

Ryde celebrates 100 years of women in local government

Published on 23 April 2021



Pictured in front of the new honour board (from left) Lyn Langtry, Roslyn Lunsford, Clr Penny Pedersen, Edna Wilde OAM, Gabrielle O'Donnell, Nicole Campbell and Clr Edwina Clifton

The City of Ryde celebrated 100 years of women in local government with the unveiling of an honour board which recognises every woman who has served on Council.

A total of 17 women have served as Councillors for the City of Ryde, with Edna Wilde OAM the only woman to have served as Mayor, a role she held on three separate occasions between 1980-1982, 1999-2000 and 2002-2004.

Mrs Wilde OAM was present at the unveiling as well as current serving councillors, Clr Edwina Clifton and Clr Penny Pedersen.

Former deputy mayors Lyn Langtry and Gabrielle O'Donnell, and former councillors Nicole Campbell and Roslyn Lunsford were also present.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the honour board was a fitting tribute to the 17 women who have served as councillors.

“Each of the women listed on the honour board are trailblazers in their own right and I hope that this recognition will encourage other women to follow in their path,” Clr Laxale said.

“At a time when we need more female representation at local government level, this honour board also underscores how much work has to be done to make this happen.

Of the 312 councillors who have served on the City of Ryde and Eastwood councils since 1870, only 17 of those were women.

“It is for this very reason that the City of Ryde recently joined the Australian Local Government Women’s Association NSW to run forums and training designed to encourage more women to run for Council.”

Status of Women Advisory Committee Chair, Clr Pedersen, brought the motion to Council to install the honours board.

“Not only is this honour board a fitting way to celebrate 100 years of women in local government but also recognises the service these female councillors undertook for the City of Ryde,” Clr Pedersen said.

“Just over half of our population is female and right now just two women out of 12 councillors is certainly not representative of our community. A lot needs to change of course, but I hope this small gesture will help inspire other women to nominate for Council and serve their community.”

Clr Clifton added: “Hopefully recognition like this honour board will encourage more women to run for preselection and put their names on the ballot paper for this year’s elections.”

The honour board is located at Council’s Chambers.

Macquarie Park MedTech/Cybersecurity innovation Summit

Published on 20 April 2021

Some of the brightest and sharpest minds will come together on 29 April for the 2021 Macquarie Park MedTech/Cybersecurity Innovation Summit.

The landmark online summit will feature representatives from industry, government and academia who will provide insights on what the future holds for the fast growing MedTech sector.

Issues that will be tackled at the summit include the role of data in healthcare, the role of digital transformation (DX) during the COVID-19 pandemic, cybersecurity risks in MedTech and much more.

Speakers at the summit include:

- John Crothers, Regional Director – ANZ at Abbott Diagnostics
- Dr Jill Freyne, Deputy Research Director of the Australian ehealth Research Centre at CSIRO
- Dr Duncan Macinnis, Director for Stakeholder Engagement for NSW at MTPConnect
- Dr Summit Raniga, Associate Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery at Macquarie University Hospital.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, will also address the summit, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Gabrielle Upton.

Another feature of the summit will be development of a Macquarie Park – Community of Practice – MedTechCyber security group, which will be established and meet regularly in the future to network, learn and share knowledge.

Clr Laxale said the aim of the summit was to bring the MedTech sector together with the cybersecurity sector to drive partnerships, collaborations, innovations and investment into the sector and, most importantly, in Macquarie Park.

“Macquarie Park is the second largest contributor of GDP in NSW and is the Australian headquarter to some of the leaders in MedTech and cybersecurity, so it is fitting that we are holding such an important summit on these two fast-growing sectors right here in the City of Ryde,” Clr Laxale said.

“I would encourage anyone with an interest in MedTech and/or cybersecurity to register for this free online summit so that you can celebrate the sector’s achievements, develop vital networks and understand the positive impacts new innovations are having and will have in the sector.”

The 2021 Macquarie Park MedTech/Cybersecurity Innovation Summit forms part of the Macquarie Innovation Summit Series 2021, which is a series of themed events leading to the inaugural Innovation Summit. This will be delivered in partnership with City of Ryde, CSIRO, MPID, Macquarie Park Connect, MTP Connect, The Austcyber NSW Cybersecurity Innovation node, Venture Café, and Macquarie University Incubator.

The free online event will be streamed from Venture Café Sydney, located in Macquarie Park.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

New playground for Meadowbank Park

Published on 15 April 2021



Pictured (from left) Glascott Project Manager Travis Atkins, Clr Bernard Purcell, City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale, Clr Jordan Lane, Clr Penny Pedersen and Glascott Site Manager Scott Collis at the site for the Meadowbank PARK playground

Construction has begun on an exciting new regional playground at Meadowbank Park, which will be accessible and inclusive for children of all abilities.

The playground will be located adjacent to the popular Meadowbank Skate Park and feature a range of state-of-the-art features, including:

- Active play zones with a range of fun play equipment including swings and a cable-way
- Sand play with interactive sand play elements such as a sand pit and sand digger
- Nature play zone with fixed sensory play panels, steppers and balancing logs
- Feature water play zone with splash pad and interactive water play elements
- A quiet zone for passive play including story telling.

The playground will also feature picnic shelters with fixed seating, as well as shade sails and trees.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the final design and make-up of the playground was based on feedback from the community.

“We are constantly hearing from our community that they want enhanced recreational spaces and that is exactly what this Council is committed to deliver,” Cllr Laxale said.

“Once completed, this new playground will appeal to all children and further enrich the facilities available to the community at Meadowbank Park.”

The new regional playground is a key component of the Meadowbank Park Masterplan, which was adopted by Council in November 2019.

A new amenities building will also be built on the eastern side of the Meadowbank Park. This building will be the primary hub to service sporting user groups visiting the new playground and adjacent sports fields and will feature a serviced canteen, change rooms, public toilets and storage rooms.

Both the playground and the amenities building will be built by the City of Ryde with assistance from the NSW Government’s Stronger Communities Fund.

The new Meadowbank Park playground and amenities building are due to open to the public in early 2022.

[Click here](#) for more information.

Creative Spotlight | Jordyn Richards

Published on 09 April 2021



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

I am an 18-year-old singer-songwriter and independent artist. I first started singing when I was very young... and not long after that I picked up a guitar. I started performing and gigging locally at 12 years old. Now, I spend a lot of my time either writing, creating and performing, and on the weekends I also give singing lessons. Overall, I'm just very thankful that I get to spend most of my time indulging in something I love doing.

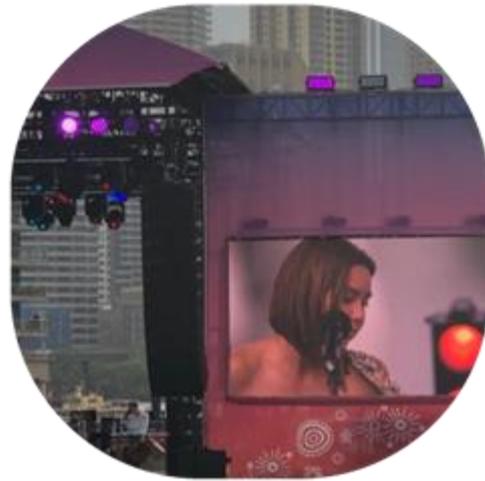


What is a creative project that you've worked on that you're really proud of? Why?

One project that I am very proud of is the release of my first two songs. They were released as a part of my graduation from the [Talent Development Project](#) in a collaborative album which also included a bunch of amazing songs written by my friends. This all happened during the lockdown period from March-July 2020, so I had to work remotely to record and produce the songs and video. I'm extremely happy with how they turned out and just very proud that we managed to do it all over Zoom!

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

My favourite part about working as an artist and writer is being able to meet and work with so many amazing people on all different types of projects. Getting to write and perform with different people is not only fun, but it also allows us to create something that we wouldn't have been able to make on our own. When writing with people, we all have our strengths, for example someone might be really great with melodies, and the other with lyrics. We bounce off each other and let our ideas flow and evolve. Over the years I've met so many other amazing musicians, who I am very lucky to now call my friends, and I can't wait to keep working with new talented people.



Do you have any rituals or routines that help you to be more creative?

There are lots of times when I sit down to write, and I have no idea where to start or what to write about. To try and help me be more creative in times like these, I like to record inspiration when it hits. The Notes app on my phone is filled with random lyrics and vague ideas that I've had, and I have countless voice memos of melodies and chord patterns that I come up with while I'm in the shower, or late at night when I don't have time to actually sit down and write. A lot of the time these little notes stay untouched for a very long time. When I get stuck or need a little creative boost, I have a look through there in hopes of sparking something. If you ask any other songwriter, I'm sure they'll do the same thing too.



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

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

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

YouTube: [youtube.com/c/jordynrichards](https://www.youtube.com/c/jordynrichards)

Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/artist/0Boo03cP90vY8Zjsyxcazc?si=9K_IHP20RbSbBVKU7A0W7Q

Creative Spotlight | Dave Leys

Published on 09 April 2021



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

I am a writer of fiction - I work in children's and adult fiction. While I also write poetry, my primary focus is longer prose work – both novels and short stories. I love storytelling, I love language and making connections to readers through imagination. I teach English to high school students so I am very much immersed in words!

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

Creative ideas are everywhere. I found one just now floating outside my window. Its mother sent it out to get some milk from the shops and it just rose into the air, having shirked its boring chore, ready to be plucked by any old author. Seriously, though, I am inspired by music constantly, by the excellent literature that's being written now in Australia and all over this globe, by people I know and random conversations I hear on the street. I find the stranger parts of the world endlessly entertaining and inspiring – scientists inventing, kids goofing around. And I have what some might call a rich inner life and others might call a brain that won't shut up. So there is that.



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

I like to start with an image and stay one step ahead of my unconscious, letting ideas pop up spontaneously. Also, people say you should turn the internet off when you're writing so you don't get distracted. This is nonsense. I am always Googling random things when I'm writing and then one thing leads to another and I end up writing about boneless sharks doing limbo or someone surfing on radio waves.



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

I am very proud of my two children's novels – *The Institute of Fantastical Inventions* and its sequel. I think they manage to combine humour, adventure and science really well. And Shane Ogilvie's illustrations for them rock!

What creative project are you working on at the moment?

I've just started writing a Gothic novel. It's not a mode I've written much in before, so I'm excited and having a great time with it. Of course, I've been listening to Gothic music on and off my whole life.

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

Give it a go and bring your own special brand of weird to the world.

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

A local [DJ called Meem](#). He will get you dancing hard.

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

I have two novels *The Institute of Fantastical Inventions* and *The Institute of Fantastical Inventions II: Magnetic Attraction* which can be found in bookstores and libraries. You can find my short stories online on sites like *The Blue Nib*, *The Adelaide Magazine* or in magazines like *MiNDFOOD*. My Instagram handle is [@dave.leys](#) or hit me up at fb.me/DaveLeysFiction



Wheelchair Book & Ride launches in Sydney

Published on 08 April 2021

From 1 March 2021, new taxi booking service, [Wheelchair Book & Ride](#), will replace Zero200 as the Government approved centralised booking service for wheelchair accessible taxis in the Sydney metropolitan area.

The service is funded by [Transport for NSW](#) and operated by [Spinal Cord Injuries Australia](#).

Wheelchair Book & Ride makes it easier for wheelchair users who rely on taxis to get around to secure a booking with an accessible vehicle. The service will connect with a pool of taxi operators across Sydney to find customers their next available accessible ride.

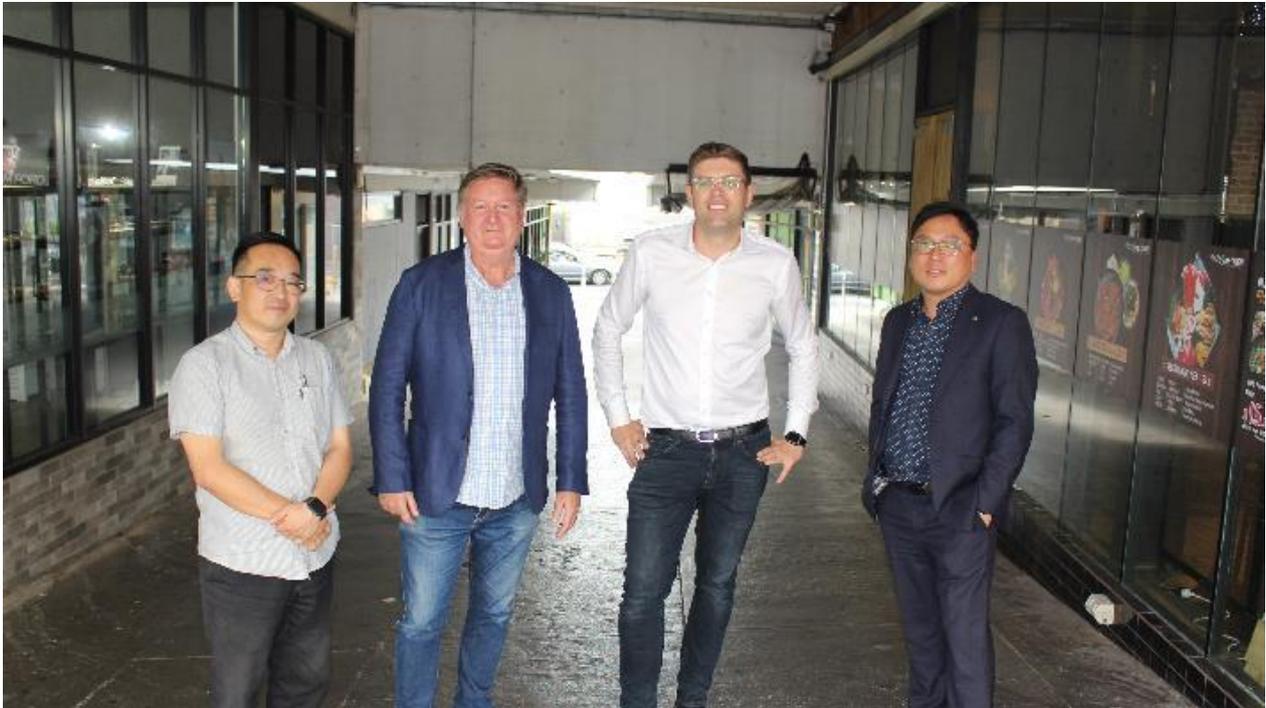
Wheelchair Book & Ride is available for taxi bookings and general enquiries 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Bookings can be made by phone or online, with voice recognition software to be introduced in the future.

To make a booking, call 13 9000 or [book online](#).

Consultation to take place on West Ryde revitalisation

Published on 07 April 2021



Korean Community of Commerce in the City of Ryde President Jimmy Park, Clr Bernard Purcell, City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale and Chamber member Charles Song pictured in West Ryde to discuss the new West Ryde Town Centre Masterplan

West Ryde Town Centre will be rejuvenated into a distinctive, vibrant and attractive centre without the introduction of overdevelopment should the community support a new draft masterplan endorsed by Council.

Community consultation will soon commence on the draft masterplan. As part of the consultation, Council will ask for feedback on two potential options for West Ryde Town Centre.

Both draft options provide roadmaps on how to revitalise West Ryde Town Centre, while ensuring appropriate limits to development are set.

The draft options have been developed with consideration given to previous community feedback, infrastructure needs and the need to minimise congestion.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the masterplan would transform West Ryde Town Centre.

“For years people have told us that West Ryde Town Centre needs some love. Our community want new buildings, activated laneways, bars and restaurants. It is clear that the current planning controls are unable to deliver that,” Clr Laxale said.

“The masterplan, if endorsed by the community, will rejuvenate the Town Centre by overhauling planning controls that will activate key areas, improve pedestrian access and take advantage of its optimal transport links.

“Crucially we will achieve this without the introduction of overdevelopment that would destroy the town centre’s amenity and increase congestion in the area. West Ryde is simply not suited to the Rhodes-style development that other interests have pushed to date.

“I am glad Council supported my resolution which rules out overdevelopment in West Ryde.”

Community consultation on the draft masterplan is due to commence later this month.

Drive-in Cinema makes its long awaited return

Published on 06 April 2021

These school holidays sees the return of the City of Ryde's popular Drive-in Cinema.

Two movie sessions will be screened every night between Thursday 15 April and Sunday 18 April at Macquarie University Carpark.

The movies being screened as part of Drive-in Cinema are:

- 6.30pm Thursday 15 April: Grease Sing-a-Long
- 9.00pm Thursday 15 April: 10 Things I Hate About You
- 6.30pm Friday 16 April: Spies In Disguise
- 9.00pm Friday 16 April: Wonder Woman 1984
- 6.30pm Saturday 17 April: Dragon Rider
- 9.00pm Saturday 17 April: Radioactive
- 6.30pm Sunday 18 April: Penguin Bloom
- 9.00pm Sunday 18 April: The Dry

Tickets for each Drive-in Cinema session must be purchased in advance and cost \$30 plus booking fee per car (which includes a box of popcorn).

Pizza and dessert will be available to purchase online at each screening, with food delivered direct to your car door.

Tickets are limited. [Click here](#) for for more information.