

Winners of the 2021 Volunteer Recognition Awards

Published on 21 May 2021



The winners of the 2021 City of Ryde Volunteer Recognition Awards were announced at a special ceremony at Curzon Hall in Marsfield last night.

Helena Malinowska was announced as the winner of the 2021 Individual Volunteer of the Year award for the countless number of hours she dedicates to helping a range of local community charities and organisations.

Ms Malinowska has volunteered for the EveryBODY Dance Now All Abilities Disco since it commenced four years ago, and also volunteers for Royal Rehab, in which she attends a weekly choir for people with disabilities. She also volunteers for the SES Elite Rescue Team and recently completed the Save the Tarkine ultra marathon in Tasmania to support the Bob Brown Foundation's campaign to protect the Tarkine Rainforest.

Cate Turner was awarded a Special Commendation award for her volunteer work with wildlife rescue organisation WIRES.

In her role as coordinator for the WIRES North Shore Branch, Ms Turner is on-call 24 hours a day, seven days week, often taking responsibility to personally care for injured wildlife and house them in her own home as they recuperate.

Sarthak Vashist received the 2021 Young Volunteer of the Year award for his work with Royal Rehab. Mr Vashist volunteers for the Royal Rehab Walking Group. When this had to temporarily cease due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr Vashist continued

to volunteer by phoning an isolated resident and having a 30-minute chat with him twice a week.

Lachlan Stevens was awarded a Young Special Commendation Award for his work as Program Director for local radio station 2RRR.

The Eastwood Girl Guide Leaders were named the 2021 Group Volunteer of the Year. Each of the leaders contribute a number of hours of their time each week to attend weekly activities, providing the girls that participate with new skills and abilities.

The Korean Community of Commerce in the City of Ryde received a Group Special Commendation Award for its work to support small Korean businesses in Eastwood and surrounding areas, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, congratulated all the award recipients as well as all of the nominees for the 2021 Volunteer Recognition Awards.

“Our volunteers are the backbone of our community, so it is appropriate that we recognise their fantastic contributions,” Clr Laxale said.

“Each of the nominees for this year’s awards have demonstrated extreme generosity to help those in our community, whether it is assisting people recover from the serious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, giving up countless hours of their own time to help a local community group, lending a helping hand to those less fortunate or simply being there to chat to someone when they need it the most,” Clr Laxale said.

Creative Spotlight | Yerevan Dilanchian

Published on 11 May 2021



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

I am an Eastwood-based artist and illustrator. My work consists of digital paintings, informed by the curiosities of the natural world, with a hint of surrealism. Since completing a Bachelor of Design at UNSW Art & Design, I have maintained a freelance career working with clients such as the Australian Museum, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

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

My work is inspired by early modernity's visual documentation of the natural world — equal parts fanciful and scientific. Naturalists like Ernst Haeckel and Albertus Seba, albeit controversial in their ideas, crafted numerous copper-etched drawings, whose detail and compositions I find incredibly hypnotic.

I am also conceptually inspired by contemporary visual artists such as Chris Cunningham, Jesse Kanda, and Andrew Thomas Huang. These artists



have collaborated with the likes of Bjork and Aphex Twin, creating hyperreal visuals that emphasise the beauty in the grotesque and the unfamiliar.

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

My earlier work has been made using mostly ink and graphite, however, these days I almost exclusively work in a digital format, using a tablet and a stylus. Occasionally if I am unsure about where certain shadows and highlights should appear on a subject, I will create a small-scale mock-up of the subject using polymer clay, to serve as a visual reference.

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

I find it super difficult to practice good sleep hygiene since my creativity peaks at night and I get a lot of screen exposure until the early hours of the morning.

Apart from this, I think creative work can be a very personal endeavour and taking on criticism can be a daunting task. The Ancient Romans had a philosophy of attributing creative talent to a divine spirit, or a 'second self', and I think this is an interesting (and funny) way of detaching from ego.

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

Some of my biggest creative breakthroughs have come to me just as I've been falling asleep or waking up. I try to keep a pen and paper (or phone) near my bedside to jot these ideas down as they can be quite fleeting.

Occasionally when I experience creative block, I like to go to the movies. There's something about the enormity and sensory overload of a cinema environment that can recalibrate the senses and make you question things more broadly and objectively.

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

Make sure you have a support network of fellow creatives who can be a soundboard for your ideas, projects and aspirations. Say no to spec



work and to clients who offer to pay you with 'exposure'. Familiarise yourself with contract law, intellectual property law and fair work conditions. Finally, if you are feeling uninspired creatively, accept the feeling as a legitimate and necessary part of the process, take a break and come back to your work when you are feeling refreshed.

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

Shout out to Ryde-based illustrator and animator [Chris Yee](#), whose works I've seen pop up around Eastwood.

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

Website: yerevan-d.com

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

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

Update to face mask requirements

Published on 10 May 2021

On Sunday 9 May 2021, NSW Health announced further changes to COVID-19 restrictions that will now be in place until 12.01am Monday 17 May.

The changes remove the requirement for retail customers to wear masks. However, public-facing staff in retail outlets and stores must continue to wear masks.

As a result, visitors to any City of Ryde Library and the City of Ryde Customer Service Centre are no longer required to wear masks.

The City of Ryde still encourages visitors to any Council venue to wear face masks where possible during this period.

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

For the latest COVID-19 news and updates regarding COVID-19, including locations with reported cases and the areas and suburbs with increased testing, visit the [NSW Health website](#).

Creative Spotlight | Christine Wiltshier

Published on 10 May 2021



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

I am an artist maker researcher living in the Gladesville area. I began my art training at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney gaining a Fine Arts (Textiles) degree.

My art practice has two interconnected sides: In my studio I work with, and at times subvert, the rule-based conventions of traditional textile hand making, exploring contemporary avenues for 'crafts'. Following process-led experiments; I follow an idea, technique and or material and, through making, allow artworks to emerge. I engage with a range of media including textiles, text, photography, sound and video.

Outside of the studio I work as part of the arts and health initiative Arterie, at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Chris O'Brien Lifehouse.



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

I come from a line of hand makers and grew up at a time when making by hand was also taught and encouraged at school. People surrounding me could turn their hand(s) to anything really from textile making and repairing, gardening, cooking, car and home maintenance. No surprise really that hand making sits at the centre of my art practice! I'm especially interested in finding contemporary ways to share textile hand making skills in our ever-growing digitally dominated world.



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

I am particularly proud and excited about an ongoing project, the *(mistake) Making Station*, a participatory artwork which I have exhibited a number of times over the past few years. The 'Station' is part of a UNSW Art, Design and Architecture Master of Fine Arts (Research) project and is a refined version of my studio-making table. There, I explore the occurrence of mistakes in hand-knitting as a generative process, rather than just something you want to unravel.



By placing this participatory artwork into a gallery space my aim is to make the artist's (mistake) making process visible. I am also inviting visitors to activate a usually static space, contributing to the notion of marking mistakes, chatting and helping make a knitted artwork to include in the exhibition.



I'm very excited about the next iteration of the *(mistake) Making Station*, a participatory artwork. In October it will be part of an exhibition that documents the results of my Masters research inquiry .

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

My favourite part of working as an artist is the continual learning. I love experimenting in and out of the studio and embracing the exciting and sometimes scary element of not knowing where something is taking me.

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

Check out fellow artist [Jessika Steiner](#). She is a wonderful abstract landscape painter, jewellery maker and amazing art teacher.

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

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

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

Contact: cawfibreat@gmail.com

Vimeo: vimeo.com/144269425

Soundcloud: soundcloud.com/christine-wiltshier

Arterie: slhd.nsw.gov.au/RPA/arterie/about.html

UNSW Profile: [UNSW Art & Design Annual](#)

Council committed to increase electric vehicle usage

Published on 07 May 2021



Clr Christopher Gordon and City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale with one of Council's new EVs

The City of Ryde is encouraging motorists to make the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) by committing to a raft of new initiatives that will support the introduction of more EV charging infrastructure.

At its April meeting, Council resolved to support the installation of EV charging infrastructure as a measure to help reduce emissions and help with the uptake of EV use in the City of Ryde.

As part of this Council will:

- Review existing and future urban renewal projects to include EV charging infrastructure for community use
- Undertake a review of current planning controls and travel plan guidelines that supports the mandatory installation of charging infrastructure as part of new developments, in particular multi-dwelling developments and retrofit projects
- Investigate funding options for the potential to install EV charging infrastructure in at least 18 Council-owned locations across the City of Ryde
- Continue to investigate funding programs, incentives and possible future charging partnership programs applicable to lower and zero emission vehicles technology to support increasing services across the City of Ryde at low or no cost to Council.

Local research shows that one of the main detractors for people switching to EVs is the lack of public charging infrastructure available. To overcome that, Council has committed to increasing the amount of EV charging infrastructure available to the community with the ultimate aim to encourage more people to choose EVs and, in doing so, reduce community emissions.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale said Council was determined to take a leading role in the transition from petrol-based cars to EVs.

“Council has led the way in EV uptake by introducing EVs into its fleet and will complete the installation of our first two new public charging locations by June this year at Macquarie Park and Top Ryde with an additional location scheduled for later in the year,” Clr Laxale said.

“The Prime Minister thinks electric cars ruin the weekend. We think they offer communities a safe and convenient way to reduce emissions. The contrast couldn’t be more stark.

“Electric vehicles are the future. They offer a clean transport option with the added convenience of charging at home or on the road.”

In addition, Council will also be monitoring the emerging hydrogen fuel market for opportunities suitable to the City of Ryde at a local government and community scale.

New face mask requirements at Council venues

Published on 06 May 2021

Given the latest cases of COVID-19 transmission within the community, the NSW Government has announced that restrictions will be temporarily tightened across Greater Sydney.

As a result from 6 May 2021 until 12.01am Monday 10 May, all visitors to any City of Ryde Library and the City of Ryde Customer Service Centre will be required to wear a face mask while at these venues, unless they have a valid exemption.

Members of the public who visit one of these venues without a face mask will be provided with one by Council.

In addition, visitors to all other Council venues are strongly encouraged to wear face masks during this period.

Those exempt from wearing a face mask include children under 12 or those who have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that make wearing a mask unsuitable.

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

For the latest COVID-19 news and updates regarding COVID-19, including locations with reported cases and the areas and suburbs with increased testing, visit the [NSW Health website](#).

Local forum to encourage more women to run for Council

Published on 05 May 2021

The City of Ryde and the Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) NSW Branch will stage a free information session for women who are interested in standing at the September Council elections.

The Local Forum for Female Candidates event – to be held at City of Ryde Council Chambers between 1.30pm and 5pm on Saturday 15 May – will provide valuable information on how to run for the elections as well as provide insights on the role and responsibilities of a councillor.

It will be hosted by ALGWA President and Lithgow City Councillor, Clr Cassandra Coleman, with City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, and City of Ryde Councillor, Clr Penny Pedersen, also in attendance.

ALGWA NSW Executive members will be available for a question and answer session and to share their knowledge with women who are interested in standing for local government elections.

Clr Laxale said he hoped the information session would lead to more women becoming councillors.

“If councils are to be a true reflection of their community, then they need more female representation. Just over half of the City of Ryde population is female, however, only two of our 12 current councillors are women, which is not good enough,” Clr Laxale said.

“From nominating as a candidate, running a campaign, and what to expect if elected as a councillor, this local forum will provide all the details required for women who are interested in serving their community.”

Clr Pedersen, who was elected as a City of Ryde Councillor in 2017, said she had found the role to be a very demanding but a rewarding experience.

“I ran for Council because I wanted to make a difference for my community and help give a voice to sections of the community that I felt were not being represented at local government level. It is a decision I have not regretted,” Clr Pedersen said.

“I would encourage women who are considering running for Council or those who are just curious about what the role of councillor involves, to attend this information session and find out whether being a councillor is the right choice for them. It could just be the start of a long and fulfilling career as a councillor.”

Women from all local government areas are welcome to attend the Local Forum for Female Candidates event.

Registrations are essential. [Click here](#) for more information.