

# Bus shelters or open art gallery? You decide!

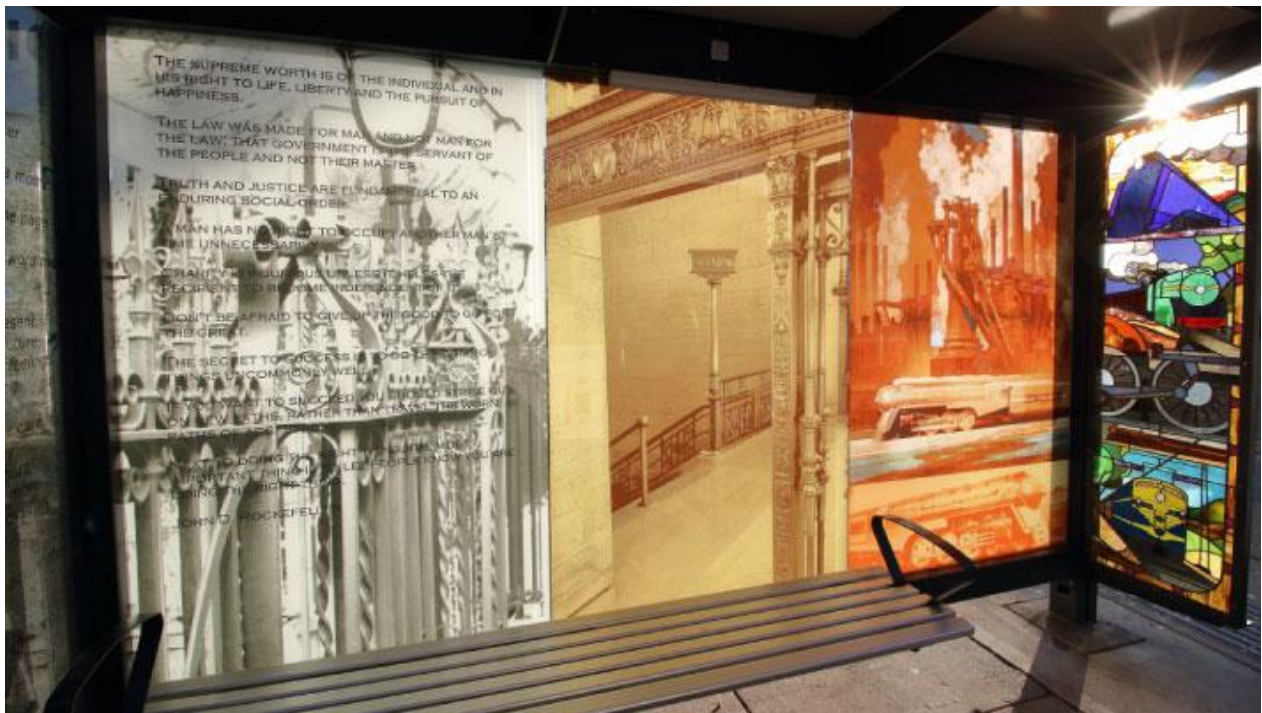
Published on 29 October 2018



*Belmore Street, Ryde*

It has happened to every bus commuter. You are running to your stop fractionally late only for you to get there and see the back of the bus close its doors and drive away.

Well an initiative by the City of Ryde is helping soften the blow of missing your bus by a fraction of a second, with Council's network of bus shelters being revamped with eye-catching decorations to form an outdoor art gallery for commuters to enjoy.



*Blaxland Road, Ryde*

The program of decorating bus shelters began intermittently in 2013, but Council has now committed to replacing the vast majority over the next four years. All up, more than 70 shelters will form the outdoor art gallery.

Under the initiative, the shelters glass covers will be decorated with creative artwork, pictures, poems, quotes as well as vegetation and other features that are accessible to feel.



*Constitution Road, Meadowbank*

City of Ryde former Smart City Infrastructure Projects Manager, Anthony Ogle, said the content on the glass will cover a broad range of ideas.

“The theme for most shelters will complement the location or decoration, while some will expand the range of topics being featured to establish the concept of a public outdoor gallery,” Mr Ogle said.

“The themes are also intended to encourage "engagement" with being at the shelter through viewing and reading the content.”



*Blaxland Road, Ryde*

For example, a bus shelter opposite the RMS motor registry on Blaxland Road in Ryde has images of classic cars, while the shelter near the Royal Rehabilitation Brain Injury Unit on Charles Street, Putney, has a cognitive function theme.

Mr Ogle said this current initiative was a tip of the hat to old bus shelters, which primarily used to be individually designed and were therefore quite unique in their design and appearance.



*Charles Street, Putney*

This program is part of a broader ideal of bringing decoration back to public infrastructure, something that has diminished greatly in Sydney since the 1930s. It is also reflective of Council's philosophy of supporting the use of buses and public transport by improving the travel experience," he said.



*Meadowbank Wharf, Meadowbank*

In addition, Mr Ogle said that apart from providing commuters with something to engage with while they wait for their bus, the initiative was also designed to improve the aesthetics of local bus shelters and prevent those same shelters from being vandalised.

Many of the shelters also use solar power to light the displays and provide lighting for commuters.

# Spring Garden Competition winners revealed

Published on 26 October 2018

The winners of the City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition were revealed at a Gala Event in Eden Gardens last night.

The Spring Garden Competition is one of the longest running events on the City of Ryde calendar, having been held annually for more than 30 years.

This year's event proved extremely popular with a large number of entries received for the 11 categories in which judging took place.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, who was at Eden Gardens to present each category winner with their award, thanked everyone who entered this year's competition.

"From small balcony botanicals, to backyard sanctuaries, large native bush sites and some colourful school gardens, each of the entries received this year reflect the resurgence in gardening in our local area and the increasing interest local residents are taking in the environment," Cllr Laxale said.

"The Spring Garden Competition is an event that involves the whole community – with categories that cater to young budding green thumbs to the most experienced of garden gurus – and I am proud that the City of Ryde can continue to put on such an event each year that showcases these talents."

The full list of winners for this year's City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition is as follows:

- **Best Large Garden (sponsored by Eden Gardens):** Angela Thomas
- **Best Small Garden:** Rae and Annalissa Roy
- **Best Courtyard or Balcony Garden:** Daniel Rosenbaum
- **Best Edible Garden (sponsored by Tumbleweed):** Robin Nichols
- **Best Native and Habitat-Friendly Garden:** The Habitat Nursery
- **Best Children's Garden:** James Mizens
- **Best School Garden:** Kent Road Public School
- **Best Pre-School Garden:** Goulding Hill Pre-School
- **Best Community Garden:** The Habitat Nursery
- **Best Commercial Garden:** Brush Park Bowling Club
- **Best Bushcare Site:** Meadowbank Park Bush Care Group

The City of Ryde would like to thank all of its sponsors who help make the Spring Garden Competition possible, including Gold sponsors Eden Gardens, SUEZ and Tumbleweed, as well Bronze sponsors Sam The Paving Man and Seasol.

# Work begins on upgrades to West Ryde Plaza

Published on 25 October 2018



The City of Ryde has commenced work on the much-anticipated upgrade to West Ryde Plaza.

The improvements will include a new play area for kids, additional seating and trees. Free public Wi-Fi will also be installed, as well as CCTV and additional feature lighting.

Another highlight will be the introduction of a new eye-catching leaf-shaped shade structure, which will provide the area with much-needed cover particularly during the warmer months.

The shade structure will be made with laminate glass panels and will be situated between Coles and Woolworths shopping centres.

The upgrades will retain an open paved area to allow for other activities, such as market stalls or live performances in the future.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the upgrades will benefit local shoppers, businesses and residents.

“These exciting improvements have been undertaken by Council after extensive consultation with the community,” Cllr Laxale said.

“They will make West Ryde Plaza more attractive and user-friendly for everyone. There will be active areas for children as well as adequate shelter and seating for all, which will be completed in an aesthetically pleasing way.”

Council will make every effort to minimise the impact of the works on residents and businesses. Property access will also be maintained continuously during construction.

# Ryde Remembers Poppies Project Coming To An End

Published on 24 October 2018

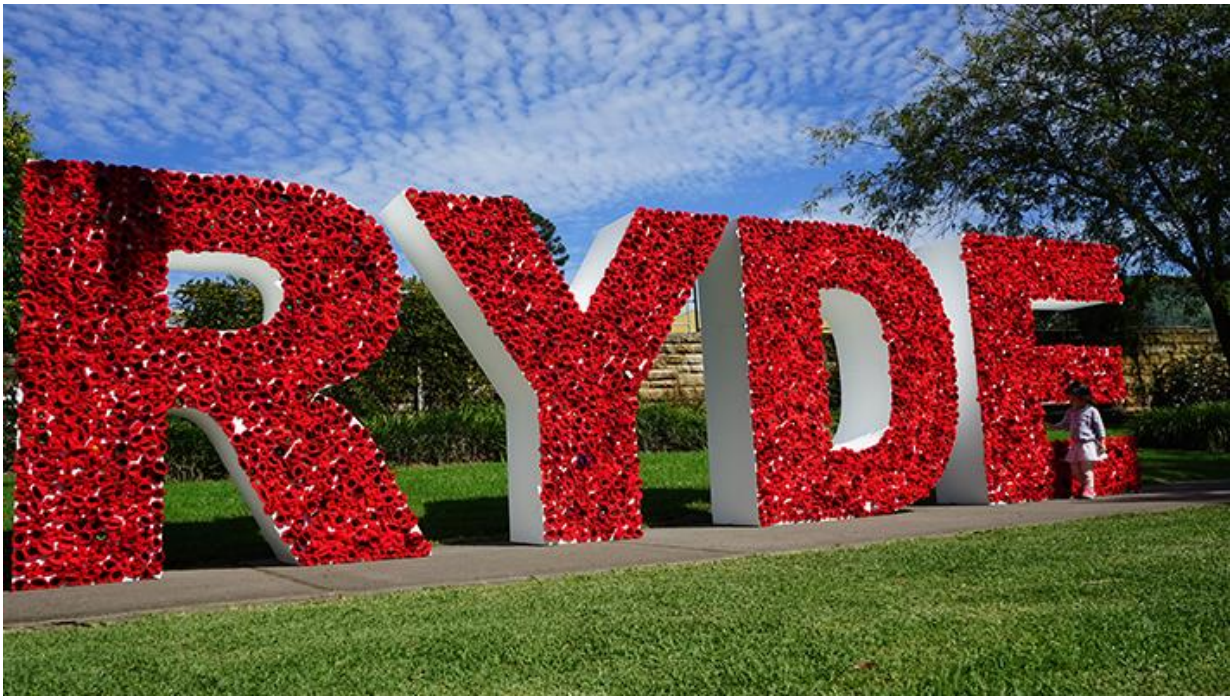


*Hand-knitted poppies on display*

A popular City of Ryde project that has run for three years will come to an end at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 11 November at Memorial Park in Meadowbank.

As part of the Ryde Remembers 100 Years of Anzac project, the City of Ryde asked local residents in April 2015 to knit or crochet poppies to honour people from the area who enlisted in the First World War.

A total of 3,000 poppies were produced and they were displayed in various City of Ryde libraries in the lead up to Anzac Day and in Ryde Park for the Council's commemoration.



*Ryde Remembers poppy display*

After this display, the poppies were distributed to anyone who came to the services on Anzac Day or Remembrance Day.

On 11 November 2018 – the 100th anniversary of the Armistice when the guns fell silent on the Western Front – the City of Ryde will be distributing the last of the poppies to those in attendance at the Remembrance Day Service, heralding an end to the long-running project.



*Remembrance Day at Anzac Park*

The Remembrance Day Service will commence at 10.30am. More information on the City of Ryde Remembrance Day Service can be found on our [Remembrance Day page](#).



# Community consultation begins on planning proposal

Published on 24 October 2018

The City of Ryde, as directed by the NSW Government, has now commenced community consultation on a planning proposal for 112 Talavera Road in Macquarie Park.

The planning proposal seeks to amend maximum building heights and floor space ratio on the land. In addition, a draft voluntary planning agreement will be exhibited.

The community consultation follows the NSW Government Department of Planning and Environment issuing a Gateway Determination for the planning proposal on 7 March 2018.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, encouraged members of the community to take part in the consultation on the planning proposal.

“This planning proposal has been made possible only because the NSW State Government increased heights, density and changed land use zonings in Macquarie Park. The State Government is the consent authority for this proposal,” Clr Laxale said.

“As the power to determine this proposal has been stripped from our community, it is vital that as many local residents as possible get to have their say.

“Council will then review all submissions and make a recommendation to the State Government, who will determine the matter. The feedback received during the community consultation will heavily influence what Council’s recommendation to the State Government will be on this proposal so it is imperative that members of the community provide their comments.

“Mischievous claims by members of the NSW Government, and a local Liberal Councillor, that the City of Ryde has already approved this planning proposal are completely false. No City of Ryde Councillor has voted to approve this planning proposal.”

Once the community and stakeholder consultation phase has been completed a report will go back to Council and submissions made by members of the public and various state government agencies including Roads and Maritime Services will be reviewed.

As Council has not been authorised to be the local plan making authority it will forward its recommendations on the planning proposal to the NSW Government.

The proposal will then be determined by the NSW Government.

“Despite being a part of the planning process, the City of Ryde ultimately has no power to reject or approve the planning proposal and associated development applications,” Cllr Laxale said.

The planning proposal and voluntary planning agreement are on public exhibition for 28 days from 24 October 2018 to 21 November 2018.

The planning proposal can be viewed at City of Ryde Customer Service Centre, Council’s North Ryde office and Council’s libraries during the public exhibition period. It can also be viewed online at the [Have Your Say page](#).

The community is also invited to attend drop-in information sessions to discuss the planning proposal with planning staff between 10am and 2pm Wednesdays and Fridays at the City of Ryde Customer Service Centre and 10am and 2pm Mondays and Thursdays at Council’s North Ryde office.

# Huge crowd turns out for Eastwood's Granny Smith Festival

Published on 22 October 2018



Eastwood was transformed into a sea of colour and sound on Saturday as close to 90,000 people descended on the suburb for the annual Granny Smith Festival.

The Granny Smith Festival is one of Sydney's biggest street festivals which celebrates the life and legacy of Maria Ann 'Granny' Smith, who grew the first Granny Smith apple on her Eastwood property in 1868. This year's festival was extra special as it celebrated 150 years of the Granny Smith apple.

A highlight from this year's festival was the Grand Street Parade which saw marching bands, community floats and dancers representing groups from across the City of Ryde and surrounding areas entertain the huge crowds as they made their way through the streets of Eastwood.

Crowds also flocked to the five dedicated festival stages to watch a vast array of performers and musical acts, while the introduction of Granny's Cider Bar proved popular with those keen to take a break from the humid weather conditions.

Younger festival-goers also had plenty to keep them entertained throughout the day with the Kids Hub sustainable kids play area and the Apple Jam Block Party, which was run by the Ryde Youth Council. Two performances from Hi-5 also proved extremely popular.

The only dampener on the festival was the cancellation of the Finale Concert due to heavy rain and lightning late in the afternoon, meaning a performance from Samantha Jade and the fireworks display could not go ahead.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, thanked everyone who attended this year's Granny Smith Festival.

"It was great to see so many people attend what was a glorious day out in Eastwood. Community events like the Granny Smith Festival recognise our local history and multicultural community while also underlining what a great city we live in," Clr Laxale said.

"I would like to say a special thanks to all the performers who entertained the crowds throughout the day, as well as the event sponsors who make the event possible. Thanks must also go to the local volunteers and the City of Ryde events staff who worked extremely hard to make sure this year's Granny Smith Festival such a success.

"I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's Granny Smith Festival."

# Putney Park earmarked to become public swimming site by 2025

Published on 19 October 2018



Putney Park could become a new designated swimming site by 2025 under ambitious plans to make the Parramatta River swimmable once again.

The goal to make Putney Park a swimming site is outlined in the Parramatta River Masterplan that was released this week by the Parramatta River Catchment Group, of which the City of Ryde is a member.

The masterplan sets out agreed actions in an attempt to make the Parramatta River a world-class, swimmable river through better monitoring of the river, reducing stormwater run-off, improving overflows and involving the community more in maintaining the health of the river. Extensive testing and studies on contaminants will also be undertaken to confirm suitability for swimming.

Putney Park is one of three locations along Parramatta River earmarked to have swimming sites by 2025, with the other two being McIlwaine Park in Rhodes East and Bayview Park in Concord. Nine other sites are also under consideration as swimming sites later in the future, including Meadowbank and Kissing Point Park.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said he was proud to lead a Council that will unlock the river for use by everyone.

“I believe that the waterfront should be accessible by everybody, not just those who are fortunate enough to live on it. That’s why Council is using ratepayer funds to upgrade Putney Park with the vision to make the river swimmable by 2025,” Clr Laxale said.

“To have the City of Ryde as one of only three proposed launch sites gives us great confidence to continue our custodianship of the Parramatta River.”

City of Ryde Councillor and Parramatta River Catchment Group Vice Chair, Clr Penny Pedersen, said residents have voiced a wish to have swimming sites available in the Parramatta River.

“A recent survey of more than 1,100 residents in the Parramatta River Catchment area found two-thirds are interested in swimming in a designated area of the Parramatta River,” Clr Pedersen said.

“For that to happen we need the Parramatta River to be clean and safe and that is exactly what this masterplan sets out to achieve.

“The Parramatta River Catchment Group is a benchmark collaboration of government agencies, councils and community organisations and is one of the best initiatives I’ve ever been part of.”

**[View the Parramatta River Masterplan](#)**

# See Samantha Jade this Granny Smith Festival

Published on 18 October 2018



*Samantha Jade*

ARIA Award-winning singer Samantha Jade says she cannot wait to perform at the Granny Smith Festival this Saturday.

Jade is the headline act of this year's festival and will perform at the event in the Finale Concert.

Jade, the winner of the fourth season of X Factor Australia in 2012 and who released her third studio album 'Best of My Love' earlier this year, said she was looking forward to Saturday.

"I can't wait to hit the stage at the Granny Smith Festival with my full band and my dancers on the 20<sup>th</sup>," Jade said.

"I've heard nothing but wonderful things about the Eastwood street festival and am excited to be joining such incredible street performers and local talent on the day.

"I am really looking forward to seeing everyone there."

Jade will perform at the Finale Concert alongside popular cover band Soul Nights, who wowed crowds at the Cork and Fork Festival in August with some well-known classic and modern hits.

The winner of the Big Apple Singing Competition will also perform at the Finale Concert while the finals of the Apple Jam Dance Battles will also take place.

The Finale Concert will start at 5.30pm and will be a fitting climax for what promises to be a very memorable Granny Smith Festival.

The Finale Concert will be followed by a terrific fireworks display at 8pm, which is not to be missed.

Throughout the festival, there will be about 3,000 other performers who will be entertaining crowds of all ages.

This includes popular children's act Hi-5, who will perform twice on the Oval Stage at Midday and 2pm, as well as several talented musical acts from the local Ryde community.

For more information about the entertainment at this year's Granny Smith Festival visit our [Finale Concert page](#).



# **Your City - Spring 2018**

Published on 16 October 2018

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

# Granny's Cider Bar

Published on 15 October 2018



A new attraction at this year's Granny Smith Festival is expected to be very popular with festival-goers who are keen to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the event.

Granny's Cider Bar will serve up quality beverages while also playing some laid-back acoustic tunes.

There will be a wide array of high quality ciders available for purchase such as ciders from Batlow, James Squire Orchard Crush, 5 Seeds and Somersby as well as vodka and fresh apple cocktails, and a selection of beer and wines.

The new venue will also have a family friendly space, which will include giant garden games to entertain all kids big and small.

Granny's Cider Bar will be located on West Parade, near Eastwood Oval and Eastwood Train Station between 11am and 7pm. Kids under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

This year's Granny Smith Festival promises to be bigger than ever with more than 90,000 people expected to descend on Eastwood on Saturday, 20 October.

Now viewed as one of Sydney's largest street festivals, this year's event takes on added significance as festival-goers celebrate 150 years of the Granny Smith apple, which was first grown by Maria Ann 'Granny' Smith on her Eastwood property in 1868.

For more information about this year's Granny Smith Festival, including the festival program, competitions and kid's activities, [click here](#).

# Students in With the Chance to Design Mayor's Christmas Card

Published on 15 October 2018



Primary school students from across the City of Ryde are invited to participate in the Mayor's Christmas Card competition.

The theme for the competition is "An Aussie Christmas" with students in Kindergarten through to Year 6 invited to participate by submitting a design that relates to the theme.

The winner will have their entry placed on the front of the Mayor's Christmas Card, while prizes will also be awarded to the second and third placed entries.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, encouraged all students to take part in the competition.

"It is hard to imagine but Christmas is just around the corner. Given this, I thought I should do something a little different with my Christmas cards while also giving local students the chance to showcase their artistic and creative side," Clr Laxale.

"I look forward to reviewing each and every entry and seeing how local students interpret what an Aussie Christmas looks to them."

Children can enter by submitting their design on an A5 piece of paper via the following methods:

- Online submission with a scanned copy of the entry.
- Mail sent to: Mayor Laxale - City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670
- Hand delivered to the Customer Service Centre of City of Ryde Council

The closing date for entries is Tuesday 30 October 2018.

# Clarification around the planning proposal process for 112 Talavera Road

Published on 10 October 2018

***The City of Ryde corrects the public record following recent media reports.***

Recently claims were made about a planning proposal for land at 112 Talavera Road Macquarie Park. Some of those claims are incorrect and are addressed below.

The land at 112 Talavera Road is part of the NSW Government's Macquarie University Priority Precinct, which increased the permissible height for residential buildings near the Macquarie University rail station from 21.5 metres to a maximum of 90 metres.

During its ordinary meeting in November 2017, Councillors present at the meeting voted unanimously for the Planning Proposal for 112 Talavera Road to be sent to the Department of Planning and Environment. The Department of Planning and Environment considered the proposal and, subject to conditions, approved the proposal to proceed to community consultation.

Contrary to media reports, neither of the above two processes imply support or grant approval for the planning proposal. No City of Ryde councillor has voted to approve the Planning Proposal.

The Planning Proposal and an associated Voluntary Planning Agreement is due to soon go on public exhibition for 28 days, at which point the community can have their say on the proposal. The City of Ryde encourages the local community to participate in this democratic process.

Once the community and stakeholder consultation phase has been completed a report will go back to Council to review submissions made by members of the public and various state government agencies including Roads and Maritime Services.

Following this, the proposal will be determined by the Department of Planning and Environment as the delegate of the Greater Sydney Commission.

The Greater Sydney Commission is an agency of the NSW Government, reporting to the Premier of NSW.

Despite being a part of the planning process, the City of Ryde ultimately has no power to reject or approve the Planning Proposal and associated development applications.

# Ryde Seeks Legal Injunction after Heritage Order Defied

Published on 04 October 2018



The City of Ryde is seeking an immediate injunction in the Land and Environment Court after it emerged builders caused extensive damage to the interior of a historical home in Denistone, just days after Council had placed an interim heritage order on the property.

Council staff were alerted to the modification work being carried out on the house from reports of what sounded like jackhammers being used at 68 Denistone Road on Wednesday morning. This is despite barricades being placed around the property and regular patrols being conducted by Council.

Council Rangers and the Heritage Officer attended the site immediately, where they observed extensive damage to the house's interior, ceilings and windows with a fire place also removed.

After assessing the damage and speaking to the owners of the property, the City of Ryde has now launched legal action in the Land and Environment Court in which Council is seeking an immediate injunction to protect the site from further damage and the highest possible penalty for breaching the interim heritage order, as well as restitution.

Breaches of the Heritage Act can lead to fines of up to \$1.1 million and/or up to six months imprisonment.

In addition, Council has installed additional barriers around the property and engaged security guards to monitor the property. Signs in multiple languages which

provide information on the interim heritage order have also been placed at the property, while Council will also attempt to place a tarpaulin on the house to protect it from water damage with heavy rain forecast over the coming days.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said he was appalled at the people responsible for defying the interim heritage order and essentially “gutting” the historic Denistone home beyond repair.

“This abhorrent behaviour shows a complete disregard for Ryde’s history, Ryde’s heritage and the community values that make Ryde such a great place,” Cllr Laxale said.

Cllr Laxale assured the entire community that Council was taking all action possible to preserve the house from further damage.

“We will ensure those responsible for this damage are held to account, not just to protect this house in Denistone but also to deter anyone from ever contemplating such an act and such a serious breach of heritage legislation in Ryde ever again,” Cllr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde placed the interim heritage order on the house in Denistone, which was under threat of being demolished and potentially replaced by a duplex and triplex.

Prior to the interim heritage order being placed on the house, it was assessed by Council’s Heritage Officer who found that it had cultural heritage significance and to be a good representative example

of an Inter-War Californian Bungalow. The Heritage Officer also described the house – which is believed to have been built sometime in the late 1910s or early 1920s – as one of the more prominent dwellings in the streetscape.

An interim heritage order is a temporary protection measure that can stop the demolition of a potential heritage item. It also provides Council with the time to further assess the heritage significance of a potential item and take the appropriate steps to list the item if warranted.

# Outcomes from Council Meeting 25 September 2018

Published on 03 October 2018

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 25 September 2018. Here is a summary of the main outcomes from the meeting:

## **COUNCIL PLACES INTERIM HERITAGE ORDER ON DENISTONE HOUSE**

An interim heritage order has been placed on a house in Denistone, which was under threat of being demolished and potentially replaced by a duplex and triplex.

Councillors unanimously resolved to support the interim heritage order on the house located at 68 Denistone Road, Denistone.

The house was assessed by Council's Heritage Officer who found that it does have cultural heritage significance and to be a good representative example of an Inter-War Californian Bungalow. The Heritage Officer also described the house – which is believed to have been built sometime in the late 1910s or early 1920s – as one of the more prominent dwellings in the streetscape. [View more information](#).

## **DUNBAR ESTATE RE-ZONED**

The Ryde Local Environment Plan will be amended to change the zone of Dunbar Estate in Marsfield from R3 Medium Density Residential to R2 Low Density Residential.

Council unanimously agreed to the change following concerns raised by the residents of Dunbar Estate regarding the zoning of their properties. [The Land and Environment Court recently ruled in favour of the City of Ryde](#) and refused a development application for a residential flat building to be built at that location.

## **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS TO BE INSTALLED AT TOP RYDE**

The City of Ryde has accepted \$513,100 worth of funding from Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to construct a 40km/h High Pedestrian Activity Area at Top Ryde.

The area will result in a number of pedestrian safety improvements around Tucker, Pope and Smith streets including new speed humps, pedestrian safety fencing and special road markings and signs. In addition, the City of Ryde will consult with RMS to install an all-direction pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Blaxland Road, Church Street and Tucker Street as well as a right turn arrow from Blaxland Road into Tucker Street heading west.

The funding was made available under the RMS' Safe Speeds in High Pedestrian Activity and Local Areas program.

## **WORK TO BEGIN ON LANDMARK RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN**



Council – in conjunction with Reconciliation Australia – will commence work towards establishing the first City of Ryde Reconciliation Action Plan.

A Reconciliation Action Plan is a strategic document that supports an organisation's business plan and drives its contribution to reconciliation.

Council staff will prepare a report exploring the opportunities for establishing a Reconciliation Action Plan, including associated costs, which will be presented for approval to Council.

### **COUNCIL ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION ON NSW GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR RECREATIONAL FISHING**

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, will write to NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian seeking clarification on the NSW Government's policy surrounding recreational fishing.

The move follows recent comments by the Premier indicating that the NSW Government was intending to backflip on its current position on marine sanctuary policy.

### **MAYOR TO HOST INTERFAITH MORNING TEA**

Representatives from religious denominations and spiritual groups will be invited by City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, to attend an interfaith morning tea.

The morning tea will recognise the important role these groups play in the lives of people in the Ryde community.

### **MORE DOGS IN RYDE LEADS TO REVIEW OF DOG RECREATION NEEDS STRATEGY**

With the number of dog owners increasing in the City of Ryde, Council has resolved to undertake a review of the dog off-leash areas and the Dog Recreation Needs Strategy.

Community consultation will be undertaken as part of the review.

### **COUNCIL SUPPORTS EVENT FOR DOG LOVERS**

Council unanimously resolved to consider supporting an event that celebrates dog lovers, pets and

also brings the local community together.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 30 October.