

# Ryde Council's Seventh Gold Annual Report Award

Published on 28 June 2017



For the seventh year in a row, City of Ryde Council has taken out a Gold Award for its Annual Report 2015/16, at the Australasian Reporting Awards (ARA), the premier benchmark in government and corporate reporting.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering said: “This is an unprecedented run of Gold Awards and shows clearly that Ryde Council adheres to the highest possible standards in its reporting and governance practices.

“This peer review, in competition with much larger and more sophisticated organisations, with big budgets, proves that ‘size does not matter’ when standards of excellence in accountability, openness and effective communications are the criteria.”

The Australasian Reporting Awards Inc., is an independent not-for-profit organisation supported by volunteer professionals from the business community and professional bodies concerned with the quality of financial and business reporting. They are modelled on the Global Reporting Initiative and reflect the GRI Sustainability Reporting Guidelines.

To achieve an ARA Gold Award an Annual Report must:

- Achieve overall excellence in annual reporting
- Provide high quality coverage of most aspects of the Australasian Reporting Awards criteria
- Provide full disclosure of key aspects of its core business

- Address current legislative and regulatory requirements
- Be a model for other peer reports.

The City of Ryde has achieved Gold Awards for its Annual Reports 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16. To view the reports go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/annualreport](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/annualreport)

# Dig Deep For Ryde's Spring Garden Competition 2017

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Ryde residents are encouraged to dig deep in preparation for the City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition.

The hands-on community dig-fest has been held annually by the City of Ryde Council for more than thirty years and offers local garden gurus of all ages the chance to showcase their gardening skills.

There are twelve diverse categories to choose from:

**Large Garden:** large private residential garden - may be the whole garden or just a section

**Small Garden:** small private residential garden - may be the whole garden or just a section

**Courtyard or Balcony Garden:** private residential garden using pots, planter boxes, ornaments, walled gardens

**Edible Garden:** vegetable, fruit, permaculture

**Native and Habitat-friendly Garden:** gardens which feature Australia native plants and include habitat elements to encourage native birds, lizards, possums and insects

**Children's Garden:** private residential gardens inspired and created by a child, group of children or a family with young children

**School Garden:** gardens within local primary or high schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together

**Pre-School Garden:** gardens within local pre-schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together

**Community Garden:** garden projects where the local community, groups or community organisations have worked together

**Commercial Garden:** gardens within local business and commercial organisations, eg hotels, retirement villages, commercial premises, small businesses, universities

**Bushcare Site:** for an outstanding contribution made by volunteers to a Bushcare site

**Children's Seed Growing Competition:** Categories for 3 - 7 years, 8 - 11 years and 12 - 16 years. The seeds to be grown are Tiny Tim Tomatoes. Entries in this category should be made by 31 July to allow for maximum seed growing time. Free seeds, pot and growing instructions provided.

City of Ryde Mayor, Bill Pickering said: "Our Spring Garden Competition is a very hands-on, inclusive community event, showcasing not only what makes our neighbourhoods so attractive but also the skills of the people who work so hard to make it happen."

Entries are encouraged from all sections of the including young and aspiring green thumbs at school or at home, seasoned seniors, individual gardeners, families, community and cultural groups, gardeners with different abilities, as well as commercial organisations and small businesses.

- Entry is free for residents, organisations and businesses in the City of Ryde local government area
- Full details, including entry form and judging criteria [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp)
- Entries close Thursday 31 August 2017
- All entries will be personally judged by a panel of appointed garden judges and horticulture professionals during September/October
- Winners and place getters announced at a special Gala Event on Thursday 2 November at Eden Gardens
- Judging of entries in the Children's Seed Growing Competition and announcement of winners in this category will take place on Saturday 28 October at Eden Gardens.

**Gold Sponsors**                      Eden Gardens, SUEZ, Tumbleweed

**Bronze Sponsor**                     Sam The Paving Man

# Hey Kids! Grow Your Own Tiny Tim Tomatoes

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## Spring Garden Competition – Children’s Seed Growing Category

Children all over the City of Ryde will be lining up to get their free packet of Tiny Tim Tomato seeds for this year’s Children’s Seed Growing Competition.

The special children’s category is part of the annual City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition.

City of Ryde Active Recreation Officer, Greg Macken, said: “This new category was very popular when we introduced it last year and for this year we have chosen Tiny Tim Tomatoes.

“Tomatoes are the most popular garden vegetable for gardeners of all ages and Tiny Tim’s are perfect for kids to grow - they are bite sized, sweet and easy to grow.”

The category is open to children aged 3 – 16 years and aims to see who can grow the best Tiny Tim Tomato plant from seed. There are three age brackets and a pot full of exciting prizes to be won.

Here’s what the expert panel of judges will be looking for:

- Overall condition of plant – sturdiness
- Freedom from pests and disease
- Size of plant – height and width
- Number of leaves, flowers and tomatoes
- Best decorated pot also receives an award.

## How to enter:

1. Fill out the entry form online at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp)
2. Collect your free seed growing kit (Tiny Tim Tomato seeds, recycled pot, growing instructions and entry tag – limit of one kit per child) from Eden Gardens, 307 Lane Cove Rd, Macquarie Park, between Saturday 1 – Sunday 30 July 2017.
3. Plant your seeds from Sunday 30 July. (Late entry, collection of seeds and late planting will be permitted up until Monday 14 August, however, this will reduce the seed and plant growing time).
4. Deliver your entries/plants to Eden Gardens for judging on Friday 27 October between 9.00am – 5.00pm or **before** 9.30am Saturday 28 October. Judging will take place between 9.30 – 10.30am. Winners announced Saturday 28 October at 11.00am.

**Special Note: When you collect your free seeds growing kit, you can also enter the annual Eden Gardens Gnome Roam decorating competition, a fundraiser for the Father Chris Riley's Youth Off The Streets.**

# Filtered Water Stations = Triple Bonus Effect

Published on 26 June 2017



Ten extra water refill stations in parks and sportsgrounds are being installed by Ryde Council to encourage the community to 'fill up fresh'.

The Council hopes the new filtered water stations will result in a triple bonus effect by reducing the use of plastic bottles, make it easier for residents to enjoy healthy drink choices and help them save money on expensive bottled water or sugary soft drinks.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering said: "Kicking your bottled water habit and switching to tap with a reusable bottle is a win-win-win for the environment, your health and your back pocket."

Every year, 160 million drink containers are tossed in the rubbish. They end up as litter in waterways, parks, and streets or in landfill or recycling.

The new filtered water stations each have a water fountain, bottle refill point and dog bowl. They are located near popular sporting fixtures and walking paths.

Locations of new and existing filtered water stations are:

- Eastwood Park, Eastwood (lower oval)
- Brush Farm Park, Eastwood (near amenity building)
- ELS Hall Park, Marsfield (near field 1)
- Meadowbank Park, Meadowbank (near field 3 and walking path)
- Meadowbank Park, Meadowbank (near field 9 and netball courts)

- Kissing Point Park, Putney (near Riverwalk)
- Morrison Bay Park, Putney (near amenity building)
- Ryde Park, Ryde (near field 1)
- Ryde Park, Ryde (near basketball court)
- Banjo Paterson Park, Gladesville
- Waterloo Park, Marsfield (nb. no dog bowl)
- Anderson Park, Meadowbank (nb. no dog bowl)
- Adventure Park, Ryde
- Santa Rosa Park, Ryde
- Memorial Park, Meadowbank (near Riverwalk) – coming soon.

This City of Ryde project has been supported as a NSW EPA Waste Less, Recycle More initiative funded from the waste levy.



# Funding For Smalls Road Primary School Announced

Published on 20 June 2017

City of Ryde has welcomed the State Government's announcement of funding to build a new Smalls Road Primary School in Ryde.

The Smalls Road School will cater for up to 1,000 students and the new school is expected to open in 2020.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said: "Council has been lobbying for a new school for many years to cope with the expected surge in population and new school enrolments.

"The City of Ryde is already in the midst of unprecedented growth and this is very welcome news for local families."

The new primary school will be built on the site of the old Ryde High School which was closed in 1986. A concept design shows a circular design with three levels and playing fields.

The City of Ryde has been in discussion with Education NSW on a shared-use agreement for the existing sportsfield at the Smalls Road site that would allow for continued use by community sporting groups outside of school hours.

# Freedom Stories Celebrate Refugee Week

Published on 08 June 2017

Former and new refugees will share their experiences and cultures with the community in an evening of short films, spoken words, music and food as the City of Ryde celebrates Refugee Week 2017 (Wednesday June 21, Ryde Library, 6.30pm).

*Freedom Stories* features the words of women from Afghanistan and Zambia about the challenges, hopes and renewal they have experienced before coming to Australia and their lives since then.

Presenters include Mahboba Rawi who fled war in Afghanistan at the age of 15 and who has been active in Australia, supporting the Afghan community in Australia. In 2001 Mahboba established Mahboba's Promise Inc., a non-profit, non-Government organisation dedicated to directly improving the lives of vulnerable women and children of Afghanistan.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering said Refugee Week is an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that refugees make to our City and to our nation. "Through *Freedom Stories* we witness the resilience and courage that so many refugees have, and the incredible internal resources that people draw on to not only survive, but to thrive in their new home of Australia."

The City of Ryde became a Refugee Welcome Zone in 2013. Ryde has the highest number of humanitarian arrivals amongst the Northern Sydney Region of Council with 143 arrivals between January 2016 and May 2017, including many Armenian families from Syria.

**Refugee Week 2017 Events** Bookings essential [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/whatson](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/whatson)

- **Freedom Stories:** An evening of short films, spoken word, music and food. Wednesday 21 June 6:30pm, Ryde Library. Gold coin donation for refreshments.
- **Refugee Week Free Training Workshop:** for workers and services on engaging with diverse and refugee communities. Thursday 22 June, 10.00am – 2.00pm, Ryde Library, Wallumetta Room

The theme for Refugee Week 2017, "*with courage let us all combine*", is a lyric from Australia's national anthem. It demonstrates the power of what happens when Australian society comes together and 'combine'.

City of Ryde Council partnered with Intercultural Network Ryde Area to produce a multi-lingual Welcome Guide for Asylum Seekers & Refugees [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/refugeeguide](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/refugeeguide)

City of Ryde community partners include Settlement Services International, the Community Migrant Resource Centre and Ryde Intercultural Network. Projects

arising from those partnerships include: Workshops for Afghan women on domestic violence with support services and Police at Burwood Court; Supporting Afghan Women - wellbeing information sessions; Free training for services working with refugees.

# Balloon Release Banned in City of Ryde

Published on 01 June 2017

The release of balloons at City of Ryde Council events and in Council-managed reserves has been banned.

The action is the result of a Mayoral Minute to raise public awareness of the damage to the environment and wildlife caused by this seemingly harmless activity.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said: “Balloons released into the atmosphere and associated debris, travel long distances. The end destination is often waterways where they can be ingested by birdlife and marine animals.

“Given the number of parks and waterways in and around the City of Ryde, I believe that by Council setting an example, the community will understand the inherent dangers of this practise and I am calling on residents to follow the example set by this decision.”

*What goes up must come down:*

- Beach litter surveys show the amount of balloon and balloon pieces found on beaches has tripled in the past 10 years.
- All released balloons fall back to earth. Even biodegradable latex ones take a long time to break down.
- Marine as well as land animals have all been hurt or killed by ingesting balloon debris. The animal is usually killed from the balloon debris blocking its digestive tract. They can also become entangled in the balloon and its ribbon.

# What A Home Means To You - Call out for Community Art Exhibition

Published on 01 June 2017

The City of Ryde Council in partnership with Link Housing is calling on local artists for submissions for a new community art exhibition that raises awareness about homelessness.

Titled *What a Home Means to You*, the exhibition will reveal the importance of a home and the role it plays in our lives. It will run from Wednesday June 28 to Saturday July 8 at See Street Gallery, Meadowbank.

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said: “Art is a great vehicle to get ideas and concerns across about serious issues like affordable housing.

“While many of us take a safe, secure home for granted, there are those in our community who struggle to provide a stable home environment for their family.

“This exhibition will help raise awareness of affordable housing and we are delighted to partner with Link Housing to present this new and important creative venture.”

Link Housing is a leading not-for-profit community housing provider for people on very low to moderate incomes. They manage around 1500 homes across the Northern Sydney region.

Link Housing CEO, Andrew McAnulty, said: “We encourage Ryde residents to visit the See Street Gallery and take advantage of this wonderful initiative. It’s a rare opportunity to see pieces from a variety of Sydney artists, and their interpretation of the theme”.

Submissions for *What a Home Means to You* are invited from all artists using a range of mediums, including paint, ceramics and sculpture.

For details and information go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/whatson](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/whatson) or email Suzanne Sheerin on [suzanne.sheerin@linkhousing.org.au](mailto:suzanne.sheerin@linkhousing.org.au) or go to [www.linkhousing.org.au/blog/what-a-home-means-to-you-travels-to-meadowbank](http://www.linkhousing.org.au/blog/what-a-home-means-to-you-travels-to-meadowbank)