

# Mayor's Message



Welcome to the Annual State of the Environment (SoE) Community Newsletter.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cr Artin Etmekdjian

This newsletter highlights some of the sustainability projects related

to a range of community, business and Council initiatives managed by the City of Ryde this year.

I encourage the Ryde community to participate in the services and activities provided and try to be aware of the ways in which what we do in our homes and at work, affect the quality of the waterways, climate, soil, bushland habitat and other features of the environment we live in.

### **About the Newsletter**

Journey through a series of local casestudies associated with the Regional State of the Environment (SoE) Report. The SoE Report measures, compares and details key indicators of the health of our natural environment concerning water, waste, noise, bushland, air quality, soil erosion and more.

So... how important is your environment? Why should we attempt to better understand and conserve it and develop in a way that leaves a healthy ecological legacy?

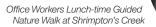
**Take a deep breath...** to remember how basic environmental protection is – it's about protecting basic human needs, such as the air we breathe and the water we use, now and for the future.

It's about enhancing our quality of life through maintaining natural amenities, preparing for climatic changes and population growth,

using resources efficiently, improving public transport and protecting the interconnected living systems we all depend on.

Bordered by the magical Lane Cove River National Park, and the magnificent Parramatta and Lane Cover rivers, the City of Ryde encompasses **breathtaking natural spaces**; such as the Wallumatta and Field of Mars Wildlife Reserves, and precious remnant bushland habitat.

The City of Ryde also maintains around 150 hectares of dedicated **recreational green spaces** such as parks, ovals and gardens.



# Talk to Us

We would love to hear your comments on this newsletter, our State of Environment Report or the environmental programs detailed within. Please let us know how you think the level and type of reporting can be improved in future years or any other feedback. To make a suggestion or comment go to the SoE comments box on the SoE website.

A range of environmental themes are explored in depth and compared across Councils in the 2009/10 Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) State of the Environment (SoE) Report.

You can view a copy of the SoE report on the Ryde Council website **www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/soe** or at any City of Ryde library.

NSROC State of Environment Report 2009/2010

### Get Involved

We encourage you to make use of the options made available by the City of Ryde to learn about

and enjoy your environment, participate in workshops, guided walks, tours, consultations etc. and take positive steps towards sustainability in your home, work, schools and community.

See our website **www.ryde.nsw.gov.au** or call customer service on 9952 8222 for details.





# Award Winning Initiatives

Ryde Council has been the recipient of several recent organisational environmental awards including the Keep Australia Beautiful Overall Sustainable Council Award (Runner Up), the Local Government and Manager's Associations' (LGMA) Sustainability Award (Winner) and the Local Government and Shires Association (LGSA) Local Sustainability Award (Highly Commended).



# Ryde aligns with the Regional Sustainability Plan

The City of Ryde has linked many of its efforts in improving local sustainability with the key regional issues identified in the NSROC Regional Sustainability Plan 2009/2014. These include climate change and energy consumption, development and built environment, water and sewerage, sustainable business, biodiversity, waste management, transport and traffic. Regional trends are showing improved or stable results for the past year across many of these issues.

Ryde's environmental programs are clearly contributing to regional improvements through local actions.

Programs include local climate change mitigation and adaptation, a sustainable business program reaching over 50 small to medium businesses throughout Ryde and improvements to local water quality and water management. Examples also include implementing an integrated approach to sustainable transport. This includes the production of a series of transport access guides, pedestrian access and mobility plans and the Top Ryder community bus service that has transported over 80,000 passengers since the service began.

See **www.nsroc.org** to view the Regional Sustainability Plan.



# **Protecting Our Waters**

# The Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre (RALC) Water Conservation Program

The installation of major rainwater harvesting, UV disinfection and backwash recovery systems at the RALC has saved over 60% of water normally used by the Centre, measured from the 2003/04 baseline year. In real terms, it resulted in annual savings of over 32,000 KL of tap water. The backwash recovery system, for example, cleans and recycles water that would have previously discharged to sewer.

Reductions in mains water consumption from a daily average of 146.6kL per day in 2003/04 to 67.2kL per day have saved Council over \$55,000 per year, as measured by Council's Building Management System.

The combination of the three systems within a swim centre context presents an innovative contribution to minimising environmental stresses in Local Government operations and ensuring drinking water conservation.



RALC Rainwater Tank Construction



Ryde Aquatic Leisure Centre with Backwash Recovery System

# Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) Strategy

City of Ryde has been monitoring the Terry's, Shrimpton's, Porter's, Buffalo and Archer's Creek systems for the last six years as part of a Water Quality Monitoring Strategy. Extensive biological sampling of stream macro-invertebrates (insects) give a picture of overall and long-term stream health (based on the tolerance of insect types found), while chemical monitoring reveals information on specific indicators at time of sampling. These include faecal coliforms (gut bacteria that indicates sewerage pollution), ammonia, phosphorus (indicates pollution from detergents and fertilisers) and dissolved oxygen (indicates if stream flora and fauna have enough oxygen to survive, this can be low in highly polluted areas).

The results are used to inform City of Ryde infrastructure, remediation and education programs and the reports are shared with local educational institutes and libraries. The monitoring results and improvement measures are also discussed at the Water Quality Monitoring

Community Working Group.

For copies of the reports or more information see:

www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/ environment/water/quality\_ monitoring\_strategy

### Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) Systems and Interpretive Signs

Stormwater (the water that runs down gutters and street drains after rainfall) treatment systems have been built by the City of Ryde in Gladesville, Looking Glass Bay, Meadowbank Shops and Meadowbank Park. These include the constructed wetlands adjacent to the Field of Mars Wildlife Reserve, the tree pits and rain-gardens around Meadowbank railway station and a 190m² bio-retention basin that reduces stormwater pollutants entering Looking Glass Bay. The latter for example, is designed to remove 85% of Total Suspended Solids, 74% of Total Phosphorous and 57% of Total Nitrogen from the 1.2 hectare Amiens Street sub-catchment (a water catchment is a low lying area in the landscape where rainfall is captured and drains to a particular stream), that drains to Looking Glass Bay Creek.

The multi-layered filtration systems of the rain-gardens use biological processes in soil to filter pollutants and help regulate its functions over the long-term, minimising the need for maintenance.



Looking Glass Bay Interpretive Signage

Several innovative interpretive signs have also been designed with input from local schools to raise residents about the concept of a water catchment, the WSUD

systems and stormwater pollution. Associated bus tours, a teacher professional development session and student workshops helped educate the community about their operation and purpose.

TO DRINK WATER

Student artworks on water conservation and stormwater protection

### state of the environment









- 1. Meadowbank Park Interpretive Signage.
- 2. Looking Glass Bay Bioretention System
- 3. Teacher Professional Development Session on Water Quality Monitoring, WSUD and Stormwater Education at Meadowbank Park
- 4. School waterways workshops at Looking Glass Bay
- 3. City of Ryde Engineer presenting to local students on the WSUD systems at Meadowbank Shops

## **Catchment Connections**

The City of Ryde Catchment Connections program continues to expand on a series of community engagement initiatives and bush regeneration activities. The three year project covers the Terrys, Mars, Shrimptons and Buffalo Creek catchments – all linking to the Lane Cove River. The partnership project is jointly funded by the NSW Environmental Trust and three Local Councils with City of Ryde as the lead Council.

Catchment Connections aims to improve the water quality of local creeks, preserve and enhance remnant bushland, improve local biodiversity and increase community awareness of catchment protection.

Engagement activities such as guided nature walks, including specialist themed walks such as a nocturnal (wildlife that is active at night), office worker's and multi-lingual walks, have been popular. As have initiatives such as a Sustainable House Day Tour of local Bushcare sites and Sustainable Home designs. The associated Future Focus Home and Garden Advisory Service has visited over 100 homes to advise on a range of sustainable living themes from rain-water tanks to drought tolerant plants.



Upcoming..

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/catchmentconnections or call 9952 8222 for updates on Guided Walks, Outreach Community and Office Workshops and other Catchment Connections initiatives in your local area.



School student produced Mural Design

# Schools Program

The City of Ryde facilitates a teacher's environmental network known as the Ryde Environmental Education Network or REEN. It encourages information sharing, networking and professional development in the area of sustainability education.

Regular REEN meetings and expert presentations such as a recent session on School Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs) provide invaluable support to teachers and schools. A program of classroom presentations and activities for school children help educate future generations and further support with management systems is being planned.

# Above: Ryde Environmental Education Network Teacher's Consultation Meeting Left & below: Youth Environment Prize Submissions The reduinces 57%

6 City of Ryde

## Sustainable Businesses

The Sustainable Businesses in Ryde Program has been developed to assist businesses reduce water and energy consumption and increase recycling, while remaining profitable and even decreasing costs.



City of Ryde staff investigating water consumption at a local business

The Program services small to medium businesses that use between 10–80 KL of water a day. Hundreds of local businesses fit into that criteria and the program involves a diverse cross section of business types. It is the first of its kind in NSW and has utilised a unique alliance between Sydney Water, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) and Local Government. This alliance enables Council to utilise the support of Sydney Water as well as the energy audit and waste experience of DECCW.

The 3 year program began in early 2010 and aims to reduce water use by 15%, energy use by 10% and increase the recycled content of waste materials to 57%. To date the program has identified water savings

of over 20,000 litres per day for the participating businesses, and an average of 40% reduction in water use. The program is being expanded across the City.

For more information and updates visit: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/sustainablebusiness

# Home Sustainability Tip Home Renovations

Good design in building and renovation can save energy, water and money, while creating a more pleasant living space.

Consider the following when planning your renovations:

Passive Design - This uses the physical orientation of your house and an understanding of the seasonal weather patterns to design a space that requires minimal heating or cooling to be comfortable all year round. Passive design elements include orientation, insulation, double glazing, thermal mass and airflow.

Water use and re-use - A water system could be designed to capture all available rainwater and use it for washing, toilet flushing, and watering the veggies. Wate leaving the bathroom could be used to flush toilets and water other parts of the garden.

Energy efficiency, capture and use - Most houses in Australia have sufficient raw energy - in the form of sunlight - to supply all the energy needs of the house and its inhabitants

More information on **Government Rebates** for solar how water, photovoltaic and other water and energy efficiency measures can be found in the on-line **Sustainable Living Guide**.

Energy use in the average Australian home:

- Space heating/cooling (33%) Good design can eliminate the need to heat or cool our homes except in the most extreme weather.
- Lighting (5%) By looking at how we use our living space, we can design it to be lit with natural light during the day.
- Electrical appliances (12%); standby energy use (12%); refrigeration (9%); cooking (4%) - Purchasing efficient appliances and fixtures should save both energy and water daily.
- Water heating (25%) Including the installation of a solar hot water system in your renovation would cut your energy requirements by over 80%

Finally, select building materials with the least environmental impacts, avoid building materials that leak toxic chemicals and minimise construction waste.

Further information on this topic and more can be found on our on-line Sustainable Living Guide. With over 30 topics to choose from it's a comprehensive and valuable source of ideas and tips.

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/sustainableliving



Architectural advice presented at "Making Sustainable Choices when Building or Renovating" Workshop at West Ryde Library.

# Cheap and Easy, Low-Allergy Natural Cleaning Recipes

### **Glass and Mirror Cleaner**

**Ingredients:** 1 cup white vinegar (vinegar also makes a great floorboard cleaner), 5 drops eucalyptus oil and a newspaper or cloth.

**Method:** Combine vinegar and oil in a spray bottle. Spray surface and wipe away.



### **Furniture Polish**

**Ingredients:** 1 tsp lemon oil, 2 cups olive oil, 2 drops sandalwood oil.

**Method:** Mix ingredients and apply with a soft cloth.

Did you know... that some air fresheners use chemicals to coat the inside of your nose so your sense of smell is numbed? For a quick and simple natural alternative mix 2 cups of water with 30 drops of your favourite essential oil is a spray bottle.

# World Environment Day Celebration - Ryde Sustainability Family Fun Festival

The Ryde Sustainability Family Fun Festival was a partnership initiative that combined a series of workshops and talks on issues relating to the Parramatta and Lane Cove rivers, solar passive design, rebates, rainwater tanks, chemical free cleaning and more with children's entertainment, animal shows and guided walks.

The 'Water.Habitat.Life' themed World Environment Day event was located in Eden Gardens, Garden Centre adjacent to Lane Cove National Park. The free community groups expo that was included allowed local environmental groups

to promote themselves to a wider audience.

It also included an Organic BBQ and interactive displays, with a shuttle service provided by the Top Ryder Community Bus and a comprehensive environmental event audit completed at the end with all related carbon emissions being offset and

waste to landfill minimised through provision of recycling (including water recycling) and composting facilities.











# Walking the Talk - Leadership by Example

# Water and Energy Saving Action Plans

To date all the high and medium priority actions listed in Council's water and energy savings action plan have been completed.

This has resulted in a 10% reduction in electricity consumption in 2009/10 against the previous year. Water consumption has decreased by 16% in 2009/10 against the base target year. These reductions have been achieved despite a significant increase in public facilities, a population increase and a 60% increase in electricity and 13% increase in water accounts since 2007.



Local actions that the City of Ryde is currently progressing includes:

- Update of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Action
   Plan 2011 and introduction of a GHG advisory service
- National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) assessments
- Biodiesel trial and Electric Vehicle agreement
- Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting
- Office sensors and retrofit opportunities
- GIS mapping of Climate Change sensitive areas- sea level rise, slumping and bush fire risk and community and Council mitigation and adaptation measures
- City Switch (Australia's leading tenant energy efficiency program) involvement with 10 large commercial buildings
- Conducting a feasibility analysis for the construction of a cogeneration plant at the RALC to substantially reduce organisation-wide energy consumption by up to 10% per year
- Supporting improved sustainable building standards

# Sustainability and Planning

The City of Ryde continues to incorporate the principles of ecologically sustainable development into its planning processes and local decision making. Issues around sustainable development, air quality, climate change, biodiversity, protection of riparian zones, water sensitive urban design, stormwater quality, quantity and flooding and sustainable transport are key areas that are being considered in the Ryde Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

Ryde encourages sustainable practices through its Energy Smart Water Wise Development Control Plan and integrated land use controls for Macquarie Park 'Green Precinct', set to become the 4th largest



Business Park in Australia by 2031 and an example of a sustainable green precinct.

# Leaving a Living Legacy - Biodiversity and Conservation

The City of Ryde manages 209 hectares of bushland with 3473 community volunteer hours contributing to help protect and restore our bushland in the last financial year.

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/ environment/bushland.htm for further information on our bushland, including biodiversity surveys.

Bushcare volunteers

### River to River Project

Ryde has just commenced a 3 year grant funded project funded through the Environmental Trust in partnership with SMCMA and Hunters Hill Council to

reconnect the two bushland corridors linking the Lane Cove and Parramatta Rivers. The project proposes to establish new and enhanced habitats for birds and other fauna and undertakes scientific baseline studies of bird populations within the corridor.



This will help fauna, including the threatened Powerful Owl and declining birds and bats, to move through and survive in this landscape. Currently, this corridor is disjunct, in poor condition, and offers only a limited range of resources for these and other bushland-dependent species.

This project will build on the results of recent biodiversity surveys and local bush regeneration work, and will look at undertaking targeted field surveys, design and implement strategic corridor plantings, and monitor fauna population responses to this link over time.

Partnerships with local residents, local bush regeneration groups, the Catchment Connections and Restoring Natural Capital projects, neighbouring councils, DECCW, and Sydney Green Web are considered important to the long term viability of the project and the City of Ryde is keen to hear from any other interested persons or organisations that would like to be involved and make a difference.

# **Bush Buddy** Profile



### **Ring Tail Possums**

These nocturnal (active at night) mammals are among the few remaining native mammals that survive in our remnant bushland. They have been

spotted at Aitchandar Park, Banjo Paterson Reserve and Denistone Park.

About the size of a cat, the Ringtail Possum is grey with white patches behind the eyes and on the belly. Its long tail has a white tip and it uses like a fifth limb

During the day, it sleeps in its spherical nest made from grass and shredded bark.

Be considerate towards any Ring Tailed Possums you may come across and slow down at roads bordering bushland especially at night. Large trees in backyards provide valuable habitat for many native fauna species that are continually losing their bush homes. Contact WIRES on 13 00 094 737 if you see any injured wildlife.

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/environment/bushland/ffreports.htm for Flora and Fauna Reports.

See www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/environment/ wildlife.htm and the Garden Section of the Sustainable Living Guide at www.ryde.nsw.gov. au/sustainableliving for tips on how to make your garden wildlife friendly.



# Did You Know...

Australians dump 4,000 plastic bags into landfills every minute. Plastic bags are made from non-renewable resources such as oil and gas and can take up to 1,000 years to 'biodegrade' or break down in the environment.

Source: Landfills what you need to know. WSN Environmental Solutions.

# Moving Around - Public **Transport**

Council is committed to supporting sustainable transport including the reduction of the use of cars and increasing the use of public transport, walking and cycling.

Transport Access Guides (TAGs) promote nonmotorised transport and public transport by providing localised maps on reaching popular community destinations via sustainable transport. With the development of City of Ryde TAGs Council hopes to help reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse emissions.

### Transport Access Guide's (TAGs)

The new School Area Tags show transport options for each region including:

- safe walking and cycling routes
- Top Ryder routes
- bus interchanges, routes and bus stops
- train stations and helpful hints on road safety and exercise for children

Cycling and walking tracks are marked, as are pedestrian access/crossing and wheelchair access locations. You will also find Council facilities such as

libraries, recreation centres, public toilets, parks and other civic features marked on these guides.

The TAGs are available to the public for free at all City of Ryde facilities including Civic Centres, Council Offices, Recreation Centres, Libaries and at local shopping centres. They can also be downloaded from our website. Certain TAGs are also available in Chinese and Korean.

These TAGs were produced in partnership between the City of Ryde, NSW Health Promotions and the schools involved.



### Download the TAGs from www.ryde.nsw.gov. au/tags or call customer service.

School Areas and Town Centre TAGs (including translated copies) are available for Putney, Ryde and West Ryde.

TAGs also show transport options for major shopping areas including bus interchanges, routes and bus stops; train stations, taxi ranks and car parks.

Cycling and walking tracks are marked, as are pedestrian access/crossing and wheelchair access. You will also find post offices, hopsitals, churches, public toilets and parks marked on the guides.

The **City Wide TAG** provides a broad overview of the Ryde Local Government Area with bus routes, rail stations, pedestrian access, walking and cycling tracks, plus information on important local characteristics linking each of the key shopping centres.

### Top Ryder Community Bus



The Top Ryder has been running for two years has transported nearly 80,000 participants at no charge to the public. It runs from Monday to Saturday during off-peak hours and is a great way to do your shopping, get to appointments or travel to Meadowbank, West Ryde or Eastwood Stations. It also runs to the key centres of

Ryde, Meadowbank, West Ryde, Eastwood and Gladesville. Don't forget that you can also catch the Top Ryder at any existing STA bus stop along the route.

For timetables and more information see: www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/topryder

# Ryding the Wave

# Ryde's Climate Change Adaptation Mapping

The City of Ryde is working to produce Climate Change impacts vulnerability mapping for the region.

This work is to be used by Council to assess whether impacts could compromise the integrity, effectiveness, or longevity of Council or the community's assets over a variety of time scales. Following mapping of vulnerability risks, an amalgamated Climate Change vulnerability map for the Local Government Area (LGA) will be produced and used as a preliminary step in Council's analysis of Climate Change consequences within the LGA.

# Waste Not Want Not -Reducing Waste

## Clothes Recycling Program

City of Ryde Council has teamed up with The Smith Family (TSF) to encourage recycling of clothing by residents at selected locations across the city. The new Ryde green clothing bins feature both Council and TSF signage and were initially installed at 20 locations, chosen for ease of access and convenience to the public.

The clothes recycling program commenced in May 2010. From the 20 bins installed,

around 2000kg per week of clothing is being collected for recycling, much of which may otherwise have ended up being landfilled. The program was recently expanded to 30 bins across the city and it is envisaged that bin numbers may be increased further to meet demand. The Ryde - TSF partnership allows for Council input into the number and location of bins across the city.

TSF is a charity-centred not-for-profit organisation. Ryde's clothing bin program therefore has multiple benefits including helping those in need, reducing waste management costs and diverting re-usable materials from landfill.





### ENGLISH

If you do not understand this document please come to Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm or telephone the Telephone and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask an interpreter to contact the City of Ryde for you on 9952 8222.

### ARABIC

إذا تعذر عليك فهم محتويات هذه الوثيقة، نزجو الحضور إلى مركز بلدية رايد Ryde Civic Centre على العنوان: Devlin Street, Ryde 1 من الاثنين إلى الجمعة بين الساعة 8.30 مىباحاً والساعة 4.30 بعد الظهر، أو الاتصال بمكتب خدمات الترجمة على الرقم 131 لكي تطلب من أحد المترجمين الاتصال بمجلس مدينة رايد، على الرقم 2822 9952، نيابةً عنك.

Եթէ այս գրութիւնը չէք հասկնար, խնդրեմ եկէք՝ Րայտ Սիվիք Սենթըր, 1 Տելվին փողոց, Րայտ, (Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde) Երկուշաբթիէն Ուրբսթ կա. Ժամը 8.30 – կ.ե. Ժամը 4.30, կամ հեռաձայնեցէք Տեռաձայնի եւ Թարգմանութեան Սպասարկութեան՝ 131 450, եւ խնդրեցէք որ թարգմանիչ մը Րայտ Քաղաքապետարանին հետ կապ հաստատէ ձեզի համար, հեռաձայնելով՝ 9952 8222

### CHINESE

如果您看不懂本文,請在周一至周五上午 8 時 30 分至下午 4 時 30 分前往 Ryde 市政中 心詢問 (Ryde Civic Centre, 地址: 1 Devlin Street, Ryde)。你也可以打電話至電話傳譯服 務中心,電話號碼是: 131 450。接通後你可以要求一位傳譯員爲你打如下電話和 Ryde 市政廳聯繫,電話是: 9952 8222。

اگر این مدرک را نمی فهمید لطفاً از 8.30 صبح تا 4.30 بعد از ظهر دوشنبه تا جمعه به مرکز شهرداری راید، Ryde Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde مراجعه کنید یا به سرویس مترجم تلفنی، شماره 131 450 تلفن بزنید و از یک مترجم بخواهید که از طرف شما با شهرداری راید، شماره 8222

Se non capite il presente documento, siete pregati di rivolgervi al Ryde Civic Centre al n. 1 di Devlin Street, Ryde, dalle 8.30 alle 16.30, dal lunedi al venerdi; oppure potete chiamare il Telephone Translating and Interpreting Service al 131 450 e chiedere all'interprete di contattare a vostro nome il Municipio di Ryde presso il 9952 8222.

이 문서가 무슨 의미인지 모르실 경우에는 1 Devlin Street, Ryde 에 있는 Ryde Civic Centre 로 오시거나 (월 - 금, 오전 8:30 - 오후 4:30), 전화 131 450 번으로 전화 통역 서비스에 연락하셔서 통역사에게 여러분 대신 Ryde 시청에 전화 9952 8222 번으로 연락을 부탁하십시오.

# P City of Ryde

### **City of Ryde Council**

Civic Centre, Devlin Street, Ryde NSW 2112 Telephone 9952 8222 Fax 9952 8111