

# West Ryde Easter Parade and Fair

Published on 30 March 2017

The West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair celebrates the Christian Heritage of Ryde with a family-friendly day of festivities on Saturday 8th April 2017. The pageant showcases local talent, community groups, churches, schools and businesses in a way that brings all of Ryde to the West Ryde business district.

Now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year this 'day of the day' begins with a parade led by the Churches of West Ryde (9.00am from Miriam Park to West Ryde Library) and presents a full program of family entertainment, carnival rides, 30 international food stalls, competitions, displays, market and information stalls.

With two entertainment zones, there will be something for everyone, including:

- Dance – traditional Armenian and Chinese + modern styles
- Music – primary school orchestras + contemporary music from local music studios
- Singing – Royal Rehab Choir + operatic performance from the Ryde Eisteddfod
- Talent Contest – West Ryde Singing Star Quest
- Animals – petting zoo and reptile display
- Displays – Air League drill on the plaza + kids fitness sessions with MyGym Australia
- Competitions & Prizes – Best Easter Bonnet, Best Decorated Wheels, Best Paper Plane + West Ryde Singing Star talent quest – total prizes represent \$5,500 in value.

To keep the kids happy, for \$10 you can purchase unlimited rides on the giant slide, cup-and-saucer and others attractions plus a show-bag (for the first 500 tickets sold) of goodies exclusive to the Fair.

Other attractions include:

- Community information stalls - Ryde Eisteddfod, Riding for the Disabled, Neighbourhood Watch
- West Ryde Library special Easter display
- Boutique shopping – check out *Taffa's* (family owned and operated hardware stores) and *Legends* the beautifully restored old-school barber shop
- Great café culture plus restaurants and of course the West Ryde Hotel.

Finally, dress your best at the West Ryde Easter Parade & Fair, for the local camera club's photography competition for its members.

For more information email [wrepf@hotmail.com](mailto:wrepf@hotmail.com) or phone 0417 699 955.

# Christie Park Scores New Synthetic Surface

Published on 30 March 2017



The City of Ryde is about to get more all-weather sports fields, with installation about to commence on two fields at Christie Park following a ‘turning of the sod’ ceremony this week.

Ryde Mayor Clr Bill Pickering and Chair of the Ryde Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee, Clr Roy Maggio, shared the honours at the ground-breaking event, described by the Mayor as ‘a game changer’.

Mayor Pickering said: “The Christie Park project is part of Ryde Council’s \$5.5 million commitment to meet the current and future needs of multiple sporting codes with access to high quality facilities.

“Council’s investment in all-weather facilities secures year-round consistent playing surfaces and is a real game changer for Ryde and the sporting community. I am delighted that we got the ball over the line.”

The \$3.5M Christie Park Fields 1 & 2 Synthetic Turf Field upgrade includes:

- New synthetic turf surface uses a 100% ‘cool’ cork infill system with shock and heat absorbing resistant properties for player comfort
- New 1.1 metre high chain mesh perimeter fencing to both fields with improved field access points
- 4.3 metre wide path alongside Field No.1 for emergency vehicles
- Seating for 250 spectators.

Chairman of the Ryde Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee, Clr Roy Maggio said: “Football is the most popular sport in NSW and as demand grows we need to keep one step ahead to future-proof our great community assets.

“I’ve been involved in local sports all my life and I know how valuable strong clubs with great fields and facilities help build a strong sense of community and their benefit to health and wellbeing.”

The two new Christie Park synthetic turf fields will conform to FIFA Quality 1 Star requirements. The recently completed ELS Hall Park facility conforms to FIFA Quality 1 Star requirements, as well as AFL and Cricket Australia community surface requirements.

Future stages of the Christie Park Master Plan include a centralised amenities building, additional synthetic turf fields and an increase in car parking capacity.

# Disability Inclusion Action Plan - Have Your Say

Published on 27 March 2017

The City of Ryde Council is working with the Councils of Lane Cove and Hunters Hill to develop a combined Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). The plan will ensure that people living with a disability have access to information, services, Council buildings, facilities, employment opportunities and community programs and events.

A combined DIAP as well as stand-alone plans will be developed due to possible Council mergers.

People living with a disability will be at the core of the consultations with the inclusion of family, friends and people who support those living with disability.

An external agency has been engaged to assist in the preparation of the DIAP which will analyse information from a community survey, a series of group discussions and one-on-one conversations with relevant parties.

The consultations will take place between March and May 2017. You can find out more at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay).

You can also send your enquiries to [socialinclusion@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:socialinclusion@ryde.nsw.gov.au) or phone City of Ryde Customer Service 9952 8222.

# A Letter To The Community - Ryde Civic Centre & The Civic Hall Facts

Published on 22 March 2017

On 8 and 15 March 2017, The Weekly Times newspaper (TWT) published two damaging and completely unfounded articles, regarding the Ryde Civic Centre and the Civic Hall.

The Council completely refutes in the strongest terms the claims by TWT that:

1. Councillors are “wasting” ratepayers’ money on “insane” leasing of offices at North Ryde to accommodate some 400 Council staff;
2. they (the Council) could have repaired the Ryde Civic Centre for less than \$100,000 according to expert Mr John Smolders; and
3. are planning to demolish the Civic Hall.

## Here are the facts:

The Weekly Times has completely ignored the facts and circumstances that led to the Council taking actions to ensure a safe environment for working staff and the public.

- In October 2015 SafeWork NSW served two Improvement Notices (defect notices) on the Civic Centre detailing unsafe conditions. The situation was triggered by failing ceiling tiles (8-12 kgs in weight). This was an unacceptable Work Health and Safety issue that put both staff and the public in danger. An inspection of all seven floors of the Civic Centre revealed multiple zones that required immediate attention.
- On 20 October 2015, Council met to consider the unacceptable safety risks to staff and public and the cost of repairs, acknowledging that the building would continue to deteriorate.
- A key issue was that any change to the internal structure of the building would trigger full compliance with Building Code of Australia requirements (lifts, stairs, disability access, toilets and new fire detection systems, etc). Independent costing of this very extensive work had been calculated at \$30 million.
- Councillors had no option but to vote for relocation.
- Alternative accommodation was secured at competitive market rates at the Binary Centre in North Ryde and a well-planned transition with no interruption to Council services was carried out.

## Repaired for “less than \$100,000”

TWT articles quoted their “expert” Mr John Smolders, had stated that repairs to the Civic Centre could be carried out for “less than \$100,000”. Council wrote to Mr

Smolders of Newcastle University, to establish when he had inspected the Civic Centre building upon which he had based this assessment.

On 16 March 2017, the Acting General Manager received a response from Mr Smolders, confirming the following;

*"Please be assured that I was surprised (as much as you may have been) when I read the article published in the Weekly Times last week. I was not interviewed by the Weekly Times for that article nor do I agree with the cost of the repair work stated by the paper. I wrote to the editor advising him of the error last week."*

**Therefore, based on this statement from Mr Smolders, the articles published on both 8 and 15 March 2017 quoting Mr Smolders as the expert advisor, have no credibility, are fictitious and are completely devoid of facts.**

### **Civic Hall**

- There are no plans to demolish the Civic Hall. The Hall was not subject to the SafeWork NSW Improvement Notices affecting the Civic Centre.
- Council intends to carry out maintenance to the Civic Hall and staff will continue to investigate alternative sites where a new, modern Civic Hall/performance space could be constructed. This is a number of years into the future if progressed and would be undertaken on the basis of minimising the impact on users.

### **Design our Ryde**

- In April 2017 the Ryde Civic Hub Committee, will consider the results of the economic viability analysis of the winning design of the 'Design our Ryde' International Architectural Competition for the Ryde Civic Hub site that resulted in 175 entries from around the world. It was conducted under the rules of the Australian Institute of Architects and widely supported by the community through voting and public exhibitions.
- Beijing Institute of Architectural Design submitted the winning design and the jury chair, Peter Poulet, who is also the NSW Government Architect, said: "*... The design is a realistic and well considered concept that demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the urban context.*" Additionally, Clr Jerome Laxale, who was Mayor at the time, said: "*The winning entry from Beijing Institute of Architectural Design has responded with a design that will ensure that this site will remain iconic in our City.*"

All of the information relating to the condition of the Civic Centre and the Civic Hall are on the public record and available on Council's website. The Weekly Times, and in particular its Editor Mr John Booth, owes his loyal readers and the City of Ryde Council a public apology for making untrue statements in his newspaper. This has significantly damaged Council's reputation and severely diminished the professional work undertaken by the City of Ryde Council.

# Letter To The Editor

Published on 14 March 2017

The City of Ryde Council rejects the TWT article that was on the front page on 8 March 2017, titled '**\$2,000,000 \$CANDAL**', based on the claim that the TWT had an expert opinion that the cost to repair the Civic Centre could be completed for less than \$100,000.

This claim by the TWT is unfounded, lacks detail and is an insult to the readers of the TWT.

The following chronology of decisions and facts is provided to allow the community to understand and assess for themselves, the complex issues and facts relating to the Ryde Civic Centre site:

- **July 2011** – An independent assessment by WTP Partnership's estimated the refurbishments of the Civic Centre and Civic Hall to make them fully Building Code of Australia (BCA) compliant to be \$38.4 million.
- **Between 2010 and 2012** – Council developed a detailed proposal to develop the Civic Centre site (the Ryde Civic Precinct Development Proposal). The proposal was endorsed by Council on 12 June 2012. This proposal would have returned at minimal cost to Council, a new multi-purpose facilities valued at \$79 million including new administration offices, performance space, community meetings rooms and Council Chambers.
- **October 2011** – Council allocated \$0.69 million to address air conditioning at the Civic Centre and various matters at the Argyle Centre.
- Following the Local Government Council elections in **September 2012**, the Mayoral election was held on **25 September 2012**, when former Clr Ivan Petch was elected as Mayor.
- At this meeting, the new Mayor, Clr Petch moved an Urgency Motion to rescind Council's June 2012 decision relating to the Ryde Civic Precinct Development. The rescission motion was carried.
- As a result, on **14 May 2013** Council approved a Maintenance Schedule for the Civic Centre building, at an estimated cost of \$4.85 million.

Following this resolution, a comprehensive building assessment was undertaken resulting in a further report to Council on 13 May 2014. This detailed maintenance and refurbishment options ranging in cost from \$4.3 million to \$11.91 million. Council deferred its decision on this matter pending feedback from the Office of Local Government (OLG), due to the level of estimated expenditure.

This matter was then considered on **11 November 2014**, with Council allocating \$1 million in each of the next four years to meet any essential maintenance.

On **14 April 2015**, Council resolved to establish a Ryde Civic Hub Committee to develop a new vision for the Ryde Civic Hub site (this resulted in the Design our Ryde architectural design competition).

After an inspection of the Ryde Civic Centre, on 12 October 2015 SafeWork NSW issued two Improvement Orders on the Ryde Civic Centre. The main issue centred on falling cement based ceiling tiles, which posed the biggest safety risk to staff and the public.

At the request of five Councillors, an Extraordinary Council meeting was held on **20 October 2015**, relating to Health and Safety issues and unacceptable safety risks faced by staff and the public, together with the substantial costs likely to comply with BCA standards. At this meeting, Council resolved to relocate from the Civic Centre, and authorised the General Manager to secure alternative accommodation. As a result, Council secured alternative accommodation that was available at the time in North Ryde. This option provided, for the first time in many years, the opportunity to accommodate the majority of staff in one location. The pending merger was also taken into consideration when making this decision.

Council has a five year lease with options for additional periods. The current lease costs are \$1.519 million p.a. for staff accommodation, plus car parking at \$0.51 million, which is partially offset by staff contributions.

In relation to the status of the current Civic Centre site, Council is due to consider the results of the Economic Viability Analysis of the winning entry of the Design our Ryde project at the **April 2017** Ryde Civic Hub Committee Meeting. Council will then be in a position to determine the next steps in this process.

Regards,

Roy Newsome  
Acting General Manager

# Inside - A new production in Sydney's newest and possibly smallest theatre

Published on 10 March 2017



On Friday March 17, Ryde Youth Theatre (RYT) will open a brand new play in their brand new home at the City of Ryde's Westward Cottage. Built sometime around the 1860s, this heritage workers' cottage is having its basement transformed into Sydney's newest, and possibly smallest, theatre. The new space will be called The Underground and will be Ryde Youth Theatre's place for emerging young artists to try out their voices, test out their ideas and take supported, glorious risks.

The first play to be performed here will be Louis Regan's *Inside*, developed as part of RYT's Underground Playwright's Workshop in 2016 when Louis was just seventeen and working on his HSC. Nineteen-year-old Thulitha Senevirathne directs a cast of suburban young women; Sangeetha Gowda, Isabella Dib and Elen Attard.

"This is about staying alive! If you screw up, that's you dead, and that's me dead. That's the last seven years of being trapped in here amounting to nothing."

In a small bunker, in an empty city, in a dried up world, live two sisters who have been barely looking after each other as long as they can remember. Until the day a stranger knocks at the door.

When this intruder makes them an offer that could lead to either safety or death, the sisters realise how differently they feel about one another and how hard it can be to tell the difference between protecting someone and caging them.

*Inside* is a play about trust, the consequences of our actions, and whether looking after someone can do more harm than good.

*Inside* opens on Friday March 17 at The Underground, 10 Turner St, Ryde. Tickets are \$21.50 and \$11.50 and are available from [Sticky Tickets](#).

*Inside* includes some coarse language and is not suitable for young people under the age of 13.

Performance dates and times:

Friday 17 March 7.30pm

Saturday 18 March 6pm and 9pm

Sunday 19 March 4pm and 7pm

Friday 24 March 7.30pm

Saturday 25 March 6pm and 9pm

Sunday 26 March 5pm

For further information contact Suzanne Hauser 0410 353 118.

# Big Turnout for International Women's Day Forum

Published on 10 March 2017



*Clr Roy Maggio, Clr Denise Pendleton, Julia Zaeta, Dr Brindha Shivalingam, Roy Newsome*

A capacity audience of over one hundred people attended yesterday's **Be Bold for Change** celebration of International Women's Day hosted by the City of Ryde's Status of Women's Advisory Committee at Eden Gardens.

The event celebrated the achievements of women in the community and how society as a whole has benefited from women's leadership in taking on the challenges that many face.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, highlighted the Council's efforts to close the gender gap. "It was the City of Ryde that first adopted increased paid parental leave back in 2008 which has now become a national standard.

"We have certainly made progress with gender equity policies and conditions adopted, but there are areas including political representation that still need to be addressed.

"Today's event and the stories we have heard reveal the true scope of women's achievements and challenges from many perspectives."

The Chair of the Status of Women's Advisory Committee, Clr Roy Maggio, said: "Today's International Women's Day forum was truly inspirational with guest speakers talking to a packed house at the event.

“The audience was in awe of the experiences they shared with us and with their insightful advice. The forum also provided an opportunity for networking and for everyone to take part in interactive workshops where real issues facing women today were discussed.

“The City of Ryde has already achieved some very important and significant changes for women, and today’s forum provided another fantastic opportunity for women in our community to ‘Be Bold for Change’.”

Guest speakers included Dr Brindha Shivalingham, neurosurgeon and founder of Brainstorm charity and Julia Zaetta, acclaimed Editor of Better Homes and Gardens, who also took part in a lively panel discussion were warmly received by the audience.

# Ryde's \$15billion Economic Output Leads the Nation

Published on 09 March 2017

The City of Ryde's Macquarie Park Business Corridor is the nation's No. 1 economic powerhouse according to data just release. It outperformed all districts including the Sydney CBD/Inner South which grew by 4.8% compared to Macquarie Park's 6%.

Further, Ryde/Macquarie Park's 6% growth, combined with Sydney's CBD and the inner northern suburbs delivered 24% of the nation's gross domestic product growth in 2015-16.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: "This is a fantastic result for Ryde and Macquarie Park.

"The SGS data analysis shows that the Ryde/Macquarie Park hub is not only driving Sydney's booming economy, but is in fact driving the national economy.

"With a \$15billion output, Ryde/Macquarie Park is performing better than any other economic district in the country and we intend to build on that momentum."

Mayor Pickering said the SGS Economics & Planning report is a clear endorsement of Council's expert management of Macquarie Park as a world-class innovation precinct. "I call on the State Government to give Macquarie Park the highest priority by providing the critical infrastructure and revenue needed to support the outstanding growth forecast for this expanding strategic centre.

"In particular, Macquarie Park must have further improvement to its transport system. A light rail connection to Parramatta; additional bus services to strategically link to key parts of Sydney, including the Northern Beaches; and a modern, underground bus interchange are all required.

"We need to protect and enhance Macquarie Park's commercial core. This needs to be the major focus for the Department of Planning.

"All the signs of improvement, optimism and a district moving in the right direction are there - and we want to keep Ryde moving, for the State and the Nation," Mayor Pickering said.

Macquarie Park's credentials as a research, education and communications hub are supported by the number of organisations based there. These include Macquarie University, Optus, Foxtel, Cocklear, CSIRO, Oracle, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, BOC Gases, Sonic Health, Fujitsu, Siemens, 3M, Astra Zeneca, Goodman Fielder and George West Foods.

[SGS reference](#)

# Kids go full S-T-E-A-M ahead at West Ryde Library

Published on 09 March 2017

**Science | Technology | Engineering | Arts | Mathematics**

One of the first things you notice when visiting West Ryde Library is a curious group of big, green cubes containing a range of curious collectibles. And kids love them.

The Curiosity Cabinet is the centre piece of STEAM, an interactive learning program for children that uses visual and hands-on activities to engage them in a fun way with technology and discovery. Other STEAM fixtures include large touchscreens, a giant chess set, novelty mirrors and science kits.

STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, and links directly into the NSW school education program and is suitable for children from 3 to 12 years of age.

STEAM innovative elements include:

- Curiosity Cabinet with drawers and light boxes containing a changing installation of natural history and technology themed objects
- Integrated iPads with ten educational apps including Beebots and Mathletics
- Steampunk wall mural incorporating large touchscreens
- Interactive science and maths themed software
- Lending collection of STEAM kits for 6 – 12 year olds
- Coding workshops, eg ScratchJr
- Museum style digital microscopes with wall mounted large screen displays for group use
- Ongoing activities – Little Bang Discovery Club and Curious Kids Club held monthly

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said, “Public libraries play a very important role in shaping young minds to be inquisitive and creative and STEAM cleverly uses the power of play to lead them to technology and learning opportunities.

“STEAM helps prepare children for study by opening up a world of secrets and wonders through a combination of interactive installations, special lending kits, workshops and events.”

If you want to nurture your child’s inquiring minds, creativity and collaborative skills, then take them to West Ryde Library (2 Graf Avenue) and help them discover through STEAM.

Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Tuesday, Thursday 10.00am – 8.00pm

Saturday 9.30am – 5.00pm

Sunday 12 noon – 4.00pm

[www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library)

# Ryde's Bold Celebration of International Women's Day

Published on 06 March 2017



To celebrate International Women's Day (IWD), the City of Ryde's Status of Women's Advisory Committee is holding a 'Be Bold For Change' Forum on Thursday, 9 March 2017 at Eden Gardens, 307 Lane Cove Road, Macquarie Park, (10.00 am – 2.00pm.)

The IWD Forum highlights the City of Ryde's commitment to supporting women's leadership in taking on the challenges that face women in the community. The Forum will be informative, interactive and entertaining with a mix of experienced guest speakers, panel members, panel session and workshops. There will also be an art display and live performance.

Guest speakers include Dr Brindha Shivalingham - neurosurgeon and founder of Brainstorm charity; and Julia Zaetta - acclaimed Editor of Better Homes and Gardens.

Be part of this celebration of women's achievements and how tackling common and individual challenges in medicine, business and the community benefits society as a whole.

Be Bold for Change is a free event. For more information, visit the [International Women's Day page](#).

# Help Design Ryde's New Outdoor Youth Space

Published on 06 March 2017

City of Ryde Council has identified two potential sites for a new outdoor youth and family recreation space and would like the community's input regarding design and their location.

The two potential sites are Eastwood Park (behind Eastwood Library) and Meadowbank Park (on Constitution Road near the Tennis Centre).

The recreation space will provide facility for skating, scootering, roller blading, and BMX which are physical activities that provide many health benefits for young people and often appeal to those who may not be interested in traditional team sports.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said, "Skate sports and BMX are very popular with people of all ages and a well-designed family recreation space will provide a safe and challenging place for young people to develop their skills.

"This is a very exciting project for Council and we want the community's feedback on this family orientated space that will include skate facilities, shade, play hubs, areas for young children to ride scooters and other general recreational spaces."

There are three ways residents can get involved:

## **Attend an Information Session**

Ryde-Eastwood Leagues Club, 117 Ryedale Road, West Ryde.

Eastwood Park - Wednesday 8 March, 6.00 – 8.00pm

Meadowbank Park - Thursday 9 March, 6.00 – 8.00pm

## **Take part in a Design Workshop**

Civic Hall, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde

Meadowbank Park - Saturday 11 March, 9.00am – 11.00am

Eastwood Park - Saturday 11 March, 1.00 – 3.00pm

## **Go Online**

You can find additional details and Have Your Say at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay)

Submissions close Sunday 26 March 2017.