

Be a part of the single-use plastic solution

Published on 30 June 2021

The City of Ryde is committed to helping reduce the amount of single-use plastic that is used in the community.

Single-use plastic waste is generated from residential, commercial establishments and other organisations, much of which goes to landfill.

Plastic is a versatile and useful product which has enhanced the daily operations in our lives, and the correct recycling of plastics will ensure that the plastics can have a second life.

However, the incorrect disposal of plastics has far-reaching impacts on the environment including our waterways and our communities. Once in the environment, plastics take hundreds of years to degrade, often breaking into smaller parts (microplastics) which can harm wildlife.

There are, however, alternatives to using single-use plastics and other solutions we as a community can do. Below are some useful tips to assist avoiding plastics:

- BYO reusable containers to take your leftovers
- BYO reusable coffee cups, cutlery and straws
- Bring reusable bags when shopping
- Use a reusable water bottle
- Plan ahead and ask your local butcher or food supplier if they accept reusable plastic containers.

If you forget to bring your own items, ask for a paper alternative which can be recycled, or composted.

If you are ready to take on an extra challenge of reducing single-use plastics, try going plastic free for the month of July by taking part in the [Plastic Free July Challenge](#).

For more information about how to start or further your journey to being plastic free please visit Council's [Be Fantastic! Cut Single-Use Plastic website](#).

Update on upcoming Council events

Published on 25 June 2021

The City of Ryde has cancelled or postponed all Council events that were due to take place in-person between Friday June 25 and Friday July 9.

The decision was made following the announcement by the NSW Government of new COVID-19 restrictions and a recommendation for all Greater Sydney residents to limit unnecessary activity.

Members of the community who paid for tickets to a cancelled or postponed event will be refunded in full.

Where possible, some events may be held online during this two week period.

During the next two weeks, members of the public are reminded:

- Do not visit a Council venue if you feel unwell, displaying COVID-19 symptoms or have been advised to isolate by NSW Health
- Please wear a face mask at any indoor Council venue
- Sign in using the QR code when entering any Council venue
- Abide by the four square metre rule at all indoor Council venues.

[Click here](#) to view the status of upcoming Council events.

New face mask requirements

Published on 22 June 2021

Due to increased cases of COVID-19 transmission within the community, the NSW Government has announced that restrictions will be temporarily tightened across Greater Sydney.

As a result from 22 June, all visitors to any City of Ryde Library and the City of Ryde Customer Service Centre will be required to wear a face mask while at these venues, unless they have a valid exemption.

Visitors to the Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre will also be required to wear a face mask, except when swimming.

Members of the public who visit one of these venues without a face mask will be provided with one by Council.

Those exempt from wearing a face mask include children under 12 or those who have a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, that make wearing a mask unsuitable.

[Click here](#) for more information on the temporary COVID-19 restrictions for Greater Sydney.

For the latest COVID-19 news and updates regarding COVID-19, including locations with reported cases and the areas and suburbs with increased testing, visit the [NSW Health website](#).

Council announces the 2021 Granny Smith Carnival

Published on 16 June 2021

City of Ryde will once again celebrate the life and legacy of Maria Ann 'Granny' Smith later this year with a three-day carnival full of fun and exciting activities.

The Granny Smith Carnival (as it will be known in 2021) will take place at Eastwood Oval in the traditional timeslot of the third weekend in October (15 – 17 October).

The carnival will feature kids rides such as the popular ferris wheel as well as new rides never seen at a Granny Smith Festival before.

There will also be a large stage showcasing a mixture of traditional Granny Smith entertainment such as community performances and dance groups, along with kids' shows and professional entertainers.

Food trucks will also be on hand to serve up some carnival favourites, while the popular Cider Bar will make a return for the adults.

Also included will be roving entertainment, carnival games and showbags. There will of course be Granny Smith apples, apple pies and a special appearance from Mrs Granny Smith herself and her sidekick Sweetie Pie.

Each session of the Granny Smith Carnival will be ticketed and the site will be completely fenced to create a COVID-safe event. This format will spread out the expected crowd over the three days. Unfortunately, there will be no street parade or street stalls at this year's event.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said this year's Granny Smith Carnival would feature lots of the fun and excitement of traditional Granny Smith Festivals.

"It was a priority for us this year to ensure Granny Smith celebrations were held in person. I'm over the moon that we can celebrate together over three days in a COVID-safe manner," Clr Laxale said.

"The carnival atmosphere will be great for families and by having a cider bar and roving entertainment we're ensuring that adults can have some fun too. This festival is all part of our commitment to bringing together our community and livening up our town centres."

Tickets for the Granny Smith Carnival will go on sale in early September.

Creative Spotlight | Irma Calabrese

Published on 09 June 2021



Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make.

I am a multi-disciplinary artist. I have been working simultaneously as a set/ production designer for film and theatre, interior designer, photographer and artist for 20 years.

When I'm not working, I explore nature, urban spaces, human relationships, interactions, intimacy, nostalgia and entanglement which has led to my most recent work in single line drawing series "Don't Let Go".



Whereabouts do you look for creative ideas? Who or what inspires you?

A lot of my creative inspiration comes from daily life observations, human psychology, human interaction, personal experiences and travel. There is an inexhaustible wealth of inspiration in different cultures, taboos, diversity and our need for connection. While a lot of useful information can be found on social media, I enjoy flicking through the books in my extensive personal library for reference or if I ever feel stuck for

ideas.



What creative project are you working on at the moment?

The newly created Instagram account [@irmauniverse](#) is a lead up to an immersive / interactive exhibition idea which I will be developing for the remainder of this year. I am currently creating a series of figurative drawings and photo portraits.

Also, I am working on a set design for a Deadhouse immersive theatre production.



What's your favourite part of working as an artist / creative?

I am never bored and I find it exciting to apply different skills and techniques across a multitude of art and design projects. I enjoy working in solitude as a visual artist, but at the same time I appreciate the collaboration of multiple creative minds and cast and crew working on a film or theatre set.

What's the most challenging part of working as an artist / creative?

It is incredibly difficult to make people realise that being an artist / creative is a job, which requires years of studies, hard work and consistency. The art and design is everywhere around us, yet it cannot compete with other professions when it comes to fees, funding, government support etc.

Where can we find out more about and get in touch?



your work

Websites: irmacalabresephotography.com & irmacalabrese.com

Instagram: [instagram.com/irmauniverse](https://www.instagram.com/irmauniverse)

Blue Thumb: bluethumb.com.au/irma-calabrese

Creative Spotlight | Kay Yasugi

Published on 08 June 2021

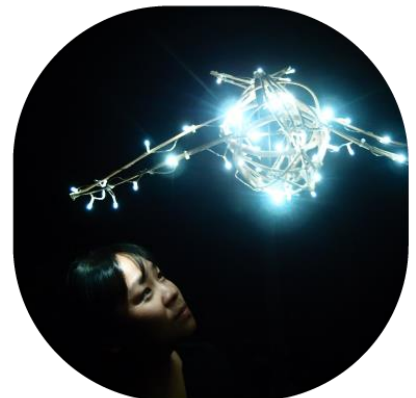


Tell us a bit about who you are and what kind of creative work you make

I'm a puppeteer, puppet maker and teacher. I trained at London School of Puppetry (UK). Now, I run workshops and perform shows with Pupperoos, focusing on education and children's projects. I also do puppet commissions for film, television and theatre through Digital Seagull. I work in a variety of styles of puppetry including shadow theatre, rod puppetry, hand/glove puppets and marionettes (string puppets).

What's your favourite part of working as an artist / creative?

There's never a dull moment when it comes to puppetry, and you never know what's coming next! I have created a myriad of puppets so far – including dogs, dragons, space monsters, singing candelabras and a flying egg. I've also played a koala, a cosmopolitan man in his mid-40s, a toddler, a monkey, a flying banana, a giant gorilla eye (and foot), and a ferret just to name a few.



What is a creative project that you've worked on that you're really proud of? Why?

[I recently worked on the ABC iview campaign](#), which was released in May 2021. With the assistance of Katherine Hannaford, I created two puppets that could change into four different characters - all designed in-house by ABC Made. They had dropping jaws, removable wigs/noses/eyes and could even play ping pong! We made them in such a short period of time and I'm very proud of the end result. Operating the puppets was a unique challenge, as I had to do stills, GIFS and film in a studio and on location (crouching behind milk crates in an alley; and lying under a park bench dressed in a fluoro green screen suit!).



How does your personal history, culture or experience inform your creative work?

I'm half Korean and half Japanese, and moved to Australia when I was three. In 2019 I created 'Haenyeo: Women of the Sea' – a show about women divers in Jeju Island, Korea. I performed it with my mother Youngkyu Kwon. The show is about women, passing down traditions, and sharing our cultural heritage. I think it's really important to have diverse stories and cultures represented in mainstream theatre.



What has been the highlight of your creative career so far?

Performing 'Haenyeo: Women of the Sea' at Figura Offida Festival in Italy was a real highlight. Some other highlights include performing in 'The 13-Storey Treehouse' at Sydney Opera House (based on the book by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton) and appearing on ABC's Play School ('Through the Window' segments) for their puppetry episodes. In 2020 I was an artist for the Sydney Opera House Creative Leadership in Learning Program.



Do you have any top tips for emerging artists and creatives just starting out?

If you see any work you like, reach out to the artist or company and try to meet them or volunteer on a project.

For anyone interested in puppetry, I recommend joining [UNIMA Australia](#) - the official puppetry organisation of Australia.

Also check out the [Talking Sock podcast](#) about Aussie puppetry practitioners.



Where can we find out more about your work and get in touch?

Websites: www.pupperoos.com & www.digitalseagull.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/kay_yasugi

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pupperoos>

Riverside Pop- up to warm up winter

Published on 01 June 2021

The City of Ryde presents a pop-up music, food and wine event that will take place at the picturesque Ryde Wharf Reserve in June.

The Riverside Pop-up will occur over three days between Friday 25 June and Sunday 27 June and feature activities that will appeal to people of all ages.

The event will feature live music from a range of talented musicians performing from the Caravan Stage.

A pop-up bar will also serve a variety of drinks, including cocktails prepared by local gin producer Buffalo Vale.

Adults will also be able to keep warm on the Friday and Saturday nights with mulled wine and gas fire heaters, while food trucks will also be on hand throughout the three days serving up both savoury and sweet treats.

There will also be pony rides as well as free face painting and craft activities on the Saturday and Sunday of the event.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Riverside Pop-up would be the perfect event for families and friends to enjoy together.

“I am so excited about this event as it will showcase some great live music, delicious food and drinks, as well as some really fun kids’ activities, all with a backdrop of the beautiful Parramatta River,” Cllr Laxale said.

“We stage some of the best events right here in the City of Ryde, and the Riverside Pop-up will continue that great tradition.”

Operating hours for the Riverside Pop-up will be:

- Friday 25 June 2021: 6.00pm - 9.00pm
- Saturday 26 June 2021: 11.00am - 9.00pm
- Sunday 27 June 2021: 11.00am - 4.00pm

Site capacities for the event will be in line with COVID-19 restrictions. All attendees will be required to register their attendance via QR code.