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New accessible taxi rank hailed a winner

Ryde Council has just installed a new Accessible Taxi Rank in Pope Street, Ryde, for wheelchair users and people with a walking difficulty.

The new Pope Street bay is clearly identified with a wheelchair access refuge and kerb ramp, a dedicated disabled parking spot, galvanised steel grate, paving restoration, signage and line markings.

The need for an accessible taxi rank was identified when Ryde Council staff experienced the hardship wheelchair users face when taking part in a simulation travel/taxi exercise between the nearby Royal Rehabilitation Centre and Top Ryde City shopping centre that was coordinated by Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) personnel.

City of Ryde's Access & Equity Section Manager, William Davies said, "We learned first hand why wheelchair users often give up if they cannot get in and out of their taxi without pain or difficulty.

"It's very important that Councils take an active role in ensuring that all people have easy access to large public places such as shopping centres and transport hubs."

SCIA's Client Advocate/Coordinator, Michael Magro said: "This is a win-win for everyone - for wheelchair users, for taxi operators, the shopping centre and the wider community."

The new Pope Street Accessible Taxi Rank is part of the 2012/13 City of Ryde Footpath Renewal Program. The project grew through consultations with the City of Ryde Access Committee, representatives from the Ryde Rehabilitation Centre, Spinal Cord Injury Australia and other groups including Top Ryde City shopping centre.

Photo Opportunity: Michael Magro, Client Advocate and Coordinator with Spinal Cord Injury Australia will arrive by taxi at the new Accessible Taxi Rank, Pope Street, Ryde, (Date to be advised). Mr Magro uses a manual wheelchair.

Attachment: New Pope Street Accessible Taxi Rank photo

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