

Thursday, 21 April 2011

NEW RYDE LIBRARY

A library for the 21st century opens Saturday 30 April

The new Ryde Library opens its doors on Saturday 30 April at 9.30am with a weekend of celebrations.

The 2,300 sqm state-of-the-art facility blends the very latest in library design, comfort and accessibility with expanded collections, reading and study spaces, free wireless Internet, activity zones and meeting rooms.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Artin Etmekdjian, said: "In this rapidly changing information environment we had the opportunity to pioneer a new style of library for our community; one that offers convenience and comfort, with unique opportunities for the cross-fertilisation of ideas, learning and communication.

"Gone are the days when libraries only offered books. Of course, you can still come in for a quiet browse, but you can also pick up a movie, look for a job on the free public access computers or bring your own laptop, meet an author, learn a new skill or research your local history.

"In fact, with a library membership card, there is a limitless offering of things to do and discover. And best of all, it's all free at the new Ryde Library."

The new Ryde Library sets a benchmark in service, presentation and layout. It is the first in the state to so thoroughly integrate bookshop-style subject rooms. The fiction genre areas, book arrangement with covers displayed facing out for easy identification, seating and collection groupings all respond to popular reading interests.

The unique design features of the library include a floor to ceiling story image wall, a stylish spiral staircase, comfortable seating, easy access for all and ceiling height windows allowing natural light to flood the library.

Ryde Library - *share the excitement of discovery*
1 Pope Street, Ryde (cnr Pope and Devlin Streets)
www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library or call 9952 8352

Grand Opening Celebration Program

Special presentations inside the library will showcase the facilities and the latest in publishing trends. These include music, cultural performances, children's entertainment, face painting, Wii gaming and cooking demonstrations. Outside, the celebrations will spill onto La Piazza (the open air square) with street theatre, stilt walkers, lion dance and balloon artists.

Saturday 30 April, 10.20 am – 3.30 pm

10.20am	Go Seek Musical Adventure Show for Children
11.30am	Chinese Lion Dance
11.50am	Korean Drumming Group
12.15pm	Bollywood Dance
12.40pm	Chinese Fan Dance
1.00pm	Tae Kwon Do
2.00pm	Cooking Demonstration with Janelle Bloom
3.30pm	Dreamtime story time

Sunday 1 May, 2.00 – 5.00pm

2.30pm	Caribbean Pirate Show
3.10pm	Chinese Drum Dance

Ryde Library Vital Statistics

Collections: 50,000 (8,000 new additions) - books (fiction, non fiction, language, audio, large print, fast reads), graphic novels/comics, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, CDs, toys. Local Studies collection includes historical archives (documents, maps, newspapers dating back to 1890s).

Technology: 17 free public access computer stations plus free wireless Internet throughout the library.

Children's Activities: A bright new play space with child-height storage and furniture. Collections include books, CDs DVDs. Story times and rhyme times; after-school activities for primary school children.

Youth Zone: Three 60s style café booths all with wireless Internet for teenagers to hang out with their friends, surf the net or study together. Regular teen activities include a monthly drop-in session with snacks and entertainment, Wii gaming sessions, workshops and book clubs.

Regular Programs: Author talks, English conversation classes, technology classes, health and wellbeing information sessions, morning teas and more.

Meeting Rooms: Wallumetta, Pope and Devlin for meetings and special activities.

Easy Access - Inside and Out:

- Access ramp for prams, wheelchairs, walking frames and mobility scooters from Pope Street
- Wide aisles for easy movement
- Plenty of comfortable seating
- Lift access from 'La Piazza' level
- Pram parking in the children's area of the library
- Accessible toilet and baby change table
- Hearing loop to assist those who use a hearing aid
- CDs, audio books, large print books for those who are visually impaired.

Online: (www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library)

- Search the catalogue for titles, authors, subjects, new items, local photographs, other library member reviews
- Ask a librarian: email staff for help with your research
- Community Information Directory
- 'My Library' gives you online access to your personal account details where you can view loans, reserve and renew items and more.
- Access variety of databases – art, literature, business, finance, general reference, health, family, local history, people and society, science and technology and the world
- Virtual Reference Library research Internet sites.

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