

Ryde supports the Uluru Statement from the Heart

Published on 31 August 2018

The City of Ryde has supported the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which calls for the establishment of a "First Nations Voice" to be enshrined in the Constitution of Australia.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart was delivered at the First Nations National Constitutional Convention in May 2017 in which more than 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from around Australia met to discuss constitutional reform.

The statement calls for a constitutionally enshrined "First Nations Voice". This would see the creation of a new representative body within the Federal Parliament to advise on matters affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, while a Makarrata Commission would lay the foundation for a Treaty between federal and state governments and the First Nations. Makarrata is a Yolngu word describing a process of conflict resolution and justice.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said he was proud to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart on behalf of Council and the entire Ryde community.

"The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a passionate, heart-felt and conciliatory piece of work that proposes proper recognition for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, that many would argue is long overdue," Cllr Laxale said.

"The last sentence of the statement states: 'we invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future'. By supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Ryde community is making a commitment to help ensure that this better future will ultimately be achieved for all Australians."

The motion to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart was put forward by City of Ryde Deputy Mayor, Cllr Christopher Gordon.

"With the approximate location of the grave of one of the most significant Aboriginal figures in history - Woollarawarre Bennelong - recently identified in Putney, the City of Ryde has an obligation of honouring this man and the ancient history of this land," Cllr Gordon said.

"The Uluru Statement from the Heart shows we not only support the establishment of a 'First Nations Voice' to be enshrined in the Constitution of Australia, but also a future in which the rights and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are appropriately reflected."

In supporting the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the City of Ryde will also submit a motion for Local Government NSW to consider at the organisation's next conference in October.

Slap on a sticker so motorists slow down in our streets

Published on 29 August 2018

The City of Ryde has created a new eye-catching sticker to remind motorists to slow down and help keep residential streets safe.

Residents can order a free 'Slow down in our street' sticker, which are to be placed on their residential Council wheelie bins and made visible to oncoming traffic.

The stickers are A4 size and made from UV and weather-resistant reflective vinyl which is also easily visible at night.

Speed is one of the key factors in motor vehicle accidents within the City of Ryde. Data from Roads and Maritime Services shows that speed was a factor in about seven per cent of motor vehicle accidents in 2016.

The likelihood of being in a crash, resulting in a serious casualty, rises significantly with even minor changes in travelling speed. Australian research shows that the risk of a serious casualty crash doubles with just a 5 km/h speed increase on 60 km/h urban roads.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the stickers would serve as a timely reminder to motorists to reduce their speed when driving through residential areas.

"It is imperative that as a Council we do all that we can to try and encourage motorists to slow down and observe the speed limit," Cllr Laxale said.

"The stickers we have made are very eye-catching and will provide a real-time reminder to motorists to reduce their speed, complementing the many other traffic calming measures Council has recently taken.

"I encourage all residents to order a sticker and slap it on their wheelie bins as a message to motorists to slow down in our streets."

Residents can order the new sticker by visiting the [Slow Down in Our Street page](#).

The new bin stickers are available for free to all City of Ryde residents. There is a limit of one sticker per household.

City of Ryde pays tribute to Roy Newsome

Published on 29 August 2018



The City of Ryde has paid tribute to Roy Newsome, who will retire from Council at the end of the month.

Mr Newsome has worked at the City of Ryde as Director Corporate Services since 2001, and has more than 40 years' experience in local government having previously worked at Burwood and Liverpool councils.

During his time at Ryde, Mr Newsome has been responsible for Council's finances, auditing requirements, information technology, procurement policies and human resources. He has also been responsible for introducing and managing robust governance frameworks for the entire organisation.

On two occasions Mr Newsome also served as Acting General Manager between August 2013 – August 2014 and May 2016 – May 2017.

During his time as Acting General Manager, Mr Newsome was required to lead Council through a number of major developments. This includes the NSW Government's proposed council merger, in which Mr Newsome was required to ensure day-to-day operations continued to be delivered at a high standard while also undertaking what was necessary to plan for the merger.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Mr Newsome was deeply respected by all of his work colleagues and all members of the Ryde community that interacted with him.

“People of Roy’s calibre, dedication and knowledge do not come around too often. His understanding of local government and governance principles is second to none,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Through his tenure Roy has steered the Council through some of its most challenging periods and has also introduced internal procedures to the organisation that are viewed by many to be the gold standard for local government – a legacy that has put Ryde on a solid footing for years to come.”

City of Ryde General Manager George Dedes also paid tribute to Mr Newsome.

“Roy will be sorely missed by all at the City of Ryde. He is a valued colleague whose counsel is regularly sought from all areas of the organisation,” Mr Dedes said.

“On behalf of everyone at the City of Ryde, we wish him the best in retirement.”

Fabulous family theatre at Top Ryde starts this week

Published on 28 August 2018

Over the first two weekends of September the talented teenagers from the Ryde Youth Theatre will produce their first play for young children and families in the Underground performance space at Westward Cottage in Top Ryde.

Written by 17-year-old Dylan Pitt, *All The Good Superhero Names Are Taken*, is a funny, original and local take on a superhero story. The play focuses on Virgil and Verona, a brother and sister who blow up their school science project and accidentally give themselves superpowers. It seems like a fabulous situation until media celebrity, jealousy and sibling rivalry threaten to bring disaster to Sydney.

The production combines live actors with ingenious shadow puppets designed by 15-year-old Ava Princi, to create an exciting, action-packed experience in this tiny theatre. Shadow puppets are an ancient and compelling way to tell fantasy stories. Ryde Youth Theatre has used them to tremendous effect in previous productions including a very well received play for children staged at the Ryde Library in 2014.

All The Good Superhero Names Are Taken is an ideal way to introduce children as young as six to the magic and imagination of live theatre. The play is designed by young people to speak directly to what children are interested in, with a sense of humour adults will enjoy. With a running time of approximately 45 minutes it's a short, funny superhero story set here in Sydney with bin chickens, Youtube dare-devils and a particularly dramatic appearance by the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

At only \$6 for all tickets, at Westward Cottage, a short walk up the hill from Top Ryde Shopping Centre, this is a great outing for families to do on the weekend.

PERFORMANCE DATES AND TIMES

- Saturday, 1 September, 11am and 2pm
- Sunday, 2 September, 11am and 2pm
- Saturday, 8 September, 11am and 2pm
- Saturday, 9 September, 11am and 2pm

Tickets are \$6. Purchase your tickets online.

Performances will be held at The Underground at Westward Cottage, 8 Turner St, Ryde.

For more information please contact Ryde Youth Theatre Artistic Director, Suzanne Hauser, ryt@ryde.nsw.gov.au 0410 353 118.

Pledge your support for the Renew Our Libraries Campaign

Published on 27 August 2018

The City of Ryde has joined other local governments in NSW to call for a doubling in State Government funding to resolve a shortfall that threatens the long-term viability of local public libraries.

The 'Renew Our Libraries' campaign is a major grassroots push to deliver a sustainable funding model after the NSW Government reduced funding in its recent Budget.

"Every year local councils like Ryde contribute more than \$314 million to support over 360 libraries while the NSW Government provides just \$23.5 million in recurrent funding, and its time the NSW Government paid its fair share," City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said.

"This is an unfair burden for Ryde to shoulder. At around 7.8% of total funding, the NSW contribution to libraries is the lowest in Australia, far behind Victoria (18%) and Queensland (12%) – it's time the NSW Government paid its fair share."

Members of the community who want to support the 'Renew Our Libraries' campaign can become involved by signing a petition at www.renewourlibraries.com.au

Sign the petition

Since the campaign was launched, the NSW Government has committed a further \$60 million to NSW public libraries. While this is welcomed, more needs to be done particularly around the current funding model.

'Renew Our Libraries' arose from the 2017 Local Government NSW Conference, where NSW councils unanimously resolved to advocate for improved NSW Government funding to enable public libraries to meet the growing needs of local communities and to raise public awareness of the multiple roles public libraries play in supporting the educational, social, cultural and economic outcomes in local communities.

Council's Art Collection now on Public Display

Published on 23 August 2018

Local art lovers will be able to view a selection of the City of Ryde's extensive collection of artworks which are now on display permanently across Council's premises.

The City of Ryde art collection consists of 182 works acquired predominantly by Council over the past 60 years at local art exhibitions, including the City of Ryde Art Society Ryde Art Awards.

The vast majority of artworks had been kept in storage and away from the public for several years, before a decision was made by City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, to put them on display at various locations, including Council offices on Pope Street, the North Ryde office and Council libraries.

Included in the collection are works by locally renowned artists and members of the Ryde Art Society Helen Goldsmith, Marion Stroud and Ailsa Pat Smyth.

There is also the antique print Homebush – Waratah Railway – Views of the First section by Arthur Collingridge which was produced around 1886. Mr Collingridge immigrated to Australia from the United Kingdom in 1877 and settled with his family in Ryde. He died in 1907 and is buried in the Field of Mars Cemetery.

In addition there is also a work in the collection from 1964 by well-known graphic artist and painter Henry Salkauskas.

Cllr Laxale hoped the public would appreciate the collection of artworks now on display.

"Putting these artworks on display does not only improve the aesthetics of our Council facilities, but also showcases the tremendous talent of our local artistic community, both past and present," Cllr Laxale said.

"Credit must go to Deputy Mayor, Cllr Christopher Gordon, for overseeing the project and helping ensure our artworks are now available for the entire community to view."

Cllr Gordon said the City of Ryde art collection was made up of a vast array of paintings, drawings and photographs, including many works that focused on Ryde's historic buildings and landscape views.

"Viewing this extensive collection gives you an understanding of how talented and vibrant the local arts community is here in the City of Ryde, and hopefully by putting these works on display it will encourage more people to show an interest in the arts," Cllr Gordon said.

Due to space constraints, only a selection of artworks will be on display at any one time, but will be regularly rotated.

Consultation begins on short stay car park in Eastwood

Published on 22 August 2018



Design for 53-71 Rowe Street, Eastwood, may be subject to change

Members of the community are being encouraged to take part in the City of Ryde's consultation for the new short stay car park in Eastwood, which will address chronic parking shortages for shoppers in the area and help boost the local economy.

The consultation process begins today with residents, visitors and businesses in Eastwood invited to provide feedback by completing an online survey, which is available in English, Chinese and Korean.

The survey asks visitors and residents to detail their purposes for visiting Eastwood town centre, their accessibility needs and how they normally travel to Eastwood, while businesses are asked about the needs of their business and customers. Respondents will also be asked to provide comment on the proposed design concepts for the new short stay car park.

The City of Ryde has committed to build a new multi-storey short stay car park on the current car park site at 53-71 Rowe Street, Eastwood.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, urged everyone in the local community to take part in the consultation process.

"The feedback we receive during this consultation process will ensure that its implementation is designed to benefit everyone in Eastwood, and to ensure Council

delivers on its promise to bring shoppers back to Eastwood and revitalise the local economy,” Cllr Laxale said.

“This new short stay car park will be the biggest increase in public parking spaces in Eastwood in nearly 50 years. As a local resident, I know that providing parking in Eastwood is essential as the lack of short stay parking is hurting local businesses and the town centre.”

In addition to the online survey, the City of Ryde will also engage with Eastwood business groups as part of the consultation process on the short stay car park.

All feedback on the new short stay car park must be received by Sunday 23 September 2018.

The online survey is available at the [Have Your Say website](#).

Cork and Fork Festival hailed a huge success

Published on 21 August 2018



A last minute venue change did not keep the crowd away from Sunday's Cork and Fork Festival, with more than 5000 people attending the City of Ryde event in Putney.

High winds forced the Cork and Fork Festival to be moved from Kissing Point Park to nearby Cleves Park late on Saturday.

But the new venue proved to be just as popular with festival-goers, who spent the day sampling terrific food and beverages from across more than 50 stalls.

The large crowd was also kept entertained with great musical acts playing throughout the day, while kids enjoyed pony rides and other fun activities. A cooking demonstration from 'My Kitchen Rules' stars Josh and Nic also proved extremely popular.

Those in attendance also dug deep throughout the day, donating \$2220 to the City of Ryde's fundraising appeal to assist NSW farmers impacted by the drought.

Last week, Council unanimously resolved to undertake the fundraising appeal which will utilise the charity Rural Aid and its 'Buy A Bale' initiative. Council has already donated \$20,000 to kick-start the appeal.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, thanked the local community for supporting the Cork and Fork Festival.

“We are so lucky here in the City of Ryde that we are able to stage such a successful gourmet food and wine festival that is quickly grabbing the attention of people from around Sydney, as was seen with the large number of people who attended Sunday from outside the local area,” Clr Laxale said.

“While the tasty gourmet food on offer was a highlight it was also great to have the chance to listen to so many up and coming local artists perform on the main stage, and also raise vital funds for our farmers who are doing it tough due to the drought in NSW.”

Cork and Fork Committee Chair Clr Roy Maggio said: “On behalf of my fellow committee members and the events team at the City of Ryde, we are delighted that so many of the community came out and enjoyed such a successful event.

“We look forward to seeing you all at an even bigger and better Cork and Fork Festival next year.”

2018 IFAC HANDA Australian Singing Competition Finals Concert

Published on 17 August 2018



City of Ryde resident and finalist: Tristan Entwistle

On Saturday 11 August eleven Semi Finalists performed in front of an impressive judging panel including Linnhe Robertson (National Adjudicator), Michael Halliwell, Anthony Hunt and Noemi Nadelmann to secure only five places in the 2018 Australian Singing Competition Finals Concert that will be held on Saturday 8 September at Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The five finalists, including City of Ryde resident Tristan Entwistle, will now go through to the Finals Concert at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

The Australian Singing Competition is open to singers under the age of 26 and offers a number of career-building awards making it Australasia's premier competition for young opera and classical singers.

For more information visit www.aussing.org

City of Ryde to raise funds for NSW farmers impacted by drought

Published on 16 August 2018



The City of Ryde is urging the local community to dig deep and help NSW farmers and rural communities living in severely drought-affected regions.

At its Extraordinary Meeting in August, Council unanimously resolved to undertake a community fundraising appeal in support of NSW farmers utilising the charity Rural Aid and its 'Buy A Bale' initiative.

The 'Buy A Bale' initiative delivers hay and other essential items to farmers who have no feed left for their livestock.

People can donate by visiting the City of Ryde sponsorship page on the 'Buy A Bale' website.

DONATE NOW

They can also donate at special donation collection buckets which are in place at Council's Customer Service Centre, libraries and the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre.

To kick-start the appeal, Council has pledged to donate \$20,000. An additional \$2,220 was also raised through specific donations and sale of Love Bite soft drinks at the recent Cork and Fork Festival.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, urged residents and businesses to rally together and show their support for drought-affected farmers in NSW.

“Most residents would have seen through the media – or may even know someone living in a rural area – to understand just how damaging this drought has been on farmer’s livelihoods and wellbeing,” Clr Laxale said.

“As has been seen with previous fundraising efforts, the Ryde community is extremely generous to people in need and I am sure everyone will get behind the ‘Buy A Bale’ fundraising effort and raise much needed funds for drought relief.”

The fundraising effort was put forward as a Matter of Urgency by Clr Penny Pedersen.

“If you do see one of our collection buckets around the community or are attending one of our upcoming events I encourage you to dig deep so we can all join together and do everything we can to help our farmers in their time of need,” Clr Pedersen said.

The move by Council to help raise money for drought relief comes after all of NSW was declared drought-affected last week, with some areas recording their driest 18-month period since records began in 1900.

The fundraising effort will run until the completion of this year’s Granny Smith Festival on 20 October, where it will be revealed exactly how much Council and the local community has raised.

Ryde calls on Premier to cool down on development rather than business at M

Published on 13 August 2018

The City of Ryde has hit back at claims by the NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian that Macquarie Park is not cool enough to attract young technology entrepreneurs.

When announcing a taskforce to develop a new tech precinct near Central railway station last week, Ms Berejiklian was asked why the NSW Government would fund a new precinct when Macquarie Park already existed. In response, Ms Berejiklian said young, tech-savvy people “want to work somewhere cool”.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, refuted the claims, pointing to Macquarie Park’s phenomenal growth in recent years.

Macquarie Park employs more than 62,000 people, is growing at an average of 6.8% and generates \$9.8 billion in gross domestic product. It is home to major multinationals such as Microsoft, Panasonic, Astra-Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson and is due to have a further \$7 billion worth of private and public funding invested in the park over the next decade.

In addition, Macquarie Park recently became home to the Australian headquarters for the globally-recognised Venture Café organisation, which will provide a network for some of the sharpest and brightest minds to come together and drive innovation.

“Macquarie Park employs people, it educates people, and it entertains people. With its close relationship with Macquarie University and through the work of the Macquarie Park Innovation District it has also become a hub for innovation and new start-ups, attracting some of the best new talent to the area,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Ms Berejiklian is by all means welcome to go and announce new business parks, but she should not trash Macquarie Park, which has been responsible for so much of the state’s growth in recent years.

“What is certainly not cool is how Ms Berejiklian’s Government has imposed residential priority precincts in Macquarie Park and is also currently reviewing the rest of the park which may impose even more residential developments in the City of Ryde.”

Construction begins for new skate and scooter park in Meadowbank

Published on 01 August 2018



The City of Ryde's skate and scooter park – known as the Ryde Outdoor Youth and Family Recreation Space - is one step closer with construction commencing on the new facility this week at Meadowbank Park. Key features at the state-of-the-art recreation space will include:

- Skate and scooter play facilities to suit all ages and skill levels
- Competition deep skate bowl
- Picnic and shelter facilities
- Landscape works and controlled lighting
- New connecting footpaths

The facility will be located at the northern end of Meadowbank Park near Constitution Road West.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the \$2.5 million scooter and skate park will benefit the whole community.

"The new skate and scooter park delivers on Council's commitment to deliver more recreational outdoor spaces for everyone. It will have fun and safe facilities for children of all ages and abilities, while there will also be alfresco and seating areas for the adults to utilise," Clr Laxale said.

"I am proud to lead a Council that achieves outcomes that previous Council's in Ryde could not. Twenty years after this facility was first promised, work has now commenced which will finally make the scooter and skate park a reality.

"I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for supporting this new skate and scooter park, particularly Councillor Roy Maggio who has been a proponent of it for a number of years.

"A huge thanks must also go to the Skate Park Working Group which has been advocating for this open space for some time and helped in shaping its final design and key features."

The Ryde Outdoor Youth and Family Recreation Space is expected to be completed and opened to the public by March next year, weather permitting.

The opening of the facility will be celebrated with a free skateboard clinic and competition.

Facebook Competition: The Grape Escape

Published on 01 August 2018



In celebration of our upcoming [Cork & Fork By The Riverside festival](#), we are offering the chance to win a gourmet wine-tasting escape in the Blue Mountains for 4 people with [Dryridge Estate](#).

The winning entry will receive a voucher for:

- Wine tasting at the gorgeous cellar door at Dryridge Estate in the stunning Megalong Valley
- Ploughman's lunch for 4 people
- A bottle of wine to take home.

Comment on our Facebook post and tell us in 25 words or less what you're most looking forward to at our Cork & Fork festival to be in with the chance to win.

The competition closes at 11.59pm AEDT on Wednesday 8 August 2018. Terms and conditions apply - visit our Facebook page for more.

[**Click here to find out more and to enter**](#)

Your City - Winter 2018

Published on 01 August 2018

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View the full newsletter: [Your City - Winter 2018](#)

Outcomes from Council Meeting 24 July 2018

Published on 01 August 2018

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 24 July 2018. Here is a summary of the main outcomes from the meeting:

NEW PUBLIC CAR PARK TO BE BUILT IN EASTWOOD

A new multi-storey car park will be built in Eastwood that will address chronic parking shortages for shoppers in the area and help boost the local economy.

The short stay car park will have up to 200 parking spots and will be built at the current site of the Rowe Street East car park.

Council unanimously resolved to fund the preparation of a preferred design for the new car park as well as a consultation process with the local Eastwood business and residential community.

[Click here for more information](#)

CITY OF RYDE DIVESTING FROM FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS

The City of Ryde is following through on its commitment to reduce its fossil fuel investments, with the value of Council's investments in non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions increasing by 27% in just six months.

Between January and June this year the value of Council investments in non-fossil aligned financial institutions increased from \$50.5 million to \$64.2 million. The percentage of Council's overall portfolio invested in non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions is now 30.6%, up from 24.5% in January.

The increase in investment in non-fossil aligned financial institutions coincided with a strong performance for Council's investment portfolio, with returns well above the benchmark up until the end of June.

In November last year, Council resolved to divest its term portfolio from all fossil fuel aligned financial institutions – such as oil, coal and gas companies – as a way of helping tackle climate change and protecting the environment.

[Click here for more information](#)

TRIBUTE TO LOCAL GIRL AT NORTH RYDE COMMON

A plaque will be installed at the North Ryde Common in memory of Amity Rogers, who passed away due to a highly aggressive brain tumour at the age of six. North Ryde Common was one of Amity's favourite places to spend time with her family.

PLAYGROUND PANEL TO HAVE SAY ON DELIVERY OF FUTURE PLAYGROUNDS

The Mayor's Playground Panel will be included in the consultation process for the delivery of playgrounds through 2018/19 and the scheduled review of the Children's Play Implementation Plan.

Council also resolved to ensure that all future playgrounds in the City of Ryde will have inclusive elements, following a recommendation from the panel. In addition, the panel, along with Council staff, will suggest modifications that can be made to existing playgrounds to make them more inclusive.

REPORT TO LOOK AT SOLAR POWER IN THE CITY OF RYDE

A report will be produced on how the City of Ryde is encouraging the uptake of solar hot water, heat pump water heaters and solar photo-voltaic systems in the local community.

The report will consider current and emerging technologies in the renewable energy sector and whether they can lead to electricity costs' savings. The report will also detail the value of preparing an online package of information and education material aimed at assisting residents in selecting suitable solar power systems.

The report will be provided to the Renewable Energy Advisory Committee in December prior to being submitted to Council.

SPEED CUSHIONS AUDIT TO BE UNDERTAKEN

Council will conduct an audit of rubber speed cushions throughout the City of Ryde and provide a report on their effectiveness as a traffic calming device. If required, the audit will recommend ways to increase the effectiveness of rubber speed cushions.

PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE BATTLE OF HAMEL

A plaque will be installed at Gladesville's Monash Park to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Hamel. In the Battle of Hamel, Australian and US troops – led by Lieutenant General John Monash – broke the German line in northern France and represented a significant reverse for the German forces.

RYDE GETS BEHIND NEW LIBRARY FUNDING CAMPAIGN

Council resolved to endorse the NSW Public Libraries Association and Local Government NSW library funding advocacy initiative, 'Renew Our Libraries'. The initiative will be rolled out over the next eight months to convince the NSW Government that without more funding, public libraries may need to reduce the services they provide.

The 'Renew Our Libraries' initiative comes after the NSW Government cut library funding by 5% in the 2018/19 state budget.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 August.