

Local residents share their story on sailing with a disability

Published on 25 October 2021



East Ryde residents Lindsay and Maria Dalmon are not your average sailing fanatics.

Both Lindsay and Maria were born with cerebral palsy and rely on electric wheelchairs for their mobility.

They also love going sailing!

In 1996, they both attended a Sailability 'Come & Try' day to encourage people of all abilities to take up sailing as a fun pastime.

Sailability is a worldwide volunteered based organisation that promotes sailing for people with disabilities.

After their introduction, Lindsay and Maria were immediately hooked and joined Sailability Pittwater.

"Sailability's philosophy is sailing for all, no matter the severity of a person's disability," Maria explains.

"All our boats are specially designed. They have a heavy centre board making them safe and impossible to capsize.

"For many people, Lindsay and myself included, do not have the strength or the capability to pull ropes or are unable use our hands to steer. Two small battery-operated winches are fitted to the steering and sails and are operated by a joystick. This gives us the freedom to sail solo with full control of our boat."

Lindsay and Maria's love of sailing has taken them across Australia and the world, including France and Italy, and they have also competed in several intra-club, state and national competitions.

While they no longer compete, Maria maintains her and her husband have plenty of sailing left in them

"Our competition days are over now but we continue to enjoy sailing with Sailability Pittwater just for fun," Maria says.

By working with community organisations like Sailability, City of Ryde aims to make our local government area a more accessible and inclusive place so that everyone in our community can participate.

Council would like your help in updating the Disability Action Inclusion Plan (DIAP), which identifies actions we can undertake to assist people with disability to participate more fully in community life.

Share your thoughts with us by completing an online community survey by 15 November 2021.

People with disability, their carers and their families can attend online focus groups in October and November, or a face-to-face consultation on Wednesday 3 November at West Ryde Community Hall. Focus groups will also be held for disability service providers.

To find out more, visit our [Have Your Say webpage](#).

Progress update on Ryde Central redevelopment

Published on 24 October 2021



City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, Edna Wilde OAM and Arts Advisory Committee Chairperson Clr Christopher Gordon at the Ryde Civic Centre site

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Jerome Laxale, was joined by long-serving former Mayor and Councillor, Edna Wilde OAM, and Arts Advisory Committee Chairperson Clr Christopher Gordon to turn the first sod for the new community and civic hub at the Ryde Civic Centre 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.

Naming the hall after Ms Wilde recognises her significant contribution to civic life in Ryde as well as her work promoting the local performing arts as Chair of the Ryde Eisteddfod.

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.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Ryde Central redevelopment.

Heatly Reserve upgrade complete

Published on 22 October 2021



Clr Penny Pedersen at Heatly Reserve with Pete and Filippa from the Fox and Bird Cafe

An upgrade to the popular Heatly Reserve in East Ryde has been completed by the City of Ryde and is now open to the public.

The upgrade introduces a range of new features and improvements to Heatly Reserve that are designed to support greater inclusion, social connectivity and create a sense of community.

All the features in the upgrade were based on extensive consultation with local residents and business owners. This includes:

- Installation of sandstone blocks to provide a levelled area and to act as informal seating
- New turf area
- Relocated picnic tables with fixed chess boards
- Planted embankment to provide a buffer to the adjacent Sager Place
- Coloured seating stools
- New trees
- Drinking fountain with dog bowl.

In addition, new accessible play equipment will soon be introduced to the Heatly Reserve playground. A plaque commemorating East Ryde newsagent, Ernest William Heatly, will also be installed.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the Heatly Reserve upgrade was part of Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving the City's open spaces.

"This upgrade has transformed Heatly Reserve. Not only will it assist local businesses by activating the area, but also create an open space for the community to meet and connect with others," Cllr Laxale said.

"This term of Council has made it a priority to create new and improved open spaces that the whole community can enjoy, and the Heatly Reserve upgrade is the latest example of this work."

Cllr Penny Pedersen, who introduced the motion to have the plaque commemorating Ernie Heatly installed, thanked the community for its input for the upgrade.

"All the features included in this upgrade were based on feedback from local residents and businesses. It really was built by the community, for the community," Cllr Pedersen said.

"I would like to thank everyone who provided their input into the development of this upgrade. The end result is fantastic and something the community can enjoy for many years to come."

NSYD International Day of People with Disability Art Competition

Published on 21 October 2021



Artwork by Paulina Nikolzew

Are you an artist living with a disability? Do you like to paint, draw, take photos or create digital art?

Help us to highlight and celebrate diverse talents in your community by making a submission to this years International Day of People with Disability Art Competition!

Uniting Local Area Coordination are running this Art Competition in Hunter New England, Northern Sydney, Western Sydney, Nepean Blue Mountains, Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW. This year highly voted art works will received a \$250 voucher!

Submissions

Send a clear picture of your artwork to inclusioncomp@uniting.org. Include your full name, age, suburb, contact details and artwork title in the email.

Submissions close Monday 22nd November at 9am.

Voting

A panel of judges will narrow down the finalists before public voting opens on the weekend of 26th to 28th November. Keep up to date with voting by visiting [facebook.com/UnitingLAC](https://www.facebook.com/UnitingLAC). Finalists and winners may be invited to be a part of a pop up gallery on December 3rd!

Additional information: Please note that by making a submission to this competition you acknowledge that any artwork sent to the above email address will be stored by Uniting for the purposes of the competition. This may also include using the artworks in current and future promotional materials. View full [terms and conditions](#).

New Problem Waste Drop-Off Station installed at North Ryde

Published on 20 October 2021



The new Problem Waste Drop-Off Station at YMCA Community Sports Centre

The City of Ryde has installed new Problem Waste Drop-Off Station at YMCA Community Sports Centre, ELS Hall Park, North Ryde.

Problem Waste Drop-off Stations are for City of Ryde residents to safely dispose of household problem waste items that are not allowed in your kerbside red, yellow or green lid bins.

Problem waste items in kerbside bins contributes to contamination of landfill sites and may cause fires or create other harmful effects to human health and the environment.

Items that can be disposed of in Problem Waste Drop-Off Stations include:

- Household batteries
- Mobile phones and accessories
- Ink cartridges
- Smoke detector (only at Bunnings Gladesville)
- Fluoro Light bulbs and globes (not available at ELS Hall and RALC).

There are now ten Problem Waste Drop-Off Stations around the City of Ryde. In addition to the new station at YMCA Community Sports Centre at ELS Hall, Problem Waste Drop-Off Stations are also located at:

- City of Ryde Operations Centre

- City of Ryde Customer Service Centre
- Eden Gardens
- Macquarie University
- Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (light bulbs are not accepted here for safety reasons)
- Tzu Chi Eastwood
- West Ryde Library
- Bunnings Gladesville
- Macquarie Shopping Centre.

Please note that no regular household rubbish, particularly coffee cups, are accepted at the Problem Waste Drop-Off Stations.

Commercial quantities are not permitted. Larger problem waste items (such as car batteries, paint tins, TVs, computers, gas bottles, and long fluoro light tubes) can be taken to CRC Artarmon (8 Waltham Street, Artarmon) to be disposed of for free. [Click here](#) for more information and for the opening hours.

To find out what you can dispose of and the locations of the stations, visit our [Problem Waste Drop-Off Stations webpage](#).

Creative Spotlight | Masha Mnjoyan

Published on 07 October 2021



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

I am Masha Mnjoyan, an Armenian singer/songwriter based in Sydney. I am one of those people who has devoted most of their lives to music and have no regrets about it. I began singing when I was four years old and have progressed to a very professional level, graduating from a conservatory and then relocating to Australia for additional education and more opportunities. Winning "The Voice" in my home country of Armenia in 2013 is the most significant accomplishment to date, and becoming a semi-finalist on "The Voice" in Australia in 2020 was a confidence booster that helped me to keep going, rising to the top of my profession and achieve the greatest success.

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

I am a highly emotional person; I may seem the opposite at times, but I like feeling everything. The same is in the production of art. My sentiments, genuine emotions, yearning, love, and disappointment make up my inspiration. I also get inspiration from previously composed music, nature, and other sources. But, like with any creative process, my muse emerges when I collaborate with individuals who have amazing and wild ideas, when we can exchange non-standard viewpoints and create something unique and beautiful. I like to keep up with the latest trends and monitor social media to see what others are up to, but when I go to work, I like to do something different from everyone.

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

My background, family, and cultural heritage are the loudest things in my creative works in terms of melody, lyrics and interpretation. My goal is one day to create

music that is a combination of my Armenian cultural music and a European, American style on a global level.

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

I am now pursuing a master's degree in composition at the Australian Institute of Music. Creating compositions in unfamiliar genres is both exciting and educational for me, and I am pleased of the fact that in only one year, I was able to acquire all of the techniques and subtleties necessary to create orchestral, techno, and folk music. Hopefully, one day, I'll be able to compose music for films and other major projects.

What creative project are you working on at the moment?

At the moment I am working on a really interesting and fascinating collaboration with Globant & AIVA Technologies (artificial Intelligence Virtual Artist) where I'm recording vocals for the software. Music is composed by human intellect.

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

Obviously, winning the well-known singing show "The Voice."

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

I often remark that I am one of the fortunate people who gets to do what I enjoy doing. Being a representative of a certain field of art is a great honour. The ability to express feelings, to create something new, to share your musical ideas with other creative artists, to meet many brilliant individuals and participants from the industry and beyond are some of the most enjoyable aspects of this career.

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

Over the years, I've come to understand one thought which is that artists must be unrestricted in all senses of the word. Physically, intellectually, financially, and in a timely manner; otherwise, the creation will always remain incomplete. Even if one is struggling from these elements, it is a significant difficulty.

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

It is no secret that following one's inspiration is a popular practice among artists and innovators. The sole routine I've established for myself is to leave everything at the time when I get a good thought and attempt to write it down or record it if the idea is in the shape of a song.

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

The most important thing is to pursue your goals and believe in yourself; don't be swayed by other people's negativity. Sing, compose music, and design your own journey.

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

Website: mashamnjoyan.com

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/MashaMaryMnjoyan](https://www.facebook.com/MashaMaryMnjoyan)

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/artist/1rUE1knJcZHqQrhesIZctP>

Proposed Hazard Reduction Burn - Lane Cove National Park (Mars Creek)

Published on 05 October 2021

National Parks and Wildlife are proposing to undertake a hazard reduction burn in Lane Cove National Park (Mars Creek) on **Friday, 8 October 2021**, depending on weather.

The burn will be roughly from Busaco Rd in the west to the Christie Rd Reserve in the east, on the southern side of the Lane Cove River. This will include the bushland on the northern and western sides of Christie Park and the bushland around the Macquarie University sports fields.

Please be advised that smoke from the hazard reduction burn may persist for one or two days after the burn.

Tips on how to protect yourself from bushfire smoke can be found on the [NSW Government | Health](#) website.