

Monday 20 November 2023

## Grant provides vital upgrades for North Ryde Library

North Ryde Library celebrated its exciting new look in style on Saturday 18 November with the official unveiling of the new shelving and layout flexibility made possible by a \$100,000 NSW Public Library Infrastructure Grant from The State Library.

NSW Arts Minister the Hon John Graham joined City of Ryde Mayor Clr Sarkis Yedelian OAM, Councillors and staff for a cake-cutting ceremony before a great program of entertainment, highlighted by a special performance by ARIA Award-nominated kid's group The Vegetable Plot.

Attendees also enjoyed slices of the celebratory cake, as well as stories and songs, a weavers and spinners demonstration, and drop-in activities like facepainting and kid's craft.

The State Government grant, which was awarded in March 2023, was invested into replacing the ageing bookshelves with new fit for purpose shelving, including shelving on castors. The funds also allowed for the installation of new lighter weight tables with wheels.

The new shelving and furniture allow a greater flexibility and smarter use of the library space by being able to change the layout to accommodate the many different events and activities hosted throughout the year.

"As you can see, this grant has provided the City of Ryde community with a refreshed and flexible library space that will greatly enhance the user experience of those who visit," said Clr Yedelian in his speech thanking the State Government.

"Libraries are vitally important to our community and provide a wide array of services that fulfil our recreational, leisure and education needs.

"This new upgrade will support the book clubs, knitting groups, and Robotic clubs who regularly use this wonderful facility, which promotes life learning for the whole community."

City of Ryde CEO Wayne Rylands said Council was committed to creating spaces that encouraged active lifestyles and social interactions.

"Our five libraries are welcoming and accessible spaces, providing an extensive range of programs and events for the community, including children's and youth services, literacy programs, home library services, community information, services to the multicultural community, local studies, and family history," he said.

"They support social inclusion, help to bridge the digital divide, encourage lifelong learning and act as meeting places for a range of activities for our wider community, supporting residents at different stages of their lives.

“Capital project works such as this update to North Ryde Library ensure we continue to have a vibrant and liveable City by providing well targeted services that strengthen our community life, our connectedness, and our wellbeing.”

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