

# Carmen Platt named Ryde Citizen of the Year

Published on 26 January 2021

Local philanthropist Carmen Platt has today been named the 2021 Ryde Citizen of the Year at the City of Ryde Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony at Ryde Park.

Ms Platt is the founder of The Generous and The Grateful, a social enterprise created in Macquarie Park in 2017.

Working with frontline agencies such as the Salvation Army and Mission Australia, The Generous and The Grateful provides furniture and other essential household items to those in need.

Leading a team of more than 60 volunteers, Ms Platt's efforts has seen almost 500 homes furnished in the past financial year, assisting some of the most vulnerable people in the community, including those escaping domestic violence, those experiencing financial difficulties as well as refugees and migrants.

A particular focus of Ms Platt's work in 2020 was directed to people who were displaced from their homes due to the devastating bushfires as well as due to the increased prevalence of domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ryde Young Citizen of the Year was awarded to Alex Noble for his efforts to inspire others to overcome adversity. As a 16-year-old, Mr Noble's life changed forever when he broke his neck and severely damaged his spinal cord while playing rugby.

Told he may never walk again, Mr Noble completed his lengthy rehab and returned to school to finish his HSC, while working on his strength to enable him to once again brush his teeth, use a computer, feed himself and operate a wheelchair.

Mr Noble recently established the Alex Noble Foundation which aims to motivate others through the motto "I fight, you fight". He also serves as an Ambassador for the University of Sydney's Centre for Neuroscience and Regeneration while raising money to help fund treatment for spinal cord injuries.

Rob Senior and Cameron Last, meanwhile, received City of Ryde Special Commendations. Mr Senior volunteers for a wide range of community organisations throughout the City of Ryde, while Mr Last is an advocate for local young people.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, congratulated the award recipients as well as all of the nominees.

"The past 12 months have been extremely challenging for everyone and each of the award recipients and nominees have helped ensure that we have overcome these challenges together as a community. On behalf of everyone at the City of Ryde, we say thank you for all of your efforts," Clr Laxale said.

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

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

# Council not consulted on controversial bus changes

Published on 22 January 2021

The City of Ryde has refuted claims that it was consulted on cancellations and changes to local bus routes which will severely impact many people within the community.

Last December, Transport for NSW announced an overhaul of some bus services that pass through the City of Ryde. Some of the changes, which will take effect from 24 January, include:

- Withdrawal of route M52 between Parramatta and Circular Quay
- Withdrawal of route 520 between Parramatta and Circular Quay
- Withdrawal of route X15 between Eastwood and Town Hall
- Withdrawal of route X18 between Denistone East and Town Hall
- Withdrawal of route X06 between East Ryde and the Domain
- Change to route 515 to operate between Eastwood and Top Ryde (currently operates between Eastwood and the city)
- Change to route 518 to operate between Macquarie University and Top Ryde (currently operates between Macquarie University and the city)
- Change to route 525 to operate between Parramatta and Strathfield (currently operates between Macquarie University and Burwood)
- A new route 500X to commence between West Ryde and Hyde Park.

Following criticisms of the changes by locals, Transport for NSW claimed that it had consulted with the City of Ryde and City of Parramatta councils. However, the City of Ryde can confirm it was only provided formal written confirmation of the changes on the same day they were announced on 3 December 2020.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said Transport for NSW needed to come clean on the amount of community consultation it undertook before implementing these changes.

“The Minister and his department have been caught telling porkies,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Notification is not consultation. At no time was Council consulted about the cancellations or changes. Rather it was notified by Transport for NSW that this horrendous overhaul to key local bus routes was being introduced with no chance for Council to analyse and provide appropriate feedback.

“Instead of lying about it, the State Government should halt these changes to allow for a full and transparent consultation to take place.

“I call on the Minister to immediately intervene and stop these changes coming into force on 24 January.”

# Ryde River Walk's missing link opens to the public

Published on 19 January 2021



*City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, at the new section of the Ryde River Walk*

The City of Ryde has completed a key missing link of the Ryde River Walk located between Bill Mitchell Park, Tennyson Point, and Ross Street, Gladesville.

Built as part of Council's Passive Parks Capital Works Program, the new 150-metre section winds along the Parramatta River foreshore, providing an enhanced experience for the award winning 12-kilometre Ryde River Walk.

It also improves the Ryde River Walk's accessibility in this section by no longer requiring walkers to navigate up a steep stairway and into local streets. The stairway had proved to be an impediment for some people while also depriving others of accessing a major part of the foreshore.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the completion of these works was a big win for the entire community.

"The Parramatta River belongs to everybody. By completing this missing link of the Ryde River Walk, we are opening up our jewel to everyone," Cllr Laxale said.

"The Ryde River Walk is one of Sydney's great waterfront walks and building this infrastructure not only improves this fantastic outdoor facility but also ensure the entire community can access this picturesque part of the Parramatta River."

The final design for the missing link was based on community needs identified through consultation with key stakeholders. Works completed have also improved suitable access to the river for residents and boating enthusiasts.

The award winning 12-kilometre Ryde River Walk was first opened to the public in 2008, providing access to the Parramatta foreshore for walkers and cyclists between Gladesville Bridge and Ryde Bridge.

# Release of Calicivirus at Dunbar Park, Pembroke Park, Ryde Park and Yamble Reserve

Published on 14 January 2021

To help control the number of feral rabbits in local parks and reserves the City of Ryde will be releasing the Calicivirus (RHDV1 K5 strain) in February 2021 at Dunbar Park, Pembroke Park, Ryde Park and Yamble Reserve.

This will be part of a coordinated release involving a number of other Councils and agencies across the Sydney North region. Feral animals have a significant impact on our wildlife and assets and as land manager of these parks City of Ryde is responsible for the control of these species.

The calicivirus specifically targets rabbits and will not affect humans or other animals. The release is being done in a very controlled, careful way. Signage will be displayed in the parks and reserves when the program is being undertaken.

Rabbit owners should speak with their Vet about vaccinating their rabbits against the calicivirus.

For more information please contact Customer Service on 9952 8222.

# Update to face mask requirements at Council venues

Published on 08 January 2021

Given the risk of COVID-19 transmission across Greater Sydney, the NSW Government has introduced a new Public Health Order which makes face masks mandatory in a range of indoor settings, including shopping centres.

Due to their location in shopping centres, from 4 January staff and customers at Top Ryde Library, Top Ryde Customer Service Centre and West Ryde Library are required to wear masks while at these venues. From 8 January, staff and customers will be required to wear face masks at all City of Ryde libraries.

Children under 12 or those who have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that make wearing a mask unsuitable are exempt.

Anyone who does not wear a mask at these venues without a valid exemption will be denied entry.

Members of the public visiting other indoor Council venues are encouraged to wear a mask while in attendance.

For more information on the COVID-19 restrictions for Greater Sydney, visit the [NSW Government website](#).

# Council continues to support local sporting clubs

Published on 07 January 2021



The City of Ryde will delay planned increases to summer fees or charges (including sportsground hire) until the end of the summer sports season.

The unanimous decision was made by Council to help local sporting clubs navigate their way through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, Council resolved that an increase of non-statutory fees and charges would not take effect until 1 January 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This latest Council resolution means fee increases for sporting groups will not take effect until the completion of the summer sports season.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the decision to delay the increase to summer fees or charges would benefit local sporting clubs and organisations during an extremely challenging period.

"Our local sporting clubs are the lifeblood of our community. By delaying these fee increases we are providing a significant boost to grassroots sports activities throughout the City of Ryde," Clr Laxale said. "Since the COVID-19 pandemic begun this Council's intention has been to provide support to those who need it. Delaying these fee increases does just that by easing a financial burden for the clubs that have been impacted the most by the pandemic," Clr Laxale said.

The decision not to increase summer fees or charges until the end of the summer sports season, comes after Council waived ground hire and sports field lighting costs for part of the 2020 winter sports season earlier in the year.

# Your City - Summer 2021

Published on 04 January 2021

## View Interactive Version

View the PDF of the [Your City - Summer2020](#) newsletter.