

Friday 30 September 2016

NEW RYDE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OPEN

New City of Ryde Council Chambers have opened at Level 1A, 1 Pope Street, Ryde, above Ryde Library.

At the opening of the new Council facility, Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: “These new Chambers bring Ryde Council into the 21st Century with a modern, sustainable, state-of-the-art facility, positioning Ryde as the centre of local government administration in the district”.

The new multi-function facility can be remodelled to accommodate a number of meeting styles. It offers:

- Seating for 32 Councillors and executive staff
- Seating for more than 70 people in the public gallery
- Fully integrated lighting and air-conditioning systems
- A state-of-the-art audio visual system
- Two 89” LED screens providing high quality audio visual presentation including for Council Agendas and Minute taking
- Two HD web link cameras to produce live streaming of all Council meetings.

Adjacent to the Chamber is:

- A committee/meeting room
- Hot desk capability for staff and councillors
- The Mayoral suite
- A full catering kitchen.

In 2015, Councillors resolved to relocate from the Civic Centre building after the issuing of two SafeWork Improvement Notices.

Mayor Pickering said: “As the population and responsibilities of the Council have grown, the inadequacies of the ‘old’ Civic Centre to keep up to date with building standards, public expectation and technology became more and more evident.

“While the City of Ryde Council faces what seems to be an inevitable amalgamation with Hunters Hill and Lane Cove, we have a forward thinking plan and that is to fulfil the vision of building a new Ryde Civic Hub based on the very successful Design our Ryde 2016 design competition.

“I’m sure I speak for everyone when I say the uniqueness of our City gives us an undiminished sense of pride, history and cultural awareness and a feeling that Ryde is truly a place of opportunity.”

Ryde Council Meetings Historical Timeline

Since 1871 when local elections were first held in Ryde, councillors (aka “aldermen”) have met in a variety of temporary locations ... firstly in a chapel, then a court house, and then a school.

In 1903 the Council moved to the first purpose built Town Hall at the corner of Tucker Street and Blaxland Road, and a new separate Chambers was built in 1923.

Forty years later in 1964 the Ryde Civic Centre was opened at 1 Devlin Street with much fanfare and for the next 52 years, the administration and civic duties of the Council were carried out there.

In 2015, two SafeWork Improvement Notices were served on the Civic Centre building and Councillors resolved to relocate from the Ryde Civic Centre.

From January – August 2016, an international design competition for the Ryde Civic Hub was held. *Design our Ryde* attracted 175 entries from 48 countries, including 41 from Australia. From a short list of four designs, including a People’s Choice, Entry 572 submitted by the Beijing Institute of Architectural Design was declared the winner.

In May 2016 the majority of administration staff moved to new premises at Binary Centre, 1 Richardson Place, North Ryde.

In June 2016 a new Customer Service Centre (incorporating the Ryde Planning and Business Centre) relocated to 1 Pope Street, Ryde, Top Ryde City shopping centre Piazza Level (below Ryde Library).

On 27 September 2016, the new City of Ryde Council Chambers opened at Level 1A, 1 Pope Street, Ryde (above Ryde Library).

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