

Thursday 23 August 2018

COUNCIL'S ART COLLECTION NOW ON PUBLIC DISPLAY

Local art lovers will be able to view a selection of the City of Ryde's extensive collection of artworks which are now on display permanently across Council's premises.

The City of Ryde art collection consists of 182 works acquired predominantly by Council over the past 60 years at local art exhibitions, including the City of Ryde Art Society Ryde Art Awards.

The vast majority of artworks had been kept in storage and away from the public for several years, before a decision was made by City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, to put them on display at various locations, including Council offices on Pope Street, the North Ryde office and Council libraries.

Included in the collection are works by locally renowned artists and members of the Ryde Art Society Helen Goldsmith, Marion Stroud and Ailsa Pat Smyth.

There is also the antique print *Homebush – Waratah Railway – Views of the First section* by Arthur Collingridge which was produced around 1886. Mr Collingridge immigrated to Australia from the United Kingdom in 1877 and settled with his family in Ryde. He died in 1907 and is buried in the Field of Mars Cemetery.

In addition there is also a work in the collection from 1964 by well-known graphic artist and painter Henry Salkauskas.

Clr Laxale hoped the public would appreciate the collection of artworks now on display.

"Putting these artworks on display does not only improve the aesthetics of our Council facilities, but also showcases the tremendous talent of our local artistic community, both past and present," Clr Laxale said.

"Credit must go to Deputy Mayor, Clr Christopher Gordon, for overseeing the project and helping ensure our artworks are now available for the entire community to view."

Clr Gordon said the City of Ryde art collection was made up of a vast array of paintings, drawings and photographs, including many works that focused on Ryde's historic buildings and landscape views.

"Viewing this extensive collection gives you an understanding of how talented and vibrant the local arts community is here in the City of Ryde, and hopefully by putting these works on display it will encourage more people to show an interest in the arts," Clr Gordon said.

Due to space constraints, only a selection of artworks will be on display at any one time, but will be regularly rotated.

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