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## **RYDE LIBRARY SERVICE PASSES THE MAGIC MILLION VISITORS**

Ryde Library Service has set a new record for attendances with more than one million visits in the past financial year. It is the first time the annual door count has hit the million-visitor mark and places Ryde Library Service amongst an elite set of six library services in NSW with this ranking of visitors whilst also being the smallest Local Government Council to do so.

“It’s exciting that this threshold has been exceeded this year as we came so close in previous years,” said Jill Webb, Manager of Ryde Library Service. “The community has voted with their feet showing their approval for our diverse collections and programs.

“Library staff should also be praised for their excellent level of customer service, knowledge and attention to detail.”

The Library Service offers modern, functional spaces, excellent customer service, diverse programs and crowd-pulling events which appeal to an enthusiastic patronage at its five branches located at Ryde, Eastwood, North Ryde, West Ryde and Gladesville\*.

Staff respond to more than 160,000 information requests annually, and host 1,700 programs and events for over 57,000 event attendees. Almost a million items are borrowed annually and more than 90,000 are loans of eBooks, eMagazines or eAudio.

New additions to the collection are made annually. In May the eBook and eAudio collections were significantly extended, adding 6,000 new titles. In June, Comics Plus, the new digital Graphic Novels and Comics collection, was added to the Online library service.

Ryde Library Service lives up to its tagline – *the best things in life are free* – with its Top 5 Freebies of free Membership, free Wi-Fi, free 24/7 eLibrary, free Storytime programs and free ancestry research tools.

Ryde Library Service encourages residents to step in and discover why more than a million people visit Ryde Libraries each year.

\*Gladesville Library is a joint service operated by City of Ryde and Hunters Hill Councils.

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