

Riverside Pop-up postponed

Published on 30 July 2021

Due to continued cases of COVID-19 transmission within the community, the Riverside Pop-up event due to take place at Ryde Wharf Reserve on 17 – 19 September 2021 has been postponed.

New dates for the festival are to be confirmed.

The Riverside Pop-up will feature live music, food, drinks as well as a range of fun activities for people of all ages.

Council endorses COVID-19 support package

Published on 28 July 2021

The City of Ryde has endorsed a new COVID-19 support package that will assist local residents, businesses, sporting clubs and community groups that are adversely impacted by the ongoing Greater Sydney lockdown.

The extensive support package is similar to the one implemented last year and is designed to direct assistance to those who need it most. It also contains components which will help economic activity rebound once the lockdown lifts.

Highlights of the support package include:

- A one-off \$400 rate rebate for eligible ratepayers who receive a Commonwealth COVID-19 Disaster Payment, Small and Medium Business Support Payment or a Federal/State Grant for Micro Businesses
- Eligible pensioners to receive a \$50 one-off rate supplement against their domestic waste rates
- Zero percent interest rate on overdue rates until 31 December 2021
- The waiving of more than 30 fees for small businesses and library members, including outdoor dining fees, cancellation fees and library overdue fees
- Refunds to customers impacted by the current COVID-19 restrictions
- Rental relief until 31 December 2021 to community and commercial hirers that demonstrate financial hardship (to be done on a case by case basis).

In addition to the support measures, Council endorsed the development of a new promotional campaign to promote the City of Ryde's town centres and support small businesses once lockdown measures ended.

"The current lockdown has hit us all hard. More than 18 months after the COVID-19 pandemic first emerged, we once again find businesses shut and our movements restricted to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our community," City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said.

"The COVID-19 support package that Council has endorsed will help those in our community who are currently doing it tough and help them navigate their way through the immense challenges that this lockdown has created."

"From residents to businesses as well as community groups and sporting clubs, the support package will help everyone that needs it."

"The promotional campaign that Council will also develop will help reinvigorate our town centres and small businesses, helping ensure that we can bounce back quickly from the seismic shock that this lockdown has created."

As is required, the \$400 rate rebate and \$50 rate supplement proposals will be placed on public exhibition for 28 days.

Ryde to stage group online citizenship ceremonies during lockdown

Published on 27 July 2021

Hundreds of residents in the City of Ryde will become Australian citizens during lockdown after Council received permission to stage online citizenship ceremonies with multiple attendees.

Previously during the 2020 lockdown, online citizenship ceremonies were only allowed to take place one resident at a time, but the Federal Government has now given permission for the City of Ryde to stage them with multiple attendees.

As a result, the City of Ryde will stage three ceremonies on 6 August, which will enable 72 residents to become citizens. This will be followed by an additional six ceremonies on 13 August, which will mean a further 288 residents will become citizens.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions over the past 18 months had meant there was a large number of people in the City of Ryde who are waiting to become Australian citizens.

"In the doom and gloom of the current lockdown, this is finally some positive news that we can look forward to," Clr Laxale said.

"As the son of migrants, my parents always told me how special a moment it was on the day they became Australian citizens, so I am delighted that we will be able to stage these online ceremonies and see hundreds of local residents receive their Australian citizenship.

"I would like to thank the Department of Home Affairs for its assistance to allow us to stage these online ceremonies with multiple attendees."

Local Artists Get Creative - Ideas for Lockdown

Published on 23 July 2021



We asked local artists and creatives from the [City of Ryde Artist Register](#) to share ideas on how they are staying calm, creative, curious and connected this lockdown. Below are 16 ideas to try out at home!

Make a Collage

"Rip or cut papers from your recycling, old memorabilia or magazines. Glue on to recycled cardboard and perhaps add additional sketches or text. Collage can also springboard additional creative ideas. A section of your collage may inspire a painting, some music, an abstract drawing or become digital art."

- Michelle Robinson, 'The Creative Teacher' - Teacher and Visual Artist



([Website](#))

Listen Carefully

"Music is the great connector. If you can't learn an instrument, why not take some of that old music and listen to it carefully. See if you can identify the instruments - guitar, bass, keyboards, drums, etc. Really listen hard. Old music can be made new when you really listen."



- David Lewis - Musician, Writer, Editor

Creative Cooking

"I always wanted to write a book about cooking offal, as our grandmothers did. Wouldn't it be nice if we could go back to doing that? The French and the Asian cook delicacies with it, why not learn from them. Our world would be a better one, ethically and ecologically."

- Maritza Noa-Cabrera - Visual Artist
([Instagram](#))



Positive Letterbox Drop

"Write positive messages or poems about life on colourful paper. Keep it simple. "The clouds are friends, the sun a smiling beacon and life waves to all of us." Drop them into letterboxes. Neighbours love to receive something that isn't a bill or advertising but comes from the heart."

- Dave Leys, Author



Learn New Languages

“Our streets and shops are full of signs I can’t read - unless I use Google Translate. I take up studying new languages (sometimes scripting but also spoken languages) to fill in the time during the lockdown period. I studied 1000 lessons in Mandarin last year and am trying to understand a bit of Auslan this year.”



- Local Musician

Sew Simple

“Lockdown at home doesn’t mean boring all the way. On the contrary, it might be a precious time to explore one’s untapped capability. I have altered a winter pencil dress from a mini design into the style with a wave edge. The dress has a rejuvenation, so does my feeling.”

- May Ku - Creative Writer ([Website](#))



Set a (Creative) Challenge

“As a musician I’ve actually been doing a 30 Day Songwriting challenge to stay musical and improv my song writing and creativity. The rules are quite simple really, just write a song every day for 30 days. I think if people wanted to try that they can incorporate singing, piano, guitar or any other instruments they can play. I’m almost done, and you can check them out on my Instagram.”

- Tom Fuble - Musician ([Instagram](#))



Repurpose your Commute

"I've been teaching myself guitar. Now that I'm working from home, I use my commute time to practice for an hour before and after work. I'm about 45 hours into my self-imposed "60 hours in 6 weeks" guitar challenge. My wish is to play some jazz chords one day!"



- Rotaris - Software developer, hip hop artist ([Website](#))

Connect with the Greats

"I miss playing at the Thursday Open Mic night at Club Ryde desperately. So, I'm using my lockdown time to practice my guitar skills. Thank goodness for YouTube. I love playing along with my favourite artists and using the backing tracks on the platform. My challenge is to not compare myself with the great artists but have them as my artistic companions."



- Donald Swanborough - Amateur Guitarist ([Facebook](#))

Get Moving

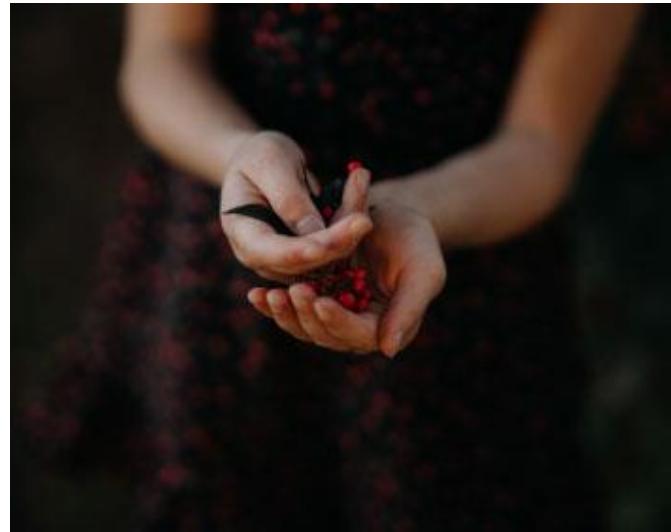
"What's really helped me during lockdown is something as simple as a skipping rope. I often find interesting ideas will randomly pop into my head while I'm skipping. Other than that, it's a good way to get the blood pumping, the heart rate up and to clear the mind."

- Liam Kivijian - Musician
([Soundcloud](#))



See the World in a New Light

"Explore your surrounding and look for things usually unseen, go on a photo hunt and look for 15 items, follow my list or write your own. Look for interesting shadows, the way the light reflects off different options, go wild, and stretch your creative mind. Post a collage with your final images to share with family and friends around the world and encourage them to try it too!" [Try Nicole's photo hunt list here](#)



- Nicole Paton - Portrait Photographer ([Website](#))

Celebrate Natural Beauty

"I love to create a "nature weaving" from anything I find on my daily walks, such as twigs, leaves, and feathers. To make the weaving I use a loom made from cardboard (old cereal box) and string and just have fun with it."

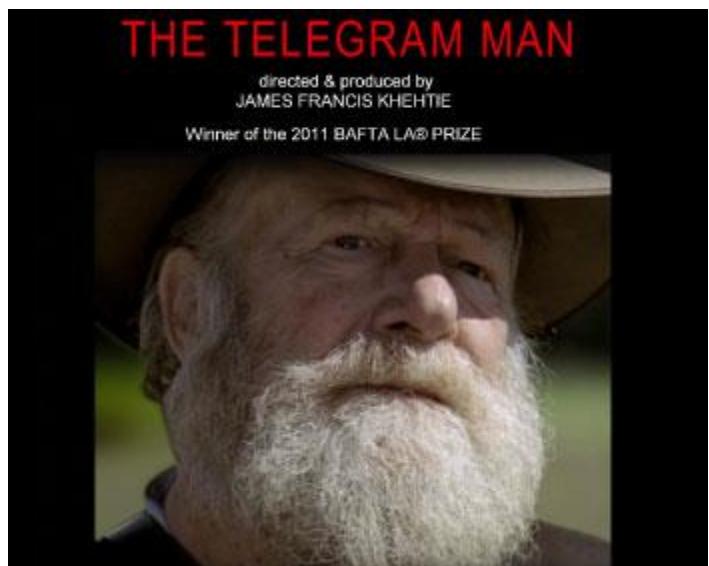
- Romanda - Ceramic Artist
([Etsy](#))



Enjoy Some Screen Time

"Lockdown is a great time to catch up on quality Australian movies and documentaries. If you're not sure where to start, why not watch my film The Telegram Man, starring Australian screen legends Jack Thompson, Gary Sweet and Sigrid Thornton. It's free on SBS On Demand." [Watch The Telegram Man here.](#)

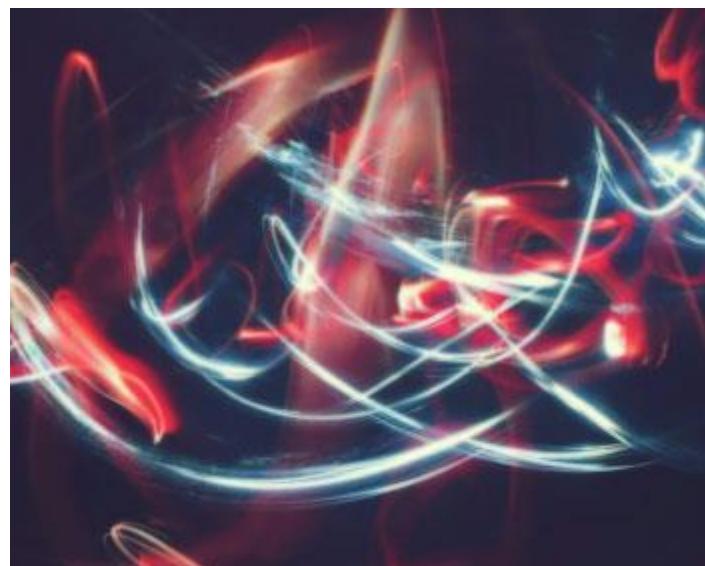
- James Francis Khehtie - Director and Producer ([Website](#))



Lights, Camera, Action

"I made a video artwork with my brother. We used LED lights, phone cameras and a dark room to create unique performances. I then set them to music and edit them to turn into videos on YouTube." [You can see the performances here](#)

- Adeeb Razzouk, performer



Recycle and Repurpose

"I've 'found' an easy, never-ending and inexpensive supply of materials, especially during lockdowns, by using recycled materials! They're great for children since they can always be called 'Abstract Art'. This is image what I'm working on at the moment. There's a whole world of crafts using recyclables!"

- Liz Busenshut, Artist
[\(Instagram\)](#)



Make Time for Reflection

"Each evening, I write in my gratitude journal and reflect on three things I'm grateful for. This helps me focus on the bright side of life."

- Nim Ghokar - Life Coach and Author
[\(Website\)](#)



COVID-19 Service Update - Waste Collections

Published on 19 July 2021

Based on COVID-19 restrictions, the City of Ryde will pause non-essential waste collection activities while the current stay-at-home orders are in effect.

During the pause, contactless kerbside services will still be operational, but all other waste services will not be available.

Waste collection services that will continue are:

- Garbage collection
- Recycling collection
- Garden organics collection
- Pre-Booked Household collection (Essential bookings only)
- Television and Computer collection (Essential bookings only)
- Chipping and mulching service

The following services will not be operational during the pause:

- Clothing bins
- Community Recycling Centre
- Problem Waste Drop-off Stations
- Second Hand Garage Sale
- The Bower Collection and Rehoming Service
- Compost Bin and Worm Farm deliveries

More information is available in the [Environment and Waste](#) section.

For further service updates, visit the [COVID-19 hub](#).

NSW Government reforms benefit developers at the expense of ratepayers

Published on 19 July 2021

Planning reforms being proposed by the NSW Government will slash a local tax paid by developers and shift the cost onto ratepayers.

The tax currently paid by developers on large-scale projects – known as developer contributions – are used by councils such as the City of Ryde to build vital infrastructure such as new libraries, sporting facilities, car parks, outdoor spaces as well as community halls and facilities.

But under reforms put forward by the NSW Government, the type of community projects that will be eligible for funding from developer contributions will be reduced. In addition, the requirement for contributions for developments greater than \$10 million to be paid upfront would be deferred until projects were completed.

If implemented, the changes will result in an estimated loss of \$60 million for the City of Ryde over the next five years. Combined with seven other northern Sydney councils, the losses will amount to \$171 million over five years.

“These reforms will do nothing but line the pockets of developers and shift the real costs of new infrastructure to mum and dad ratepayers,” City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said.

“Instead of allowing Council’s to tax developers, they want us to tax ratepayers. It’s a disgrace.

“In a growing city like ours, where development is forced upon us, taxing developers is essential to ensure our infrastructure continues to meet the needs of the community.

“It is only right that developers – who reap huge profits from these developments – pay for new infrastructure and not ratepayers.

“I call on the NSW Government to withdraw these reforms immediately and ensure developers continue to pay their fair share.”

Rate relief for those impacted by lockdown

Published on 12 July 2021

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, has announced that he will seek for Council to provide rate relief to those in the community who have been adversely impacted by the current Greater Sydney lockdown.

Options being considered include a rate rebate for those who qualify for financial hardship as well as Council not charging interest or commencing debt recovery on overdue rates.

Clr Laxale said it was important to act quickly to implement rate assistance to provide support and reassurance to those in the community who have lost their jobs or had to temporarily close their businesses.

“The COVID-19 situation has escalated rapidly in Greater Sydney, with experts now forecasting that we will be in a lockdown situation for weeks more, possibly months,” Clr Laxale said.

“While it is essential that we all abide by the stay-at-home orders to protect the health and safety of everyone, the impact this prolonged lockdown will have on businesses and residents who may find themselves out of work will be devastating.”

Last year, Council approved a Financial Hardship Policy which provided approved JobSeeker and JobKeeper applications with a \$400 Council rate rebate.

Clr Laxale said the latest rate assistance provided would be similar and tied to those eligible for Federal and State Government subsidy programs.

“I understand the NSW Government is working with the Federal Treasury to develop a new assistance package which will be announced later this week, and it would make sense to apply our financial relief to those recipients,” he said.

The latest assistance measures from Council will be included in a report being prepared this month that also outlines the support that City of Ryde will provide local small businesses as well as sporting and community groups that have been adversely impacted by the current Greater Sydney lockdown.

The report will identify and provide information on the financial impact of small business fee waivers and rental relief for Council’s commercial tenants on the 2021/22 budget.

In addition, it will provide costings for fee refunds for sporting and community groups that were unable to use grounds and facilities during the current lockdown.

These measures were also previously implemented by the City of Ryde during the 2020 lockdown.

Creative Spotlight | Gavin Bridge

Published on 09 July 2021



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

Ever since childhood I've had a creative impulse and fascination with capturing landscapes and a drive to produce large and, hopefully, interesting paintings! At a turning point in my life, I chose the steadier pace of regular income via a career in IT and opted to pursue painting in my free time. This has enabled me to enjoy the freedom to explore subjects that interest me and not worry about fitting into existing market trend or academic frameworks.



I spent many years experimenting with oil paints, but the fumes and drying times proved impractical. I now mostly work in watercolour and pastels and tend not to worry about convention and rules. I usually work in the evenings and like to refer to myself as a 'Suburban Kitchen Artist'. I enjoy entering local exhibitions and am a member of the Drummoyne Art Society.



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

As a landscape artist, I'm fortunate to have the Blue Mountains and NSW coastline on my doorstep. I enjoy taking long walks with my camera to source inspiration and reference photos. I'm attracted to strong form and contrast and any opportunity to use unusual colours. I see the world as a mix of order and randomisation and I like to interpret this as a theme in my art.



Are there any special processes, techniques or tools you use to make your creative work?

I have a preference for highly granulating mineral pigment watercolour paints, I work with a mix of printing and lifting techniques to bring out the random. I balance this with careful detailing in areas of focus to highlight order.

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

When I was learning how to use watercolours, I had this one gumtree scene that captured my attention. Before arriving at the finished product it took many evenings over a year, practicing and tailoring techniques and numerous versions. The end result was a finalist in the Royal Easter Show, which was a rewarding experience.

Having an artwork published on a book cover was another proud moment.



What creative project are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently working on a commission for a two-metre watercolour on canvas, depicting a Sydney Harbour scene (another favourite subject of mine). I'm also working on some abstracts of bush regrowth after the Blue Mountains fires of 2019.



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

Seeing something develop that is unique. Also, it really can be fun watching paint dry! With watercolours it helps you to understand their properties and characteristics.

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

Finding the time and committing yourself to embark on something that may or may not work out.

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

Keep at it. Do not get distracted by trying to mimic what others do. Allow your own unique, quirkiness to come through.

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

Bluethumb: bluethumb.com.au/gavin-bridge

Facebook: facebook.com/gavin.bridge.5



Creative Spotlight | Jia Guo

Published on 09 July 2021



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

I am a freelance illustrator, an art tutor, and a Ryde-district mum. I received a Master of Art, majoring in Drawing, from UNSW School of Art & Design. I've been working on children's illustration, custom portraits, and picture books ever since. During the lockdown period in early 2020, I started teaching drawing workshops for local kids online. I fell in love with this new role immediately as I just love inspiring young minds with creativity.

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

My main source of inspiration are the things and people in my everyday life. Whenever I feel the need to look for inspiration, I just go for a walk -taking pictures of things that I see or observing people that I meet (not in a weird way, of course). Before the pandemic, I used to just sit in cafes and sketch strangers or make up stories about their lives in my mind for practice.

Since I have started working with children more and become a mother, I realised that children's imagination inspires me a lot as well. Sometimes I just try my best to think like a child by adding some silliness or more vibrant colours to my work.



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

If you asked me this question before, I would have said the project I worked with Penguin Random House New York. It was a book jacket illustration and a few interior illustrations for *You May Already Be a Winner*, written by Ann Dee Ellis - a heartwarming and engaging story for young adults. Working with a big publisher like Penguin really opened my eyes, as I was amazed by how comprehensive the professional process could be. But now I feel my art classes are what I'm really proud of.

Truly, nothing is more rewarding than seeing the sparkles in the children's eyes when they are inspired by what I have taught them.



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

I guess in addition to "Don't give up", I'd say: "Take your time and have a plan". Especially at the beginning, being an artist often doesn't pay well. Many artists may have to get a day job or work long hours. To find a balance between money and time can be very challenging, for me at least. So for that, we need a plan and a strategy. It can be a five-month plan, or a five-year one, it doesn't matter. What matters is that it has to be sustainable, so that it can keep you moving in the creative world -doing what you love and making art in your own style. One can always be an artist until the day they die. There is no retirement for artists, so why the rush.

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

Website: jiaguoillustration.com
Instagram: [instagram.com/jialovescats](https://www.instagram.com/jialovescats)
Email: jiaguoillustration@gmail.com



Council to revive support for community groups and small businesses

Published on 08 July 2021

The City of Ryde will prepare a report for Council's consideration that will outline possible measures to support local small businesses as well as sporting and community groups that have been adversely impacted by the current Greater Sydney lockdown.

The report will identify and provide information on the financial impact of small business fee waivers and rental relief for Council's commercial tenants on the 2021/22 budget.

In addition, it will provide costings for fee refunds for sporting and community groups that were unable to use grounds and facilities during the current lockdown.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the report was part of Council's ongoing commitment to provide support to businesses and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Since the pandemic began early last year, this Council has helped hundreds of local businesses and community groups navigate their way through the most challenging period they will likely face," Clr Laxale said.

"This latest lockdown will be yet another setback for many just as it looked like we were on the road to recovery. I can assure every local small business, sporting club or community group that this Council will continue to support you until the end of this pandemic, and will do so in a financially sustainable and responsible way."

Updated - Changes to Council operations

Published on 07 July 2021

The announcement by the NSW Government to enforce stay-at home orders across all of Greater Sydney will result in the following changes to Council operations:

Customer Service

The Customer Service Centre will be closed until further notice.

The City of Ryde Call Centre will remain open while the stay-at-home orders are in effect.

Members of the public can contact Council by calling 9952 8222 during business hours. They can also email cityofryde@ryde.nsw.gov.au or report issues online.

Members of the public can also drop documentation intended for Council in the Ryde Library return chute, near the Pope Street entrance or mail them to City of Ryde, Locked Bag 2069, North Ryde NSW 1670.

Ryde Libraries

All five branches of City of Ryde Libraries will be closed until further notice. The after-hours book return chutes will be open at all branches during this period.

The [Library2U service](#) will continue to operate during this time, allowing library members to reserve up to 10 items that are delivered directly to their home as a contactless service.

The Home Library Service is also available for those aged over 60 years who are living independently.

Library members are also encouraged to use the online library resource and access the extensive eBooks and eAudiobooks available, as well as a number of other services.

Library enquiries can also be submitted during the closure period by emailing rydelibrary@ryde.nsw.gov.au or by calling 9952 8352 between 9am and 5pm Monday – Friday.

Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre

The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre will be closed until further notice. All events scheduled during the closure have been cancelled.

Community Services

All of Council's community facilities will be closed until further notice.

Council's Home Modification and Maintenance Service will continue to operate during this period as it is deemed as an essential service, however, clients will be given the option of postponing any scheduled works set to take place.

For more information about the stay-at-home orders and what activities are permitted during this period, visit the [NSW Government website](#).