

Stop work order to cost ratepayers

Published on 28 February 2021

A stop work order issued on the Ryde Civic Centre redevelopment has the potential to cost ratepayers thousands a day until it is resolved.

Demolition of the Ryde Civic Centre building was due to commence on Monday after plans to build a new community and civic hub on the site were unanimously approved by the State Government's Sydney North Planning Panel.

However, Heritage NSW issued a stop work notice on Friday after developer lobbyist The Urban Taskforce criticised the redevelopment plans.

The decision not only jeopardises the project but will also result in significant costs being incurred by Council and Ryde ratepayers.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said stopping a project that was of vital importance to the local community at the behest of property developers was astounding.

"This is nothing but a land grab by developers. Why is it that developers get to dictate what happens to a site with plans that 85 per cent of our community support?" Clr Laxale said.

"We have spent more than 10 years consulting with our community to get the approvals necessary to build our new cultural hub. This political stunt by developers will only cost ratepayers and rob us of our much-needed community facilities.

"I am willing to work with Heritage NSW night and day to find a quick resolution so that we can build this landmark piece of public infrastructure."

Creative Spotlight | Amy Ge

Published on 25 February 2021



* Please note, images have been cropped. [Check out Amy's Instagram for full images.](#)

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

I'm Amy, an illustrator, graphic designer and animator working on Wallumedegal land. My practice spans all different mediums, but I most regularly make digital illustrations, zines and rubber-block stamps.

I have to differentiate what I make for myself and for clients. My personal work is what results from working through my subject of interest at the time. This might be a species of endangered freshwater fish in Western Australia, or a beautiful colour, or just an empty feeling that I want to reflect upon.



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

I generally still sketch things by hand into a Rollbahn notebook before I start digitally if it's a big project. I usually have a scrap of an idea saved on my phone's notes and I need to work it out by hand, without the undo button distracting me. For this, I have a favourite mechanical pencil, the Pentel GraphGear 500, which can fit my favourite blue Pilot 0.7mm lead.

For digital illustrations, I use an iPad Pro and the programs Procreate for raster work and Concepts for vector work. I also use my iPad for animations. For graphic design, I use Figma and Affinity Publisher.



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

As an Australian with Chinese ethnicity, much of my experience in and of society centres around ways of communication, understanding and translation. It feels natural to go from these interactions into a creative field where the same demands and interrogations are made of yourself and your work. My work is always informed by a sense of how difficult communicating can be, and when or when not to make attempts to bridge a gap in understanding.



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

Why?

During the lockdown months last year, I was fortunate enough to have the time and strength to work on an intensely personal project called *Xiang Mama*. I went through an archive of photo albums left to me by my grandmother of my mother in her youth. I lost my mother when I was a child, so going through that archive meant a lot to me.

It was very different from my normal illustrative practice, as there was no brief or client in sight. I'm fairly private when it comes to my family, so exhibiting the resulting text and images was really like revealing a journal entry - but at the end of it, I did feel proud.



What creative project are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on a collaborative project with a long-time friend of mine! We both work other jobs, so it's great to be able to share the workload and explore our ideas, aesthetics and themes together.

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

You can find some of my work on Instagram at [@yma_ge](https://www.instagram.com/@yma_ge), and you can get in touch with me by shooting over an email at contact.ymage@gmail.com.

Fund launched to assist owners of heritage items

Published on 24 February 2021

A new fund which will provide grants of up to \$15,000 to eligible owners of heritage listed items and properties in Heritage Conservation Areas has been launched by the City of Ryde.

Under the Ryde Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021, successful applicants will receive grants to help them facilitate and offset the costs involved to repair, maintain or conserve their residential heritage item.

Examples of eligible projects under the fund include the repair or reinstatement of original or missing elements, the reinstatement of traditional colour schemes, remedial works to rectify structural defects, historic garden conservation and much more.

The \$500,000 fund was an integral part of Council's landmark heritage reforms, which provided heritage protection to more than 300 items across the community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the Ryde Local Heritage Assistance Fund would encourage the conservation of heritage throughout the local government area.

"We have listened to the community who have consistently told us to protect Ryde's heritage," Clr Laxale said.

"By providing grants to help owners maintain and conserve heritage, we have taken another step to ensuring that Ryde's most treasured items and neighbourhoods will remain part of the community for generations to come."

Heritage Advisory Committee Chairperson, Clr Christopher Gordon, added that the fund would continue to strengthen the City of Ryde's heritage protections.

"The City of Ryde has a long and rich history so it is essential that we do what we can to assist residents to protect their heritage listed items and preserve our community's history. The Ryde Local Heritage Assistance Fund does exactly that," Clr Gordon said.

More information about the Ryde Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021, including how to apply for a grant and the eligibility criteria, is available [here](#).

Applications close on 7 April 2021.

Demolition works to begin on The New Heart of Ryde

Published on 22 February 2021



City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, at the Ryde Civic Centre site with former Mayor and Councillor Edna Wilde OAM, local residents and representatives from Taylor Construction Group

Following on from the successful development approval for the Ryde Civic Centre transformation, the project enters the next significant stage with demolition works to commence on Monday, 1 March 2021.

The demolition works will continue through to July 2021, weather permitting and will include the demolition of the seven-storey Civic Centre and one-storey Community Hall.

A number of significant items from the old Civic Centre such as signage, coat of arms and a mosaic floor design will be incorporated into the new development where possible.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, and representatives from Taylor Construction Group met with local residents as well as long-serving Ryde Eisteddfod Chairman and former City of Ryde Councillor and Mayor, Edna Wilde OAM on site to discuss the next stage of the redevelopment.

Earlier this month, the Sydney North Planning Panel unanimously approved the project's development application.

In approving the application, the Sydney North Planning Panel said The New Heart of Ryde "will make a significant positive contribution to the Ryde Town Centre".

Known as ‘The New Heart of Ryde’, the new development will deliver a four-fold increase in community facilities without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

The centrepiece of the project will be a new multi-purpose and cultural building dedicated to community use. This building will feature the Edna Wilde Performance Hall, which will be able to seat up to 700 people.

The multi-purpose and cultural building will also include public activity rooms, meeting rooms, function space capable of hosting art exhibitions, amenities and food premises.

An additional commercial building will also be built on the site which will house Council staff as well as external tenants. Other features include a centrally located public plaza, extensive landscaping works, direct and accessible pedestrian links, as well as 236 on-site basement car spaces.

The capital investment value of the project is \$108 million and is within Council’s budget parameters. Council will retain 100% ownership of the site and the project will be completely funded without raising rates or reducing services.

Clr Laxale said The New Heart of Ryde project was entering a very exciting stage.

“After more than a decade it is terrific that this Council is finally progressing with a plan for the Ryde Civic Centre site that has the overwhelming support of the community,” Clr Laxale said.

“Once completed, The New Heart of Ryde will activate this key part of Ryde and deliver the facilities residents, businesses, schools and community groups have been crying out for, all while retaining public ownership of the site and without residential apartments.”

ePlanning Portal Post Development Certificates Registration Service now active

Published on 17 February 2021

Private Certifiers are now able to pay and register Post Development Consent Certificates that have been issued within the City of Ryde Council area via the NSW Planning Portal.

As a result Council will no longer be accepting and or receipting these certificate via correspondence and through the Customer Service Counter as from Monday 15 March 2021.

Creative Spotlight | Yvette Worboys

Published on 08 February 2021

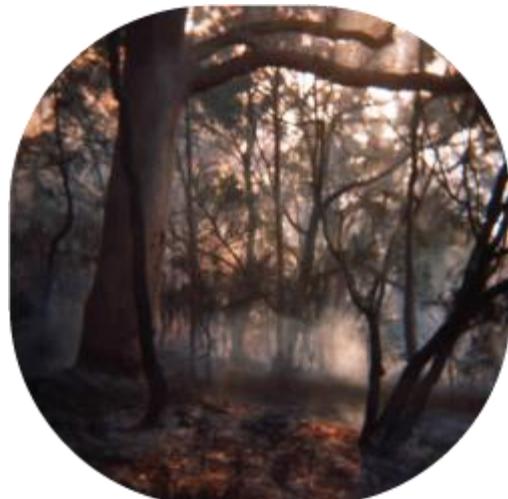


Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I'm a photo-media artist and graphic designer. I have always loved the creative arts and in 2002 I decided to study photography at Ultimo TAFE. This gave me fantastic technical photography skills that I still use in my work today. I have always loved storytelling and this has been a focus of my creative work, particularly through portraiture.

I am also a member of Ludlites Photographic Collective. We shoot film with low-fi cameras.

This creates its own challenges along with beautiful surprises. I am currently diversifying and experimenting with the mirrorless camera format and iPhone photography to create my images.



Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas?

Who or what inspires you?

Where I find my creative ideas depends on the project I am looking at. I am influenced by a strong sense of family, history and making images for future generations. I have a great number of influences within my work, some are the Masters of Photography such as Henri Cartier-Bresson. I am also inspired by contemporary Australian photographers such as Trent Parke, Tamara Dean and many more.



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

Growing up I was fortunate enough to have two parents that were creative in their own right. My mother was a talented seamstress and creator and my father could do anything he turned his hand to, from designing furniture to restoring MG motorcars. I think their influence and focus in their own areas of interest really helped me find my own creative outlet.



I was encouraged to pursue art from a young age, this included painting, making t-shirts, drawing and developing graphic design skills. In 2000 my mum was diagnosed with cancer. She died six weeks after diagnosis and this changed everything for me. This is when I decided to quit my job and study photography. The experience of going through this journey with my mum, quite unexpectedly, fostered my interest in storytelling and documenting family history for future generations while creating legacy artwork that will last for generations.



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

I use a variety of cameras and processes within my work which have included large, medium and 35mm cameras, low-fi plastic cameras and darkroom processes. Due to a recent injury I now shoot on my mirrorless Fuji and my iPhone, as well as some low-fi plastic cameras. This still allows me to capture images and create artwork which I am very thankful for.

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

Why?

As part of the Ludlite collective, we did a show on light, entitled 'Ludlites Love Light'.

Immediately I knew I wanted to do something of significance with this brief. I had the idea of utilising the concept of light connecting us to other realms, and in doing so, connecting me to my mum. I went back into the family archives and found an image my dad had taken on transparency, of my mum and I in our backyard.



I found a dress dummy and placed one of Mum's hand-made gowns on it. I had the foundations of an idea. I set up the projector in the backyard and I projected the image of my mum and myself onto the dress with a light at the top of the dress symbolising my connection to her. In this shot, the chair was empty, this symbolised me. It is the reverse of the physical reality - with her present, me in another realm. This image still hangs proudly on the wall in my house and is one of the most meaningful series of images I have shot.

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

Website: www.yvetteworboys.com

Website: www.ludlites.com

Instagram: instagram.com/photomedia.artist

Creative Spotlight | Tom Isaacs

Published on 08 February 2021



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

I am an emerging artist and a PhD candidate at Sydney College of the Arts, Sydney University. My artistic practice is concerned with mental health, mortality, and the human condition. The primary medium I work in is performance art, though I have also created sculptures, paintings and, most recently, textile art.

For those less familiar with performance art, it is a form of art that is presented either as a live experience or as documentation of a past performance. Most, but not all, performance artworks avoid the use of traditional theatrical elements such as plot, character, and dialogue. Instead, they focus on the body of the artist and the actions performed by that artist. Performance art has its roots historically in the visual arts, in the Dada, Surrealist and Bauhaus movements of the early 20th century, and gained greatest momentum in the revolutionary 1960s and 1970s.



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

As a PhD candidate a lot of my inspiration comes from reading. In my research I have mainly been reading about art history and theory, as well as anthropology and psychoanalytic theory. This reading has been important for my written research, but it also informs my artistic practice. I have also drawn inspiration from reading poetry, philosophy, religious and spiritual texts, and classic works of fiction (such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*).

Another common source of inspiration for me is the work of other artists. I have maintained a blog for some years where I post images of works I find interesting, both historical and contemporary. I also find meeting with other artists can be very helpful. I am a member of a great organisation called Modern Art Projects – Blue Mountains which I have found to be a fruitful source of inspiration and encouragement.



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

My artistic practice and research are informed by my relationship to mental illness and mental health care. A number of my family members have worked in the mental health field, including my grandmother who was a practising psychoanalyst. This has contributed to my interest in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic theory. Mental illness is also something which has touched my family personally. I live with depression and anxiety which I manage with a combination of medication and psychotherapy. A lot of my art deals directly with the experience of living with mental illness and the desire for healing, including speculative ideas about a cure that could be found in spirituality, philosophy, psychoanalysis, or even in art itself.



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

Why?

Last year my performance work *Pietà* (2020) was exhibited in 'BLUE', curated by Beata Geyer at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. For this performance I explored a number of different positions and poses with a long piece of blue felt. For 'BLUE' I chose to exhibit video documentation of the performance alongside the blue fabric used in the performance. I also re-performed the work live on two occasions during the exhibition. I am particularly proud of this work because I think it worked really well as both an installation and as a live performance. I also received some very touching feedback from witnesses who seemed genuinely moved by the work, which is about the highest praise I think one can receive.



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

Website: tom-isaacs.com

Tumblr: tom-isaacs.tumblr.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/tom_isaacs_art

Development application for The New Heart of Ryde approved

Published on 05 February 2021



The Sydney North Planning Panel has unanimously approved the application to redevelop the Ryde Civic Centre site into the community-supported New Heart of Ryde.

This project will deliver a four-fold increase in community facilities without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

The centrepiece of the project will be a new multi-purpose and cultural building dedicated to community use.

This building will feature the Edna Wilde Performance Hall – named after long-serving Ryde Eisteddfod Chairman and former City of Ryde Councillor and Mayor, Edna Wilde OAM – which will be able to seat up to 700 people.

The multi-purpose and cultural building will also include public activity rooms, meeting rooms, function space capable of hosting art exhibitions, amenities and food premises.

An additional commercial building will also be built on the site which will house Council staff as well as external tenants. Other features include a centrally located public plaza, extensive landscaping works, direct and accessible pedestrian links, as well as 236 on-site basement car spaces.

The capital investment value of the project is \$108 million and within Council's budget parameters. Council will retain 100% ownership of the site and the project will be completely funded without raising rates or reducing services.

In approving the application, the Sydney North Planning Panel said The New Heart of Ryde "will make a significant positive contribution to the Ryde Town Centre".

The panel added that the development "is of high-quality architectural design that has responded to the location within the mixed-use area, while providing a form of development consistent with the character of the precinct".

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said The New Heart of Ryde had the support of the community with 85% indicating they support the redevelopment proposal.

"The New Heart of Ryde will deliver the facilities that our community has been crying out for," Clr Laxale said.

"It will allow our local schools, community groups and multicultural institutions to finally have the ability to stage their major events in the City of Ryde and collaborate with other schools, groups and institutions in their field. It will also provide a major boost to our burgeoning arts industry.

"As we navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, this development will also aid the economic recovery of both Ryde and the North-Western region of Sydney by generating and sustaining jobs throughout its construction and activating and revitalising this key town centre upon its completion."

City of Ryde celebrates Lunar New Year in Eastwood

Published on 05 February 2021

Celebrate Lunar New Year in the City of Ryde with a range of fun and exciting events taking place for the whole community to enjoy.

Kicking off the festivities will be the launch of the Love Eastwood campaign in which the City of Ryde will give away \$40,000 in gift cards to be spent at participating Eastwood town centre businesses.

As part of the campaign, a competition will be run during the Lunar New Year period (12 February – 26 February 2021) in which people will have the chance win \$100 gift cards.

In addition, an interactive map of Eastwood will be made available on the City of Ryde website featuring businesses who are offering specials throughout Lunar New Year.

Other events taking place include:

- A digital art exhibition featuring select artworks from artist Subin Xu up until Friday 12 February
- A Lunar New Year Outdoor Cinema from 8pm on Saturday 20 February at Eastwood Oval featuring the popular children's movie, Ferdinand
- An online classical Chinese poetry appreciation and poems reading workshop in Mandarin from 10am on Tuesday 23 February
- Eastwood Night Markets from 4pm every Saturday at Eastwood Plaza.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the traditional Eastwood Lunar New Year celebration will not take place this year.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the events planned for Lunar New Year would allow everyone in the community to welcome in the Year of the Ox, while also supporting local businesses.

“Lunar New Year has become such an important event on the City of Ryde calendar that celebrates our vibrant and multicultural community,” Cllr Laxale said.

“The events planned for this year will provide everyone with the opportunity to share wishes and goodwill for a successful year ahead, while also supporting Eastwood businesses that are still suffering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, via the Love Eastwood campaign.”

[Click here](#) for more information on the Lunar New Year celebrations in Eastwood.