

Monday 26 June 2023

## WAIVE YOUR LIBRARY FINES GOODBYE

City of Ryde Libraries are permanently closing the book on overdue fines from 1 July 2023.

Going fine free will kick off with a three-month amnesty running between 1 July and 30 September 2023 when members who return overdue items will have their fines waived.

All members who return their overdue items during the amnesty period will receive a free, welcome back to the library pack, with a special library lovers tote bag, a new replacement library card, a library card holder, and some bookmarks for their new reads.

Reactivated memberships will provide restored access to thousands of resources from our collections, audiobooks, music and movies, book locker service, PCs, printing and more.

Of course, due dates still matter, as borrowing privileges will be suspended until items are returned. The return of items on time ensures ongoing and equal access to the community assets that the library collection provides.

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Sarkis Yedelian OAM said the fine free scheme had already proven a hit at other libraries throughout Australia and was a welcome new policy at Council's libraries.

"The core mission of our libraries is to strengthen and support the community, particularly in tough economic times," he said.

"Research has shown that financial penalties disproportionately impact those least able to afford it in our communities who depend on access to library services.

"By removing overdue fines, we are lifting any financial barriers and encouraging returns of current overdue items, opening access to the full range of free services available across the libraries

"The best things in life are free at the library. Whether you're looking to stream the latest audiobooks or music, borrow new toys or science kits for your kids, access CALD books, discover your family history, learn a new skill, or connect with others over your latest reads, City of Ryde Libraries provides free access to thousands of resources, collections, and programs every year for the local community."

For more details, go to: [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/finefree](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/finefree)

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