

'The New Heart of Ryde' to deliver enhanced facilities for entire community

Published on 29 May 2019



An indicative image of how the redeveloped Ryde Civic Centre site could look

The City of Ryde has endorsed new plans to commence consultation on an exciting redevelopment of the Ryde Civic Centre site, with Council retaining complete ownership and not increasing rates for this project.

Described as ‘The New Heart of Ryde’, a redeveloped Ryde Civic Centre site will see a four-fold increase in community space without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

Half of the space will house public meeting rooms, offices, childcare facilities, commercial and retail facilities, a plaza and open space, on-site parking and Council chambers.

The remaining half will be dedicated to a flexibly-designed cultural and community space that will cater to a large range of activities from concerts to theatre groups, dance classes, study groups, businesses and artists among others.

In research undertaken by the City of Ryde for its Community Strategic Plan, the community identified a need to plan for and enhance cultural and community facilities to meet increased demand and ensure equitable access for all sections of our community. This has since been reinforced by the feedback Council recently

received from its Social Plan and Creativity Strategy community consultation process.

The City of Ryde has released indicative images of how the redeveloped Ryde Civic Centre site could look and will soon commence formal community consultation on the plans.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the endorsement of the plans was a landmark moment for the City and would provide a roadmap for Council to create a new civic and community hub that is viable and financially sustainable.

“The New Heart of Ryde will be a low impact development that will address the growing demand within Ryde for a new and significant accessible space that will service a diverse range of community needs,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Importantly, based on strong community opposition to overdevelopment, this plan will not include cramming hundreds of apartments onto the site as has been previously proposed.

“An upgraded site has been talked about for a decade and millions of dollars have been wasted by councils of the past. Now is the time to act and provide enormous benefits for the community for generations to come.

“Given the importance of this project I would encourage all residents to take part in the community consultation which begins in June.”

The proposed redevelopment will be funded by a mix of Council Reserves and a loan to be serviced primarily by developer contributions. The project is financially sustainable and will not require an increase to Council rates, nor will it require any cuts to be made to essential services.

The New Heart of Ryde will also result in the relocation of Council staff from the current location back to the Civic Centre site, saving ratepayers millions in annual rental costs.

The proposed redevelopment was endorsed by Council after a number of scenarios were considered for the site where the existing Civic Centre and Civic Hall is located.

The Ryde Civic Centre is currently vacant, is unsuitable for occupation, and was deemed unsafe by SafeWork NSW in 2015.

The Civic Hall is the only active space on the site and is near the end of its lifespan. The entire site will soon be unusable and vacant, with the community at a loss of a large community space. A plan needs to be made now to continue the use of this site for our community and generations to come.

Unsung heroes recognised at City of Ryde volunteer awards

Published on 24 May 2019



Pictured (from left) Isabella Wilks, Pamela Williamson, Stephanie Lyle, City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale, Joey Chan, Kaye Harvey and Jenny Nocom

Renowned singer and performer Joey Chan has received the 2019 Volunteer of the Year award at a special ceremony at Civic Hall last night.

Ms Chan has been a volunteer at the Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club for eight years. During this time, Ms Chan has organised and staged a large number of performances for the club while also undertaking other activities that have reduced social isolation among club members.

In addition to her work for the Eastwood Chinese Senior Citizens Club, Ms Chan has also contributed to a number of other major local community events each year including the City of Ryde Lunar New Year Festival, the Chinese Citizens Club Australia Day celebrations and the Mid-Autumn Festival concert.

Ms Chan undertakes all her volunteer work while working as a sole trader. Her volunteer work has brought a lot of joy to senior citizens living in Eastwood and the other areas that make up the City of Ryde, while also fostering stronger community harmony and engagement.

Philip Brown was awarded the Highly Commended award for his work with Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Brown contributes a large amount of his time, management skills and local community knowledge to further the Neighbourhood

Watch program within the City of Ryde and has helped the program grow to become one of the biggest voluntary safety and security operations in NSW.

Isabella Wilks received the 2019 Young Volunteer of the Year award for her work with Sydney Community Services, a not-for-profit organisation that helps residents to live an independent life in their own home and in their community.

Through her volunteer work, Ms Wilks works closely with those living with a disability, assisting them with their care and helping them overcome social isolation. Ms Wilks also researches special projects for clients to take part in while also writing an annual newsletter that includes pictures and descriptions of each client's achievements.

The North Ryde Community Aid Linen Group was awarded the 2019 Group Volunteer of the Year award.

The group is made up of 12 volunteers who give up their time each week to provide a linen service for those in need within the Ryde community. While this service is invaluable in providing clean linen for all of its recipients, it also delivers a range of other benefits such as assisting clients address other issues around their home.

Stryder's community transport volunteer drivers, meanwhile, received a Highly Commended award for their work in providing connection services to those most in need. The Stryder service allows people in need to live independently in their own homes.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, who was a member of the judging panel for the awards, congratulated all award recipients.

"Our local volunteers are the unsung heroes of our community and I am delighted that we can recognise the achievements of those who give up a great deal of their own time to help those in need or who are experiencing hardship," Clr Laxale said.

Department of Planning forecasts increased housing for Ryde

Published on 20 May 2019

New housing forecasts released by the Department of Planning and Environment state that 10,000 additional houses and apartments will be built in the City of Ryde over the next five years.

The forecast for the City of Ryde is a 46 per cent increase on the number of new dwellings that were completed in the local government area in the past five years and are far higher than the forecasts for some surrounding councils.

Hunter's Hill Council, for example, is forecast to only have 150 new dwellings between now and 2023, which is a decrease on the 223 new dwellings completed there over the past five years.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, expressed his disappointment with the State Government's housing forecast for the City of Ryde given local MP Victor Dominello was re-elected on a pledge to slash housing forecasts in his community.

On 29 October 2018, Mr Dominello told the Sydney Morning Herald:

'There is no chance in Hades that I won't be advocating for those targets not (to) plummet to reflect something that is more consistent with Lane Cove and Hunters Hill. I will be demanding it.'

"Two months after his re-election and we have been quickly reminded about what Mr Dominello and his colleagues really think about Ryde. They've always been prepared to say one thing, and do another when it comes to planning in our City. These numbers prove it," Cllr Laxale said.

"The forecasts from the department are the unavoidable result of the State Government's intervention, and despite what Mr Dominello says publicly it is clear that he is unable or unwilling to do anything to address the situation."

The Department of Planning and Environment's forecasts are an estimate of the number of new dwellings that could be built if current zoning and planning controls remain the same.

"City of Ryde residents are unfortunately all too familiar with the damaging impacts State Government imposed planning policies have had on our community," Cllr Laxale said.

"This includes the government's Priority Precinct program which will cram 15,000 dwellings into Macquarie Park and North Ryde.

"Meanwhile, the Medium Density Housing Code due to come into effect in July next year could result in 60,000 additional residents.

“This has the potential to transform predominantly low-density neighbourhoods with the required supporting infrastructure in place to medium density neighbourhoods outstripping available infrastructure and putting untold strain on our local natural areas.”

Clr Laxale said Council would continue to lobby new NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes for the City of Ryde to be permanently exempt from the Medium Density Housing Code.

“Mr Stokes has recently made some very encouraging comments about reforming the current planning system including suggestions he may ditch the Priority Precinct program, work more closely with councils on medium density housing and end the system of spot rezoning.

“These reforms are desperately needed in the City of Ryde as is a commitment from the State Government to meet its obligations and invest in the appropriate infrastructure to support the increased level of housing that will be coming over the next five years.”

Library & Information Week Book Lovers Hamper Competition

Published on 17 May 2019



To celebrate [2019 Library and Information Week](#) with the theme "*Truth, Integrity, Knowledge*", we're excited to be offering our library members an opportunity to win a fantastic book lovers prize pack.

Not a member? Library membership is free - [join](#) today.

Head to our [City of Ryde Facebook page](#) and tell us in 25 words or less "*how Ryde Library Service provides truth, integrity and / or knowledge to you or the community*" for a chance to WIN this awesome hamper valued at \$200.

This gorgeous book lovers hamper includes:

- A \$30 Dymocks Voucher
- Lindt Chocolate Box
- Pomegranate Flavoured Turkish Delight
- A Gorgeous Throw Rug
- Bluetooth Headphones
- T2 Crazy Good Cocoa Cube
- T2 Mug with Infuser
- Inde Soy Candle

Don't have a Facebook account? Email your responses to us at rydelibrary@ryde.nsw.gov.au

The competition closes at 11.59pm AEDT on Sunday 26 May 2019. [Terms and conditions](#) apply.

Sustainable Living Hamper Competition

Published on 14 May 2019



To celebrate our forthcoming [Sustainability Festival](#) on Sunday 2 June at Putney Park, we're excited to be offering this amazing competition to get you thinking and breathing all things green!

Head to our [City of Ryde Facebook page](#) and tell us in 25 words or less "*your best sustainable living tip*" for a chance to WIN this awesome sustainable prize pack valued at \$250.

The winning entry will receive a hamper which includes:

- A bento-style lunch box
- Stainless steel pegs
- Stainless steel straws, cleaning brush and storage pouch
- Beeswax food wraps
- A selection of bags and produce wraps from [The Swag](#)
- Reusable steel water bottles
- Reusable keep cups
- Jute grocery bags
- An open weave laundry basket

IMPORTANT: The winner must be able to collect the hamper in person at the City of Ryde Sustainability Festival between 10am and 2pm on Sunday 2 June 2019. To find out more about the festival, visit our [Sustainability Festival page](#).

The competition closes at 11.59pm AEDT on Monday 27 May 2019. [Terms and conditions](#) apply.

Council adopts new policy to reduce single-use plastic use

Published on 09 May 2019

The City of Ryde continues to lead the way in protecting the local environment after it adopted its first-ever Reduce Single Use Plastic Policy.

The policy officially prohibits the use of single-use plastic at Council events and phases out their use in all Council operations and Council-sponsored events over the next year.

Council will also undertake a waste education program as part of the policy to assist local businesses and community organisations to reduce their use of single-use plastics.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said the new policy would help ensure plastics did not end up in local waterways like the Parramatta and Lane Cover rivers.

“To help the community join in the fight against waste, Council has installed filtered water refill stations at 24 popular locations around our City. Each have a water fountain, bottle refill point and some also include a dog bowl,” Clr Laxale said.

“In 2018, water consumption from the refill stations equated to 22,668 litres, which is equivalent to 37,780 standard plastic water bottles that have not ended up in our ecosystem.”

Pinot and Ploughman Competition

Published on 09 May 2019



The countdown is on for our Cork & Fork by the Riverside Festival and we have an amazing competition to get you in the mood. Head to our [City of Ryde Facebook page](#) and tell us in 25 words or less what you're most looking forward to at our Festival on Sunday 19 May for a chance to WIN a gourmet wine-tasting escape in the Blue Mountains for you and three friends valued at \$125.

The winning entry will receive a voucher for:

- Wine-tasting at the Dryridge Estate cellar door in the beautiful Megalong Valley
- A ploughman's lunch for four people
- A bottle of wine to take home.

IMPORTANT: The winner must be able to collect the voucher in person at the City of Ryde Cork & Fork Festival between 11am and 4pm on Sunday 19 May 2019. To find out more about the festival, visit our [Cork & Fork page](#).

The competition closes at 11.59pm AEDT on Wednesday 15 May 2019. [Terms and conditions](#) apply.

Information about avian botulism at Lardelli Park Lake

Published on 07 May 2019

Following reports of recent duck fatalities at Lardelli Park Lake in Putney, Council commissioned environmental consultants to carry out an independent surface water and sediment assessment to determine the cause.

The report has confirmed the presence of naturally occurring avian botulism in the lake. Avian botulism is a commonly-occurring disease affecting birds.

Contributing factors include:

- the season
- elevated surface water temperatures and shallow surface water depth
- freshwater/low salinity
- the pH of surface water and sediments.

A hydrologist will review the ecosystem of the lake and determine if any modification may be required to the design of the lake and explore alternative options available to mitigate future outbreaks.

In the meantime, residents and visitors to Lardelli Park are reminded to keep their pets on a leash at all times and avoid touching or feeding wildlife. Avian botulism is not contagious. Pets are at risk only if they consume infected birds. Council encourages any pet owners with concerns to contact their local veterinarian.

Council staff will continue to monitor events at the lake. Residents are encouraged to contact City of Ryde on 9952 8222 (including after hours) to report any bird fatalities and ensure immediate removal.

Skate and scooter park announced as finalist for leading industry award

Published on 07 May 2019

The City of Ryde has been announced as a finalist at this year's Parks and Leisure Australia NSW/ACT Awards of Excellence for the new Meadowbank Park skate, scooter and play space facility.

The new facility is in line to be awarded best new facility in the category of playspaces over the value of \$500,000. This award is given to a playspace that involves a range of stakeholders, creates a 'sense of place' for its local community and aids childhood development.

The Parks and Leisure Australia NSW/ACT Awards aim to encourage best industry practice by recognising excellence in the parks and leisure industry. There were more than 50 projects nominated for this year's awards over 11 categories.

The winners of this year's awards will be announced on 23 May.

The Meadowbank Park skate, scooter and play space facility opened last month to rave reviews.

Commissioned by the City of Ryde and developed by leading youth space builder, CONVIC, the new facility features a range of components that cater for people of all ages and skill levels.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Meadowbank Park skate, scooter and play space facility.

City of Ryde Council meeting summary - April meeting

Published on 07 May 2019

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 30 April 2019. Here is a summary of the main outcomes from the meeting:

COUNCIL TO PROVIDE CHILDCARE FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The City of Ryde will provide childcare for members of the public who are on Council advisory committees when meetings are held in a landmark step to encourage more parents to join the committees and broaden community representation.

There are currently 16 advisory committees that meet on a quarterly basis each year such as the Status of Women Advisory Committee, the Arts Advisory Committee and the Macquarie Park Forum.

[Click here for more information.](#)

PHASING OUT SINGLE-USE PLASTICS IN THE CITY OF RYDE

Council adopted its first-ever Reduce Single Use Plastic Policy. The policy officially prohibits the use of single-use plastic at Council events and phases out their use in all Council operations and Council-sponsored events over the next year.

Council will also undertake a waste education program to assist local businesses and community organisations to reduce their use of single-use plastics.

COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE IF ROWE STREET EAST CAR PARK COULD BE HOME FOR A NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE

A report will be prepared looking into the financial viability, relevant planning controls and approval pathways of constructing a community centre in conjunction with the proposed Rowe Street East car park development.

The community centre would address the lack of community space currently available in the City of Ryde.

COMMUNITY GRANTS ALLOCATED

More than \$158,000 has been allocated to more than 30 local community organisations as part of round one of the 2019 Community Grants program.

The grants are allocated to allow local community organisations undertake a range of activities including events, community projects, capacity building and social support.

ROAD SAFETY AUDIT TO TAKE PLACE AT PITTWATER ROAD

A road safety audit will be undertaken to investigate the risk to pedestrians when they cross Pittwater Road between Gannet Street and Thompson Street in Boronia Park. The audit will assess the potential effectiveness of various safety measures including the installation of pedestrian fencing along the median strip and/or limiting where pedestrians are able to cross.

Local residents and businesses as well as Hunter's Hills Council will be consulted with as part of the audit.

CITY OF RYDE GETS BEHIND RECYCLING CAMPAIGN

The City of Ryde has endorsed Local Government NSW's 'Save Our Recycling' campaign. The campaign calls on the NSW Government to reinvest all the money it receives from the waste levy into waste minimisation, recycling and resource recovery.

NEW MURAL FOR EASTWOOD

A new mural at the Eastwood pedestrian underpass will be commissioned as part of a new street art initiative being undertaken by the City of Ryde.

Additional street art projects will also be funded by Council over the coming years as a way of improving the aesthetics of public areas and discouraging graffiti vandalism.

INTERPRETER SERVICE TO BE TRIALLED

A 12 month trial will take place in which Council will provide a multilingual interpreter service for members of the public who wish to address Council and committee meetings.

The service will be available for speakers who provide Council with sufficient notice that they intend to publicly participate at a meeting.

PROPOSAL FOR A WHITE RIBBON WALK TO TAKE PLACE IN THE CITY OF RYDE

Council will seek to form a partnership with the Ryde Local Area Police Command and stage an annual White Ribbon Walk on 22 November. The White Ribbon Walk raises awareness of men's violence against women and how to prevent domestic violence in the community.

MORE MUSICAL EVENTS COULD BE HELD AT BRUSH FARM HOUSE

Following the success of the City of Ryde Orchestra in the Park event at Brush Farm House, Council will consider expanding the program to include another annual event at the venue. This will include opportunities to showcase different musical themes.

PUTNEY VILLAGE UPGRADE

Putney Village will be included in the City of Ryde's Neighbourhood Centres Upgrade program. Investigation and consultation will commence in 2024. Meanwhile, a new

sign directing motorists to the Putney Shopping Village will be installed at Victoria Road and Charles Street this year.

NEW SCHOOL ZONE TO BE INVESTIGATED

Council will consult with Roads and Maritime Service to investigate the possibility of introducing a 40km/h school zone in Buffalo Road, Ryde, adjacent to Ryde Secondary College. In addition, a new road sign will be installed on Buffalo Road pointing to the location of Ryde Secondary College.

COUNCIL TO CONSIDER BIKE AND KAYAK HIRE KIOSKS ALONG PARRAMATTA RIVER

The City of Ryde will identify possible locations along Parramatta River for bicycle and kayak hire kiosks. A report detailing the locations will be brought back to Council for consideration.

IMPROVING TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON EAST PARADE

The City of Ryde will consult with Eastwood residents and businesses about the prospect of removing two car spaces on East Parade (near the corner of First Avenue) to improve traffic congestion.

NEW ART COMPETITION TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ABOUT MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

Council will look to partner with Paint4Freedom – a national art competition designed to educate about the tragedy of modern-day slavery – in order to organise a local community art competition in the second half of this year.

FOUR YEAR DELIVERY PLAN NOW ON PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The draft 2019-2023 Four Year Delivery Program was endorsed by Council. The draft program will now be publicly exhibited from 3 May 2019 to 31 May 2019.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 May 2019.

Council to provide childcare for advisory committee members

Published on 03 May 2019

The City of Ryde will provide childcare for members of the public who are on Council advisory committees when meetings are held in a landmark step to encourage more parents to join the committees and broaden community representation.

The purpose of advisory committees is to allow local residents and relevant organisations participate in Council matters.

There are currently 16 advisory committees that meet on a quarterly basis each year such as the Status of Women Advisory Committee, the Arts Advisory Committee and the Macquarie Park Forum.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the childcare provision would remove a common barrier to participation on advisory committee process and allow members to request the childcare service if needed.

“The City of Ryde has a strong track record of implementing policies that promote inclusion and allow all members of the community to contribute to the running of Council,” Clr Laxale said.

“By providing childcare to members of our advisory committees when they are attending meetings, we are making it easier for parents and guardians in Ryde to participate in all aspects of the community.

“As an example, the Status of Women’s advisory committee currently has very few young or single mothers as members. As the committee’s charter is to provide advice on improving the ways in which local women are able to participate in civic life, offering childcare to current and future committee members will enable greater community participation to make our City a better place to live.”

Clr Penny Pedersen, who put forward the childcare provision motion, said the move would improve the way parents and guardians in Ryde could contribute to the community.

“This will help ensure single and working parents from all walks of life and from all backgrounds will become a part of the advisory committee process and contribute to discussions that impact them,” Clr Pedersen said.

A suitable community childcare provider will now be engaged by Council through an expression of interest process to provide the childcare service.

A report reviewing the use of the childcare provision will be provided to Council 12 months after the new service commences.

Ryde Youth Theatre returns with 'Trial By Birthday Cake'

Published on 02 May 2019

A series of short plays that deal with the concept of evil marks Ryde Youth Theatre's first production for the year, with a number of performances set to take place at the Ryde Park Band Rotunda this month.

The upcoming production by Ryde Youth Theatre is called 'Trial By Birthday Cake' and features 12 short plays written by members of the theatre aged between 14 and 19.

Writing for the plays began in the summer school holidays when the young playwrights came together to consider what the concept of evil meant to young people in the present day.

Ryde Youth Theatre Artistic Director Suzanne Hauser said the plays that make up 'Trial By Birthday Cake' ended up being much funnier than the subject matter might suggest.

"The short plays are as eclectic as their writers and include fantasy stories about deadly game shows, megalomaniacal freedom fighters and talking breakfast cereal with touchingly real stories about friendship, family break-up and disastrous birthday parties," Ms Hauser said.

"This will be a great night of imaginative, innovative, and very smart theatre right in the centre of Ryde."

Six performances of 'Trial By Birthday Cake' will take place this month at Ryde Park Band Rotunda. The dates and times of each performance are:

- Friday, 10 May at 7.30pm
- Saturday, 11 May at 7.30pm
- Sunday, 12 May at 5.30pm
- Friday, 17 May at 7.30pm
- Saturday, 18 May at 7.30pm
- Sunday, 19 May at 5.30pm

Ms Hauser said the Ryde Park Band Rotunda offered a unique experience to sample theatre productions.

"(The venue) makes for an unusual and magically intimate theatre space where the audience surrounds the stage," Ms Hauser said.

'Trial By Birthday Cake' is suitable for everyone aged 10 and over.

Tickets are \$15 including booking fee and are available from www.stickytickets.com.au/84080.

Ryde Park Band Rotunda is not wheelchair accessible. Anyone with accessibility concerns should call Ms Hauser on 0410 353 118.

Ryde Youth Theatre began as an initiative of a Youth Council member in 2009 to provide an accessible performing arts program for young people in the City of Ryde.