

Wednesday 5 October 2016

NAMING COMPETITION FOR 'DESIGN OUR RYDE' CIVIC PRECINCT

Voting is now open for the naming of the *Design Our Ryde* Civic Precinct site at 1 Devlin Street, Ryde.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said the site has been a compelling part of Ryde's history and skyline since early settlement.

"Following the announcement of the winning entry of the *Design Our Ryde* architectural competition by the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design in China, City of Ryde Council is giving the community the chance to vote in a 'Name Our Site' competition.

"There are five preferred names to choose from and each has a strong geographic and historical link to the site."

The five names are:

Wallumetta Green

'Wallumetta' was the name given to this area by the original indigenous clan - the Wallumedegal. It is likely that the clan name was derived from 'wallumai', the snapper fish, combined with 'matta', a word used to describe a place, more often a 'water place'. The Wallumedegal then would be the 'snapper people'

Bennelong Place

Woollarawarre Bennelong is one of the most significant figures in Australian history. He was an intermediary and ambassador between Aboriginal people and members of the First Fleet and sailed to England with Governor Phillip in 1792, returning in 1795. In later life he lived in the orchard belonging to James Squire at Kissing Point where he died and was buried in 1831. The website www.findingbennelong.com commissioned by Ryde Council documents his life.

Blaxland Rise

The name 'Blaxland' has been associated with our area for over two centuries. The best known member of the family is the Blue Mountains explorer, wine maker and agriculturalist, Gregory Blaxland, who built the now fully-restored Brush Farm House - one of the most substantial 19th Century colonial country homes surviving. One of his sons, Charles, owned the Cleves Estate on the Parramatta River. Another son, John, built and owned The Hermitage.

Devlins Corner

Devlin honours the Devlin family, especially James Devlin who was born in the colony in 1808. He was elected an alderman to Ryde's first Council 1871, and helped shape the Ryde district. He built and lived in the colonial house 'Willandra' on Victoria Road and Church Street Ryde which the Council bought and restored. The home is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register and is described as perhaps the finest two-storey Georgian house built in the State.

Ryde Central

The name 'Ryde' was first used in 1841 when James Devlin and James Shepherd offered a number of building lots for sale at public auction under the titled Plan of the village of Ryde Kissing Point NSW. Ryde, on the Isle of Wight, had been the home of Mary Turner, wife of the Rev. Turner of St Annes Church.

Vote now and be in the running to win one of ten \$50 gift card. For full details of how to vote go to www.ryde.nsw.gov/nameoursite

Voting closes Friday 28 October.

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