

Council introduces new fixed car share spaces

Published on 31 March 2021



City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, and Clr Bernard Purcell at the new car share space at Anzac Park in West Ryde

The City of Ryde has just launched 25 new dedicated car share spaces that provide residents with new transport options, while also helping reduce traffic congestion, parking demand and lowering the city's greenhouse gas emissions.

The car share spaces are located at key locations across the City of Ryde and are available to all motorists.

The dedicated car share spaces have been allocated to two car share operators under this first launch – GoGet and POPCAR.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said car sharing was rapidly gaining in popularity.

“We know that the biggest barrier to communities switching to a share car model is convenience. We hope that by installing 25 across the city, more locals can give this car ownership model a go, and ditch that second car where it suits,” Clr Laxale said.

“The introduction of these new car share spaces will deliver a range of benefits for residents and motorists alike. This includes:

Reducing traffic congestion and the number of vehicle trips undertaken

Reducing on-street parking demand created by underused private vehicles

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by lowering the number of vehicles on the road

Increasing health by reducing dependency on private cars and encouraging active lifestyles.

“Each of these benefits align with Council’s objectives to reduce our environmental footprint and promote sustainable transport options that can increase health.”

Motorists can join a membership plan and book a car share vehicle via the GoGet and POPCAR websites.

[Click here](#) for more information, including the locations for each car share space and an online interactive map.

Free home fire safety checks

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Fire and Rescue NSW are now offering residents free home fire safety checks.

The check will review that you have working [smoke alarms](#) and that they are installed in suitable areas. If not, firefighters will install a long-life battery-powered smoke alarm as well as replace existing smoke alarm batteries all at no cost.

The check will also give you personalised fire safety information and fire plan advice including, but not limited to:

- [cooking fire safety](#)
- [heaters and open fires](#)
- [common electrical safety](#)
- [barbecues and LPG cylinders](#)
- [bedroom heating and wheat bags](#)

Everyone can benefit from a home fire safety check, however, there are people within our communities that are statistically at higher risk of incidents occurring, including:

- over 65s
- those who live alone
- people with limited mobility, hearing impairments or vision impairments
- residents who are supported by carers, family and friends
- anyone with English as a second language.

Share Our Space is on again these autumn school holidays

Published on 29 March 2021



Schools in your local area will open their grounds daily throughout the autumn holidays as part of the NSW Department of Education's Share Our Space program.

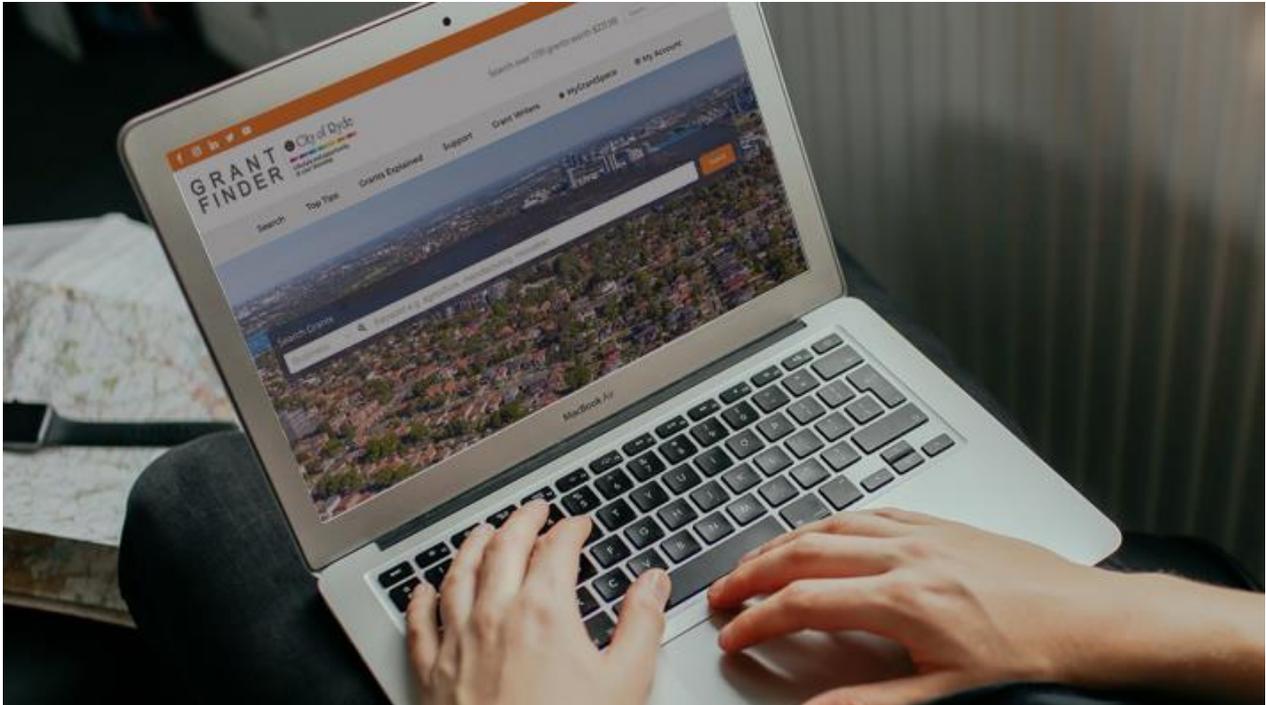
Through Share Our Space, public schools are able to offer local communities safe and open spaces to use during school holiday breaks. Participating schools will open their grounds from Monday 5 April to Friday 16 April, including all public holidays. It's a space for local residents to gather with their friends and neighbours or for kids to play sports.

The school gates will be opened by 8.00am each day and closed by 5.00pm. All visitors are reminded to maintain appropriate physical distancing and to follow COVID-safe hygiene practices.

For more information and a list of schools taking part, go to the [Share Our Space website](#).

Launch of the City of Ryde Grant Finder

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Community groups and businesses in the City of Ryde will be able to more easily find and apply for grants with the launch of the City of Ryde Grant Finder.

City of Ryde has partnered with GrantGuru to provide you with the ability to search for funding opportunities and filter grants by specifying location, industry and the type of project. You can also sign up to receive email alerts and save grants to your favourites.

The City of Ryde Grant Finder is available for all businesses, community groups and not-for-profits located in the Ryde local government area.

This is a FREE service which provides a comprehensive list to access funding money and grant opportunities across Australia.

The website also assists with advice and top tips for finding and applying for grants to maximise your chances of receiving the funding you need.

Visit the [City of Ryde Grant Finder](#) to start searching!

Clean Up Australia Day a huge success

Published on 19 March 2021



The 1st East Ryde Scout Group - pictured at Magdala Park - was one of the groups who got involved in this year's Clean Up Australia Day

This year's Clean Up Australia Day activities in the City of Ryde attracted 34 participating groups including businesses, community groups, schools and youth organisations.

During February and March, these groups collected a total of 940kg of litter from our local streets, parks and reserves, waterways and foreshores.

Local clean-up activities like Clean Up Australia day speak to our local community and schools in a way people can instantly connect with. It demonstrates the size and scale of the issue by providing a tactile and visual experience of the amount of litter collected including problem waste items like single use plastics and cigarette butts.

Running a Clean-up Australia day events in our community and schools is a great way to raise awareness and educate the community to help keep our neighbourhoods, rivers and oceans litter-free.

Littering affects everyone, and here in the City of Ryde we have an important part to play in the prevention of litter because the rain that falls on our streets, ends up as stormwater. As it runs over our roofs, paths and gutters it picks up and carries with it any litter and pollutants it comes into contact with. The litter in our environment can eventually harm our wildlife in both the terrestrial and aquatic environment.

Each year, at least 8 million tonnes of plastic flow into the ocean including from rivers, which is equivalent to dumping the contents of one garbage truck into the ocean every minute. At least 80% of this plastic pollution comes from land-based sources flowing through drains and into local waterways and oceans via stormwater runoff.

When we have pride in our local community and schools, we can help influence the attitudes and behaviours of litterers. Encourage them to get involved and be proud of their achievements. Together we can effectively tackle the issue on a grander scale than would be possible alone.

Visit the [Clean Up Australia website](#) for more information about how you could get involved in a local clean up.

Council 'Saves Our Streets' through new planning rules

Published on 19 March 2021

The City of Ryde has amended its planning rules so that its low-density residential neighbourhoods are now protected from the State Government's Low Rise Housing Diversity Code (formerly known as the Medium Density Housing Code).

A Planning Proposal to amend the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP) to not permit multi-dwelling developments in R2 Low Density Residential zones was approved by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

This means inappropriate developments, such as small blocks of flats (known as manor houses), terraces, villas and townhouses are now prevented from being built in low-density neighbourhoods as is currently permitted under the Low Rise Housing Diversity Code.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said today's approval ends a three-year campaign by the City of Ryde to be exempted from the Low Rise Housing Diversity Code.

"The City of Ryde has opposed the State Government's housing code since day one as it was going to transform our quiet, residential streets into a playground for developers. It made a mockery of planning rules by running roughshod over Council's LEP and the measures we have in place to protect these low-density neighbourhoods," Clr Laxale said.

"Council has been forced into action solely because the NSW Government would repeatedly not support City of Ryde being granted an exemption from this flawed housing code. It is well-known we have done the heavy lifting on housing supply in the North District of Sydney."

While the changes also mean new multi-dwelling housing developments will no longer be permissible in the R2 Low Density Zone, to maintain appropriate levels of housing diversity and supply, Council has made more lots eligible for dual occupancy development.

In response to community feedback, Council has also had its application to encourage duplex developments approved. Changes to the frontage requirement from 20 metres down to 15 metres will make more lots eligible for duplex developments.

The minimum requirement for lot size remains at 580 square metres.

RecycleSmartApp

Published on 17 March 2021



This month we launched the RecycleSmart app which includes a comprehensive recycling database that allows residents to discover how to recycle more than 250 different items, as well as find information about the City of Ryde waste management services including checking their bin collection day.

You can also report any issue in the area straight from the app and it will be sent to City of Ryde.

Download the RecycleSmart app on Google Play or the Apple App store, or visit the [RecycleSmart webpage](#) for more information.

Reducing Cigarette Butt Litter

Published on 11 March 2021



You may have noticed some new cigarette butt bins installed around Top Ryde, Macquarie University metro station and North Ryde metro station. This is part of a project to reduce cigarette butt littering. Help us keep our streets clean by binning your litter.

Cigarette butts are the most littered items in New South Wales, with an estimated 1.32 billion littered every year in the state.

While most people dispose of their cigarette butts responsibly, others litter them which is unsightly, toxic and harmful to the environment. Although cigarette butts seem small, they contain plastics that can be harmful to wildlife when they enter our waterways through stormwater drains, as well as causing grass fires when thrown out of the window.

With support from NSW Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we are delivering a project to improve bin infrastructure and signage to reduce cigarette butt littering. New cigarette butt bins are being installed along with improved signage to encourage people to bin their cigarette butts.

Littering is illegal and fines of up to \$450 apply for individuals caught littering in dangerous circumstances. More than 40,000 litter fines have been issued in NSW by the EPA.

The safest way to dispose of your cigarette is in a butt bin, or an ordinary litter bin when extinguished. Most people in the City of Ryde are doing the right thing, lets all join together to keep our streets clean and our environment safe.

Stop work order lifted on Ryde Civic Centre

Published on 10 March 2021



The City of Ryde has welcomed the decision by the NSW Government to lift the stop work order on the Ryde Civic Centre redevelopment.

The decision means work can commence immediately on Council's \$110 million project to build a new community and civic hub on the Ryde Civic Centre site, a project that will sustain more than a thousand jobs

Works were due to commence on 1 March after receiving approval from the NSW Government, however, a stop work notice was issued at the 11th hour after claims that the building had heritage significance were made by Urban Taskforce, a small lobby group which openly pursues the interests of property developers.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said the lifting of the stop work order was a win for the entire Ryde community.

"This is a win for the people. I would like to thank the NSW Government, in particular Ministers Harwin, Perrottet, and Kean, for working with me and putting the interests of our community ahead of the interests of property developers," Clr Laxale said.

"Never again should heritage be weaponised by property developers like this. Never again should property developers be able to dictate what facilities our community deserve.

“We will now redouble our efforts to build a modern, state-of-the-art facility which will deliver a four-fold increase in community facilities.

“This will be delivered with the overwhelming support of our community and without the introduction of any residential development on the site. Council will retain 100% ownership of the site and the project will be completely funded without raising rates or reducing services.”

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

The multi-purpose and cultural building will also include public activity rooms, meeting rooms, exhibition space, 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.

Council to upgrade two playgrounds

Published on 10 March 2021



City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale, Member for Bennelong John Alexander OAM MP and Clr Jordan Lane at Eastwood Park playground

The City of Ryde will upgrade and refresh playgrounds at Janet Park and Eastwood Park with the assistance of two Federal Government grants provided under the Local Road and Community Infrastructure Program.

One \$100,000 Federal Government grant will allow for a playground upgrade at Janet Park in West Ryde to be brought forward a year.

The project will result in the existing playground at Janet Park being upgraded from a Local to a Neighbourhood level playground.

Once completed, the Janet Park playground will feature modern play equipment such as an all-accessibility birds-nest swing, cyclone spinner, sensory flowers, climbing net, a slide and a seating area. The new features of the playground and layout were based on feedback from the community consultation undertaken late last year.

An additional \$40,000 grant from the Federal Government will allow Council to improve and refresh the Eastwood Park playground. This includes renewing landscape features and soft-fall material to rejuvenate the playground and its surrounds.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said both playground upgrades were part of Council's commitment to continually invest in new and existing playgrounds.

“As the City of Ryde continues to grow, it is essential that we continue to undertake upgrades such as the two announced today so that all children have access to new and modern playgrounds both now and into the future,” Clr Laxale said.

“I would like to thank Member for Bennelong, John Alexander OAM MP, and the Federal Government for supporting these projects and helping ensure they can be delivered in a timely manner.

“The Federal Government grants show how quickly and efficiently councils can deliver stimulus to our economy when needed. Be it parks, playgrounds, or nation building infrastructure like Ryde Central, councils need to remain at the centre of infrastructure delivery throughout the post-COVID economy.”

Mr Alexander OAM MP said: “After the year of lockdown we’ve just had, it is even more important that we have great local playgrounds so our children can get out and play. I’m glad to see the Council putting funds designed to create jobs and amenities to such good use.”

Endometriosis Awareness Month

Published on 08 March 2021



March is Endometriosis Awareness Month!

This year, Australia is getting its glow on. Endometriosis Australia's new campaign Endo Enlightened encourages landmarks and businesses to envelop themselves in bright yellow lights as a demonstration of hope and support and to raise awareness of the disease that affects 1 in 9 women and those who identify as gender diverse. The City of Ryde is lighting up Coulter Place Gladesville in bright yellow lights as part of this campaign from 9-31 March 2021. Individuals have the opportunity to show their support as well by shining a yellow light from their homes or wherever they are.

To get involved, we are encouraging people to go and take photos and to share and to tag #IAMEndoEnlightened so that others can see what all the yellow is about! #IAMEndoEnlightened #WeAreEndoEnlightened

What is Endometriosis?

Endometriosis is a common disease in which the tissue that is similar to the lining of the womb grows outside it in other parts of the body. More than 830,000 (more than 11%) of Australian *women suffer from endometriosis at some point in their life with the disease often starting in teenagers. Symptoms are variable and this may contribute to the 7 to 12-year delay in diagnosis. Common symptoms include pelvic pain that puts life on hold around or during a woman's period. It can damage fertility. Whilst endometriosis most often affects the reproductive organs it is frequently found in the bowel and bladder and has been found in muscle, joints, the lungs and the brain. In an Australian government report, endometriosis is reported

to cost Australian society \$9.7 billion annually with two-thirds of these costs attributed to a loss in productivity with the remainder, approximately \$2.5 billion being direct healthcare costs.

For more information visit the [Endometriosis Australia website](#).

Creative Spotlight | Lisa Shepherd

Published on 03 March 2021



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

I emigrated to Australia from England over 16 years ago. I originally studied Interior and Three-Dimensional Design and then specialised in textile design and printmaking. I discovered Cyanotypes over six years ago. The cyanotype process is a form of camera-less photography dating back to the 19th Century. I now work primarily with this medium and am totally hooked.

I am continuously experimenting with the cyanotype process. The distinctive style I have developed expresses the atmosphere of Australian flora sympathetically. I like to capture this beauty in a simple, delicate way; my work has quite an ethereal quality to it. I am constantly inspired by nature, particularly Australian native species. This is probably because they are just so different from the flowers and plants you'd find in the UK.

Flowers are my passion, be it their intoxicating scent, the delicacy of a petal or an unforgettable



colour. I am in awe of their beauty and the wonders of nature never cease to surprise and delight me. I try to capture the real essence of flowers in my artwork and hope it will create a positive emotional response in your home.

What creative projects are you working on at the moment?

I am currently working on a collection for an upcoming exhibition called [‘Living Textures’ at Brush Farm House, Eastwood](#) in March/April 2021. This is a collaborative exhibition with 10 other artists, featuring work made in response to Brush Farm House and the surrounding environment.



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

I absolutely love the creative freedom I have working as an independent artist. I have been able to diversify my work over the past couple of years and am now able to complete large scale artwork for exhibitions and commissions, create smaller collections for artisan markets and local stores who stock my work. Over the past 12 months I have started to run workshops where I teach the cyanotype process to others.



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

Being disciplined, organised and carrying out the ‘business’ side of having an art practice can get pretty challenging at times. You really have to be adaptable and do all the small business tasks, even the ones you don’t enjoy so much. I’m learning that having good systems in place is crucial and I have learnt a lot from online workshops and events. - The City of Ryde has had a lot of free classes that have been invaluable. (Editors note: [You can find out more and sign up here!](#))



One of my goals for the future would be to partner with someone who would run the business side of things so that I could focus solely on the creative side.

We love recommendations! Who are some other local artists we should check out?

I love the work of [Melony Smirniotis from Gallery 11:11 Studio and Art Space, North Epping](#). She hosts exhibitions, art workshops and provides a positive space to learn, teach and create.

[Nicole Miranda is an artist and ceramicist](#) who's work I also think is both fun and beautiful.

Get in Touch

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Learn: classbento.com.au/cyanotype-printing-workshop

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