the Ryde town centre. It offers panoramic views of the Sydney metropolitan basin, from the Blue Mountains to the coast, and the call for design solutions presents an opportunity to create a new role for the high profile site that respects and builds upon its significant cultural history and location.

There are seven design objectives:

- Civic and administrative functions
- Multi-functional indoor spaces for community and private hire
- Public open space
- Commercial space to help pay for the community facilities
- New housing including key worker dwellings
- Improved pedestrian connectivity to surrounding precincts
- A bus interchange.

NSW Government Architect and *Design our Ryde* jury chairman, Peter Poulet, said the vision is for 'blue sky thinking' from the international and local design

community. “Great architecture can rejuvenate a city and it takes creative minds to imagine and shape a new place.

“We want ideas with ‘flair and innovation’ to guide the development of this famous site, for the benefit and pride of future generations.

“Already there is a buzz within the architectural community and we are very excited about what will eventuate.”

Entrants who are shortlisted will receive prize money to help them prepare for Stage 2, one of which will become the declared winner. The winning entry will receive \$150,000.

Design our Ryde Key Dates 2016 (2 stages)

STAGE 1: OPEN COMPETITION

Submissions 11 January – 30 March

Public Exhibition for People’s Choice community polling 14 April – 5 May

Jury identifies 3 or 4 shortlisted entries by 13 May

STAGE 2: INVITED COMPETITION FOR SHORTLISTED ENTRIES

Submissions 14 May – 27 June

Public exhibition for community polling 11 July – 1 August

Winner Announced 8 August

Jury Members

- (Chair) Peter Poulet, NSW Government Architect
- Shaun Carter, President NSW Chapter, Australian Institute of Architects
- Maria Atkinson AM, Sustainability Strategist

Design our Ryde will be conducted in accordance with the Australian Institute of Architects ‘Guidelines for Architectural Competitions’ and the NSW Government’s ‘Design Excellence Guidelines’.

For more information go to [Design our Ryde](#).

West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair - Applications Now Open

Published on 21 January 2016



The annual West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair is on again! Activities on the day include stage performances and entertainment, street parade, market stalls, kids rides, entertainment and an animal farm. Competitions includes the best Easter bonnet, Singing Star contents and the Easter Best Decorated Wheels.

There's over \$5,500 in prize money on offer, so come along and join in!

Applications are now open for Stallholders, Performers and Parade Participants for this year's event, which will be held on 19 March 2016 in Market Street, West Ryde.

Applications close **Friday 19 February**.

[Find out More](#)

Out-dated facts and figures underpin Baird's Merger Proposal for Ryde

Published on 19 January 2016

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Cllr Jerome Laxale, has questioned the integrity of Premier Mike Baird's intention to forcibly amalgamate Ryde days after the formal Merger Proposal was released.

Cllr Laxale identified a number of deficiencies in the document that underpins the Government's case for forced amalgamations.

"The Government's own document use figures that are out of date. Instead of showing operating surpluses, they are showing deficits for the City of Ryde. How can the Boundaries Commission make a fair determination when they have got them so wrong?"

"Furthermore, the government has predicted a \$61 million benefit from a merged entity without factoring in the real costs of a merger, and has not provided any detail on how this figure can be achieved.

"This style of voodoo economics is being used by a Premier that is intent on helping developers rather than standing up for local communities."

While the Minister for Local Government states that four years of intensive consultation has taken place, the Merger Proposal document does not reflect any information on the results of our own community consultation that we have undertaken throughout 2015, Mayor Laxale stated.

"Good Governments listen. The City of Ryde has strived to represent our community's view on amalgamations. The feedback from our community has been strong and very consistent," Cllr Laxale stated.

"In 2015, 81% of the community told us they were opposed to forced amalgamation and later in the year, 92% supported the Joint Regional Authority option as their first and second preference over any amalgamation," the Mayor stated.

"Clearly local members Victor Dominello and Anthony Roberts are deliberately ignoring their own communities."

The Mayor is encouraging all members of the City of Ryde community to have their say on the proposed merger between Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils by appearing at the Public Inquiry on Tuesday 2 February 2016 at Hunters Hill Sailing Club or by making a submission by 28 February 2016.

Members of the community wishing to attend the Public Inquiry are required to register at www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au/proposals/hunters-hill-lane-cove-and-city-of-ryde-councils/#meetings

Also, further information can viewed on the [Merger Proposal for Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils](#) page.

2016 Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year Nominees

Published on 18 January 2016

A group of local heroes, who have earned the admiration of the community, will be honoured on Australia Day when the 2016 City of Ryde Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year are announced.

Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Citizen of the Year Awards recognise special individuals whose commitment to help others has strengthened our community. “These are the highest Awards the City of Ryde can bestow on an individual.

“They recognise outstanding service and acknowledge the positive and lasting difference their actions have made to the community.

“Choosing one individual over another is always a difficult task as all the nominees are great community members who work tirelessly to make Ryde a better place.”

The six nominees, whose ages range from teens to seniors, represent the high values and diversity of our community. They include community leaders, volunteers, academics and students.

[Find out more about the Nominees](#)

Fifty new Australian citizens, all local residents hailing from countries around the globe, will also be welcomed as part of the Australia Day ceremony.

The day will end with the annual Australia Day Family Concert and Fireworks Spectacular at North Ryde Common (5.00 – 9.30pm). For full details go to the [Australia Day](#) page.

Mayor TV: Episode 6

Published on 10 January 2016



The Mayor of Ryde, Clr Jerome Laxale - Labor checks out the recently launched Ryde Heritage Walking Trail booklet and gets acquainted with the must-see historic sites in our local area. P.S. A great way to get the kids out of the house and into a little history these school holidays!

Ryde's Australia Day 2016 Celebrations

Published on 07 January 2016



CIVIC CEREMONY

North Ryde School of Arts Hall, 201 Coxs Road, North Ryde, starting at 10.00am

Australia Day Ambassador address

Australia Day Ambassador, paralympian Erik Horrie will speak about what is great about Australia and being Australian.

Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Announcement

Meet the local heroes whose actions mirror our national values and have been nominated by residents for our top civic honours.

Citizenship Ceremony

Fifty local residents will become Australian citizens. They will sing the National Anthem for the first time as Australians. Then there will be lamingtons and sausage rolls for all.

AUSTRALIA DAY FAMILY CONCERT & FIREWORKS

North Ryde Common, Cnr Twin & Wicks Roads, 5.00 - 9.30 pm

There's plenty of room for everyone. Kid's rides, hot food and refreshments. Don't miss it! And remember ... no glass in the park.

Performance Schedule

5.00 - 5.15pm

Jdance

5.15 - 6.00pm

In Pieces

6.00 - 6.10pm

Mayor's Welcome and National Anthem

6.30 - 7.30pm

Kick (INXS Tribute Band)

8.00 - 9.00pm

Last Stand (Cold Chisel Barnes Band)

9.00pm

Xtreme Fireworks

MAKE A SPLASH!

Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre, 504 Victoria Road, Ryde, 8878 5111, 10.00am - 5.45pm

Immerse yourself in Australia Day fun at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre. Surf Ryder, pool inflatables, family fun.

Australia Day celebrations are presented by City of Ryde Council.