

# Annual permits for non-desexed cats and dangerous/restricted dogs

Published on 30 June 2020

From July, the NSW Government is introducing annual permits for non-desexed cats as well as restricted and dangerous dogs.

Owners of cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit.

Meanwhile, owners of dogs of a restricted breed or formally declared dangerous will be required to pay a \$195 annual permit.

Both permit fees are in addition to the one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

There is a 21-day grace period for affected pet owners to comply with the new requirements.

In addition, from 22 July pet owners will be able to pay for annual permits using the [NSW Pet Registry](#) website or through the City of Ryde.

Annual permit fees will go directly to the Companion Animals Fund, which pays for companion animal management by local councils.

[Click here](#) for more information.

# Housing code's impact already being felt in Ryde

Published on 30 June 2020

The full impact of the Medium Density Housing Code is quickly becoming a reality in the City of Ryde, with private certifiers already receiving applications to demolish one-storey homes in residential neighbourhoods and replace them with small blocks of flats.

The [Medium Density Housing Code](#), which is due to be implemented on 1 July, will allow multi-dwelling houses such as small blocks of flats and dual occupancy dwellings to be built in the City of Ryde's low-density residential neighbourhoods.

Crucially, the code also allows for these multi-dwelling developments to be approved by private certifiers, with no requirement for objections to be considered.

Council has already been contacted by a number of concerned residents who have been notified by private certifiers about plans to demolish houses and construct multi-dwelling units in their place when the code comes into effect from 1 July.

One such example is a property in Eastwood, in which the owners have lodged an application with a private certifier to demolish a single-storey residence and construct a multi-dwelling block with five units.

This can now be considered under the Medium Density Housing Code, despite Council previously rejecting a similar development application for the same property in 2019 due to the fact that the development would have resulted in unacceptable bulk and scale that was not compatible with the character of the area, and also seen the removal of five endangered Sydney blue gum trees.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said it was alarming that developers were wasting no time in proceeding with developments permissible under the code.

"Developers are licking their lips and their bulldozers are ready to destroy our local environment in pursuit of profit. Everything that our community has worked hard to protect over the decades is under threat," Clr Laxale said.

"The City of Ryde has opposed this code from day one and fought it in court as it is completely unworkable in our community.

"Despite this, Council's planning staff have worked diligently with the Greater Sydney Commission and the Department of Planning to get a suitable planning outcome for Ryde that is evidence-based and has community support.

"How can Planning Minister Rob Stokes say he will work with councils to protect our suburbs, then roll out the red carpet for developers from 1 July?

"If Mr Stokes is serious then he would defer the code until the State Government determine our planning proposal which would prevent the destruction of our low-density neighbourhoods and their natural environment."

# Council provides financial relief for sporting clubs

Published on 25 June 2020



The City of Ryde will waive ground hire and sports field lighting costs for the remainder of the 2020 winter sports season to help local sporting clubs recover from the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The unanimous decision from Council comes as community sport is set to resume on 1 July, more than three months after all community sporting matches were suspended as part of COVID-19 restrictions.

The suspension of community sport has had a serious impact on the finances of some local sporting clubs and organisations, with some struggling due to a loss in memberships, sponsors and ongoing fees.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the waiving of ground hire and sports field lighting costs will help ensure local sporting organisations survive the current crisis.

“Since the COVID-19 pandemic begun this Council’s intention has been to provide support to those who need it. The waiving of these costs does just that by providing support to those clubs who have been impacted the most by the pandemic. Clr Laxale said.

“By easing a financial burden, our community clubs can now concentrate on resuming play and getting locals back participating in the activities that they enjoy.”

Sporting clubs will need to formally apply with Council to have ground hire and sports field lighting costs waived.

In addition to the waiving of ground hire and sports field lighting costs, Council also unanimously resolved to extend the 2020 winter sports season to mid-October and to activate the lighting at some sports grounds to allow for weekday night games where permissible.

Clr Roy Maggio, who put forward the motion proposing the changes, said he was delighted that Council was supporting the local sporting community.

“Community sport is something I am very passionate about, so I am proud that Council has unanimously agreed to provide assistance to local sporting clubs and organisations, some of whom are doing it extremely tough at the moment,” Clr Maggio said.

Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee Chair, Clr Bernard Purcell, said the support offered by Council would be of great benefit to community sport in the City of Ryde.

“In what has been an extremely challenging year for everyone, the support that Council is providing will help the local sporting community recover and give it the best possible opportunity of completing as much of the 2020 winter sports season as possible, which is a fantastic result,” Clr Purcell said.

The motion to waive all ground hire costs, extend the winter sports season and activate lighting at some sports grounds was supported by the City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, the City of Ryde Deputy Mayor, Clr Simon Zhou, Clr Trenton Brown, Clr Edwina Clifton, Clr Christopher Gordon, Clr Peter Kim, Clr Jordan Lane, Clr Roy Maggio, Clr Chris Moujalli, Clr Penny Pedersen, Clr Bernard Purcell and Clr Sarkis Yedelian OAM.

To apply, visit Council's [Financial hardship and fee waiver applications page](#). Applications close on **Sunday 11 October at 11.59pm AEST**.

# People of Ryde presents Chris Yee

Published on 23 June 2020



My name is Chris Yee and I'm a Chinese-Australian creative raised in East Ryde. I grew up in a family of four, consisting of my twin brother, older brother and my mother. Our father sadly passed away when I was eight, so our formative years revolved around a Peter Pan-like Lost Boys experience of boys raising boys. Our mother was stressfully thrown back into the deep-end of the late 90s workforce, spending most of her time busily supporting our household and playing sole salary-provider.

East Ryde in the 90s was a really great suburb to grow up in. Its smaller scale developments made it a gem hidden under the shadow cast by the great 'North' and 'West' Rydes.

Afternoons were spent freely running around and riding bikes with other kids from East Ryde Primary School. Between waiting for our Mum to come home and cook dinner and avoiding homework entirely, my twin Andrew and I would spend hours watching cartoons and drawing. We became obsessed – in a



strange 'competitive-not-competitive' type of way – with sharing our imagined stories, inspirations and slowly seeing our drawing skills improve. Unlike other Asian families growing up in our area, we were never tutored or were never super academically gifted. However, it was this time spent drawing and having fun that kept us busily occupied at home by ourselves, and ultimately led to what we do today working in the creative industry of illustration and animation.

Following the lead of our older brother (and former '99 REPS School Captain, Michael) we were enrolled in Epping Boys High School, which couldn't have been more different from the comforts of our beloved East Ryde Primary School. While not at all a bad school by any means, Epping was tough. I have a soft spot for Epping Boys High School because to me it felt like the definition of 'public school'. A diamond in the rough, making the most of what it had. Epping was known mostly for rugby, like most of the boys schools in the neighbouring areas. Coming from a home where creativity was self-motivated and taught, it was disappointing to find that the visual art facilities were a bit slim. However, the teachers were really supportive, and the freedom afforded due to the relative looseness let us hone our passion for what we liked best, without ever really making us feel pressured.



Epping Boys High School was really important because it was extremely multicultural and had a diverse array of family structures. Many kids we grew up with came from single parent families, giving us common ground that we could relate to. This led to many long-lasting relationships with real people we could identify and share our similar experiences with.



Because the majority of our high school friends at the time were from Asian immigrant families, so many of our days after school were spent in the Crown Jewel of Ryde— Eastwood. Eastwood holds a special place in my heart because historically it's the only place where McDonald's, KFC, multiple pizza chains and Red Rooster can close down, yet a local Chinese noodle joint – which closes at 2am – can thrive for over two decades.



My fondest memories come from hanging with Korean and Chinese kids at the infamous- somewhat Greek themed- all rounder, Homer's Cafe, followed by ungodly hours spent at late night internet cafes. To me, it felt like Homer's was the go-to spot because of its diverse frozen-western-food menu. As a kid, it was as far removed from the food we'd usually eat at home. It was in a twist of irony that most of our time away from home was spent with other 'lost boys' in the most culturally similar suburb in the area. In a strange way, I like to think these friendships forged through this period of hanging out with no responsibility or sense of urgency helped us all understand each other's growing pains and lifestyles. In a way learning and sharing

through these natural relationships felt comfortably similar to my personal experience of organically learning how to draw and be creative as kids.

For me, it makes me really proud to see a suburb like Eastwood, one that defines itself and has a clear identity in Ryde. A place where locals support all the 'mum and pop' businesses – some new and old – from self-taught cultural practices and skills. It's the way I grew up and it's what I believe makes Ryde so special.

*Written by Chris Yee*

# People of Ryde presents Cameron Last

Published on 22 June 2020



My name is Cameron Last. I'm a year 10 student at Marist College Eastwood and I'm on the Ryde Youth Council. But that's probably not why you know me. You probably know me as the famous Sausage Boy – the kid who set out to eat a sausage at every booth in his electorate during both 2019 elections. But do you know how the famous sausage challenge started? Well, I guess things really started back on 5 July 2004, the day I was born, but I'll give you the short version of the story and start in February 2019.

I had been making and finding content for a Facebook page known as Humans of Eastwood, a comedic page centred around Eastwood, but including the whole City of Ryde area. I was going down a rabbit hole on the internet when I found some videos from late 2015. It was around the release of Star Wars Episode 7. There were a multitude of reporters who were working in Star Wars jokes during the weather reports. It was then that inspiration struck.



“What if I did that but with sausages on election day? What if I did an election report but instead of reporting on the elections, I would report on the sausages!”

I decided to take this to the one man I knew who had the platform to do it. I went to Humans of Eastwood founder, Justin Li.



“I have an idea for Humans of Eastwood. What if you did a weather-report style democracy sausage report?” I said to Justin.

“We don’t know what the sausages taste like though. We would need to find someone willing to eat sausages from every Election Day Sausage Sizzle,” he replied.

“I’ll do it!” I said.

“Don’t you have campaigning to do?” he questioned.

“Campaigning? Unimportant!” I retorted, brushing my political commitments to the side.

So that’s how the idea for the famous sausage challenge started. I promptly forgot all about sausages and elections and went to bed that night blissfully unaware that Justin had taken me seriously, until I woke up the next day to my dad asking me: “Are you the Democracy Sausage Connoisseur?”

“Y-yeah,” I said, still half asleep.

“Are you *the* Democracy Sausage Connoisseur?” he said.

“Yeah, anyone can be a Democracy Sausage Connoisseur.”

My dad then left me alone then, probably realising I was too tired to think straight. An hour later my mum asked me the same question.

“Are you the Democracy Sausage Connoisseur?” she asked. At this point I had woken up enough to realise that something was up. I leaned into my mother’s phone to see the Facebook post on display. It announced me as the Humans of Eastwood Democracy Sausage Connoisseur.

“I guess I am. I didn’t realise Justin was serious.” I replied, flustered from shock. We then all laughed at the hilarity of the situation.

And that’s the story of how I set out to eat 18 sausages at 18 different polling booths all around Ryde and lived to tell the tale.

# People of Ryde presents Anne Gharibian

Published on 21 June 2020



My name is Anne Gharibian and I am a first-generation Syrian born Armenian who migrated to Australia at the age of nine. I arrived in Sydney with no ability to speak, read or write English, like a lot of my community members who face the same adversity today. The district of Ryde is currently home to many first-generation Armenian's migrating from Syria.

I, like a lot of Armenians who currently live in Ryde, have felt that life in Ryde allowed us to integrate and re-establish ourselves by providing us with a sense of belonging, which made resettlement easier. Living in Ryde has a lot of similarities to what Armenians are used to in the Middle East. For example:

- The Ryde community has an open-door approach, which allows the re-settlers the ability to go and ask their neighbours for a bowl of sugar
- The Ryde community is free spirited and seems to like to go out for a stroll in the evenings, especially in summer.



From the perspective of an Australian citizen this may seem insignificant, however, for re-settlers these attributes allow us to resettle and resettle well.

The Armenian and the Australian connection, I think, was sealed more than 105 years earlier, as the ANZACs were being killed in Gallipoli so were the Armenians being massacred in the hundreds and thousands. The Armenian Genocide commenced in 1914 through till 1923, and more than 1.5 million Armenians were killed or expelled from regions of the Ottoman Empire.

Armenians over the last 105 years have become accustomed to resettling all over the globe. Armenians have always been an enterprising culture. It seems we can easily resettle and also start contributing towards that community in a positive way. Armenians are grateful to Australia and other countries that have opened their hearts and homes to us. This is no exception when we look at Ryde and the community of Armenians who have been living in Ryde and calling Ryde home.

Like Australia who supported the Armenian People during the Genocide, so too did countries in the Middle East, such as Syria. Yet due to the war now in Syria, Armenians have again needed to leave the homes we had established and again were required to resettle—many have resettled in Ryde.

It's important to say that the demand to resettle in Australia is a privilege and one that is not easily obtained. I was one of the lucky few that migrated to Australia as a permanent resident back in 1983 because my family picked Australia as our new home, when restrictions weren't as strict. Today, there are so many Armenians who wish to migrate and live in Australia and yet will never be able to owing to the strict migration guidelines.

The decision by my family to move to Australia has led me to achieve a Masters level education in my field of expertise and now owing to this privilege I can pay it forward. This privilege has allowed me to work on a volunteer basis and support new migrants in resettling in Australia, predominantly Ryde. Through the organisation the Armenian Resource Centre of Australia, I support all newcomers as they re-establish their work, home and businesses in the area with the intent to have a positive contribution to the greater Ryde region.

It is important to recognise and appreciate what Ryde and Australia has offered us and not lose sight of the person I am today because of my parents' choices and their decision to relocate and resettle in Australia.

In my opinion "home is where the heart is" and Ryde has heart. Ryde provides community, support, infrastructure and a long-standing extremely rich history, which allows people to integrate easily. It is this uniqueness that makes Ryde a special place for many people who live here and are changed by it. People who may not be able to live here, wish that they could be a part of its culture. What makes Ryde valuable is the melting pot that Ryde is and will continue to be for many more new generations of Australian Armenians for decades to come.

*Written by Anne Gharibian*

# A Special Day – In Time of The COVID-19 Pandemic – 25 April 2020

Published on 20 June 2020



This article is part of COVID-19 Stories, a platform that gives a voice to youths in Ryde during the pandemic by sharing the experiences of Youth Ambassadors in Ryde. It records the shared similarities and challenges faced by young people to help them stay connected during this period of uncertainty and get through it together.

## An Anzac Day diary entry by Youth Ambassador, Lucy Fang

It was 5:30ish, when I got up – still feeling a little groggy – for the Anzac Day Dawn Service. When we came out onto the driveway holding candles at 6 am, the autumn air was cool and crisp, and the sky was dim with a soft pinkish hue above the horizon. No neighbours were out yet; it was still the quiet of the morning. Dad turned the phone's volume down to the lowest bar to play the Queensland RSL's recording of the Dawn Service. It started with the Acknowledgement of Country, then The Ode recited by RSL Queensland President, and then the Last Post played by the Australian Army Band Brisbane, followed by a one-minute silence.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

Today was a very special day. I'd decided to cook all the meals for my parents to celebrate it, and to thank them for their unconditional love and support for me all

these years. I spent nearly an hour reading and choosing recipes, the overflow of information online left me feeling a bit disorientated. By the time I delivered the chef-in-training dishes of semi-French pancakes and fried Chinese dumplings, it was already mid-morning and my parents were starving!

I served lunch in a more timely manner, at 2 pm, with Japanese cold soba noodles and roasted salmon marinated with Korean miso paste. My parents loved the dishes, and I loved the fact that I could conveniently make mouth-watering international cuisines, living in one of Sydney's most diverse communities (we even found an Indian grocery shop near First Avenue and bought one of our all-time favourite DVDs there - The Three Idiots!).

After lunch, my cautious dad went to the shops with my shopping list, not letting me go with him. We ended up messaging each other back and forth to decide the flowers I wanted to get for my old teacher/mentor, Mr C. Tomorrow would be his wedding anniversary. They're a charismatic and highly intelligent elderly Polish couple whom I have enormous respect for.

Initially I thought I'd have a day off, just enjoying cooking and resting my eyes (I had to use eye-drops daily for my weary eyes during online schooling). But going through my calendar made me realise it wouldn't be possible until the end of HSC. So, I did bits and pieces of study in between my cooking (I also managed to squeeze in some fun K-pop dancing following the YouTube videos). Before I realised it, the sky was already turning dark grey, with the momentary splendour of the magical sunset glow. It was time for our deliveries.

The first trip was to Mr C's home. When we got there, the lovely colonial-style house was already lit up inside. Remembering that Mr C mentioned they'd dress up for dinners with different themes each day during this long iso-period, I smiled, what fun it must be. They would surely have a great day tomorrow even without any family and friends joining them. Placing the flowers and a bottle of wine on the front veranda, I went back to our car before surprising them over the phone. I wanted to ensure absolute social-distancing. To this day they're still working non-stop to contribute to local and global communities. A sense of gratitude and pride filled in me, thinking that I had a great mentor like Mr C.

The next delivery was in Hornsby for Women's Community Shelters. My school had notified us that the shelters needed more pre-prepared meals and also colouring-in books for at-risk children arriving at the shelters. It was really sad, thinking of their plight.

Turned out the address we arrived at wasn't a shelter. The house belonged to a kind lady who was helping at the shelters. Her lovely daughter came out and instructed us to put food and kids' stuff on the table under the carport. We then waved goodbye, keeping our distance the whole time. Seeing the donations stacked high on the table and around, I felt hopeful that with the whole community's care and support behind them, the women suffering life's adversities would remain strong in the face of tough challenges, for themselves, and for their children.

On the way back, dad had to rush to the office to fix some emergency, so I stayed in the car to finalise the agenda for our Young Entrepreneurs Society's leadership meeting at 8 pm. It was already 7 o'clock, 3 leaders still hadn't responded to the meeting notification after repeated emails from the secretary.

*How to be a good leader? Working the hardest was essential, but to me, this alone wasn't enough. How to lead the others effectively, especially volunteers?* I wasn't too sure. There's so much for me to learn. But nonetheless I decided to send out a strong message to all, informing them that I had important agenda to talk about, that I expected everyone to be at the meeting after we had moved it several times to suit everyone, and that they should re-consider about holding leadership positions if they're absent twice without advance notice.

I wanted to help them see what I saw and be motivated to act upon it. The pandemic and its devastating consequences made me realise again how important it is to prepare us and younger generations with an entrepreneurial mindset – to be creative, communicative, self-motivated to succeed, yet open to risk and failure. I planned to promote entrepreneurial education proactively on campus once Term 2 started, hoping that many more girls could benefit from our learning programs.

We had only one absence tonight, a big improvement from last time's eleven! The meeting went smoothly, and the girls were enthusiastic about the initiatives. Some immediately started drafting their action plans. It's always a joy working with the self-motivated and committed team members.

After a very late but delicious dinner - thanks to mum who came to the rescue and cooked us our favourite Thai-style fried-chicken noodles - I took a quick break to visit my 'long-time-no-see' Facebook friends' updates. A memory piece from three years ago by Y – an amazing young lady and my childhood role model - popped up:

'...my high school sweetheart asked me, and I said yes!!! I've known J since I was 12. I met him for the first time in English, first period on the first day of high school. It was definitely not love at first sight (I thought he was a nerd), but I would have never guessed that this is where we would end up. I have now known him for more than half my life.... I'm so happy you asked me out using an iPod Touch because there were too many students around on the school oval. I love you so much...'

Their story was like a fairy-tale, but not without its ups and downs, tears and heartaches. They later married in a rush, at the hospital bedside of her beloved stepfather who had worked tirelessly to support the family and treated her like his own (while the birth father chose to be distant and absent for most of her growing-up). The kind and talented stepfather who was well liked by everyone died soon after – yet to reach the age of fifty - in peace and content, knowing the two women he loved with his life would be in good hands and well looked after.

Y and J are now young professionals doing very well in their respective fields, living happily ever after.

I rubbed my eyes and moved on to finish redrafting/shorten the statements to fit our Entrepreneurs Society FB page until I finally got it:

Vision: A world in which every girl/young woman thrives as leaders and change makers.

Mission: To teach students critical 21st-century skills and nurture an entrepreneurial mindset valuable for study, work, and lifelong learning.

It was nearly midnight. Turning the lights off, I felt content that I had a special and productive day on Anzac Day 2020, even in the middle of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## **About Lucy Fang**

LLucy is a 17-year-old who grew up in Ryde and attends Pymble Ladies' College on an academic scholarship. She loves reading, music, and the arts. In 2019, she was awarded Miss Granny Smith Festival Queen for her great efforts and contributions to the community over the years. She believes that 'in helping others, we help ourselves'.

# People of Ryde presents Richard Scenna

Published on 20 June 2020



When I was asked to write this, I felt inspired to write about the influence the older people in my life have had on me and my choice to work helping seniors stay connected via technology.

My nonna was such an influence on me. She showed incredible courage as a widowed mother of three arriving in Australia and speaking very little English. My mother was 13 when she travelled here with nonna. I can only imagine how truly daunting that long journey by ship would have been for both nonna and mum. While there were relatives here, the move could not have been easy. In fact mum shared her struggles with me over the years, before she passed away. My dad too travelled here as a teenager, speaking little English. He immediately set about putting his amazing work ethic to use for this new home. His work ethic is something that I'm proud my siblings and I have inherited.



As I've gotten older I've realised and appreciated how much I am a product of their stories. I've realised how resilient I am because I've been surrounded by resilient people. Resilience is a word that I never really understood, even though now it's used a lot. It turns out I have seen it in practice from a very young age through my

nonna, mum and dad, as well as the rich tapestry of aunts (zias) and uncles (zios) around me.

Two of my most life changing experiences are related to nonna and mum and their demonstration of absolute determination and grit. You see, I was in the room when my nonna passed away about ten years ago. She succumbed to old age and dementia having spent over five years in aged care and several years prior with declining health.



More recently, I was in the room when mum passed after bravely battling pancreatic cancer for three years. She was able to pass away at home, here in Ryde, with all of us around her.



Being with nonna when she passed away was an incredibly moving experience. Being in the room when mum passed was an even more spiritual experience. I can't fully explain it, particularly in only a few words. But what I can say is that I have learnt that one of the most important gifts you can ever give is to be present... in the moment. Even when the moment is confronting.

Which brings me to what I do now. I now work with aged care and community organisations to support seniors to stay connected with their family, friends and community through the use of technology. I do this because of my experience with, and my respect and admiration for, the older people around me. Because they have cared for me, in turn I care for them.

It's like my 25 year professional business career has perfectly fused with my 40-plus year life experience to champion the value our older generation deserves.



I am so passionate about how we can use technology to ensure we maintain the connection of our older generation... and I love my work.

*Written by Richard Scenna*

# Development applications to be lodged online through NSW Planning Portal

Published on 19 June 2020

From 1 July 2020, development applications (DAs), applications for modifications of development consent and applications for review of determination with respect to development works within the City of Ryde must be submitted via the [NSW Planning Portal](#) website, as mandated by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.

Customers will need to register with the Department of Planning's Planning Portal website and submit their application online via the Planning Portal. Council will then review the application for acceptance. If additional information is required to complete the lodgement, the applicant will be notified via the NSW Planning Portal. Customers will be able to track the progress of their application via the Planning Portal.

Council will no longer be able to accept physical applications by post or in person from 1 July 2020.

Customers requiring assistance using the Planning Portal can access [HowTo](#) guides or contact ServiceNSW on 1300 305 695 or email [info@service.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@service.nsw.gov.au).

For advice regarding planning and development matters, residents and building professionals can access City of Ryde's free [Building and Development Advisory Service](#) by calling Council's Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222.

Further information about the DA process is available on Council's website [here](#).

# People of Ryde presents Nasrin Azizi

Published on 19 June 2020



## CITY OF RYDE IS REFUGEE WELCOME ZONE

I am happy to welcome you all to the City of Ryde. The City of Ryde is a “Refugee Welcome Zone”, which means that our community works to give refugees and asylum seekers alike a welcoming place to live. And the City of Ryde is like my own hometown.

My family and I arrived in Australia as refugees from Afghanistan in 2002, which was 18 years ago. Unfortunately, when we arrived, we were not given much information about the services available to us as refugees. It took us a while to find things like English classes and other services that would help us become a part of the wonderful Australian community. We didn’t even know about train and bus timetables, or even how to buy tickets!



It was not until I went to the Community Migrant Resources Centre (CMRC) that I learned about all of these things. The centre gave me information about the community, about how to apply for citizenship, where to take computer classes and how to apply for jobs. Since 2002, communication with refugees has improved a lot, so there is even more information available to you about services in the community. I remember the City of Ryde had a project which was called “A Guide for Asylum Seekers and Refugees” to provide you with all the information about all the services available to you around the City of Ryde community. Through the City of Ryde

Council and other organisations in the community, you can receive help with education, legal matters, and documentation and visas. The education you can receive around the community includes English classes, cooking classes, computer classes and more. There are also educational groups for your children, so that they get a head-start with reading and writing in English.

There are also many community and social groups available through the City of Ryde Council, such as craft groups at libraries, mothers' groups, and men's groups. There are cultural groups for many different languages and cultures, including Persian, Indian, Chinese, Korean, and many more.



But there was no Afghan women's group in the City of Ryde.

In 2016 I started an Afghan women's wellbeing group project in partnership with the City of Ryde Council, Settlement Services International and CMRC. The Afghan Women's Well-being Project contributed to long term strategic planning and sustainable re-settlement practices needed to meet the emerging service provision needs of Afghan women in the Ryde area.

The primary community outcome of this project was to break down individual and community barriers creating social isolation for Afghan women. Another key community outcome was providing connections between the women and a variety of service providers who are able to offer them information and support, which increases their accessibility to the services.

The project also personally and directly benefits 15 Afghan women who are socially isolated. In some cases, these women are facing domestic violence or are recent arrivals, including humanitarian entrants. These workshops provided an opportunity for the women to discuss personal issues in a safe space and, following this, become connected to support organisations and service providers who could address their needs. For example, in a workshop facilitated by Legal Aid, a participant shared her experience, which included psychological abuse and threats by her spouse who threatened to cancel her visa, forcing her to return to Afghanistan. The representative from Legal Aid was able to refer the participant to additional support services to address her situation, as well as providing legal advice regarding the rights of the participant in a confidential setting.

This project has reduced social isolation, cultural barriers and increased understanding of Australian culture and systems. A final, additional outcome was the improved self-esteem of the women.

Without the City of Ryde Council's support, I would not be able to run the Afghan Women's Wellbeing Group successfully.

*Written by Nasrin Azizi*

# Thousands of new dwellings to be built in Ryde unless housing code deferred

Published on 19 June 2020

More than 23,000 additional dwellings could be permissible in the City of Ryde's low-density residential neighbourhoods from 1 July unless the NSW Government grants Council a short deferral of the Medium Density Housing Code.

The Medium Density Housing Code, which is due to be implemented from 1 July, allows multi-dwelling houses such as small blocks of flats (known as manor houses) and dual occupancy dwellings to be built in R2 Low Density Residential neighbourhoods in numbers far exceeding low densities.

The code's implementation was initially deferred in the City of Ryde and 45 other local government areas by the NSW Government to allow councils to undertake planning work that would guide housing provision and accommodate predicted growth.

As part of this work, Council produced a draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), with the support of the Greater Sydney Commission in March 2020, that set the priorities and vision for Ryde's growing city.

Council also developed a Local Housing Strategy to address the city's evolving demographics and ensure appropriate housing diversity can be delivered in a sustainable manner into the future.

In accordance with the vision in Council's LSPS and based on the evidence and analysis in the Local Housing Strategy, Council then developed a planning proposal to ensure the Medium Density Housing Code would apply in a more sustainable and appropriate manner.

This proposal, which would prevent the approval of multi-dwelling developments and manage the number and location of dual occupancy developments in Ryde's low-density residential neighbourhoods, was provided to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment seeking approval for public exhibition on 30 March 2020.

At the start of this month – one month before the code's implementation – the department requested further information be included in the proposal before community consultation can take place.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the short deferral was essential to allow Council to finalise the planning proposal and protect Ryde's low-density residential neighbourhoods.

“The City of Ryde has opposed the Medium Density Housing Code since day one, as it has the potential to allow 23,000 additional dwellings and 60,000 residents in low-density neighbourhoods – numbers which are five times higher than the targets set by the Greater Sydney Commission,” Clr Laxale said.

“Despite our opposition to the code we worked with the NSW Government on the undertaking that our planning proposal would be completed in time to save our streets. Instead, at the 11th hour, they’ve shifted the goal posts, making a mockery of Planning Minister Rob Stokes’ statement that he’s willing to work with council.

“Given it is the government’s department that has put the brakes on Council’s proposal, it is only right for the government to grant Council a short deferral so we can save our quiet neighbourhoods. Without a deferral, there will be bulldozers in every street in two weeks.

“Canterbury-Bankstown and Northern Beaches councils are in the same boat as the City of Ryde with planning proposals currently with the department that require more time before finalising.

“This is not about politics, it is about doing what is right for our communities.”

# People of Ryde presents Jose Francisco

Published on 18 June 2020



In 2008, my family and I migrated from the Philippines to Australia. One of the biggest challenges for me as a migrant is knowing what city is the right place for me to live and reside, what city is the safest, what city is convenient and accessible to public transport and what city truly embraces diversity and multiculturalism. Ryde would be on the top of my list!

My family settled in Newcastle and I spent most of my teenage and pre-adolescent years there. When I left school, I decided that it was time to move on another chapter of life, that is, changing places and environment. No 'ifs', no 'buts' and certainly no doubts or fears. There was no city other than Australia's biggest city that I could think of choosing, except Sydney!



It was time to experience living in a different city with a different outlook and ambience, but where in Sydney to settle? I spent countless hours and days surfing the internet and browsing every classified page of newspapers and tabloids to try to find cheaper, yet safe and convenient, Sydney suburbs. Out of 30 local government districts in Sydney, the City of Ryde stood out to me the most. Firstly, it is very close to Macquarie University, where I had been accepted to study a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Science. Secondly, it is

easily accessible by public transport. A travel time of 30 minutes from Ryde to the Sydney CBD is a big bonus, especially for me who likes wandering about and experiencing the hustle and bustle of the heart of Sydney.

My two and a half years of living in Ryde have given me a lot of opportunities that I would never of imagined. I was able to study at Macquarie University, which is close to my home. Accessibility in Ryde is never a problem, as it has a well-established mass transportation system including trains, taxis and buses, which run from 7am till 1am.



Trying to catch public transport at midnight after partying is never a problem for me. Access to essential services is convenient and also affordable. Shopping centers, hospitals and medical practice clinics, convenience stores, supermarkets and food markets can be found all over Ryde. In addition, you cannot get bored living here, as there are many recreational and leisure places to visit such as cinemas, recreational parks, aquatic centers, public libraries and worship grounds.

As a food geek, you can find hundreds of restaurants throughout Ryde, with cuisines ranging from Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Italian, Japanese and Korean. Of course, there are also heaps of fast-food chains such as McDonalds, KFC, and Dominos Pizza.

According to some renowned experts and planners, Ryde is one of the safest suburbs to live in throughout Sydney. I agree! I am not afraid to wander around the streets of Ryde, even past midnight. All the essential places and hang-around zones are equipped with CCTV cameras and security. At the same time, Ryde is a melting pot of cultures which embraces people who come from everywhere and anywhere. You might meet someone along the street who is from India while you might see someone on the bus who is from China or France. It is very nice to meet and socialise with diverse people from different backgrounds.

Fast forward to now, I am proud to say that I have no regrets in choosing Ryde as my permanent city to live, reside, study and work. As one of the safest suburbs to live throughout Sydney, Ryde embraces the true values of diversity, multiculturalism, safety, convenience and accessibility. Compared to Newcastle, Ryde is the best and I recommend Ryde as the place to be!

# People of Ryde presents Emma Chen

Published on 17 June 2020



## A NEW CHAPTER OF MY LIFE

When I was a little girl, I was always dreaming I could go somewhere far away from my small hometown village in China to explore the big world. 25 September 2004 was a memorable day in my life; my husband Wei and I, with our four-year-old daughter Miffy, landed in Sydney International Airport. I sat in the back seat of a friend's car as we drove out of the airport and looked through the car windows outside. What a beautiful day – sunny, blue sky even the air was full of sweet unknown flower fragrances. It was hard to express my mixed emotions of excitement and anxiety. What would be my new life in Australia?



Life really did change and lots of things were confusing to me at the beginning. One day we went for a walk along our street and saw a big sign: 'Garage Sale'. I was puzzled and said to Wei: "Why do people sell their garage? It is weird they can sell their property separately, garage, main dwelling, backyard and front yard?" When I talked to my friend about this, he could not stop laughing.

Another day I went to Woolworths and the staff kindly asked me at checkout whether I wanted any cash out. I was really shocked. "What? Can I get some cash out? Does that mean everything was free?"

There was no such thing as ‘garage sales’ or ‘cash out’ in China. Similar to other migrants, we have learned these things and ways to slowly merge into the local society.



The huge challenge was job hunting as a new skilled migrant. I achieved my university degree in information technology and had a few years work experience in China. Without local work experience, it was still hard to find my first job. Two weeks after arriving, I attended the English course for new migrants and joined Toastmaster Club to improve my English speaking. Meanwhile I started job hunting. I searched Yellow Pages and sent out my resumé to some small software companies offering to volunteer my services.

Luckily after another two weeks I got a volunteer job as Software Quality Analyst. After one month, the company offered me a permanent job due to my excellent performance. Another two years later and I got my second job in QAD Australia as a Senior Quality Analyst.

“I love that I have a job that I love,” was my motto, which drove me to climb the ladder further to become a Principal Quality Analyst and even Agent Lead over the years.

After some years living in a few different suburbs around Sydney, my family finally moved to North Ryde in 2013. Living in the Ryde area is easy and convenient. There’s public transport, schools and it is close to my work in Macquarie Park. We especially like the very kind and friendly community.



I joined a WeChat group for Chinese migrants in the Ryde area. We share school information, tips about children’s education and generally help each other. A few years ago, a Chinese family home burned down in Marsfield. People shared this sad news with the group and then donations were organised to encourage and support the family to recover from this horrible disaster. During this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in February, there were lots of families coming back from China after the Chinese New Year holiday. We reminded and even urged each other to stay home for the two weeks of isolation. If any family was isolated at home, lots of others were volunteering to deliver groceries and food.

There were countless good things that happened to our family because of living in Ryde and we’ve tried to repay those kindnesses by volunteering with local sports clubs, as well as more recently by volunteering with the COVID-19 emergency support efforts. We could not be more thankful to the local community and are so proud to be part of the Ryde community. *Written by Emma Chen*



# The RALC to reopen from 22 June

Published on 16 June 2020

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) will reopen for lap swimming and squad training from Monday 22 June following the easing of coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions by the NSW Government.

The RALC will strictly adhere to physical distancing measures to ensure everyone's health and safety.

Between 22 June and 30 June, a maximum of three swimmers per lane will be allowed at any one time, with all patrons required to maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres from others.

All members of the public will be required to sign in with their name and contact phone number or email upon arrival. In addition, each patron will be asked to sanitise their hands at the sanitisation stations prior to approaching the reception desk or member's turnstile.

Operating hours will be as per normal. Normal entry fees apply, with the preferred payment method by card.

Patrons who have a multi-visit card or membership card will have the term of their card extended to match the period of closure from when the RALC was closed on 23 March.

Change facilities will be operational, but have limited access.

The kiosk will operate during limited hours, with a maximum of 16 people allowed to sit in the kiosk at a time.

At the conclusion of a visit, patrons must leave the RALC immediately.

From 1 July, the RALC will operate applying the four square metre rule, while maintaining physical distancing requirements, which is in line with further easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Anyone who feels unwell or has symptoms including coughing, fever, sore throat or a runny nose is asked not to attend the RALC. RALC staff will refuse entry to any patrons that present with such symptoms.

[Click here](#) for more information.

# People of Ryde presents Maria Dalmon

Published on 16 June 2020



*Maria Dalmon*

Hello, my name is Maria. I grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney in the 1950s.

As a young baby I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that affects movement, posture and is a life-long condition.

I consider myself fortunate. Being born cerebral palsy, I do not know any differently. For me, life is as normal as it can be. I am never concerned with what I can't do but I am proud of what I can. I have accomplished much in my life.

I was educated and received treatment at the Spastic Centre of NSW (now known as the Cerebral Palsy Alliance) and later worked and trained at their workshop as a computer operator.



In my teenage years, I yearned for my independence. I often wondered what my future held. I never imagined that I would marry and become the happy, contented woman I am today.

In 1986, I married Lindsay. Lindsay was also born with cerebral palsy. While we were both once able to walk, we now both rely on electric wheelchairs for mobility. Our speech and hand function are also affected.



In 1990, when the government decided that people with a disability should be integrated into the general workforce, I secured an administrative position at North Ryde RSL Community Club. Lindsay was also employed by the Spastic Centre of NSW, as a computer operator/programme analysis.

In 2009, Lindsay and I both retired. We now have more time to be together and enjoy going sailing and to the live theatre, gardening, doing jigsaws and many other activities.



Despite our disabilities, we have travelled extensively, both in Australia and to many countries around the world – UK, France, Italy, Greece and Japan. We now enjoy going on cruises and have cruised to Alaska, the Pacific Islands, New Zealand and circumnavigated Australia.

We sail fortnightly with Sailability. Sailability is a worldwide volunteered based organisation that promotes sailing for people with disabilities. We have competed in many Australian and international regattas, winning many titles.

I am an accomplished author. Late last year my autobiography 'Don't Tell Me I Can't' was published. My book is a celebration of my life and tells the positive, and sometimes funny side of life with a disability.



Lindsay and I decided to make our home in the City of Ryde. North Ryde was central to where we worked, and close to Lindsay's parents' home so we could call upon them should we have needed their help. We settled in a home unit in Herring Road. Many years later, we sold our unit and purchased a villa in Cox's Road, East Ryde where we live today.

The City of Ryde embraces the needs of people with disabilities and provides great accessibility and facilities.

We have access to:

- An accessible public transport system. Many public buses traveling through the City of Ryde are wheelchair accessible. We are able to travel to Parramatta, Hornsby, into the city, or anywhere we wish. The introduction of the Metro has broadened our travel possibilities greatly
- Shopping. We shop weekly at Cox's Road Mall. And, using accessible public transport, we are able to shop at Macquarie or Top Ryde shopping centres. We often catch the Metro to Castle Hill Towers or to Chatswood
- [Macquarie University Sport and Aquatic Centre](#). We train weekly under the guidance of an Exercise Physiologist. Fitness is important to us
- Doctors, dentists and podiatrists and wheelchair friendly footpaths and kerbs
- Parks and Bushland. We often "wheel' ourselves to Blenheim Park and enjoy the serenity of the bush

The City of Ryde also offers me many opportunities for social inclusion:

- I join in worship with the congregation at North Ryde Community Uniting church on Sundays. I volunteer to greet and welcome people as they arrive at our church twilight markets held during the summer months
- I attend social activities offered by North Ryde Community Aid – Presbyterian Aged Care. Lindsay and I enjoy lunch and/or morning tea at the centre, and often play a game of bingo or listen to a guest speaker. We enjoy the company of all who attends
- We love going to Carols by Candlelight held in North Ryde Common each Christmas

I am thankful I can call the City of Ryde my home.

*Written by Maria Dalmon*

# People of Ryde presents Lucy Fang

Published on 15 June 2020



## TOMORROW IS A NEW DAY

Life is a journey towards our goals and dreams we have set up along the way – it's up to us to make life an adventure, or a monotonous overnight bus trip. Once I read someone's remark that she aims for a life without big regrets – she wants to be able to say she has followed her heart and tried her best when she reaches the end of the journey. I thought that was great—that's what I want my life to be.



I've learned life is about relativity. When I was bored by the ton of colouring-in tasks in my primary lessons, my 'rebellious' brother wanted to drop out of high school claiming it was 'a waste of time' (once he entered university where he was free to choose any courses and lecturers, he began to enjoy school again and went on to attain a High Distinction average). My concerned parents frantically researched Finland's education system – literally the world's best, daydreaming of sending us there. Yet through all of that, my dad never stopped telling me that I was much luckier than he was. The very first Chinese words he was taught at school was 'Long live Chairman Mao', and



in grade two they were required to write essays condemning the country's top politicians who had just been brought down by Mao. The only way to fulfil those incomprehensible homework tasks was by copying paragraph after paragraph from propaganda newspapers with their parents' help. They had to be extremely careful. Any small errors in those assignments could send their parents to the horrifying re-education camps. And to attend his barely functioning primary school, my country-boy dad used to walk miles and hours with his friends each day, rain or shine, along the rough footpath zigzagging through the hills and by the river. In Australia, I was driven comfortably to my primary school every day even though it was just a five-minute ride. Sometimes I wish I could have had some of dad's fun experiences of walking to school—as long as I never had to deal with snakes, lizards or Magpies, that is.



Life is about looking forward too. My bright but illiterate grandma raised four strong and kind-hearted children despite the Great Chinese Famine and subsequent extreme difficulties that life threw her way during the tragic times when countless peasants were starved to death. Grandma liked to say tomorrow would be a new day. Dad became the first in the family to attend university. His siblings have followed his footsteps; and they all live a much better life today.

Through my high school journey and some reality checks, I came to realise that the world could be very complicated, especially for young people from ordinary families that have no money or power connections to 'pave the way'. But having come across many kind-hearted people who supported or mentored me with enthusiasm and selflessness, I also realise that the world can be very simple, just like my grandma's belief – tomorrow will be better no matter what, and we can all reach our goals, dreams and live a fulfilling life if we work hard (maybe twice as hard), persevere, stay true to ourselves, and remain optimistic even in the darkest of moments.



*Written by Lucy Fang*

# New date set for local government elections

Published on 15 June 2020

The NSW Government has announced that the local government elections will now be held on Saturday 4 September 2021.

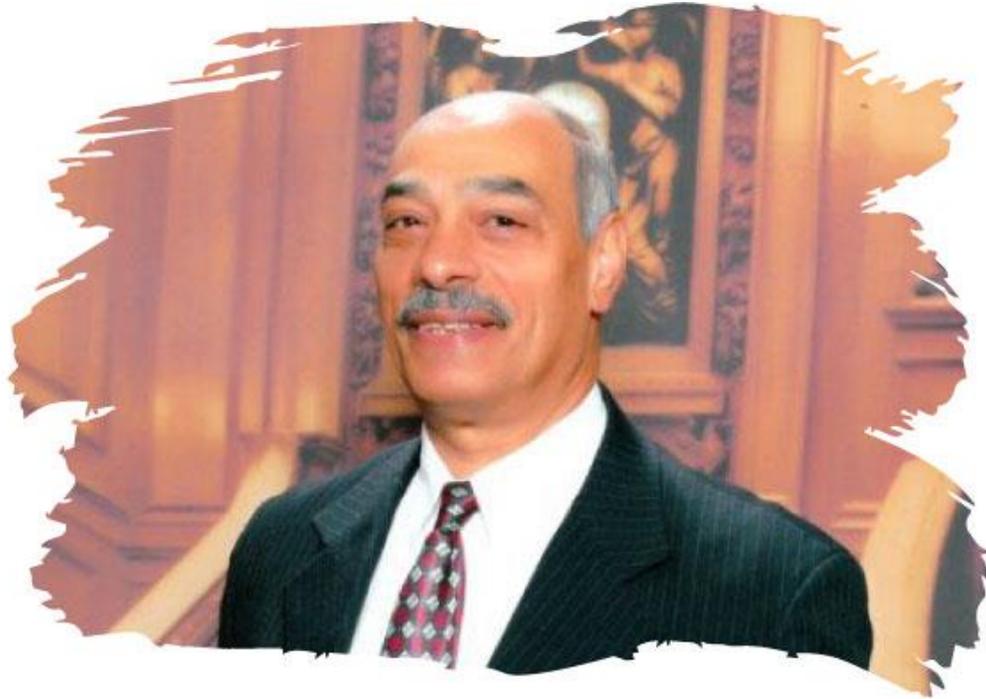
The announcement follows the decision to postpone the September 2020 elections for 12 months due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to ensure the health and safety of candidates, voters and NSW Electoral Commission staff.

City of Ryde councillors will continue to hold their civic offices until the rescheduled local elections are held.

[Click here](#) for more information.

# People of Ryde presents Hassib Elias

Published on 14 June 2020



My name is Hassib Elias.

I was born in Jerusalem (Old City) on 25 October 1949 of Palestinian patriotic and religious parents, who in turn were also of Palestinian birth. I grew up in Jerusalem and studied and completed my primary and higher education at private De LaSale Schools and Catholic Terra Sancta Colleges.



Due to the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 and the harsh life restrictions placed on Palestinians, my parents decided to immigrate to Australia for a better life and a decent respectable future for all of us.

I arrived in Sydney on 5 September 1971 with my family and resettled in the City of Ryde. Within a few weeks of my arrival, I applied for a job at Life Savers Limited (Australasia), the confectionery company, which was located in Lane Cove, where I started as a process worker, then moved on to the factory office as Assistant Purchasing Officer.

I have had multiple successful promotions throughout the years over the length of my career, until my early retirement in 2002, when I had reached the position of Administration Manager- Commodities at Nestle Australia Limited.



Coming from a war-torn country where the inhumane and cruel oppression of Palestinian people became the norm gave me a political and humanitarian drive, installing in me the power to stand up and defend, protect, and support the cultural rights and traditions of Palestinian immigrants in Australia, hence the reason behind the establishment of The Australian Palestinian Association.

Throughout the years, our association has had close collaborations and friendly contacts with members of Ryde's Multicultural Advisory Committee, and also since 2008, via my personal membership with The Ryde Community Harmony Reference Group. The association has proudly participated in most, if not all, Ryde cultural, heritage, historical and national festivals and events.



As much as I have served my own community, I have assisted others in order to help create a more multicultural and humanitarian society. I have supported and helped Iraqi Refugees, and more recently The Syrian Armenian Refugees to resettle and find a work in their new homeland Australia.

Culturally, the association organised the first ever Palestinian Exhibition at Parramatta Immigration Centre in 1980, printing and publishing two books about Palestine in English and Arabic Languages. Copies of the books were donated to government and council libraries, universities and even to members of parliament.



The City of Ryde is a safe, secure and clean suburb. It is beautifully situated in the green leafy belt between both Parramatta and Lane Cove rivers. The area was originally named "Field of Mars", and as history goes, Ryde had two distinctive structures that no other suburb had in the 1960s: the Ryde Municipal Council Red Bricks Building (the tallest) and Top Ryde Shopping Centre (enclosed /covered).

Ryde inhabitants are a nice and friendly mix of people. The suburb has the best public transport system, but also excellent medical facilities, good public and private schools and colleges and lush green leafy parks. It's also great for its closeness to the City of Sydney.

Over the last few years, the City of Ryde has changed dramatically, with too many developments and high-rise buildings, which have affected the lifestyle of people and brought a lot of noise, pollution, and congestion to streets and roads instead.

I hope that the officials, mayors and councillors look deeper and think wisely about these developments to keep our beautiful City of Ryde clean, Green, and safe.

*Written by Hassib Elias*

Diploma in Health Counselling- Medical Register of Australia  
Diploma in Ego State Therapy Counselling –Macinspire Sydney  
Certified Certificate of Diploma of Law -University of Sydney  
(From The Barristers & Solicitors Admission Board)

# People of Ryde presents Simran Keshwani

Published on 13 June 2020



It was a cold, winter morning in February 2018, when I woke up in my bed, in my safe haven in the heart of New Delhi, India. This was not like any other morning, because I knew this was the day that was going to change my story forever. To come to think of it, I had anticipated this moment for as long as I can remember. When people asked me why I chose to study in Australia over the UK, I only had one thing to say: “because my heart said so”.

I remember landing at the airport, with my heart racing. The next thing I knew, I had managed to drop all my luggage in the middle of the road (major cold feet!) while trying to get a cab from Mascot to Eastwood, where I was to stay. Learning to furnish the house on my own, changing light bulbs, setting up the Wi-Fi, and watching my father, who had come to drop me to Australia, vacuum my room before he left, were some of my first experiences in Ryde.

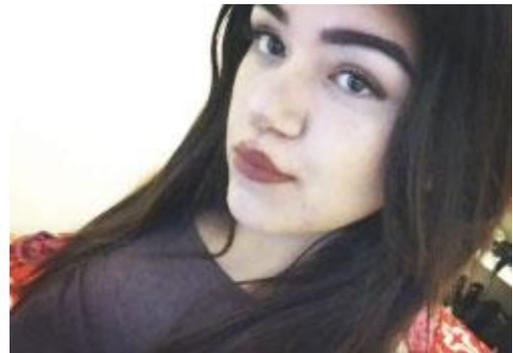


FaceTime soon replaced being around family, and over time even my grandparents got tech savvy and took up the mantle of learning millennial lingo. A lot was changing around me – from picking up an Aussie accent, to giving up baggy T-shirts (which I swore by all my undergrad!), to hitting the gym (never imagined I’d take the

plunge), to learning how to cook Indian food for myself, waking up to an alarm instead of mum's voice and managing work with university. In the middle of learning to keep all the bits of New Delhi within me alive, and watching the stars from the Macquarie Lake, I had the extraordinary honor of meeting myself.

Two years, six houses, countless train rides across the city, multiple jobs and tons of memories later, I can proudly say that the City of Ryde embraced me with its arms open wide. Meeting people from all walks of life and stepping outside my own culture to step into someone else's way of life not only gave me a fresh perspective on existence but reaffirmed my faith in the fact that ultimately, we're all part of the same story.

Back in New Delhi, I began my career as a lifestyle journalist at the tender age of 15, and soon forayed into covering international affairs. What kept me going all along was a firm belief in the redemptive power of words, and how they're the closest one can get to a place of refuge during hardship. Covering the crisis in Syria and publishing a book – 'Becoming Assiya' – at the age of 20 put me one step closer to learning how we are the sum total of stories we tell, and how narratives can be a powerful political tool for transformation.



My experiences and qualifications meant I was given the opportunity to work at the New South Wales Parliament as a Research Assistant, which helped me take a synoptic view towards our lives as members of a shared community. It was only in Australia that I was looked at solely for my talent, and my passion for social change. I felt deeply accepted, and my nationality or position as an outsider soon faded into the background. I realised this truly is a country of dreamers – and nothing is beyond reach.

In the journey of life, our ultimate destination... is within. It is there that we find ourselves, and it was in the bustling yet serene City of Ryde, that I evolved into the woman I always wanted to be.

# Corrective Services NSW Band brings out the boogie in us

Published on 12 June 2020



Social isolation during the coronavirus pandemic has been tough for our community but the Corrective Services NSW Band knows exactly how to boost our spirits—with some music and boogieing of course. Through the help of the Internet and modern technology, they have been recording, performing and producing online music videos to keep us entertained and singing in our lounge rooms.

Established in 1981, the Corrective Services NSW Band has called Eastwood home since 2012. Its role is to build a connection between the community and Corrective Services NSW through a shared love of music.

Before the recent restrictions on social gatherings were implemented, the band performed live at events such as graduation ceremonies and commemorative occasions to promote the NSW Government and Corrective Services. As social distancing measures came into place, events were cancelled and band members could no longer perform together at one location, although this doesn't mean that they have been idle. Instead, the band has been navigating the digital realm, with the help of some tech savvy members, to record, mix and edit music videos for us to enjoy.

As of this article's publication, they have produced three songs: "Waltzing Matilda" as part of the 2020 ANZAC Day Commemoration, popular animation film Frozen 2's song "Into the Unknown" and all-time favourite "Blame it on the Boogie". You can watch the videos for free on the [Corrective Services NSW Band's Facebook](#) page.

And why are they are doing this? Correction Services NSW Music Director John Buckley says, "It's a fun thing to do, a great way to give back to the broader community and to put a smile on people's faces."

# People of Ryde presents Warren Smith

Published on 12 June 2020



My name is Warren Smith, a bloke happily married for 37 years, with two children and three adorable grandchildren. I was also the 2017 Ryde Citizen of the Year and have been pleased to use that recognition to help raise awareness for organisations I volunteer for such as State Emergency Services (SES) and Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA).

I've done so many charity sizzling BBQ's chances are I've meet you.

From a humble upbringing, I worked hard during the day and studied every night for six years to progress from my first job washing cars to become an offset printer, then a fitter and turner, onto a mechanical engineer, all before my significant career as an executive in a large national company. Last of all I operated my own local building business for 25 years before taking early retirement in 2013 due to poor health—I survived cancer, a heart procedure and two back and shoulder operations.

Leaving behind the constraints of employment, I discovered that in retirement volunteering allowed me to go outside my comfort zone to discover



unrealised talents as an effective public speaker. I now passionately give more than hours per week to volunteering organisations.

I settled in Ryde in 1980, purchasing my family home here, which was a great decision as I have found our city to be a wonderful place to live and that spirit is the inspiration why I support my community in “making a difference”.

My first significant volunteering role was in the SES and came about following a tornado destroying my Ryde home in 2005. When I pulled up in front of my smashed home, my first thought was to get a bulldozer and start again. I can still recall the smell of the broken wet trees that had flattened my property. It took me a year to recover, but it motivated me to join the SES so I could help others know what to do to better prepare for storm emergencies.

Over many years, I have coordinated the SES stall at popular City of Ryde events such as the Granny Smith Festival, Lunar New Year, Harmony Day and numerous school fetes. I’ve done loads of interactive presentations preparedness for storm and flood emergencies, as well as delivering innovative sequential multilingual talks in English with Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, Indonesian, Turkish and Farsi translators and also to the deaf community via Auslan interpreters. In 2016 my efforts were recognised when I received the SES Commissioners Award.

For more than a decade I have volunteered at Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) Ryde Centre which is an organisation run 100 percent by volunteers providing horse related therapy for people with a disability to assist our riders to achieve and progress physically, socially and educationally. By doing public presentations, tours, corporate days and fundraising events we have raised considerable donations and seen resident awareness of RDA move from about 4 percent to more than 60 percent.

Part of my Ryde Citizen of the Year award belongs to every dedicated volunteer I work alongside as a way to thank them for their support and dedication. Those dedicated volunteers are what make the rich fabric of our Ryde community.

People say I “know nearly everyone in Ryde” which I find perplexing to accept but put this down to being kind to everyone, taking an interest in our community and mostly saying “yes”.

*Warren Smith*



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# People of Ryde presents Agnes Shim

Published on 11 June 2020



I'm Agnes (Boknan Chung) Shim. I grew up in the port city of Daegu, about 300km south-east of Seoul, in the post Korean War era. I was the eldest girl in a family of 11 (five sons and four daughters). I am a wife, a mother, mother-in-law and a grandmother, all of which I love being. Above all though, I am a woman—a woman who migrated to Australia 32 years ago in the hope of a better life for my family.

In the Ryde and the greater Sydney area, I am known as the President of a non-profit organisation, the Sydney Korean Women's Association (SKWA) - an organisation that I set up over 18 years ago to help Korean women, and all women for that matter, living in the Ryde area who are linguistically and culturally disadvantaged access the vast amount of social services available to them. Today, the SKWA is an integral provider within the community with over a thousand associated members and around 60 active volunteers.



Although people appreciate my work, often I get asked what motivated me to create SKWA. To which, I answer - to help other people in the community, particularly women, who may have had similar or worse challenges than me assimilating into Australia. On a more personal note though, I have many genuine and poignant reasons as to why I decided to set up SKWA.

Only a few months after we migrated to Australia, we were visited by two police officers accusing us of petrol theft. One of the petrol stations where we had stopped by to fill up our car had reported us to the police. We were shocked. My two sons were also home and they were acting as interpreters as they had managed to absorb English faster than me.



The female officer spoke to my eldest son and said, “Can you tell your mum that she is lying?” With shock on his face, my son translated that into Korean for me. In broken English, we explained we had paid \$24 in cash to the Campsie petrol station. The officers asked for the receipt, but we were unable to find it.

My children were terrified—crying and begging me to give the police the money to avoid going to jail. The thought of paying the \$24 crossed my mind but if I did so, it would mean an admission of guilt and succumbing to a false accusation. As a person of high integrity and morals, brought up with strict discipline, I wanted to demonstrate to my children that you have to stand up for what you believe, especially when it’s the truth.



The next day, my husband and I visited the petrol station that had accused us, but to no avail. Distraught, we were forced to attend a pre-trial hearing. Although we had an interpreter, the magistrate insisted my husband and I explain ourselves personally, irrespective of how terrible our English skills were. What the magistrate had said to us resonated with me and gave me confidence to state our case.

Through the interpreter, I was informed that the magistrate had said we spoke like genuine and innocent people. I thanked the magistrate and added that I was not here because I was too frugal to pay the \$24 but because I wanted the truth to be known. Even now I could pay the \$24, so that I don’t have to return, which made the courtroom chuckle. The magistrate kindly explained that although he understood our circumstances, we would still need to get ourselves a lawyer and return for a hearing.



Thankfully, we were eventually exonerated. I shed a tear or two, not because I was relieved, but because of the turbulent ordeal my family went through for an amount as petty as \$24. It was that very moment I decided, once my kids grew up, I would study social services.

Although that experience was not pleasant, it helped drive me to start the SKWA. The greater vision I had was if I could start helping linguistically or culturally disadvantaged people make differences to their lives, then over a period of time, it would enable them to help each other to create a collaborative, harmonious, diverse and inclusive community.

*Agnes Shim*

## **MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS**

- Founder/Chairperson of the Sydney Korean Women's Association
- Vice president for Australian Asian Association Bennelong (AAAB)
- Advisory Member of Ministerial Consultative Committees
- General Manager of Australia Korean Sex – Trade Eradication Committee
- Advisory Member of the National Unification of Republic of South Korea
- Vice Chair Australian Korean Cultural Foundation
- Committee member of Community Reference Group, City of Ryde
- Advisory member for Northern Sydney & Central Coast Health Department
- Committee Member of Women States Advisory Committee, City of Ryde
- Committee member of Australian Women's Coalition

# NSW Government Small Business COVID-19 Support Grants

Published on 11 June 2020

To ease the pressure on thousands of small businesses that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSW Government has announced a COVID-19 Small Business Support Grant as part of the NSW Government Small Business Support Fund.

This assistance supports the ongoing operations of small businesses highly impacted from COVID-19 pandemic following the NSW Public Health Order of 30 March 2020.

**Applications will be open until 11.59pm on Tuesday 30 June 2020.**

Service NSW and Treasury NSW will implement the Grant on behalf of the NSW Government.

To find out more and to apply, visit the [Service NSW website](#). Guidelines are available [here](#).

Further information on other support for small businesses and organisations impacted by COVID-19 are available on Council's website [here](#).

# Council supports local businesses with further financial assistance

Published on 10 June 2020

A week after the City of Ryde implemented its Small Business Support Package, Council has entered into its first two agreements to provide assistance to commercial tenants that have suffered a downturn in trade due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

DNK Hair and Eastwood Eyes will receive rental relief as part of their agreements with Council after both businesses had endured a significant reduction in revenue since COVID-19 restrictions were put in place in March this year.

The Small Business Support Package was endorsed by Council at its May ordinary meeting to support local businesses during the COVID-19 outbreak and assist in business recovery during the post-pandemic phase.

As part of the package, Council is negotiating financial assistance support for café and restaurant owners operating from Council premises and other commercial tenants of Council.

These negotiations are being undertaken on a case-by-case basis to develop a tailored solution for each tenant and may include rent waivers, rent deferrals or lease extensions.

Negotiations between Council and other tenants are ongoing, with further agreements expected to be finalised in the coming weeks.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council was working hard to finalise agreements with commercial tenants so that they can get the assistance they need.

“It is great news that just after a week after the Small Business Support Package was endorsed by Council we can begin offering financial assistance to the businesses that really need it. This will ensure these businesses can stay open and keep people employed, which is so important at the moment,” Clr Laxale said.

“With restrictions easing, I would encourage everyone to support all local businesses like DNK Hair and Eastwood Eyes and help them get back on the road to recovery.”

In addition to providing assistance to commercial tenants of Council, the Small Business Support package also waives more than 40 different fees and charges for six months. This includes:

- Waiving outdoor dining fees payable by cafes and restaurants
- Waiving administration fees payable by food premises
- Waiving health inspection, health compliance and fire safety certification fees. The inspections will still be undertaken during this time.

The Small Business Support Package comes after more than 230 eligible businesses received support grants via Council's Eastwood Small Business Hardship Fund.

For any enquiries on this matter, please email Council's Property Officer at [pofficer@ryde.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pofficer@ryde.nsw.gov.au).

# People of Ryde presents Kedarnath (Kedar) Pagaddinnimath

Published on 10 June 2020



## G'DAY MATE! WELCOME TO AUSSIELAND

I remember landing at Kingsford Smith Airport in the mid-80s. Raj, my best friend, picked me up and drove me straight to the city for some shopping. Sitting in his new Mercedes, I felt like royalty and had an immediate sense of belonging to this beautiful country. On our way into the city, Raj gave me a few shopping tips about what to say if approached by any sales staff.



We landed up at the then Grace Bros. store (now Myer) and the first thing I noticed was how huge it was and how beautifully and systematically the merchandise was displayed. After browsing awhile, I was approached by a sales attendant who asked me if I needed any help to which I replied with much consternation that I was *right* thank you, just as Raj had insisted in the car. I really couldn't see why I had to say 'right', when nothing was wrong in the first place.

Managing a dry-cleaning shop in my early days and dealing with customers every day across the counter gave me great insight into the unique Australian lingo. Being new to the country, at first it was very difficult to understand some of the customers.

"G'day mate, how long you been in Straaaya?"

But before I could ask them to speak clearly, the customer would already have moved on—Oh never mind.

“I need these clothes in a jiffy, this arvo ok? See ya.”

I stared at Terry my co-worker, who would then patiently explain all.

I also remember the time a lady dropped her clothes off and happened to address me as ‘spunk’. I was insulted, so I went and asked Terry what she meant. He explained and suggested she might be making a pass at me. I was flattered and the next day when she came to pick up her clothes, I was all smiles and gave her some special discount coupons. Strangely enough, I never saw her again.



A few years later I had my first country NSW experience when I visited a farm belonging to my friend’s dad at Danglemah near Tamworth. Reaching the farm, Michael told me that it was not a farm, but was referred to as a property, which stretched thousands of acres as far as my eye could see. There were hundreds of sheep and cattle grazing against the backdrop of lush green hills, which looked like a picture-perfect postcard.



The next day, we went to a country pub and I saw guys in jeans, striped shirts, boots and Akubra hats. It looked like a scene from the Wild West, except with no gun holsters. After settling in comfortably with some Aussie beer which Michael bought for us, I heard someone say, “Mate whose shout is it now?” I was a puzzled as to why one has to start shouting for drinks, until Michael explained.

He also introduced me to person sitting next to us as Warren. Michael said Warren was a shearer and a top bloke. I asked, “What’s a top block?” Michael straight away corrected me and said “Bloke not block! A good man.” Warren told me he was Aboriginal and that his ancestors were the First People of Australia and that he belonged to the Kamilaroi tribe. His accent and his colourful language fascinated me. As it was raining outside Warren had said that it looks like weather for the ducks. I just couldn’t see ducks anywhere. When I asked him about his work, he said he was flat out like a lizard. I quickly jumped up to see if there were any lizards under the table. It was time to leave the next day and I took with me many wonderful memories.

Gee whiz—nearly 32 years have gone by and now I am an expert on Australian lingo. Fair dinkum what a rich experience it’s been, Aussie Aussie Aussie !!! Oi Oi Oi !!!



*Written by Kedarnath (Kedar) Pagaddinnimath*

# People of Ryde presents Sue Pinckham

Published on 09 June 2020



*Sue Pinckham*

## My Ryde Story

I guess it started when I was a little girl. My dad took me to Ryde to visit his family (not Aboriginal) and introduce me. This was an adventure from Birchgrove by bus to Rozelle, then another to Ryde. It seemed to take us so long to go those few miles. This was my first step into the Ryde area 60 years ago as a four-year-old Aboriginal girl. Meeting my dad's family was a big surprise to me. The lady who opened the door looked the same as I did but was grown up. Over the next ten years, I spent school holidays with her and travelled around the area finding some amazing places in Ryde.

We went into the parks and reserves looking for hidden caves with art on them. It was not Aboriginal art we looked for. My grandmother Ruby would paint on the walls and I would keep an eye out for people coming and warn her so she would stop. I was unaware that this should not have been happening.

After my family moved to Concord, we would catch the punt across the river to Putney, then walk or drive up to Ryde to visit



family. Walking around was best—you really got to learn about what was where and how long it took to get places.

As I got older, I had a boyfriend who lived in West Ryde. I spent three years traveling to his family home for parties and weekends. Feeling like I knew my way around, I ventured further into Eastwood and back to Top Ryde. I loved the view from the top of the hill, looking back down at Parramatta River and the bridge. I would sit there for hours drawing (but not very well I must say) everything I saw.

Going ahead many years, I was working as the Aboriginal Social Planner for the Northern Sydney Social Planner and held Christmas in the Bush (2006) – a great event for the Aboriginal community – at Putney Park. Black Santa, 130 community people and two staff from Ryde Council. Three times now I've held Christmas in the Bush at Putney Park, as it's such a special park with great resources for both children and adults.

I have continued to work on organising events with Ryde Council since then, helping them access Aboriginal performers, as well as engaging with community.

Now I work at Macquarie University and am able to still catch the Punt, which is by far the best way to get to and from work instead of over the bridge that is always so congested. Driving to the punt a couple of years ago, I saw the best-dressed car for Christmas. An old Jeep with cut-out Kangaroos with Santa hats on. I stopped and introduced myself when I saw the car owner pulled over and fussing with the cut-outs. What an amazing person and family. Restored my faith in humans and belief that there's some good people out there. Every year he and his family dress the car to share happiness with the community.

Overall for 60 years, I have had a really good time in Ryde—with the place and the community. I hope this continues into the future.

*Written by Sue Pinckham*

# People of Ryde tell their stories

Published on 09 June 2020



The heart and soul of any community is made up of people and their stories. To learn more about the heart and soul of our own wonderful community – the City of Ryde – we teamed up with Macquarie University’s Department of English. Together, we reached out to those who live in or have a close connection to the City and we asked them to tell us their stories in their own words. Over the next two weeks, we’ll be sharing those stories with you.

Much like communities, the stories of others offer a sense of connection and belonging. They give us the chance to celebrate our differences and to reflect on the things that unite us all. As well as memories of life in our City, each of these stories touches on different themes such as personal development, cultural identity and community service.

A story is not just a recounting of events, but a way to cherish our many cultures and preserve their legacy. We need look no further than Australia’s First People and their own unbroken oral traditions to see the value and importance of storytelling.

A large part of this project was completed while communities around the world were asked to observe social distancing guidelines to curb the spread of COVID-19. In such a time, these stories have become a much-needed way of connecting to our neighbours, the citizens of Ryde.

We’d like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those of you who contributed your stories. You highlighted so much of what we love about the City.

For example: many of us have made Ryde a home after travelling from afar. As well as people who were born and raised within the suburbs of North Western Sydney,

our City is home to people whose journeys began in Jerusalem, South Korea, the Philippines, New Delhi, China, Afghanistan, Italy and Syria, to name only a few! This collection of stories reflects the immense pride we take in the rich diversity of our community.

*“Ryde is a melting pot of cultures which embraces people who come from everywhere and anywhere.”*

**Jose, Contributor**

These stories also highlighted the fact that many of our community members use their time to help newcomers resettle and find work. Some of you have created community organisations from the ground up, with the sole aim of making people feel welcome.

*“The greater vision I had was: if I could start helping linguistically or culturally disadvantaged people make differences to their lives, then over a period of time, it would enable them to help each other to create a collaborative, harmonious, diverse and inclusive community.”*

**Agnes, Contributor**

*“I have assisted others in order to help create a more multicultural and humanitarian society. I have supported and helped Iraqi refugees, and more recently the Syrian Armenian refugees to resettle and find a work in their new homeland Australia.”*

**Hassib, Contributor**

We also read that many of you have faced – and still face – extraordinary challenges and yet, somehow find the time to contribute to your community through service or advocacy.

*“The huge challenge was job hunting as a new skilled migrant... Two years later I got my second job in QAD Australia as a senior QA.”*

**Emma, Contributor**

We were overjoyed to read about the ways in which some of you have embraced life in Ryde with a sense of fun and adventure.

*“Gee whiz—nearly 32 years have gone by and now I am an expert in Australian lingo!”*

**Kedar, Contributor**

We were also thrilled to discover what it is some of you love most about the City of Ryde, whether it's a feeling of safety and belonging, ease and convenience or friendship and harmony.

*“The City of Ryde embraced me with its arms open wide. Meeting people from all walks of life and stepping outside my own culture*

*to step into someone else's way of life not only gave me a fresh perspective on existence but reaffirmed my faith in the fact that ultimately, we're all*

*part of the same story."*

***Simran, Contributor***

Each story and voice are unique. And while we are not all surprised to read that our City is full of generosity, joy, resilience, creativity and community spirit, it is heartening to be reminded. We know you'll enjoy these stories.

*"I am thankful I can call the City of Ryde my home"*

***Maria, Contributor***

# Council meeting summary - May meeting

Published on 09 June 2020

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 26 May 2020. Here is a summary of the outcomes from the meeting:

## Small Business Support Package implemented

Council implemented its Small Business Support Package, which is designed to support local businesses during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and assist in business recovery during the post-pandemic phase.

Under the Small Business Support package more than 40 different fees and charges will be waived for six months. In addition, Council will also negotiate financial assistance support for café and restaurant owners operating from Council premises and other commercial tenants of Council.

## Dog off-leash sites to be trialled

The draft Dogs Recreation Needs Study was endorsed by Council. The purpose of the study is to guide Council's planning of both existing and potential future dog off-leash facilities to meet the changing needs of the growing community.

Under the study, seven sites within the City of Ryde will be trialled as dog off-leash areas for six months subject to residents surrounding the sites being consulted. A report will be brought back to Council at the completion of the trial outlining the community feedback received.

## Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

The City of Ryde has received funding under the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Council will now identify projects in the City of Ryde that could be eligible for funding under the program. Among these projects, Council will explore opportunities in collaboration with the Member for Bennelong, John Alexander OAM, to install safety structures (such as bollards) in local shopping precincts.

## Changes to NSW planning laws and regulations

Council will write to the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, and NSW Minister of Planning, Rob Stokes, to express its opposition to a number of recent changes to State planning laws and regulations.

The changes include the creation of the NSW Government's Planning System Acceleration Program, which aims to fast-track new projects as a way of stimulating the economy during the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as allowing councils to no longer publish development applications in local newspapers.

In addition, Council will also request that in light of the growing level of complaints from residents, Mr Stokes reconsiders the decision to grant permission to allow construction sites to operate on weekends and public holidays.

## **Racism condemned by Council**

The City of Ryde condemned increased xenophobia and racism levelled at Australian-Asian residents and the broader multicultural community during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Council resolved to incorporate the 'Racism Stops With Me' campaign as part of the Granny Smith-replacement festivities that are due to take place in October this year.

## **Report to be prepared on ground hire and lighting fees for sports**

Council staff will provide a report to the Works and Community Committee meeting in June on the financial implications resulting from waiving ground hire and lighting fees for the rest of the year for all sports.

Any waiving of fees would only occur when training and match fixtures have been allowed to recommence.

## **Further support for small business to be explored**

A report will be prepared identifying appropriate funding sources for the establishment Ryde Relief Small Business Grant as well as other options for small business support in the City of Ryde.

## **Next meeting**

The next Ordinary Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 June 2020.

[Click here for the minutes of the May Ordinary Council meeting.](#)