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RYDE LIBRARY SERVICE HITS THE MILLION MARK AGAIN

More than a million visitors walked through the doors of Ryde's libraries in the past financial year, building on the impressive achievements made in the previous year.

In 2017, the City of Ryde ran a successful March to a Million campaign to raise awareness of the value of public libraries and aimed to boost visitor numbers to 1 million in the 2016/17 financial year. The campaign goals were exceeded, with 1,017,089 recorded visitors and there was a significant increase in the use of services, collections and new memberships over that year.

This figure was surpassed with a total of 1,025,597 visitors across the Eastwood, Gladesville, North Ryde, Ryde and West Ryde library branches in 2017/18.

Ryde Library Service has kept pace with technological advances and has taken an innovative approach to rapidly changing customer needs. Electronic loans – which include eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital newspapers and magazines – increased by 25 per cent and public computers were used for more than 64,000 hours.

The events offered at Ryde Libraries was extensive and catered to the whole community, with special school holiday programs, talks, workshops, concerts and more, in addition to regular classes and groups. In all, there were 1,832 events attended by 64,585 people.

A popular new addition to Ryde Library is the interactive reading table, which allows visitors to read thousands of magazines and newspapers from around the world in over 60 languages. These can also be accessed through the PressReader online library.

"I am so proud we have reached the magic million for the second year in a row. This is a testament to the popularity of our library services, programs and the huge variety of items we have available for our community to loan", City of Ryde Mayor Jerome Laxale said.

"This achievement would not have been possible without the professionalism and dedication of our library staff, who regularly go above and beyond to service our community", he said.

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