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THE ILLUMINATROPE TO LIGHT UP BANJO PATERSON PARK

The City of Ryde has unveiled a new eye-catching sculpture along the Parramatta River foreshore at Banjo Paterson Park in Gladesville.

The sculpture – known as The Illuminatrope – was donated to the City of Ryde by artists Gabrielle Bates and David Hashimoto. Both artists made The Illuminatrope in Mr Hashimoto’s North Ryde studio, with the sculpture featuring at a number of exhibitions before finding its permanent home at Banjo Paterson Park.

The Illuminatrope is a detailed sculpture designed to reflect the theme ‘Shared values and shared future’. The artwork appears to grow out from the earth, with its two vines gently twisting around each other in a unified direction until they taper off.

Each vine is made from multi-faceted stainless steel, giving them a luminous mirrored finish that causes fragments of reflected light to bounce back and forth between the vines.

Speaking at the unveiling, City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said making artwork such as The Illuminatrope more publicly accessible to the community would help generate greater awareness of the local art scene.

“The City of Ryde has an extremely talented and vibrant local arts community, and this piece of art not only showcases this talent but also encourages more people to show an interest in the arts,” Cllr Laxale said.

Cllr Penny Pedersen, who put forward the motion for Council to accept the donation of The Illuminatrope, thanked Ms Bates and Mr Hashimoto.

“Thanks to the extreme generosity of both Gabrielle and David, The Illuminatrope has now found its permanent home in beautiful Banjo Patterson Park for the entire community to appreciate and enjoy. The meaning behind the work could not be more appropriate for our City,” Cllr Pedersen said.

Arts Advisory Committee Chairperson, Cllr Christopher Gordon, said Banjo Paterson Park was a fitting location for The Illuminatrope.

“The reflective nature of The Illuminatrope pays homage to the history of contact between the First Fleet and the Wallumedegal people at Looking Glass Bay, where the park is located. On 15 February 1788, Governor Arthur Phillip gave a local man a looking glass, which he compared with his reflection in the water. It is therefore very fitting that this sculpture is positioned above the bay,” Cllr Gordon said.

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