

Origami Horse Sculptures Find New Pastures

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The three West Ryde origami horse sculptures have found new pastures at Riding for the Disabled's Marsfield headquarters on Culloden Road.

Reflective lighting that helps illuminate the stunning sculptures from within will be switched on at dusk on Monday 7 August 2017 to celebrate the re-homing.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: "The Riding for the Disabled site is an ideal new home for these beautiful works of art. The sculptures not only welcome visitors to the well-known site they also echo the centre's unique relationship between horses and human endeavour."

About The Three Horses

Created by artists Milne and Stonehouse in 2013, The Three Horses celebrate the pivotal role equines played in the evolution of the nation, and the esteemed place they continue to hold in Australian history and culture.

The sculptures capture the great strength and muscular beauty of horses, inhabiting the landscape larger than life, rearing and cantering, heads held high in majestic and defiant freedom.

Humans have always had an amazing connection with horses. This connection was explored with students from West Ryde Primary School during the creation of the sculptures. The horses feature playful coloured pattern inlays that express the students' reflections on human connections with these amazing animals.

The Three Horses Sculpture Photo Finish

Monday 7 August 2017, 5.15pm

Riding for the Disabled

110 Culloden Road, Marsfield

Ryde Applauds Backflip On Forced Merger

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City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said the State Government's decision to abandon the forced amalgamation of Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils is a welcome win for common sense and democracy.

The Mayor's comment follows the announcement by the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, that the forged mergers of the metropolitan councils challenging the decision in court have been abandoned. The decision follows an earlier resolution by the State Government not to pursue forced amalgamation of regional councils.

Mayor Pickering said: "The past two years have been a rollercoaster of uncertainty with the on-again/off-again forced amalgamations.

"Councils and the community have suffered from this long and divisive campaign and I want to thank my fellow Councillors and Council staff for their steadfast support of our right to stand alone and govern on behalf of the citizens of the City of Ryde.

"Eighty percent of Ryde residents opposed the forced amalgamation and made it quite clear that they want local representation on local matters and that bigger is not necessarily better.

"Now is the time to rebuild goodwill between the two levels of Government and to continue on with the job of serving our communities," Mayor Pickering said.

'Ryde Central' New Name For Civic Hub Site

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Council has received advice from the Geographic Names Board that its application to rename the Ryde Civic Hub site 'Ryde Central' has been approved.

The new name appeared in the NSW Government Gazette on 19 May 2017 following the exhibition of the name 'Ryde Central' by the Geographical Names Board of NSW, between 12 April and 15 May 2017, which did not attract any objections.

'Ryde Central' won the People's Choice in a 'Name the Site' competition for the Design Our Ryde Civic Precinct site at 1 Devlin Street, Ryde.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said: "The reference to 'Ryde Central' was first used in 1841 by land owner James Devlin to describe a number of building lots under the title 'plan of the village of Ryde'. It has a strong geographic and historical link to this iconic site and brings with it an exciting new identity."

'Ryde Central' takes in the site of the Council's previous administration centre, the Ryde Civic Centre building, and the still operational Ryde Civic Hall which continues to host many Council and community events, including Citizenship Ceremonies and the Ryde Eisteddfod.

Ryde Youth Theatre Next Production Gorgons' Blessings

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*A young Queen with a vision
Her Prince, blind to the consequence of betrayal
The peasant soldier who loves him
The rich boy desperate for escape
And the woman ready to enslave him*

Ryde Youth Theatre's next production *Gorgons' Blessings* is something very different and definitely not one for their youngest audience members. Written by Artistic Director Suzanne Hauser this play responds to the negative gender stereotypes, gratuitous nudity and graphic violence in too much of the fantasy entertainment loved by young people.

"After binge watching the first series of that very popular fantasy TV show I was so livid about the depiction of women that I dashed off a synopsis of alternative medieval fantasy – one where the women are in charge and the boys are expected to be demure, obedient and marry whomever they're told to," says Suzanne. "I put it aside and didn't think too much about it until Ryde Youth Theatre moved into Westward Cottage and set up our own, very tiny theatre. Then it became a challenge; could I write a medieval fantasy for a young adult audience that would fit on our eight square metre stage."

The result is a tense, thrilling rollercoaster of intrigue, power struggle and sexual politics – with gorgeous costumes. The unconventional gender roles highlight and question how we portray men and women in fantasy.

Directed and designed by twenty-year-old Carla Hedley, *Gorgons' Blessings* combines some of RYT's most experienced artists with some incredible new talent. Bokkie Robertson plays Martinel, a young Queen desperate to assert her authority over much older and obstinate nobles, Gian Vignando plays Val, her young husband who has to make what he can of the political marriage made for him by his mother, and Louis Regan plays Val's younger brother Caildon, desperate to break out the expectations his society has of him. The cast is completed by newcomers Emily Hespe and Izabella Louk.

Gorgons' Blessings brings a medieval fantasy world to the stage, at once so familiar and like nothing you've seen before. The power struggles, betrayal, love, lust and rebellion are so intense in our intimate theatre you'll find yourself reaching for your dagger.

Gorgons' Blessings opens on Friday 21 July at The Underground, 8 Turner St, Ryde. All tickets are \$8.50 and are available from Sticky Tickets <https://www.sticktickets.com.au/55416>

Gorgons' Blessings is not suitable for young people under the age of 15.

Performance dates and time

Friday 21st July, 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd July, 7.30pm

Sunday 23rd July, 4pm

Friday 28th July, 7.30pm

Saturday 29th July, 7.30pm

Sunday 30th July, 4pm

Friday 4th August, 7.30pm

Saturday 5th August, 7.30pm

Sunday 6th August, 4pm

For further information contact Suzanne Hauser 0410 353 118

Ryde Council Gets Keys to First Affordable Housing Unit

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Jon Hopkins with The Mayor, Councillor Bill Pickering

Ryde Council has taken ownership of the first affordable housing unit resulting from its Affordable Housing Policy. The Policy adopted in 2016 aims to ensure that 5% of all new dwellings built over the next 20 years are assigned as 'affordable housing'.

The new one-bedroom unit is located in the Macquarie Park Village on Herring Road, 400m from Macquarie University station. It will be managed by registered housing provider Link Housing on behalf of the Council.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said: "This is a very real and positive step towards solving the housing crisis faced by thousands of low-income families who do not have access to market-level rental properties.

"Council is aiming for a portfolio of at least 250 affordable dwellings for essential workers, over the next two decades. This will be supplemented by a further 500 properties supplied by the State Government.

"Developers have responded positively to our Policy with at least seven affordable dwellings to be delivered within the next 18 months," the Mayor said.

Council's Affordable Housing Policy mixed model approach will see affordable dwellings located throughout the City, making them accessible to a wide and diverse range of families and individuals.

"Our policy supports people of all ages, family compositions and demographics. We want to support those who require a safe and stable home and a decent place to live as the foundation of being part of the wider community," the Mayor said.

Riverfest 2017 to celebrate ‘Our Living River’

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Riverfest 2017 will be hosted this year by Cumberland Council together with the Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG), an alliance of local councils, state government agencies and community groups. The event is a key part of the PRCG's Our Living River initiative to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.

The focus of this year's event will be Cumberland Council's vision for Duck River. Administrator for Cumberland Council, Viv May, has taken the first steps towards the creation of a visionary and, importantly, costed masterplan for Duck River.

Riverfest 2017 will also provide the first opportunity for residents of Cumberland Council to have their input into the plans for Duck River.

The masterplan will review and build on previous documents that have addressed improvements to Duck River, including the Parramatta River Estuary Coastal Zone Management Plan; The Upper Duck River Wetlands & Riparian plan of management; Waterways maintenance and rehabilitation masterplan for the Duck River Catchment; Duck River Shared path; Duck River Grey-Headed Flying-Fox Camp Management Plan; and the Duck River Catchment Floodplain Risk Management Study.

A key part of Riverfest 2017 is also to provide people with the opportunity to connect with our waterways in different ways. This year we are focusing on the connections between Duck River, art and music.

We are delighted to announce the launch of The Painted River art project. The aim of this new initiative is to highlight the importance that healthy rivers and water catchments have to the future of the Sydney region, and to communicate this message through community interaction where art meets science in a creative collaboration. Members of the public will be encouraged to pick up a brush and paint their vision of the future of Duck River, assisted by practising artists who will offer guidance and art tips.

Another highlight of the event will be performances by the Pinks. The band features an all-star line-up including original members from Mental as Anything, the Dynamic Hepnotics, the Mighty Reapers, Karma County and Dog Trumpet. The Pinks will play an eclectic and soulful blend of Chicago, folk and country blues, which is sure to get the crowd up and dancing.

Riverfest 2017 will also feature a wide range of entertainment and activities, including:

- Performances by local musicians
- Appearance and autograph signing by players from the West Tigers
- Free guided cycling tours along Duck River (bicycles and helmets supplied)
- Jumping castle, face painting, kids' arts and crafts, food and community stalls.

Cumberland Council Administrator, Viv May, said that he is looking forward to starting community consultations and working with other councils to make the Duck River Corridor a natural asset of which residents can be truly proud.

“Community members should be able to walk and cycle along the banks of the Duck River, a river with clean, inviting water; amongst a regenerated landscape of suitable vegetation,” Mr May said.

“The importance of the Duck River Corridor, not only in contributing to the vision to make the Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025, but also at a more local level for the Cumberland community, cannot be underestimated.”

PRCG Chair, Clr Jerome Laxale, said that Riverfest 2017 is a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness about improving the water quality of the Duck River and the impact it will have on the overall health of the Parramatta River.

“Riverfest 2017 is a key part of a long-term strategy that is working towards delivering a world class, quality river where people can safely swim,” Clr Laxale said.

“In holding events such as Riverfest 2017, we hope to engage a wider cross section of the community and encourage them to learn more about the important role they can play in protecting our waterways.”

RIVERFEST 2017 EVENT DETAILS:

When: Saturday, 12 August 2017

Time: 12.00pm to 4.00pm

Where: Duck River Picnic Area, Auburn Botanic Gardens, Chiswick Rd Auburn.

For more information or to book, visit: [OLR Riverfest2017.eventbrite.com.au](http://OLR_Riverfest2017.eventbrite.com.au)

On the day interview and photo opportunities:

- Mr Viv May, Administrator, Cumberland Council
Available to discuss Cumberland Council's Duck River masterplan.
- Clr Jerome Laxale, Chair of the PRCG
Available to discuss the role of the PRCG and mission to make Parramatta River swimmable again by 2025.
- West Tigers
Available for photo opportunities.

Additional ambassadors, spokespeople and ecology specialists available for interview upon request.

Parramatta River Catchment Group members include: Blacktown City Council, Burwood Council, City of Canada Bay, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Cumberland Council Sydney, The Hills Shire Council, Hunter's Hill Council, Inner West Council, City of Parramatta, City of Ryde, Strathfield Council, NSW Department of Planning & Environment, NSW EPA and Sydney Water.

- ENDS -

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