

Wednesday 18 March 2015

## LOCAL WOMEN WHO MADE CHANGE HAPPEN

**Forty-three local women who ‘made change happen’ were recognised for their contribution to the community and civic life at the City of Ryde’s inaugural International Women’s Day Forum.**

The Make It Happen Forum, an initiative of the City of Ryde’s Status of Women Advisory Committee, encouraged women to speak up about the successes, challenges and opportunities facing them and the wider community.

City of Ryde General Manager, Gail Connolly, said the opportunity to celebrate local women who ‘make it happen’ is overdue. “Women are leading the way in society, in their homes, in schools, workplaces and government.

“They solve difficult problems and help create stronger and better communities through collaboration, clear heads and good hearts.

“The women we recognised today are not exceptional, but more a reflection of what all women can be.”

Chairperson of the City of Ryde’s Status of Women Advisory Committee, Councillor Denise Pendleton said: “The mood from the participants was extraordinary.”

The audience of around 85 women and men, enjoyed an informative debate with the expert panel that included guest speaker, feminist and self-styled ‘stirrer’ Eva Cox; the CEO of Achieve Australia, Anne Bryce; Mahboba Rawi, founder of Mahboba’s Promise; Superintendent John Duncan from Ryde LAC; and City of Ryde’s General Manager, Gail Connolly.

Discussion topics included equality, leadership and workplace issues, financial independence, domestic violence, health care, recognition in the arts and the growth of female-owned businesses as well as assistance for people with disabilities and health care for women in disadvantaged countries.

The City of Ryde’s annual Women’s Art Prize and Exhibition was official launched at the Forum. Artists and members of the community can submit artworks that connect to the Make It Happen theme and issues surrounding women. There are five categories (Open, Community, Youth, Local Artist and Peoples’ Choice) with a total prize pool of \$3,250. Applications close 11 May 2015. More details at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/wap](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/wap)

### RYDE WOMEN WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN IN RYDE

Members of the community were invited to nominate women who ‘Make It Happen’ in Ryde for the International Women’s Day MAKE IT HAPPEN Forum.

<b>Edna Wilde</b> <b>Aggie Palu</b> <b>Marg Somerville</b> <b>Therese Mackenzie</b>	<b>Cathy Griffiths</b> <b>Football4All -</b> <b>Dr Tracey Williams</b> <b>Denise Robinson</b>	<b>Karen Barfoot</b> <b>Sunita Menezes</b> <b>Sevinc MacCue</b> <b>Rajni Chandran</b>
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<b>Melinda Doust</b> <b>Monique Orian</b> <b>Marie Sillars</b> <b>Rebecca Ho</b> <b>Kavisha Shah</b> <b>Susana Bluwol</b> <b>Belinda Yeh</b> <b>Young Byun</b> <b>Carla Kassab</b> <b>Bev Debrincat</b> <b>Carolin Wilkinson</b>	<b>Kim Schaefer</b> <b>Leisl Stimpson</b> <b>Lorraine Cox</b> <b>Vicki Newstead</b> <b>Vita Lapedjian</b> <b>Deb Maio</b> <b>Hannen Abdallah</b> <b>Paula Hanlon</b> <b>Dawn Chadwick</b> <b>Ana Tuitahi</b>	<b>Heather Pinto</b> <b>Agnes Shim</b> <b>Kathleen Synnott</b> <b>Helen Crouch</b> <b>Kate Teys</b> <b>Denise Pendleton</b> <b>Chantha Mau</b> <b>Julie Bertoldo</b> <b>Helen Silvia</b> <b>Camile Livingstone Newstead</b>
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*These forth-three women include civic advocates, community champions and leaders in commerce, law enforcement, community care and the arts. They range in age from teens to seniors and include long-term residents and new arrivals.*

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