

Friday 17 January 2020

## **FAMILY FUN THIS AUSTRALIA DAY IN THE CITY OF RYDE**

The stage is set for another day of family fun with the City of Ryde's annual Australia Day celebration on Sunday, 26 January.

The celebrations will kick off at 11am with a special citizenship ceremony and the presentation of the 2020 Ryde Citizen of the Year Awards at North Ryde School of Arts.

Local firefighters and emergency services personnel will also be honoured during the ceremony.

The citizenship ceremony will be followed by an Aussie rock concert at 5pm at North Ryde Common. Eventgoers can also enjoy a variety of food trucks, kids rides and activities, including the iconic thong-throwing competition.

This year marks the return of the City of Ryde Battle of the Bands competition, with three young bands battling it out for this year's title.

A judging panel - comprised of The Preatures' Isabella Manfredi, Thirsty Merc's Rai Thistlethwayte and Studios 301's Recoding Engineer Stefan Du Randt - will announce the winner on the night. The winning band will take away a cash prize of \$1000 and win a Mastering session at Studios 301. A \$250 people's choice award will also be presented at the event.

Sydney act Audio Vixen, which was a finalist in X-Factor Australia, will also take to the stage. They will be followed by renowned Aussie act Thirsty Merc – known for their hit single *Summertime* – who will headline the concert from 8pm.

The City of Ryde will not be going ahead with its planned fireworks display at the Australia Day concert.

As part of its fundraising efforts, Council will be raising money for the Salvation Army Bushfire Disaster Appeal on the day.

Eventgoers will be invited to contribute to Council's Wall of Hope, where they can purchase Eftpos gift cards, which will be donated to people affected by bushfires and help them to buy supplies and support local businesses in the process. There will also be collection buckets to raise money for the Rural Fire Service (RFS).

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, encouraged everyone to take part in the festivities planned in the City of Ryde this Australia Day.

"I hope to see you all at North Ryde Common this Australia Day for a great day of entertainment that will cater to people of all ages," Cllr Laxale said.

"Crucially, the Australia Day concert will also serve as a major fundraiser for the victims of this disastrous bushfire season, so please attend and give generously."

Further information about the Australia Day celebrations can be found at [www.ryde.rocks/ausday](http://www.ryde.rocks/ausday).

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