

# Youth Council 'Make IT Happen' Conference

Published on 22 August 2017

The Governor of New South Wales, HE General The Hon. David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) will open the Youth Council Conference 2017, on Friday 22 September, at 1.15pm, at Macquarie University.

Hosted by Ryde Youth Council over three days in September (Friday 22 – Sunday 24), YCC 2017 Make IT Happen is a celebration of youth leadership that will see members of Youth Advisory Committees from across the State congregate to showcase their successes and develop innovative projects they can take back to their communities.

Ryde Council's Project Community Officer Young People, Mike Paine said: "Working with members of the Ryde Youth Council to pull this event together has been fantastic. We have devised a stimulating program of presentations, workshops and collaborative events designed to motivate the audience."

Ryde Youth Council's spokesperson, Sophie Lara-Watson said: "This will be a great collaborative experience for over 200 Youth Council representatives coming from as far afield as Bathurst, Snowy Valleys, Gunnedah Shire and Armidale.

"The theme Make IT Happen is a platform for how to harness the power of technology to connect and engage with all people, regardless of who you are or where you live."

Previous conferences held in Eurobodalla, Dubbo, Lake Macquarie and Moree Plains Shire have produced many successful projects including Ryde Youth Council's 'Kickstart Your Career' which helped local young people find and keep their first job.

Make IT Happen features presentations from people and organisations who help shape young people's environments, including:

- Macquarie University, CREATE NSW, Youth Action, The FRANK team and the Office of the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People
- Inspirational young speakers - Lilly Lyons and Carla Kassab
- Political panel - Ray Williams (NSW Minister Responsible for Youth), Victor Dominello (Minister for Finance, Services and Property), John Alexander (Federal Member for Bennelong), Dr Mehreen Faruqi (Greens NSW MP)
- YouTubers, technology experts and social researchers
- Youth Committee accomplishments
- Networking and social opportunities.

# Waste Swapped to Art Theme Hits the Mark

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The City of Ryde's biggest art prize, the Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize (SWAP), has attracted more than 160 entries of which 78 have been shortlisted for exhibition.

Artists as young as eleven years of age responded to the sustainable living theme with a broad range of mediums including recycled plastics, sculptures from upcycled found objects, handwoven creations, colourful collages and wearable art.

SWAP is now in its seventh year and is the community's creative response that brings attention to the amount of trash we throw away.

Winners of the four judged categories will be announced on Wednesday 6 September. During the two week exhibition, members of the community can vote for their favourite in The People's Choice Award.

[View the SWAP Shortlist](#)

## 2017 SWAP AT A GLANCE

- 78 works promoting sustainable living on exhibition
- Winners announced Wednesday 6 September
- Exhibition 7 – 20 September at See Street Gallery, Sydney Gallery School, Meadowbank.

## CATEGORIES AND PRIZES (TOTAL \$4,500)

- SWAP | Open Category (18 years+) Winner \$1,800 / Second Prize \$600
- YEP – Youth Environment Prize | Youth Category (16 – 25 years) Winner \$750 / Second Prize \$250
- Junior YEP | Younger Category (11 - 15 years) Winner \$300 / Second Prize \$100
- Functionality Award | Winner \$500 | Design object which best uses reclaimed material to form a functional piece – open to all categories
- People's Choice Award | Winner \$250.

## CELEBRITY JUDGES

- Steven Alderton | Director and Chief Executive of the National Arts School
- Jeff Angel | Director of the Total Environment Centre and the Boomerang Alliance
- Wendy Sharpe | Archibald Prize (1996) and Sulman Prize (1986) Winner.

# City of Ryde Awarded 'Employer of Choice'

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City of Ryde Council has been awarded the prestigious title of Employer of Choice in The Australian Business Awards 2017.

The highly sought after accreditation is recognised as a tick of approval for an organisation that is a leader in its field and provides an innovative workplace that looks after its people through career development, opportunity and work-life balance.

Council's Acting General Manager, George Dedes, said the recognition was extremely rewarding given the recent difficult time the Council had faced during the threat of forced amalgamation.

"Ryde has worked hard to ensure the best possible workplace environment for its staff," he said.

"We place priority on continually improving employee conditions by supporting flexible hours, health and safety, employee development and engagement. "This, coupled with a progressive work culture driven by our leaders and a dedicated HR team, are what has led us to this point.

"We truly live up to our City of Ryde tagline "... a great place to live, work and play", Mr Dedes said.

City of Ryde Council underwent a rigorous nomination process for the title Employer of Choice and is now eligible to be considered for the International Business Awards.

City of Ryde Council joins other leading organisations as 2017 Employer of the Year Award recipients including Brisbane Airport Corporation, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Hesta and DHL Express.

City of Ryde is a medium to large sized council with a multi-faceted, sustainable workforce, more than 30% of whom live in the local government area. Employees consist of full time, part time and casual workers in a wide variety of roles which includes senior managers, coordinators, engineers, designers, town planners, financial experts, librarians, environmental and marketing specialists, tradespeople and emergency work crews.

If you would like to work at the City of Ryde, go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/careers](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/careers)

In 2016 City of Ryde was awarded the Local Government Engineers' Association Employer of Choice.