

First “Mayor’s Morning Tea” for 2018 a Success

Published on 26 February 2018



The first Mayor’s Morning Tea for 2018 has been held, with residents making their way to Eastwood Park last Saturday to speak to City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, and other Councillors.

The Mayor’s Morning Tea will be a regular fixture in the community throughout the year, providing people with an avenue to discuss major issues impacting the community direct with the Mayor and Councillors.

It is one of several initiatives planned as part of efforts to mobilise the Mayor’s office in order to engage with as many people within the community as possible.

“It was a pleasure to speak to so many residents on the weekend and it is clear from the conversations I had at the Mayor’s Morning Tea that many hold concerns about a range of issues. This includes addressing overdevelopment, upgrading footpaths and protecting our outdoor recreational space,” Cllr Laxale said.

“I now plan to get to work with my fellow councillors and the staff at the City of Ryde on developing solutions to overcome these issues in the most efficient and considered way possible.

“My aim during my term as mayor is to hear from as many people as possible. We will be holding more Morning Tea’s across the City and I hope to help more residents at these events in future.”

Aside from providing a forum to speak directly to the Mayor and Councillors, the Mayor’s Morning Tea also has entertainment for children including free face painting, a jumping castle and some healthy snacks, while a coffee van is also on site for the adults.

Story Box launching in March!

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City of Ryde library members will soon have access to almost 200 story books online, with the launch of the Story Box online database.

Suitable for children aged between 1 and 10 years of age, Story Box offers some of the most popular children's stories online that are read by celebrity storytellers.

Each story includes audio, visuals and closed captions to cater for everyone's needs.

All City of Ryde library members can easily access Story Box from the Ryde Library Online Library webpage on their choice of device by simply logging on to the service and providing their membership details.

Story Box will be launched by City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, at Ryde Library on Tuesday 13 March.

"Access to Story Box is just another added benefit for City of Ryde library members, and complements the regular story time sessions held by providing members access to popular children's stories at any time of the day in any location," Cllr Laxale said.

"I hope all young library members can take advantage of this fun and interactive service."

For more information on Story Box, visit www.storyboxlibrary.com.au.

Ryde Lights to Light up Eastwood this Saturday

Published on 19 February 2018

The next phase of the exciting [Ryde Lights](#) initiative will be launched this Saturday from 4 pm at Eastwood Night Markets as part of the [Lunar New Year Celebrations](#).

The display will light up Eastwood Plaza at sunset with a special Lunar New Year installation that includes 800 illuminated red lanterns. The lights will be turned on at 8pm on Saturday 24 February.

[Ryde Lights](#) is a key component of Council's Night Time Economy Action Plan and is designed to enhance the night time economy in the City of Ryde through the installation of creative lighting displays throughout the community.

The lighting installed at Eastwood Plaza is the latest phase of the initiative with the first phase unveiled in Trim Place at Gladesville in December last year. Additional instalments are planned for ANZAC Park in West Ryde during April's Cinema in the Park series and Meadowbank Wharf by the middle of the year.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Ryde Lights initiative was a direct response to the community's clear desire for creative lighting to be installed as a way of activating spaces at night.

"The City of Ryde is determined to do more to enhance the night time economy throughout the community. Vibrant night time activities can enhance economic growth, create jobs and build community cohesion," Cllr Laxale said.

"Initiatives such as Ryde Lights are only the first stage of the Night Time Economy Action Plan, with Council keen to pursue policies that will make it easier for local businesses to become involved in the night time economy."

It is anticipated the Ryde Lights installations will remain in place until 2020.

Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre Water Quality Safe

Published on 17 February 2018

A story was published in Saturday's Daily Telegraph (17 Feb 2018) in relation to water quality at 5 public swimming pool locations including the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.

Council would like to assure our customers that the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre is open for business and is safe for the community to use.

Council categorically refutes the Daily Telegraph's bacteria reading (Heterotrophic Plate Count) that has been quoted in the article and we are dubious that all 5 Aquatic Centres could record similarly high readings. In addition, Council has also made contact with the other Aquatic Centres this morning who also refute the results.

The Daily Telegraph has failed to provide Council information regarding its testing procedure including methodology, when and where it took place and how the samples were collected and transported for testing, to assist Council in determining how such a varied test result for the heterotrophic count was reportedly established. In addition, Council has not been provided with or given the opportunity to view the official laboratory results.

Council continuously upholds water quality requirements and rigorously conducts water tests. All Council records are compliant with Public Health requirements.

Council has a robust methodology of monitoring water quality at Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre which includes a raft of regular and comprehensive testing to ensure the water quality is of a standard that does not pose any risk to users of the facility.

This testing of the water quality includes regular independent assessment by the NSW Government's Health Department and for a number of years has consistently returned results that comply with relevant water quality criteria of the Public Swimming Pool and Spa Pool Advisory Document, Health Protection NSW. The most recent independent test undertaken of the pools at the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre found a heterotrophic colony count to comply with the standards set by NSW Health.

Elouera Reserve Grand Opening Celebration

Published on 13 February 2018



The City of Ryde celebrated the upgrade of the Elouera Reserve on **Tuesday 6 February 2018**.

The park has been transformed with a new state-of-the-art playground, a barbeque facility and several modern amenities for people of all ages to enjoy.

Check out the video below on the Grand Opening Celebration!

City of Ryde and The Smith Family reach Milestone

Published on 12 February 2018

The City of Ryde and The Smith Family have reached a key milestone in their ongoing relationship, with more than one million kilograms of material donated via charity clothing bins located in the city.

The one million kilograms was donated over a period of seven years since the City of Ryde entered into an agreement with The Smith Family to be the supplier of charity clothing bins on Council-owned property.

There are 30 charity clothing bins located in the City of Ryde, with the agreement crucially allowing The Smith Family to track the volume of material it collects and subsequently reuses.

Recognising the milestone, Peter Lombardo, Operations Manager at The Smith Family, thanked the entire City of Ryde community for its generosity.

“Contributions to the clothing bins from residents in the City of Ryde greatly assist The Smith Family by generating cost efficiencies,” Mr Lombardo said.

“The proceeds we make from the sale of clothing donations help to keep our administration costs as low as possible. This ensures that the majority of funds raised through donations from supporters can be spent directly on educational programs for disadvantaged students.”

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Council would continue to support the great work The Smith Family was undertaking to help young Australians in need with their education.

“City of Ryde residents have always been known for their generosity and this significant milestone of one million kilograms of material being donated just proves that,” Cllr Laxale said.

“We will continue to work closely with The Smith Family to grow our partnership even further and help the charity continue to break the cycle of disadvantage for young people that are most in need.”

The Smith Family will make a special presentation to the City of Ryde at the Council Chambers during the Council meeting on Tuesday 27 February.

For specific locations of The Smith Family clothing bins visit the [Clothing Bins](#) page.

City of Ryde Council Appoints New General Manager

Published on 07 February 2018

The City of Ryde has appointed George Dedes as its new General Manager.

Mr Dedes has more than 25 years of experience in senior public service at both local and state government levels. He has worked with the City of Ryde since 1999 and has most recently served as Council's Acting General Manager.

Mr Dedes' appointment was unanimously endorsed by Council following an extensive recruitment process.

His appointment will bring about stability to the City of Ryde which has had three different General Managers in the space of two years since the drawn out council mergers issue began. Promoting internally will also ensure continuity for Council and its operations.

During his time as Acting General Manager, Mr Dedes has demonstrated that he is the perfect fit to lead the operations of the City of Ryde and oversee key projects that are planned for 2018 and beyond.

In addition, Mr Dedes' leadership, communication and service delivery skills have strengthened the commercial focus of Council, improving service delivery for the Ryde community in an environment of continuous change.

Mr Dedes will commence the role of General Manager effective immediately.

Council Seeks Assurances around Funding for Eastwood Upgrades

Published on 05 February 2018

Following two council resolutions in 2017, the City of Ryde has sought an update about the status of a \$25 million grant pledged last October by Member for Ryde, the Hon. Victor Dominello, to build a new commuter car park and install sets of signalised pedestrian lights in Eastwood as part of the NSW Government's Transport Access Plan Grants program.

Council is still awaiting the details regarding the security of the funding since the October announcement. To date, Council has not received any of the funding and confusion surrounds what the grant can, and cannot, be used for.

Council has strongly supported the installation of traffic signals throughout the traffic network in Eastwood, having made multiple applications since 2009. Council remains reliant on the NSW Government funding and approvals to begin preliminary work on this project. Given Mr Dominello's public announcements, Council is also seeking confirmation that the proposed grant can be used for pedestrian lights. To date, no such confirmation has been received.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, met with a representative of Mr Dominello's office and staff from Transport for NSW last week to seek assurances that the grant funding had been approved, what the grant can be used for and when Council would likely receive the funding. Despite Mr Dominello setting the meeting time and place, he did not attend.

"Council requested the meeting because we have not received any further information about its specifics," Cllr Laxale said.

"Furthermore, the promises made verbally and in the local press by Mr Dominello, do not match what has been conveyed by Transport for NSW officials."

"Our residents and business owners deserve clarity on this promise. What is it for, and when will it be delivered? Once the Council has that, we will be in a much better position to finalise our preferred sites for pedestrian lights and increased parking

"Despite Mr Dominello's absence, I believe that the meeting finished on a positive note with Transport for NSW and ministerial staffers making a commitment to provide all the information requested by Council in writing."

Council will continue to proceed with the Comprehensive Traffic and Parking Study of Eastwood and surrounds, passed unanimously by all Councillors on 24 October 2017. The study is due to report back to Council in the first half of 2018.