

Local unsung heroes to be recognised at online Volunteer Recognition Awards

Published on 30 July 2020



This year, we're going digital with the City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards! Tune in via our [website](#) or [Facebook event page](#) at 7pm on Thursday 6 August to watch our online awards ceremony live.

The awards aim to acknowledge the contribution made by the army of volunteers who give their time and skills to enhance and uplift the life of the community within the City of Ryde.



2019 Volunteer of the Year Award winners with Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale

We'll be presenting awards for the following categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Group Volunteer of the Year.

Visit our [Volunteer Recognition Awards page](#) to see a list of nominees for 2020.

Interested in volunteering in the City of Ryde? Check out our [Volunteering page](#) for opportunities and resources to get you on your way.

NSW Companion Animals Register website temporarily unavailable

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The NSW Companion Animals Register website is currently unavailable to all councils until further notice as it is undergoing urgent maintenance and upgrading work.

Once the register is accessible to Council, your forms will be processed as soon as possible and updated certificates will be issued.

Owners are advised to enter and manage their pet details through the NSW Pet Registry. Members of the public can claim their pets, pay for pet registrations and annual permits, and reunite lost pets with their owners. Access the NSW Pet Registry website [here](#).

For further assistance with the pet registry please contact the Office of Local Government on 1300 134 460 Monday to Friday (9am-4.30pm) or email pets@olg.nsw.gov.au.

If your matter is urgent, please contact Council on 9952 8222.

Council meeting summary - June 2020 meeting

Published on 16 July 2020

Council held its latest Ordinary meeting on 23 June 2020 and 2 July 2020. The meeting did commence, however, was later adjourned due to a lack of quorum. As a result the meeting will be reconvened at the conclusion of the Ordinary meeting on 28 July 2020.

Here is an interim summary of the outcomes from the June meeting:

Council invests in Ryde's recovery

The City of Ryde adopted its 2020-2024 Four Year Delivery Program, including the 2020/2021 One Year Operational Plan.

These documents outline a range of key infrastructure projects Council will undertake over the next four years in line with the Community Strategic Plan. In addition, Council will also introduce a range of rates-related financial hardship provisions to assist members of the community through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Council provides financial relief for sporting clubs

Council will waive ground hire and sports field lighting costs [upon application](#) for the remainder of the 2020 winter sports season to help local sporting clubs recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Council also 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.

[Click here for more information.](#)

Fees waived

A number of Council fees have been waived for events that were due to be held between 1 April and 30 June as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This includes cancellation fees for swim schools and swimming carnivals, as well as sporting fields and park hire. Some library fines have also been waived, as well as the notice period for cancelling the planned hire of a Council venue.

Reconciliation Action Plan

The City of Ryde Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was endorsed by Council. The plan outlines the steps Council will undertake to promote reconciliation within the community.

As part of the process, a new Reconciliation Action Working Group will be established. Council will strive to appoint at least 50 percent indigenous community membership on the working group.

The City of Ryde Reflect RAP will now be forwarded to Reconciliation Australia for final endorsement.

Support for RFNSW

In recognising the incredible contribution of the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSWRFS) and all emergency services during the 2019/20 bushfire crisis, Council resolved to engage with the NSWRFS and other NSW Government representatives to signal interest in supporting any additional station facility within the City of Ryde.

Out of Area library membership fee

A new Out of Area Membership fee of \$120 per annum has been proposed for Hunters Hill residents to join the Ryde Library Service. The new fee has been proposed after Hunter's Hill Council ended its shared service agreement with the City of Ryde.

The proposal is currently on [public exhibition](#) until 2 August 2020.

Councillor fees

The City of Ryde will facilitate a mechanism for councillors to voluntarily donate some or all of their councillor fees either back to Council or to a nominated registered charity. Council will also not adopt the annual fee increase for 2020/21 as determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal for its category with respect to the annual review of councillor and the additional mayoral fees.

Local organisations receive community grants

More than \$20,000 was allocated to 11 community organisations as part of round one of the 2020 City of Ryde Small Grants program. The program is part of Council's Community Grants Program and is designed to respond to the changing circumstances and emerging needs of community organisations in between the larger rounds of grant allocations.

Procurement Policy

A new procurement policy was endorsed by Council. Under the policy, Council will aim to source 50 percent of all material procurements from recycled materials with 70 percent of all service contracts to adhere to sustainable principles by 2025.

In addition, the policy requires Council to consider the use of local suppliers to encourage economic development and generate local employment wherever possible. Where there is a like choice between two suppliers or services, Council will give preference to local business.

Gifts and Benefits Policy

A new Gifts and Benefits Policy was endorsed by Council. The policy continues to maintain Council's strong position that all gifts and benefits offered should be politely refused.

An update to the policy means it now also applies to Council contractors, volunteers and members of wholly advisory committees.

Next meeting

The next Ordinary Council meeting and reconvened June meeting will take place on Tuesday 28 July 2020.

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

Podcast helps local musicians get gig ready

Published on 15 July 2020

A new podcast has been launched to help local musicians amp up their live performances and maximise the potential of their music career.

The Get Gig Ready podcast is a collaboration between the City of Ryde, Lane Cove Council, the Live Music Office, MusicNSW and local community station 2SER, with support from Macquarie University, as part of efforts to support and strengthen the live music scene in the local area.

The seven-episode series features exclusive interviews with musicians, managers, radio hosts and other industry insiders to provide listeners with an insight on what is going on in the music industry and how musicians can get the most out of the music they are making.

Topics range from the basics of music business, to marketing, putting on a gig, getting music played on radio and much more. In addition, each episode also features a track by a local musician.

Get Gig Ready host, Felix Shannon, said: “Local music is an indispensable part of our culture, but with so many different people approaching the field in so many different ways, it can be daunting to try your hand at it. Get Gig Ready was driven by real questions from local musicians so that you have a reliable guide to what steps you can make in gearing up your career, no matter what shape it might take.”

Live Music Office Project Manager, Lucy Joseph, said: “Get Gig Ready is a great example of how local councils are supporting the development of live music in their local communities by providing valuable information and guidance to new and emerging musicians on how to navigate through uncharted waters of the industry, starting at home.

“Now more than ever, the live music sector needs support from all levels of government, and local councils in particular can play a vital role in nurturing the grassroots talent who live and work in their own communities.”

Get Gig Ready airs on Mondays at 6.30pm on 2SER radio (107.3 FM) until Monday 24 August. The series is also available online at the [2SER website](#) and any of your favourite podcast streaming platforms.

Nominate now for the 2021 Australian of the Year Awards

Published on 14 July 2020

The Australian of the Year Awards recognise individuals who are changing lives and Australian society for the better; someone whose challenges and triumphs are manifested in their life experience and personal journey, beyond their career achievements.

A person who has taken risks, done the hard yards and been a pioneer in their field, positively impacting the lives of others.

Do you know someone who is worthy of the title of Australian of the Year?

[Nominate now](#)

New artworks brighten up a reopened Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre

Published on 13 July 2020



Patrick Perlstone, Cllr Christopher Gordon and Erin Hackelton-Smith in front of the mermaid mural

Customers visiting the recently reopened Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre can enjoy bright new artworks created by staff.

To ensure the health and safety of our community and limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), Council closed the [Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre \(RALC\)](#) for three months. While staff were unable to service customers directly during this time, some used the opportunity to undertake maintenance to the centre, while others were deployed to assist different teams of Council. Meanwhile, Children's Party Host Erin Hackelton-Smith and Lifeguard Patrick Perlstone saw the shutdown as an ideal time to brighten up the centre with new artworks.



Erin's mermaid mural

First swimming lessons can be daunting for some children and Erin wanted to produce something happy and bright to put kids at ease and create something they will remember. The mural features a mermaid and her sea-creature friends. Erin's mother, Marina, is a swimming teacher at the centre and incorporates the imagery into her lessons where possible.



Erin standing in front of her mural

Patrick's background as a scenic artist for films, gilding, and concept design made him perfectly placed to create an eye-catching design that reflects elements and colours found at the RALC. The artwork, which is positioned at the far end of the

pool near the entrance to the indoor stadium, spells out S-T-A-D-I-U-M using a range of imagery, from soccer balls to basketball nets, badminton shuttlecocks and more.



Patrick's stadium mural

Short messages related to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic have been included, such as 'Wash hands' and 'Social distancing'. To add another dimension, he has also incorporated real silver leaf into the work, which catches the sunlight and brings an extra sparkle.



Close-up of Patrick's mural with social distancing messages



Patrick standing in front of his artwork

City of Ryde Councillor Christopher Gordon, Chair of the Arts Advisory Committee, visited the RALC to check out the new works.

“City of Ryde is committed to supporting the arts and local talent,” Clr Gordon said.

“These works are an incredible example of Council staff using their initiative and skills during a difficult time to create something unique and memorable for the community to enjoy.”

The unveiling of the new artworks coincides with the resumption of swimming lessons at the RALC from next Monday 20 July.

Term three of swimming lessons will take place over 10 weeks between Monday 20 July and Sunday 27 September. Places can be booked by calling the RALC on 8878 5111 or emailing swimschool@ryde.nsw.gov.au. Visit Council's [Learn to Swim page](#) for more information.

Eastwood Threads competition now open

Published on 09 July 2020



It's time to vote for your favourite Eastwood Threads flag!

In partnership with community organisation CASS, the City of Ryde called out for artworks reflecting the stories, people and places that make Eastwood unique as part of our Eastwood Threads project. 36 submissions were received from people that live, work, learn and play in our city.

Although the submitted artworks varied in topic, many referenced common themes of food, cultural heritage and family.

Eastwood-based artist Chris Yee skillfully threaded these diverse artworks together, creating digital tapestries to share local stories through art and design. The tapestries have been printed as flags and will hang around Eastwood town centre from 1 July until 9 August 2020, and will be used on future occasions.

As part of the project, Council is asking everyone to vote for their favourite flag design on the [City of Ryde Facebook page](#). The People's Choice competition will run until 9 August with an accompanying competition giving voters a chance to win a voucher for West Ryde art shop, The Art Scene.

Find out more on our [Eastwood Threads page](#).

Council invests in Ryde's recovery

Published on 09 July 2020

The City of Ryde has endorsed its 2020/21 Budget and Capital Works Program, which details how Council will take a leading role in the City's economic recovery while maintaining a balanced bottom line.

The budget – referred to as the One Year Operational Plan 2020/21 – outlines a range of key public infrastructure projects Council will undertake over the next 12 months. These include:

- Redeveloping the Ryde Civic Centre site to deliver a four-fold increase in community space
- A new multi-level car park in Rowe Street East in Eastwood
- The missing link of the Ryde River Walk along the Parramatta River foreshore
- A new regional playground with water play elements at Meadowbank Park
- An upgrade of the public domain at Coxs Road in North Ryde
- A new Eastwood to Macquarie Park cycleway
- An upgrade of the town centre at Ryedale Road in West Ryde
- Enhancing library facilities and digital services
- Commencing work on the new Catherine Hamlin Park in Macquarie Park
- Renewing playgrounds at Marjorie and Jennifer Parks, as well as improving accessibility at playgrounds throughout the local government area
- Lighting and infrastructure upgrades, including field renewals, to key sports fields such as ELS Hall Park, Ryde Park, Gannan Park, Westminster Park and Pidding Park
- Brand new amenities buildings at ELS Hall and Meadowbank parks.

Total capital expenditure for 2020/21 is budgeted at \$80.64 million, an increase of almost \$30 million on the previous 12-month period. Council is forecast to maintain a working capital balance of \$4.5 million at the end of 2020/21.

In addition to capital works, Council has also budgeted for significant support to local residents and businesses.

Approved Jobseeker and Jobkeeper applicants will be eligible for a \$400 council rate rebate, while eligible pensioners will receive an extra \$150 voluntary pensioner subsidy to supplement the \$250 statutory pensioner subsidy they already receive.

Further, Council will waive more than 40 different fees and charges for the next six months and provide assistance such as rental relief to commercial tenants that have suffered a downturn in trade since the pandemic begun.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council's strong financial position meant it could forge ahead with large projects and not go into deficit despite the serious challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"This budget is all about supporting job creation, investing in public infrastructure and getting the City of Ryde back on the road to recovery," Clr Laxale said.

“The projects we have identified in the budget will all go to achieving this, while also providing support to those who need it most, including financial relief for ratepayers and local businesses experiencing financial hardship.

“By endorsing this budget, Council is not only assisting in Ryde’s recovery but also investing in its future.”

National Broadband Network information sessions

Published on 03 July 2020

NBN Co Limited (nbn) is owned by the Commonwealth of Australia and operates Australia's National Broadband Network. nbn is currently providing free one-to-one sessions for anyone seeking some education or guidance around the nbn network and home connectivity.

These sessions are held via web conferencing or a phone call, run for 15 minutes and are available Monday to Friday during business hours. Once a resident requests this service, they will be provided with the information to connect with a nbn representative.

One-to-one sessions are for anyone seeking support with:

- When the nbn network will be available for their premises
- The process of getting the nbn network installed in their home
- How the nbn network is delivered in their suburb
- The role of nbn and phone/internet providers
- Tips for optimising the nbn experience in home
- Information about nbn announcements or programs

To book in a 15-minute session, email nbnsessions@nbn.com.au with your first name, preferred business day/time and a quick summary of how nbn can help.

Find out more on the [nbn website](#).

Council ramps up efforts to tackle illegal dumping

Published on 01 July 2020



City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale and Waste Project Coordinator Stephanie Keane with Council's surveillance trailer

The City of Ryde has increased patrols and monitoring to help tackle illegal dumping, which has been on the rise since coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were introduced.

Illegal dumping damages the environment, spoils the appearance on the City's streets and is costly and time-consuming for Council to remove.

It is also a finable offence under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997, with penalties in excess of \$2,000.

To help address the issue of illegal dumping, Council has increased patrols in identified hot spot areas and also deployed a surveillance trailer to catch and deter offenders. In addition, Council has also recently installed bollard devices equipped with monitoring systems in several locations across the City.

City of Ryde Waste Prevention Officer, Sarah Morton, said illegal dumping of rubbish was one of Council's more preventable environmental issues and encouraged members of the public to report any incidents to Council.

"If you see someone dumping rubbish illegally, please contact Council on 9952 8222 or email cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au and provide as much detail as possible," Ms Morton said.

Anyone who witnesses illegal dumping is encouraged to make a note of the following information:

- Location and what was dumped
- Date and time of the incident
- If items are dumped from a vehicle, the registration number, make, model and colour of the vehicle
- A photo or video of the dumping incident (only if safe to do so).

Members of the public are reminded they can legally remove household rubbish by booking a free household clean-up collection with the City of Ryde. These collections can be booked [here](#).

Alternatively, household items can be recycled or rehomed through one of Council's other waster services. More information can be found [here](#).