

Granny Smith Carnival update

Published on 27 August 2021

The City of Ryde and the Granny Smith Festival Committee regret to inform the community that the Granny Smith Festival and Carnival will not take place in 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

In its place, a small number of activities and competitions will take place during October to acknowledge Granny Smith and her legacy.

The City of Ryde and the Granny Smith Festival Committee look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Granny Smith Festival in 2022.

QR codes introduced at popular playgrounds

Published on 27 August 2021

The City of Ryde has introduced QR code check-ins at popular playgrounds and exercise areas as an additional proactive step to assist in keeping the community safe during the current COVID-19 outbreak.

Under the current NSW Health Public Health Orders, and in keeping with advice prepared in consultation with relevant public health officials, the NSW Government has urged councils to keep parks and playgrounds open. Users are advised to use caution, maintain social distancing and practice good personal hygiene while using these facilities.

The introduction of QR code check-ins at Council's largest playgrounds and exercise areas is to send the message that when utilising these facilities users need to do so as safely as possible and to adhere to the health guidelines provided to the community.

Anyone who sees a QR code at a playground or exercise area is able to check in using the Service NSW app, and check out once they have left the area.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council had taken the proactive step of introducing QR code check-ins at playgrounds and exercise areas as part of its continued efforts to keep the community safe.

"For the kids and parents in lockdown, we know how important our playgrounds are for physical and mental wellbeing. Closing them should be an absolute last resort, particularly when there is no evidence of transmission through their use," Clr Laxale said.

"We also need to be proactive and give ourselves every opportunity to keep them open and safe.

"By checking in when you visit one of our playgrounds or exercise areas, you will not only be keeping yourself safe, but also your loved ones and the entire community.

"We will continue to work with the community as well as the police and health authorities to ensure our public facilities are utilised safely during this COVID-19 outbreak."

QR code check-ins have been installed at the following venues:

Playgrounds

- Anderson Park, Ryde
- Anzac Park, West Ryde
- Banjo Paterson Park, Gladesville
- Blenheim Park, North Ryde

- Darvall Park, Denistone
- Eastwood Park Upper, Eastwood
- Elouera Reserve, Macquarie Park
- ELS Hall Park, North Ryde
- Fontenoy Reserve, Macquarie Park
- Kissing Point Park, Putney
- Lachlans Line, Macquarie Park
- Lardelli Park, Ryde
- Lions Park, West Ryde
- Magdala Park, North Ryde
- Memorial Park, Meadowbank
- North Ryde Park, North Ryde
- Pioneer Park, Marsfield
- Putney Park, Putney
- Ryde Park, Ryde
- Santa Rosa Park, North Ryde
- Waterloo Park, Marsfield
- Yamble Reserve, Ryde

Skate parks

- Lachlans Line, Macquarie Park
- Meadowbank Skate Park, Meadowbank

Basketball courts

- Blenheim Park, North Ryde
- Kings Park, Denistone East
- Lions Park, West Ryde
- Memorial Park, Meadowbank
- Morrison Bay Park, Putney
- Tuckwell Park, Macquarie Park
- Waterloo Park, Marsfield

Fitness equipment

- Anderson Park, Ryde
- ELS Hall Park, North Ryde
- Kissing Point Park, Putney
- Lachlans Line, Macquarie Park
- Memorial Park, Meadowbank
- Morrison Bay Park, Putney
- Waterloo Park, Marsfield

Council commits to more upgrades to Christie Park

Published on 26 August 2021

Christie Park will become one of the premier football complexes in North-West Sydney after the City of Ryde approved the construction of a new amenities building and additional training facilities at the Macquarie Park venue.

The new amenities building will feature office space and a function room for use by sporting groups, as well as introducing female-friendly changerooms and improving access for people with disabilities.

It will service the two recently constructed FIFA-accredited synthetic fields and help ensure Christie Park will be able to host state-level competitions in the future.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the latest investment was part of Council's vision to make Christie Park a regional hub for football that serviced all levels of the game.

"The popularity of football is booming in the City of Ryde at all levels of participation and the improvements that we are undertaking at Christie Park will not only ensure that the venue will be able to meet the growing needs of the local community, but also the North-West Sydney region," Cllr Laxale said.

"Most importantly these works focus on providing elite facilities for local female clubs. With the women's world cup being played in Australia in 2023, it's crucial that councils invest in elite facilities for females who have historically struggled for access to such facilities.

"Building these facilities will offer a pathway programme from junior teams through to elite senior representative teams for women and girls in the Ryde local government area and beyond."

"This is a win for the community and a win for football."

Christie Park, the Home of North West Sydney Football, will benefit greatly from this upgrade that is sure to assist in the further development of the sport within the football mad area, said Stuart Hodge, Football NSW Chief Executive Officer.

"City of Ryde and all the football users of Christie Park have partnered together to achieve so much in the last few years. This Christie Park masterplan compliments the NSW Football Infrastructure Strategy, and the importance of developing Homes of Football," Mr Hodge said.

James Johnson, Chief Executive Officer Football Australia supported this exciting news by stating.

"As the number one team based and most multi-cultural, diverse and inclusive participation sport in Australia which is confronting a chronic facilities shortage

throughout the nation as a direct consequence of football's continued and strong participation growth, we welcome this announcement by the City of Ryde," Mr Johnson said.

The latest upgrades are part of Stage 2 of the Christie Park Masterplan and will be funded by the City of Ryde and the NSW Government's Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund.

Construction on the new facilities is expected to start this year.

Creative Spotlight | Eric Yang

Published on 26 August 2021



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I am a photographer and content creator. Using the lens to capture precious moments of life has always been part of me. Through the journey, I have been shooting different subjects including portrait, landscape, architecture, street as well as lifestyle for all kinds of clients and partners. These include Google, Nikon, NatGeo, Vodafone, YouTube Music, eBay, Airbnb, Uniqlo, Calvin Klein, Merivale, Art Gallery NSW, MCA, Australian Museum, Carriageworks and more.



Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas? Who or what inspires you?

It come from all kinds of places but especially movies, novels, music, poems, and social media. The scenes in these types of content are a huge inspiration pool which really help my portrait photography which focuses on the mood and emotion. Instagram and Pinterest are also good places to look at where creatives share works and ideas. Talking about individuals, I would say Irving Penn, Vivian Maie, Fan Ho and Denis Villeneuve are all inspirations.



How does your personal history, culture or experience inform your creative work?

I believe my interest in novels, music and painting since childhood forms the person I am today. The exposure to different art forms since the early stage builds my way of thinking imperceptibly. It taught me to have a creative eye looking at things, which helps me a lot while taking photos.

Are there any special processes, techniques or tools you use to make your creative work?

If it is a specific project, I would have already pictured and processed how the photo would look in my head before actually shooting it. Before going to the location, I would have done some research to pick the best time and location to shoot the subject.



What is a creative project that you've worked on that you're really proud of? Why?

It is called 'Capture The Change'. Five other photographers and I teamed up for this project created by BNP Paribas. The aim was to capture the changes that are taking place around the world and in people's daily lives. Looking back especially through this pandemic, it really shows how beautiful life is and reminds us to focus on the positive changes while working on the remaining challenges.

artist / creative?

It is a way to show case my view of the world. You create as free as you can, and the world is your oyster.

What's your favourite part of working as an



Do you have any top tips for emerging artists and creatives just starting out?

Be yourself. Always be yourself. Your uniqueness is what makes you stand out. Art is a very subjective thing, and it is almost impossible to make everyone love your work. Your work speaks for itself and the audience will follow. It may be difficult starting in the beginning but don't be afraid. Everyone's definition of success is also different. Keep creating, keep learning and never give up. You will be there one day.

and get in touch?

Instagram: [instagram.com/humaninsydney](https://www.instagram.com/humaninsydney)

Where can we find out more about your work

Creative Spotlight | Nicole Paton

Published on 25 August 2021



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I am a photographer and filmmaker with a passion for creating connections and documenting the stories of families. I have always been a creative person. I enjoy sculpture, painting and creating with my hands. I am incredibly proud to be able to use my background in speech pathology to support families with children living with disabilities and additional needs through curated photography sessions. My goal as an artist is to create artwork that will be seen daily and treasured for many

generations to come.



**Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas?
Who or what inspires you?**

My community is my muse. I strive to build deeper connections with my community to be able to share people's stories and feelings through my photographs. I am inspired daily by the stories of mothers and fathers and their journey of parenthood.

How does your personal history, culture or experience inform your creative work?

Growing up, my sister, who is 18 months older than me, was in and out of hospital due to

chronic illness. These years shaped my mind to look for the things that are different about people and to celebrate them. When it comes to photographing families, I take pride in exploring their culture and the diversity that comes with it. Understanding that the more I know about them the better I can serve them with artwork that speaks to who they truly are.



What creative project are you working on at the moment?

I am currently working on a project that focuses on families of children with disabilities and additional needs to show people the value, potential, and abilities in all children, not just those that are typically developing. I want to be able to help families tell their stories in a public space, which can be so powerful and therapeutic. The aim of this project is to change the language and attitudes of people and to bring awareness to the unspoken fears, joys and journeys of one in five Australian families who have a child who

needs additional support. I am currently in the planning stages and would love to hear from any families who may want to be involved.



What's your favourite part of working as an artist / creative?

Due to the intimate nature of getting to know my clients before I photograph them, I am fortunate to develop lifelong friendships with my clients and for me that is the most rewarding thing! Second only to seeing my artwork displayed in their homes.

What's the most challenging part of working as an artist / creative?

I think most artists will agree with me that the business side of working as an artist is the most

challenging. If I could provide any advice to emerging artists and creatives it would be to outsource what you can so that you can focus on creating your vision.



Where can we find out more about your work and get in touch?

Website: nicolepatonphotography.com

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nicolepatonphotography/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nicolepatonphotography>

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/nicolepatonphotography>

Father's Day 'Dad Joke' Competition

Published on 25 August 2021



Happy Father's Day to all of our Dads, Grandfathers and other father like figures in our Ryde community.

We wanted to help give our Dad's a laugh this year and what better way to do that with one of their very own jokes.

Please send us your best 'DAD JOKES' and we will pick a winner to receive a Butcher's Boutique BBQ Pack to cook up a storm on Father's Day, 5 September.

We will be looking for cheesy, corny, cringe worthy and embarrassingly typical Dad humour.

Time to share kids, what have your Dad's been telling you for all these years?

We can't wait to hear.

Please read the [terms and conditions](#) of entry then go to the [City of Ryde Facebook](#) page from today (25 August) to enter.

Good luck making all the dads laugh out loud this Father's Day.

Entries close Wednesday 1 September. The winner will be announced on Friday 3 September.

Youth Council Lockdown Blog

Published on 24 August 2021



The [City of Ryde Youth Council](#) allows local young people to share their opinions, ideas and views with Council.

Our Youth Council is passionate about mental health issues in our community and recognises this is a difficult time for many people. [If you're struggling, check out Council's list of mental health resources to help you find support.](#)

We asked our new Youth Council members to share ideas on how they are staying calm, creative, curious and connected this lockdown. Below are 15 ideas to try out at home.

BOWEN REN

"Keeping in touch with my mates via voice chats and social media and studying together has brought back a sense of normal school life and improved my mental health. I also often go out for a walk in the park nearby to take in some (much needed!) fresh air, escaping briefly from remote learning during lockdown."

About Bowen

Bowen is a Year 11 student at Epping Boys High School. He is passionate about advocating for youth wellbeing, multiculturalism and anti-discrimination, and has contributed to school and community initiatives such as Student Wellbeing Team and The Push-Up Challenge.



ANNIE ZHU

“Learning languages online is a fantastic activity to stay creative and excited during lockdown. Calling friends in different languages is both great fun while also catching up with the people most important to you.”

About Annie

Annie is a university student who loves living in the City of Ryde. She is passionate about listening to others, sharing ideas and learning about the community.



JONATHAN MA

“Having a warm night supper meal after a walk at night is something that's keeping my motivation to work or study at night.”

About Jonathan

Jonathan is a University student who lives in the Eastwood area. He has a passion for tennis but when he's not playing tennis or other sports he'll be binge watching your trending Netflix series particularly sit-com genres.



ALESSANDRO ROMEO

“I have been keeping my mind active through activities such as studying, reading, and watching movies. By structuring my days in this order, I can maximise my productivity while providing meself with something to look forward to at the end of the day.”

Bonus study tip for those of you preparing for your HSC: At the start of your revision sessions take a moment to brainstorm what you know and don't know about your topic and work backwards to fill your knowledge gaps – study smarter not harder.”

About Alessandro

Alessandro is a student who studies Law/Arts at Macquarie University. He is passionate about justice and is looking forward to contributing to the improvement of youth employment opportunities and conditions in the area.



SALMA AL HUSBAN

"I like to go for walks in my neighbourhood while listening to mystery podcasts and music. After I finish my walk, I like to go to a local bakery and reward myself with a cup of coffee."

About Salma

Salma is a high school student who lives in Ryde. She's passionate about art and design as well as youth mental health. In her free time, she loves to bake healthy cakes and cookies.



SEWON KIM

"Get curious about culture. Fill your day by exposing yourself to new languages or by discovering a different cuisine. Perhaps you might like to learn the history and understand the complexities of a culture of your interest. Go broad, the possibilities are limitless."

About Sewon

Sewon is a student who is actively involved in the Ryde area. He advocates for mental health by participating in charities and promotes for an equal society.



LUCY FANG

"In a time where our physical freedom is restrained, why not explore the realms of intellectual freedom? I've been immersing myself in books of philosophical and political thoughts, escaping to times when our ancestors roamed freely in discourse and movement. Most recently, I enjoyed Rousseau's take on State of Nature."

About Lucy

Lucy is a Econ/Law student at USyd, and the founder of Australia's first free online platform that focuses on the power of students helping each other to improve educational equity. She is passionate about creating positive changes for our world through innovative-thinking and entrepreneurial-actions.



ISABELLE BARTLETT

"During this isolating time, I have discovered a sanctuary in cooking for my family. I find it relaxing and enjoyable. You could make choc chip cookies or a more savoury like scrolls, they are both easy to whip up and delicious. Alternatively, if cooking isn't your style you could enjoy taking one of your pets for a walk or going for a bike ride as the fresh air is so lovely to enjoy during a difficult time."

About Isabelle

Isabelle Bartlett is a 17 year old, currently in Year 11. She loves learning, and is very interested in human rights as well as social issues and climate change and sustainable development issues. Isabelle also enjoys cooking in her spare time.



COSMIN LUCA

"I go to Ryde's Youth Theatre every Tuesday off-and-on. We act how we feel, and together we make cool performances. From improv to puppetry, we push the limits of theatre and make a space that's truly ours. It's a great place to get dramatic and break the fourth wall when I'm surrounded by them IRL :D"

About Cosmin

Cosmin (19) has lived in Ryde ever since he moved to Australia. He joined Youth Council again to advocate for adopting youth-led solutions, more youth services, and building age-appropriate facilities for young people in Ryde.

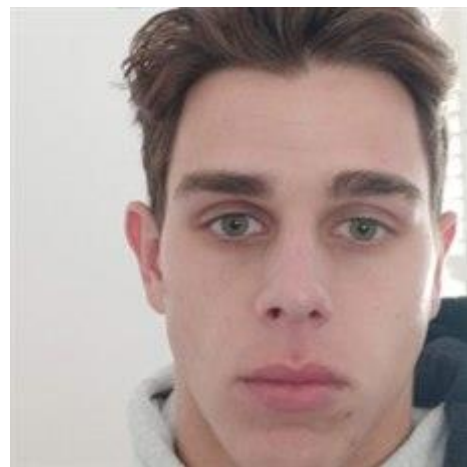


JOSH ZUBAK

"I have taken up yoga and meditation using YouTube and various apps. I practice first thing in the morning as I find it helps me to orient myself for the day. I find taking time to myself in the morning, to exercise my body and mind, provides a positive platform for each day."

About Josh

Josh is a student at Macquarie studying Law and Philosophy. He is passionate about learning and self-betterment and enjoys reading and physical exercise.



CAMERON LAST

“Why not organise a weekly or fortnightly trivia night? You could focus on the history and culture of Ryde. You could teach people about the history of our area and give them a fun thing to do in lockdown.”

About Cameron

Cameron Last is a year 11 student at Marist Eastwood. His passion is helping people in whatever way he can and improving people’s lives.



AARZU PATNI

“One way to stay creative during lockdown is to dance! Whenever stress, or even claustrophobia, settles in, I turn up the music and forget all my worries! Following dance tutorials or Just Dance videos on YouTube are also great for staying active.”

About Aarzu

Aarzu is a high-school student who lives in the Ryde area. She is passionate about finding climate solutions for her community and beyond, and volunteers at The Habitat.



ANDREW CARAMANIS

“I always try and keep my studies and sport balanced, so when I clock off every afternoon from school I make sure to go for a run and play a game of soccer. After all, it's all about being balanced. A healthy mind is the way to go!”

About Andrew

Andrew is 14 years old and currently studying at St Aloysius' College. He has lived in Ryde since he was born and absolutely loves its multiculturalism and way of life. Hanging out at local sports grounds, library and shopping centres makes him appreciate how lucky he is to be raised in a community filled with atmosphere and vibrance.



atmosphere and vibrance.

HANNAH YOUNG

“During lockdown my family and I have been completing puzzles and exercising to keep sane.”

About Hannah

Hannah is a high school student who lives in the Ryde area. She is passionate about youth physical and mental health wellbeing and enjoys being involved in the school community.

OTHER MEMBERS

Shweta Dalal, Dustin Dao, Ava Henderson, Lia Kwon and Abinaya Krishnaswamy are also members of Council’s current Youth Council.



Update - Waste collection resumes

Published on 19 August 2021

Waste collection in the City of Ryde has resumed this morning.

This means that the following services are operational again:

- Garbage collection
- Recycling collection
- Garden organics collection
- Pre-Booked Household CleanUp collection
- Commercial waste collection services

While the 24-hour waste collection delay is still in place, the waste collection team is making an effort to catch-up on the regular collection schedule. This means that residents whose waste is usually collected on Thursdays, may have noticed that waste was already collected in their neighbourhood today despite the 24-hour delay.

To ensure no missed collections, the waste collection team will be re-visiting these areas on Friday to collect any remaining waste.

As a result, residents are advised to please leave their bins out for their normal collection day and leave them until they are collected.

The City of Ryde thanks the community for its patience and understanding.

Library2U and Home Library Service to resume

Published on 18 August 2021

The City of Ryde is pleased to confirm that Library2U and the Home Library Service will resume from Monday 30 August.

Library2U and the Home Library Service deliver books directly to the doors of library members living in the City of Ryde via a contactless service.

Both services had to be temporarily suspended earlier this month after a number of local government areas became subject to tighter restrictions.

However, the City of Ryde has now implemented a new COVID-Safe Plan which will allow for both services to resume.

This means that library members will be able to place reservations on their library account for the Library2U service from Tuesday 24 August, with the first deliveries due to take place on Monday 30 August.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said he was delighted that Council could reintroduce Library2U and the Home Library Service during this difficult lockdown period.

“We were devastated when we had to temporarily suspend the Library2U and Home Library Service as they had become such a popular and vital resource for the community during this current lockdown,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Thankfully with the efforts of the hard-working library staff we are now able to reinstate both services while ensuring the health and safety of our staff and our community.”

Available to all library members, Library2U is a free service that delivers books directly to your door via a contactless service.

You can reserve up to 10 items from our catalogue, with all items loaned for six weeks.

And in an added bonus, City of Ryde Libraries has introduced a new Mystery Kids Pack as part of the Library2U service. Each pack will feature an exciting range of children’s books including picture books, easy readers, graphic novels, children’s non-fiction and junior novels.

Meanwhile, the Home Library Service is a free home delivery and collection service for City of Ryde residents who either have an illness, disability or are aged 65 and over.

24 hour delay to waste collection services

Published on 17 August 2021

Household and commercial waste collection services in the City of Ryde will be delayed by at least 24 hours after an employee at Council's waste contractor tested positive for COVID-19.

The delay will allow for close contacts of the employee to undergo testing for COVID-19 as a precaution and for waste collection trucks to be deep-cleaned. The employee that tested positive for COVID-19 was not working in the City of Ryde Local Government Area.

The following services will be impacted by the delay:

- Garbage collection
- Recycling collection
- Garden organics collection
- Pre-Booked Household collection
- Commercial waste collection

At this stage the delay will impact household and commercial waste collection services due to be undertaken between Wednesday 18 August and Friday 20 August in the City of Ryde, with each collection service delayed by 24 hours.

The delay will mean no household or commercial waste collection services will take place tomorrow (Wednesday 18 August). This will primarily impact residents in parts of Denistone, Eastwood, Ryde and West Ryde.

Collections that were due to take place on Wednesday will now take place on Thursday, and Thursday collections will take place on Friday.

A special Saturday waste collection will be undertaken for services normally conducted on Fridays.

It is expected that all normal household waste collection services will resume from Monday 23 August.

The City of Ryde will provide further updates if any additional interruptions to household waste collection services are expected to occur.

Creative Spotlight | Kristian Kriesel

Published on 12 August 2021



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

My name is Kristian Kriesel. I grew up in Balmain in the 80s and I've been working and playing music for most of my life.

I released my first album *North Head* in 2010. In 2011, I created my own record label Piper Art Records and started releasing albums through CD Baby. Since then I've produced three other albums. They are all largely instrumental and are entirely self-produced.

I'm also in a group called Bizarre Dwarfs. We played together in the 1990s and got back together in 2012. We released a brand-new album in 2020 called *The Night Byrds*.

As well as releasing music, I never gave up on photography. I used one of my photos of the Macquarie Centre Ice Rink for the cover of my album *The Ambient Ashes*.

I'm still recording music, taking photos and making videos. Generally making a nuisance of myself.

Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas? Who or what inspires you?

I'll use my video *The Soaring Byrds* as an example. I was walking through a park in Gladesville and came upon all these birds. They were everywhere, soaring about on

the currents of air and doing figures of eight around me. I didn't have a camera with me at the time, but later on while composing music I kept thinking of the birds. So I thought I would dedicate the piece I was working on to them.

After finishing the composition, I went back with a camera and filmed. Although there were not so many birds around this time they were still soaring about and generally having fun. I used this footage/music for my video.

Does your personal history, culture or experience inform your creative work?

Very much so, I think all our memories inform what we do. Memories are pretty much at the core of all my work.

Are there any special processes, techniques or tools you use to make your creative work?

I like to use a lot of echo, and analogue gear although I do mix it up with the more modern digital techniques. Running VST's (Computer based instruments through effects pedals etc) is a technique I use a lot in my work.

What is a creative project that you've worked on that you're really proud of? Why?

My track *No Goodbyes*. This is my best track and it's kind of special. A friend of mine said I was the king of nostalgia. If that is the case, this track takes it to a new level. It's neo-classical music, but also electronic and spacey.

The track is in two parts - the journey and then the melody (the return home). The piece is emotionally challenging. I describe it as the sound of someone climbing a flight of stairs and after each step a layer of clothing falls off. I remember thinking I wanted a piece of music that shot up into the sky, exploded and fell to the ground in bits. I fit it to a photo I took of the ice skaters in the Macquarie Centre for the video on YouTube. It's a good match.



Do you have any top tips for emerging artists and creatives just starting out?

1. Look to your own community first before looking overseas
2. Be prepared for rejection
3. Try to find ways to collaborate - it'll increase your audience. It's important to build an active audience, the days of passive listeners ended with the internet.

Where can we find out more about your work and get in touch?

YouTube: [youtube.com/user/kriz716](https://www.youtube.com/user/kriz716)

Band Camp: kristiankriesel.bandcamp.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/people/Kristian-Kriesel/100063121875869](https://www.facebook.com/people/Kristian-Kriesel/100063121875869)

Piper Art Records: [facebook.com/Piper-Art-Records-104649420901152](https://www.facebook.com/Piper-Art-Records-104649420901152)

Creative Spotlight | Freda Chiu

Published on 11 August 2021



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I am a freelance illustrator and artist who makes work for commercial applications including retail, branding, editorial and festival graphics. Lately, I've been focusing on illustrating books for children's publishing. Some of my clients include: Hardie Grant Egmont, Allen and Unwin, Puffin Books and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Outside of my art practice, I'm an educator at the University of Technology Sydney teaching in illustration and animation design.



Are there any special processes, techniques or tools you use to make your creative work?

I love combining traditional mixed media techniques with digital ones. The little accidents and textures of paint, pastels, collage and crayons feels exciting and human to me, so I want people to feel that in my work. Combining this with digital techniques gives me endless possibilities for experimentation. I treat every project as a unique challenge that requires a different approach!



**What is a creative project that you've worked on that you're really proud of?
Why?**

I recently finished writing and illustrating my very first children's picture book, *A Trip To The Hospital*, which will be published by Allen and Unwin in September. It has been my childhood dream to write and illustrate picture books, so I'm stoked! I loved working on this project because it gave me the opportunity to highlight the outstanding work that our healthcare workers do and learn more about an institution that I previously had limited knowledge about. Working on children's books also gives me a platform to spread positivity and influence kids in small ways. It's a great privilege to be making books that form part of their early learning!



What's the most challenging part of working as an artist / creative?

Finding a healthy work/life balance. I think many artists struggle with this because their work started as a passion, so they often find themselves working around the clock. There is also a self-imposed pressure to constantly appear 'busy', because of an unhealthy perception in society that being busy somehow translates to being successful. Personally, I am most inspired when I have time to do non-art related things, so I'm trying to be stricter about my boundaries these days and saying no.



Do you have any top tips for emerging artists and creatives just starting out?

Learn to trust yourself and be selective about the advice you receive. Because being an artist is an unconventional career path, there may be people who question your choices especially at the beginning of your career, whether they are well-intended or being judgmental.

Get a day job so you are not stressed financially - it's hard to create your best work if you are constantly worrying about money.



It can take years to build up your client base before you can live comfortably from your art, so be in it for the long haul rather than expecting overnight success!

Where can we find out more about your work and get in touch?

Website: fredachiu.com

Instagram: [instagram.com/ fredachiu](https://www.instagram.com/fredachiu)

Facebook: [facebook.com/fredachiuart](https://www.facebook.com/fredachiuart)

Email: freda.m.chiu@gmail.com



City of Ryde Council receives White Ribbon Accreditation

Published on 10 August 2021



The City of Ryde Council has successfully completed the White Ribbon Australia Workplace Accreditation Program, which recognises the organisation's ongoing commitment to eliminating family and domestic violence.

Facilitated by community service organisation, Communicare, the program requires workplaces to meet 15 criteria to demonstrate a safer and more respectful workplace that is taking active steps to stop violence against women.

The 15 criteria are:

Leadership and Commitment

- Leadership and Commitment
- Commitment of Resources
- Internal Communications
- External Communication
- Collaboration
- Demonstrate engagement in the prevention of violence against women

Prevention of Violence Against women

- Policies, Procedures and Documents
- Communication of Policies and Procedures

- Manager/ Supervisor Training
- Staff Training
- Risk Assessment
- Expectations of Contractors

Response to Violence Against Women

- Response to Victims
- Response to Perpetrators
- Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said it was a great achievement to be recognised as a White Ribbon Australian accredited workplace.

“As a Council, we have led the way in taking a stand against domestic violence and this workplace accreditation is the latest step in our journey to end violence against women for good,” Clr Laxale said.

“At the City of Ryde we strive to be an inclusive and safe working environment for staff at all levels of our organisation. The White Ribbon Australia accreditation process has strengthened that internal culture.

Status of Women Advisory Committee Chair, Clr Penny Pedersen, said the White Ribbon Accreditation demonstrates Council’s commitment to ending violence against women.

“This accreditation builds on the large number of initiatives we have undertaken during this term of Council to tackle domestic violence, including the implementation of 10 days of paid domestic violence leave, staging the Make A Stand march in Macquarie Park and commissioning a benchmark production of 45 podcasts, in six different languages designed to reach out to victims from various cultural backgrounds” Clr Pedersen said.

White Ribbon Australia Executive Director Brad Chilcott congratulated the City of Ryde for achieving accreditation.

“Violence against women impacts on the health and safety of employees, their wellbeing and their productivity,” Mr Chilcott said.

“We urge all Australian workplaces to take the lead of the City of Ryde and demonstrate a culture of zero tolerance of violence against women.”

White Ribbon Australia is a part of a global social movement working to eliminate gendered violence, striving for an Australian society where all women and children are safe, including in our workplaces.

If you are experiencing any form of violence please call the Domestic Violence Hotline on 1800 656 463 or 1800 RESPECT on 1800 737 732.

Tips to Help You Reduce Waste During Lockdown and Beyond

Published on 10 August 2021

It's easy to accumulate waste when we're spending most of our time at home during lockdown and tend to get our purchases delivered to the home. To give our community ideas on how to reduce waste, we asked local residents and Council staff to share their useful tips with us.

Repurposing household items into play toys

"My daughter loves to help around the house especially with unpacking our shopping. I found that by repurposing empty packaging not only was I creating play toys for her I was also reducing the amount of waste in my bins and saving money on buying her toys to play with.

As we haven't been able to go to playgroup or visit family during this lockdown, I have kept both myself and my daughter busy with some of the things I've made for her. So far, I have created a sensory board from the lids of the nappy wipes and repurposed the grocery packaging for her to play 'house' with."



- Nicole and 18-month-old Audrey, Local residents

Cardboard and packaging from online deliveries

"As a result of online shopping, I had accumulated a fair amount cardboard boxes and packaging due to the increased deliveries to my house. I had to do something about this collection, so I started reusing the boxes as storage containers to store seasonal household items. The boxes which I did not want any more I flattened and cut into smaller pieces prior to placing it into the recycling bin, that way the boxes didn't take up room in my recycling bin.

I've also found a great hack regarding extra packaging, request less packaging (or sustainable packaging) in the notes to the sender at the checkout will reduce the amount of packaging being delivered. That's a win for my bin and a win for the environment! "



- Emma, Waste Project Coordinator – City of Ryde

Composting food scraps

"I started my composting bin long ago when my children were still living at home as I realised that majority of the waste going into the bin was food scraps. My kids are all grown up and have moved out of home, but I continue to use the compost bin every-day. Composting has helped reduced the amount of waste that I throw into the rubbish bin, which has allowed me to downgrade from the standard 140L bin to the 80L Eco-service. Not only am I now throwing away less rubbish in the bin, I am also paying less rates as a result of a smaller rubbish bin."



- Jude – Local Resident

Creative composting

"Having two children under the age of four in lockdown meant that I had to come up with a creative way to keep them occupied while at home.

At home, they developed an interest in the garden and were spending more time outside in our backyard. One night I was preparing dinner and had a lot of food scraps, which went straight into the bin. My four-year-old asked me, "Mummy, why are you throwing away all those skins? That's just a waste!"



We didn't have a worm farm or a compost bin, but I had an old container which was just sitting in the garage collecting dust. I also did some research into homemade compost bins and found so many ideas on the internet.

I got my boys involved in creating our own little homemade compost bin and since then, we have reduced the weekly amount of waste going into our bins and I have even found a new activity to keep my kids occupied."

- Denise, Senior Coordinator Resource Recovery – City of Ryde

Cooking with food scraps

"Being in lockdown has given me more time in the kitchen to experiment with new recipes and to use ingredients in a different way. I have started utilising the tops, tails, skins, stems and outer leaves of vegetables that usually would get thrown away to create vegetable stock.

The result of this has been a reduction in the amount of food scraps I throw into the bin and a new appreciation of the whole ingredient. Once the stock is ready, I strain the liquid and use it to create meals. The food scraps are composted in my worm farm and the worms really enjoy the precooked food as it is softer for them to eat."



- Jess, Local resident

City of Ryde Libraries: What's on in August

Published on 03 August 2021

With the COVID-19 pandemic set to continue for Greater Sydney until at least the end of August, the City of Ryde libraries will stage a range of online activities throughout the month for people of all ages.

As part of National Science Week between August 14 - 22, City of Ryde Libraries will be hosting a series of online workshops, including an Indigenous Bush Foods Talk, a National Science Quiz as well as a Science With Food Workshop.

Then between August 21 - 27, City of Ryde Libraries will celebrate Children's Book Week, in which the new Banjo Book Buddies Reading Challenge will be launched. There will also be a special online Storytime where City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, will read his favourite children's book.

History buffs of all ages can also join in on the Local History Photo Challenge. Each week throughout August a photo will be posted on the City of Ryde Facebook page, with participants taking part in the challenge asked to recreate the photo while at home.

An in-depth online demonstration will also take place in August detailing how easy it is to use the City of Ryde online library to download eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMovies and many more resources.

The move to online activities comes after the current COVID-19 restrictions required the closure of all City of Ryde library branches until further notice.

The Library2U and Home Library Services have also been temporarily suspended until 27 August.

More information on all upcoming library events and digital library resources is available [here](#).