

Council welcomes new Chinese books to its libraries

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More than 100 books in the Chinese language have been donated to City of Ryde libraries by local Eastwood business Xin Hua Bookstore.

The donated books cover a wide array of topics and will complement the City of Ryde Library Service's growing collection of books in languages other than English, with a large number of Chinese, Korean and Tamil books already in its collection, as well as community language newspapers that are available to all library members.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said it was Council's aim to make local libraries inclusive for the entire community.

"We want every single member of our community to have the chance to take advantage of the terrific services our libraries offer and this extremely generous donation from Xin Hua Bookstore will help us achieve that," Cllr Laxale.

The donation was facilitated by City of Ryde Deputy Mayor, Cllr Simon Zhou.

"The new books will add to the expanding collection of books and services available at our local libraries that are in languages other than English, ensuring our local libraries continue to be inclusive and cater for all of the community's needs."

Council stands with community to oppose proposed closure of ice rink

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The City of Ryde has expressed its opposition to the proposed closure of the Macquarie Ice Rink and will commence work to try and seek an interim heritage order be placed on the venue.

In addition, Council will attempt to facilitate mediation between AMP Capital and the tenants of the Macquarie Ice Rink to try and retain the important community facility. Council also called upon NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian to urgently intervene to save the venue

The resolution was passed by Council during an extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday night, during which a large number of local residents and users of the ice rink voiced their disapproval of the closure of the venue in front of a packed public gallery.

The extraordinary Council meeting was called after AMP Capital lodged a Stage 1 development application for the partial redevelopment of Macquarie Centre, which revealed that the current site for the Macquarie Ice Rink would be demolished.

AMP Capital subsequently put a pause on the development application to consult further with the community following widespread concern. Despite the pause, public consultation on the development application is still ongoing, with Council resolving to extend the public consultation period until 1 March 2019.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council would do all it could to ensure an Olympic-sized ice rink is retained in Macquarie Centre.

“The resolution passed last night confirms Council’s position that an Olympic-sized ice rink must be retained in any redevelopment of the Macquarie Shopping Centre,” Clr Laxale said.

“State Government zoning changes in 2014, allowing a maximum height of 37 storeys on the site, have jeopardised the future of our rink. The Premier must intervene to fix the mess they created.

“Council will also take first steps with the view to place an interim heritage order on the site, should the Premier fail to save the rink.”

Clr Laxale encouraged all members of the community to make a submission on the Stage 1 development application.

“Every submission received will be forwarded to the developer so they understand how much the ice rink means to the community. Crucially though, every submission will also make its way to the NSW Government planning panel when it comes time for the panel to determine the development application.”

Clr Laxale also encouraged members of the community to sign the change.org [‘Save Macquarie Ice Rink’ petition](#), copies of which will be made available on the City of Ryde website and at other Council facilities.

Timeline

September 2014 – NSW State Government change the planning controls of the area where Macquarie Centre is located as part of its ‘Herring Road Priority Precinct’. These changes allowed for additional building heights from 10 storeys to 37 storeys.

October – November 2016 – The State Government Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel unanimously approves AMP Capital’s Concept Development Application. Council enters into an agreement with AMP Capital, to provide the community with a Library and Creative Hub as part of the redevelopment of Macquarie Centre.

December 2018 – A development application is lodged seeking approval for partial works of the Macquarie Centre redevelopment. This application is set to be determined by the State Government Sydney North Planning Panel.

January 2019 – The application for partial works is placed on public exhibition. After public intervention, the developer puts a pause on the development application to consult further with the community. An extraordinary Council meeting is called on Tuesday 29 January 2019 to discuss the future of the Macquarie Ice Rink.

The Illuminatrope to light up Banjo Paterson Park

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The City of Ryde has unveiled a new eye-catching sculpture along the Parramatta River foreshore at Banjo Paterson Park in Gladesville.

The sculpture – known as The Illuminatrope – was donated to the City of Ryde by artists Gabrielle Bates and David Hashimoto. Both artists made The Illuminatrope in Mr Hashimoto’s North Ryde studio, with the sculpture featuring at a number of exhibitions before finding its permanent home at Banjo Paterson Park.

The Illuminatrope is a detailed sculpture designed to reflect the theme ‘Shared values and shared future’. The artwork appears to grow out from the earth, with its two vines gently twisting around each other in a unified direction until they taper off.

Each vine is made from multi-faceted stainless steel, giving them a luminous mirrored finish that causes fragments of reflected light to bounce back and forth between the vines.

Speaking at the unveiling, City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said making artwork such as The Illuminatrope more publicly accessible to the community would help generate greater awareness of the local art scene.

“The City of Ryde has an extremely talented and vibrant local arts community, and this piece of art not only showcases this talent but also encourages more people to show an interest in the arts,” Clr Laxale said.

Clr Penny Pedersen, who put forward the motion for Council to accept the donation of The Illuminatrope, thanked Ms Bates and Mr Hashimoto.

“Thanks to the extreme generosity of both Gabrielle and David, The Illuminatrope has now found its permanent home in beautiful Banjo Patterson Park for the entire community to appreciate and enjoy. The meaning behind the work could not be more appropriate for our City,” Clr Pedersen said.

Arts Advisory Committee Chairperson, Clr Christopher Gordon, said Banjo Paterson Park was a fitting location for The Illuminatrope.

“The reflective nature of The Illuminatrope pays homage to the history of contact between the First Fleet and the Wallumedegal people at Looking Glass Bay, where the park is located. On 15 February 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip gave a local man a looking glass, which he compared with his reflection in the water. It is therefore very fitting that this sculpture is positioned above the bay,” Clr Gordon said.

Hassib Elias named Ryde Citizen of the Year

Published on 26 January 2019

Hassib Elias has been announced as the recipient of the 2019 Ryde Citizen of the Year award at the City of Ryde Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at North Ryde School of Arts Hall this morning.

A resident of Ryde for more than 50 years, Mr Elias has been involved in a range of community organisations that assist refugees and new migrants settle into the local area.

Mr Elias's work has been of benefit to many new migrants, including refugees from Syria and Iraq, helping them find housing, household items and permanent employment. He also assists with translation services and helping new immigrants apply for government support services.

He is also President of the Palestinian Association of Australia as well as a long serving member of the City of Ryde's Multicultural Advisory Committee.

The Ryde Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Tasnia Ahmad for her work as an advocate for local youths.

Ms Ahmad is Vice Chair of the Ryde Youth Council in which she has worked hard to ensure local young people have a voice in their community. She has also provided a wealth of knowledge and experience volunteering for a variety of Council working groups including the Granny Smith Festival working group and the social media working group.

Ms Ahmad is also the founder of Youth of Sydney, a photo journal media project that aims to debunk the multitude of negative stereotypes about today's youth, and volunteers for local radio station 2RRR, hosting the popular Youth Jukebox program.

Local resident Carmen Platt also received a City of Ryde Special Commendation for her volunteer work.

Ms Platt established not-for-profit group The Generous and the Grateful, which aims to provide essential household items to disadvantaged people. In the space of three years, The Generous and Grateful has helped hundreds of victims of domestic violence, refugees and youth at risk by providing them with furniture and other essential household items.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Mr Elias, Ms Ahmad and Ms Platt were all deserving recipients of their awards.

"The generous efforts of Hassib, Tasnia and Carmen have been of enormous benefit for the Ryde community, particularly those in need of assistance, and each of them embody the high values that we all aspire to here in the City of Ryde," Clr Laxale said.

“In congratulating the recipients of the Ryde Citizen of the Year and the Young Ryde Citizen of the Year, I would also like to pay credit to all the nominees, each of whom contributes so much to the Ryde community through their tireless efforts.”

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are held under the auspices of the Australia Day Council of NSW.

In addition to announcing the recipients of the Ryde Citizen of the Year awards, 50 local residents became new Australian citizens during the City of Ryde Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony.

Come and celebrate at the City of Ryde Australia Day concert

Published on 23 January 2019

The City of Ryde will mark this Saturday's Australia Day with a free family concert at North Ryde Common, corner of Twin and Wicks Road, North Ryde.

Commencing at 5pm, the concert will feature something for everyone including some great live entertainment, kids' rides and even a thong throwing competition.

The entertainment will kick off with the return of the popular Battle of the Bands competition. The competition will see finalists Dial Denial, Dysfunction and Saturn V go head-to-head to see who will be crowned winner and receive \$1000 as well as a mastering session with Studios 301.

There will also be a \$250 'People's Choice' award with those in attendance able to vote for their favourite act.

Following the Battle of Bands, there will also be performances Australia's Got Talent finalist Jay Parrino and the Ozzy Iconics, as well as the JC All-Stars.

Food trucks will be on hand as well to provide mouth-watering meals and other refreshments.

The free event will end at 9pm with a spectacular fireworks display.

Mosquito treatment at Newington Nature Reserve Wetland on 24 January

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Helicopter application of a biological mosquito larvicide known as Bti is planned to take place at Newington Nature Reserve Wetland on Thursday 24 January 2019 to control mosquito larval populations. Spraying is scheduled to occur between 7.30am and 10.00am, however, weather conditions or operational matters could cause it to be delayed until later in the day.

Bti is a nature-based product and impacts the target species of mosquito at a specific stage of larval development. The larvicide is known to be safe to people, pets and the environment, and treatments are monitored by the University of Sydney's Department of Medical Entomology.

Advisory signage providing notification of spraying and the product used will be placed on the River Walk and other pathways surrounding the treatment area in accordance with the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) Pesticide Use & Notification Plan. Local businesses and residents will be notified through SOPA's relevant communication modes.

For further information on mosquitoes, visit our [Mosquitos page](#).

More street libraries rolling out across the City of Ryde

Published on 22 January 2019

Ten new street libraries are rolling out across the City of Ryde, providing the local community with a new resource to access a range of different literature.

Street Libraries are available to all community members to take or leave a book at no cost. The 10 new street libraries join five existing street libraries that Council has installed (located at Boronia Park, Quarry Road, Trim Place, Putney and Watts Road) each of which have been instrumental in activating what were previously bare public spaces.

A number of the new street libraries have already been installed and feature eye-catching designs and creative features that have been put together by the successful applicants. They are located at:

- Bauhinia Library – 29 Welby Street, Eastwood
- Street Library on Simla – 12 Simla Road, Denistone
- Under the Imagination Tree – Imaginations Pre-School, 33 Agincourt Road, Marsfield

The seven remaining street libraries will be located at:

- Mia Mia Child and Family Study Centre – 18 Wally's Walk, Macquarie Park
- Tree of Compassion – 17a Haig Ave, Denistone East
- Meadowbank Multipurpose Learning Centre – Corner of Belmore and Thistle Street, Ryde
- Ryde Swim School – 21 Price Street, Ryde
- 62 Bellevue Ave, Denistone
- Imaginations Pre-School – 33 Agincourt Rd, Marsfield
- Explore and Develop – 65 Epping Road, North Ryde
- Fiveways Small Centre – corner of Balaclava Road and North Road, Eastwood

The City of Ryde, in conjunction with Street Library Australia, offered the new street libraries to the local community residents and organisations to install on their property.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the street libraries were a great public resource that ensured a good read was never far away for local residents.

“Street libraries have proved a terrific way to enliven and activate public spaces, while also encourage people to read more and recycle their old books for the benefit of everyone,” Cllr Laxale said.

“I commend all the owners of the new street libraries who have gone to great lengths to create dynamic public spaces with some terrific designs. It is no doubt these new street libraries will be treasured community assets for years to come.

“For those that missed out this time, watch this space. Council is currently working on more ways to assist community members to install a street library.”

[Click here](#) for more information on the street library program in the City of Ryde.

Your City - Summer 2019

Published on 14 January 2019

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View the PDF version of [Your City - Summer 2019](#)

2019 Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen nominees announced

Published on 11 January 2019

The nominees have been announced for the 2019 Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards.

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are open to all Australian citizens living in the City of Ryde and recognise outstanding accomplishments by individuals who have excelled in their chosen field.

The 2019 nominees are:

Citizen of the Year Award

Sue Curry

Sue is a dedicated volunteer for a number of organisations that aim to help local residents in need of assistance. This includes more than 1200 hours of volunteer work for Easy Care Gardening, an organisation that helps maintain the gardens for those in need.

Hassib Elias

A resident of Ryde for more than 50 years, Hassib has been involved in a number of community organisations. He is predominantly involved in assisting refugees and new migrants settle into the area, in finding housing, employment and access to support services.

Lily Jing Han

Lily has been an active member of the Ryde community, assisting in local charity drives and helping organise events for the Australian Chinese community. Lily is also involved in promoting local businesses in the City of Ryde and strengthening academic institutions.

Carmen Platt

Three years ago, Carmen established The Generous and the Grateful, which aims to provide essential household items to people in need. The Generous and the Grateful has now helped hundreds of victims of domestic violence, refugees and youth at risk.

Alison Small

A cub scout leader for 30 years, Alison has been a mentor for a large number of young residents in the City of Ryde. Alison has also been involved in a large number of community events such as Clean Up Australia, citizenship ceremonies and the Granny Smith Festival.

Young Citizen of the Year Award

Tasnia Ahmad

Tasnia, 17, has been a leading advocate for local youths, undertaking a number of initiatives that aim to give young people a voice in their community. She is currently Deputy Chair of the Ryde Youth Council.

Liam Gye

Liam, 21, is involved in early childhood education and care. A strong proponent of early childhood health, he has been instrumental in implementing health campaigns in the local community and is also the coach of an under 8s soccer team.

Gabriel Van Duinen

Gabriel, 18, is a Youth Councillor on the Ryde Youth Council who has actively campaigned on issues impacting local young people. He has recently called for changes to student transport concessions and been involved in the development of a number of local community projects.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the nominees for both awards embodied the high values and diversity of the Ryde community.

“The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards allow us to recognise the tremendous achievements of those citizens that go above and beyond to make a difference. Each of the nominees for the 2019 awards are thoroughly deserving of this recognition,” Clr Laxale said.

The City of Ryde Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards are held under the auspices of the Australia Day Council of NSW. Winners will be announced at the Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony on 26 January at the North Ryde School of Arts Hall.