

Clr Jerome Laxale re-elected as Mayor

Published on 28 September 2021

Clr Jerome Laxale has been re-elected as City of Ryde Mayor at an Extraordinary Council Meeting.

Clr Laxale – a Councillor from the West Ward – will continue to serve as Mayor until local government elections, which are scheduled to take place on 4 December 2021.

He has previously served as Mayor between 2015 and 2016 as well as between 2017 up until the current period.

Clr Laxale said he was honoured to continue as City of Ryde Mayor.

“While this election was held in somewhat unusual circumstances, it is still a tremendous privilege to be given the opportunity to serve the community as Mayor,” Clr Laxale said.

“The past two years have been some of the most challenging we will ever face due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but I am proud of the job that this Council has done to support everyone in the community up until this point and into the future.

“I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their continued support and look forward to working with them as we navigate our way out of COVID-19 restrictions and continue to represent the community in the lead-up to the local government elections in December.” Clr Roy Maggio – a Councillor from the East Ward – was elected as City of Ryde Deputy Mayor.

“I’d like to thank the councillors that supported me tonight,” Clr Maggio said.

“The role of Deputy Mayor of the City of Ryde is an important one but will not divert from my commitment to be open and accessible to my constituents, to always listen to their concerns and to continue to passionately advocate in their collective interest.

“I congratulate Mayor Laxale on his re-election and look forward to a productive working relationship ahead of December’s council elections. We’ve got plenty of work to do.”

Creative Spotlight | Amber Hammad

Published on 28 September 2021



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

I am a contemporary artist and practice-based researcher, born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan. I use various media and techniques including painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, performance, and video to create art works. My work often involves self-portraiture and appropriation. I have Bachelor's and Master's degrees in art, and am in the process of finishing my second masters – a Masters in Fine Arts from UNSW.

I have taught art at universities overseas and have exhibited my works at various prestigious venues across the globe, including *Museo Poldi Pezzoli* and *Diocesano Museum of Milano* in Italy, *Apexart* in New York and *Devi Art Foundation* in India.



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

My experiences of being a Muslim woman, who has lived within both patriarchal Muslim and Islamophobic cultures, inform my creative practice. For the last two decades, I have been addressing the representation and misrepresentation of female body, connected with ideas of visibility and invisibility, from my subjective feminist point of view.



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

After the conception of an idea, I often start with collecting references, including photos, texts, and objects. I continually read, write, draw and heavily rely on Photoshop to sketch out my ideas in the form of rough collages that lead the way to the formation of more coherent works.



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

My creative works are part of the process of my efforts to understand the world I live in through understanding my own self, and vice versa. I love the joy and freedom to investigate these ideas through a creative process.

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

When I announced my decision of choosing art as a career, my father said to me that becoming an artist meant that every aspect of one's life becomes a piece of art. I personally feel that the most challenging part of working as an artist is also the most rewarding and most fun simultaneously – that working as an artist is not a job, it is a way of life.



Do you have any rituals or routines that help you to be more creative?

I absolutely love learning new things. Whenever I have a chance, I enrol myself in short courses or take lessons for random things. I also love nature and going for walks, especially by the ocean. It is often during moments of being engrossed in one of these walks when I get most ideas about new works.

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

Keep reminding yourself of the reasons why you wanted to become an artist. Stay close to those reasons.

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

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

Website: www.amberhammad.com

Transport for NSW short-changing Macquarie Park with bus interchange proposal

Published on 27 September 2021

Do you Support Council's Proposal? Click on the button below to submit your vote and provide feedback.

[Submission Form](#)

The City of Ryde has expressed bitter disappointment with Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) plans for a bus interchange in Macquarie Park's university precinct, describing it as nothing more than a "fancy bus stop".

The Macquarie Park Interchange and Precinct upgrade was first announced in 2017, during the Bennelong by-election, as a Commonwealth and State Government initiative to improve the efficiency of bus services and providing a public plaza for a Macquarie Park town centre.

As part of the project, the City of Ryde has been committed to developing a proposal which would see improvements made to the town centre for the fast-growing community of Macquarie Park, as well as TfNSW's bus interchange.

The new town centre would consist of a public plaza and would be built where Herring Road meets Waterloo Road. It would provide a 'traffic-free' pedestrian link to the two metro station entrances and still include the major components of the TfNSW bus interchange, as well as direct access to Macquarie Shopping Centre and Macquarie University. Buses would enter and exit the interchange on Herring Road from Talavera Road.

TfNSW, however, notified the City of Ryde last week that it was progressing with its own plans for the bus interchange, one that does not include a public plaza and would instead just see the installation of bus 'only' lanes on Herring Road and no dedicated space for Macquarie Park's rapidly growing community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the option being pursued by TfNSW was completely inadequate for the community of Macquarie Park and the City of Ryde.

"This is no bus interchange; it is just a fancy bus stop," Clr Laxale said.

"This promise by the Federal and State governments was a once in a generation opportunity to build a public square in the centre of Macquarie Park, as well as addressing the lack of open space in this growing CBD.

"Macquarie Park will be Australia's fourth largest CBD by 2030 yet is the only major CBD that does not have a public plaza that provides pedestrian access to key public transport routes and a place for the community.

“I call on Transport Minister Andrew Constance, Member for Ryde Victor Dominello and Member for Bennelong John Alexander to intervene, stop the TfNSW proposal and back Council’s plan which would give Macquarie Park an improved town centre, a much-needed public plaza and upgrades to the existing bus interchange.”

View the [Macquarie Park Square Concept Study](#)

Council to plant more than 600 new trees

Published on 24 September 2021



City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale and Clr Christopher Gordon help plant a tree in North Ryde

The City of Ryde will plant an additional 657 new trees after securing funding through the NSW Government's Greening Our City grant program.

The trees are being planted in streets located between Coxs Road and Epping Road, North Ryde.

The \$100,000 funding for the new trees was secured from the NSW Government after Council matched the grant funding dollar for dollar and committed to planting 615 trees in Ryde along Gardener Ave, Boyce Street and surrounding streets earlier in the year.

City of Ryde, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council was committed to substantially increasing tree canopy over the next decade.

"More trees provide improved air quality, vital shade for our community and help mitigate the urban heat-island effect," Clr Laxale said.

"The 1200 trees in total that will be planted this year will increase the amenity and character of our City and help us to achieve our ultimate goal of increasing tree canopy by 40 percent by 2030.

"This goal is in line with NSW Government targets to plant five million new trees across Greater Sydney by 2030.

“I would like to thank the NSW Government for helping fund this project and I look forward to Council working with them on similar projects in the future.”

This project is part of the Greening Our City grant program that is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.

New steps at Putney Park now complete

Published on 23 September 2021



Clr Penny Pedersen and City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, at the new Putney Park steps

The City of Ryde has become the first Parramatta River Catchment Group Council to launch a new beach activation site along the Parramatta River foreshore, with new steps at Putney Park now complete.

The new steps contribute towards Council and the Parramatta River Catchment Group's progress for making the site – and Parramatta River – swimmable by 2025.

The project also delivers on Council's commitment under the Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan for providing greater foreshore activation and accessibility for our future community.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the steps would prove to be popular with the community as COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease and summer approaches.

"During this term of Council, we have made it a priority to make Parramatta River more open for the community, and these beautiful looking sandstone steps at Putney Park achieve exactly that," Clr Laxale said.

"Combined with other major projects such as the extension of the Ryde River Walk and the construction of a new in-river seawall at Bennelong Park, Council believes that the Parramatta River belongs to everybody, not just those fortunate enough to live on it."

Clr Penny Pedersen, who is Vice Chair of the Parramatta River Catchment Group, said the new access to the beach area at Putney Park was an important milestone toward a new activation zone for all ages, a place to rest, to meet and a possible swim site for the future.

“Surveys have found that our community are very keen to swim in designated areas of the Parramatta River and both Council and the Parramatta River Catchment Group are working hard to make that a reality,” Clr Pedersen said.

“Guided by the Parramatta River Masterplan, we not only continue our work on making sections of Parramatta River a world-class swimmable river, but also encouraging sediment control, reducing stormwater run-off, improving overflows and maintaining the overall health of the river.”

While the steps at Putney Park are open to the public, swimming is currently prohibited at the site while water quality is being assessed.

Emergency Ready Week: Participate to win an exciting prize!

Published on 20 September 2021



Our Emergency Ready Week competition opened on 20 September and closed on 27 September 2021! Winners of the \$100 Prezzy eGift Card will be notified soon.

A recent survey of the Australian population conducted by Red Cross found nearly 50% of people surveyed said the most important thing they have learnt from the pandemic is the value of being prepared for large changes in the world, like pandemics or other disasters.

We don't have much control over the events around us, but we have almost total control over how we interpret them and prepare for them. Developing our personal resilience is the most fundamental form of protecting our well-being. It resonates with our survival instinct of self-preservation. Being prepared empowers and improves resilience for you and your entire family. Research shows that when we have a perceived sense of safety, we have a reduced response to stress. So, go ahead and get prepared!

The City of Ryde Council is supporting residents to become more resilient. As a participating Council in the [Resilient Sydney](#) program, we are collaborating with all the Councils of Sydney to create a metropolis that is connected, inclusive and resilient.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

RESILIENT SYDNEY

Download the free Get Prepared App

To help get started, Council encourages all our community to *download the free [Get Prepared app](#) to create an emergency plan* and enter into our exciting competition.

Download Get Prepared

The [Get Prepared App](#) is a free and easy to use, one-stop tool to help you prepare for any type of emergency.

With this app, you can:

- Establish a quick and easy network of support with your three key contacts
- Review the most likely risks relevant to where you live
- Create checklists of actions to make an emergency plan for your household
- Save the emergency plan as a PDF to be printed and shared with others

The app builds on many years of work by the Red Cross to help people prepare both physically and psychologically for disaster and have in place an emergency plan tailored to their own needs.

Do one simple thing to make you safer in an emergency and [Get Prepared!](#)

Entry to this competition has now closed.

For more resources on how to get better prepared, see our [Resilient Ryde](#) information.

Responsibilities at off-leash facilities

Published on 16 September 2021

The City of Ryde would like to remind all dog owners about their responsibilities when exercising their pets at off-leash facilities.

Council recently increased the number of off-leash facilities in response to the increasing number of dog owners in the area and to recognise the social and health benefits associated with off-leash exercise for dogs.

This means there are currently 16 off-leash facilities in the City of Ryde, with a 12-month off-leash trial also taking place at Memorial Park in Meadowbank.

While Council encourages all dog owners to use these off-leash facilities, it is requested that everyone follow these simple tips to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment:

- All dog owners should have effective control of their animals at all times (i.e. return to the handler on command)
- Always be vigilant of your dog and their behaviour. Ensure you can always see your dog and what they are doing
- If you have a dog which demonstrates anti-social behaviour at times, perhaps consider visiting an off-leash facility during quieter periods
- Always obey the rules. Dogs are only permitted in the off-leash facilities as indicated on the signposts at each facility.

Outside of off-leash facilities, dogs are required to be on a leash at all times when in a public space. Dogs are not permitted (on-leash or off-leash) within 10 metres of any playground.

[Click here](#) for the complete list of off-leash facilities in the City of Ryde.

Walk-in vaccination clinic for Aboriginal and Torres Strait persons

Published on 16 September 2021

The Northern Sydney Local Health District will operate two walk-in Pfizer vaccination clinics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait persons this weekend.

The vaccination clinics are open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons aged 12 years and over. They will operate between 8am and 2pm on both Saturday 18 September and Sunday 19 September.

The locations of the vaccination clinics are:

- Hornsby Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Hub, Palmerston Building (Building 17), Derby Road, Hornsby Hospital
- Royal North Shore Hospital COVID-19 Vaccination Hub, Douglas Building, Level 6, Royal North Shore Hospital Campus

[Click here](#) for more information on the COVID-19 vaccination.

Council to switch on sporting field lights during lockdown - Updated

Published on 13 September 2021

Sporting fields lights have returned to the normal schedule following the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

As part of Council's response to the NSW Government stay-at-home orders implemented in late-June, sports field lighting has been activated at several parks across the City of Ryde to support local residents to stay active and healthy during lockdown.

From Wednesday 1 September, changes to the parks operating under this scheme will be made, meaning lights will be in operation at the following venues during the listed days and times:

Monday to Friday (5.30pm – 9pm) & Saturday/Sunday (5.30pm – 7pm)

- Eastwood Park Lower, Eastwood
- ELS Hall Park Field 1 and 2, North Ryde
- North Ryde Park, North Ryde

Nonday & Tuesday (5.30pm – 9pm)

- Meadowbank Park Netball Courts, Meadowbank

Monday to Friday (5.30pm – 9pm)

- Marsfield Park Field 1 and 2, Marsfield
- Monash Park, Gladesville
- Ryde Park Field 3, Ryde
- Waterloo Park, Marsfield

Monday to Thursday (5.30pm – 9pm)

- Morrison Bay Park Field 2, Putney
- Tuckwell Park, Macquarie Park
- Meadowbank Park Field 10, Meadowbank

All members of the public will be able to use the fields for exercise during these times provided they comply with the State Government's stay-at-home orders that are currently in place.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said Council's decision to use the lighting available at these sporting fields would provide the community with more options and access to open space, while also reducing the number of people using the parks during daylight hours.

“Council has made this decision to give everyone the chance to safely exercise outdoors, while keeping a safe distance from others,” Clr Laxale said.

“This is an extremely difficult time for everyone. By giving residents more opportunities to exercise we are reducing the chances of community transmission of COVID-19 from occurring.”

Council staff will monitor the night-time use. If breaches of the current stay-at-home orders occur Council will consider discontinuing this initiative.

Council Rangers will undertake regular patrols of our parks and NSW Police will be contacted in the event that any public health concerns are identified.

Any member of the public with concerns about breaches of the current stay-at-home orders are advised to call the NSW Police on 1800 333 000.

Demolition of Ryde Civic Centre completed

Published on 10 September 2021

The City of Ryde's new community and civic hub is one step closer to reality with the demolition of the Ryde Civic Centre now complete.

The demolition works of the Ryde Civic Centre took less than six months to carry out and will allow for the construction of the new state-of-the-art facilities to soon commence on the site.

Known as The New Heart of Ryde, the new development will deliver a four-fold increase in community facilities without the introduction of any residential development on the site.

The centrepiece of the project will be a new multi-purpose and cultural building dedicated to community use. This building will feature the Edna Wilde Performance Hall, which will be able to seat up to 700 people.

The multi-purpose and cultural building will also include public activity rooms, meeting rooms, function space capable of hosting art exhibitions, amenities and food premises.

An additional commercial building will also be built on the site which will house Council staff as well as external tenants. Other features include a centrally located public plaza, extensive landscaping works, direct and accessible pedestrian links, as well as on-site basement car spaces.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said The New Heart of Ryde was proceeding with the overwhelming support of the community.

"Despite numerous setbacks including a developer-led stop work order and COVID-19 restrictions, we are progressing on schedule and on budget with this community-led project," Cllr Laxale said.

"Once completed, The New Heart of Ryde will activate this key part of Ryde and deliver the facilities residents, businesses, schools and community groups have been crying out for, all while retaining public ownership of the site and without residential apartments.

"Crucially, its construction will generate jobs at such a critical time for our economy."

Cllr Laxale added that a number of significant items from the old Civic Centre such as signage, coat of arms and a mosaic floor design will be incorporated into the new development where possible.

Council will retain 100% ownership of the site and the project will be completely funded without raising rates or reducing services.

Gladesville Masterplan

Published on 08 September 2021

Hunter's Hill Council is currently consulting with the community on the development of a Gladesville Masterplan, which is a long-term vision for the renewal of Gladesville town centre.

For more information about the Gladesville Masterplan and to take part in the consultation currently being undertaken, visit the [Hunter's Hill Council website](#).

Consultation on the masterplan closes on Friday 10 September.

Notice of Adoption | COR Section 7.11 Developer Contributions Plan 2020 - Version 1.1

Published on 08 September 2021

Notice of Adoption of City of Ryde Section 7.11 Developer Contributions Plan 2020 – Version 1.1

*Pursuant to Clauses 31 and 32(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment
Regulation 2000*

Council has adopted a new Developer Contributions Plan under Section 7.11 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, which will come into effect on 8 September 2020.

At the 24 August 2021 Council Meeting, Council resolved to adopt the following Developer Contributions Plan:

- City of Ryde Section 7.11 Developer Contributions Plan 2020 - Version 1.1

The Plan was adopted without change from the publicly exhibited draft plans.

Council's current Section 7.11 Developer Contributions Plan 2020 is amended by the City of Ryde Section City of Ryde Section 7.11 Developer Contributions Plan 2020 - Version 1.1 on 8 September 2021.

For more information and to view the Plan, visit [Developer Contributions Plan](#).

If you have any queries regarding the above Developer Contributions Plan please contact David Matthews, Developer Contributions Coordinator on (02) 9952 8222

Note: This is a Public Notice only, the submission period has closed.

Council purchases property to expand Ryde Park

Published on 02 September 2021

The City of Ryde has purchased the property located at 22 Argyle Avenue, Ryde, as part of plans to further expand Ryde Park and enhance its entry and accessibility.

A proposal to make a bid to purchase the property was unanimously supported by Council at an extraordinary meeting on 17 August 2021 with the owners accepting a bid two days later.

The property is located adjacent to the existing entry point to Ryde Park from Argyle Ave. The purchase provides Council with flexibility in how the land is utilised in the future.

The Top Ryde area surrounding Ryde Park has seen a significant increase and density in residential dwellings, which resulted in the Council's recently endorsed Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020 identifying the need to expand and enhance Ryde Park.

In the 2023/24 financial year Council will prepare a masterplan for the park, consulting with the community on how they would like to see the park improved into the future. This will include planning for how all the land owned by Council around Ryde Park will be utilised as the masterplan is implemented. Council endorsement will be sought prior to the masterplan being finalised.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, said the land at 22 Argyle Avenue could be incorporated into a bigger and better Ryde Park.

"Our community has consistently told us how important open space is to them. After expanding Blenheim Park, protecting Eastwood Oval and opening a new Kings Park in Denistone East, this Council will expand Ryde Park to ensure it meets the needs of the community both for current and future generations," Clr Laxale said.

"As we develop a new masterplan for Ryde Park, I will be pushing for the property at 22 Argyle Avenue to be used in the interim as affordable housing or crisis accommodation for those in need."