

Funding Confirmed for Women's Empowerment Activities

Published on 30 November 2017



(L-R) Streta Mrkic - Centrelink Multicultural Services, Clr Pederson, Jessica Mathews - Ryde District Mums, Adelaide Collinson - CCA, Melanie Fernandez - NCOSS, Uma Menon - CMRC

Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, announced today funding from Investing in Women NSW for a series of four women's empowerment activities.

The Mayor was speaking at a packed women's forum held at the West Ryde Community Centre to celebrate White Ribbon Day.

"This is great news that funding of nearly \$20,000 from the State Government for our Women's Empowerment Boot Camps Project has been successful," the Mayor said. "Grants allow us to plan and carry out events like today's Secure, Independent Women's Forum and the recent STEM Careers workshop in partnership with CSIRO.

"This is good for Ryde and good for women of all ages and life stages living in Ryde."

He also outlined details of future activities, including a Women in Leadership forum planned for International Women's Day in March 2018, and a Women in Small Business forum in May 2018.

Council has been a strong advocate of White Ribbon Day since 2008 and promotes gender equality through policies and activities. "Council believes that promoting gender equality and advancing the social, economic and political status of women of all cultures, ages and backgrounds are important strategies for the prevention of violence against women.

“There is clearly a relationship between gender equity and women’s security and Council plays an important leadership role of bringing people together, to facilitate information and making connections with service provider easier,” the Mayor said.

The Secure, Independent and Read for the Future forum brought together experts and service providers who develop and implement projects that support women. They included:

- Melanie Fernandez, Deputy CEO, NSW Council of Social Service NCOSS
- Cate Sinclair, Executive Officer The Northern Centre
- Streta Mrkic, Centrelink Multicultural Services Officer
- Adelaide Collinson, Christian Community Aid CCA
- Uma Menon, Community Migrant Resource Centre CMRC
- Jessica Mathews, Ryde District Mums

Clr Penny Pederson, Chair of the City of Ryde Women’s Advisory Committee who hosted the event said she was delighted at the response from State Agencies and local service providers and members of the community who made the forum such a success.

March To A Million Wins Top Library Marketing Award

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Ryde Library Services has won the prestigious Marketing Award for Public Libraries for its *March to a Million* promotion.

The Award recognises marketing excellence by a Council-operated public library servicing a community of over 100,000 residents and was announced at the annual conference of the NSW Public Libraries Association.

March to a Million was a three-month community awareness campaign promoting the services, collections and programs of the five City of Ryde libraries to achieve one million visitors in the 16/17 financial year.

The creative use of a distinctive red and white footprint logo, branded giveaways such as reusable coffee cups and cookies, marketing material and special promotions, saw the campaign exceed its goal with 1,017,089 recorded visitors and a significant increase in the use of services, collections and new memberships.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, congratulated staff on the promotion's success. "This was a well-conceived and cleverly executed campaign that achieved all its stated goals.

"Not only did our library services reach the magic million visits, public awareness of the value of the library and the extensive range of free services provided to the community also increased.

“Another added benefit was the pride it built in staff from the many positive responses received from members of the public.”

Why Ryde Library Service is one in a Million

Ryde Library Service has set a new record for attendances with more than one million visitors in the 2016/17 financial year. The milestone puts Ryde Library Service amongst an elite set of six NSW library services with a million visitors ranking.

The library service boasts some other impressive figures including nearly a million items borrowed annually, 97,000 loans of eBooks, eMagazines and eAudios, 1,800 programs and events, 63,000 event attendees and 160,000 information requests.

Five branches at Ryde, Eastwood, North Ryde, West Ryde and Gladesville caters to over 135,000 residents of the City of Ryde and Hunters Hill local government areas.

For more information, go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library

Thank You is Enough

Published on 17 November 2017



With the 'season of giving' almost upon us, the City of Ryde is promoting its no-gifts 'Thanks is Enough' policy as part of the Code of Conduct.

It is very important that our community understand that we provide services, give advice and make decisions that are ethical, honest and transparent.

The no-gifts policy demonstrates clearly that Council officials, both Councillors and staff, do not need or expect reward for the job they do. A simple 'thank you' from satisfied customer or supplier is all that is required.

We value our Community's appreciation, so instead of gifts you are welcome to thank us in writing by:

- **Emailing** cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au
- **Posting** to Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670
- **Calling** Customer Service on 9952 8222.

Secure, Independent & Ready Women's Forum for White Ribbon

Published on 13 November 2017



The City of Ryde Council is holding a *Secure, Independent and Ready* women's forum as part of its White Ribbon community awareness campaign. This free women's forum will be held at the West Ryde Community Hall, Anthony Road, on Wednesday 29 November from 9.00am – 12.30pm. Bookings are essential on www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/whatson

The key guest speaker is Melanie Fernandez from the NSW Council of Social Service who will address a range of security issues that impact on women of all ages and life stages. There will also be service provider information stalls and a Q&A panel to join in. Morning tea and a light lunch is provided.

The City of Ryde has been a proud supporter of the White Ribbon campaign for prevention of violence against women since 2008, playing a leadership role in highlighting the need for concerted community action.

Council is coordinating and supporting a number of White Ribbon activities across the Ryde LGA and surrounding areas in collaboration with the Ryde Hunters Hill Domestic Violence Committee and community. These activities include:

- 7 – 21 November: Domestic Violence Information Sessions with high schools conducted by Ryde Police:
 - 7 November, St Joseph's College Hunters Hill
 - 13 November, Cherrybrook Technology High School
 - 21 November, Mount St Benedict College

- Monday 13 November: Facing the Facts: Evening information session with presentations from experts and local services on domestic violence at Christ Church Gladesville. Open to all.
- Monday 20 November – 4 December: White Ribbon merchandise will be available at all City of Ryde Customer Service outlets, Libraries and the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.
- Saturday 25 November: Multi-lingual White Ribbon Day information stall in Eastwood Plaza providing prevention of violence information and translated community information.
- Wednesday 29 November: *Secure, Independent and Ready Women's Forum* – a seminar focusing on women's security includes guest speakers, information stalls, domestic violence and homeless support services for women.

Additional information about the White Ribbon campaign can be found at www.whiteribbon.org.au

By-Election For Bennelong

Published on 13 November 2017



The Speaker of the House of Representatives, The Hon. Tony Smith MP, announced today a by-election for Bennelong will be held on **Saturday, 16 December 2017** after the resignation of Mr John Alexander, OAM.

The current electorate of Bennelong encompasses the suburbs of Denistone, Denistone East, Epping, East Ryde, Eastwood, Macquarie Park, Marsfield, Meadowbank, Melrose Park, Putney, North Epping, North Ryde, Ryde, West Ryde and parts of Carlingford, Ermington and Gladesville, in the North Western suburbs of Sydney.

Rolls will close on Monday 20 November (for eligible residents to enrol to vote) and nominations close on Thursday 23 November. Polling locations to come.

For more information please visit the [Australian Electoral Commission](http://www.aec.gov.au) website.

Mayor Laxale Elected NSROC Vice President

Published on 10 November 2017



L-R Deputy Mayor Christopher Gordon, Mayor Jerome Laxale

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale is the new NSROC Vice President. He is the first Labor councillor to be elected to the position.

Lane Cove Mayor Pam Palmer was elected President and the co-Vice President is Cllr Scott Bennison, also of Lane Cove council. The election was held on Thursday 9 November, 2017.

Cllr Laxale said he was delighted to have been supported by fellow councillors from the region.

"I look forward to working with President Pam Palmer (Lane Cove), and co-Vice President Scott Bennison (Lane Cove) to strengthen NSROC and getting the best value for ratepayers across our region."

Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is comprised of eight councils in the northern part of Sydney that have voluntarily come together to address regional issues, work co-operatively for the benefit of the region and advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities.

The eight member councils of Hornsby, Hunter Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby work cooperatively across a range of functions with many projects and activities based on providing joint cost savings and efficiencies for the region.

Recent regional 'war on waste' collaborations of NSROC have resulted in the opening of a new state-of-the-art waste treatment facility in Goulburn, NSW and a new Northern Sydney Community Recycling Centre in Lane Cove.

For more information on NSROC go to www.nsroc.com.au

Customer Service Excellence

Published on 08 November 2017



Customer Service Excellence

The City of Ryde Customer Service Team, along with the Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, attended this year's annual Australian Service Awards last week when the City of Ryde was awarded a Highly Commended.

Part of Council's service to the community is to maintain a high response rate to customer requests. This year we extended trading hours at our Customer Service Centre at Top Ryde City and our online customer enquiry service to accommodate changing community work patterns.

A recent study revealed that Council's overall customer satisfaction score has increased by 6% this year to 83% for all services provided by the City of Ryde.

The Customer Service Centre takes more than 80,000 calls a year and resolves 79% of calls at first point of contact. The call centre also has a 4.85/5 courtesy rating.

2017 Spring Garden Competition Winners

Published on 03 November 2017



Winners of 2017 City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition were announced at a Gala Event last night (Thursday 2 November) at Eden Gardens, North Ryde.

Announcing the awards for the annual competition, City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said: "Our Spring Garden Competition is an annual hands-on community event that has stood the test of time for more than three decades.

"Gardening gurus of all ages get the chance to showcase their skills and the competition brings together people from all walks of life who share a common interest, a sense of pride in their community and a genuine desire to share their passion for gardening with others.

"While the creators of the most beautiful gardens and spaces were singled out for praise, the overall winners of the competition are the neighbours, visitors and passers-by who benefit so much."

The 12 categories attracted approximately 90 entries in a range of styles from dedicated solo efforts to family and community projects. The Small and Large Garden categories were the most hotly contested with the overall standard being particularly high, proving that there is no shortage of talented gardeners within our community.

The judging panel of Hazel King, Murray Hook, Vickie Lee and Michelle Greenfield all praised the passion and enthusiasm of the gardeners and commented on the high standard and presentation of all entries. Judge Murray Hook said: "The quality across

the categories was very strong, making our job difficult, but at the same time very enjoyable.”

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, SUEZ, Tumbleweed and Sam the Paving Man is greatly appreciated.

To see photos of the winning entries, visit the [2017 Spring Garden Competition](#) page.

2017 Spring Garden Competition Winners

Large Garden (sponsored by Eden Gardens)

1st place: Anne Johnson

2nd place: Frances Reddacliff

3rd place: Adam Laws

Commended: Colin Clark

Small Garden

1st place: Rae and Annalissa Roy

2nd place: Susan McErlane

3rd place: Margaret Feltham

Commended: Maggie Minassian

Courtyard/Balcony Garden

1st place: Adrienne Hick

2nd place: Annalissa Roy

3rd place: Sharon Wardle

Judges' Award: Natalie Hitchens

Edible Garden (sponsored by Tumbleweed)

1st place: Julie Jardine

2nd place: Cindy Elbourne-Binns

3rd place: Colin Clark

Commended: Margaret Mossakowska

Commended: Sally Bennett

Native and Habitat-friendly Garden

1st place: Pamela Reeves

2nd place: Kerri Gallagher

3rd place: Margaret Mossakowska

Commended: The Habitat

Children's Garden

1st place: Archie Seeto

2nd place: Aaron Pease

School Garden

1st place: Kent Road Public School

2nd place: West Ryde Public School

3rd place: Meadowbank Public School
Commended: Marist College Eastwood
Commended: Epping Boys High School
Commended: Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School

Pre-School Garden

1st place: North Ryde Community Pre-School
2nd place: Fit Kidz Learning Centre, Putney
3rd place: Explore & Develop, Epping Road

Community Garden

1st place: The Habitat
2nd place: Riding for the Disabled
3rd place: Macquarie University Community Garden Club
Commended: Royal Rehab

Commercial Garden (sponsored by SUEZ)

1st place: Living Choice – Leisure Lea Gardens
2nd place: Brush Park Bowling Club
3rd place: Goodman (Jamie Flewitt)
Commended: Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens

Bushcare Site

1st place: Martin Reserve Bushcare Site
2nd place: Kennedy Street, Gladesville
3rd place: Friends of Lane Cove National Park

Children's Seed Growing Competition

3 – 7 years of age

1st place: Rosalie Tang
2nd place: Evelyn Tang
3rd place: Imogen Rizk
Highly Commended: Tobias Aylett

8 – 11 years of age

1st place: Jayden Rizk
2nd place: Tanisha Chari
3rd place: Aaron Pease

12 – 16 years of age

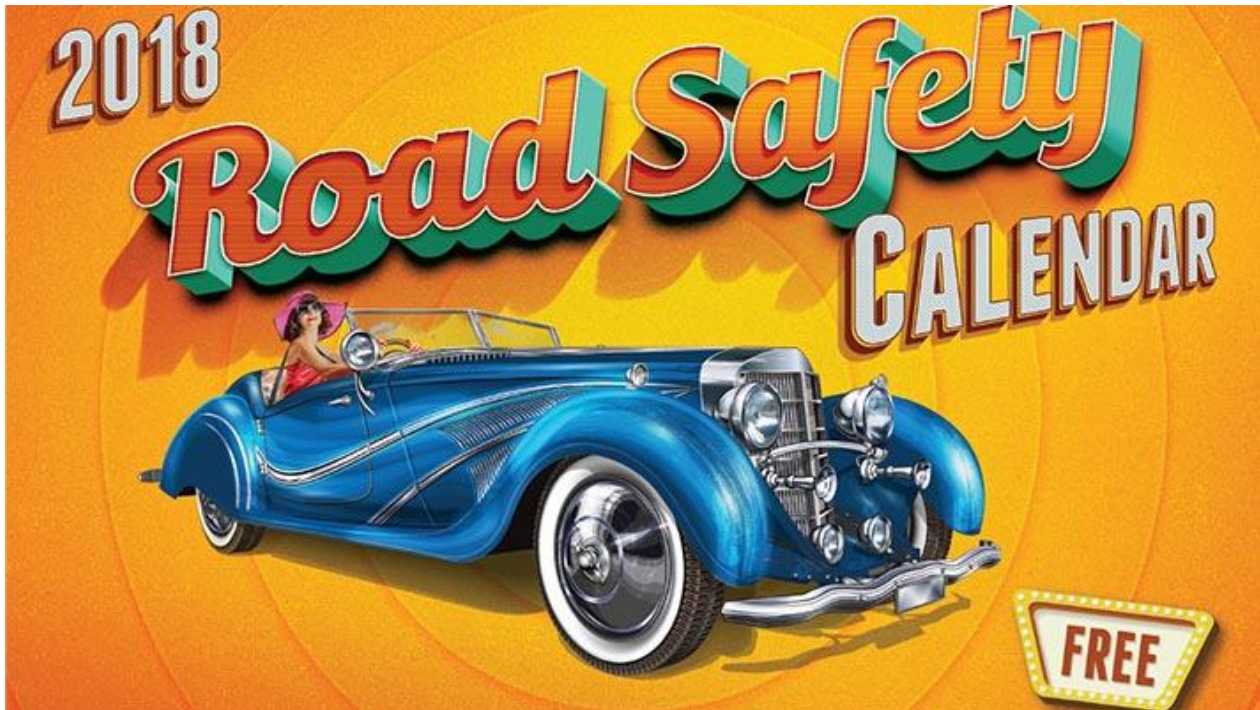
1st place: Trisna Chari

Best Decorated Pot

1st place: Charlotte Judd
2nd place: Hailey Judd
3rd place: Cooper Elsworth

Council's Road Safety Calendar Message - "It's Easy As"

Published on 03 November 2017



A group of northern Sydney councils have unveiled a new road safety calendar using a blend of retro images and humour to convey some serious safety messages.

The 2018 calendar brings a fresh and stylish approach to explaining road safety rules in a way that will end forever those dinner party arguments.

The calendar also lifts the lid on impact speed/braking times for wet and dry conditions that will make you sit up and take notice. Plus, there's a definitive explanation of mobile phone use and emergency contact numbers.

Month-by-month topics covered are:

- January - Roundabouts
- February - Sharing the road
- March - Inside car safety
- April - Truckies' wish list
- May - No parking
- June - Life in the bus lane
- July - Floodwater dangers
- August - Shared pathways
- September - Merging
- October - Driveway safety
- November - Distracted pedestrians
- December - Buckle up your precious cargo

City of Ryde Road Safety Officer, Lisa Pears, said: “Using humour is a powerful way to engage with an audience. We saw how people responded to this approach last year when copies of the 2017 calendar were snatched up by the public.

“Rather than telling people what they should and should not be doing, or attempting to scare them with statistics and gory details of dangerous actions, this campaign encourages people to modify their behaviour through the use of humour, style and old fashion courtesy”.

So, let’s be ‘nice’ and help reduce agro on the roads by being more tolerant and observing the rules.

The annual Road Safety Calendar is a collaboration of Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Northern Beaches, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby Councils. It is available FREE for road users of all ages from Council Libraries, Customer Service and various community locations. Contact your local Council for details.