

How you can Get Ready for summer

Published on 23 December 2021

Aussie summers are iconic. They can also be tragic.

Each year, communities across NSW experience bush fires, home fires, floods, storms, heatwaves, power outages and other emergencies.

It's important to be aware of and prepared for seasonal hazards, whether you're at home, at work or away on holidays.

GET READY FOR SUMMER NOW IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS:

1. **Know your risk.** Think about the area you're in or the location of your holiday destination and the types of disasters that could affect you.
2. **Plan now for what you will do.** Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area or when you are away on holidays.
3. **Get your home ready.** Prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and checking your insurance coverage.

Council election results released

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Results have been released by the NSW Electoral Commission for the three Council wards in the City of Ryde.

Four councillors have been elected for each of the three wards as follows:

Central Ward

Bernard Purcell (Labor)

Sarkis Yedelian (Liberal)

Katie O'Reilly (Labor)

Shweta Deshpande (Liberal)

East Ward

Penny Pedersen (Labor)

Roy Maggio (Independent)

Jordan Lane (Liberal)

Sophie Lara-Watson (Liberal)

West Ward

Jerome Laxale (Labor)

Trenton Brown (Liberal)

Kangho (Charles) Song (Labor)

Daniel Han (Liberal)

Referendum

The result of the referendum asked during the election has also been declared.

Voters were asked whether they supported a popularly elected Mayor where the voters of the City of Ryde would elect the Mayor for a four year term and adopt a 13 Councillor model (including the Mayor) from 2024?

The outcome was:

Yes – 76.18%

No – 23.82%

Results from the Council election can be viewed on the [NSW Electoral Commission's website](#)

2021 SWAP winners revealed

Published on 21 December 2021



'Diatoms' by Tracie Axton, which won the SWAP open category

An artwork which uses discarded plastics to highlight the damage pollution can create in our waterways has taken out the major award at the City of Ryde 2021 Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP).

'Diatoms' by local artist Tracie Axton was awarded first prize in the open category (for 18+ years). The artwork was created by transforming micro-plastics that Ms Axton collected along Sydney's shorelines and waterways, into replicas of diatoms, which is a form of algae found across the world.

"The ongoing concern of pollutants in the ocean prompted the question, what if I gave form to washed up plastics to resemble the algae and organisms impacted by discarded plastics? Diatoms provides an understanding into the practice of making art that is aesthetic as well as a statement about the current environmental crisis of our planet," Ms Axton said.

Felix Watson took out the Youth Environment Prize (for 14 to 17 year olds) for 'Fossil Faces' in which he used reclaimed fibreboard, bottle caps, string, pill packets, bottle tops, foam packaging, screws, broken toys and paper clay to create a series of faces that are intended to be viewed as "modern-day ruins".

Henrietta Robinson was awarded the Junior Youth Environment Prize (for 10 to 13 year olds) for turning rubbish and waste into a miniature house called 'Junk House'.

The Functional award – for the design object judged to have best used reclaimed material to form a functional piece – was taken out by Ben Gibson for "Are you gonna

throw that out? If so, can I have it?, in which old skateboard decks were used to make beautiful looking bowls.

Meanwhile, St Michael's Catholic Primary School at Meadowbank won the School Participation Prize for being the school with the highest number of entries with 15 submissions.

SWAP is a unique competition in which artists who live, study, work or play in the City of Ryde are asked to produce artworks that are made from repurposed waste material. This year's competition attracted more than 190 entries which transformed waste into artworks and objects inspired by our natural environment, ocean pollution, COVID-19 lockdowns and more.

More than 70 entries in this year's SWAP competition are currently being exhibited at Brush Farm House from 10am-4pm until Friday 24 December 2021.

The artworks can also be viewed online until Sunday 30 January 2022.

[Click here](#) for more information and to vote for your favourite artwork in the People's Choice Award.

SWAP is staged by the City of Ryde in partnership with TAFE NSW.

North Ryde Library reopen

Published on 13 December 2021

North Ryde Library will reopen from 10.00am on Monday 13 December.

Due to work continuing on the Coxs Road neighbourhood centre upgrade, access will not be through the library's main doors but via a side door on the library's eastern side.

The after-hours return chute at North Ryde Library will not be accessible during this time. For returns, please visit our other branches at Ryde, West Ryde, Eastwood and Gladesville Libraries.

For more information, including opening hours, please visit the [City of Ryde Libraries](#) page.

Creative Spotlight | Natalie Tso

Published on 08 December 2021



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

Hi I'm Natalie. I'm an artist that makes sculptures, performances and installations. My work is about how political and personal trauma cross and influence bodies. I created this new material that I call 'skins' and I've been creating participatory performances and installations by placing these 'skins' around a space. My works are extended metaphors for me to cleanse and heal from trauma.



What creative project are you working on at the moment?

I feel like I always get too excited and step into too many projects at once! During lockdown, I wrote a memoir about some traumatic experiences during my first years in Australia. It's dense and very cathartic for me to now name those incidents as racism. I wrote about learning English, whiteness in Hong Kong compared to whiteness in Australia and the overall experience of being confronted with assimilation. I am working to turn this into a performance, which I'm hoping to perform on 11/1/22, the 10-year anniversary of me immigrating to Australia. I'm

barely a writer so this is new and not the usual approach I take in making performances.

Other than that, I'm collaborating with Riana Head-Toussaint and a few other creative movement makers to create a site-specific performance that will take place at PARI in late January. I'm also the director/caretaker/co-curator at The Waiting Room Project so there are a few shows I'm organising there too.

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

This is going to get nerdy and abstract. Conceptually I use the framework of hair, skin, flesh and bones to think about the convergence and co-existence of multiple layers of trauma within my body. I am constantly cutting my hair and using it in hair crochet sculptures or to embed into larger installations etc. Hair presents the first sign of gender and sexuality assumptions made upon my body, often carrying a sexist queerphobic gaze and I free my own hair to reclaim itself in my sculptures. Skin allows me to think through racial trauma, so I keep making these sculptures that I literally call 'skins'.

Since writing the memoir, I keep sitting on the colour yellow. Flesh lies beneath hair and skin where trauma is barely visible, yet dictates my body. It symbolises the deeper trauma of cultural identity, and allows me to create space to grieve the political trauma of Hong Kong. This materially keeps transforming. I was working with pepper, salt, bandages in response to police violence but now moving onto cheung fun, a Hong Kong food that I think looks a bit fleshy.

Lastly, bones symbolise intergenerational trauma and a silent connection to ancestors and descendants. Hair, skin, flesh and bones all pace at their own time. I'm trying to say that the political slips into the personal across all my intersecting experiences, and they influence each other in a collapsing time of past present and future all at once.

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

Website: www.nataliequanyautso.com

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



Creative Spotlight | Tim Bywater

Published on 08 December 2021



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

I am a freelance animator and motion designer currently working on advertisements and corporate videos. I have previously worked on animated children's tv shows and a short film.

During the first lockdown I started painting again after a five year gap, focusing on bush landscapes and Australian birds. I sold my artwork at local markets and had my prints available in the makers pop-up store, City+Sticks in Bowral NSW.

Other creative interests include t-shirt design, making music, board game design and drawing comics.



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

Mainly my sketch journal, where I note down any and every idea, keeping it all pretty messy. I try to get out all my ideas and then push them further.

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

When I am thinking about painting, it's bush walks. I'll take a camera along and if I have time, an easel and art materials. Otherwise, I am inspired often by films and comic artists such as Moebius, Sergio Toppi and Mike Mignola.



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

In the freelance business, networking is important. Getting out there, being friendly, meeting people will get you work. Cold emailing is also helpful, and then reminding people you exist every 3-4 months.

Having a strong portfolio online with a single focus, is a tip I learnt the hard way. For side projects, get another domain or avenue.

I've never had much success in online selling, there's just so much to compete with. Getting products in bricks and mortar stores, I have found, makes it much easier to get sales.

Lastly, I would say that completing one project at a time is the way to go. Finish things.

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

When you are working in the corporate or entertainment spheres there is always the chance that you will be called upon to work on projects that oppose your beliefs and values.



Those times can be hard to navigate, but by talking it through with employers, and being honest, I have found that most people are understanding. Even if they don't share the same beliefs or values.

What creative project are you working on at the moment?

In my down-time between freelance animation work I have been reworking my last student film, a western inspired, 3D rendered as 2D project, combining comic art, noir and a Jim Jarmusch film-making style.



It has been satisfying cleaning up or redoing my earlier animation. Using what I have learnt since I left uni.

I'm now onto reworking the rendering pipeline and hope to release it next year sometime.

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

- www.timbywater.com – animation/motion design
- <https://www.timbywater.art> – art+tees+prints
- <http://timbywater.bandcamp.com> - music
- <https://www.instagram.com/timbywater/> - social



Creative Spotlight | Tara Naval

Published on 08 December 2021



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

I am a bedroom goblin who adventures into different creative spaces. However, I cut my teeth on traditional art until I began dabbling in jewellery making and mixed media.

I have recently returned to my roots, re-learning and re-loving painting with but plans to delve into the exciting world of digital art. After years of losing confidence in my abilities as an artist, I decided to try just making what made me happy. It is still quite the journey but I hope to eventually grow a great art practice and maybe a little art business.

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

I mostly promote my work on Instagram @temporiumart. I also have some products available on [Red Bubble](#) and [Society 6](#). I'll have a proper shop set up soon so please follow me to get the latest news, art experiments and sales!



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

I grew up travelling around many countries and learning many languages. However, my roots remain in Asia. My work is a reflection of my insatiable hunger for learning and curiosity. Each painting and experiment is my attempt to reflect the things that I learn. I love history and mythology so I always integrate elements of that in my work. I especially love re-imagining ancient gods and heroes, it gives me an excuse to use gold paint!



My work always tries to take inspiration from the many cultures I have encountered or studied, including my own. I always want to pay homage to the variety of styles and influences I've discovered, be it taxidermy or damascene enamelling or even anime chibis.

When the world is so incredible and beautiful, I can't help but try to express my wonder through my art.

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

Promoting yourself! I really struggle to get myself out there and feel confident. I never feel like my work is good enough to be displayed or even sold. Even now, I really struggle with wanting to share my work and thinking that no one will like it. It is every artist's challenge to put themselves out there and I know I struggle with that a lot.



Art is not about obtaining approval, its worth lies in its creation and how it makes you feel. I have started to teach myself to appreciate my own work and the efforts I put into it without comparing myself to others.

One of the ways I've learned to accept my work and promote myself is by promoting others! By sharing my work and doing my art with other talented artists, I have developed more confidence in my abilities as well as developed an appreciation of my own style. It's important to connect and communicate with other creatives because, more often than not, they'll be your greatest cheerleaders as opposed to perceived competition.

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

You know that part of your brain that lights up because its filled with ideas? You suddenly imagine textures and flurries of a paintbrush, maybe even glimpses of the image that you suddenly want to recreate. That feeling, the one where you're excited

to get home and try and put pen to paper or start pulling out all the bits and bobs in your craft box in order to create something new.

I absolutely love that part of the process – sometimes it leads to something incredible, other times, a lot of trial and error. But that feeling of budding inspiration and motivation is incredible.



Creative Spotlight | Alex M

Published on 08 December 2021

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

I'm a cartoonist, back in Australia, after living abroad for 13 years. I started doing Indy comics in the late 90s, and was lucky to work at Disney for a few years where I started drawing to properly pay the bills, then as the studio closed I left Australia to live the expat life. I lived mostly in China, but also did rounds in Poland, UK and South Korea working mostly in advertising, children's books, video games, toys and television cartoons.

Currently I freelance creating animated ads for Pizza Hut, KFC, LV and clients like that, but I do my more interesting cartoons with comedians I made friends with on my LA visits. I animate a lot of clips for Mexican American comedian Felipe Esparza. The episode where he hosts an exchange student is probably my fave.



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

Back in the day I had an animation disk, Lightbox, and a lot of paper, and I would buy a 100-page sketchbook every few weeks as they filled up. I'm so happy those days are over and I do everything digitally. I'm a total nerd for all these tablet devices. In the house I have a Wacom set up with a Mac, but I actually enjoy drawing with my iPad a lot more, and rarely leave the house without it. I have been drawing with the iPad since they first came out, started out with my finger, but now I use the Apple

pencil. It was just so much more practical than carrying a sketchbook, inks pens and pencils. My bags never got filthy again. I still sketch with my fingers, but now on my phone. When I lived in Shanghai and Hong Kong, I had to catch the subway a lot, and it was easier to just sketch on my phone. I even had an exhibition in Shanghai of my subway sketches.



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

I don't have just one, as I've been lucky to be involved with a bunch of really cool projects. In Shanghai, I was lucky to direct a 52-episode animated series. It was about cats, and the name loosely translates to "The daily life of Sibe". As a cat person who likes cartoons, that was a bucket list item ticked off. I also art directed an iPhone game for Zespri and they decorated the game art on a skyscraper that was pretty cool. I really like the animated clips I do for What's up Fool, being a fan of the comedy scene in LA, and contributing to it is a buzz. Most recently I did an animated video clip for a song called "Release" by Australian musician Willow. I was very happy with how it turned out, and was very happy I could finally do a very nice local project.



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

The business part hands down. I'm envious of all the artists that enjoy sales, negotiating and following up with clients. It uses a different part of your brain, where I would rather just focus on the art. Then there is the work/life balance. Client flow comes in waves, which links to the business part, where you have to juggle projects and pick wisely.

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

I'm an older dude, so a lot of things are different today than when I was young. I wish YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Webtoons was a thing when I started out. If you use social media right, it's an amazing tool for artists to gauge what works, and how to read an audience.



Also, this business is about who you know. So find events and introduce yourself. I started with comic book conventions, but any art gathering will do. Gallery openings, Facebook groups, life drawing etc.

These are just some nuggets, I learned on my journey, but I'm still learning, and most likely you will too.

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

Instagram: sloppybunnytoons

E-mail: majortoons@yahoo.com

Honouring our local waste warriors

Published on 07 December 2021



Clean Up The World 2021

Council has recognised the hard work of the Fraternity In Truth Association (FITA) group in cleaning up our foreshore with the installation of a plaque at Kissing Point Park in Putney to honour their volunteering efforts over the past 20 years.



The plaque at Kissing Point Park

FITA is led by Austin and Catherine Kim, both long-time residents of the City of Ryde. They are active members of the Ryde community and have organised regular litter clean up activities in the City of Ryde over the past two decades.

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Jerome Laxale presented the plaque to FITA at Council's Sustainability Festival in June 2021 and this was installed and unveiled at their Clean Up the World event on Saturday 20 November 2021.

This followed a [Notice of Motion at the February 2020 Council meeting](#) honouring the work of FITA.